



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 03/21/2023

Good News

Department: Emergency Services

Presenter(s): Alex McKnight, Emergency Services Finance Manager

Contact (s): Rafael Baptista, Strategy & Innovation Director
Alex McKnight, Emergency Services Finance Manager

Subject: Taylor Jones Recognized as Top 100 Influencer in Local Government

Brief Summary: Taylor Jones has been recognized by *Engaging Local Government Leaders* (ELGL) as a Top 100 Influencer in Local Government. The award, previously named the Traeger Award, was named in the spirit of Chris Traeger, the city manager for the fictional City of Pawnee, Indiana on the show "Park and Recreation." He was known for extreme energy and commitment to improving local government. The List is based on an individual's influence in their community and outside their community through professional associations, mentoring, and writing. Most importantly, everyone on the list was nominated by a friend or peer who thinks they're doing amazing work.

Taylor, since taking on the role of Director of Emergency Services has worked to advance improvements to the community as well as the Emergency Services team despite a worldwide pandemic, national recruitment/retention workforce deficits, and a countywide 50% increase to EMS call volume. Taylor centers his leadership style around equity, inclusion, and the development and growth of staff. He is quick to promote the wonderful advancements of the department and those who make it possible and accepts responsibility in areas needing improvement. One of Taylor's catch phrases is, "*No One of us is smarter than All of us.*" He demonstrates this daily with his ability to reach across departments to foster teamwork and unity across Buncombe County Leadership. Taylor is described by this award as visionary, a convener, and inspiring.

Congratulations to Taylor on this very notable recognition.