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Garner gains another endorsement

National political organization cites Garner's record, viability

Atlanta, June 1, 2010 – Joan Garner, a long-time community leader and non-profit executive who is seeking the Fulton County Commission District 6 seat, has been endorsed by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. The Victory Fund (www.VictoryFund.org) is the only national organization dedicated to increasing the number of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender elected officials at all levels of government. Since its founding in 1991, the number of openly LGBT elected officials serving in the U.S. has grown from just 49 to nearly 500.

“This endorsement, along with the previous endorsement of Georgia Equality, is a vote of confidence for the tireless work Joan has already done; for her knowledge of the district, its assets and issues; and for the actionable plans she has to represent the diverse neighborhoods of the 6th Commission District,” says Kenneth M. Neighbors, a partner with GreenbergTraurig, the international law firm, who is serving as campaign chair for Garner’s county commission bid.

Victory Fund President & CEO Chuck Wolfe: “Joan’s relationships, public service and professional experience are impressive, and her campaign has demonstrated the strength and viability to be victorious in the July 20 primary, and, of course, again November 2. It’s an added bonus that she would be the first openly gay person to serve on the Fulton County Commission, though her inclusive, bridge-building style will be an asset to everyone.”

“I am honored by the support of the Victory Fund,” says Garner, who is running for the seat currently held by Nancy Boxill, who is retiring after 23 years on the Commission. “Several years ago I completed Victory Fund’s training and it was an important part of my public service journey that led to this campaign. One of the reasons I entered this race is to ensure that this diverse community continues to prosper, and that it does so with the active participation of people from all walks of life across District 6 and beyond.”

A Washington, DC, native, Garner has been in Atlanta since 1978, making her home in various neighborhoods across the district. She now resides with her partner of 11 years in the heart of the district in the historic Old Fourth Ward neighborhood.

In addition to the Victory Fund endorsement, Garner was previously endorsed by Georgia Equality (www.GeorgiaEquality.org), the largest statewide LGBT advocacy group.

Along with her extensive non-profit leadership career within organizations supporting social justice, Garner’s more than 20-year civic resume includes direct service to Fulton

County, including on the board of the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library and on the Fulton County Arts Council (on which she continues to serve). As long ago as 1989 she served on the transition team for Mayor-elect Maynard Jackson, who later appointed Garner a senior advisor on gay and lesbian issues; in doing so, he set a precedent of gay community input directly at the mayoral level. Recently, she advised Mayor Kasim Reed's transition efforts (Public Works Commissioner Search Committee).

Fulton County District 6 encompasses portions of the northeastern, central and southeastern sections of Atlanta, from as far south as the city/Fulton County line to Lindridge-Martin Manor on the northern edge of the district. East to West, the district runs approximately from Moreland Avenue to Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.

Follow Garner for Fulton County Commissioner at www.GarnerForCommissioner.com and "friend"/"like" the campaign on FaceBook at Garner for Fulton County Commissioner. E-mail Drew@GarnerForCommissioner.com or call 404-832-JOAN (-5626).

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