AN ORDINANCE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DERRICK BOAZMAN

02-O-1872

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HER DESIGNEE TO PURSUE COMPLETE SEWER SEPARATION OF THE CITY'S STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER PROCESSING SYSTEM AS THE REMEDIAL METHOD OF CHOICE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta operates several Water Reclamation Facilities for the purpose of cleaning its waste and storm water for deposit back into the Chattahoochee River and other tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta does have, on average, sixty-three (63) spills per year discharging some fourteen million pounds of suspended solids into receiving waterways; and

WHEREAS, because of these numerous overflows the City did enter into the 1998 and 1999 Consent Decree Orders with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) agreeing to fix its aging and failing sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta is mandated by the 1972 Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and the 1998 and 1999 Consent Decree Orders to put clean and safe water back into our waterways; and

WHEREAS, complete sewer separation will remove 100% of human sewage from our urban creeks and streams and the necessity to introduce hazardous and environmentally damaging chlorine into our waterways; and

WHEREAS, complete sewer separation will also help rebuild the inner city's infrastructure and the potential to bring the city parkland and greenspaces with spring and rainwater fed ponds; and

WHEREAS, complete sewer separation is the preferred method by some neighborhood groups in Atlanta such as the Sierra Club as well as a proven method in cities such as Rome and Augusta, Georgia and the city of Minneapolis/St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, complete sewer separation will provide the City of Atlanta with cleaner water to deposit back into the Chattahoochee River as a result of this remedial process which has been lauded as a Best Management Practice (BMP).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA; that the Mayor or her designee pursue complete sewer separation as the preferred method for wastewater and stormwater remediation in the City's public rights-of-way.