

2024 STATE OF THE COUNTY



Where the World Lands
and Opportunities
Take Off

CHAIRMAN JEFFREY E. TURNER
Clayton County Board of Commissioners



CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner
Commissioner (District 1) - Vacant
Commissioner Gail Hambrick (District 2)
Commissioner Felicia Franklin (District 3)
Commissioner/Vice-Chair DeMont Davis (District 4)

MISSION

Clayton County is a community-focused government committed to maintaining a positive and effective atmosphere while providing access to resources that are beneficial to the economic growth and prosperity of our citizens, businesses, and employees.

VISION

Clayton County will serve as the archway between the region and the world by creating endless opportunities for all citizens to live, work, and play.

CORE VALUES

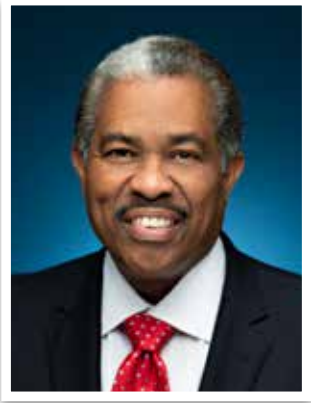
Accountability • Transparency • Collaboration • Integrity • Communication

STRATEGIC PLAN PILLARS

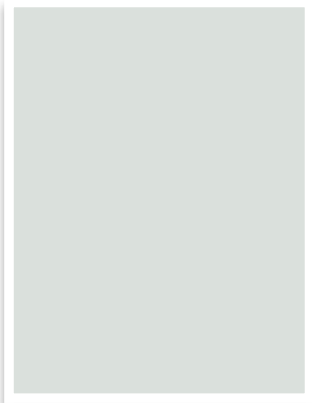
Professional Growth Management
Economic Opportunity
Communication & Image
Fiscal Responsibility
Quality of Life



Jeffrey E. Turner
Chairman



DeMont Davis
District 4 Commissioner/Vice-Chair



Vacant
District 1 Commissioner



Gail Hambrick
District 2 Commissioner



Felicia Franklin
District 3 Commissioner



Chief Operations Officer
Detrick Stanford



Deputy Chief Operations Officer
Landry Merkison



Chief Staff Attorney
Charles Reed



Interim Chief Finance Officer
Stacey Merritt



Communications Administrator
Valerie L. Fuller

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To the #Claytonconnected Community:

It is my pleasure to serve as your Chairman of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners since 2013. As such, it is a privilege to share our tremendous strides, improvements, and many notable accomplishments.

We proudly share overall excellence in financial and procurement operations and reporting with award-winning recognition. Our leadership team and staff in all departments are commended for the innovative and aggressive approaches to foster and implement the vision of this board, by working to build and sustain relationships, provide effective two-way communications, find resources, and explore opportunities for growth in economic development.

Working together, we have uplifted thousands of residents in their time of need by helping them remain in their homes thanks to funds from the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program. Our residents are also benefiting from no cost home repair programs and new home ownership with assistance for down payment, closing costs, and homebuyers' education classes facilitated by the newly established Office of Grants Administration.

We are equally excited to end and begin new phases of our Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funded Progress for Pennies projects approved by the citizens of Clayton County. The final design plan and bid for our new administrative building is in the works, as well as public safety fire stations. Our quality-of-life projects like the expansion of the River's Edge Greenway Trail Phase 2 repaving is near completion. Phases 3 and 4 expansions are underway. The county's new fueling center is also complete and operational. Additionally, more than 12 miles of improved and resurfaced roadways are complete as part of the 2023 Resurfacing Program.

Of course, we cannot forget our youth! We welcomed partnerships with our school district and postsecondary institutions to provide hands-on, real-world experiences. We offered career pathways, internships, and cyber certification programs to build and invest in our Clayton County workforce.

Our newest fun-filled, premier destination, Spivey Splash Water Park, has been selected as host site for the Georgia Recreation and Parks Lifeguard Games in July 2024. Our Parks and Recreation centers are also showing a revenue increase of more than twenty-five percent.

As we continue to advance our communities and grow our brand, we thank each of you for your vital role in helping us to succeed and being an integral part of the #Claytonconnected vision. Collectively, there is nothing we cannot accomplish if we continue to put our residents and county first.

We remain dedicated and committed to being responsible and accountable to you for the success and continuous progress in our great Clayton County...where the world lands and opportunities take off!

Sincerely,



Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE



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- Reduced the net millage rate from 14.496 to 12.360 for the General Fund
- Reduced the millage rate from 4.75 to 4.1460 for the Fire Fund
- Spent \$13.9 million in ARPA funds for various County projects during FY2023
- Spent \$13.5 million in ERA funds for admin and Emergency Rental Assistance during FY2023
- Received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2023 budget document
- Earned Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

TAX ASSESSORS

- Maintained a sales ratio below the Department of Renewal (DOR) standard of 40 which is more in the favor of the citizens for 2023
- Audited 19,000 parcels (along with market changes, increased the county digest by 11.8%)
- Implemented *Just Appraised*, a new deed management software system that allows processing of more than 10,000 deed transactions in a faster, more efficient time frame
- Successfully processed over 7,200 appeals for 2023



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OFFICE OF GRANTS ADMINISTRATION



- Processed 1,125 applications for families through the Clayton County Coordinated Entry System (CCoE) since its establishment on July 22, 2023
- 44 eligible Clayton County residents received homeowners' assistance for repairs to their homes at a total cost of \$367,160
- Served 18 eligible homebuyers who have the capacity to purchase a home, but lack the funds needed for down payment and closing costs (9 of the 18 were Clayton County employees), for a total of \$235,000 of financial assistance
- Served 140 Clayton County residents with Housing Counseling Sessions, Homebuyer Education Classes, and Fair Housing Classes
- Provided \$133,720 of federal funds for the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) for 14 formerly homeless families to facilitate transition into permanent housing
- Achieved the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) imposed grant expenditure requirements
- Received \$10,528,768 for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Round 2; disbursed \$10,480,431 to prevent 1,315 Clayton County residents from eviction and/or homelessness



OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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- Gilbert Road & Victory Landing - \$400 million Investment in Mountain View, 5 buildings and 700,000 sq. ft. of industrial new construction
- Planned, developed, and orchestrated 3 consecutive Opportunity Clayton Retail, Restaurant & Hospitality Bus Tours, hosted 135 brokers, developers, and investors on a robust route around Clayton County to highlight 45 prime sites for redevelopment
- Closed on the purchase of a 19,000 sq. ft. building to house the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funded Small Business Incubator
- Awarded a \$30k Technical Assistance Grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to assist with planning the services and structure of the Small Business Incubator
- Partnered with the State Department of Economic Development at the BioTech Conference in Boston, MA for business attraction to our region (one of 4 Georgia counties to share booth space and a strong presence to over 15,000 BioTech company attendees)



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OFFICE OF RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY



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- Earned the *Agency of the Year 2023* award from the Georgia Emergency Association for exceptional leadership and service
- Secured \$7.2 million grant for the establishment of four (4) strategically placed pocket parks around Clayton County
- Achieved recognition as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador as part of the U.S. Department of Commerce-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) initiative
- Created the Office of Resilience and Sustainability in early 2023 by merging the Office of Emergency Management and the Office of Performance Management, resulting in the establishment of ORS

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

- New collaboration with the Clayton County Police Department's Mobile Field Force Unit: Corrections officers train with police officers to work together as a force multiplier to address civil disorder or disruption
- Implemented a new landscaping program utilizing contractors for maintaining county buildings and properties



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CLAYTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



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- Criminal homicides decreased from 2022 to 2023 by 17 (from 50 to 42 or -29%)
- Decreased rapes by 5 (from 80 to 75 or -6%) and aggravated assaults by 107 (from 906 to 799 or -12%)
- Sustained an increase in the number of sworn personnel (authorized 390) from 2022 to 2023 by 38 (from 326 to 264 or +12%); Communications (Authorized 55) decreased by 6 (from 18 to 12 or +33%) and Animal Control (Authorized 28) decreased by 4 (from 10 to 6 or +40%)
- Implemented Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) to help solve crimes within unincorporated Clayton county and in the cities
- Hosted quarterly Red Cross Blood Drives with 92 donors contributing 70 units of life saving blood during national blood shortage
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased from 2022 to 2023 by 6 (from 19 to 13 or -31%) and Vehicular fatalities decreased by 16 (from 52 to 36 or -30%) due to increased officer presence and community awareness training

CENTRAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



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- Earned the National Procurement Institute (NPI) Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award 2023 for organizational excellence
- Implemented an in-house electronic bid bulletin board, which officially lists all active county solicitations and related procurement information, which helps increase competition and awareness of upcoming county projects
- Implemented a countywide contract electronic repository system for a centralized place to store all executed agreements, which increases data cohesiveness and accuracy, utilizes automation, tracks contracts, improves teamwork, and increases compliance
- Processed over 7,000 purchase orders and 500 contracts/renewals for county goods and services
- Launched the county's Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) 2nd Cohort for Architecture and Engineering, which helps eligible small local businesses gain capacity through partnerships with more experienced companies
- Hosted the county's 7th Annual SPLOST Supplier Expo Event for diverse business owners to network with other entrepreneurs, County staff, and procurement representatives from other government agencies to build relationships and create partnerships for contracting opportunities

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



- Partnered with Clayton State University to develop an outdoor classroom for Senior Biology students
- Increase of 5% response rate (from 15% to 20%) on Program Satisfaction Surveys in Athletic Programs
- Awarded host site for Georgia Recreation and Parks Lifeguard Games at Spivey Splash Water Parks
- Completed \$500k in park improvements at Spivey Splash Water Park (additional shade structures, additional ice machines, slide refurbishment, and increased the size of the water park)
- Employed more than 200 seasonal employees
- 26% increase in revenue for 5 Recreation Centers
- 83% increase in rental revenue
- Summer Camps show 64% increase in enrollment at International Park
- Reached a 3-year high for youth sports registrations
- Phase 2 of the Rivers Edge Greenway repairs underway
- Awarded \$250,000 Environmental Protection Division funds to install 5 rubber playground pads for the department
- Reynolds Nature Preserve received a new wooden observation deck and new restrooms
- Rebuilding 29 county tennis courts at approximately \$1,320,000 and installation of additional security cameras at various facilities



HUMAN RESOURCES

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- Onboarded 1,307 employees
- Implemented Clayton County Public School Internship Program onboarding five interns
- Implemented a premium discount program where employees receive a \$50 per month savings on their health insurance premium for participating in an annual voluntary biometric screening, with a focus on prevention, which improves the quality of life

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- GMIS International Government to Citizens (G2C) Award - Clayton County Office of Digital Equity
- National Association of Counties (NACo) 2023 Digital Counties Survey - 10th place (populations 250,000 - 499,999)
- National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) 2023 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer



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DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES



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- Hosted the county's first Caregivers Symposium to support Clayton County caregivers and their families
- Hosted Spivey Splash Senior Day in conjunction with Clayton County Parks and Recreation
- Frank Bailey Senior Center is part of the Obesity Bill of Rights for the Nation after participating in a (National Diabetes research project with the National Council On Aging)
- Annual Mayfest for Older Americans Month celebration had a record-breaking attendance with over 1,800 participants

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

- 13 youths graduated from the inaugural Cyber Security Certificate Program in partnership with Clayton State University
- 9 Youth Commissioners served as Student Ambassadors with the Secretary of State's Student Ambassadors program and for the 6th consecutive year, the Youth Commissioners placed 1st in the 13th region of the state!
- Introduced more than 200 youth to career pathways in Police/ E911, Emergency Management, Information Technology, and Buildings and Maintenance in partnership with the Clayton County School District's Career, Technical, Agricultural, and Education Department



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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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- Executed 15 Vaccinate Clayton community engagement events offering free COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible residents in year 3 for the COVID-19 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) communications
- Finalized the layout for gateway signage in the strategic branding timeline for implementation for Interstate I-75, I-85, I-285, and corridors with Clayton County boundaries with Georgia Department of Transportation approval
- Executed 445 print/design requests with a total of 102,768 items printed (99,768 total impressions printed)
- 4,512 Communications Requests
- 200 Videos • 7 Podcasts • 35 Trainings
- Executed and participated in 16 county community engagement events reaching more than 9,500 Clayton County citizens & employees
- Implemented 1 high school paid internship and 1 college internship
- Implemented and completed digitization and expanded services training for programs, larger format flyers, increased poster size options, brochures, business cards, envelopes, large banners, and 2, 3, and 4-part forms



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LIBRARY SERVICES



- Completed installation of Health Literacy Stations in all library branches where patrons can check their blood pressure, weight, Body Mass Index (BMI), and glucose levels, access MedLine Plus (a free database provided by the National Library of Medicine) which allows patrons to research health topics, medical tests, medications, and healthy recipes
- Acquisition of HOOPLA digital library, a cloud-based digital platform where library card holders can access over 950,000 digital items (EBooks, Audiobooks, Stream movies, Music albums, TV shows (not live), and Comic books/Graphic Novels)
- Recipient of the Champion for H.E.A.R.T. Award for significant contributions established through the Health Advocacy System for the H.E.A.R.T. initiative, which is sponsored by the Community Action Network as part of the Clayton County Health District
- Implemented the Clayton County Library community first amnesty (waived fines) event for overdue library materials with more than 150 patrons returning 1,500 overdue items, restoring suspended library patrons privileges for full library service use
- Hosted 8 job fairs in partnership with Goodwill of North Georgia at Clayton County Libraries with more than 1,340 participants attending, and approximately 600 participants receiving employment

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE



- Completion of the construction of the New County Fueling Center
- Completion of the brick facade restoration of South Clayton, Virginia Gray, and Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Centers
- Completion of pool surface reconstruction at Frank Bailey and Charlie Griswell Senior Centers
- Completion of Landscaping Site Improvements at Sonna Singleton Gregory Senior Center and Sector 2 Police Precinct

TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Valley Hill Road Bridge Widening Construction Project: 10-year effort at a total value of \$10.4 million dollars (\$4.4 million in SPLOST funds + \$6 million in federal grant funds to complete the project), which adds a four-lane roadway, sidewalks on both sides, new bridge alignment raised elevation above Flint River to remove future roadway flooding, provide improved traffic flow, travel conditions, and pedestrian facilities
- Completion of the 2023 Resurfacing Program: Resurfaced 12.7 miles of roadways on 44 streets throughout the county at a total value of \$5.8 million (\$3.5 million in SPLOST funds + \$2.3 million state grant funds)
- Successful acquisition and implementation of an industry focused, department work order system, which streamlines Transportation and Development's department operations for asset identification and maintenance, citizen requests, cost determinations, and documentation of work



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



- Implemented Tara Gateway Livable Centers Initiative (LCI)
- Executed the Comprehensive Plan Update 2040
- Catalytic Project: Approved The Harvest at Walt Stephens
- Implemented Transit Oriented Development, which allows higher housing densities
- Updated Ellenwood Planned Unit to attract a mixture of developments

UGA EXTENSION

- Agricultural and Natural Resources team designed four vegetable gardening webinars and two composting seminars to address community members' need for horticultural education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Agent Diandria Barber partnered with the Clayton County Human Resources Wellness Coordinator to launch the Walk-a-Weigh program provided incentives to help motivate participants throughout the 8-week program
- Assisted 66 individuals with taxes securing \$40,774 worth of refunds in the fourth year of the Virtual Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program



FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES



- Revamp of the Clayton County Community Care Program (4C) as approved by the Clayton County Board of Commissioners
- 2,533 home visits for participating community members
- Submitted and obtained approval for healthcare benefits for 19 participants
- 45 Graduates of the 2023 Fire & Emergency Services Program
- Added the LUCAS Chest Compression System device to all ambulances
- Procured the SIN MAN mannequin, a part of the initial education for the Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic training (\$200,000 investment)
- Implemented 10 replacement ambulances (\$2,600,000)
- Replaced heavy rescue unit (\$850,000)
- Hands-on emergency training for 200 special needs bus drivers in collaboration with Clayton County Public Schools Transportation
- Effective Reduction in Fire Compliance Violations (21% decrease in overall fire compliance violations)
Major violations reduction of 3% (safer commercial occupancies for the workers and patrons)



CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

- Updated technological equipment necessary to complete the assigned tasks of the Clerk's Office
- Updated the cubicles in the Court Records Division of the Clerk of Superior Court
- Implemented viewable Real Estate documents since the inception of Clayton County online
- Collaborated with the Information Technology Department to streamline Criminal E-Filing through Odyssey

MAGISTRATE COURT

- Dismissed a total of 1,259 eviction cases through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Prevented 2,341 residents from being homeless, and disbursing payments directly to property owners and landlords)
- Created an eviction mediation program for landlords and tenants onsite (the day of court) to negotiate an agreement without having a hearing (491 cases through mediation and 341 settled at a 69% rate or 60% - 82% for the year)
- Implemented Fatherhood Initiative in Child Abandonment cases, where fathers voluntarily participates in a six-week program to have their case dismissed or placed in a pending status



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JUVENILE COURT

- Re-established the Intake Unit, which is tasked with receiving all Juvenile Complaints in delinquency and dependency matters
- Established the Clayton County Handgun Intervention Program (CHIP) with local law enforcement, District Attorney's Office, and other agencies
- Secured four contracts with attorneys for representation of children and parents in dependency proceedings (Provides for continuity and consistency in the representation of parties in dependency proceedings)

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

- Charles Brooks and Judge Tammi Hayward received statewide recognition as Solicitor-General and State Court Judge of the Year by the Georgia Association of Black County Officials (GABCO)

CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL P. BOGGS

- Clearance Rate Excellence Award recipient: Judicial Council's Standing Committee on Judicial Workload Assessment recognizes Chief Justice Michael P. Boggs with the Clearance Rate Excellence Award as part of the top 10% of courts in each class of court, demonstrating exceptional performance in maintaining clearance rates, a key indicator of a court's ability to effectively manage its caseload (Outstanding performance in meeting or exceeding 100% or better clearance rate)

PROBATE COURT



- Judge Ferguson Recognized: Meritorious Service Award from the Georgia Probate Judge's Council for her dedication as a Probate Judge throughout her terms in office
- Clayton County Probate Court awarded the Clearance Rate Excellence Award, which recognizes the top 10% of courts in each class of court that demonstrates exceptional performance in maintaining clearance rates (A key indicator of a court's ability to effectively manage its caseload with outstanding performance in meeting, or exceeding the clearance rate)
- Undertook a large project to review each estate and guardianship case to raise compliance rates for Personal Representatives, Guardians, and Conservators for which mandatory annual reporting is required

TAX COMMISSIONER



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- Improved customer flow with automated kiosk queuing system now in both the Property Tax & Tag Offices
- Customer Call Center fully implemented reducing customer call wait times, which includes additional live communication methods (live chat, dedicated email, etc.)
- Successfully implemented a monthly webinar "Your Time With the Tax Commissioner" improving communications efforts with the community
- Increased community engagement by hosting/attending various events within the community and giving back to our residents – Youth Golf Camp with Professional Golf Association (PGA) pros, Backpack Bash 2023 (gave away 350 backpacks), Coats for Christmas (gave away over 350 coats to families in need)



Panola Road Widening



Spivey Splash Water Park



Sector 2 - Police Precinct



Flint River Community Center



Fire Station



Lake Spivey Recreation Center

SPL^{OST}



Progress for Pennies

The Clayton County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Program helps to move our county forward by funding capital improvements for infrastructure, public safety, buildings, technology and overall quality of life.

CLAYTONSPLOST.COM

#ProgressForPennies



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