



## A PROCLAMATION

### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AUDREY ARONA FOR HER CONTINUING PUBLIC SERVICE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Audrey Arona serves as the District Health Director and Chief Executive Officer of Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Departments; promoting their mission to protect and improve the health of our community by monitoring and preventing disease; promoting health and well-being; and preparing for disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Arona received her doctorate degree from the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, in 1991 and completed her residency at the University of Southern California Women's Hospital in 1995; and was in private practice for more than 25 years in both California and closer to home in Lawrenceville, delivering babies and protecting the health of women as a respected Obstetrician and Gynecologist; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Arona performed her duties with the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Health Departments professionally, quietly, and mostly out of the public eye; and over the past five months as cases continued to increase, Dr. Arona has been cast into a public health leadership role overseeing the testing, monitoring and dissemination of public information to over 1 million people living in Gwinnett, Newton and Rockdale counties; and

**WHEREAS**, despite her substantially expanded duties, she has made time to educate the public and provide weekly briefings organized by the Gwinnett Municipal Association for mayors, members of city councils, city managers and Gwinnett County leaders, sharing important data, trends and best practices; while answering questions directly and honestly to give public officials the confidence to speak with one unified voice as they navigated unprecedented public health and economic crisis to adopt policies and adapt operational procedures with confidence; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Arona has exhibited unselfish leadership, serving as a trusted advisor to the City of Sugar Hill, Gwinnett County, and other communities; making herself available 24/7 to answer questions and allay fears during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUGAR HILL** that we commend the heroic work of Dr. Audrey Arona and thank her for her selfless sacrifices during this local, state, national and global health emergency and wish her well in the months and years ahead serving our thankful community.

**ADOPTED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020, at Sugar Hill, Georgia.

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Steve Edwards, Mayor

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Susie Walker, Mayor Pro Tem

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Taylor Anderson, Council Member

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Marc Cohen, Council Member

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Brandon Hembree, Council Member