



**NEWS RELEASE**  
AUGUST 12, 2020

## **NORCROSS CITY MANAGER RUDOLPH SMITH RETIRES AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Long-time city manager of Norcross to retire on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, leaving behind a 22-year legacy.

**NORCROSS (GWINNETT COUNTY), GA (AUGUST 12, 2020)** – It is with great pride (and some sorrow) that we announce the upcoming retirement of Norcross' beloved City Manager, Rudolph Smith. As we approach his last day with us on September 2nd, we look back on his 22-year legacy and know that the impact of his contributions will be felt for years to come.

A Berrien County-native from Alapaha, Georgia, Rudolph has been a vital and key component in many business deals, marketing tactics and finance projects over the years. Having earned a degree in accounting and business administration from the Abraham Baldwin College in Tifton back in 1980, Rudolph began his governmental career in the City of Alapaha, Georgia where he served for 18 years in different positions including Grant Administrator, City Clerk and City Manager. He first joined the City of Norcross in June of 1998 and was promoted to the City Manager position in November of 2008. He has been involved in municipal/county government for over 40 Years.

Prior to being named City Manager, Rudolph distinguished himself as the Norcross General Government Administrative Director. He also served as Norcross Tax and Business License Manager, presiding over a department which generates more than 68% of the total revenue for the city. Rudolph holds national and international municipal clerk certifications and is a Georgia certified finance officer. In 1992, he was given the District II Leadership Award by the Georgia Municipal Association and in 2007, he was selected as the Finance Officer of the Year by the Georgia Municipal Clerk/Finance Officers Association. In 2009, he was selected as one of the 2009 Men of Influence by the Atlanta Business League.

More recently, Rudolph received a 30-year service award from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), which is the premier local government leadership and management organization. ICMA Service Awards recognize and celebrate members' dedication to public service and professional management at the local level. Rudolph was chosen to receive this award for his outstanding work with the city and his professional upbeat attitude in everything he aspires to.

Having served under three mayors and countless councilmembers, much has changed since Rudolph's first days in the city. However, if asked he would tell you he is still most proud of the role he played in bringing the city through the 2008 recession and ensuring a sustainable future.

His conservative approach to managing the city's budget was instrumental in our ability to endure one of the most challenging financial crises in the city's history. For this success he was honored with the Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association, which is reviewed by the United States and Canada Government Finance Officers Association.

"It is time," Rudolph said in a message to staff and council. "I have been with the city for 22 years, and now it is time to take advantage of the opportunity to retire and enjoy traveling, gardening and spending time with my son. I also have plans to use my years of experience to consult part-time with other municipalities. I appreciate all the employees—I have enjoyed the many experiences I have had working with our team, and I am proud of our accomplishments during my years here. The city is blessed with an awesome team of professionals."

A steadfast leader working tirelessly 24/7 to better our community, his devotion and dedication to Norcross could never be in question. According to staff, Rudolph has been a "fair and compassionate leader," "lead by example," "set the bar for exemplary customer service," and "always listened and responded to residents and staff."

We are honored and proud to have had him in our service and on our staff for so long and wish him all the best in his retirement!

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## **ABOUT THE CITY OF NORCROSS**

Incorporated in 1870, the city of Norcross has been very busy securing a solid standing as both an eco-conscious community and world-class art district in the nearly century and a half since. Voted Gwinnett County's "Best Arts & Cultural Scene" by Gwinnett Magazine, Norcross has become well known for its unconventional public arts projects. Norcross was recognized by the Atlanta Regional Commission as one of only three Platinum-Certified Green Communities in the region and was named a "Best Green Government" by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and "Tree City USA" by The Arbor Day Foundation. The Sustainable Norcross Commission has earned regional applause for its efforts to spearhead the City's local pro-environment practices. The city's famed tree canopy, 13 parks and more than 31 acres of beautifully maintained public green space serve as popular gathering spaces for residents and visitors alike. A jam-packed calendar of events and eclectic collection of shops and restaurants serve to keep the historic downtown area bustling year-round. Creative souls from all walks of life are encouraged to "come unwind" and enjoy the positive energy that earns Norcross its reputation as "a place to imagine."

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