

Senate Resolution 660

By: Senators James of the 35th and Rhett of the 33rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State of Georgia to designate areas of the City of Atlanta as Nobel Peace District
2 No. 1; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia honors the legacy of the Mims family in Georgia and
4 thanks Atlanta's sixth mayor, John Floyd Mims, for donating land for the first Atlanta City
5 Hall and Fulton County Courthouse, which is now the grounds of the Georgia State Capitol;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta has followed suit with the State of Georgia in honoring the
8 legacy of The Honorable Rodney Mims Cook Sr., the state having named the Downtown
9 Connector for him and the city having named the Rodney Cook Sr. Peace Park for him; and

10 WHEREAS, the Cook Peace Park and the Historic Vine City neighborhood of the capital city
11 of Georgia are within the viewshed of an important property of the State of Georgia, the
12 Georgia World Congress Center; and

13 WHEREAS, the developer of Cook Peace Park, the National Monuments Foundation, in
14 partnership with various departments of the City of Atlanta and the Trust for Public Land,
15 has negotiated with the National Park Service and the family of Nobel Peace Prize winner

16 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to acquire properties adjacent to the park, including the Martin
17 Luther King Jr. Life Home and several other buildings on the southwest side of the Historic
18 Sunset Avenue Civil Rights Block, which are now under restoration to be opened to the
19 public and are expected to draw millions of visitors from around the world; and

20 WHEREAS, the Wachendorff Nurseries, the largest in Georgia in the mid-19th century and
21 the reason this region is called Vine City, comprise several Queen Anne Antebellum
22 buildings on the northeast side of the Historic Sunset Avenue Civil Rights Block; and

23 WHEREAS, additional notable peace leaders such as Senator Julian Bond, educator Booker
24 T. Washington, Martin Luther King colleague James Edward Orange, entrepreneur John
25 Wesley Dobbs, and Mayor Maynard Jackson also lived on this block; and

26 WHEREAS, Rodney Cook's ancestor, Atlanta's 37th mayor, Livingston Mims, originally
27 built Mims Park in Vine City as the city's first integrated park and honored within it
28 Georgia's co-founder Chief Tomochichi, Booker T. Washington, and W.E.B. DuBois; and

29 WHEREAS, additional buildings, 18 statues, and four Nobel Peace Prize winners have been
30 unanimously approved by the Atlanta City Council to house the Ambassador Andrew Young
31 Foundation and Archive, including the Shin Dae-yong Global Peace Pantheon to be built on
32 the park's highest point as well as the Georgia Peace Column on the western edge of the
33 central park axis, which will contain in its pedestal a Georgia museum focused on 300 years
34 of Georgia Peacemakers and the 8,000 volume CT and Octavia Vivian and ML King Family
35 libraries; and

36 WHEREAS, the underpinnings of this large single building contain four decks of parking to
37 accommodate all of the above mentioned facilities; and

38 WHEREAS, the Cook Peace Park is getting international attention due to its beauty and
39 significant engineering advances; and

40 WHEREAS, Georgia, were she a nation, would rank No. 5 in Nobel Peace Laureates; and

41 WHEREAS, eight international peace institutes have signed agreements to establish offices
42 in this building to foster peace around the world; and

43 WHEREAS, the National Monuments Foundation and Governor Brian Kemp have worked
44 steadfastly over the last several years to entice these peace institutes to open offices in
45 Georgia; and

46 WHEREAS, the National Monuments Foundation has worked with the Georgia Regents to
47 foster peace education with the University System of Georgia and the ARCHE schools.

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
49 urge the State of Georgia to designate this area as Nobel Peace District No. 1, including
50 Rodney Cook Sr. Peace Park and the Sunset Avenue Block due west of it from Spencer
51 Street to Joseph E. Boone Boulevard and east to Northside Drive and the gigantic windows
52 of the Georgia World Congress Center to protect the viewshed from said windows.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
54 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
55 press.