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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials to hold 2023 summer conference in Rocky Mount

Rocky Mount, North Carolina – The North Carolina Black Elected Municipal Officials (NC BEMO) will hold its 2023 summer conference from Friday, July 28, to Sunday, July 30, at the Rocky Mount Event Center.

This will be the first time since 2013 that Rocky Mount has hosted the NC BEMO annual summer conference.

The theme of this year’s conference will be “Community Wellness,” focusing on affordable housing, health, economic development and downtown revitalization.

“While I have been a member of NC BEMO for several years, this will be my first year as president of the association,” Kinston Mayor Don Hardy said. “I was not around when the city of Rocky Mount last hosted the summer conference, but I’m happy to be a part of this great event this year.

“We are expecting 75 to 100 elected officials from across the state to attend this year’s conference,” Hardy said. “We thank Mayor Sandy Roberson and the entire City Council of Rocky Mount for being the host city and putting in the hard work to make this conference a success.”

NC BEMO, an affiliate of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, is a nonpartisan organization of Black elected municipal officials composed of mayors and council members from more than 540 cities and towns across the state.

Since its formation in 1981, NC BEMO has taken the lead in supporting community transformation through training, education, collaboration, advocacy and outreach programs that promote the organization’s mission.

Each year, NC BEMO presents awards at the summer conference. They include community achievement awards that recognize local individuals exemplifying unyielding leadership, as well as at least two scholarships for deserving high school seniors entering college that are presented in memory of former state Rep. Larry Womble.

Rocky Mount officials are excited to host the event.

“A lot has changed in Rocky Mount since we last hosted NC BEMO’s annual summer conference. I’m looking to showing everyone what Rocky Mount has to offer and why our motto is The Center of it All,” said Mayor Pro Tem T.J. Walker.

Media coverage of the conference is welcome and encouraged. The Rocky Mount Event Center is located at 285 NE Main St. in downtown Rocky Mount. Media members with questions about the conference schedule should contact Kirk Brown, director of communications, marketing and public relations for the city of Rocky Mount, by calling 252-972-1333 (office), 972-343-4893 (cell) or via email at kirk.brown@rockymountnc.gov.

About Rocky Mount

The city of Rocky Mount, located in the Coastal Plains of North Carolina, was incorporated in 1867 and lies in Edgecombe and Nash Counties. Rocky Mount is a two-time All-America City on the Tar River. The city was recognized as one of 10 winners nationwide of the 2020-21 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 54,000 residents daily.

The city’s mission is to advance community well-being, safety and quality of life by delivering excellent public services and actively collaborating with the community toward a fulfilling and inspired future for its citizens. As a publicly owned utility, the city of Rocky Mount is committed to safe, reliable service for its customers and operates in Nash and Edgecombe counties, providing customers with electricity, natural gas, water, wastewater (sewer), refuse, recycling and/or stormwater services. To learn more, visit www.rockymountnc.gov for news and updates.

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