



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Pro Tem Jamelle McKenzie Launches College Park Summer Youth Civic Leadership Academy

College Park, GA — The City of College Park proudly announces the official launch of Mayor Pro Tem Jamelle McKenzie's College Park Summer Youth Civic Leadership Academy, a bold new initiative designed to equip the next generation of leaders with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to actively participate in civic life.

This groundbreaking program, which begins Tuesday, July 8, 2025, will host 14 outstanding youth participants who were selected through a competitive application process. The academy will run through July 31, meeting twice weekly for immersive workshops, civic simulations, leadership development, and direct engagement with city government and community leaders.

At the helm of the program is veteran educator and longtime community advocate Eleanor Cornelius, who will serve as Dean of the Academy. Her decades of experience in public education and youth empowerment make her an invaluable leader and mentor for this initiative. Supporting her is Zari Carr, a Woodward Academy alumna and an incoming freshman at American University, who will serve as Assistant to the Dean. Zari brings with her a passion for public service, having already demonstrated leadership as a student advocate and peer mentor.

"This academy is about more than just learning how government works—it's about giving young people the power to shape the future of College Park and beyond," said Mayor Pro Tem Jamelle McKenzie, who made history as the first African American and first woman from Ward 1 to hold the position. "These 14 youth represent our brightest potential, and I am committed to investing in them."

The Summer Youth Civic Leadership Academy reflects the City of College Park's ongoing efforts to cultivate youth leadership, promote civic education, and ensure the next generation is engaged, informed, and prepared to lead.

For more information about the program or media inquiries, please contact the Office of the Mayor Pro Tem at oneward@collegeparkga.gov or 404.669.3755.