



Press Release

For Immediate Release — June 18, 2020

NEGRC Awards “Administrator of the Year.”

The Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) at its scheduled June Council meeting awarded Blaine Williams, Athens-Clarke County Manager, the “2020 NEGRC Local Government Administrator of the Year” award.

This award is given to a city or county manager, clerk, or other person who embodies the spirit of public service, dedication, and professionalism. These persons serve as a model for management, leadership and integrity. The award honors an individual who gives exemplary service to a local government in the Northeast Georgia region.

In 2016, Williams came to Athens-Clarke County from Floyd County, Georgia where he served as both assistant-county and later county manager. He also was formally employed by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission and later as the City of Rome’s Downtown Development Director. He is a graduate of Presbyterian College and holds a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Georgia. He is currently the fourth county manager of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County.

In making the selection, the NEGRC Awards Committee noted Williams’s managerial leadership during the year and particularly during Covid-19. Brent Lanford, Deputy Director of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission said, *“I think his greatest quality is that he cares, listens, and relates to people on a very honest level. Athens-Clarke County and the greater Northeast Georgia region are fortunate to have such a leader in their community.”*

The award presentation to Williams was made by Burke Walker, NEGRC Executive Director, at the June 18, 2020 NEGRC Council meeting. ACC Mayor Kelly Girtz, a NEGRC Councilmember, participated in the meeting, held by video conference and presented Williams’ the award “virtually” from City Hall.

The award was made on behalf of the NEGRC Council and as selected by the NEGRC Award’s Committee. This year’s Award Committee Chairperson was Amrey Harden, a NEGRC Council private-sector representative from Oconee County.

The NEGRC is a public agency established by the Georgia Planning Act (O.C.G.A. 50-8-32) to assist local governments with regional efforts. The NEGRC is one of twelve state-wide Commissions that provides assistance to its 54-member local governments related

to land use planning, economic development, transportation planning, workforce development, and aging services. It is overseen by its current Executive Director, Burke Walker, and governed a Council comprising forty elected officials, private-sector representatives, and state appointees. For information about the NEGRC and its services, visit: www.negrc.org.



Blaine Williams receives the “2020 NEGRC Administrator of the Year” award.

