



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **In Memoriam: Chairman Michel “Marty” Turpeau Leaves a Lasting Legacy**

*Turpeau’s commitment to community betterment and economic development was unparalleled*

**ATLANTA** — With deep sadness and a heavy heart, Develop Fulton announces the passing of its Board Chairman, Michel M. Turpeau, on December 23, 2023, following a brief illness. Affectionately known as "Marty," Chairman Turpeau was a lifelong Atlantan and an outstanding community leader, leaving an indelible mark on the organization and the Fulton County community.

Turpeau received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College and his master’s in finance from Clark Atlanta University. He assumed the role of Develop Fulton's board member on July 25, 2017, and was elected chairman on October 27, 2020. He was also the President of the Aaron Group, Inc (TAG), a company that connects businesses with innovative products and services to local public sector decision-makers, educating them on innovations that serve the public good. Turpeau's commitment to community development was evident through TAG's hiring practices, as he employed 100 percent of customer service positions through Atlanta's workforce development program, exemplifying the company's dedication to supporting city initiatives.

As a board member and Chairman of Develop Fulton, Turpeau championed numerous initiatives to foster inclusivity, equity, and transparency. Notable accomplishments under his leadership include:

- the introduction of an enhanced MFBE Program,
- the update of the Authority's bylaws to reflect any changes in the law and support Develop Fulton's repositioning under new leadership,
- the establishment of committees—strategic initiative committee and financial review/audit committee—to provide guidance and support on the overall decision-making and oversight of the authority,
- the launching of "Attainable Fulton," an initiative forged to bridge the wealth gap by tackling the housing affordability crisis,
- the support of a Strategic Initiative Community Grant program funding up to \$500,000 for small business owners,
- the leadership and support to introduce new financial policies, protocols, and procedures for the authority with a focus on community benefit, and among others,

- the rebranding and repositioning of the Development Authority of Fulton County to Develop Fulton in recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the authority.

Turpeau's dedication extended beyond organizational changes, as he actively practiced accountability and transparency, opening doors for a business-friendly environment that worked on empowering and diversifying Develop Fulton's mission.

"In the wake of Chairman Turpeau's passing, we are profoundly saddened by the loss of a devoted leader and mentor. He leaves an indelible legacy of integrity, innovation, and unwavering commitment to Fulton County and its 15 cities," said Vice Chair Brandon Beach. "As we navigate this challenging transition, we remain steadfast in upholding Marty's values and ensuring the continuity of his impactful contributions. Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time, and we are dedicated to preserving the joyful spirit and success that Marty infused into every aspect of our organization."

Turpeau positively influenced the Authority to adopt meaningful inclusionary provisions and intentionally guided Develop Fulton's efforts to promote and emphasize tools targeting under-served areas.

"At Develop Fulton, we're mourning the loss of an exceptional leader and dear friend whose vision and dedication shaped the very essence of our organization. Chairman Turpeau leaves an enduring legacy that inspires us to uphold the standards of equity and inclusion he set forth. Chairman Turpeau was committed to Develop Fulton's efforts to bring development to every corner of Fulton County, especially the underdeveloped areas," said Executive Director Sarah-Elizabeth Langford.

Turpeau served on the boards of the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, the Joint Development Authority of Metro Atlanta, the Fulton Technology & Emerging Energy Authority, the Atlanta Metro Chamber, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and Atlanta Aerotropolis.

A memorial service to celebrate Chairman Michel M. Turpeau's life will be held **on Jan. 5, 2024, at 2 p.m.** at Morehouse College.

Develop Fulton is committed to a smooth leadership transition plan that maintains continuity, upholds the values Chairman Turpeau instilled in the organization, and sustains the positive momentum initiated by Chairman Turpeau, ensuring that the essential initiatives he championed continue to prosper. The Board of Directors and Executive Director assure stakeholders of a transparent and principled transition executed with care. Develop Fulton is grateful for the ongoing support and understanding during this challenging period.

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**About Develop Fulton**

Develop Fulton delivers diverse targeted economic development financing services, connecting qualified development projects with taxable and tax-exempt bond financing, provides property tax incentives to increase the tax revenue of the county, encourages thoughtful and balanced economic investment to retain existing businesses, promote job creation, and sustain the quality of life for residents throughout Fulton County.