



Media Contact:

Kirk Brown

*Director, Communications, Marketing,
and Public Relations*

Kirk.Brown@rockymountnc.gov

(252) 972-1333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2022

City Manager announces retirement

Rocky Mount, N.C. – After nearly 40 years of public service, Rochelle Small-Toney has announced her retirement and will officially resign from her post as City Manager for the City of Rocky Mount, effective Feb. 28, 2022.

"The city is very appreciative of all of her accomplishments and hard work," said Mayor Sandy Roberson. "We respect her decision to retire and wish her the best in her future endeavors."

Small-Toney joined the city of Rocky Mount on July 3, 2017, and during her tenure she has provided valuable insight and guidance to the city. There has been significant progress during Small-Toney's tenure, which include the city being removed from the federal HUD watch list and consistently earning the highest awards for budget and financial management. The city was also selected as one of ten municipalities in the entire country to be recognized by The Robert Woods Johnson Foundation in 2021.

Small-Toney states that she is proud of her many accomplishments, during her time as City Manager, which include the following: serving as Project Lead on the City's first Affordable Workforce Housing Strategic Plan and the Downtown Revitalization program, resulting in the planned Five Points Workforce Housing Project to break ground in March 2022; creating the Development Services Department and directing the implementation of the "One Stop Shop" model to promote efficiency and a more customer-friendly regulatory environment for permitting and inspections; and in October 2021, she presented a new pay plan to the City Council increasing the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, with an automatic 5% increase for employees who are difficult to recruit or retain (positions such as police officers, firefighters, solid waste workers, gas and electric utilities personnel, business services collections staff, and parks maintenance staff).

"I have enjoyed collaborating with the Mayor and City Council members, as well as providing leadership to the management team and staff," said Small-Toney. "Rocky Mount is a great community and is positioned to reach new heights."

Small-Toney will be on administrative leave until Feb. 28, 2022. Peter Varney will be serving as the interim City Manager.

The City Council will be conducting a national search for a replacement for Small-Toney in the coming weeks.

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. Serving as the Gateway to Eastern North Carolina, the city's 875 employees serve approximately 58,000 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.

###