

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Agenda

Monday, August 4, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Special Called Meeting

Mayor Craig Newton

Mayor Pro Tem Marshall Cheek

Councilmember Andrew Hixson

Councilmember Josh Bare

Councilmember Matt Myers

Councilmember Bruce Gaynor

Livestream Here:

<https://youtube.com/live/Qoqo6ofkWLc?feature=share>

- A. **Call to Order by Mayor Craig Newton**
PLEASE SILENCE ALL CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES
- B. **Roll Call (recorded)**
- C. **Items for Discussion**
 - 1. [25-7410](#) **Final Report on City Council's Requested Investigation of Certain Actions by Mayor Newton**
Discuss the written report concerning the investigation authorized by the City Council on May 5th, and consider what action, if any, to take.

[Agenda Report - Special Called Meeting on Ethics Investigation UPDATE](#)

[July 28, 2025--Report](#)
- D. **Adjourn to Executive Session for Legal, Personnel, and Real Estate**
- E. **Signed by _____ Mayor Craig Newton**
- F. **Attest _____ Monique Philip, City Clerk**



City of Norcross

Legislation Details (With Details)

65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, GA 30071

770-448-2122

770-242-0824

File#:	25-7410	Version:	
Type:	Agenda Item	Status:	Agenda Ready
File Created:	7/30/2025	In Control:	Special Called Meeting
On Agenda:	8/4/2025 5:30 PM	Status:	Submitted
Title:	Final Report on City Council's Requested Investigation of Certain Actions by Mayor Newton		

Sponsors:

Code Sections:

Attachments:

1. [Agenda Report - Special Called Meeting on Ethics Investigation UPDATE](#)
2. [July 28, 2025--Report](#)

Title

Final Report on City Council's Requested Investigation of Certain Actions by Mayor Newton

Drafter

Marshall Cheek, Mayor Pro Tem



Mayor: Craig Newton • **Mayor Pro Tem:** Marshall Cheek • **Councilmember:** Andrew Hixson • **Councilmember:** Josh Bare
Councilmember: Matt Myers • **Councilmember:** Bruce Gaynor • **City Manager:** Eric Johnson • **City Clerk:** Monique Phillip

AGENDA REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Marshall Cheek, Mayor Pro Tem

Meeting Date: August 4, 2025 – Special Called Meeting

Item No.: 25-7410

Title: Final Report on City Council's Requested Investigation of Certain Actions by Mayor Newton

CC: Eric Johnson, City Manager

Recommendation: Discuss the written report concerning the investigation authorized by the City Council on May 5th, and consider what action, if any, to take.

Update: A written report was provided by Jim Elliot on July 28, 2025. The report provides documents and analysis concerning subject matter of the investigation. It also leaves open certain items for council consideration.

Background

On May 5th, the City Council authorized the initiation of an investigation through the appointment of a Special Commissioned Investigator involving financial transactions.

Section 2.25 of the Charter allows the City Council, “by majority vote”, to “make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city and the conduct of any department, office, or authority thereof, and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence.” Furthermore, Section 1.13 gives the Council the power to commission and delegate such powers as necessary to carry out the powers of the City’s government. Such an investigation would be conducted by an appointed Special Commissioned Investigator appointed by the Office of the City Attorney. The Special Commissioned Investigator would issue a report. The City Council would then evaluate the report and determine whether to adopt the report and any actions to take.

Potential actions include rejecting the report, requesting further clarification of one or more issues related to the report, accepting the report and taking no action, or accepting the report and voting to censure.

Financial Impact: No added cost is anticipated.

Consistent with Comprehensive Plan? Goal 6 - Furthers the City’s Tradition of Strong Leadership.

Attachments

July 28, 2025--Report

BUTLER | SNOW

July 28, 2025

Via email

William J. Diehl, Esq.

Thompson, O'Brien, Kappler & Nasuti, P.C.

Peachtree Corners, Georgia

Dear Bill:

Enclosed please find my Final Report and Findings of Fact in the pending investigation. I will be sending an audio file by separate email because of its size.

Thank you to your firm and the City of Norcross for the opportunity to provide service on this matter. Should follow-up or additional work be needed, please do not hesitate to reach out to me

BUTLER SNOW LLP



Suite 1225
577 Mulberry Street
Macon, Georgia 31201

JAMES E. ELLIOTT, JR.
478.238.1353
jim.elliott@butlersnow.com

T 478.238.1350
F 478.238.1351
www.butlersnow.com

BUTLER SNOW LLP

Attachment: July 28, 2025--Report (25-7410 : Final Report on City Council's Requested Investigation of Certain Actions by Mayor Newton)

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT AND FINDINGS OF FACT

I was retained by the law firm Thompson, O'Brien, Kappler & Nasuti, P.C. on behalf of its client, the City of Norcross, Georgia to perform a charter investigation; specifically, by letter dated May 13, 2025 (*see the attached "K"*) from city attorney William Diehl to the Mayor and Council, my charge was to investigate:

- (i) *whether the Mayor (Craig Newton) improperly used a city sponsored event to raise funds for himself or a private organization;*
- (ii) *whether the Mayor inappropriately retained city funds for his personal benefit;*
- (iii) *whether the Mayor misused his office to advance personal causes.*

The matter revolves around three checks received by and payable to the City of Norcross, each of which contained the following language on the "for" line: "Mayor's Civic and School Projects." Said checks are as follows:

- check from Jain Society of Greater Atlanta in the amount of \$2,001.00 dated October 30, 2022
- check from Deepak K Shah in the amount of \$5,001.00 dated October 30, 2022
- check from Tucker's Catering LLC in the amount of \$3,000.00 dated January 10, 2023

("A")

The "city sponsored event" was a gathering held on January 5, 2023; invited to this event were members of the Gwinnett County delegation to the state legislature, county officials, officials from other cities, the Gwinnett Municipal Association, and others. Catering was provided by Tucker's Catering. The first question of whether Mayor Newton used this event to raise funds clearly relates only to the check received from Tucker's Catering, as the other two predated the event by over two months. ("A") The mayor stated the checks were given after Mr. Shah asked "what can we do to help the city?"

The event was catered by Tucker's Catering, a Norcross-based business. Mrs. Tucker did not respond to my numerous attempts to speak with her, so I am unable to provide any further details on her check but would direct you to the last email in "A" on how her check was handled by the finance office notwithstanding the fact that this check contained the designation "for Mayor's Civic and Schools Project."

With regard to the first two checks enumerated above, I find as follows: Mayor Newton expressed his opinion that other cities in the area do more to support small nonprofits and school-related matters in their communities than does Norcross; he gives as an example his desire that the City support the Norcross High School football team and that he believes some councilmembers feel the same. However, the City budget apparently does not include any sort of discretionary fund for use by the mayor's office. ("B")

¹ On all of the exhibits, because emails are printed chronologically from latest to earliest, I suggest reading from the bottom up

Having served several years as a member of the city council, he contends that previous administrations solicited and received funds for use by the mayor and gives for example a "Mayor's Book Club" (in 2014) and, more recently, Discovery Garden Park, both of which received public funding. I will send by separate email an audiotape of an undated meeting between Mayor Newton, one "Sonja" (assumed to be Hampton) and "Paul" (assumed Hanabuth) in which the use of a nonprofit was suggested to the mayor to fund activities he proposed for Norcross.

It was suggested to the mayor that contributions or donations could be handled by amendment to the city budget by the city council (see January 13, 2023 email in "**B'1**- In my interview, Mayor Newton expressed his thought that process would be "too bureaucratic" and that he declined to pursue that route.

Records of the Georgia Secretary of State's office indicated that articles of incorporation for "Give Us Hope Foundation, Inc." were submitted to the office on January 4, 2018 and issued by the Secretary on February 16, 2018. It remains in active status with the state. Records of the Internal Revenue Services do not indicate that it has been granted 501(c) status.

City manager Eric Johnson states that the standard practice of the City is to immediately deposit checks received, then determine how and where those funds should be posted. That happened with regard to the Shah and Jain Society checks. Because the checks contained language restricting use of the funds to the "Mayor's Civic and School Projects," an opinion was sought from the City's auditors. Because the Mayor declined to pursue a budget amendment (as discussed above) and the auditor had advised the funds could not be used with the conditions imposed by the donors, the city manager made the decision to issue refund checks. Checks dated April 17, 2023 were sent to the Jain Society and Mr. Shah. ("**C**") After some confusion related to whether the checks had been received ("**D**," "**E**" and "**G**"), these were voided and reissued by the City in the summer of 2023 ("**F**"). Mayor Newton directed that the new checks be given to him to mail which he did along with a letter requesting the donors to send checks payable to the Give Us Hope Foundation (see letter on "**H'J**"³

As requested, checks from the Jain Society and Mr. Shah dated August 10, 2023 were sent to the Foundation ("**E**"). The mayor contends that these checks were never negotiated by the Foundation; financial records provided by the mayor's attorney show one deposit for a foundation account at Peach State Federal Credit Union of \$2,000.00 in March of 2024.⁴ I was otherwise unable to verify that the checks were not negotiated as my numerous attempts to communicate with Shah and the Jain Society (phone calls and emails) were not returned.

I find no evidence that the Mayor improperly inappropriately retained city funds for his personal benefit. The relevant evidence does reflect that the Jain Society and Shah issued checks in the

² The city manager is the chief executive and administrative officer of the city under charter sec. 2.30; moreover, the manager's spending authority is \$30,000.00.

³ The dates are confusing. An email from Paul Hanabuth to the city manager dated July 7, 2023 indicates that new checks would be issued ("**F**"). The letter from the mayor to Mr. Shah ("**H**") is dated June 9, 2023; the month may have been a mistake.

⁴ The check from Deepak Shah was for \$2,001.00.

same amounts as those originally given to the City to the "Give Us Hope Foundation" operated by Mayor Newton, but there is no evidence that the foundation deposited those checks (to reach this conclusion, I relied on the Mayor's representations and the banking statements. With regard to the question of whether the Mayor misused his office to advance personal causes, I find that Mayor Newton did ask Mr. Shah and the Jain Society to reissue the checks to his foundation ("H") but apparently made the ultimate decision not to tender those funds to the foundation. As my charge under the May 15, 2025 was limited to fact-finding, with "no power to adjudicate any claim against any party," I defer the answer to this question for the city council to resolve.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Shah". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timeline

Apparently, a vote was taken at the May 5, 2025 city council meeting to initiate an investigation. Bill Diehl, who I had not previously met, reached out to me the next day. We exchanged emails related to an engagement letter; I ultimately received what is attached as "K." As you will note on "J," I reached to Mayor Newton on June 20, 2025, prior the G.M.A. convention in Savannah. His counsel advised me not to speak with his client in Savannah. As you will note from the further emails in this chain, the first opportunity I was afforded to speak with the Mayor was offered as July 16th or 17th. We ultimately spoke for the first time by Zoom on July 18th.

Eric Johnson

From: Eric Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:36 PM
To: Paul Hanebuth
Subject: RE: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer

Talking to Chris this afternoon (who, somehow, had it on his calendar to come present our audit next Thursday evening) the Tucker's Catering should not be classified as a donation but as a refunding. We paid the full cost of the catering and it would appear they received a payment from another source and refunded an equal dollar amount of our payment. We never really expected to pay the full cost of the food and drinks.

Chris agrees with you that we need an email from the Mayor we can put in our files asking that we refund the two donations to those named individuals and place the email with the copy of each check we received in our files.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
 Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:23 PM
 To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
 Subject: FW: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer

These are the donation checks we have deposited, in case you want to see them.

-----Original Message-----

From: Devin Watson <Devin.Watson@norcrossga.net>
 Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 4:02 PM
 To: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
 Cc: Sonja Hampton <shampton@norcrossga.net>
 Subject: FW: Scanned from a Xerox Multifunction Printer

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached PDF of the requested check copies.

Best Regards,

Devin Watson
 Administrative Services Staff Accountant City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville St.
 Norcross, GA 30071
 [p] 770-448-2122
 [f] 770-448-5945 (Fax)
 devin.watson@norcrossga.net (email)
 www.norcrossga.net (City Website)



J. Chris Hollifield, CPA
Managing Partner



P.O. Box 2917 | 726 South Enota Drive | Suite A
Gainesville GA 30503
phone: 770.287.7800 | fax: 770.287.7801

www.RushtonandCompany.com | | | |

CPAmerica
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John Society of Greater Atlanta
638 S Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30321

2104
01-02H

10/30/2022 Date

Pay to the Order of City of Norcross \$2001.00
Two Thousand & one + 00/100 Dollars

Wells Fargo Bank

Authorized Signature

For Help Mayors Clinic & School Projects

⑆061000227⑆2000021045123⑆ 2104

DEEPAK K. SHAH
SAMPLINA D. SHAH
215 TYNEBRAE PLACE
ROSWELL, GA 30075

1025
10-171

10-30-22 Date

Pay to the Order of City of Norcross \$5001.00
Five Thousand one + 00/100 Dollars

Command Asset Program
payable through
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

For Mayors Clinic & School Projects

⑆102307161⑆4800251005⑆ 10259

TUCKERS CATERING LLC
290 W PEACHTREE ST STE 108
NORCROSS, GA, 30071-1809

1244

DATE 1-10-2023

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

BANK OF AMERICA

\$3,000.00 DOLLARS

For Mayors Clinic & Local Schools project

⑆001244⑆ ⑆061000052⑆ 334070854039⑆

Eric Johnson

From: Paul Hanebuth
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 12:14 PM
To: Monique Lang; Eric Johnson
Subject: RE: donation check FYI

Monique,

"Expenditure account" would probably be most precise, but "expense line" or "budget line item" would work too if we're talking about money going out the door. Money coming in would be a revenue account/line item.

"Fund" has a specific meaning in the context of government accounting, so I agree it will help prevent confusion to avoid using that term in its more colloquial sense.

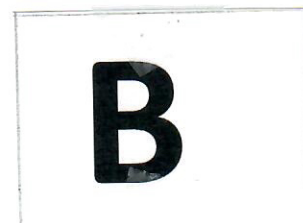
Civic Participation (100-5.1310.523201) is where the Tucker's bill was charged; that's probably also the best choice for other expenses for the same event, like you mentioned.

Paul

From: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:56 AM
To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: donation check FYI

What is the appropriate terminology?

Monique Lang, CMC
City Clerk
 City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street
 Norcross, Georgia 30071
 [p] 678.421.2035
 [f] 770.242.0824
www.norcrossga.net



NOTE: Email is provided to employees for the administrative needs of the city. Email correspondence to/from a city email account is considered public information and subject to release under Georgia laws or pursuant to subpoena.

From: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:48 AM
To: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: donation check FYI

Charge line items to the appropriate type of expenditure. There is no "fund."

If the invoices are for different services, then they will be charged to different line items.

From: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:36 AM

To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>; Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>

Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Shayla Alexis <Shayla.Alexis@norcrossga.net>

Subject: RE: donation check FYI

Understood. Is it ok to charge it to the M&C civic participation fund? If not, what fund do you suggest?

Monique Lang, CMC

City Clerk

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, Georgia 30071

[p] 678.421.2035

[f] 770.242.0824

www.norcrossga.net



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From: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:32 AM

To: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>; Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>

Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Shayla Alexis <Shayla.Alexis@norcrossga.net>

Subject: RE: donation check FYI

Sorry, I thought we had previously discussed that we are paying all costs out of the M&C General Fund budget. The subsequent budget amendment will replenish the expenditure line items impacted. We don't charge invoices to a revenue but, because there is a separate revenue line item for donations revenue in the General Fund into which any donations are deposited, it is easy to track those unbudgeted donations. The line items you charge for the invoices are based on the specific types of expenditures like any other invoices.

From: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:25 AM

To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>; Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>

Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Shayla Alexis <Shayla.Alexis@norcrossga.net>

Subject: RE: donation check FYI

We have two invoices pending from the legislative reception, Eagle Rock host fees for \$275 and Photographer fees for \$350.

Monique Lang, CMC
City Clerk
 City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street
 Norcross, Georgia 30071
 [p] 678.421.2035
 [f] 770.242.0824
www.norcrossga.net



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From: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>; Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Shayla Alexis <Shayla.Alexis@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: donation check FYI

We can bring a budget amendment for approval whenever the Mayor wants to appropriate those funds and then they can be used for a specific purpose.

From: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 11:02 AM
To: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>; Shayla Alexis <Shayla.Alexis@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: donation check FYI
Importance: High

Paul,

Thank you for the clarification. Please provide Shayla and I with the account number for the **donations revenue line** for future invoices.

Monique Lang, CMC
City Clerk
 City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street
 Norcross, Georgia 30071
 [p] 678.421.2035
 [f] 770.242.0824
www.norcrossga.net



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From: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2023 10:32 AM

To: Monique Lang <monique.lang@norcrossga.net>

Subject: donation check FYI

Monique,

We received a check from your office with a handwritten note on the envelope: "For deposit to the Mayor's Special Fund". No such fund exists, so we will deposit into the General Fund in the Donations revenue line. If you have further information/documentation indicating this revenue should be routed differently, please let me know.

Thanks,
Paul

Paul Hanebuth
Director of Finance and Administrative Services
City of Norcross
65 Lawrenceville St.
Norcross, GA 30071
678-421-2017 (desk)
256-589-0426 (mobile)
www.norcrossga.net (City Website)



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Eric Johnson

From: Paul Hanebuth
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Craig Newton
Cc: Eric Johnson; Monique Philip
Subject: Donor refunds
Attachments: Xerox Scan_07072023104437.pdf

Mayor Newton,
 Please forgive me for sending this reminder, but I don't believe I received a response from you to the below email. Could I please get copies of the letters you sent on June 9-10 to Deepak Shah, Viral Shah, and the Jain Society?

Thanks,
 Paul

From: Paul Hanebuth
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:11 PM
To: Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: Thank you

Great, thank you so much!

Mayor Newton,
 I'm attaching copies of the reimbursement checks issued in April as well as the email in which you authorized the payments. I notice your email refers to previous phone conversations with the city manager but does not refer to the reason for the refunds. I understand you wrote the donors on June 10 explaining the reasons that their refunds were returned after several months. Could I please have a copy of those letters for our audit files?
 The email chain below does not address the reason for the refund, and the assertion that a single check was sent rather than two separate checks is clearly not accurate.

Thanks in advance,
 Paul

From: Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:55 PM
To: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Subject: FW: Thank you

Paul,

The Mayor is providing the email as a backup for the returned checks.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with him.

Monique Philip
City Clerk
 City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street



CITY OF NORCROSS 65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET NORCROSS, GA 30071-2556 - 770-448-2122

DATE	INVOICE #	P.O. #	DESCRIPTION	04/17/2023	359091
					AMOUNT
4/12/2023	REFUND OCTOBER		REFUND OCTOBER 30, 2022 Donation		5,001.00

Deepak K. Shah
215 Tynebrae Place
Roswell, GA 30075-

CHECK TOTAL 5,001.00

CITY OF NORCROSS 65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET NORCROSS, GA 30071-2556 - 770-448-2122

VENDOR: 0116211 Deepak K. Shah

DATE	INVOICE #	P.O. #	DESCRIPTION	04/17/2023	359091
					AMOUNT
4/12/2023	REFUND OCTOBER		REFUND OCTOBER 30, 2022 Donation		5,001.00

CHECK TOTAL 5,001.00

CITY OF NORCROSS
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - POOLED CASH
65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET
NORCROSS, GA 30071-2556
770-448-2122

TRUIST BANK
NORCROSS, GA

Check # 359091

PAY ---Five Thousand One Dollars and 00/100 Cents---

TO THE
ORDER
OF

Deepak K. Shah
215 Tynebrae Place
Roswell, GA 30075-

Eric Johnson
Sanjay L. Hampton

⑈ 359091 ⑈ ⑆06 ⑆ ⑆00790⑆ ⑈ 0008800638069⑈

CITY OF NORCROSS 65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET NORCROSS, GA 30071-2556 - 770-448-2122

DATE	INVOICE #	P.O. #	DESCRIPTION	04/17/2023	359112
				AMOUNT	
4/12/2023	REFUND OCTOBER		REFUND OCTOBER 30 2022 Donations		2,001.00

Jain Society of Greater Atlanta
669 S, Peachtree Street
Norcross, GA 30071-

CHECK TOTAL 2,001.00

CITY OF NORCROSS 65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET NORCROSS, GA 30071-2556 - 770-448-2122

VENDOR: 0116210 Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

DATE	INVOICE #	P.O. #	DESCRIPTION	04/17/2023	359112
				AMOUNT	
4/12/2023	REFUND OCTOBER		REFUND OCTOBER 30 2022 Donations		2,001.00

CHECK TOTAL 2,001.00

CITY OF NORCROSS
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE - POOLED CASH
65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET
NORCROSS, GA 30071-2556
770-448-2122

TRUIST BANK
NORCROSS, GA

Check # 359112

DATE
04/17/2023PAY THIS AMOUNT
\$2,001.00

PAY ---Two Thousand One Dollars and 00/100 Cents---

TO THE
ORDER
OF
Jain Society of Greater Atlanta
669 S, Peachtree Street
Norcross, GA 30071-

[Signature]
[Signature]

⑈359112⑈ ⑆061100790⑆ ⑈0008800638069⑈

Eric Johnson

From: Paul Hanebuth
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 4:38 PM
To: Eric Johnson; Craig Newton
Cc: Monique Philip
Subject: RE: Donor refunds

Received, thank you. I'll put this with the AP documentation and let you know if the auditors have any questions about this series of transactions.

From: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 4:11 PM
To: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>; Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: Donor refunds

Paul:

I am attaching a copy of the letter you are referencing that Mr. Shah was gracious to provide me. Mr. Shah had received one of the two checks that we sent along with this letter that was separately mailed and, per his request, we stopped payment and reissued both checks.

Eric

From: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 10:25 AM
To: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>; Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Donor refunds

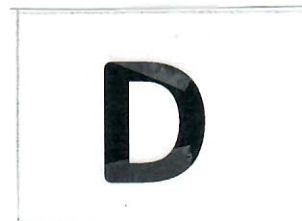
Mayor Newton,
 Please forgive me for sending this reminder, but I don't believe I received a response from you to the below email. Could I please get copies of the letters you sent on June 9-10 to Deepak Shah, Viral Shah, and the Jain Society?

Thanks,
 Paul

From: Paul Hanebuth
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:11 PM
To: Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Cc: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>; Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: RE: Thank you

Great, thank you so much!

Mayor Newton,



I'm attaching copies of the reimbursement checks issued in April as well as the email in which you authorized the payments. I notice your email refers to previous phone conversations with the city manager but does not refer to the reason for the refunds. I understand you wrote the donors on June 10 explaining the reasons that their refunds were returned after several months. Could I please have a copy of those letters for our audit files? The email chain below does not address the reason for the refund, and the assertion that a single check was sent rather than two separate checks is clearly not accurate.

Thanks in advance,
Paul

From: Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:55 PM
To: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Subject: FW: Thank you

Paul,

The Mayor is providing the email as a backup for the returned checks.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with him.

Monique Philip
City Clerk
City of Norcross
65 Lawrenceville Street
Norcross, Georgia 30071
[P] 678.421.2035
www.norcrossga.net



NOTE: Email is provided to employees for the administrative needs of the city. Email correspondence to/from a city email account is considered public information and subject to release under Georgia laws or pursuant to subpoena.

From: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Monique Philip <monique.philip@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Fw: Thank you

fyi

Craig Newton, Mayor
City of Norcross
65 Lawrenceville Street | Norcross, Georgia 30071 |
678-421-2065 (Office) | 770/361-8039 (Mobile) |
Craig.Newton@NorcrossGa.net
www.NorcrossGa.net



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From: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:54 PM
To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Fw: Thank you

Eric,
 Please see email below.

Craig Newton, Mayor
 City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street | Norcross, Georgia 30071 |
 678-421-2065 (Office) | 770/361-8039 (Mobile) |
Craig.Newton@NorcrossGa.net
www.NorcrossGa.net



NOTE: Email is provided to employees for administrative city use. Email correspondence to/from a city email account is considered public information and subject to release under Georgia laws or pursuant to subpoena.

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Re: Thank you

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

Good afternoon Mr. Newton.
 Just a friendly reminder about our cell phone conversation yesterday that instead of 2 separate checks we got 1 combined check under Deepak Shah's name.

Would you please void this current check, and resend two separate checks:

1. Jain Society of Greater Atlanta or JSGA
2. Deepak Shah

Kind regards,
Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

president@jsgatemple.org

www.jsgatemple.org

Kind regards,

Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

president@jsgatemple.org

www.jsgatemple.org

On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 2:28 PM Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net> wrote:

Mr. Shah:

Mayor Newton forwarded your email. I am a little confused by the reference to a single check.

The City issued two checks on April 12th. Check number 359112 was in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta. Check number 359091 was in the amount of \$5,001 to Deepak Shah. I have photocopies of each check. Due to the age of those checks, we can cancel payment on both of them and reissue checks in those amounts made out as before.

Eric

Eric Johnson, MPA
City Manager

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, Georgia 30071

[P] 770 448-1734

[C] 470 337-0851

www.norcrossga.net



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From: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Fw: Thank you

Eric,

Please see email below.

Craig Newton, Mayor

City of Norcross
65 Lawrenceville Street | Norcross, Georgia 30071 |
678-421-2065 (Office) | 770/361-8039 (Mobile) |

Craig.Newton@NorcrossGa.net

www.NorcrossGa.net

NOTE: Email is provided to employees for administrative city use. Email correspondence to/from a city email account is considered public information and subject to release under Georgia laws or pursuant to subpoena.

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Re: Thank you

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

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1. Jain Society of Greater Atlanta or JSGA
2. Deepak Shah

Kind regards,

Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

Eric Johnson

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 12:55 PM
To: Craig Newton; Eric Johnson
Subject: Re: FW: Thank you
Attachments: IMG_1286.jpeg

You don't often get email from president@jsgatemple.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

FYI, sent 2 checks to proposed non-profit couple of weeks ago.

Thank you again for the opportunity to give back and your patience.

Thanks,
Viral Shah
JSGA

On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 4:52 PM Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net> wrote:

Thanks.

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Re: FW: Thank you



Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

Sure. Please find attached.

Thanks,

Viral Shah

On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 4:20 PM Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net> wrote:

Just as a follow-up, can you send me a copy of the letter that you received along with the one check for my records?

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>

Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:08 PM

To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>

Subject: Re: FW: Thank you

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

Hello Mr. Eric Johnson - thanks for your response.

Thanks for the clarification. I did receive 2 mails so far from City of Norcross:

1. To Viral Shah: A letter stating to re-issue checks & instructing to re-write to Give Us Hope [No checks attached]
2. To Deepak Shah: This has one of the checks# 359091 in the amount of \$5,001 you mentioned.

I have never received the check# 359112 in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta so far. Hence the confusion.

You may either -

A. Only resend check# 359112 in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

B. Void both, and resend both checks again to my home address on file - [4455 Kirkwell Road, Cumming GA 30041](#).

Please let me know what option you would like to pursue with?

Kind regards,

Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

[669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071](#)

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

president@jsgatemple.org

www.jsgatemple.org

On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 2:28 PM Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net> wrote:

Mr. Shah:

Mayor Newton forwarded your email. I am a little confused by the reference to a single check.

The City issued two checks on April 12th. Check number 359112 was in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta. Check number 359091 was in the amount of \$5,001 to Deepak Shah. I have photocopies of each check. Due to the age of those checks, we can cancel payment on both of them and reissue checks in those amounts made out as before.

Eric

Eric Johnson, MPA
City Manager

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, Georgia 30071

[P] 770 448-1734

[C] 470 337-0851

www.norcrossga.net



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From: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>

Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:55 PM

To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>

Subject: Fw: Thank you

Eric,

Please see email below.

Craig Newton, Mayor

City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street | Norcross, Georgia 30071 |
 678-421-2065 (Office) | 770/361-8039 (Mobile) |

Craig.Newton@NorcrossGa.net

www.NorcrossGa.net

NOTE: Email is provided to employees for administrative city use. Email correspondence to/from a city email account is considered public information and subject to release under Georgia laws or pursuant to subpoena.

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Re: Thank you

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

Good afternoon Mr. Newton.

Just a friendly reminder about our cell phone conversation yesterday that instead of 2 separate checks we got 1 combined check under Deepak Shah's name.

Would you please void this current check, and resend two separate checks:

1. Jain Society of Greater Atlanta or JSGA
2. Deepak Shah

Kind regards,

Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

[669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071](#)

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

president@jsgatemple.org

www.jsgatemple.org

--

Kind regards,

Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

[669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071](#)

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

president@jsgatemple.org

www.jsgatemple.org

Jain Society OF GREATER ATLANTA

669 South Peachtree Street • Norcross, Georgia 30071-2438 • 770-81-
www.jsgatemple.org

from it may concern
J's Hope Foundation
Langford Drive, Norcross GA 30071

Us Hope Foundation administrators,
are redirecting our donations from City of Norcross to your non-profit foundation as per the Mayor Mr. Craig
ton's request. We are extremely delighted that our donation is going to the right place.

we find two checks enclosed:

1. A check from the society - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta (JSGA) - \$2,001
2. A personal check from one of the members & local entrepreneurs Deepak Shah - \$5,001

erely
Shah
sident, JSGA

Jain Society of
Greater Atlanta
(JSGA)
VIRAL SHAH
455 KENWELL RD
CUMMING, GA 30041

To, GIVE US HOPE FOUNDATION
380, Langford Dr,
Norcross, GA 30071 USA

Jain Society of Greater Atlanta
669 S Peachtree Street
Norcross, GA 30071

Pay to the Order of Give Us Hope Foundation 8/10/2023 Date
Two Thousand one \$200
Wells Fargo Bank 00/100 Dollars

For Donation Authorized Signatory [Signature] 2109

DEEPAK K. SHAH
SAMPURNA D. SHAH
215 TYNEBRAE PLACE
ROSWELL, GA 30075

Pay to the Order of Give Us Hope Foundation
Five Thousand one 00/100 Dollars

Command Asset Program
payable through
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

For Donation [Signature] 10324

061000227 2000021045123 2109

102307164 4800251005 10324

Page 1 of 1

Executive Committee 2023 for Jain Society of Greater Atlanta			
President	Viral Shah	814-504-8425	President@JSGATemple.org
Vice President	Nilesh Shah	404-468-5840	VicePresident@JSGATemple.org
Secretary	Mitesh Shah	973-885-4502	Secretary@JSGATemple.org
Treasurer	Himanshu Shah	770-596-7494	Treasurer@JSGATemple.org
	Ketan Shah	770-695-5150	YouthCoordinator@JSGATemple.org
		404-786-5758	ExMember1@JSGATemple.org
		404-668-2886	ExMember2@JSGATemple.org

Eric Johnson

From: Paul Hanebuth
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:29 PM
To: Eric Johnson
Cc: Christy Scott
Subject: RE: FW: Thank you

Okay, we'll void both and reissue. Christy, could you please make sure that, regardless of the address on the checks, that they are both mailed to:

Viral Shah
 4455 Kirkwell Rd
 Cumming Ga 30041

From: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:19 PM
To: Paul Hanebuth <Paul.Hanebuth@norcrossga.net>
Subject: FW: FW: Thank you

He has indicated the address he'd like them sent to below.

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:08 PM
To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Re: FW: Thank you

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Hello Mr. Eric Johnson - thanks for your response.

Thanks for the clarification. I did receive 2 mails so far from City of Norcross:

1. To Viral Shah: A letter stating to re-issue checks & instructing to re-write to Give Us Hope [No checks attached]
2. To Deepak Shah: This has one of the checks# 359091 in the amount of \$5,001 you mentioned.

I have never received the check# 359112 in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta so far. Hence the confusion.

You may either -

- A. Only resend check# 359112 in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta
- B. Void both, and resend both checks again to my home address on file - 4455 Kirkwell Road, Cumming GA 30041.

Please let me know what option you would like to pursue with?

Eric Johnson

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Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:08 PM
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Subject: Re: FW: Thank you

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Please let me know what option you would like to pursue with?

Kind regards,
Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta
 669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071
 Cell: (814) 504-8425
 SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)
president@jsgatemple.org
www.jsgatemple.org



On Fri, Jul 7, 2023 at 2:28 PM Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net> wrote:

Mr. Shah:

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The City issued two checks on April 12th. Check number 359112 was in the amount of \$2,001 to Jain Society of Greater Atlanta. Check number 359091 was in the amount of \$5,001 to Deepak Shah. I have photocopies of each check. Due to the age of those checks, we can cancel payment on both of them and reissue checks in those amounts made out as before.

Eric

Eric Johnson, MPA
City Manager

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, Georgia 30071
[P] 770 448-1734

[C] 470 337-0851

www.norcrossga.net



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From: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:55 PM
To: Eric Johnson <Eric.Johnson@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Fw: Thank you

Eric,

Please see email below.

Craig Newton, Mayor

City of Norcross
65 Lawrenceville Street | Norcross, Georgia 30071 |
678-421-2065 (Office) | 770/361-8039 (Mobile) |

Craig.Newton@NorcrossGa.net

www.NorcrossGa.net

NOTE: Email is provided to employees for administrative city use. Email correspondence to/from a city email account is considered public information and subject to release under Georgia laws or pursuant to subpoena.

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2023 3:40 PM
To: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Subject: Re: Thank you

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Good afternoon Mr. Newton.

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1. Jain Society of Greater Atlanta or JSGA
2. Deepak Shah

Kind regards,

Viral Shah

President - Jain Society of Greater Atlanta

669 S Peachtree St, Norcross, GA 30071

Cell: (814) 504-8425

SMS/WA: +1-323-546-JSGA (5742)

president@jsgatemple.org

www.jsgatemple.org

Eric Johnson

From: JSGA President <president@jsgatemple.org>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Eric Johnson
Subject: Re: FW: Thank you

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

Sure. Please find attached.

Thanks,
Viral Shah





MAYOR CRAIG NEWTON • MAYOR PRO TEM BRUCE GAYNOR • COUNCILMEMBER ANDREW HIXSON • COUNCILMEMBER JOSH BARE
COUNCILMEMBER MATT MYERS • COUNCILMEMBER ARLENE BECKLES • CITY MANAGER ERIC JOHNSON • CITY CLERK MONIQUE PHILIP

June 9, 2023

Viral Shah
4455 Kirkwell Road
Cumming GA 30041

Mr. Shah,

I appreciate your patience on this matter. I am very sorry about the delay since we last spoke. We have had problems in the City of Norcross with our new Finance manager.

Per our conversation, I am mailing the checks back to you. Please re-issue the checks to:

Give Us Hope Foundation.
380 Langford Drive
Norcross Ga 30071.

This organization supports the Mayor's civic and local school projects.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Craig Newton, Mayor
City of Norcross

65 LAWRENCEVILLE STREET, NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30071
(678) 421-2027 UPSTAIRS CITY HALL (770) 242-0824 FAX (770) 448-2111 POLICE DEPARTMENT
<http://www.norcrossga.net>



1505 Lakes Parkway
Suite 100
Lawrenceville, GA 30043
678.889.4328 | 855.889.4328

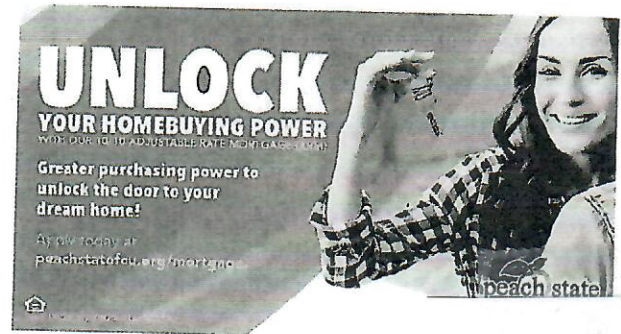
Statement Period

03/01/24 - 03/31/24

Account Number

[REDACTED]

GIVE US HOPE FOUNDATION, INC.
CRAIG LEVERNON NEWTON
380 LANGFORD DR
NORCROSS, GA 30071-1844



Travel Plans for Spring Break? Let Us Know Before You Go!

Please call us at 855.889.4328 to authenticate your Visa Debit or Credit Card for use while traveling. We'll need to know which card(s) you plan on using, travel dates, and the countries you plan to visit. This is especially important to avoid service interruptions because our fraud team occasionally blocks transactions in specific countries due to a high concentration of fraudulent activity.

STATEMENT SUMMARY

Deposit Accounts

Account Type	Previous Balance	Withdrawals	Total Deposits:	\$1,990.51
Business Share (00)	\$0.00	\$10.00	Deposits	New Balance
BUSINESS SELECT (71)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.51	\$1,990.51
			\$0.00	\$0.00

Business Share (00)

		PREVIOUS BALANCE:		\$0.00
Date	Description	Withdrawals	Deposits	Balance
03/01	PREVIOUS BALANCE			0.00
03/01	NEW SHARE BY JV/433057			0.00
03/01	DEPOSIT BY CHECK 459288		2,000.00	2,000.00
03/01	MEMBERSHIP FEE/459288	10.00		1,990.00
03/31	DIVIDEND		0.51	1,990.51
03/31	NEW BALANCE			1,990.51

ENDING BALANCE: \$1,990.51

ACCOUNT OWNERS/SIGNERS: GIVE US HOPE FOUNDATION, INC., CRAIG LEVERNON NEWTON
TAX REPORTING EIN XX-XXXXXXX FOR GIVE US HOPE FOUNDATION, INC.
ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD EARNED FROM 03/01/24 THROUGH 03/31/24 IS 00.30% BASED
UPON AN AVERAGE BALANCE OF 1990.00 AND TOTAL DIVIDENDS EARNED OF 0.51
YTD DIVIDENDS EARNED 0.51

BUSINESS SELECT (71)

		PREVIOUS BALANCE:		\$0.00
Date	Description	Withdrawals	Deposits	Balance
	No Activity During This Statement Period			
		ENDING BALANCE:		\$0.00

Jim Elliott

From: Doug Chalmers <dchalmers@chalmersadams.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Jim Elliott
Cc: Diehl, William J.
Subject: Re: Norcross - Mayor Newton

Jim:

Good afternoon. I'm writing to let you know that we will not be able to move forward with an interview with the Mayor this Thursday the 10th. Having reviewed what has been done to date on this matter, I have a number of questions and concerns about the process, the scope of the investigation, the nature of the alleged violations and the identification of the specific charter provisions which are being investigated, the federal lawsuit, etc. I will need some time to research these issues. When that is done I would like to discuss certain issues with you and Bill Diehl before I am prepared to have you sit down for an interview with my client.

To that end I would be happy to meet with you in the middle of next week, perhaps on the 16th or 17th in the Norcross or Alpharetta area. In the alternative, we could do a phone call on those dates. Please let me know if that works for you. Thanks.

Doug

Douglas Chalmers, Jr.
 Managing Member
 Chalmers, Adams, Backer & Kaufman, LLC
 5805 State Bridge Rd. #G77
 Johns Creek, GA 30097
 Phone: 770-630-5927
 Phone: 202-793-6977
<https://www.chalmersadams.com/attorneys/douglas-chalmers/>

From: Jim Elliott <Jim.Elliott@butlersnow.com>
Date: Monday, June 30, 2025 at 9:41 AM
To: Doug Chalmers <dchalmers@chalmersadams.com>
Subject: RE: Norcross - Mayor Newton

You don't often get email from jim.elliott@butlersnow.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I wanted to suggest the following dates for me to meet with the mayor: July 9-11 or the 14th. It will take me about 2 hours to get to Norcross, so I'll suggest starting around 10 am on any of those days. Bill Diehl has offered for us to use a conference room at his law office; I'm also open to other suggestions.

Thanks for letting me know what works for you and your client.

James E. Elliott, Jr.
Butler Snow LLP

D: (478) 238-1353 | F: (478) 238-1351
 577 Mulberry Street, Suite 1225, Macon, GA 31201
Jim.Elliott@butlersnow.com | [vCard](#) | [Bio](#)

[X \(Twitter\)](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

From: Doug Chalmers <dchalmers@chalmersadams.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2025 9:15 AM
To: Jim Elliott <Jim.Elliott@butlersnow.com>
Subject: Norcross - Mayor Newton

Jim:

Good morning. This email follows up on the voice mail message that I left for you yesterday. This will confirm that I have been recently retained to represent Mayor Newton in connection with this investigation. I am in the process of getting up to speed. In the interim, please direct any correspondence for Mayor Newton on this matter to my attention, and refrain from communicating with him directly, including in Savannah this weekend. I would be happy to talk to you about it in the early or middle part of next week.

Thank you and have a nice weekend.

Doug

Douglas Chalmers, Jr.
 Managing Member
 Chalmers, Adams, Backer & Kaufman, LLC
 5805 State Bridge Rd. #G77
 Johns Creek, GA 30097
 Phone: 770-630-5927
 Phone: 202-793-6977
<https://www.chalmersadams.com/attorneys/douglas-chalmers/>

From: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>
Date: Friday, June 20, 2025 at 4:35 PM
To: Doug Chalmers <dchalmers@chalmersadams.com>
Subject: Fw:

Forwarding
 Thanks

Craig Newton, Mayor
 City of Norcross
 65 Lawrenceville Street | Norcross, Georgia 30071 |
 678-421-2065 (Office) | 770/361-8039 (Mobile) |
Craig.Newton@NorcrossGa.net
www.NorcrossGa.net

From: Jim Elliott <Jim.Elliott@butlersnow.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 11:44 AM

To: Craig Newton <cnewton@norcrossga.net>

Subject:

You don't often get email from jim.elliott@butlersnow.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This email came from outside Norcross Networks. Do not open attachments or click on links if you do not recognize the sender.

Mayor Newton – I will be doing the investigation as directed by the city council and will be in Savannah for the GMA convention. I thought you and I could meet while there and save the city some travel time and expenses. My schedule is open on Sunday afternoon and most all day on Monday. If this is something you can do, please call my cell at 478/447-0122 so we can arrange a time and place.

James E. Elliott, Jr.

Butler Snow LLP

D: (478) 238-1353 | F: (478) 238-1351

577 Mulberry Street, Suite 1225, Macon, GA 31201

Jim.Elliott@butlersnow.com | [vCard](#) | [Bio](#)

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Thompson, O'Brien, Kappler & Nasuti, P.C.
Attorneys at Law

William J. Diehl
Admitted in Georgia
WDiehl@tokn.com

May 13, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Mayor and Council for the City of Norcross, Georgia
65 Lawrenceville Street NW
Norcross, Georgia 30071

RE: Charter Investigation per Section 2.15; Appointment of Investigator and Scope of Investigatory Powers

Mayor and Council,

Pursuant to the Council's direction that my Firm, Thompson, O'Brien, Kappler & Nasuti, PC, should appoint a special investigator pursuant to Section 3.15 of the Charter, James E. Elliott, Jr. of Butler Snow, LLP is hereby appointed as a special investigator. Mr. Elliott has served in this capacity for a number of other Georgia Municipalities and comes with the requisite experience and expertise.

Mr. Elliot has been tasked with investigating facts related to the factual allegations made in the March 4, 2025 Ethics Complaint filed by Mr. Bucky Johnson. The scope of that investigation and the Special Master's appointment, based on the motion made by Council, relates to: i) whether the Mayor improperly used a city sponsored event to raise funds for himself or a private organization; ii) whether the Mayor inappropriately retained city funds for his personal benefit; iii) whether the Mayor misused his office to advance personal causes. Mr. Elliot's investigatory powers are limited to a fact-finding investigation. He has no power to adjudicate any claim against any party and cannot render any decision under the City's Ethics Ordinance.

This correspondence makes the appointment described herein. Accordingly, Council's forty-five (45) day deadline shall run from this date and the report must be finalized on or before June 27, 2025.

Sincerely,

THOMPSON, O'BRIEN, KAPPLER & NASUTI, P.C.

William J. Diehl

CC: Monique Philips, City Clerk

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