

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FULTON COUNTY**

FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
141 PRYOR STREET, S.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

**Karen C. Handel**  
CHAIRMAN  
District 1 At-Large



TELEPHONE: (404) 730-8206  
FAX: (404) 730-4754  
EMAIL: Karen.Handel@co.fulton.ga.us

**PRESENTATION****TO****THE 2005 BASE REALIGNMENT and CLOSURE COMMISSION**

Dear BRAC Commissioner:

On behalf of the citizens of Fulton County, Georgia, Fulton County strongly requests that you reevaluate the recommendation to close the military installation Fort McPherson. In addition to its military value to the nation, the local communities that have supported Fort McPherson over the last 120 years have benefited from and provided significant opportunities to our military personnel.

The impact upon the business community has a projected direct economic loss of over \$301.6M in local contracts alone. There are approximately 3,000 businesses in the impacted Fort McPherson area. In a five mile radius there are 6,299 businesses and in a seven mile radius there are 15,704 businesses. During 2004, the Operations and Maintenance Army (OMA) spent \$342.9M in the community. This includes \$218M for small business, \$51M for disadvantaged contractors, \$36.5M for women owned business, \$25M for Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone, \$9.6M for Disabled Veterans, \$2.6M for National Industry Severely Handicapped and \$230,000 for black colleges. These dollars do not take into account the economic multiplier for spending of payroll related dollars associated with the \$120.6M in civilian payroll and \$169.8M in military related payroll that will not be spent locally if the base is closed.

In addition to the economic impact, Fort McPherson has had a very positive relationship with the community, and through a variety of public-private initiatives, citizens of all ages have benefited. More than 980 volunteers have worked with Fort McPherson to establish community-bettering programs. Some of the efforts that would be deeply affected by this base closure include:

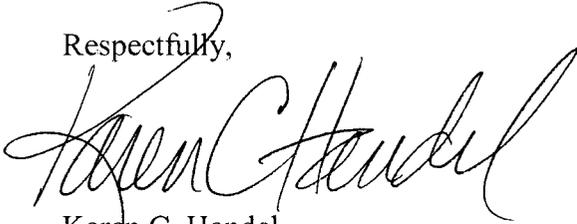
- Partners in Education, which mentors metro Atlanta Schools and provides transitional assistance for military school-aged children
- Partnership Advisory Council, which has created over 400 initiatives and secured funding for the Boy/Girl Scouts in the Atlanta area
- Youth graduates and Soldier mentors in the General David A. Bramlett Character Bound Program

Further, Fulton County and Fort McPherson have formed a significant partnership through the Spouse Employment Task Force. Through this task force, base officials work to educate area leaders about the challenges faced by military spouses who leave employment to follow a spouse to their next assignment. Additionally, to further support these spouses, Governor Sonny Perdue signed into law Georgia House Bill 404 which insures that spouses are eligible for unemployment benefits due to a military reassignment. In fact, these programs are being used as a national benchmark to assist other communities in supporting military spouses.

This closing would have a devastating impact to our economy, business community and citizens. Most significantly, this closure would impact 54,632 retiree family members; 16,448 post military/civilian/family members, 16,789 Army retirees, 19,632 other service retirees and 29,479 reserve personnel.

Thank you for this opportunity to share additional facts about the negative impact to our community should Fort McPherson be closed. We strongly urge that you reconsider your closure recommendation and remove Fort McPherson from the base-closure list.

Respectfully,



Karen C. Handel

**STATEMENT OF: CHAIRMAN FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FULTON COUNTY  
GEORGIA**

**30 June 2005**

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED  
BY THE 2005 BRAC COMMISSION**



June 23, 2005

**The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
203 Georgia State Capitol  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

**Dear Governor Perdue:**

**At the Fulton County Board of Commissioners June 15, 2005 meeting, the Board voted to approve a Resolution supporting the continued operation of Fort McPherson and the Georgia Congressional Delegation's efforts to oppose the Department of Defense's recommendation for the closure of Fort McPherson (Item #05-0753).**

**As directed by the Resolution, the Clerk's Office is forwarding you a copy. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me or any of the sponsors at (404) 730-8200. Thank you.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Massey", written over a horizontal line.

**Mark Massey  
Clerk to the Commission**

**Attachment**

**cc: Fulton County Board of Commissioners**

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**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED OPERATION  
OF FORT MCPHERSON AND THE GEORGIA CONGRESSIONAL  
DELEGATION'S EFFORTS TO OPPOSE THE DEPARTMENT  
OF DEFENSE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE CLOSURE OF  
FORT MCPHERSON**

8           **WHEREAS**, in May of 2005, the U.S. Department of Defense presented its  
9 recommendations regarding realignment and closure of United States military installations to the  
10 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the BRAC Commission will forward its recommendations on base realignment  
12 and closures to the President by September of 2005; and

13           **WHEREAS**, among its recommendations, the Department of Defense proposes to close  
14 several military installations in the State of Georgia, including Fort McPherson located within Fulton  
15 County; and

16           **WHEREAS**, Fort McPherson has been a vital part of Fulton County since its establishment  
17 in 1885; and

18           **WHEREAS**, Fort McPherson contains many major components of the United States'  
19 military structure, including:

- 20           • The U.S. Army Forces Command, which is the Army's largest major command and  
21 serves as the command center for more than 760,000 Active Army, U.S. Army  
22 Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers;
- 23           • The Third U.S. Army/Army Central Command, with joint command responsibility  
24 for Southwest Asia and the Horn of Africa, as well as recent command responsibility  
25 over Coalition Ground Forces in the planning and execution of Operation Iraqi  
26 Freedom; and
- 27           • The Installation Management Agency (Southeast Region), with management

1 responsibility for all Army installations in the Southeastern United States; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Fort McPherson is the seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) largest employer in Metropolitan Atlanta  
3 and currently supports a population of approximately 137,000 people, including active and reserve  
4 military, civilians, retirees, and family members of those groups; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the closure of Fort McPherson will leave over 90,000 military retirees and their  
6 families without access to support facilities and services such as commissaries, exchanges and the  
7 Army Health Clinic; and

8 **WHEREAS**, information provided by Fort McPherson indicates that the closure of Fort  
9 McPherson would have a negative financial impact of nearly \$600 Million Dollars, including more  
10 than \$300 Million Dollars in existing local contracts; and

11 **WHEREAS**, this financial loss will be even more severe due to the fact that the communities  
12 surrounding Fort McPherson already suffer from high unemployment rates and low per-capita  
13 income; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Fort McPherson personnel participate in extensive community outreach  
15 programs, with nearly 1000 volunteers participating in programs such as mentoring for public school  
16 children in 2004; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Fort McPherson also extensively collaborates with local governments in  
18 meeting the needs of citizens of the Metropolitan Atlanta area, such as acting as first responders and  
19 assisting the Cities of Atlanta and East Point in responding to emergency situations such as the  
20 release of biological or chemical materials; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Board finds that the interests of the citizens of Fulton County and of all of

1 Metropolitan Atlanta will be greatly harmed by the closure of Fort McPherson;

2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Fulton County Board of  
3 Commissioners hereby states its strong support for the continued operation of Fort McPherson and  
4 the essential national and local services provided thereby.

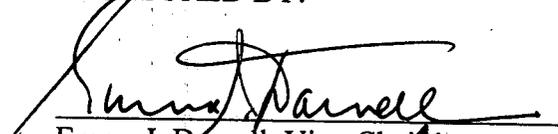
5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Board of Commissioners supports the aggressive  
6 efforts of the members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation to oppose the Department of  
7 Defense's recommendation for closure of Fort McPherson.

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Clerk to the Commission is directed to forward  
9 copies of this Resolution to the Commander of Fort McPherson, to the members of the Georgia  
10 Congressional Delegation, to the Governor of Georgia, to the Mayors of the Cities of Atlanta, East  
11 Point, and Forest Park, and to the Board of Commissioners of Clayton County.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that this Resolution shall become effective upon its  
13 adoption, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby  
14 repealed to the extent of the conflict.

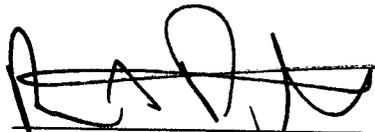
15 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED,** this 15th day of June, 2005.

16 SPONSORED BY:

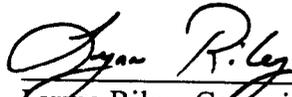
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20 Emma I. Darnell, Vice-Chair  
21 District 5

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25 Karen C. Handel, Chair  
26 District 1, at-large

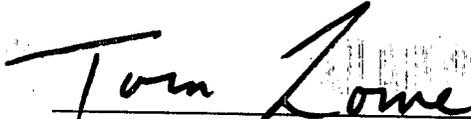
27 (Signatures continued on following page)



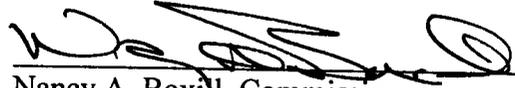
Robert L. "Robb" Pitts, Commissioner  
District 2, at-large



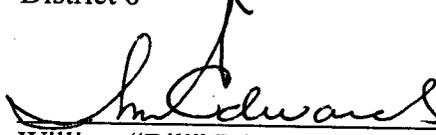
Lynne Riley, Commissioner  
District 3



Tom Lowe, Commissioner  
District 4

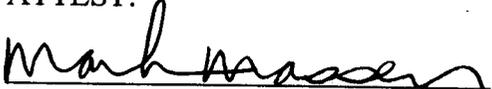


Nancy A. Boxill, Commissioner  
District 6



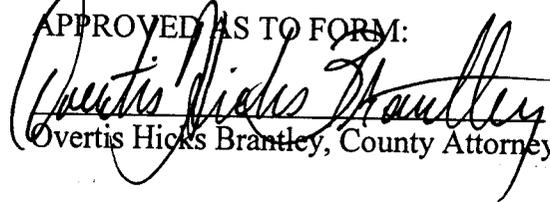
William "Bill" Edwards, Commissioner  
District 7

ATTEST:



Mark Massey, Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Overtis Hicks Brantley, County Attorney

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