



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **HARDIN WATKINS NAMED NEXT BURLINGTON CITY MANAGER**

BURLINGTON, NC—At an 11:00 a.m. press conference held today in the Burlington City Council Chamber, Mayor Ronnie K. Wall announced the City Council’s selection of Hardin Watkins as Burlington’s next city manager. Mr. Watkins will assume the role of city manager on January 11, 2016.

The selection comes after a national search and extensive assessment process led by Development Associates, LLC, a North-Carolina based company that helps organizations identify and develop leaders. The selection process began after the September 1, 2015 retirement of long-time City Manager Harold Owen. Mr. Watkins was unanimously chosen from a pool of 52 candidates.

Mr. Watkins, a native of Hendersonville, North Carolina, comes to Burlington from the Town of Garner, North Carolina, where he has held the role of city manager since 2007. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Analysis, with a specialization in State and Local Administration and a Masters of Public Administration, both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mr. Watkins’ full biography is available online here: <http://burlingtonnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7910>.

Reflecting on the selection of Mr. Watkins, Councilmember Jim Butler said that he “is extremely pleased with the City Council’s section.” He added that “Mr. Watkins was a very inspirational candidate who is very well-rounded, experienced and grounded.”

Councilmember Kathy Hykes commented that “after the exhaustive vetting process, Mr. Watkins was clearly the most qualified candidate and is a great fit for Burlington.” “His enthusiasm for the opportunities that lie ahead for Burlington really sold me,” she said.

During the press conference, Mr. Watkins addressed media and City staff, stating that “I’m thrilled to take on this role; a major part of who I am is somebody who wants to make my corner of the world a little bit better, the thing we get to do here in municipal government is to have a chance to do that...I look forward to doing that here.” He went on to say that he is “optimistic about the opportunities that lie before Burlington.”

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Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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