



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** Litter affects quality of life, economic development, and water quality in Georgia and litter is a public health, safety, and welfare issue for Georgia citizens;

**WHEREAS:** Litter visually blights the State's roads and highways, contributes to derelict neighborhoods, and is correlated with high incidents of crime that negatively impact economic development, tourism, and community pride;

**WHEREAS:** Litter on land is washed into and clogs community stormwater drains and is washed directly into Georgia streams, rivers, and lakes negatively impacting water quality and degrading coastal marshes and beaches;

**WHEREAS:** Litter is a public health concern related to the disease-bearing vermin that thrive in litter, and related to tire piles that collect water becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes and the diseases they carry;

**WHEREAS:** Litter is a public safety concern in that approximately 25,000 motor vehicle accidents and up to 90 fatalities are the result of unsecured loads or vehicle related road debris in North America every year, and the Office of Highway Safety annually reports that roadway debris contributes to motorist deaths in Georgia;

**WHEREAS:** Litter is a public welfare concern as it costs millions of dollars for agencies and local governments to remove litter from interstates, state highways, local roads, and public spaces, and the Georgia Department of Transportation alone expends over \$14 million annually removing over 2 million bags of trash on 5,000 interstate miles and 18,000 state highway miles;

**WHEREAS:** Litter abatement and prevention efforts are being conducted by numerous agencies and organizations, including the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, Cities, Counties, and Keep Georgia Beautiful Affiliates; and

**WHEREAS:** An effective litter abatement and prevention strategy will only be successful if it addresses and coordinates collection, enforcement, and prevention education activities among and across agencies and organizations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** The creation of a Litter Abatement and Prevention Team to:

Develop a comprehensive litter abatement and prevention campaign leading to a long-term, sustainable approach for reducing litter and increasing public awareness, personal responsibility and community involvement; and

Develop recommendations for more effective, coordinated and innovative litter education, enforcement and clean-up programs such as convening an awareness and prevention Summit, pursuing technological advances, and developing a competitive Clean Community Challenge; and

Coordinate existing and pursue future funding mechanisms for litter abatement and prevention; and

Ensure coordination, cooperation, and communication among state agencies and their litter abatement and prevention programs and activities; and

Review existing litter control and prevention laws, rules and regulations, and if necessary, recommend changes.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That the Litter Abatement and Prevention Team shall include representatives of the following state agencies, associations, and organizations:

Association County Commissioners of Georgia  
Department of Community Affairs  
Department of Economic Development  
Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Public Safety  
Department of Transportation  
Georgia Association of Code Enforcement Officers  
Georgia Beverage Association  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce  
Georgia Chapter of the National Solid Waste Management Association  
Georgia Municipal Association  
Georgia Police Chief Association  
Georgia Pulp and Paper Association  
Georgia Sheriffs Association  
Georgia State Patrol

Georgia Tire Retailers Association  
Governor's Office of Highway Safety  
Hands On Georgia  
Keep Georgia Beautiful Executive Directors Association  
Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** The Department of Community Affairs is charged with providing administrative support for the Litter Abatement and Prevention Team, and the work of the Team will be substantially completed by December 31, 2005.

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2005.

  
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GOVERNOR