

## Senate Resolution 45EX

By: Senators Summers of the 13<sup>th</sup>, Payne of the 54<sup>th</sup>, Walker III of the 20<sup>th</sup>, Dolezal of the 27<sup>th</sup>, Gooch of the 51<sup>st</sup> and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the service and accomplishments of Joseph Gebbia Sr., councilman and mayor  
2 pro tem of the City of Brookhaven, upon his retirement from the council; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. was an early member and supporter of the committee to  
5 create the City of Brookhaven; and

6 WHEREAS, through the hard work and dedication of Joseph Gebbia Sr. and others, the  
7 General Assembly passed legislation authorizing a referendum on whether the City of  
8 Brookhaven should be incorporated; and

9 WHEREAS, taking an active and integral role in the Brookhaven Yes Committee, Joseph  
10 Gebbia Sr. worked diligently and directly to support the cityhood movement and helped win  
11 the day for the formal incorporation of the City of Brookhaven; and

12 WHEREAS, having been integral to the success of the creation of the city, Joseph Gebbia  
13 Sr. continued his commitment to his community by seeking election to the first city council  
14 of the City of Brookhaven, running for the newly created Council District 4 seat and winning  
15 the election; and

16 WHEREAS, pursuant to the nascent charter of the newly created City of Brookhaven, Joseph  
17 Gebbia Sr. had to stand for election only one year later and was successful in winning  
18 re-election; and

19 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. again won election to the Council District 4 seat in 2017; and

20 WHEREAS, he was selected by his peers to serve as mayor pro tem of the City of  
21 Brookhaven in 2018, a post he has held for the last four years; and

22 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. has served his community with distinction, grace, and honor,  
23 leading to the establishment and creation of a cohesive and productive city council that has  
24 achieved tremendous progress for a young city; and

25 WHEREAS, Mayor Pro Tem Gebbia's leadership by example convinced his colleagues on  
26 the council to enact Rules of Decorum that would inspire and govern their conduct as  
27 representatives of the people; remind them and those who follow that servant leadership is  
28 not just a phrase but something to aspire to; and establish a foundation for the way all  
29 Brookhaven city councils should treat each other, city staff and officials, and constituents;  
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. was instrumental in convincing his colleagues to support and  
32 implement the construction and creation of the "Model Mile" of the Peachtree Creek  
33 Greenway, a multi-use pathway that will ultimately extend from Duluth in Gwinnett County  
34 to join the Atlanta Beltline and allow citizens from across Georgia, the nation, and the world  
35 to ride a bicycle or walk from Gwinnett County to the end of the Silver Comet Trail in  
36 Alabama; and

37 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. encouraged his colleagues to find and implement alternative  
38 funding sources for the Greenway project, allowing the project to be built outside of the city's  
39 general fund; and

40 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. has led by example through seeking public approval from  
41 voters for a \$40 million Parks Improvement Bond, which was passed overwhelmingly by  
42 voters and is now being implemented to create the first class facilities, recreational spaces,  
43 and green spaces that every community and resident deserves, regardless of what district they  
44 live in or what district the facility might be found in; and

45 WHEREAS, Joseph Gebbia Sr. has shown by example, word, and deed that by leadership,  
46 cooperation, integrity, and principle, one can influence the world and make their community  
47 a better place in which to live for all citizens regardless of their status, alienage, race, creed,  
48 or color; and

49 WHEREAS, we honor Mayor Pro Tem Gebbia for his leadership at home and in Georgia as  
50 a reflective, ethical, dedicated, and humble leader.

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
52 recognize the outstanding and dedicated service of Joseph Gebbia Sr.; show appreciation for  
53 his dedication and unfailing service to his community, the State of Georgia, and the United  
54 States; and congratulate him on his well deserved retirement from public life.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
56 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Joseph Gebbia Sr.