



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Karen Howard, Chair
Katie Kenlan, Vice Chair
David Delaney
Franklin Gomez Flores
Amanda Robertson

COUNTY MANAGER: Bryan Thompson

Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Honoring Free Speech

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States guarantees the fundamental right to freedom of speech, recognizing that open discourse is essential to the functioning of a free and democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the ability of individuals to speak freely, express opinions, and engage in public discourse without fear of government reprisal is a cornerstone of American liberty; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners affirms that public dialogue, including differing viewpoints, plays a vital role in promoting accountability and strengthening civic life; and

WHEREAS, the exercise of free speech is not only a constitutional right but also a foundational value of American government and society; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to protect the rights and freedoms of their residents, including the right to speak freely in public forums and governmental proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners affirms its duty to uphold the principles of the First Amendment and to preserve the freedoms guaranteed by it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners does hereby honor and celebrate the right to free speech and commits to defending this right as essential to our Constitution, our democratic system, and our community life.

Adopted, this the 21st day of April 2025.

Karen Howard, Chair

ATTEST:

Jenifer K Johnson, Clerk to the Board

Integrity – Respect – Collaboration – Community – Equity – Service – Accountability