

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 1 of 18

1 **Regular Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:48 p.m.,**
2 **Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.**

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4 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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6 **Mayor Rusty Paul** called the meeting to order at **6:48 p.m.**

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8 **II. ROLL CALL AND GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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10 **City Clerk Raquel D. González** called the roll.

11
12 **Mayor Rusty Paul** – present.

13
14 **Council Members present:** Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Steve Soteres, Council Member Chris
15 Burnett, Council Member Jody Reichel, Council Member Tibby DeJulio and Council Member Andy Bauman.

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17 **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Mayor Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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19 **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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21 **Mayor Paul** stated the Georgia Commission of the Holocaust will make a ten minute presentation.

22
23 **Sally Levine, Executive Director, Georgia Commission of the Holocaust**

24 I am also a Museum Teacher Fellow of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. We are a secular, non-
25 partisan state agency. Our mission is to preserve the memory of the Holocaust and to promote public understanding
26 of the history. In cooperation with the Georgia Department of Education, we provide educators with workshops and
27 resources to address state academic standards. We provide programing, speakers and traveling exhibitions to the
28 Georgia library system, the university system, schools, law enforcement organizations, military bases, churches,
29 synagogues and community organizations. Students from public, private, religious and home schools visit our
30 exhibitions in Sandy Springs. So, why is our work important? How is the Holocaust possible? We know that Hitler
31 and the Nazis could not have perpetrated the Holocaust on their own; they relied on the indifference, cooperation and
32 collaboration of ordinary people; people just like us. They included neighbors who informed on their colleagues and
33 friends; doctors and nurses who engaged in unspeakable experiments; lawyers, judges and politicians who made and
34 enforced laws that made discrimination, and ultimately mass murder, legal. At each juncture, people made choices
35 which allowed the Holocaust to occur. Our critical mission is to educate our audiences about the past so that they will
36 make choices that will build a future that is based on democratic values, fairness, freedom and respect. We are
37 dedicated to teaching people of all backgrounds the inherent worth and dignity of every human life in order to prevent
38 future genocides. Our new exhibitions in Sandy Springs will be teaching tool to stimulate these important
39 conversations with our audiences of future leaders, providing historical context for understanding how our choices
40 can have crucial consequences.

41
42 **Chuck Berk, Georgia Commission on the Holocaust**

43 It is important to know that this is really a big deal. We're not just moving the old exhibit that we have at the Parkside
44 Shopping Center. We're planning seven new exclusive, world-class exhibits that any city in Georgia would be proud
45 to have. They deserve to be in a prominent location in the City Springs campus. I want to tell you briefly about each
46 one of them. We will display a new Anne Frank Exhibit, built by the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam for us. This
47 exhibit will tell the story of Anne Frank and her family and the context of the larger history of the Holocaust and
48 Sandy Springs will be one of the only places in the entire world authorized by them to have this as a permanent exhibit.
49 Number Two, we'll build an exact life-sized replica 540 square foot hiding space; most people in Sandy Springs and
50 the southeast will never have an opportunity to get to the Anne Frank House. These people hid there for 761 days in
51 this small space; the Anne Frank House will help us locate period furniture, wallpaper, so that the hidden place looks
52 just like the rooms in Amsterdam. Third is the Georgia Survivors and Liberators Exhibit, we are in discussion with
53 the Board of the Breman Museum about the possibility of planning this exhibit collaboratively and naming it the
54 Georgia Survivors Exhibit in collaboration with the William Breman Jewish Museum. A very important point,

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 2 of 18

visitors will have the opportunity to hear the oral testimonies of these witnesses in their own words, included will be a new and expanded exhibit of Sgt. William Alexander Scott, III, an African American who served in Combat Battalion and was a photographer. General Eisenhower, if you'll remember, said that when he saw these atrocities, he said take pictures of everything because at some point people are going to deny it happened. African American William Scott took those pictures to record the history. The fourth exhibit is, 'What did Americans know?' The most common question we get from children is, didn't anybody know anything about this, why didn't they do something? Well, we are going to be able to replicate an exhibit that is at the Holocaust Museum in Washington which will show you the actual media, newspapers, magazines in the 1930's, 1940's. The centerpiece, if that's not enough to make this world-class, will be something done by the Shoah Holocaust Foundation. [Video Presentation – *University of Southern California Shoah Foundation, Dimensions in Testimony*]. So, that is amazing technology that is going to allow people to talk to Holocaust survivors in perpetuity. The sixth thing we are doing, we are actually going to have a cutting from the... Anne Frank used to look outside her window and be able to see this chestnut tree. They thought it got diseased and thought it died; it actually starting sending up some shoots and they've been able to propagate those and they've put them in very prominent locations. Only eleven have been awarded so far; there's one at the 911 Museum, one at the White House, one at the Clinton Memorial. We've been promised we will have an actual cutting from the chestnut tree right here in Sandy Springs. The last thing we going to have, we're going to be talking about our rights and responsibilities as citizens in a democracy.

Ms. Levine continued

Each juncture during the Holocaust, individuals, organizations, and governments made choices. What prompted these choices provides us with the opportunity to examine moral issues and human behavior. Learning about the Holocaust makes us reflect on our own behavior and our rights and responsibilities as American citizens. Democracy and freedom are not guaranteed; education and engagement are necessary to nurture and protect our democracy. We all have a role in protecting civil and human rights and if we learn anything from history, genocide never ever happens in a democracy. It happens when democracy fails; it happens when governments abuse their power and legal systems and use propaganda, terror and violence to target minorities and ideological opponents. On May 29th (2020) the Never Again Education became Federal law and in the text the Congress asserted that Holocaust education is a means to understand the importance of democratic principles and to raise awareness about the importance of genocide prevention today. As intolerance, anti-Semitism and bigotry are promoted by hate groups, Holocaust education provides a context in which we can learn about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchecked and there is indifference in the face of the oppression of others. Our charge is to inspire our audiences to speak out and act; our goal is to cultivate a sense of moral responsibility amongst our citizens so they will rise to the enormous challenges that confront us today.

Mr. Berk continued

Cost. It's been said in the newspapers, inappropriately, and it's also in emails going around, why is the City spending this kind of money? He wants everybody to know that only the City is going to own the building, it is the Friends of the Georgia Holocaust Commission, a 501(c)(3) that is raising \$5.5M; we have already raised \$3M, which is the amount of money that we needed in order to pay our rent for the next 20 years; and we're raising \$2.5M, so he wants everybody to know that all of the exhibits are being paid for by the Friends of the Georgia Holocaust Commission. So, as he concludes here he would like to ask the City Council members... Really, we go back to September when this City Council passed the Resolution 6-0 and proposed by Councilman DeJulio that stated that they supported this project moving forward and that the location would be on the City Springs campus. This was passed 6-0; and, the citizens here tonight.....please uphold that so we can trust the decisions of the Council.

Eric Robbins, 1440 Springs Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30309 – CO of the Jewish Federation of Atlanta

Our mission is to care for, connect and strengthen our Jewish community throughout Greater Atlanta, Israel and the world. The Breman Museum is our partner and beneficiary of our work as the community's philanthropic champion. As the citizens of Sandy Springs and their leaders consider how best to invest resources, he wants to offer a perspective on the value of the expanded Anne Frank Exhibit and a potential collaboration between the Breman Museum and the Georgia Holocaust Commission and the Friends of the Commission. This is above all an opportunity to continue to expand on Holocaust education as a framework to promote social justice, polarity and acceptance. In addition, the potential creation of an exhibition focusing on Georgia Holocaust Survivors would be important for generations to come. So, we support the establishment of the proposal of the Eva Galambos Center for Education and Tolerance and

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 3 of 18

we welcome the collaboration that can come from this opportunity. I thank you for your time today.

Renee Hoelting, 88 Long Island Place, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

I am here this evening to support the Anne Frank House exhibit being housed in Sandy Springs at either the location that was already purchased for \$1.8M and an additional \$2M for site planning where the old BMW repair shop existed or the now vacant Heritage site. Our Mayor stated in a recent newspaper article that the public did not understand the Holocaust Memorial project and that it was why there was so much controversy surrounding the exhibit. I agree with the Mayor, we do not understand what's happening with the project. Here's what we do know as citizens, \$1.8M was spent for the acquisition in the plan and another \$2M for the planning on this site. This is now a police vehicle parking lot; the City gave the Georgia Holocaust Commission a Letter of Intent for a never in consideration site without public input, without public explanation in a closed door Executive Session. The Mayor, the Council, moved the exhibit from the original purchase site. The Sandy Springs Reporter indicated that our City will be compensated for construction through a \$150K a year lease, for 20 years, with a renewal at the same rate for an additional 20 years. We were told the \$150K was rental and \$3M was going to be contributed to construction costs. All these changes, without explanation, leave many questions. Why did the City change the location in Executive Session and why were the taxpayers not informed why these changes were made? What is the actual cost to taxpayers for the next 40 years? Is the \$3M raised by the Holocaust Commission a contribution to construction costs? Where is the already \$3.8M spent on this project accounted for in the City budget? And, what is the cost of maintenance for this leased property for 40 years? What is the state's contribution to their lease for maintenance and parking amenities? I'm sure all of this has been explored by the City, now it is the City's opportunity to give us a clear and transparent accounting of why these changes were made and what it is actually going to cost the taxpayers for the next 40 years. Thank you and I hope we get this built.

Adam Koplan, 1205 E Rock Springs Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30306 – Vice Chair, William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum

For the past 30 years, the Breman Museum, through its Weinberg Center for Holocaust Education has been educating Georgia adults, families and students about the Holocaust. We are a Georgia 501(c) (3) corporation and as such, we do not, and cannot advocate for any political position or particular use of any governmental funds. We contribute our expertise and teaching materials with many organizations that share our goal of delivering and expanding high quality Holocaust education in Georgia. Throughout the southeast, and in the United States, and indeed in other countries, the Breman Museum is currently in discussions with the Georgia Holocaust Commission and the Friends of the Commission regarding the museum's potential collaboration and support of the Holocaust's education efforts the Commission plans to undertake in Sandy Springs, including the potential creation of an exhibition focusing on Georgia Holocaust survivors. As we have communicated to the Commission, the Breman Museum's mission is to ensure that as many people as possible have access to high quality Holocaust and anti-genocide education and we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Commission to expand Holocaust education in Georgia. Thank you for your time.

Gary Alexander, 8235 Grogans Ferry Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350

I serve as the Vice Chairman of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust; also serve as the Chair of the Board of Ethics for the City of Sandy Springs. Eva Galambos was a neighbor; she was the first mayor of Sandy Springs; she was elected in 2005 and served until 2013. She fought for 25 years to incorporate the city, along with my good friend, Tibby DeJulio. She was part of Sandy Springs' history; was instrumental in bringing the history of the world here. The exhibit, Anne Frank in the World: 1929 – 1945, had been on display at Kennesaw State and in the old courthouse in Decatur. In 2009, she and the City Council charged me with bringing the exhibit to Sandy Springs. Fast forward 6 years, after having 7-8,000 visitors a year in tourists, I was privileged to honor Eva with the Humanitarian Award at the state capitol, along with Rusty and Governor Deal. I announced to all the folks in the Chamber because Eva could not be here, she was in hospice. Most people didn't know that; there was a silence. Rusty accepted the award and we excused ourselves to the Governor. We went over to her house, we knocked on the door and John said, "Come on in, she just woke up." We walked into her room; her room smelled, it had the aura of death, but Eva smiled and held my hand and said, "I love you, give my love to Sam, my wife." She looked at Rusty and told him he ought to run the government. She said, "Make sure you get my Anne Frank Exhibit at the City Springs when it's built." Rusty said we'll do our best; I said, we'll do it. We walked out of the room and Rusty and I held each other crying. We said good bye. Without her wisdom, without her leadership, there would be no Council 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, no mayor, no building, none of the people here. No mayor, no police chief, no fire chief. We would not be having this argument

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 4 of 18

either. We owe it to the lady who founded this City and gave me her wish on her death bed to bring Anne Frank to the new City Springs campus. Thank you.

Bonnie Berk, 5681 Long Island Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

I am sharing a letter from a friend, Janelle King, this evening. Good evening, Mayor, City Council and Sandy Springs residents, I wish I could meet with you in person, however, I thank the Berk's for agreeing to read this letter on my behalf. My name is Janelle King. I typically discuss topics like the Anne Frank project on my television show, Fox 5 Atlanta, The Georgia Gang, where I am a panelist. Today, I come before you as a resident who strongly supports the Anne Frank project. After meeting with Mr. Berk and hearing more about the initiative, I have become a strong supporter, not because of its surface value, the local tourism and business advantages, but for a reason more profound. The preservation of history and education. I remember walking into the Civil Rights Museum, as a black woman, the first portion wasn't new to me, it was a visualization of what I've known about from an ancestry perspective. What I walked away with was located on additional floors where there were historical references to other aspects of the era and back stories. The museum took historical reference points, which mainly focused on the black community and coupled them with information that connected us all. With the Anne Frank project, I see another opportunity to share this same experience from the historical referenced point of the war that leads to the Holocaust. Having heard about this dreadful time in history, much like slavery for my people, I must say when I travelled to Israel and walked around the Holocaust Museum, I realized there was so much I didn't know. Having the opportunity we have right now, to not only learn about the Holocaust, but what lead up to it, hear and ask questions of those who lived through it and understand the linkage to this great state, all for free, open to anyone, phenomenal. It excites me to think of Sandy Springs as one of the few locations to share such a fantastic opportunity, especially with all the discussion around diversity, inclusion and other social justice issues. I'm thrilled to live in a City that prioritizes history and what history can teach us. I humbly ask that each of you vote in favor of bringing this tremendous opportunity to our city. God bless, Janelle King. As my friend Janelle, a black resident of Sandy Springs recognizes, history is the great gift we should share with our children to educate them about hatred and racism and how it led to so many Holocaust deaths, but leaving them with the truth that any racism is intolerable, that we are all responsible to respect and value each other, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or gender. Thank you.

Jared Carlson, 6359 Cherry Tree Lane, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Thank you. I am reaching out to you tonight as a native of Sandy Springs resident who has always called this area home. I was born in Mt. Vernon Woods in 1970, spent my first 16 years of life there, and moved back to Mt. Vernon Woods for almost 15 years ago. During the last 50 years there have been quite a few changes that have taken place in and around Sandy Springs but none quite as transformational as what has happened over the past 3-5 years. I want to preface my comments tonight with how proud and supportive I am of our leadership and what they have been able to do to accomplish, to make this city the model for so many others to follow. One of the things about the redevelopment effort that I enjoyed, as a resident, was the ability to see and hear the vision first hand and to be able to comment and to have input as to what we actually saw as a result of that vision. It is my understanding that there has not been an update to our City's Master Plan since 2013. Whether or not every suggestion is considered, or every idea gets attention, the master plan and feedback is often the only avenue for our residents to have and voice their opinion about these proposed changes. Potential upcoming changes include building a cultural art center on the city property, with the inclusion of a Holocaust Museum that would make a total of 3 very similar facilities between downtown Atlanta, Sandy Springs and Kennesaw. While I'm not opposed to such a facility, it would seem that the residents should at least have the opportunity to voice their opinion and to have an open discussion about the potential alternates for what is a prime piece of real estate. I think one of the most exciting additions to our city is the development of Veterans Park, but how great would it be to have a pedestrian bridge that people could use to crossing Roswell Road in very busy traffic. Even on a Sunday, walking across those intersections with my grandchildren is a nerve-wracking experience at best. In the past, it has been great to see and hear the vision and to be part of what this City has become. A lot has changed since 2013 and I think many would appreciate the development of a new Master Plan to see and discuss what is in store for our future. Thank you for your time.

Lou Ladensky, 2455 Castle Gate Court, Marietta, GA 30062

Unfortunately, Dr. Hirsch is returning from a flight from New York which has been diverted and landed in Savannah GA, so I will be speaking on his behalf tonight, reading his letter. Mayor Paul, members of the Council, friends and neighbors, I have been a doctor right here at Northside and St. Joseph's for the past 40 years. I am alive and here

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 5 of 18

217 today because my parents both survived the Concentration Camps of the Holocaust. My aunts and uncles, cousins
218 and grandparents, did not. They were murdered, not because they posed a threat to their neighboring farmers and
219 ranchers but because they were born into a different religion. But, I'm not here to play the Holocaust card, to revisit
220 the past and the crimes that happened in European countries. Rather, I am here to talk about our great country and
221 town, and our future. I have seen evidence of caring and compassion, empathy and the power of kind words every
222 day, not only from nurses, doctors and family members, but from all over this community. I have been with pastors
223 and rabbis and priests and the mom's as they visit our ill and injured in the hospital. We are fortunate to have a strong
224 and dedicated community but we've also know that bigotry, racism, cruelty and violence are never far away. What is
225 the best way to promote respect for all and to combat intolerance? It is my experience that leadership through
226 education is our best tool. Here we have an opportunity to set an example for our neighbors, our fellow citizens and
227 our children. The Anne Frank Cultural Center is that example. It is about more than the mass murder of Jews,
228 Catholics and minorities by the Nazis. It is a story of bravery and hope, while also a reminder that all life, like each
229 of our bodies, is vulnerable and that a genocide could be directed against Armenians a hundred years ago or against
230 leaders today. We have a choice, we have the means, we have the place, and we have the opportunity. Let's show
231 our love for humanity right next to our love for the arts and entertainment, next to our City Hall, a symbol of thoughtful,
232 just and fair local government, next to our fine restaurants and creative shops. Let's show our neighbors in Georgia
233 and all the visitors who come how Sandy Springs acknowledges that we are part of the global community and as I
234 have seen firsthand, how we are a city that cares about humanity. I strongly support and ask that you all strongly
235 support the Sandy Springs Cultural Center so that the stories that will be told right here, in addition to the other
236 initiatives in Atlanta, who remind us to never forget how precious and fragile our rights and freedoms and our very
237 lives truly are. The past is ours to learn from and the future is ours to direct. We have a chance to demonstrate the
238 whole host of our community values by our leadership, now through establishing the center for education for
239 generations to come. Let's make the right choice. Thanks to you all and be well.

240
241 **Steven Grossman**, 5170 S Trimble Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30342

242 I'm not here to oppose the building of a Holocaust museum, I fully support the building of a Holocaust museum and
243 a lot has already been said. But my question really still comes back to what some other people just asked, is the why,
244 and where, and how. It just seems with the Master Plan, this wasn't part of where it was going to be and he'd just like
245 to see some clarity on two issues. One, is why it was moved? So that I know this wasn't done behind a closed door,
246 so I understand why the decision was made. Number two, the part I get confused about is the calling the Holocaust
247 museum and the cultural center the same thing. I'd like some clarity on that. To me a cultural center is defined as an
248 area that support culture and arts. In my mind, we have that; we have that in the Performing Arts Center; with arts,
249 we have with the sculptures; in the City Springs, we have the Friday night concerts; we have all that taking place in
250 City Springs. That's the cultural center, so I don't understand how the building of another cultural center is the same
251 thing as a Holocaust museum. So, such much as already been said, I just wanted clarity on that and that's really why
252 I'm here, because I just want to make sure that when we do what we're going to do, that people can see why we are
253 doing it and it's not a hidden thing.

254
255 **Mayor Rusty Paul** stated there has been no decision about the specific location yet. There were three sites that have
256 been looked at—one here; one at the BMW property; and, then Heritage building—but no decision about where this
257 goes. Or even, at this point, if it goes. We are still in the preliminary phases.

258
259 **Karen Steinberg**, 1390 Indian Trail, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

260 I'll try to be brief. I agree with Jody Reichel, we need sidewalks and trails to exercise and be healthy. We need safe
261 roads and bridges; we need working sewer systems. Shops and restaurants are the lifeblood of the economy here and
262 they need to have pedestrian access. But, for a community to thrive it needs a rich cultural life. What I am reading
263 from some of us is something like, but whose culture? Whose culture? "If we need a cultural center," Mary Floyd
264 said, "then it should reflect the diverse population of our City." I think Mary is on to something. I come from a
265 diverse background from the banks of the Mississippi, Catholics, Protestants and Jews in my family and I embrace all
266 of them. I would love to see writing contests for teenagers here with Sandy Springs as the topic. Teenagers like Anne
267 Frank; visual arts; painting; photography competition with Sandy Springs again, as the theme and paid for my people
268 like me but exhibited here or in one of these venues that you're talking about. Maybe we have a Eudora Welty or a
269 Faulkner or a Jasper Johns. We need to nurture that. I can also imagine that we could have an exhibit with the story
270 of Wilson Spruill and the five acres he donated in 1850 for the Sandy Springs United Methodist Church near the spring

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 6 of 18

for which the city is named. And, did you know that a human settlement can be traced back to 400 A.D. with indigenous people forging streams or trails to get to fresh water. That could be part of this cultural awareness. Let me close by saying, in answer to the implicit question, 'Whose culture?' Anne Frank does not belong to the Jews; Anne Frank puts a name and a human face to something that happens too often in this world. Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Tulsa, Oklahoma and it is something that we need to teach our children. We would do well to hear the lesson that Anne Frank has to teach and I hope that there is a place somewhere in all of this, along with other cultural lessons, that we can do that.

Jody Franco, 740 North Island Drive NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327, Georgia Commission on the Holocaust Member; and, a Docent at the Anne Frank Exhibit

This has changed my life; I want to make a difference; I will never be a bystander again. The comments above are only of a few of hundreds and hundreds of written and spoken thoughts that have been expressed after someone has experienced this exhibit. It is here that, over the years, individuals from over 40 states and 18 countries have attended. I've guided people of every race and religion, children, adults, ladies in purple hats, church groups, through this exhibit. All are touched as they listen to the compelling stories about man's inhumanity to man and to the impact that events from 1933 to 1945 had on 11 million people. Six million of whom were Jewish and five million of whom were not. The objective is to clarify here; to reinforce values; to challenge attendees to be better citizens; to speak out to injustice, at the very least to help one person realize that he or she can make a difference. And, this is accomplished by utilizing an event of history as a vehicle for teaching. What could be a greater contribution to impacting the lives of people than to change their lives as was stated in just the few of the examples that I mentioned earlier. I want to close with a reminder about Whitwell TN. You may know that in 1998, high schoolers in Whitwell selected, from among many events in history, the Holocaust, to study for a year as the event in history that was the most inhumane. Over the course of the year, paper slips were sent from around the world, each one representing Jewish and non-Jewish individuals who lost their lives during this period. Over 12 million paper clips were collected that today are housed in barrels in an authentic box car that transported people to their death. When I was there, I was struck by the Seven Eleven attendant from whom I borrowed the key to open the wrought iron gate to the box car. With a smile that exhibited several missing teeth, she said to me, "I'll bet you're here to see our exhibit. We are so proud of it." I think her comment speaks volumes.

Ron Beerman, 5625 Long Island Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

I'd like to speak very briefly in support of the cultural center and the Anne Frank project. I hope that this project will be considered on the basis of its benefit to the City and the community, not just its projected ROI as if it were a business deal. I think it is fair to say that there are some investments that only government can make, that private enterprise will not. Those that enhance the overall community, that make it a better place for its citizens and its visitors, and this is pretty clearly one such project. I think it is a fantastic opportunity that's in front of our City and I do hope and trust that the Mayor and City Council will find a way to make this happen. Thank you very much for your attention.

Elissa Fladell, 6125 Weatherly Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Mr. Mayor, City Council, for the last few months I've been bragging to all of my friends, near and far, that I live in a city that not only says they value tolerance and diversity but that my city, Sandy Springs, is committed to the creation of a world-class facility that will teach adults and students from all over Georgia and the world the lessons we can learn from history. In today's unstable climate, with racial tensions flaring, the lessons of the Holocaust are more valuable than ever. Last September, this Sandy Springs City Council unanimously voted on and committed to partnering with the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to create a place that will not only speak to the persecution and systematic murder of 11 million people, but what folks living in Georgia knew about it and tell the stories of survivors and liberators from our state. This facility will offer the ability to actually speak with survivors through an amazing new technology funded by Steven Spielberg and the Shoah Foundation. You've already heard about the 7 exhibits that are planned and being funded, not by our City, but by willing donors from our community and beyond, but I am going to repeat myself. Last September, this exact City Council committed to partner with the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust to create a world-class facility that will teach tolerance and diversity to adults and students from all over Georgia and the world. This is the city I am extremely proud to live in, and this is the City Council I am proud to vote for; however, something has changed and I'm not sure what. Certainly, the lessons that will be taught at the Eva Galambos Center for Tolerance and Education are needed now more than ever. The Georgia

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 7 of 18

Commission on the Holocaust is still willing to commit to a 20-year lease with funds guaranteed up-front; that hasn't changed. The Friends of the Georgia Holocaust Commission is still committed to furnishing the 7 world-class exhibits at their expense; that hasn't changed. So, why is the City Council now questioning their commitment; are we no longer a city that values diversity and inclusion? Is Sandy Springs no longer interested in being a leader in the fight for equality? I am a voting citizen of Sandy Springs and I don't understand. The Eva Galambos Center for Tolerance and Education will attract hundreds of thousands of people to our city. These people will eat in our restaurants; shop in our stores; and, sleep in our hotels. Not to mention, leave the City with a greater understanding of the importance of equality and inclusion for all. The City will own the land; own the building; have a tenant with guaranteed funds for 20-years; sounds like a winning proposition to me. Thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. I'm going to end with this, "What kind of city do we wish to live in, one that speaks about valuing diversity and tolerance or one that actually lives it?"

Shea Roberts, 510 Park Gate Court, Sandy Springs, GA 30342, Georgia House Representative, District 52
Good evening, Mayor and Council. Tonight I wanted to express my personal support for the Commission's cultural center. Sally and Chuck graciously gave me a comprehensive presentation this morning and I was thoroughly impressed by their plans. Maybe we could put their presentation online on your website or something because I think if people saw what I saw this morning, there would be no doubt that this project is truly going to make Sandy Springs a destination for people from around the world. Their fundraising from so many in our community is impressive; it shows a real investment in this project and it will generate revenue, like the previous speaker said, because people will come from all over and go to our restaurants and our businesses. But, the really fascinating thing is, my understanding is, eventually over time, the entire cost of this project will be paid by the Commission and their supporters. But, all of us, our families and our visitors will get to enjoy these exhibits for free. I think that's pretty amazing. I believe this project will have a profound and transformational impact on our City. I have had the opportunity, personally, to visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and it had a lasting impression on me but, many in our community and state will never have the means to do that. For them to be able to step inside of an identical replica of her family's small hiding place will really help our community step into her story and the stories of Georgia survivors and their pre-Holocaust life, with pictures of them at birthday parties and riding their bikes. It will help people relate in such a real way and I've got to tell you that interactive, I'm imaging all our students from the schools coming and getting to have a real conversation with a Holocaust survivor; there's no textbook that can duplicate that. I have heard criticism that we need to have other cultures represented; I would argue that they are; first of all, obviously Jews were the largest group persecute, but others suffered too, simply because of their race, political beliefs, their disabilities, who they loved. I was raised Catholic; they persecute us as well. So, there is a universal lesson for everyone and that is what led to the Holocaust. The signs and signals that so many ignored over many years; imagine if people had stood up against the hate and discrimination earlier; so many lives lost unnecessarily. Recently, we have seen the importance of standing up against hate and inequity in our country; this will be a universal lesson in humanity and empathy. Think about the efforts that you've been making in improving diversity and inclusion. I know that this transformational center, located in the heart of my City, will make me very proud and would be a great contribution to your efforts you are already making with your Task Force. I'll leave it at that. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Gerard Gunthert, 6230 River Chase Circle, Atlanta, GA 30328

At the risk of repeating a lot of what's already been said, as a local, commercial real estate developer who owns quite a few sites right around here, I am very excited for the idea of the museum and cultural arts center. It is kind of an unusual offering; it will bring people to restaurants and really give us the kind of sense of a village of the community that we are looking for around here. So, I'm very positive on the project itself but I would state, out loud, that I don't think it should go up on the corner at Mt. Vernon and Roswell Road. I think it belongs more on the BMW site, so very much in favor of the project; opposed to it possibly going on the site of the corner because it is probably the best corner in Sandy Springs. I'm not sure if that remises the value for the community if it goes there. Hopefully, we can get it done and it will go in the right place. Thank you very much.

Michael Morris, 270 Carpenter Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Mayor, Councilmen. I come before you to promote the Anne Frank Exhibit. The cultural center is a moniker that I believe came from you all as a Council so I'm not sure what the cultural center would necessarily be. I come before you whose office resides in Sandy Springs; I pay taxes in Sandy Springs; I have donated to the Anne Frank project; I am on the Georgia Commission of the Holocaust; I have committed personally an additional \$100K to this project;

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 8 of 18

and, I personally have raised \$2M for this project. First, I want to you know that, I and we, as the Commission, have raised over 50% of the funds needed to pay for the new exhibits and leasehold payments to Sandy Springs. This, I did, based upon unanimous support for this project on September 15, 2020, by you all. I, and my investors, would like to know if this Council's vote has meaning and impact. You charged me to go out and raise the money for this, which I did, and now, we're unsure as to whether or not it is even going to come to fruition. I'd also like to mention, I'd like to contradict some allegations that Sandy Springs is paying for this project. I am raising money for this project, the Anne Frank Exhibit will be a tenant, just like some of the other tenants and restaurants that you have here that are currently paying rent to Sandy Springs. Just like those tenants, we are surprising, or unsurprising asking for the best lease possible. But, that would obviously up for negotiation, which it is. Finally, I know that some of you have questions as to why Sandy Springs would host something like this exhibit. I believe the same question could be asked of the City of Atlanta; why would they embrace or actively recruit, 'Save the Georgia Aquarium' or the Civil Rights Museum or the College Ball Hall of Fame; because, in general, that makes sense to do. That is what governments and cities do; they host performing arts centers; they host exhibits; they host meetings and other attractions for the benefit of their residents, neighboring neighborhoods, as well as people in the state. That is what we are all doing here. In this case, to support a statewide, state-of-the-art, educational facility that will help unite our residents, teach our children tolerance and respect for democracy, this will be a defining exhibit for our city in Sandy Springs and I look forward to it coming back on the table, moving forward again. Thank you all very, very much. Each and every one of you.

Deborah Silcox, 725 Tanglewood Trail, Sandy Springs, GA 30327, former Georgia House Representative, District 52

Thank you Mayor Paul, Council members. The Holocaust is important to me because of my late grandfather, Len Knox. He passed away in 2009, but his medals are framed in my son's room and my memories of him are still strong. He was an engineer in WWII who served in the Special Forces of the Army that became the Air Force. He landed in the second wave on D-Day and went behind enemy lines, almost always out of uniform, to build runways for the allies to land their planes on. He walked most of his way across Europe; occasionally catching a ride on a tank that was also ahead of the troops. When he left for the war, he did not realize that my grandmother was pregnant with my mother. He was there for 4 years and did not see my mother until she was 3½ years old. He and my grandmother wrote letters back and forth to each other throughout the war. My grandmother would send pictures of Fay; my grandfather would send pictures back to her, often depicting him with a small child or group of children. He always shared his food with these starving children and would show me these pictures, as his grandchild, relaying stories of where he was in Europe at the time. It was not until I was much older and ran across these pictures again, near the end of his life that I realized that these photos showed pictures of orphans from the Holocaust. These images with my wonderful grandfather brought the reality of the war to me in a really unique way. Those images are still in my mind's eye that we must not ever, ever forget. I share that story with you because I believe that the Holocaust is such a powerful and significant event in world history that every person should be educated about it and every child exposed to it so that it never, ever happens again. Every minority of every ethnicity can relate to the story of the Holocaust. I had the privilege of serving on the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and being the House Sponsor for Senator Kay Kirkpatrick's Senate Bill 356 which passed both chambers of the General Assembly with unanimous support in 2018. This Bill was a great gift to the City of Sandy Springs because it made a way for the creation of a cultural arts center that would house the Anne Frank Exhibit, as well as other exhibits, to better educate all Georgians. I am so grateful for all of the hard work of the Commission, especially to Gary Alexander, Chuck Berk, Sally Levine and many others. I know that the former Mayor, Eva Galambos, as well as the former State Representative, Dorothy Felton, would be so proud to have such a special resource in Sandy Springs. I believe that our City is a model of tolerance and acceptance of all peoples from all backgrounds and, I also believe that our City values and treasures our Constitutional right to freedom of religion. History is important for all to know so that our greatest failures can never, ever be repeated. I sincerely hope that the City can find a way to make this a reality.

Mayor Paul stated Georgia State Senator Kay Kirkpatrick is present this evening.

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 9 of 18

Douglas Weinstein, 60 Perimeter Center Place, Dunwoody, GA 30346

Good evening Mayor, Council, and citizens of Sandy Springs. I'm not here to speak to you as a resident of Sandy Springs; I'm here to speak to you as the brother of a gay man; as the father of a trans-son; as the partner of a recent, Asian Buddhist immigrant and for our five-year old son, who is half Asian. Growing up in the Deep South, I was taught by Faulkner. Faulkner said, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." You all know that, and unfortunately, when it comes to hatred and intolerance, it is as true now as it ever was. So, I'm asking you to please seize this opportunity to assist in the education of our young people so that my children can grow up in a better world. I ask that you assist in this and to help, and to support the Anne Frank Center and bring that in. And, you have an opportunity to seize; seize this opportunity and improve the world. You can repair the world and I ask you to do that. Thank you for your time.

Joseph New, Rabbi, 205 Zebulon Road, Atlanta, GA 30342

Mayor Paul, my dear friend and representative, Tibby DeJulio, and the other members of the Council. They say that the most famous line in movie history is, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a," I'm a rabbi, I'm not sure I can announce the last word, and I researched today for the 2nd most famous line in movie history. And that is, "What we have here, is a failure to communicate," from the Paul Newman movie, Cool Hand Luke. As a rabbi and a resident of Sandy Springs, my appeal to the members of the Council of Sandy Springs and to the Georgia Holocaust Commission is to please get together and work out the details. Another quote they say, "The devil is in the details," but the truth the original quote is "God is in the details." And, from my discussions on both sides, I don't think there is an us versus them in this; I think everybody's heart is in the right place and on the same side; there's been some miscommunication, misunderstanding over details; so my dear friends, on both sides, please sit down for the sake of the residents of Sandy Springs, for the sake of this beautiful city that are proud to call our own, and create something that will be of pride and joy and truly of celebration for the City. Thank you.

Kevin King, 545 Forest Hills Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30342

The word it out, Sandy Springs is the city that cares about all of its residents; half of whom are minorities. These residents are so important that you created the Sandy Springs Diversity & Inclusion Task Force, chaired by Jim Bostic, a serious guy. The work of the task force has begun and is now looking at the access of minorities recreational facilities and housing. You created this task force because unfortunately, hate and intolerance still exist around us. White supremacy and similar groups are on the rise. But, in Sandy Springs, we prefer civil discourse to violence; we prefer tolerance to racism; we prefer inclusion to prejudice. Should these values be taught by a City government? Yes, education is a government function, just as Fulton County and Atlanta have their public schools, Sandy Springs should carry out this important work. Sandy Springs stands against hatred and for tolerance and we should say so through the construction and the operation of a building which I propose we call the Eva Galambos Center for Tolerance and Education. You've heard that before tonight. Here it is. In this center, among other activities, we can subcontract the educational function to the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. The Commission would be our voice to educate Georgia citizens on tolerance and human dignity, as it has for the last 23 years. Teaching these values is what the Holocaust Commission does. When the Diversity & Inclusion Task Force brings its recommendations and conclusions, what will you do? The Galambos Center would be in a position to offer targeted education aimed at whatever problem is revealed. Mayor and Council, I am doing what I can to have the Galambos Center educate our citizens but I am limited to writing a check, which I'm doing. I'm envious of your position, you actually have the power to make it happen. I can hope that you can pull the trigger and make to education a reality. You can create a world-class educational opportunity for Georgia citizens, including of course, Sandy Springs citizens. At the front door of the new building, I would expect there would be a plaque reciting that your 7 leaders brought about the construction of the Eva Galambos Center for Tolerance and Education; the plaque which would hang for decades, would recite your stand against hatred and for tolerance; your children and grandchildren and their children and many others will see it and be inspired by your action to do what is right and what is important. I support the construction of the Eva Galambos Center for Tolerance and Education. Thank you.

Mike McConnell, 115 Grogans Lake Drive, Sandy Springs, GA 30350

I respectfully submit that the Council's unanimous approval of the cultural center last September was correct. Nothing has changed but the date. And, the reasons it was approved remain valid today. One of the arguments made in public commentary, to reverse this vote, is that the project supposedly is not a true cultural center because it only "benefits" one culture. The suggestion that the Holocaust concerns one race, culture or ethnic group, however,

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 10 of 18

demonstrably false. Please tell the descendants of the millions of Slavs, exterminated by the Nazis at the Holocaust involved one culture or the descendants of 1.8M non-Jewish ethnic Poles who died or the over 2M Ukrainians deported and enslaved in Germany or the 220 thousand to 1.5M Romanizes who died or the 275 thousand disabled people who were exterminated or the over 1M gay Germans targeted by the Nazis or the over 400 plus children of African German descent who were medically sterilized. One culture? There were at least 5 million non-Jewish Holocaust victims; that's hardly one culture. The utter fallacy of this argument is captured in the famous poem by Martin Niemöller, "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me." The non-Jewish author of that poem, a German Lutheran pastor was a prisoner at Dachau. The Holocaust did not involve only 1 culture. Another argument is that the cultural center is yesterday's news and the Holocaust is the 'distant past,' but genocide is not; it repeatedly reappears. Recent genocidal victims include the Tutsis, the Bosnian Serbs, and today, the Uyghur Muslims. Some also that the center should be moved to midtown and be consolidated with other Jewish museums. But, we are Sandy Springs, not Atlanta, do you want to be a hub for visitors seeking cultural enrichment or a subservient spoke that directs your citizens to midtown? Please do the right thing. Please stick with your original vote; you were right then, it's right today. Thank you.

Sam Alexander, 8235 Grogans Ferry Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350

I've been asked to read a letter from Michael Galambos, son of Mayor Eva Galambos. It has come to the attention of the Galambos family that discussions have been held to move the Anne Frank Exhibit out of Sandy Springs. This would be a huge disrespect to the memory and legacy of Dr. Eva Galambos, our First Lady of Sandy Springs. This acquisition of the Anne Frank Museum to Sandy Springs was, in my mother's opinion, one of her crowning achievements. It is a huge plus for the community with its meaning transcending all religious faiths. It is not only a draw for most of the students to visit and learn about the Holocaust but it is a national attraction bringing visitors to Sandy Springs from around the US and the world. As many of you know, my mother's family was displaced from Germany due to the rise of the Nazi party. Her story led them to Italy to seek refuge, only to ultimately flee to that country at a time when a sponsorship to my grandfather to teach at the University of Georgia. It was in Athens (GA) that she met her husband to be, John Galambos that led to 65 years of marriage. Dad was a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. This is the same camp where Anne Frank perished. It is serendipity that my Mom was also able to bring the exhibit to Sandy Springs. One of her last public events was to Chair a charity that, here in Sandy Springs, provides funds for the Anne Frank Exhibit to enable it to flourish in the community. After her death, the family has donated as well in her name, to the exhibit to ensure its longevity. Keeping this exhibit in Sandy Springs is of paramount importance to our family, in memory of Eva Galambos and her wishes. Sincerely, Michael Galambos, MD. My statement: Some catch phrases don't need any explanation, "Never again." "We shall overcome." What about this one, "6MWNE." This was printed on a sweatshirt worn by a member of the mob that stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. It means '6 million was not enough.' We pray that statewide education programs, including a visit to the Anne Frank Museum, might prevent a Georgia child from growing and wearing such a shirt. And lastly, this statement, "I don't want to be reminded of the Holocaust every day when I go to work," spoken by a Sandy Springs council person. Thank you.

Betty Sunshine, 215 Crossroads Lane, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

I first want to start with a statement of someone who could not be here. "I, Dov Wilker, as the Regional Director of the American Jews Committee, Atlanta, support the establishment of the proposed center in Sandy Springs as an opportunity to continue the mission of experiencing the stories of witnesses of the Holocaust as a framework to promote democratic values and human rights which are core values of the American Jewish Committee." As myself, I address our Honorable Mayor and all members of the Council, the most important role I've ever had in my life has been as a speaker to children, 98% of them not Jewish, telling my parents' story. My father survived and was liberated in Dachau; he and his two brothers survived; the rest of his family perished. My mother escaped Dachau and she was the sole survivor of a family of 7 children, all her parents, uncles, aunts, everyone perished. The experiences of the Holocaust were far too difficult for them to share with us as we were growing up. They wanted us to be Americans; they were proud to be in American; my father was liberated by American soldiers and he was proud to be here and to live the American dream; and he did. He didn't know the language, but he did. Within 20 years of survival, he was able to achieve financial security and success and provide wonderfully for his family. The only reason I was able to tell the stories was because of the creation of the Shoah Foundation, which Steve Spielberg created after Schindler's

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 11 of 18

537 List, and he did so because after Schindler's List, one survivor after another kept coming up to him, but I have an
538 important story to share, too. Don't you want to hear it? He could not hear all of the stories. So, he gave and
539 established this foundation in the early 1990's so that people across the world, survivors across the world, interviewed
540 by people of many languages, could record their story, including my parents. I listened to the story; actually years
541 later because I had to be able to focus and digest what was said and the truth of what happened, to share it with other
542 people, it was very important to me. Dimensions in Testimonies, I have to say, was created as the 21st Century version
543 of this sharing by the Shoah Foundation, and we (GA), along with LA, IL, Dallas TX and D.C. have gotten the license
544 to share this. It would be a grave misfortune for us not to take this opportunity and show who we are in Sandy Springs.
545 Thank you.

546
547 **Gale Horlick**, 315 Trowbridge Walk, Sandy Springs, GA 30350

548 I've been a Sandy Springs resident for 38 years and very proud of all the changes, particularly in the last few years. I
549 don't have a prepared statement; I came to listen and then decided to speak. I just want to say that recently I think we
550 are all aware that there have been many attempts to erase or take down some of the negative aspects of our history; I
551 think that's very wrong. I am a founding member of the Holocaust Museum in Washington and I think the answer is
552 not to erase it but to do what is proposed here; to educate and tell the story and learn from it. I won't repeat what
553 many said, but I'm here to offer my strong support for the cultural center.
554

555 **Bill Gannon**, 505 Taunton Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30319

556 It's nice to see you all again; I missed you; probably you didn't miss me as much as I missed you, but we'll see. To
557 get to the point, I learned a lot, of course, on the Holocaust. I recall our initial discussion here at the Council level for
558 this effort. We were going to spend, maybe a couple million and the City was going to put in about 10%; this is right
559 at the mission creep, John, you and Andy, when you were committing for this facility right here and I got involved, I
560 know a lot of neighbors behind me might not be aware of this, with Eva on a lot of the tasks and she was very much
561 for this whole activity. She really didn't want city money going into this, I know we're going to put some in, and I
562 would just encourage you all, I hope this is a big success. I think there's enough inertia here, it's going to happen, but
563 Eva would really prefer as much private money. I know there's a lot of discussions going on now, and I'm not privy
564 to them; the arithmetic; all I know is what I read in the paper. I would ask you all to facilitate; I was impressed with
565 the gentleman who spoke before me about all the money he has raised and certainly that has to be treasured and be
566 taken care of. I would caution you going down the slippery slope of how you allocate money. It's not a question of
567 the significance of the history of the Holocaust; that is obviously true. Thank you very much for your attention, good
568 luck on making your decision. I hope we have a great facility here.
569

570 **Jennifer Cruce**, Visit Sandy Springs, Sandy Springs GA 30328

571 Mayor and Council, I am Executive Director of Visit Sandy Springs, the destination marketing organization for the
572 City and our address will be at Heritage in a month. The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust opened the Anne
573 Frank in the World Exhibit in August, 2012 in Sandy Springs with the Atlanta Journal Constitution noting that it was
574 the City's first tourist attraction. Mayor Galambos, whose husband John, was a Holocaust survivor said, "I personally
575 am very committed to the idea of keeping alive the history of the Holocaust so it can never happened again, and
576 keeping this tremendous attraction in our community." At that time, the City agreed to support them with \$50K a
577 year and the City, along with the DMO have shouldered responsibility for continued annual financial support ever
578 since. As the Executive Director of the City's destination marketing organization, I would be eager to see the proposed
579 enhancements to the Anne Frank in the World Exhibit become a reality. Expanded offerings, improved exhibits and
580 operational improvements that will allow for larger groups and repeat visits will enhance our ability to attract groups
581 from distant locations, encouraging overnight stays in hotels in the city. As Holocaust education is currently part of
582 the required curriculum for several middle and high school grades in Georgia and other states in our region, we believe,
583 as a DMO, there is a real opportunity to expand student group travel as well as educational and heritage tours. That
584 type of group business is highly sought after by our hotels, whose overall business has suffered a severe negative
585 impact during the pandemic. Enhanced tourism product offering such as this cannot only increase the length of time
586 that visitors stay in the city, they also increase the amount of money they spend and encourage new and repeat visitors.
587 The expansion and redevelopment of the Anne Frank in the World Exhibit by the Georgia Commission on the
588 Holocaust is an important part of growing the tourism industry here in Sandy Springs, assuming, of course, that we
589 can keep it in Sandy Springs. Thank you.
590

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 12 of 18

Edward Ukaonu, Sandy Springs, GA

Mr. Mayor, members of Council, good evening, Sandy Springs residents and friends, I live here and own a business here. I'm going to allow you to forgive me for not mentioning my address; I own part of a cybersecurity company and I particularly don't do that. I just want to talk about Anne Frank. The story of Anne Frank is an international, historical and enduring story of courage, resilience and hope. All of these virtues, we all want and we all want to impart on our children. As we continue our path to a sustainable, diverse community, and the promotion of social justice, I am certain that an Anne Frank Museum here in Sandy Springs will be a great and worthy asset for the city of Sandy Springs. It will also enrich our lives and our culture. That's my short and sweet endorsement of this project. Thank you very much.

Larry Benuck, 205 Brandon Place, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Evening, Mr. Mayor and Council members. The Anne Frank Exhibit is such an asset and a source of pride for our Sandy Springs community. Supported by the Georgia Holocaust Commission, it must be part of our cultural arts center as it is not only educates our community, but people from all walks of life from around the world about the Holocaust and genocide. As a greeter at the Anne Frank Exhibit, I cannot tell you how many visitors come from around the world. Many having a small amount of time between flights, coming and going from international cities, and how many are so enlightened of what has happened less than 100 years ago. In today's world, where genocide still occurs in many parts of the world, we must be reminded of modern day atrocities that, in many instances, are still occurring, for the Uyghur in China; those in Rwanda; Darfur in Syria; previously in Cambodia and Armenia; why, so it can never happen again. So much intolerance today, including right here in America, the World of Anne Frank Exhibit is such an important means in the fight against bigotry, prejudice and narrow mindedness. What better way for our children and grandchildren to learn of these atrocities in the hope, and through the eyes of a young girl, her message is that all people have the right to live in freedom and just because people may be of different religions and different races does not mean they should be treated differently. Yes, it is absolutely important that we be reminded. Read the Diary of Anne Frank, visit the exhibit, and increase your humanitarian understanding so we gain the knowledge that these atrocities that took place in the Holocaust will never occur again; and, that means never again.

Joshua Heller, 416 Glenridge Close Court NE, Sandy Springs GA 30328

I am pleased to offer the second invocation for the second half of the meeting. On a more serious note, I am here to speak very strongly in favor of keeping the Anne Frank in the World Exhibit here in Sandy Springs. There are others who can talk about finances, zoning, lease deals; I want to mention a few points that maybe have not been covered in depth. One is that there really is overwhelming support for this in the Jewish community; you've heard that tonight. But, I think this matters because it serves a role that goes far beyond some of the other memorials that are within the Jewish community because this exhibit has the opportunity to tell a story beyond the Jews. It tells the story of those who are LGBT; the stories of Romany; the stories of those who are disabled; the stories of the African American soldiers and liberators who, despite facing discrimination at home, were able to liberate others in Europe. This is not a Jewish issue; this is a human issue. I am giving time to serve on a Diversity Committee here for Sandy Springs and when we seem to raise up different minorities in our community, this is part of that effort. The story of Anne Frank is what drives me to do that and to worry about what is going on in the larger community and not just my home. I think there have been some things said about, 'you know the Holocaust is not cheery topic.' Something was said earlier, 'but I don't' want to see that out my window.' But the truth is that it is something that is important that we keep in mind; it may not be the most important message the Jews have for the world; it may not be most important message that Sandy Springs has for the world; but, it has to be part of our communication. It has to be part of our story. It would be more fun to have another bar; it would be more fun to have another restaurant; there's room for bars and restaurants aplenty. Our city fosters commerce, community and culture; we bring people to Sandy Springs to shop; to live; and, eat; and, we bring people to Sandy Springs to become more than what they are; and, this exhibit has the potential to do that. My final point, there's a question here of values. There was a promise that was made to a state agency and to a set of volunteers to a non-profit organization. I understand, as a community leader, that sometimes we make a promise in good faith and things don't work out the way we thought. That happens, and it has to be forgiven; but, there is an obligation that comes with that promise which is to do our best to match as closely as possible the original terms. I hope that the City Council will work with those who have raised the money they asked them to be raised, to figure out the best way to move this forward. Thank you.

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 13 of 18

Jeff Stein, 4820 High Point Road, Atlanta GA 30342

I hadn't planned to come here tonight but my brother-in-law, David Birnbrey, has been very involved in this project and he was detained and could not get back because of the weather and air travel. So, at 4:00 pm he was good enough to send me 4 pages of notes and thought I could pick out some salient points. With all due respect to my brother-in-law, David, I'm going to go entirely off script because everything in his 4 pages has already been said; but, let me just make it personal. David's father was a Holocaust survivor; he's my father-in-law, my wife, Anita's, in the back. Father-in-law, Henry Birnbrey, died 3 weeks ago at age 97 and he was a Holocaust survivor but also a liberator. Many of you have probably heard his story. One thing struck me during the Shiva, during the morning period when we had friends and family. When I grew up, I was born in 1955, so being educated, more or less, 1965 – 1975, we knew Holocaust survivors. There was one man, the TV repairman; another man, was the tailor; another man, was the butcher; but, we knew Holocaust survivors. An amazing reaction to the passing of my father-in-law at age 97 was our kids friends, our kids span the ages of 22 to 35, they all said, I'm so glad I met Henry; I'm so glad I met your father-in-law; he was the only Holocaust survivor I ever knew or met. So, the point is simple; we are running out of Holocaust survivors; we know about the perpetrators; we know about the Nazis; we are running out of the survivors and Anne Frank is probably the most famous victim. When millions of people drive on I-285 throughout the course of the year and they see Welcome to Sandy Springs, then they see the sign for the Anne Frank Cultural Center that is a great thing for Sandy Springs, it's a great thing for those who visit the museum. So, even though I've gone off David's script, I urge all of you to please support it. Thank you.

Loren Wimpfheimer, 25 Pine Lake, Sandy Springs GA 30327

My father came here in 1938 with his family, his parents, he was 2-years old and the rest of the family was gone. In the early 50's, he joined the Army, he didn't go to Korea, and he went to Germany as an interpreter to go find more Nazis. I talked to him about this project and there's without question, the Anne Frank Exhibit needs a home. He said to me, but what about the others; what about the Rwandans; what about the Syrians; what about their story? This should be more inclusive, so, without question, we need a home for this; are we a little premature that we haven't thought big enough for something for Sandy Springs?

Mayor Paul thanked those who provided public comment. There's not another subject that has generated more public comment at a City Council meeting in the last 16 years. There is a lot of information to digest. The stories on both sides have been compelling. This Council will deliberate and try and move forward as expeditiously as we possibly can with some direction.

V. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved that the meeting agenda be approved for Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Council Member Paulson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. 2021-135 Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2021 Work Session
April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting
(*Raquel D. González, City Clerk*)

B. 2021-136 Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Acceptance of the Dedication of
Right-of-Way and Permanent Easement Located in Land Lot 136 of the 17th District, Fulton
County, City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (445 Mount Paran Road, Sandy Springs, Georgia)
(*Presented by William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director*)

2021-05-56 RES

Motion and Vote: Council Member Bauman moved adoption of the consent agenda for Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Council Member Reichel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Presentation

- A. 2021-137** Recognize Appointment of Craig Chandler to Position of Deputy Chief of Police

Police Chief Ken DeSimone introduced and swore-in Craig Chandler as Sandy Springs Deputy Chief of Police. Deputy Chief of Police has been with the Sandy Springs Police Department for 15 years.

VIII. Public Hearing

- A. 2021-138** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan

Matthew Anspach, Senior Planner, Community Development presented the 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan. The Action Plan outlines the goals and projects to be accomplished for the City's Community Development Block Grant annual allocation. The 2021 Annual Action Plan initial public hearing was held on February 16, 2021, followed by a public hearing at the March 16, 2021, Council Work Session. No public comments were received or heard at either hearing. No public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period, March 19 – April 19, 2021. The City's CDBG allocation for this year is \$603K, which will defeasance of the Section 108 loan balance. The loan balance itself will continue to fund and complete the multiyear sidewalk project.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Paulson approval agenda item 2021-138, Resolution to Adopt the 2021 CDBG Annual Action Plan. Council Member Soteris seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0; Council Member DeJulio was absent for the vote).

2021-05-57 RES

IX. New Business

- A. 2021-139** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Purchase Sculptures as part of the ArtSS in the Open Sculpture Competition

Cheri Morris, Co-Chair, Arts in the Open - Art Sandy Springs (ArtSS) presented results of the 2020 national sculpture competition. Finalist pieces are displayed on City Green, and winning pieces are purchased for permanent installation in the City's parks and public spaces. Art Sandy Springs members in attendance include Bridgette Cuniff, Jan Reynolds, Melissa Patterson, Stacey Heiter Epstein, and George Bushey. Winning pieces recommended for purchase include Boreas, Mountain Landscape, Le Voyageur qui Fait son Nid, Motion #1, Specimen and Billow. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, last year's finalists agreed to have their sculptures remain until the summer; which caused this to roll into a new fiscal year. Normally there are three to five pieces purchased, but this year Art Sandy Springs requests the City purchase the FY2021 and FY2022 sculptures, for a total of \$88,000. This includes the stipends that were previously paid. The Art in Public Places Plan calls for the competition's winning pieces to go into the City's existing parks and green space. Other initiatives within the City's public art plan call for public art to go into the City's new capital projects, and ArtSS is working with City staff to identify opportunities.

Council Member Andy Bauman recognized the devotion of Sandy Springs Communications Director Sharon Kraun to the competition. We need to hear from the public when deciding where to place the sculptures. We need to look at the 'Wisdom Trail,' which could include arts as well. Where do we go next? I want to see these sculptures spread across the City.

Ms. Morris replied during the Art in Public Places Plan creation there were sessions asking where sculptures should be placed, but it did not include specific detail, such as locations that can only hold one piece, or pieces that need to be placed in specific locations that can be seen from passing cars, or even identifying locations as ideal for a diminutive piece that needs study and reflection. That is the next step, and ArtSS will spend the year doing that. These are for the Wright Road park. ArtSS is now working with City Staff to identify what other park spaces and public space exist and can accommodate art. Sharon Kraun draft the City's public art policy and gift policy. She put

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 15 of 18

753 together an inventory of art pieces that the City owns, outside and inside. ArtSS brought a conservator into the
754 relationship to take a look at this things and make sure to be able to project lifetime and maintenance. Sharon is a
755 friend of the public arts in Sandy Springs.

756
757 **Motion and Vote:** Council Member Bauman moved approval of agenda item 2021-139, Resolution to Purchase
758 Sculptures as part of the ArtSS in the Open Sculpture Competition. Council Member Burnett seconded. The motion
759 carried unanimously.

760
761 **2021-05-64 RES**

762
763 **B. 2021-140** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve an
764 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Fulton County Board of Education for Improvements
765 to Ridgeview Charter Middle School Tennis Courts and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the
766 Agreement and Resolution

767
768 **Michael Perry, Recreation and Parks Director** presented at Ridgeview Charter Middle School there are four tennis
769 courts, all in extremely poor shape. City Staff has work with Fulton County Schools (FCS) Staff to come to a 50/50
770 split to renovate the tennis courts. Two of the courts will be renovated and returned back to tennis courts. The
771 remaining two will be renovated and converted into pickleball courts. This will be a ten-year intergovernmental
772 agreement between the City and FCS. The City will spend approximately \$2,000-\$2,400 annually for trash pickup
773 and mowing. Beginning around 5:00 p.m. or so on school days, these courts would be available to the public, as well
774 as on weekends and holidays.

775
776 **Council Member Jody Reichel** asked are the courts reserved. When will the courts be ready?

777
778 **Director Perry** replied for the Hammond and Abernathy tennis courts, patrons call in to reserve them. The
779 reservations are free. The Ridgeview Charter Middle School courts will be probably be programmed similarly, but
780 there is also walk-on opportunities where people can go to courts and if it is vacant. Staff will review the usage to
781 determine the way.

782
783 **Council Member Tibby DeJulio** stated the courts have not been usable for many years. This area has been prone to
784 vandalism because it is so isolated. Is there a plan to protect it from vandalism? Previously these courts were locked
785 and there were neighbors who had keys. What are the plans for making sure these courts are available to all the
786 residents who want to play pickleball?

787
788 **Director Perry** replied Staff will look investigate whether or not neighbors had keys to the courts. It is a well-cared
789 for park that people appreciate, especially since the City has added the playground and resurfaced the parking lot. One
790 entrance to the park faces the school and the other faces the park. The school side entrance will remained locked so
791 people do not utilize their parking lot during school hours and access the facilities from that direction. There will be
792 clear signage.

793
794 **Motion and Vote:** Council Member DeJulio moved approval of agenda item 2021-140, Resolution to Approve an
795 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Fulton County Board of Education for Improvements to Ridgeview Charter
796 Middle School Tennis Courts and to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Agreement and Resolution. Council Member
797 Reichel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

798
799 **2021-05-60 RES**

800
801 **C. 2021-141** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of a Contract with CMES
802 Incorporated to Construct Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk Project, TS167, and Authorization for
803 the City Manager to Execute the Contract

804
805 **Dan Lee, City Attorney** stated the Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk project is an ongoing legal battle where the contractor
806 has filed bankruptcy. The City has tried to bring that case along to get Relief of Stay so that the City can take the

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 16 of 18

contractor out of the project. While Public Works and Procurement have worked diligently to get us a contractor, at this time, this request is premature. Can this item be tabled until such time as the City can get Relief of Stay? Otherwise, this action could be seen as an intervention as against other creditors. The City could suffer some liability by invading the Stay that is in place. The City is armed with that contract in negotiation with the Surety and has made a proposal to them today. They have been provided with the bid as the amount of damages that are due.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Burnett made a motion to table agenda item 2021-140, regarding approval of a contract with CMES Incorporated to Construct Brandon Mill Road Sidewalk Project, TS167. Council Member Paulson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM TABLED

- D. 2021-142** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval of a Contract with CMES Incorporated to Construct Dunwoody Club Drive Sidewalk Project, TS169, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Contract

Marty Martin, Public Works Director stated the Dunwoody Club Drive Sidewalk Project, TS169, consists of the installation of 100 linear feet of 10' sidewalk with 0' to 6' landscape buffer on the south side of Spalding Drive from Roberts Drive to Dunwoody Club Drive and 1,350 linear feet of 6' sidewalk with 2' landscape buffer and associated. The requirement to construct multiple retaining walls is significant, along with the associated shoring. To identify the project construction vendor, Staff first sought a Request for Qualifications, which was advertised beginning December 30, 2020. A Statement of Qualifications was received from three contractors on February 2, 2021. Public Works staff reviewed the Statement of Qualifications and an invitation for bid was sent to the two selected qualified general contractors on February 17, 2021. Bids were received on March 17, 2021. CMES, Inc. responded with a bid of \$751,197.70, which compared very favorably to the engineer's estimate of \$938,089.50. City Staff recommends awarding the contract to CMES, Inc. in the amount of \$751,197.70.

Council Member John Paulson thanked Public Work Director for bringing this project forward. He stated this is a very nice connection into a number of sidewalks that will assist others. He commented that where there are retaining walls planned there is also solid rock, he asks if we could use the exposed rock face to save some money.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Paulson moved approval of agenda item 2021-142, Resolution Approval of a Contract with CMES Incorporated to Construct Dunwoody Club Drive Sidewalk Project, TS169, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Contract. Council Member Soteres seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-05-62 RES

- E. 2021-143** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Acceptance of a Real Estate Agreement for Fee Simple Right-of-way, Permanent Drainage Easement and Temporary Construction Easement on Property Located in Land Lot 15 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia (5185 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Sandy Springs, Georgia)

Marty Martin, Public Works Director stated the presented real estate agreement for 5185 Peachtree Dunwoody Road completes the right-of-way acquisitions for the Peachtree Dunwoody at Telford Roadway Safety Improvement project. The property owner is PCA Church of the Redeemer, Inc.. This is the final and most significant right-of-way acquisition required to construct the project. The acquisitions are 2,084.28 square feet of Fee Simple right-of-way, 1,373.93 square feet of Permanent Drainage Easement and 12,098.24 square feet of Temporary Construction Easement. The City's offer to the owner was \$83K. The Church, in good faith negotiations, requested another \$8,545 in costs associated with their research on the cost to relocate and reconstruct their sign and provide a temporary sign. Staff independently reviewed the estimates and found the additional costs to be reasonable. If the real estate acceptance is approved, the project may be put to bid, with a potential contract before Council within the next 60 days. Staff recommends acceptance of the right-of-way agreement with the Church of the Redeemer in the amount of \$91,545.54.

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 17 of 18

Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved approval of agenda item 2021-143, Resolution of Acceptance of a Real Estate Agreement for Fee Simple Right-of-way, Permanent Drainage Easement and Temporary Construction Easement on Property Located in Land Lot 15 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia (5185 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, Sandy Springs, Georgia). Council Member Reichel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-05-59 RES

- F. 2021-144** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of Approval for the Authorization of the Mayor to Execute a Roadway Lighting Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Sandy Springs and the Georgia Department of Transportation for Roadway Lighting on State Route 9 / Roswell Road from Long Island Drive to Mount Paran Road

Marty Martin, Public Works Director stated the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Department when the City installs pedestrian scale street lighting. The agreement states that City will accept responsibility, ownership, operation and maintenance of the lights once installed to be clear that GDOT is not responsible. The presented Lighting Agreement is for the installation of pedestrian scale lighting on the CDBG Sidewalk Project, Phase I, from Long Island to south of Mount Paran Road. The lights were purchased several years ago through a Purchase Agreement with Georgia Power Company, and the City has already signed the Lease Agreement as well.

Motion and Vote: Council Member Bauman moved approval of agenda item 2021-144, Resolution of Approval for the Authorization of the Mayor to Execute a Roadway Lighting Memorandum of Agreement Between the City of Sandy Springs and the Georgia Department of Transportation for Roadway Lighting on State Route 9 / Roswell Road from Long Island Drive to Mount Paran Road. Council Member Burnett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-05-58 RES

- G. 2021-145** Request for Mayor and Council Consideration of Approval of a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for Acquisition of Right-of-way for the PATH 400 Trail Extension Project (CIP T0060, GDOT PI No 0015023) and Authorization for the Mayor to Execute the Contract

Marty Martin, Public Works Director presented the agreement for Project T0060, the PATH 400 Trail Extension Project, extending the path, in terms of at least engineering and design. The City is managing from the current termination of the path at Loidans Drive, in Atlanta, up to the I-285/400 project where GDOT is building a side path within the I-285/400 interchange. Right-of-way is required with the project within the Sandy Springs city limits. This agreement allows the use of \$860K, which includes a \$172K local match, of federal funds in acquisition of right-of-way associated with the PATH 400 Trail Extension within the city limits of Sandy Springs. The City has sufficient local funds programmed into Project T0060 to serve as the match. The Cities of Atlanta and Sandy Springs will independently deliver the construction projects. Right-of-way is needed exclusive to Sandy Springs, only for this design. This will be the property where Temporary Construction Easements will be required; the bulk of the project is constructed within GA 400 right-of-way, but there will be some access points. There will be some slope taming. City of Sandy Springs Staff recommend approval of this right-of-way acquisition.

Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio moved approval of agenda item 2021-145, Resolution of Approval of a Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for Acquisition of Right-of-way for the PATH 400 Trail Extension Project (CIP T0060, GDOT PI No 0015023) and Authorization for the Mayor to Execute the Contract. Council Member Bauman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-05-63 RES

X. Reports

- A. 2021-146** Mayor and Council Report

Regular Session of the City of Sandy Springs City Council
Studio Theatre, Sandy Springs City Hall and Broadcast Via Live Webinar and Teleconference,
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Page 18 of 18

Mayor Rusty Paul stated the annual Sandy Springs Lantern Parade will be June 5 at Morgan Fall Overlook Park. There are pre-event activities from 7:00 to 9:00, with food, entertainment and activities at Steel Canyon Golf Course. The parade starts at 9:15 p.m. Lantern kits will be sold at the Sandy Springs Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 22 and 29. Beginning May 19, Ace Hardware and High Country Outfitters will sell kits as well. Flying Pig lanterns will also be available for purchase at all of those locations. There is no parking at Steel Canyon and no CHOA tie-in. There will be parking through Morgan Falls Park.

Council Member Jody Reichel asked can the Council explore amending the ordinance that allows for wine tastings and add distilled spirits. And eliminating the requirement of a survey if there is already one on the property when there is a new manager that comes on board. Also, eliminate the required vote by the City Council to authorize a liquor license, and rather allow the City Manager to authorize a liquor license. This will remove the delay in approving licenses.

Mayor Paul stated if there is a desire of Council, then let us have a process where we have a proposed ordinance brought to Council.

Dan Lee, City Attorney asked if there was a consensus from the Council to work on the proposed ordinance changes. The Legislature did change the law two years ago to allow tastings of distilled spirits. Tastings can be allowed by Council vote, just like wine. As to the survey requirement, there seems to be an error that requires a survey on a new license in a place that has already had a license, and the requirement for a new survey poses a financial hardship sometimes. The third item, of not bring the license approvals before Council, can be handled many different ways. In most places the size of Sandy Springs, it is an administrative function. If certain criteria is met, the license is issued. Historically, only one license has been denied in the history of Sandy Springs. An administrative issued license process can streamline the process and will make the agendas shorter.

Mayor Paul stated the proposed ordinances changes can be added to the May 18 City Council Work Session.

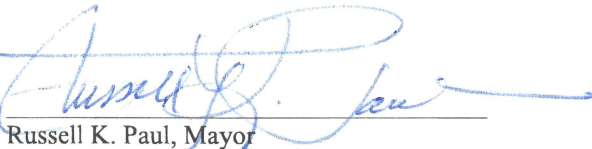
B. 2021-147 Staff Reports

City Manager Andrea Surratt stated due to this May 3, 2021 and May 4, 2021 storms, the Public Works Department is working 22 emergency tree removal projects, and coordinating with Georgia Power on some tree removals.

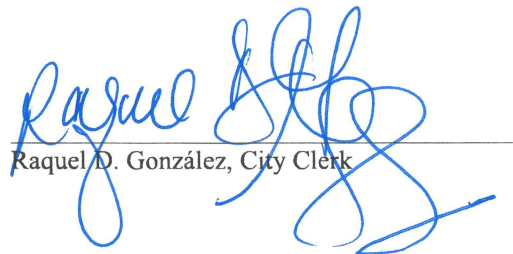
XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion and Vote: Council Member DeJulio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Soteres seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at **9:12 p.m.**

Dated approved: May 18, 2021.



Russell K. Paul, Mayor



Raquel D. González, City Clerk