



CITY OF STONECREST, GEORGIA

PRESS RELEASE

In the spirit of ensuring that the City of Stonecrest is transparent and accountable to our citizens, the City Council made the responsible decision to waive the attorney-client privilege on the investigative report of the CARES Act Relief Grant. The findings in the report may not have placed our city in a favorable light. However, transparency is important to our path forward.

When the City Council learned of concerns related to the program administration of the CARES Act Relief Grant, we immediately took action to address the potential problems that were brought to our attention and asked the City Attorney, Winston Denmark, for a review. Preceding the investigative report, the City Council had begun taking action to establish greater internal financial controls by updating our purchasing policy, canceling improperly executed contracts and hiring an external audit firm to review irregularities found within our P-Card program.

Moreover, the adoption of Senate Bill 21 removes the politics from the City of Stonecrest governmental operations and empowers a professional manager to be responsible for the daily operations of the city. Additionally, it provides a clear delineation of power between the city's executive and legislative branches of government. It clarifies that the role of the position of the mayor is ceremonial and that the legislative branch is responsible for the budget and for policy making.

Our city is at a turning point. The previous path of our city was unsustainable, and there was no clear path forward to deliver on the promise that was made to you when the City of Stonecrest was created--delivering better services, locally. We are now in a posture to realign ourselves as a premier city that we were intended to be and can be.

With our new city manager, the City Council will continue to work to earn your trust and rebuild confidence in our city through transparency in policy setting and being fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your patience as we align ourselves as a city that we all can be proud of.

Yours in Service,

Rob Turner- District 2

Jazzmin Cobble- District 3

George Turner- District 4/Mayor Pro Tempore

Tammy Grimes- District 5