

Collins, Charlotte

From: Collins, Charlotte
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Collins, Charlotte
Subject: RE: 2015 review

From: Brownlow, Kellie
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 12:26 PM
To: 'Klepal, Dan (CMG-Atlanta)'
Subject: RE: 2015 review

Dan

Answers from Chairman below.

Kellie

Kellie Brownlow
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On Dec 29, 2015, at 1:07 PM, Klepal, Dan (CMG-Atlanta) <Dan.Klepal@ajc.com> wrote:

Kelli:

I'm doing a story looking back at the year that was 2015 in Cobb County. Could you please help get these questions answered by Lee:

- What are a few of the major accomplishments of the year for Cobb County?
- In 2015, Cobb County began to realize halo effect of SunTrust park partnership. The tax digest is trending up and property tax payers are the beneficiaries
 - General fund property tax millage rate for Cobb County taxpayers was reduced twice and is now back to pre-recession rate of 6.82 mills.
 - For the 19th consecutive year, Cobb County earned a AAA bond rating from the each of the 3 major rating agencies. Cobb is one of only 2 counties in Georgia with this prestigious designation.
- The Cobb County Board of Commissioners made a \$196 million investment in Public Safety adding 40 new officers, 10 hour shifts, education pay and shift differential
- Wrapped up the 2011 SPLOST including progress made on major projects across the county:
 - Major operational and pedestrian improvements on Six Flags Drive
 - \$6.9 million investment in Wild Horse Creek Park (joint project with Powder Springs)

- Much needed safety enhancements on Cobb Parkway and Mars Hill Rd
- New world class air traffic control tower
- Skipp Spann Connector
- Windy Hill Diverging Diamond
- Airport opened new customs facility and began accepting international flights
- More than \$300 million of private investment and 5000 jobs created or retained
- Four class A office buildings announced or under construction (in addition to Comcast office building in Battery Atlanta)
- Two additional major league sports teams announced they would locate in Cobb County (Atlanta Blaze and Atlanta United)

- Do you think the issues the county faced this year – from DiMassimo leaving, to realization that the bridge won't be open for 2017, to the most recent incident involving you and Cupid and the police controversy – overshadowed those accomplishments?

None of Cobb's accomplishments have been overshadowed. There is nothing that can take away all of the progress we made in 2015. Cobb County is ending 2015 in the best position it has been in a very long time. Private investment in our community is at the highest level it has been in decades and trending up. The halo effect of the SunTrust Park partnership is evident in our tax digest and taxpayers are the winners. We have lowered taxes and increased our investment in public safety.

What are you looking forward to in 2016?

- Working with partners to aggressively move forward with \$1 billion of ongoing transportation projects
- Reducing the water transfer into general fund and staying on track to eliminate it completely
- Reigniting the 2008 green space bond without increasing the millage rate
- Maintaining the Triple AAA bond rating and fully implement increasingly conservative budget practices such as priority based budgeting
- Continuing to support environment that creates and retains jobs and attracts private investment
- Kicking off \$700+ million of infrastructure investment with the 2016 SPLOST
- Beginning work on new police headquarters and joint public safety training facilities
- Strengthening anti-gang initiatives in partnership with the District Attorney and Sherriff's office

Thank you,

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