

Communication & Accessibility



As public servants, our responsibility is to be accessible and responsive to the people who elected us. When I was campaigning, I repeatedly heard that the previous District 4 regime's responsiveness was sorely lacking. Therefore, I was determined that this would be different when I took office. I think that we have been successful in this objective.

The first mission was to have a staff of competent, caring people in my office. I like to keep things simple and basic. One of the most basic things that a public servant or his designated representatives can do is return phone calls and respond to constituents' needs. I think we have been successful in this objective.

Additionally, we developed a newsletter that delivers to the email addresses of thousands of constituents bi-weekly. Contained therein is a significant amount of useful information about various things happening throughout District 4 and DeKalb County. The consistent feedback that I have received about our newsletter has been very positive.



The 3rd Quarterly in the Fourth, 07/28/2018.

In addition to being available to meet with various Home Owner's Associations and Community Groups, I'm very proud of starting our quarterly community breakfast meetings called "Quarterly in the Fourth." In these meetings, various DeKalb County Department heads provide essential information and take questions from constituents. More

importantly, I am there to provide essential information and take questions from constituents. These candid interactions have been critical in repairing the bonds of trust between DeKalb County citizens and their government. I tend to be a straightforward person, and the answers that I gave in these sessions were not always what people wanted to hear, but I believe I provided people with what they needed to hear in an honest manner, and I am very proud of that.

I am also proud of the relationships that I have established with the Mayors of the cities in DeKalb County. During my second year in office, I established the District 4 Mayors roundtable meeting to strengthen communication lines with our municipal leaders. Initially, this included the Mayors of the cities that were wholly within the geographical boundaries of District 4. In recent months this meeting has been expanded to include Mayors throughout DeKalb County.

Additionally, I have sought to further deepen these relationships by engaging in one-on-one meetings as well. Historically, this kind of interaction has not been the case in DeKalb County, but for me, getting to know our municipal leaders better has been one of the most rewarding aspects of doing this job. After all, at some basic level, we all represent the same people.

It may sound trite, but at the end of the day, we are all in this together. Openness and accessibility should govern how we, as elected officials, interact with each other and how we interact with the citizens who put us all in office.

Steve began regular meetings with the Mayors in his district to talk, update, and get to know each other. This is the core of what Commissioner Bradshaw is about: communication and building relationships. Though the agendas of the county and the cities don't always align, we always have maintained respect for each other and have continued to seek ways to work together for the benefit of all our citizens.

Jonathan Elmore, Mayor,
City of Avondale Estates

DeKalb County – District 4

Accomplishments

- **Disseminated bi-weekly newsletters and social posts to share essential information with District 4 citizens**
- **Attended over 290 community meetings and events**
- **Our office has addressed over 2,500 issues submitted by constituents**
- **Hosted quarterly breakfast meetings for the District 4 community**
- **Facilitated quarterly Mayor's Roundtable meetings to strengthen communication with municipal leaders**



First Mayor's Roundtable Meeting of 2018. Pictured from left to right: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor, Avondale Estates. Melanie Hammet, Mayor, Pine Lake. Steve Bradshaw, Commissioner, DeKalb County District 4. Patricia Wheeler, Mayor, Stone Mountain. Ted Terry, Previously Mayor of Clarkston – currently District 6 County Commissioner.