

**Resolution to seek additional applicants for  
Chatham Economic Development Corporation Board Members**

**WHEREAS**, the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) was chartered on behalf of Chatham County in May 1997 by county attorney Robert Gunn "...to promote economic development in Chatham County." The EDC was formed as a public/private corporation whose board of directors was appointed by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to carry out the Commissioners' strategic plans for economic development.

**WHEREAS**, in January 2009 the EDC was reorganized and its bylaws revised to convert the voting membership of two county commissioners and the Mayors of the county's three municipalities to nonvoting *ex officio* members of the board. The revised bylaws provided for an eleven member voting board, including five members nominated by County Commissioners to serve a four year term concurrent with the Commissioner who nominated them. The revision also provided for the appointment of six at-large members to also serve four-year terms, with one-half to be appointed every two years following the swearing in of the commissioners elected at the bi-annual election of Chatham County Commissioners (the "2009 Process"). To assure that the County Commissioners maintained control over possible changes in the number and manner of selection of EDC board members, the EDC established the County Commissioners' right to alter the appointing authority by resolution.

**WHEREAS**, following the re-election of two incumbent commissioners in 2012, the EDC board on February 9, 2013 advertised for new board applicants and thereby followed the 2009 Process by having each applicant complete the same application and a series of standard interview questions.

**WHEREAS**, through oversight or inadvertence, since 2014, the 2009 Process has not been followed and the Board of Commissioners by this resolution seeks to return the EDC board of directors appointment process to the way it was in 2009 and to clearly establish that the 2009 Process should be in used in the board of directors' selection process.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chatham County Board of Commissioners hereby reinstates the 2009 nominating process for the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation by instructing the EDC to follow the 2009 Process, including its rules and procedures, and the Bylaws of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, concerning the bi-annual appointment of EDC board members by taking the following actions:

1. Re-opening the application process for EDC board members for two weeks and requesting that all additional applicants complete the standard EDC application and also provide short written responses to the oral interview questions used by the EDC nominating committee for other applicants. The oral interview questions are attached hereto as Exhibit A.
2. That all applicants previously interviewed by the EDC nomination committee also be asked to provide written answers to those same oral interview questions within the same two week time period provided for additional applications, as stated herein in the preceding paragraph.
3. That the County Commissioners will only consider appointing EDC board members who are residents of Chatham County.

4. That all applications and statements be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for their selection at the March 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting.

5. That the Chatham County Commissioners and the County Manager and her staff work with the newly appointed board members of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation and its President and staff to develop procedures and/or Bylaws revisions to ensure a process that allows selection of new EDC board members after the December swearing in of newly elected or re-elected County Commissioners, so that each elected County Commissioner has an opportunity to nominate a candidate for the board. Further, that the EDC board or its President shall consult with the newly sworn in County Commissioner board prior to establishing specific written criteria and priorities for the recruitment and selection of new EDC board members.

Adopted by the Chatham County Commissioners on February 20, 2017.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James G. Crawford, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

## **EXHIBIT A**

Board Applicant\_\_\_\_\_

1) Briefly define economic development and tell us why you think it's important for Chatham County.

2) Describe how you would like Chatham to look in 2020? What sorts of people and businesses would be here?

3) Please describe how your background relates to your interest in serving on the board.

4) How would you go about leading a team of ten volunteers tasked with attracting businesses to Chatham County?