

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF FULTON

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO GEORGIA HOUSE RESOLUTION HR 1
CURRENTLY PENDING IN THE GEORGIA LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, House Resolution 1 (HR 1), sponsored by Representative Lindsey, currently being considered by the Georgia Legislature, is a proposed amendment to the Georgia Constitution which would cap annual assessment of property tax increases of property at 3 percent or the rate of the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less, with the exception of improvements to property or after sale of property, which would be assessed at fair market value; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council of the City of Sandy Springs believe that this artificial assessment cap would create an inequity in property taxes wherein owners of similar properties would be assessed a markedly different property tax depending on whether the property has been recently sold; and

WHEREAS, capping the assessment on commercial properties would likely lead to the increase in real estate trusts and tax shelters to shield legal transfer of properties for tax purposes, which would eventually lead to the inequity of higher property taxes for residential rather than commercial properties; and

WHEREAS, this inequitable assessment cap would be a disincentive for the purchase of homes and would depress an already stagnating housing market and prolong the current recession; and

WHEREAS, this assessment cap would decrease flexibility in the revenue sources of local governments as the consequences of this cap would decrease the City's main source of revenue, property taxes, and, in order to continue provision of necessary services, this assessment may require some local governments to raise millage rates and contribute to the inequitably higher property taxes assessed against new home and business owners; and

WHEREAS, in newly established municipalities such as Sandy Springs, Milton, and Johns Creek that are already less flexible in their revenue sources due to existing millage rate caps, this assessment cap would impair these cities' ability to have immediate control over their anticipated revenue and would create an insurmountable circumstance where they could not provide many of the basic services while still maintaining the requisite balanced budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sandy Springs that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons stated above, hereby express their opposition on behalf of the City of Sandy Springs for House Resolution 1 (HR 1) and hereby authorize the City Manager to relay said opposition to Representative Lindsey, as well as the City's elected representative delegation to the Georgia Legislature.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-03-17

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Sandy Springs that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign on to any Resolution of the North Fulton Municipal Association in opposition to HR 1.

Approved:



Eva Galambos, Mayor

Attest:



Michael Casey, City Clerk
(Seal)

