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September 24, 2013

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Mayor, Eatonton

Executive Director
Lamar Norton

Mr. Bob Schwartz
City Manager
110 West Clark St
Oxford, GA 30054-2274

Dear Bob:

As you may know, GMA has recently undertaken a strategic planning initiative with the aim of ensuring that Association programs and services are responsive to the needs of its 519 member cities. In conjunction with this initiative, I believe it is appropriate to review our current member services and explore possible new or expanded services that could help cities operate more effectively and efficiently in the future. To guide this effort, I have decided to create a Member Services Task Force, and I would like to ask you to serve as one of the members.

Specifically, I am asking the Task Force to work with our staff to develop a process for gathering feedback from elected and appointed municipal officials across the state and, based on input received from the membership, prepare a report of findings and recommendations for consideration by the GMA Board of Directors at its spring 2014 meeting, scheduled on May 1. Mayor Boyd Austin of Dallas has agreed to chair the task force, and twenty-two elected officials and city staff are being requested to serve as members.

The first Task Force meeting has been scheduled on Monday, October 28 in Macon at the Middle Georgia Regional Commission office (175 Emery Highway). The meeting will begin at 10:30 am and conclude by 1:30 pm. Additional details will be provided in the very near future. While it will be up to the Task Force to determine its meeting schedule, I anticipate the group will need to meet on at least two other occasions: in January during the Mayors' Day Conference and sometime in the early spring.

I would appreciate it if you would contact Bill Thornton, Deputy Executive Director, at your earliest convenience and let him know if you will be able to accept this appointment and attend the October 28 meeting. You can reach him at (678) 686-6230 or by email at bthornton@gmanet.com.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope you will be able to participate in this important undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth English".

Beth English
President