



Thank You Letter To My Fellow Augustans

In 2014, the residents of Augusta entrusted me with the responsibility of leadership as the 84th mayor of this great city. When you elected me as mayor, our vision for this city was to create OneAugusta - a city of opportunity for everyone, regardless of zip code, where people wanted to live, learn, work, and raise their families.

Over the last eight years, I have had the enormous honor of working alongside some of our city's most dedicated and talented leaders, public servants, and volunteers. Determined to make Augusta a better place for everyone, we charted a course from day one to make an impact in every part of our city.

We've worked through the greatest global pandemic in our lifetime; racial and social unrest, sheltered hurricane evacuees from other cities, addressed rampant blighted and abandoned properties, built the strongest transportation network of roads and bridges in the state of Georgia, made unprecedented investments in public transit, helped small businesses, hosted the world's greatest sporting event, and launched Green Augusta to make sure that we build a Smart, Equitable, Inclusive and Sustainable City.

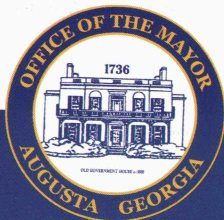
As a result of our collective efforts, all areas of our city are more robust and poised for growth. Over the past two years, I have been particularly moved by this community working together to ensure public health during the still-present challenge of COVID. We became one of the first cities to transition to virtual meetings, enact social distancing guidelines, and protect our residents through a mask ordinance. We quickly passed the OneAugusta Small Business Relief Initiative to help small businesses survive the necessary shutdowns early in the pandemic. We awarded almost 200 local businesses a total of \$1.3 million in assistance and provided an additional 3,300 residents more than \$7.5 million in Emergency Rental Assistance relief funds.

What I know beyond a shadow of a doubt is that Augusta is a strong city, and our future is exceptionally bright. We care about one another; we help one another, and in perilous times, we stand with one another. As I prepare to depart from the responsibility and honor of serving as your mayor on January 2, 2023, I am overcome by many emotions and sentiments. When we began this journey to OneAugusta, we knew there would be challenges. No matter how difficult things became, our shared commitment to the ongoing success of the city we love dearly and the place we call home has never faltered.

Let's continue to make this city into everything that YOU and your family deserve. The state of Our Augusta is incredibly strong, and the road ahead is brighter than ever as we arrive at this moment in history. In the words of Sir Winston Churchill, "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps the end of the beginning."

Thank you.

Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.
2015-2023





Short-list of Achievements since 2015

HR:

- Implemented \$15 living wage minimum for all employees.

Central Services (311, Facilities, Fleet, Records Retention):

- Kickstarted the Green Augusta initiative, which aims to convert approximately 20% of Augusta's non-emergency fleet to alternative fuel vehicles. These recommendations will further reduce Augusta's carbon footprint.

Engineering/Traffic Engineering:

- Total investment in infrastructure projects of around \$200M of paved roads, new construction, stormwater, and enhancements
- Implemented expansion of Traffic Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) up to Fort Gordon's newly opened Gate 6. It included connecting traffic signals at Jimmie Dyess & Gordon Hwy, Robinson Avenue & Gordon Hwy and Gate 6.

Finance:

- Recipient of Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting 7 years in a row.
- Balanced budget on time with a year-end surplus for each of the previous seven years.

Fire:

- Graduated over 60 Firefighters/EMTs.

Economic Growth and Development:

- Since 2015, Augusta has seen almost \$1.8 billion in investments with companies like Solvay, Starbucks, Textron Specialized Vehicles, ADP, Parsons, BAE Systems, Aurubis and PureCycle either expanding or establishing operations in Augusta.
- The city owned, \$22M Transit Operations and Maintenance Center was the first major investment in over 30 years in the Regency Mall Corridor along Gordon Highway
- Georgia Cyber Center:
 - Two buildings; \$126M total investment with \$16M from the City of Augusta
- Downtown Statistics (2021 & 2022):
 - Net gain of 65 new businesses
 - 5 business expansions
 - \$163M in private investment

