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CITY OFFICIALS TO ATTEND GMA CONVENTION

Event Offers Training in Georgia's Sunshine Laws, Ethics, Planning and Zoning

PEACHTREE CORNERS, Ga. -- Starting a new job requires training. Becoming the best requires advanced training. For Georgia's city officials, there is no better place to receive that training than at the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual Convention in Savannah.

For that reason, Peachtree Corners first-year city officials will join more than 2,000 elected officials from all across the state June 22-25 in Savannah where they will focus on becoming the most effective public servants they can be.

The convention will offer 21 different classes on topics such as the Georgia Open Meetings and Open Records Acts, municipal finance, planning and zoning and ethics.

According to the GMA, all elected officials taking office since July 1, 1990 are required by state law to take the Newly Elected Officials Institute, a two day course that provides a general overview of the function of municipal government in Georgia and the role and responsibilities of mayors and council members.

Peachtree Corners Mayor Mike Mason said, "This is a great opportunity for our newly-elected city council members to learn to be better public servants."

GMA Director of Communications Amy Henderson explained the importance of the event.

"I like to say that newly-elected officials would eventually learn a lot of the information we teach the hard way," Henderson said. "But it's better to go to the classes and gain the knowledge before they make a mistake. They not only get a lot out of the classes, but also from discussions with other city officials, many of whom have been down the same road and learned by experience."

GMA Executive Director Lamar Norton says the classes are in big demand. "This speaks to the quality of the training program, but also to the outstanding quality of our elected officials that they actively seek out information that will help their cities be more effective."

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