

TOWN OF RICHLANDS

NORTH CAROLINA

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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

The longest continuous serving local government manager in Onslow County history is set to retire from local government. After more than 27 years of dedicated service to the Town of Richlands, Town Administrator Gregg Richard Whitehead announced his retirement effective December 31, 2025. With a career in public service spanning over three decades, Mr. Whitehead has been recognized for his steady leadership, integrity, and commitment to improving the communities he has served.

Mr. Whitehead began his local government career in 1995 with the Town of Troy, later serving as Town Manager in Beulaville before becoming Town Administrator for Richlands on April 10, 1998. Under his leadership, the town experienced steady growth and successfully navigated more than 20 named storms and numerous challenges. He has also served on regional boards including the Onslow County Fire/Rescue Commission and the JUMPO Technical Coordinating Committee, and he was a founding board member of Crime Stoppers of Onslow County. In addition, Mr. Whitehead represented the town by serving on the NC League of Municipalities Planning and Services Legislative Action Committee from 2005-2010. Mr. Whitehead was also integral in the development of ONWASA, helping to author the organization's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. In 2001, he oversaw the construction of the new town hall, which was built on time and under budget.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Whitehead has been deeply involved in community service. A 24-year Rotarian and Paul Harris Fellow, he has held several leadership roles within Rotary, chaired Revive Downtown Richlands, and volunteered with youth sports and the Richlands Century Club. Known for his humor, fairness, and dedication, Gregg Whitehead leaves a legacy of service and leadership that will continue to benefit Richlands for generations to come. "My journey in local government management has been incredible thanks to Richlands" stated Mr. Whitehead. "I have been blessed with amazing staff that do all the hard work and a Mayor and Board of Aldermen that have provided me the ability to grow as a person both professionally and in my private life. Most important to me is the wonderful community of Richlands, which I have been proud to work for, serve, volunteer, and live in for over 27 years. I have nothing but good memories and as the motto states, Richlands is a Great Place to Grow!" According to Mayor McKinley Smith "Whether managing growth, handling hurricanes or dealing with the public, Mr. Whitehead always acted with integrity, professionalism and honesty. He is a true asset to the community, and he will be greatly missed. I wish him the best in all his future endeavors."