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Fuquay-Varina Renames Town Hall the John W. Byrne Municipal Building for Retiring Mayor

Fuquay-Varina Town Hall was renamed the John W. Byrne Municipal Building in a ceremony on Tuesday, November 23rd that also celebrated Mayor John W. Byrne and his successful 20-year tenure as mayor of Fuquay-Varina. The official ceremony was attended by family, friends and government officials including Congressman David Price, Congresswoman Deborah Ross, N.C. Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette and N.C. Representative Erin Paré.

Mayor Byrne was also presented with the state's highest honor, the Order of the Longleaf Pine, from the Office of Governor Roy Cooper. The Order of the Longleaf Pine award is bestowed to persons who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through exemplary accomplishments.

Byrne officially retires on December 6, 2021. To date, Byrne is the only Mayor to serve ten consecutive terms and is the longest serving Mayor in Fuquay-Varina's history.

During Mayor Byrne's two decades in office, the Town of Fuquay-Varina saw unprecedented population growth of 335%.

"It's been a wonderful journey," said Mayor Byrne. "I've been very fortunate to surround myself with a great team. We've been able to accomplish many of the goals that I set forth through hard work and the strong support of the citizens of Fuquay-Varina."

Notable achievements by the Town under Mayor Byrne's leadership include the construction of Judd Parkway; significant downtown revitalization including streetscape enhancements as well as the Town's inclusion in the North Carolina Main Street Program; the successful completion of numerous capital projects including the Public Service Center, the Fuquay-Varina Arts Center, expansion of the Terrible Creek Wastewater Treatment facility, the return of Town Hall to downtown and a new Police station.

Quality of life projects were a strong focus during Mayor Byrne's tenure. The Town of Fuquay-Varina undertook a \$5.5 million renovation of Fleming Loop Park, opened Hilltop Needmore Park & Preserve with more than 5 miles of walking trails, completed the Park Depot Trail, built a Splash Pad, and purchased and renovated Fuquay Mineral Spring Park, the location for which the town gets part of its name.

While Byrne was in office, the Town of Fuquay-Varina received nearly \$50 million in transportation and utility infrastructure grants and completed numerous transportation projects enhancing the Town's Road network and improving traffic flow in Fuquay-Varina. His leadership resulted in sound financial policies ultimately leading to the Town of Fuquay-Varina receiving a Triple A Bond Rating from Standard and Poor's.

Throughout his time as mayor, Byrne was known as a champion for Town employees. He advocated for investing in professional development, competitive wages, and benefits. Equally important, he built strong community and regional partnerships throughout Wake County and the State of North Carolina.

In 1973, John and his wife, Patty, moved to Fuquay-Varina when he took a job at Fidelity Bank. The Byrne's plan to stay in Fuquay-Varina and look forward to continuing their involvement in the community, as well as traveling.