



Media Release

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December 10, 2020

City of LaGrange Employee Billy East Presented Edwin Gore Award

LaGrange, Ga. December 10, 2020 – The City of LaGrange honored Collections Superintendent Billy East with the Edwin Gore award for his dedicated service to the city.



Mayor Jim Thornton with Billy East

East retired from the city after 25 years of service Wednesday (12/9). He was honored by city leaders, coworkers & family at his retirement luncheon. In addition to the Edwin Gore award, East received a proclamation from LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton and was recognized by Utilities Director Patrick Bowie and First Presbyterian Church

Representative Bob Goering for his dedicated service to the community.



The Edwin Gore Award for Service and Leadership

The Edwin Gore Award was presented to East for his 25 years of professional leadership, team building, collections expertise and problem solving and who always looks for win-win “Solutions.” The Frabel sculpture “Solutions” was designed for the person who solves knotty problems with assurance and distinction.

“Without fail, Billy always represents the City in a professional manner,” said Utilities Director Patrick Bowie. “Throughout his many years in collections, Billy has also provided support to Utilities where he was often asked to assist with a particularly difficult customer. On many occasions the customer left smiling after Billy defused the situation and negotiated a mutually agreeable solution. We are lucky to have Billy at the City of LaGrange.”



Pictured from left to right: Former City Councilman Nick Woodson, Former City Councilman Jeff Brown, Former City Councilwoman Norma Tucker, Former City Councilman Bobby Traylor, Billy East, Kathy East, Mayor Jim Thornton & City Manager Meg Kelsey

Billy began his career with the City of LaGrange as a Patrolman in the LaGrange Police Department October 28, 1966 where he worked until 1968 when he resigned to be a deputy with the Troup County Sheriff's Department. He returned to the City on October 7, 1996 as a Collections Agent and was quickly promoted to Collections Manger as the City made the decision to bring its collections effort in-house. He and his staff quickly validated this decision by aggressively pursuing delinquent accounts, looking for win-win solutions, and becoming experts in the field.

In 2000, Billy's supervisory role was expanded to include Courts and Probation where he was instrumental in gearing up the city's new probation office and catching up a huge backlog in the court clerk's office. Billy and his staff have added literally millions of dollars to the City's bottom line.

"It has been a blessing to work for the city and the fact that the good Lord gave me the health, the knowledge, the wisdom to work this long. I've been especially blessed to work with such a wonderful group of

people and the community,” said East. “I’m really going to miss working with the citizens, churches and agencies who help all the citizens of LaGrange that need a little help. One thing that I would like for everyone to remember is to love one another.”

Media Contact: Katie Mercer Van Schoor, City of LaGrange
Marketing/Communications Manager kvanschoor@lagrangega.org or
(706) 883-2055

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