



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Director of Finance William E. “Bill” Johnson Announces Retirement After 37 Years of Service

The City announced today the upcoming retirement of long-time Director of Finance William E. “Bill” Johnson, who will be retiring from his position later this year after serving the citizens of Colonial Heights for more than 37 years. His last day on the job is scheduled for November 30.

Johnson is the longest-serving Director of Finance in the history of the Colonial Heights, having worked continuously for the Finance Department since 1979; and as Director for the past 27 years.

“To say this will be the end of an era is a vast understatement,” said City Manager Tom Mattis, “Bill’s commitment to City is unparalleled and it’s very unlikely that it will ever be duplicated. The financial stability that has become a hallmark of City of Colonial Heights operations is largely attributed Bill’s leadership and integrity.”

The son of late George and Ivone Johnson, Bill was born and raised in Colonial Heights and graduated from Colonial Heights High School in 1971. After initially attending Richard Bland College, Johnson received his bachelor’s degree in accounting from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1975. His government career began with his first job as an Internal Auditor with the Virginia Community College System in 1976. Just three years later, he accepted a position with the City and has been here ever since.

“I have had a great run here in Colonial Heights and owe all of my success to the City Managers, City Councils, and of course great staff that I have had the pleasure to work with over the years” said Mr. Johnson. “It has been a great pleasure to be able to work for my hometown that is also home for our children and grandchildren”

Johnson has been in a leadership position on every significant financial transaction during his tenure, including the financing of numerous City and Colonial Heights Public Schools construction projects, including the City Courthouse. Most recently, he managed the creation of the City Revenue Collection Office when the Treasurer's Office was abolished.

During his time with the City, Bill has worked for four City Managers; and served seven Mayors and numerous City Councilmembers. He has also served as Interim City Manager on two occasions.

"I am very happy for Bill and wish him only the best in his retirement," said Mayor Greg Kochuba. "I also recognize the challenge before us, as Bill's shoes will be very hard to fill. It's certainly been my pleasure to have worked with him."

During Bill's tenure, the City has received the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive financial report (CAFR) – **for the past 36 consecutive years**. The *Certificate of Achievement* is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting that can be attained by a locality.

"Receiving one of these GFOA Awards is a significant accomplishment recognized by finance professionals throughout the country," Mattis said. "For the City to receive this much-coveted award for 36 consecutive years is further testimony to Bill's expertise and professional standards."

Johnson's management of municipal finances has also resulted in a significantly enhanced credit rating for the City – the universally recognized tool for investors in municipal bonds to differentiate credit quality. Since 1993, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services has steadily enhanced its assessment of Colonial Heights credit worthiness to its current "AA/Stable Upgraded" rating; one of the highest ratings received by a localities of similar size and resources. The strength of the S&P Credit Rating during Johnson's tenure has a resulted in direct savings to city taxpayers over the past 20 years.

“Bill has been an integral part of the city’s leadership and much of our financial stability can be directly attributed to his efforts,” said long-time Councilmember and former Vice-Mayor Betsy Luck. “Whenever Council has identified a need for funding, Bill has usually been able to find an affordable way to make it happen. He will be sorely missed and hard to replace.”

Johnson has also represented the City in a variety of professional capacities and affiliations having served as Chairman of the Riverside Regional Board of Directors, President of the Virginia Government Finance Officers Association, treasurer of the Virginia public risk Insurance management Association. Bill has also served as Past President and been a long-time member of the Colonial Heights Optimist Club.

Bill and his wife Dorrie have been married 39 years and plan to continue to make Colonial Heights their home after retirement. They have two children, Dara Moore of Colonial Heights and Matt Johnson of Nashville; they also have two grandchildren, Landon and Avery Moore.

Johnson’s last official day of employment with the City will be November 30, 2016.

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About Colonial Heights

The City of Colonial Heights is a full-service independent Virginia city that is home to just over 17,000 residents and serves as the market center for the Tri-Cities Area (which includes the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell, Prince George and Dinwiddie Counties and Fort Lee). For more information about Colonial Heights, please visit www.colonialheightsva.gov.