



NEWS RELEASE

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**The Wednesday Wrap-Up:
Highlights from the Augusta Commission meeting held January 17, 2023**

AUGUSTA, GA (January 18, 2023) – In this week’s Wednesday Wrap-Up of the Augusta Commission meeting held on January 17, 2023, elected officials received State of Georgia Commission Certificates from Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, and Natalie Bryan was appointed to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council. View the news briefs below for more details.

Mayor and Commissioners receive State of Georgia Commission Certificates

Mayor Garnett Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Garrett, Commissioner Wayne Guilfoyle, Commissioner Tony Lewis, and Commissioner Alvin Mason were presented with State of Georgia Commission Certificates from Georgia Governor Brian Kemp. The certificates charge the elected officials to abide by the powers and duties assigned to their roles in government. Commissioner Stacy Pulliam received her certificate during her swearing-in ceremony on December 19, 2022.

Bryan appointed to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council

Natalie Bryan, a licensed Clinical Social Worker and owner of Restoring Harmony Counseling & Consulting, has been named to the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) Advisory Council. Bryan is experienced in working with victims of abuse and trauma, including adolescents.

DBHDD operates state hospitals and provides for community-based services across the state through contracted providers. The department serves people living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders, intellectual and developmental disabilities, or any combination of these.

Augusta, Georgia Approves Memorandum of Understanding with Phinizy Center for Water Sciences

Augusta Commission approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Phinizy Center for Water Sciences to provide the staff and equipment to support surface water quality monitoring and other scientific services aligned with state and federal permits and other activities identified in the amount of \$250,000.



Office of the Administrator

Takiyah A. Douse
Interim Administrator

Augusta, Georgia Approves Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements with Grovetown, Georgia

To streamline the collaborative fire department services between Augusta, Georgia, and Grovetown, Georgia, the Augusta Commission has approved Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements for the two communities. Automatic aid refers to assistance dispatched automatically to a specific geographical area of the community. Mutual aid refers to assistance dispatched upon request for any part of the community.

Augusta Commission Grants Additional Funding for Housing Construction

The Augusta Commission has approved an additional \$96,352 in HOME funding to support the construction of three single-family Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessible rental units on Lee Beard Way through the Laney Walker Development Corporation. The three homes will be rented to low to moderate-income residents in Augusta-Richmond County. Previously, the Augusta Commission approved \$450,000 in HOME funding and \$180,000 from the Georgia Rehabilitation Institute to construct these units.

Employee Recognitions

John Goodenough was named Augusta, Georgia's Employee of the Month for November 2022. Goodenough has served in the Augusta Utilities Department for nearly a decade and has launched in-house mechanical programs and cost-saving initiatives that have improved the department's productivity and reliability.

Media interested in covering these topics should contact Public Information Manager Danielle Harris at 706-312-5511.

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