

Rec'd 10/4/21
2:13 mc

Statement of Interest

Background

I have spent three of nearly five decades in Lake City and continuously since 2009 in District 14. My two oldest children became adults in this community and my two youngest continue growing up alongside yours and other young people in our neighborhoods, our schools, and our churches. Most of my time is spent planning, organizing, and recruiting people to create and develop opportunities to help young people find their way. I work tirelessly in collaboration with others; businesses, and officials alike to help form lasting memories to young and elderly citizens, proof of the heart of Lake City. Within our community my effort has and continues to demonstrate diligent work for common goals that don't uplift our differences but highlight the bright futures we pave when removing obstacles and focusing on shared needs for our children and all citizens to be safe, grow healthy, and cherish happiness.

Experience

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mercer University, with special designation from Stetson School of Business. I have time remaining to complete both a law degree and PhD in Occupational Psychology. I thoroughly enjoy the legal field and the motivations of people. I live satisfied with my career choices. As a Senior Paralegal for Georgia-Pacific I received the distinguished honor of being named "The State of Georgia's Corporate Paralegal of the Year". My responsibilities at Georgia-Pacific included managing \$3 billion in contracts as the sole paralegal for the packaging division. I managed this task while completing a college degree, giving birth to Victoria, and being very active in the community. The knowledge and experience I gained is shared in my local community through my small business consultancy, the community engagements of my charitable organization, and while raising my pretty active children, in this place called home.

https://gaparalegal.org/images/downloads/Newsletters_2006/april2006.pdf



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April 2006

THREE PARALEGALS OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

By *Maureen Collett, Member*

It's About My Efforts, Inc. - 2004 - Present
Executive Director

My Business Consultants - 2012 - Present
Consultant

EarthLink, Inc. - 2007 - 2008
Senior Manager - Contracts

Georgia-Pacific, Inc. - 2002 - 2007
Senior Paralegal

I have a proven track record of collaboration with intergovernmental agencies in the public and private sectors, and residents throughout the city and county.

PARALEGALS RECOGNIZED

continued from cover

Befaihtful ("Bea") Coker received the award in the corporate category. According to the submission on her behalf, she holds all the attributes giving her name appropriate meaning. She has outstanding skills combined with an excellent work ethic and attitude, allowing her to be considered an invaluable member of the Georgia-Pacific Corporation's packaging division team. The estimated annual sales of this division of Georgia-Pacific are over 3 billion dollars and Coker is the sole paralegal support. Her accomplishments include maintaining relationships with personnel at all levels of the company, delivering service related to the 800 active open matters, and management of all associated relevant deadlines. All in all, this makes her an exceptional paralegal! She was able to perform with such excellence in addition to managing a busy personal life that included, in 2005, earning a Bachelor's degree in business by attending evening classes and giving birth to a daughter, her third child. Coker is very active in local charitable activities within her church community and in her children's schools, in addition to activities in other organizations. She also still found time to be an active mem
GAP.

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Working in our Community

Helping in other communities refreshed memories created right here in Lake City and fueled my strong desire to return and share with our local community. I have learned it isn't the quantity but the quality of the effort we exert as individuals that make a difference. It isn't a "Hollywood " dreamer that we necessarily need in Lake City but an unselfish desire to be part of the solution. I am proud to raise my children in Lake City beside many of you. I am passionate about maintaining safety, preserving their childhood, and protecting their future. Our efforts have been great, yet there is much house cleaning needed and more growth to come. I am proud to share these accomplishments made in our community:

- Professional
 - Serves as Exec. Director of It's About My Efforts, Inc.
 - Organized Our Community Cares Coalition
 - Created My Business Consultants
- Community
 - Art & Culture in the community and schools.
 - 10 years of contribution to the Lake City Reporter highlighting residents within our community (Come Meet an American),
 - Established Ambassador Leadership Council,
 - Beautification Project - debris removal and minor home repairs for elderly citizens
 - Reading programs provided to pre-kindergarten students.
 - Year round camps and programs for young people to reinforce art and culture, reading, career development, community service.
 - Organized, prepared and delivered over 750 meals to elderly households and connected 100 households to the internet and technology resulting from Covid-19.
 - Organization of recognition programs for academic achievement of students
 - 2014 recognized over 50 pre-k students for learning to read
 - 2017 recognized over 200 high achieving students at Lifestyle Enrichment Center
 - 2021 Annual Youth Leadership connected over 200 students with business for activities and scholarships valued at \$12,000,
 - Served as a Community Representative
 - Florida Department of Education Faith Based and Community Outreach Committee
 - Florida? On the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Why me?

I hold a strong desire to represent the citizens as a member of the city council. Our city is changing rapidly and we need to remain focused not just on building household income, sustaining and creating infrastructure to accommodate growth, but in maintaining safety in communities, upholding values, and restoring order and decorum and public communication. We need direction and demonstrated commitment to the future of our city through proven efforts and appreciation for all citizens. Working together requires understanding, experience, and outlook. I strive to help others and help this community. I have no problem maintaining decorum while making the tough decisions and upholding accountability. If Georgia-Pacific was satisfied enough with my management of \$3billion, to extend statewide recognition, I believe I can do right for the citizens of Lake City in protecting and growing our \$60million budget. I am the best person for this seat because I want the best for all of us, recognizing and appreciating the significance of our laws and rules. I fully understand improvement is necessary; however, I also believe pursuing needed change must occur in decency and order, and requires the efforts of us all to accomplish that goal. Let me help us get on the right track.