

*PUBLIC FORUM –  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES  
Hahira FUMC Gymnasium  
November 12, 2015  
6:30 PM*

**PANEL BIOGRAPHIES**

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***Larry Hanson, City Manager,  
City of Valdosta***

Mr. Hanson has served as City Manager for the City of Valdosta for 20 years. Prior to that, he served as Assistant City Manager, Director of Community Affairs, and Director of Parks and Recreation. He began his career with the City of Valdosta as a part-time employee forty years ago, and has worked at all levels of the organization in his career. As City Manager, he oversees 11 departments, 755 employees, and an \$85 million budget. Mr. Hanson is a graduate of Valdosta State University and Valdosta High School. He is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, and was a member of the charter class of Leadership Lowndes, twice serving as its President. He has served on the executive committees of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce and United Way. He has also supported a long list of other community organizations ranging from Hospice of South Georgia to the Jimmy Carter Habitat for Humanity Work Project. In 2001, he served as Campaign Chairman for the Valdosta and Lowndes County United Way campaign which raised over \$1,300,000. On a State level, he has served on the Georgia Municipal Association Board of Directors, the Georgia Municipal Association Legislative Policy Council, and as Chairman of the Georgia Municipal Association's Revenue and Tax Finance Committee. He is also a former President of the Georgia City-County Manager's Association, or GCCMA. He has received numerous awards for his leadership and public service. This includes resolutions in the General Assembly commending him for his long career. Mr. Hanson is a recipient of the Loyce W. Turner Outstanding Public Official Award from VSU and the 2004 Carl Vinson Institute of Government/Georgia Trend Magazine Excellence in Public Service Award. He has traveled to China on behalf of the University of Georgia to conduct training on federal, state, and local government. Mr. Hanson has received the GCCMA Pillar of Professional Management Award for outstanding leadership and professional service to the local government profession. He has two children, a son and a daughter, and serves as an Elder at First Christian Church.

***Karen Smith, Executive Director of Main Street and Tourism,  
City of Thomasville***

Mrs. Smith has worked for the City of Thomasville for over 20 years. While she has worked in several private businesses at different times, she has always been willing to answer the call when her community needed her service. She has a strong passion for her community and a solid commitment to preserving all of its wonderful treasures. Mrs.

Smith and her husband raised two sons in Thomasville, and they are eager to see the next generation of their family enjoy the benefits of their very special hometown.

***Perry Hiott, Director of Community Development,  
Georgia Municipal Association***

Mr. Hiott has been with the Georgia Municipal Association, or GMA, for 18 years. In addition to his duties with Community Development, he serves as Managing Director for the Georgia Cities Foundation, a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution, where he oversees the Foundation's daily operations, including its revolving loan fund programs. Mr. Hiott possesses more than 30 years of professional experience in local government and nonprofit organizations. Prior to his employment with GMA, he served as Director of Zoning for Fayette County, City Administrator for the City of McDonough, and City Manager for the City of Morrow. Mr. Hiott received a B.A. degree in Political Science from Clemson University, and he received a Master of Public Administration degree from Georgia College & State University, where he has served as an adjunct instructor of public administration and has taught courses in local government administration.

***Bruce Green  
Bruce Green and Associates***

Mr. Green is a native of Valdosta with a BS in biology from Valdosta State and Masters work in Secondary Education. At the age of 25, he was elected as a city councilman in Remerton, Georgia. That same year he bought an old house where he honed his carpentry, design and community redevelopment skills while restoring a 1906 Victorian in an urban up and coming neighborhood called Fairview in Valdosta. Thereafter, he served as Main Street Manager for the City of Tifton, where he coordinated a very successful revitalization program for over eight years. This eventually led to Tifton being recognized as one of the Best Small Towns in America. Mr. Green then moved to Atlanta to work as the Director of the Office of Downtown Development with the Georgia Municipal Association. Following GMA, he served as the Director of Communications, Research and Rural Development with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. He then created his own consulting company – Bruce Green & Associates. Mr. Green is currently retired, most recently serving as the Director of Tourism Product Development with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, where he worked with communities, private corporations, and non-profits across Georgia to increase investment in and development of new tourism product.

***Walter Altman  
Altman + Barrett Architects***

Mr. Altman is a Principal Architect with Altman + Barrett Architects located in Hahira, Georgia. He is licensed in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida to practice Architecture and is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the National Council of Architects Registration Board. He has served as President of the Southwest Georgia chapter of the AIA in 2006 and 2009. Mr. Altman graduated from Valdosta High School in 1987 and Auburn University with a degree in Architecture in 1992. His firm has a diverse portfolio

of projects, including K-12 education, higher education, medical office buildings, surgery centers, municipal facilities, and various other commercial and industrial projects. Altman + Barrett project sizes have ranged from several hundred thousand dollars to over eighty million dollars, with the largest being the new Valdosta High School campus. Other high profile projects for his firm are the \$50,000,000.00 new Colquitt County High school and campus, \$52,000,000.00 new Bainbridge High school campus, \$38,000,000.00 new Cook County High school campus, and the \$16,000,000.00 new Pelham City High school campus.

***Rob Plumb, Partner,  
Langdale Vallotton, Attorneys at Law***

Mr. Plumb received his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He graduated from Widener University School of Law in 1994 and joined Langdale Vallotton in 1999. He practices in the areas of civil litigation, commercial and residential real estate transactions, corporate law, and employment law. He is the City Attorney for three municipalities in South Georgia, including Hahira, and is the municipal court judge for the City of Remerton. He has successfully represented business clients in litigation involving contract disputes, Title VII and ADEA discrimination claims, PACA litigation, foreclosure, confirmation and collection actions, and workout agreements on commercial loans. He has handled numerous complex commercial real estate transactions, including the financing of construction of base housing at Moody Air Force Base, USDA and HUD financing for multi-family housing construction and rehabilitation projects, and acquisitions of hotel, convenience store and truck stop properties. Mr. Plumb has also successfully argued cases before the Georgia Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. He is licensed to practice in Georgia, Maryland and the District of Columbia and is admitted in all trial and appellate courts in those states, the United States District Courts for the Middle and Northern Districts of Georgia and the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. Mr. Plumb is a member of the Valdosta Bar Association, the Georgia Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar and the Maryland State Bar Association. He is a member of Christ the King Episcopal Church in Valdosta.

***Jonathan Sumner, City Manager,  
City of Hahira***

Mr. Sumner has been City Manager of Hahira for nine years and a resident for twelve years. He was born in Tifton, Georgia and spent formative years in Lakeland, Georgia before completing his secondary education in central Florida. Through a local Early Admission program, he received his Associates Degree from Eastern Florida State College at the time of his high school graduation. This was followed by Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration degrees from Valdosta State University. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Sumner has been employed with all levels of government, including a United States Congressional District Office, Valdosta State University, the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, or SGRC, and the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority. He has also been an adjunct instructor in Political Science with Georgia Military College for eight years. While at the SGRC, Mr.

Sumner oversaw the successful completion of over 100 different grant and low-interest loan economic development projects, totaling over \$15 million dollars for South Georgia communities. These projects directly resulted in the creation or retention of over 3,300 jobs, including the improvement of six different industrial parks. He also authored an Urban Redevelopment Plan, culminating in a tax credit Opportunity Zone for the City of Ocilla, Georgia, the first such designation given in the state. Mr. Sumner is a recipient of the Economic Development Finance Professional certification from the National Development Council, and is a registered facilitator for all modules of the Community Leadership Program with the University of Georgia J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership. He was also named an inaugural Metro Valdosta Emerging Leader, is a graduate of Leadership Lowndes, and a member of the Region 11 Leadership Charter Class. He is married, has two children in Lowndes County schools, and is a member of Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Valdosta.