

PlanFirst Designation 2025-2027

September 11, 2024

Honorable Mayor Kelvin M. Owens
City of Camilla
30 East Broad St.
P.O. Box 328
Camilla, Georgia 31730

Mayor Owens,

On behalf of Commissioner Christopher Nunn and the entire Georgia Department of Community Affairs, please accept this letter as official notification that the **City of Camilla** has been designated a 2025 **PlanFirst** Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and chosen to participate in the program for three (3) years: January 1, 2025 until December 31, 2027.

This designation recognizes the hard work and successful implementation of your comprehensive plan and acknowledges your commitment to identifying opportunities and setting the goals needed to move your community forward.

You will receive an invitation for an official **PlanFirst** designation ceremony at the State Capitol in early 2025. At this Capitol event, we will present you with your **PlanFirst** award which we hope you will prominently display. More information about this event will be sent at a later date.

We would like to schedule a visit to your community in the upcoming months that will coincide with a public meeting to make the presentation of your designation. At that time, we will also review the *Memorandum of Agreement* that will formalize the rewards and responsibilities which accompany the **PlanFirst** designation. Daniel Gaddis from DCA will be contacting you to arrange a date for this presentation. Should you need to contact him, he may be reached at 470-352-0395 or by email at Daniel.gaddis@dca.ga.gov

The **PlanFirst** designation also enables you to take advantage of the various incentives offered through the program. Incentives available to the **PlanFirst** designees include:

- *Statewide recognition for community achievement*
- *3 bonus points available on LIHTC applications*
- *Annual CDBG application eligibility for non-entitlement communities meeting certain criteria for timeliness*
- *Bonus points on applications for DCA programs such as EIP, DDRLF and Redevelopment Fund*
- *Access to a reduced interest rate on certain Georgia Environmental Financing Authority (GEFA) state loans*

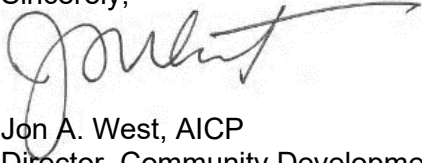
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- *Free attendance for 2 representatives at the DCA Community Planning Institute events*

We commend you on the efforts needed to gain this designation. The **City of Camilla** will be recognized across the State of Georgia as a community that has created a robust vision of its future and maintains an active strategy for implementing that vision. This is a well-deserved acknowledgment of successful planning, and we look forward to working with you going forward.

Sincerely,



Jon A. West, AICP
Director, Community Development Division
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

About the Department of Community Affairs

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) partners with communities to build strong and vibrant neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas through community and economic development, local government assistance, and safe and affordable housing. Using state and federal resources, DCA helps communities spur private job creation, implement planning, develop downtowns, generate affordable housing solutions and promote volunteerism. DCA also helps qualified Georgians with low and moderate incomes buy homes, rent housing and prevent foreclosure and homelessness. For more information, visit www.dca.ga.gov.

