

Senate Resolution 537

By: Senators Beach of the 21st, Shafer of the 48th, Cowsert of the 46th, Gooch of the 51st, Kennedy of the 18th and others

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Providing for the closure of certain City of Atlanta property to unauthorized vehicular traffic;
2 and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on Thursday, March 23, 2017, Khalid Masood committed an act of terror on
4 and around the premises of the United Kingdom's Parliament, killing four people and injuring
5 more than 50 primarily through the use of a vehicular attack on pedestrians; and

6 WHEREAS, the portion of Mitchell Street in Capitol Square serves as the main corridor
7 between the Georgia State Capitol and the Coverdell Legislative Office Building and Judicial
8 Building, where there is a consistent presence and high volume of pedestrian traffic,
9 especially during the legislative session; and

10 WHEREAS, such location being open to vehicular traffic presents a dangerous opportunity
11 for an act of terrorism; and

12 WHEREAS, a 2005 Homeland Security report listed 39 safety changes that could be
13 implemented by the Georgia Building Authority in Capitol Square, and the number one
14 priority in the report was the closure of Mitchell Street within the Square to vehicular traffic;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the Georgia Building Authority has implemented 36 of the 39 recommended
17 actions contained in such report in order to improve safety in Capitol Square, with the
18 remaining three recommendations pertaining to the closure of Mitchell Street to vehicular
19 traffic; and

20 WHEREAS, a 2016 Homeland Security report again listed the closure of the portion of
21 Mitchell Street within Capitol Square to vehicular traffic as the number one safety priority;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, in 1953 the Georgia General Assembly passed SB 165, which designated the
24 streets around the Capitol building as Capitol Square and gave full control to the state over
25 such areas with the intention of closing the portion of Mitchell Street within the area to
26 vehicular traffic; and

27 WHEREAS, the only reason such portion of Mitchell Street was not closed at the time was
28 to help mitigate projected traffic conditions due to construction of a major interstate; and

29 WHEREAS, it is imperative for the safety of visitors to Capitol Square and its numerous
30 employees that the portion of Mitchell Street within the square be closed to all unauthorized
31 vehicular traffic.

32 BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY that the City of
33 Atlanta property consisting of that portion of Mitchell Street between Washington Street and
34 Capitol Avenue shall be closed to unauthorized vehicular traffic.