03- O -1585

AN ORDINANCE
BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPORT THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK LOCATED IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT AREA AND THE LINKAGE COMMUNITY OF THE ATLANTA EMPOWERMENT ZONE; TO WAIVE IMPACT FEES FOR THE ATLANTA FOOD BANK AT 732 JOSEPH E. LOWERY BLVD. WHERE THEY PRESENTLY ARE RENOVATING AND EXPANDING THEIR FACILITIES WHICH SUPPORT MANY LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THE ATLANTA EMPOWERMENT ZONE WITH JOBS, PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT NUMEROUS FOOD PROGRAMS WHICH SUPPORT EMPOWERMENT ZONE AND LOW INCOME FAMILIES ACROSS THE CITY; RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH OF EXISTING BUSINESSES AND HUMAN SERVICE PROVIDERS, WHICH SERVE THE DISADVANTAGED.

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Community Food Bank currently partners with 700 agencies. 341 of these agencies are located in the City of Atlanta. In the last fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 4,779,177 pounds of food to these 341 agencies. In its 24-year history, the Food Bank has distributed nearly 200 million pounds of food! While a portion of the food has been distributed to other food banks in Georgia and the S. E., nearly 144 million pounds has gone directly to agencies. City of Atlanta agencies have received nearly 72 million pounds of food from the Food Bank in the last 24 years! Our partner agencies directly serve those who are suffering from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity. The key constituencies served are families, children, senior citizens, disabled citizens, the working poor and those who have lost jobs.

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Community Food Bank utilizes over 1,000 volunteers a month. Half of our volunteers are children and teens, many of whom live in the City of Atlanta. Hundreds of Atlanta Public School students choose the Food Bank to perform their community service house for graduation. 2,000 Food Bank adult volunteers are residents of the City of Atlanta and have an ongoing relationship with our organization. Additionally, many downtown corporations send groups of employees to volunteer throughout the year.

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Community Food Bank enjoys a strong partnership with Atlanta's hospitality industry. Longtime affiliations with such corporations and organizations as Buckhead Life Restaurant Group, Georgia Hospitality & Travel Association and Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau have enabled the growth of Atlanta's Table, a 15-year project of the Food Bank. During the past fiscal year, Atlanta's Table rescued and distributed 235,680 pounds of prepared and perishable food from 150 restaurants, caterers, hotels and cafeterias, many of which are located within the City of Atlanta. Almost all of the agencies which receive this food are located within the city limits. Over its 15-year history, Atlanta's Table has distributed 4,460,221 pounds of food from some of the best dining rooms in our city.

WHEREAS, the Atlanta Community Food Bank's Community Gardening Initiative currently provides technical assistance and seeds to more than 50 community gardens in the City of Atlanta. Some of these gardens were once abandoned lots, often used for dumping and illegal purposes. Capital View Community Garden, The Ashview Community Garden and Boulevard Community Garden are each excellent examples of neighbors working together with our staff and volunteers to create amazing transformations. Over the past four years, 187 Atlanta youth have successfully completed our unique summer program, Atlanta Garden for Youth where they learned about food production, organic gardening and marketing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, as follows:

Section 1. That the Atlanta City Council expresses the opinion that the proposed commercial development of the Atlanta Community Food Bank (732 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. N.W.), of which at least 75% would be filled through the first source jobs program by qualified residents of the empowerment zone and linkage communities.

Section 2. That the expansion shall qualify for exemptions from the payment of the city's development impact fees pursuant to Sec. 19-1016 and Sec. 19-1006 of Chapter 1, Part 19, PART III, Volume III of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta.

Section 3. That the development impact fees of $45,028.00 are hereby waived for said expansion project.

Section 4. That the Municipal Clerk of the City of Atlanta is hereby directed to transmit a signed copy of this legislation to the Director of the Bureau of Buildings.

Section 5. That all ordinances and parts of ordinance in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.