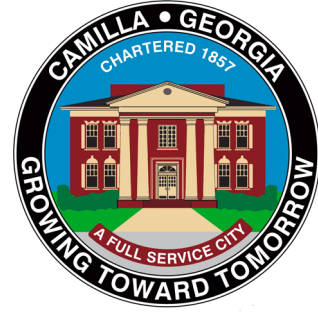


PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF CAMILLA PRESENTED VISIONARY CITY AWARD

ATLANTA, GA - On January 22, 2023 the City of Camilla was one of nine outstanding Georgia cities to receive the prestigious 2023 Visionary City Award at the Cities United Summit. Georgia Trend, in partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association, created the Visionary City Award to honor and recognize achievements of cities throughout the state that have created positive community change through effective civic engagement and collaboration. Camilla joined eight other city recipients and three cities each earned the award in three categories: Small: population under 4,999; Medium: 5,000 to 24,999; and Large: 25,000 and over. The awards were presented by GMA CEO and Executive Director Larry Hanson and Georgia Trend Co-Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Ben Young.

Camilla was recognized in the medium city category for its Camilla Youth Initiative Program, which has and will continue to provide local youth opportunities for internship, jobs in the non-profit sector of Mitchell County, and participation on the City's first ever Youth Council. The design and goals of the Youth Initiative Program are to ensure succession planning for the City's workforce, provide the opportunity to gain job experience and earn a salary while serving the community, and engage youth in local government to create a succession plan for the City's legislative body. The Program, implemented in August of 2022, has seen much success by allowing Camilla's youth to actively participate in the job sector and gain exposure and experience across a broad range of vocational skills, preparing them for future careers. Young people are also provided the opportunity for involvement as active young leaders in the community and empowered to express their perspectives and priorities for their hometown, helping shape the future of Camilla.

Mayor Owens commented "It is refreshing to see our efforts in Camilla are being noticed and celebrated around Georgia, especially when it involves and impacts our youth."

L to R: City Manager Dennis Stroud; Councilman Corey Morgan, Mayor Kelvin Owens, Councilman Venterra Pollard; and Mayor Pro Tem Dewayne Burley.



(Photo: Georgia Municipal Association)

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