



Contact:
Robbie Branscomb
Executive Director, FCC
rbranscomb@fountaincityclassic.com
706.577.3409
www.fountaincityclassic.com

For Immediate Release

The 33rd Annual Fountain City Classic Implements a Clear Bag Policy for Enhanced Security Measures

COLUMBUS, GA., October 23, 2023 – In an effort to prioritize fan safety and streamline security procedures, the 33rd Annual Fountain City Classic, scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023, at A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium, in Uptown, Columbus, Georgia, will implement a “Clear Bag Policy”.

The decision was made with careful consideration for the well-being of attendees, fans, participants and staff. This policy aligns with best practices established by similar events nationwide, providing an added layer of security while maintaining the spirit of the Classic.

Honorable Calvin Smyre, Chairman of the Fountain City Classic, emphasized the importance of this measure, stating, “Our top priority is the safety and enjoyment of our attendees and fans. The clear bag policy is a proactive step towards ensuring a secure environment for all. We appreciate the support from the Muscogee County Sheriff Office and the understanding and cooperation of our valued attendees and fans.” Executive Director, Robbie Branscomb added, “This policy aligns with industry standards and allows our security personnel to work more efficiently. It also reduces wait times at entry points, ensuring a smoother experience for everyone involved.” Sheriff Greg Countryman stated his support for the new policy, affirming its significance in enhancing overall security. “The Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office will work to ensure a safe day for all attendees and fans for the 33rd Annual Fountain City Classic. We have worked hard to plan and prepare for this event. Our number one goal is safety.”

Under the clear bag policy, attendees will be permitted to bring in clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC bags no larger than 12”x 6”x12”, or one- gallon clear plastic freezer bags. Small clutch purses, approximately the size of a hand, will also be allowed. Exceptions will be made from medically necessary items after proper inspection.

For more detailed information on the clear bag policy and a list of prohibited items, please visit the official website of the Fountain City Classic at fountaincityclassic.com.

The Fountain City Classic Host Committee appreciates the cooperation and understanding of all attendees as they work collectively to ensure a secure and enjoyable event for all.

ABOUT THE FOUNTAIN CITY CLASSIC, INC.

Founded in 1989, the Fountain City Classic (FCC) is an annual American football game between two historically black universities (HBCUs), Albany State University (Golden Rams) and Fort Valley State University (Wildcats). The FCC is one of South Georgia’s premier events. Over the past thirty-two years, the FCC has provided scholarship funds to both institutions' General Funds and awarded scholarships to students from Columbus attending both institutions and other institutions of higher learning. The Fountain City Classic football weekend has an estimated attendance of 45,000 spectators drawn to the gathering at A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium and the grounds of South Commons in Columbus, Georgia. This year’s Classic will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Gold and Silver sponsors of the Fountain City Classic are Aflac, Altria Client Services, Atlanta Falcons, Chick-Fil-A Foundation, Columbus Sports and Events Council, VisitColumbusGA, Delta Air Lines, Georgia Power Company, Synovus, and TSYS| Global Payments.

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