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PRESS RELEASE

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Council Action Makes Donations Easier

(Douglasville, GA) – On Monday, February 20, 2017, The City of Douglasville Mayor and City Council took action to enact an ordinance regulating donation bins and their locations within the City limits. The ordinance in its structure is designed to help maintain a healthy, safe and vibrant environment for the city and provide clear access to the bins.

The rising concerns regarding the improper use of donation bins and the unsightly blight of unwanted items discarded surrounding these bins, was first brought before the Douglasville Zoning Board during their February meeting. The new ordinance addresses zoning requirements, location of the bins on properties, the pick-up schedule maintenance of donation bins, as well as items which are allowed to be received at bin locations and several other qualifications for donation bins.

After hearing the information provided by staff research, the Zoning Board made recommendation that the new ordinance be brought before Mayor and Council for approval. During both the February 16th Legislative Work Session and the February 20th Voting Meeting a Public Hearing was held in the Council meeting to discuss the issues surrounding donation bins placement, regulations and locations. Time at each public hearing was allotted for both those supporting and/or opposing the ordinance to provide any key information. No opposition was presented regarding the purposed ordinance at either public hearing.

Community and Development Services Director, Jonathan Lynn presented supporting information to Mayor and Council during the Legislative Work Session on the 16th.

“The regulations purposed in this ordinance will be put into place to make certain that we as a city are maintaining a healthy and vibrant environment for our residents and visitors. The regulations outlined in this ordinance will help the city to enforce proper use of the bins and address-correct existing issues. The ordinance supports donation bins to be used for their ideal purpose and not as a personal dump site” stated Jonathan Lynn.

Lynn also stated a 45 day grace period would be implemented to allow compliance to the new ordinance. He stated a letter would be sent to businesses who currently have donation bins on site along with the entire ordinance to make them aware of the changes.



The enactment of this new ordinance will help to make access to donations bins easier for the community. Many charities utilize donation bins at convenient drop off locations. The city wants to encourage the community to support local reputable charities and their donation bins without the unsightly eye-sore to the community when unwanted items are piled up surrounding the bins.

The Community and Development Services has created an FAQ sheet to make the information readily available on key facts of the ordinance. Below are a few FAQ's of key points within this ordinance.

Where are donation bins allowed? Donation bins are only allowed within the General Commercial (CG), Neighborhood Commercial (CN), and Commercial Shopping Center (CSC) zoning districts. For properties located in these areas bins are only permitted to be located in the front or side yards of the property. No bins are permitted to be in the rear of any property in any zoning district.

If you are unsure of what your zoning classification may be, please contact Devon Hooper at 678-449-3054 or hooperd@douglasvillega.gov.

How many bins may have at my location? For properties that are more than four (4) acres there is a maximum of two (2) donation bins. All other properties have a maximum of one (1) bin per property.

Is there a size limitation? There are limitations on the size of these bins, which is that no bin shall be taller than eight (8) feet in height and four (4) feet wide.

Are my existing bins covered under this ordinance? No. All locations are required to come in to compliance with this ordinance no later than May 1, 2017. Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in action being taken by the City's Code Enforcement Division.

Are there any other requirements? All bins should be clearly marked with contact information that includes a schedule for pick-up of donated goods.

The entire ordinance is accessible on the City's website, www.douglasvillega.gov.

