LaGrange Mayor to Participate in Statewide Virtual Town Hall Discussion about Race, Equity and Inclusion

LaGrange, Ga. August 5, 2020 – LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton will be participating in the “Cities United: The Road to Equity and Inclusion” statewide virtual Town Hall Thursday, August 6th. This discussion will be hosted by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) and Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB).

This live town hall discussion will be a live-streamed event addressing a statewide discussion on race, equity and inclusion, how these issues impact Georgia’s communities, and why and how city officials can make equity a priority in their communities.
The mayors will be asked to address several issues and answer questions submitted from Georgia elected officials, including their thoughts on the greatest barriers to equity and inclusion and what they are doing in their cities and communities to address these barriers. The panel of mayors will also provide insight into specific community and law enforcement trust-building initiatives, provide tangible steps for cities to begin equity and race conversations and use their platforms of influence to effect positive change. The panelists will close by focusing on measures elected officials can take to ensure city leadership best resembles the communities and citizens they serve.

**WHO:** Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)  
Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB)  
LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton, GMA Equity and Inclusion Commission Co-Chair  
Augusta Mayor Hardie Davis, GMA Equity and Inclusion Commission Co-Chair  
Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms  
Macon-Bibb County Mayor Robert Reichert  
Special remarks from Georgia State Representative Calvin Smyre

**WHAT:** “Cities United: The Road to Equity and Inclusion”, live-streamed event addressing a statewide discussion on race, equity and inclusion

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 6th, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Visit [gpb.org](http://gpb.org) and click on the sitewide banner link to watch the town hall discussion live

**About the Georgia Municipal Association:** Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and consulting services to all of Georgia’s 538 cities. GMA anticipates and influences the forces shaping Georgia’s cities and to provide leadership, tools and services that assist municipal governments in becoming more innovative, effective and
responsive. Created in 1933, the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. For more information, visit www.gacities.com.

**About Georgia Public Broadcasting:** As one of the largest PBS stations in the nation, Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB Media) has been creating content worth sharing for over 60 years. With nine television stations, 18 radio stations and multi-faceted digital and education divisions, GPB strives to educate, entertain and enrich the lives of our viewers and listeners with programming that includes statewide radio news, current affairs, high school sports, educational resources for teachers and students and enlightening programs about our state like *Hometown Georgia, Georgia Outdoors, On Second Thought, Political Rewind* and more. For more information, visit www.gpb.org.

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