

# What Happened to Mayberry?

7/1/2025

During my 16 years on City Council, my constituents may recall me often saying "College Park is the Friendliest Place I have ever lived". Although I was raised a Catholic in a predominantly Anglo-American midwestern community, **I have felt most "at home"** in a predominantly African-American southern community, where I attend College Park First United Methodist Church.

My constituents may also remember me saying "College Park is [exemplifies] where our Country needs to go". Watching the erosion of civility, honesty, and equality in our national government, I had hoped that that disease would not spread to "Mayberry", as I affectionately have called College Park. Unfortunately with the installation of the current Council **in January of 2024, my hopes were dashed.**

Since the first day of the "New Council" I have watched the firing, forced resignation, forced retirement, and "disillusioned" resignations of what I believe were overall the best City Manager, Department Heads, and other Key Personnel that we had assembled in the 16 years I had been on Council. I have watched the Mayor stripped of her authority, and even her ability to speak, during Council meetings (**Despite that, she was just elected to concurrently lead the Georgia Municipal Association, after only serving 5 1/2 years in city government.**). I have watched a spending spree by Councilpersons on constituent entertainment ("crowd pleasers", I call them) - while the status/management of City finances has become so murky, that it has been difficult to recently complete the audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024! I have watched the Council sell off green space next to some of our most disadvantaged children in our Housing Authority, and argue that there is plenty of green space elsewhere (All they have to do is get to it?).

This morning I received an email from an ex-constituent querying whether the Gateway Pedestrian Bridge was open (probably because I have been posting construction progress on my website for several months). **Yes it is open** - Jean and I walked across it yesterday! But where was the fanfare over one of the most significant accomplishments in the history of College Park? Yes, **there was a very small, exclusive ribbon cutting** at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, June 17. The brief accounting of the event, after the fact, appeared on the City website with a posting date of Saturday, June 21. The only public mention of it beforehand, that I recall, was at one Council meeting several weeks before. Yet, the reporting on every councilperson's "crowd pleaser" event is displayed, before and after, with lavish posters, photos, and videos on social media.

Early this year I ran into "then" City Manager Adediran when I was taking pictures at the Pedestrian Bridge construction site. He told me that plans were to include various contributors to the bridge on the dedication plaque. Later I heard that Councilman Carn had taken responsibility for arrangements for the bridge ceremonies. Finally, I heard that he was responsible for removing names from the plaque. The the plaque at the bridge contains only the current Council Members, and the City Manager of a few weeks - Unlike the plaque for the Arena which included current and former: Councilpersons, BIDA members, and responsible City Staff members. Take a look at the photos on the next page.

**What has our City become?**

Grand Opening November 9, 2019

City of College Park, Georgia  
College Park Business & Industrial Development Authority

2018 - 2019

Jack P. Longino, Mayor  
Ambrose Clay, Ward 1  
Derrick Taylor, Ward 2  
Tracey Wyatt, Ward 3  
Roderick Gay, Ward 4  
Terrence R. Moore, City Manager  
Steven M. Fincher, City Attorney

Chair Eleanor Cornelius  
Vice Chair Demetris Taylor  
Secretary Treasurer Jamelle McKenzie  
Member Subrenia Willis  
Member Aaron Arnold  
Mayor Jack P. Longino  
Mayor Pro Tem Tracey Wyatt  
BIDA Attorney Dan Lee

2017 - 2018

Jack P. Longino, Mayor  
Ambrose Clay, Ward 1  
Joe Carn, Ward 2  
Tracey Wyatt, Ward 3  
Roderick Gay, Ward 4  
Terrence R. Moore, City Manager  
Steven M. Fincher, City Attorney

Chair Jon Ritt  
Vice Chair Jeff Green  
Secretary Treasurer Subrenia Willis  
Member Eleanor Cornelius  
Member Juanita Forbes  
Mayor Jack P. Longino  
Mayor Pro Tem Ambrose Clay  
BIDA Attorney Joe Harris

**College Park Staff**

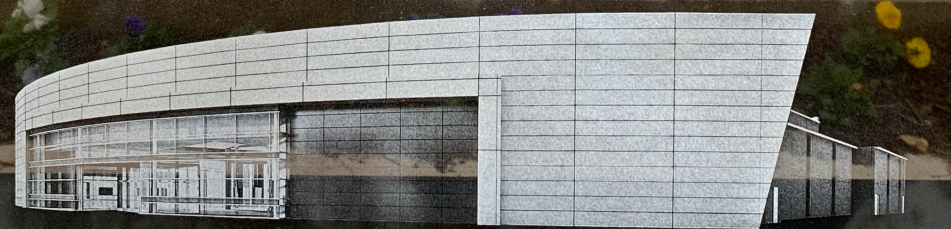
Artie Jones, III, Director of Economic Development  
Mercedes Miller, Executive Director Gateway Center  
Yanous Barner, Arena Manager  
Jackson Myers, Special Project Administrator

**Owners Representative**  
BDR Partners, LLC

**Community Engagement**  
The Collaborative Firm, LLC

**Architect:**  
tvdesign  
Brown Design Group

**General Contractor:**  
Choate Construction Company



**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



**Global Gateway Connector  
Pedestrian Bridge**

College Park, GA  
Dedicated - June 2025

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

BIANCA MOTLEY BROOM, MAYOR  
JAMELLE MCKENZIE, MAYOR PRO TEM, WARD 1  
JOE CARN, WARD 2  
TRACIE ARNOLD, WARD 3  
RODERICK GAY, WARD 4  
LINDELL Y. MILLER, CITY MANAGER

**DESIGN FIRMS**

PRIME ENGINEERING, INC.  
STV  
PENTAGON 540, LLC

**CONTRACTOR**

C.W. MATTHEWS CONTRACTING CO., INC.