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YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WELCOMES NEW CHAIR, VICE CHAIR

*EDA honors outgoing chairman Steve Meade
as J. Mark Carter and Jeff Clemons take the helm*



Steve Meade



J. Mark Carter



Jeff Clemons

(YORKTOWN, VA, July 14, 2023) – After three years leading the charge to bring new businesses, jobs, and a more diverse economic base to York County, business attorney Steve Meade is stepping down as chairman of the Economic Development Authority. His successor is J. Mark Carter, who has served on the authority for the past five years and as vice chair for the past year. The new vice chairman will be commercial banker Jeff Clemons, who has served on the authority since 2021.

Meade is a business and transactional attorney and founding partner of Carney, Patterson, Meade, PLC. He has practiced law since 1994 and first joined the EDA in 2016, then ascended to the chairmanship four years later. During his tenure, Meade was instrumental in many successes for the County, including:

- Furthering the EDA's redevelopment efforts on the Route 17 corridor and in the Edge District
- Backfilling vacant shopping center spaces in Kiln Creek and upper York County
- Renegotiating deals for new industrial and office buildings in Busch Industrial Park
- Attracting a new operator to revive the Chilled Ponds IcePlex.

He also led the authority through uncertain times during the COVID-19 pandemic—facilitating the COVID-19 Assistant Grant Program that is credited with helping hundreds of local businesses weather the storm—and through a complete departmental reorganization after the pandemic.

“While Steve plans to continue serving on the EDA, his time as chairman was a huge personal commitment and showed his dedication to improving York County’s economy and business environment,” said Kristi Olsen-Hayes, director of the County’s Economic & Tourism Development Department. “Steve attended hundreds of meetings, events, prospect visits and site evaluations over the past few years. He successfully negotiated several key deals and selflessly devoted time to contract meetings, details and drafts.”

“We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Steve for his service as EDA chairman,” said Olsen-Hayes. “Steve genuinely cares about York County.”

She also expressed enthusiasm for the incoming officers, who bring their own set of assets to the EDA.

Mark Carter enters his new chairman role with a wealth of experience and expertise. His proven track record in business development and strategic planning makes Carter well-equipped to guide the authority towards its vision of fostering economic growth and prosperity in York County. Carter retired after 41 years of employment with York County, serving various, planning, zoning and leadership roles during his tenure. His dedication to the community and strong leadership skills make him an ideal candidate to lead the EDA into the future.

“We’re really lucky to have Mark as our incoming chair. He has lived here since 1979 and spent over 40 years with York County, working closely with the EDA and the business community in his role as zoning administrator, and later as deputy county administrator,” said Olsen-Hayes. “He has been instrumental on several major projects over the years, including the development of Riverwalk Landing and the Lightfoot Corridor.”

Jeff Clemons, senior vice president of the Commercial Banking Group at PNC Bank, has been a commercial banker on the Virginia Peninsula for over 34 years. As vice chairman, Clemons will play a crucial role in supporting the EDA's initiatives and objectives. His deep understanding of the local business landscape and commitment to the county's economic success make him a valuable asset to the leadership team.

“Jeff Clemons will make an excellent vice chair,” said Olsen-Hayes. “Although he’s served on the EDA for just two years, Jeff comes from a long background in finance and community service, which has already proven helpful to the authority. He, too, has close ties and relationships with many small-business owners in the area. Mark and Jeff will complement each other well in their new leadership roles with the EDA.”

About York County Economic Development

York County seeks to create a diverse economic base through continually recruiting, growing and retaining business across a variety of industries. The **Department of Economic and Tourism Development** is dedicated to expanding York County's tax base through capital investment in the County; promoting tourism; supporting large, small, and home-based businesses; and providing new employment opportunities for County residents. Its efforts result in improved quality of life throughout York County, including charitable giving, volunteerism, and job creation.

The Department of Economic and Tourism Development works in cooperation with many regional and state agencies to pursue its mission. Key among these allies are the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, Hampton Roads Alliance, Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center, and local Chambers of Commerce. Its strongest ally is the **York County Economic Development Authority (EDA)**. Established in 1972, the EDA is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia and has unique powers established in the Code of Virginia. The EDA is a conduit for non-taxable industrial revenue bonds, and can legally own, develop, and sell/lease commercial real estate. It also can provide incentives necessary to close deals within targeted industry sectors.

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