



Office of the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court
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BUDGET CUTS TO SEVERELY IMPACT CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OFFICE

FULTON - Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court, Cathelene "Tina" Robinson (Atlanta Judicial Circuit), provides feedback on the severe impact of budget cuts for the largest court system in the State of Georgia and especially to the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court Office.

On yesterday, the Board of Fulton County Commissioner's decreased spending for the entire Criminal Justice System. A major reduction of this sort is sure to impact the entire Criminal Justice System by staggering the amount of backlog cases and severely impacting the timely release of inmates in the Fulton County Jail. This type of reduction for the Clerk's Office ultimately means 32 sworn Deputy Clerks will add to the unemployment ratio.

The Clerk of Superior Court Office not only generates \$58 million of revenue in the form of fees and taxes to the County, but also delivers mandated services to citizens both locally and nationally that will be immensely reduced. A cut of this magnitude to the Clerk's Office also means temporarily closing the Clerk of Superior Court Annex locations, which will greatly impact citizens throughout Fulton County; a major delay in Tax FiFa's and transfers; the removal of Deputy Clerks from first appearance court hearings, which may lead to defendant's rights being violated. Additionally, the Clerk's office currently receives a high volume of filings and other special requests for information, resulting in an increase in workloads and a delay of services to citizens.

The Criminal Justice System is a vital source that advocates and operates on behalf of all citizens of Fulton County and the State of Georgia. It also provides other special services that are convenient to citizens. "I believe the primary mission should be to enhance the justice system and its' services instead of diminishing them," Clerk Robinson stated. "Citizens rely heavily on their elected leaders to protect, to serve, and build a safer, less violent community for everyone to live. The drastic cuts will further impede the ability to provide a safer place for all and to deliver expedient and quality service."

"I am personally committed to working on behalf of *all* citizens. It is my desire that you be informed of the necessary changes and supply feedback to me as we work together through this difficult budget year."

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