

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER DECLARING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA POET LAUREATE, WHICH SHALL BE AN HONORARY POSITION ASSIGNED TO THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, AND SHALL SERVE AS THE AS THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S AMBASSADOR FOR POETRY, CREATIVE WRITING AND THE LITERARY ARTS, AND SHALL WORK WITHIN ALL ATLANTA COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE LITERATURE AND LITERACY, PARTICULARLY AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL; AND APPOINTING PEARL CLEAGE TO SERVE AS THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S POET LAUREATE.

WHEREAS, the vast majority of states in the United States, including the state of Georgia have established Poet Laureate positions; and

WHEREAS, these positions are an important way to honor a poet and recognize the place that poetry has in a state's cultural tradition and civic life; and

WHEREAS, the poet serving in these roles is an ambassador of the art form, literature, literacy, and storytelling; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities of all sizes throughout the United States have adopted the tradition of honoring a poet in their communities with the title of Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, similar to state Poets Laureate, these poets are important champions of the art form in their community and work to inspire the next generation of poets and their readers; and

WHEREAS, Section 3-104 of the City of Atlanta Charter provides that it shall be my duty as Mayor to promote and develop the prosperity and social well-being of the people of the City of Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, in aid in the discharge of this and other authorized duties, I may make certain appointments to positions pursuant to the authority granted by Section 3-106 of the City of Atlanta Charter; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Section 2-301 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances provides that I may assign functions, which have not been enumerated as being the specific function of a specific department, by administrative order; and

WHEREAS, it is my desire to establish the position of the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate which shall be assigned to the Executive Office of the Mayor, and to provide for the appointment of Pearl Cleage to serve as the City of Atlanta's Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, Pearl Cleage is an integral part of Atlanta's social and cultural fabric, and embodies the City's unique cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cleage started her career in the 1970s as Mayor Maynard Jackson's Press Secretary and speechwriter, and throughout her career has staged several plays, including *Flyin' West*, *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, and *Bourbon at the Border*; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cleage has worked with many Atlanta-based artistic icons and cultural institutions, and currently serves as the Alliance Theatre's Mellon Playwright in Residence; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Ms. Cleage's commitment to her craft, to the Atlanta community, and to the causes for which she fights, have earned her a special place in the hearts of many Atlantans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate shall serve the City's ambassador for poetry, creative writing and the literary arts, and shall work within all Atlanta communities to promote literature and literacy, particularly at the middle school and high school level; and

WHEREAS, the duties of the Poet Laureate may also include creating programs and initiatives that inspire residents to pursue interests or careers that promote reading, writing and literacy, providing an annual lecture featuring her or his work, providing readings at certain annual City of Atlanta events, and identifying ways to better incorporate literature and the literary arts into City of Atlanta activities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate shall serve in an honorary capacity and shall receive no remuneration; and

WHEREAS, it is my desire that Ms. Cleage shall serve as the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate for a period of two years.


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, pursuant to Sections 3-104 and 3-106 of the City of Atlanta Charter and Section 2-301 of the City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances, that the position of the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate is hereby established and assigned to the Executive Office of the Mayor.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate shall serve as the City of Atlanta's ambassador for poetry, creative writing and the literary arts, and shall work within all Atlanta communities to promote literature and literacy, particularly at the middle school and high school level.


BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the City of Atlanta Poet Laureate shall serve in an honorary capacity and shall receive no remuneration.

BE IT FINALLY ORDERED, that Pearl Cleage is hereby appointed to serve as the City of Atlanta's Poet Laureate.

SO ORDERED, this 31st day of March, 2021.



Keisha Lance Bottoms, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Municipal Clerk

RC 3/21/21

Foris Webb, III
Municipal Clerk