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MAYOR
DAVID PENNINGTON

CITY COUNCIL
GARY CREWS
TYREE GOODLETT
ANNALEE HARLAN
DEREK WAUGH

TO: Mayor and Council of Dalton
FROM: Jason Parker
DATE: March 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Proposal to Participate in and Support Georgia Young Gamechangers

Please accept this as a recommendation for the City of Dalton to support and participate in bringing the GeorgiaForward/GA Young Gamechangers program to Dalton. GA Young Gamechangers is "a leadership action program that brings together 50 of Georgia's brightest minds under the age of 40, to help solve issues identified by a Georgia community. Each class works for six to eight months to generate big ideas and recommendations for persistent challenges which they present back to the community in the form of a written report at the conclusion of the program." If approved, this would be the first community north of metro Atlanta to host the program, and the program would start around September 2020 and run into spring 2021. The GA Young Gamechangers recently completed work for the City of Monroe and Walton County.

One-third of the 50 participants will be from Dalton/Whitfield community, one-third from metro Atlanta, and one-third from greater Georgia.

This is a potential opportunity to significantly impact young professionals locally, as well as bring in many others, for a 6-8 month program in Dalton that also serves to get their input on specific issues we should work on to promote Dalton to entice more young professionals to possibly move here or come back after college.

If we commit, a steering committee of about 5 people would determine 4 challenge questions for the group and they are responsible for 2-3 big ideas under each challenge question.

There is a financial commitment of \$50,000 from the City, and the City could partially offset some of that investment through other partners. In addition, there will be an approximately \$25,000 cost for in-kind services, which will be coordinated by the Greater Dalton Chamber and Believe Greater Dalton organizations, for lodging, meals and other costs associated with meetings of the group in Dalton throughout the session.

Previous community reports from GA Young Gamechangers, and other information, are available at:

www.georgiaforward.org/young-gamechangers

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Parker".

Jason Parker

Equal Opportunity Employer