



**RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE DEVELOPMENT LINK
SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF A NEW MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG**

WHEREAS, the Golden Triangle Development LINK, the economic development organization responsible for promoting, encouraging, fostering, and advancing economic, industrial, agricultural, commercial, civic, and community growth in Lowndes County, Clay County, and Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, aka Mississippi's Golden Triangle, which service area includes, but is not limited to, the cities of Columbus, West Point and Starkville, Mississippi;

WHEREAS, the LINK is responsible for recruiting new businesses and industries to locate in the Golden Triangle and State of Mississippi, and for encouraging our existing businesses and industries to continue to invest and create new jobs here;

WHEREAS, the current Mississippi state flag incorporates the Confederate battle flag emblem into its design;

WHEREAS, for many in our State and country, such Confederate symbols serve as a painful reminder of the institution of slavery in southern states (including our own) and of the government sanctioned racism, segregation and discrimination of Black people that followed the Civil War during the Jim Crowe era;

WHEREAS, the continued use of the Confederate battle flag emblem on our State flag serves as a visual representation of our State's divisive history and is viewed by many people, including many business owners, executives and managers, their employees and many of our smart and talented youth who are contemplating whether or not to remain in Mississippi and pursue a career and family here, as evidence that our State seems more focused on honoring a divisive and controversial history as opposed to looking to the future and the potential of our great State and its people;

WHEREAS, at best, the continued use of the Confederate battle flag emblem on our State flag does not assist our organization and our communities to attract and grow business and industry, and at worst it serves as a material hindrance in our and their ability to do so;

WHEREAS, no other state incorporates such Confederate imagery in its state flag, and Confederate battle flag emblem on Mississippi's flag should no longer be associated with our State;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the LINK believes that the Mississippi state flag should be a symbol to unite, rather than divide, and which can be the subject of pride, respect and ceremony by all who fly and view our flag;

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the LINK therefore believes that State of Mississippi would be better served by a new flag design, which does not incorporate the Confederate battle flag emblem or any other Confederate imagery, to better represent the inclusion of all peoples regardless of race, gender, age, religion and socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee of the LINK believes the State Legislature and Governor should take action to promptly effect such change.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Golden Triangle Development LINK hereby supports the design and adoption of a new Mississippi state flag, which does not incorporate the Confederate battle flag emblem or any other Confederate imagery, and urges the Legislature and Governor of the State of Mississippi to take prompt action to effect such change.

After discussion, Committee member Don Durst moved and Committee member Brandt Galloway seconded the motion to adopt the foregoing resolution and, the question, being put to a roll call vote, received the affirmative vote of all of the members of the Executive Committee of the Golden Triangle Development LINK present, being a quorum of said Executive Committee, and the Chairman thereof declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted on this the 16th day of June, 2020.



Brandt Galloway
Chairman, Executive Committee

ATTEST:



LaDonna C. Helveston,
Secretary, Executive Committee