



GMA-ACCG Local Government Federal Advocacy Forum
November 1, 2018
1:00 - 4:00 pm
Macon - Bibb County

Welcome & Overview

Mayor Vince Williams
GMA 2nd Vice President
GMA Federal Policy Council Chair
Mayor, Union City

Commissioner Nancy Thrash
ACCG Federal Policy Council Chair
Commissioner, Lamar County

Congressional Update

Congressman Austin Scott, GA-08

Panel Discussion
(Moderated by Kathleen Bowen, ACCG)

Jody Redding, Regional Director and
Agricultural Liaison, Senator Johnny Isakson

Charles White, SW Region Field Rep.
Senator David Perdue

Alice Johnson, District Director,
Congressman Austin Scott

Shavonda Hill, Deputy District Director,
Congressman Sanford Bishop

Break

Federal Agency Resources

Joyce White, State Director, USDA Rural
Development

Michael Burns, Senior Advisor to the
Regional Administrator, EPA Region 4/CUPP
Program Manager

Thurmond Tillman, Partnership Specialist,
U.S. Census Bureau

Federal Advocacy: Communicating Effectively

Becky Taylor, GMA Staff

Wrap Up

Mayor Williams and Commissioner Thrash

Adjourn

Federal Agency Speaker Bios

Michael W. Burns, Senior Advisor to the Regional Administrator/National Director of the College Underserved Community Partnership Program, EPA Region 4

Over the last twenty plus years in the federal government, Mr. Burns has been a Supervisor of Environmental Engineers; a Chief of Facilities for the Southeast Region of the National Park Service; a Director of Regional Public Works for the U.S. Army; Deputy Director of Base Operations for the Army Reserve; and an Executive Director for the Southeast Region of the U.S. Navy. Mr. Burns is currently a Senior Advisor for the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, and the National Director of the College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP), which he created in 2011.

Thurmond Tillman, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau

Thurmond N. Tillman currently serves as a Partnership Specialist for the Atlanta Region of the U. S. Census Bureau. He served as a Senior Partnership Specialist and Team Leader in Georgia during the 2010 and 2000 Censuses and as a Community Awareness Specialist in the 1990 Census. Tillman received a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice and a minor in Business Management from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia. He also attended and graduated from the Interdenominational Theological Center - Morehouse School of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia where he received a Masters in Divinity degree with a dual concentration in Bible and Christian Education.

Joyce White, State Director, USDA Rural Development

Joyce White was named State Director of the USDA Rural Development in Georgia by the Trump Administration on November 27, 2017. In this capacity, she coordinates the efforts of 95 employees to work with others to ensure use of resources and 40 + programs are serving rural Georgia residents. As State Director, White is using her leadership experience to oversee Rural Development programs in a customer-focused manner to restore prosperity in rural Georgia. White began her career implementing her business administration skills while working as Executive Assistant to the CEO at Georgia-Pacific Corporation. Her sharp focus and get it done attitude won the attention of Governor Sonny Perdue's office and in 2003 she began a two-term role with Governor Sonny Perdue as his Executive Assistant and Office Manager.