

NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK
MAY 3 - 9, 2020

WHEREAS, travel has a critical role in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and the nation's economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, a robust travel industry has provided significant economic benefits for the nation, generating more than \$2.6 trillion in economic output last year, with \$1.1 trillion spent directly by travelers in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, travel has been the foundation of a healthy workforce, serving as one of the largest private-sector employers in the U.S., supporting 15.8 million jobs in 2019, including 9 million directly in the travel industry and 6.8 million in other industries; and

WHEREAS, spending by travelers has aided state and local governments alike, generating \$180 billion in tax revenue last year to support essential services and programs; and

WHEREAS, spending by visitors to Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, is \$330.5 million per year; puts 2,973 people to work; generates \$69.93 million in paychecks earned; and brings in \$8.89 million in local tax revenues and \$13.71 million in state tax revenues for 2018; and

WHEREAS, meetings, events and incentive travel have always been a core business function that helps companies strengthen business performance, educate employees and customers, and reward business accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, leisure travel, which accounts for more than three-quarters of all trips taken in the U.S., spurs countless benefits to travelers' health and wellness, creativity, cultural awareness, education, happiness, productivity and relationships; and

WHEREAS, businesses and workers in the travel industry were some of the first and hardest hit by the economic crisis resulting from coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism-dependent businesses, 83% of which are small businesses, depend upon our community's support through and after this crisis; and

WHEREAS, even while Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, cannot currently welcome visitors in person, the spirit of travel and hospitality remains the enduring ethos of the travel industry and Athens-Clarke County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of travel will be a necessary and prominent component of our return to everyday life and must be supported and protected at all costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Kelly Girtz, do hereby proclaim **May 3-9, 2020** as **NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK** in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, and urge the citizens of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia to join me in recognizing the critical role this industry plays in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Athens-Clarke County to be affixed this 3rd day of May 2020.



Mayor Kelly Girtz

Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

