



Development Authority of Appling County Selects Matt Carter for President and CEO Position

(Baxley, Georgia – June 2024) The Development Authority of Appling County has selected Matt Carter, a professional economic developer with years of experience, as the organization's new president and chief executive officer. The announcement was made this week by David Douglas, chair of the authority and owner of Matrix Cabinets in Baxley. The Chason Group led the executive search for the development authority.

The Development Authority Board of Directors unanimously approved Carter's appointment at a meeting this week after the 14-day waiting period as required by Georgia law. His start date is set for early July.

"Economic development is extremely important to the growth of our community," according to Douglas. "The authority has been searching for a leader who has had success in rural areas to build upon the solid foundation we have in place in Baxley and Appling County. Matt has experience, strong relationships with state and national economic development leaders, and the knowledge to move our initiatives to the next level. He already knows many aspects of our community from working in partnership to form the Southeast Regional Development Authority, which Appling County is a member. The authority believes Matt is a great fit for Appling County."

Carter has served as executive director of the Pierce County Industrial Development Authority in Blackshear, Georgia since July 2011. He is a graduate of Georgia Southern University and earned his Certified Economic Developer certificate from the University of Georgia.

Other organizations Carter has held positions with include W&W Investment Properties and The General Store, both in Blackshear. Earlier in his career, he served in leadership roles for US Xpress, Inc. Chattanooga and J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc., in Atlanta and Albany.

"The opportunity to be a part of this economic development team of elected and appointed officials as well as volunteer leaders is extremely important to me," Carter stated. "The region of Appling, Bacon, Jeff Davis, and Pierce will have many chances over the next few years to capitalize on growth that is happening through the Georgia Ports Authority and Coastal Georgia. My goals are to become engaged in Baxley and Appling County; build a strategy that will serve as a blueprint for servicing the existing industries in the community and protect the jobs of those operations; and then seek companies that match our resources to invest here."



New Contact Information

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While serving in Pierce County, Carter was instrumental in working to attract several new companies, including Southern Ionics, LLC / Chemours, Inman Solar, and Triangle Ice. He also played a leading role in the Pierce County IDA joining the regional development authority. This partnership led to OneGeorgia funds being awarded to the joint authority for a rail spur in the Pierce County Industrial Park. Carter also worked closely with local and state government leaders to provide infrastructure support for several existing industries in Pierce County.

The president of the authority is accountable for recruiting business and industry to Appling County. The professional is responsible for building relationships with economic development partners at the local, regional, and state levels. This position also has oversight of a building and site inventory database for the county. Media relations, marketing and website management all fall within the executive's purview as well. Day-to-day operations of the office, accounting, and budgeting decisions are a part of the position.

Carter is replacing John Henry who spent almost two years with the economic development organization before relocating last fall to his hometown of Sylvania in Screven County, Georgia to take a similar position and be closer to family.

Other members of the development authority board, in addition to Douglas, include: Mickey Bass, LH Bass & Sons Electric; James Clark, Southeastern Gin & Peanuts; James Futch, Reddy Buffaloes Pump Company; Alex Johnson, J. Alexander Johnson, PC.; Charlie Leggett, Leggett Steel Buildings; Norma Nunez-Cortes, Appling County Board of Education; Andy Orvin, Triple O Enterprises; Jack Patton, Lewis Brothers Manufacturing; and Sidney Wildes, Waste 2 Solutions.