



AN ORDINANCE BY COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL JULIAN BOND

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY OF ATLANTA CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART II (GENERAL ORDINANCES), CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION), ARTICLE II (COUNCIL), DIVISION II (MEETINGS), SUBDIVISION I (GENERAL PROVISIONS), SECTION 2-73 (RESERVED) TO RENAME THE SECTION AS “(REAL-TIME CLOSED CAPTIONING OF CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS)” AND TO REQUIRE REAL-TIME CLOSED CAPTIONING AT EVERY MEETING OF THE ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL; TO AMEND DIVISION III (STANDING AND OTHER COMMITTEES), SUBDIVISION (STANDING COMMITTEES), SECTION 2-133 (OPERATIONS; PROCEDURES); AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, access to democracy requires considering the unique needs of every Atlanta resident; and

WHEREAS, 0.38 percent of people in the U.S. are functionally deaf, according to Gallaudet University; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta is currently estimated to have a population of approximately five hundred thousand people; and

WHEREAS, seniors and veterans are increasingly likely to have hearing challenges; and

WHEREAS, the American Disabilities Act requires access to civic life for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission requires that certain Public, Educational, and Government Access Programming (PEG Programming) include closed captioning; and

WHEREAS, the lack of real-time closed captioning services at the meetings of the Atlanta City Council and its committees creates a barrier to participation in local government for people who are functionally deaf; and

WHEREAS, the City of Council regrets this oversight and desires to take proactive steps to remove barriers to democratic participation by requiring Real-Time Closed Captioning services at its meetings,

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

SECTION 1: That Atlanta Code of Ordinances Part II (General Ordinances), Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Council), Division II (Meetings), Subdivision I (General Provisions), Section 2-73, which is currently “Reserved,” be entitled “(Real-Time Closed Captioning)” and amended to read as follows:

- (a) The City of Atlanta shall cause all of the Regular Meetings and Special Meetings of the Atlanta City Council to be transcribed real-time for the purpose of providing Real-Time Closed Captioning.
- (b) The City of Atlanta shall cause at least one video screen in its Council Chambers to display a live recording of the Regular and Special Meetings of the Atlanta City Council while those meetings are transpiring, which shall include Real-Time Closed Captioning.
- (c) All meeting transcripts compiled pursuant to subsection (a) shall be filed with the municipal clerk and shall become part of the official record of the meeting.



- (d) All transcripts compiled pursuant to subsection (a) shall be posted to the City Council's website.
- (e) All video records of Regular Meetings and Special Meetings that include the Real-Time Closed Captioning shall be filed with the municipal clerk and shall become part of the official record of said meetings, such that if a member of the public requests a video record of a council meeting from the municipal clerk it shall include the closed captioning. Any fees related to a request for a copy a meeting transcript shall be waived.
- (f) All video recordings of Regular and Special Meetings of the Atlanta City Council that are posted on the City Council's website shall include Real-Time Closed Captioning.
- (g) All televised airings of Regular and Special Meetings of the Atlanta City Council on a television channel owned or operated by the City of Atlanta, including live airings as well as airings of pre-recorded meetings, shall include Real-Time Closed Captioning.
- (h) The class of meetings for which the requirements of subsection (a) through (g) shall apply shall be those meetings that occur on or after January 01, 2020.

SECTION 2: That Atlanta Code of Ordinances Part II (General Ordinances), Chapter 2 (Administration), Article II (Council), Division III (Standing and Other Committees), Subdivision I (Standing Committees), Section 2-133 (Operations; Procedures), be amended to add a new subsection (i) as follows:

- (i) The Committee Meetings of the Atlanta City Council shall be accessible to members of the public who are hard of hearing or functionally deaf, as follows:
 - (a) The City of Atlanta shall cause all of the Committee Meetings of the Atlanta City Council to be transcribed real-time for the purpose of providing Real-Time Closed Captioning.
 - (b) The City of Atlanta shall cause at least one video screen in its Council Chambers to display a live recording of the Committee Meetings of the Atlanta City Council while those meetings are transpiring, which shall include Real-Time Closed Captioning.
 - (c) All meeting transcripts compiled pursuant to subsection (a) shall be filed with the municipal clerk and shall become part of the official record of the meeting.
 - (d) All transcripts compiled pursuant to subsection (a) shall be posted to the City Council's website.
 - (e) All video records of the Committee Meetings of the Atlanta City Council that include the Real-Time Closed Captioning shall be filed with the municipal clerk and shall become part of the official record of said meetings, such that if a member of the public requests a video record of a Council Committee meeting from the municipal clerk it will include the closed captioning. Any fees related to a request for a copy a meeting transcript shall be waived.
 - (f) All video recordings of the Committee Meetings of the Atlanta City Council that are posted on the City Council's website shall include Real-Time Closed Captioning.
 - (g) All televised airings of the Committee Meetings of the Atlanta City Council on a television channel owned or operated by the City of Atlanta, including live airings and airings of pre-recorded meetings, shall include Real-Time Closed Captioning.

(h) The class of meetings for which the requirements of subsection (a) through (g) shall apply shall be those meetings that occur on or after January 01, 2020.

SECTION 3: Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 are effective as January 01, 2020.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby waived to the extent of the conflict.

A true copy,

**ADOPTED by the Atlanta City Council
APPROVED per City Charter Section 2-403**

**SEP 16, 2019
SEP 25, 2019**

Municipal Clerk

2019-48(19-O-1385)

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