



April 15, 2019

Mayor and Aldermen
City of Savannah, Georgia
Post Office Box 1027
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Mayor and Aldermen:

I have been honored with the privilege of serving as Savannah's eighth city manager since adoption of the council-manager form of government in 1951. I joined the City on the heels of Hurricane Matthew on October 11, 2016, and since then we've weathered literal and figurative storms and overcame numerous obstacles in providing exceptional municipal services. We accomplished much during this time while simultaneously creating an organizational spirit focused on one simple concept: *Forward*. *Forward* is a fanatical passion for momentum, progress and achievement. It is an obsession with what is possible rather than the status quo. It is the driver behind our biggest accomplishment - [SAVANNAH FORWARD](#), our guide to strategic policy-making and investments through 2025.

During the past 30 months, I've been fortunate to be part of a team of talented professionals that has accomplished a great deal that we can be proud of in our journey *Forward*. Together, we -

- Instituted a transparent and inclusive business model structured around six service centers and five strategic priorities.
- Produced a budget surplus approaching \$13 million after one full budget year.
- Upgraded the City's bond rating to AA+.
- Re-established the Savannah Police Department, increased police staffing, and lowered crime.
- Reduced the size of the city's workforce.
- Expanded economic opportunities for city businesses through new disadvantaged business enterprise, sheltered market, and local hire programs.
- Improved neighborhoods by launching Savannah Shines, a targeted neighborhood investment program to address crime, blight, and infrastructure needs in Edgemere / Sackville; addressed the proliferation of alcohol establishments; restricted hotel density in the landmark national historic district; and limited short-term vacation rentals.
- Shed obsolete real estate and relocated employees into healthier, more productive work environments.
- Launched the design of Savannah's new arena.
- Opened new fire stations, police precincts, neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

These accomplishments were not possible without the professionalism and dedication of those that I served with.

After much consideration, I have concluded that it is now time for me to look *Forward* to new challenges and opportunities. Consequently, I am notifying you of my resignation as your city manager effective 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2019. I am committed to working with all of you and our staff on a smooth and orderly transition as I leave office.

I am proud to have played a role in moving Savannah *Forward*. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your city manager. I wish you, our employees and the City nothing but success in its journey *Forward*.

Sincerely,

Rob Hernandez

Roberto "Rob" Hernandez
City Manager