

City of Gastonia

Municipal Government Citizens Academy

Applicant Packet - 2022 - Session 005





City of Gastonia
Municipal Government Citizens
Academy
2022 Session

ACADEMY APPLICATION

APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the introductory page and tentative program agenda.
2. Complete and return the participant application and questionnaire.
3. Complete the background screening waiver, sign, and have notarized.
4. Complete the Gastonia Police Department Ride-Along Waiver, sign, and have notarized.
5. Return all documents to the City of Gastonia, PO Box 1748, Gastonia, NC 28053, to the attention of the Tyler Davis or deliver in person to City of Gastonia, Garland Center, 150 S. York St. Applications are due by Friday, December 3, 2021.
6. Contact Assistant City Manager, Melody Braddy at 704.854.6678 (melodyb@cityofgastonia.com) or Tyler Davis, Neighborhood Program Administrator at 704.866.6907 (tylerd@cityofgastonia.com) with any questions concerning the program.
7. You will be contacted when your application has been processed.

Applications are due by Friday, December 3, 2021



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The City of Gastonia sponsors a Municipal Government Academy once each year, beginning in January. Participants will meet two Mondays per month from January through June with each meeting beginning at 6:00 PM. Meetings will be held in a variety of City Facilities including Gastonia City Hall and other locations as the itinerary dictates for each department. The start date for the upcoming 2022 Academy is Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

The Municipal Government Academy is an important component of the City's "Citizens First" philosophy. Its purpose is to provide a forum where participants develop a basic understanding of municipal government, learn the duties of the various City departments, and meet the people behind the scenes that make Gastonia a great place to live, work, and play.

During the 12 sessions of the Academy, various personnel within City government, along with special guests, will cover a variety of subjects ranging from the municipal election process to the inter-workings of the City's public safety component. Through this experience, participants will gain valuable knowledge of the operation of the City and the importance of their involvement in the governmental process.

Each three-hour Academy session will include informative lectures, hands-on activities, group discussion, information of essential services, and facility tours. Academy participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and interact with the City's leaders and staff.

An integral part of the public safety component of the Academy is the participation in a police patrol ride-along. This event will be scheduled to take place outside of the scheduled session times at mutually convenient times for staff and participants. An additional three-hour time slot will be scheduled for the participant to ride and accompany the patrol officer on service calls. This experience is important in creating a true understanding of what an officer's job is like and contributes to an exciting and interactive learning experience of the role of the community's law enforcement as well as the City's geography.

Upon successful completion of the Academy, each participant, their family and friends, will be invited to attend the Academy Graduation Ceremony held during a City Council Meeting at the Gaston County Courthouse or City Hall's Council Chambers.

Academy enrollment is limited to no more than 20 participants. Applications are available throughout the year and must be submitted by December 3, 2021 to be considered for the upcoming Academy session. In the weeks prior to the Academy start date, the Academy Coordinator will contact you to confirm your selection to participate in the next Academy.

Potential candidates must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Live within the City of Gastonia;
- Have no felony convictions; and
- Have no misdemeanor convictions within one year of application, other than minor traffic offenses.

Any requirement may be waived or modified upon review and approval by the City Manager. There is no participant fee associated with the Academy.



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Applicant Questionnaire

1. Can you commit to attend all course sessions for the duration of the Academy? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Please note that participants missing more than one (1) course session may be dismissed from the program.
If you have numerous other commitments at this time, please consider applying for admission to the Academy at a later time.
2. The City of Gastonia does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the City's services, programs, activities or facilities. The City of Gastonia is committed to providing access to our Citizens Academy for individuals with disabilities. To make the necessary arrangements to accommodate you please inform us of any limitations you may have.

3. Have you ever been arrested anywhere for a felony or misdemeanor? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. If you answered "Yes" to question 3, please provide the details of the arrest(s). If your answer to question 3 was "No", please proceed to question 5.

5. Why do you want to participate in the Gastonia Municipal Government Academy?

6. Have you had any experiences with City government? Have you served on any appointed boards or committees? If so, was your experience a positive or negative one? Please explain.

7. If you are not selected for the upcoming Academy or are unable to attend this session of the Academy would you be interested in attending the next scheduled Academy session? ☐ Yes ☐ No



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Please print or type clearly.

*Applicant's Full Name			*Date of Birth		
*Race	*Sex	*Social Security Number		*Ward #:	
*Home Address			*City	*State	
* Primary Contact Number			Secondary Contact Number		
Do you have e-mail access? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, list e-mail address					
Employer			Work Number		
Education <input type="checkbox"/> GED <input type="checkbox"/> HS <input type="checkbox"/> Some College <input type="checkbox"/> College Degree Shirt Size <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL					

***Required fields for participation. The City of Gastonia requires that persons participating in the Municipal Government Academy submit to a background screening prior to participation. Personal information will not be released to any other source and will not be used for any other purpose than to assist with determining eligibility for participation in the City's Municipal Government Academy. Failure to provide the information needed for a background screening may result in your application for participation not being considered.**

Applicant Certification: (Please read before signing the application)

I hereby certify that there are no willful misrepresentations, omissions, or falsifications in the forgoing information that I have provided. I understand that any omissions or false statements found to have been made on this application shall be sufficient cause for the application to be denied or for dismissal from the City of Gastonia's Municipal Government Academy. I understand that the information provided by me will be used to conduct a background screening to determine my eligibility for participation in the program. I understand that participation in the program is not to train citizens to be employees of the City but rather the goal and purpose of the program is to educate citizens regarding the purpose, rationale, and context of local government procedures. I acknowledge that as part of the acceptance to this program, I will be required to attend a minimum of eight (9) of the nine (10) course days. I understand that failure to attend the required number of courses may result in dismissal from the program. I agree that as part of acceptance to the program I will abide by all rules and regulations for the program established by the City of Gastonia, their officers and agents. I understand that I must provide my own transportation to and from course sessions and at other times when required. By accepting admission into the Academy I agree for my likeness (still photos, video, and audio recordings) to be used to further the purpose of the Academy through advertisement, presentations, and other literature. I understand that the Gastonia Police Department will be conducting the required background screening.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness' Signature: _____ Date: _____



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2022 Municipal Government Academy Course Schedule

Course subject to change due to instructor availability.

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Meeting at City Hall
181 South St.

5:00 PM	Welcome	Mayor Walker E. Reid, III
	Group Introductions	Michael Peoples, City Manager
5:30 PM	Program Overview	Melody Braddy, Asst. City Manager
5:50 PM	City Council	Mayor Walker E. Reid, III
	Introductions	
6:00 PM	City Council Meeting	Mayor and Council

Monday, January 24, 2022

Meeting at City Hall
181 South St.

6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
6:15 PM	Election Process	Ash Smith, City Attorney
6:45 PM	Form of Government	
7:00 PM	City Organization	Michael Peoples, City Manager
	City Manager Duties	
7:30 PM	City Clerk Duties	Suzanne Gibbs, City Clerk
7:45 PM	History of Gastonia	Staff
9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All

Monday, February 7, 2022

Meeting at City Hall
181 South St.

6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
6:15 PM	Human Resources	Judy Smith, Human Resources Director
7:15 PM	Technology Services	Brandon Jackson, Chief Information Officer
8:15 PM	Marketing and Communications	Mary Elliott, Director of Marketing and Communications
9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All



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Monday, February 21, 2022 Meeting at The Schiele Museum 1500 E. Garrison Blvd	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Financial Services	Crystal Certain, Director of Financial Services
	7:45 PM	Schiele Museum	Dr. V. Ann Tippitt, Executive Director Schiele Museum
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All
Monday, March 7, 2022 Meeting at City Hall 181 S. South St.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Development Services	Rusty Bost, Director of Development Services and Staff
	7:45 PM	Economic Development	Kristy Crisp, Director of Economic Development
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All
Monday, March 21, 2022 Meeting at City Hall 181 S. South St.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Community Services	TBA
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All
Monday, April 11, 2022 Meeting at Fleet Services Facility 800 North Broad St.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Public Works Department	Dale Denton, Director of Public Works and Staff
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All
Monday, April 25, 2022 Meeting at Municipal Operations Center 1300 North Broad St.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Public Utilities	Joe Albright, Director of Public Utilities
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All



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Monday, May 9, 2022 Meeting at City Hall 181 South St.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Recreation Department	Cam Carpenter, Director Parks and Recreation and Staff
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	All
Monday, May 23, 2022 Meeting at Police Department 200 East Long Ave.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Police Services	Travis Brittain, Chief of Police
	9:00 PM	Questions and Answers	Chief Brittain and Staff
Monday, June 13, 2022 Meeting at Fire Station 1 260 North Myrtle School Rd.	6:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions	Staff
	6:15 PM	Fire Services	Phil Welch, Fire Chief
	8:30 PM	Questions and Answers	Chief Welch and Staff
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 Meeting at City Hall 181 South St.	5:00 PM	Wrap-Up	Michael C. Peoples, City Manager
	6:00 PM	Graduation/Council Meeting	City of Gastonia Mayor and Council



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**Authorization for Release of Personal Information
for Municipal Government Academy Participation Purposes**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an applicant for a participant with the City of Gastonia Municipal Government Academy. In order to determine my eligibility for the Academy, I understand that the Gastonia Police Department, Gastonia, NC must make a thorough investigation of my personal background. It is in the public's interest that all relevant information concerning my personal criminal history be disclosed to the Gastonia Police Department.

Therefore, I, _____, DOB _____,
NC Operator's License Number _____, do hereby request and authorize any governmental agency, criminal and civil courts, certification/licensing commission, military organization, and/or any other individual agency to produce and provide copies of any and all criminal information regarding me whether of a privileged or confidential nature to the authorized agent(s) of the Gastonia Police Department, Gastonia, NC.

Moreover, I hereby release the Gastonia Police Department, Gastonia, NC, from any civil or criminal liability whatsoever for seeking such requested information and for evaluating such information as it relates to my potential participation with the Academy. And, I hereby release the issuing agency and its agents and employees, both individually and collectively, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind, which may at any time result because of compliance with the authorization and request. I further waive all right to inspect or review any information compiled in reference to my application for appointment as allowed by law.

I hereby acknowledge that this authorization is valid for six (6) months or until the investigative process has been completed, whichever is later and that a copy of this document is considered valid, just as the original.

I have read and fully understand the above statements.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF GASTON

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the

_____ day of _____, _____.

Notary Public's Signature/Seal

My Commission Expires

Applicant's Signature

Applicant's Printed Name



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NORTH CAROLINA

RELEASE

GASTON COUNTY

In consideration of the City of Gastonia allowing the undersigned to accompany a City of Gastonia Police Officer on patrol in a police vehicle owned by the City of Gastonia, the undersigned hereby assumes all risk of personal injury, death, or property damage or loss from whatever cause arising from or in any way connected to accompanying an on-duty police officer of the City.

The undersigned further releases the City of Gastonia, its officers, employees, agents, or servants from any liability therefore and will indemnify and save harmless the City of Gastonia, its officers, employees, agents, or servants from any such liability.

Except as herein before provided, the undersigned hereby reserves and does not in any manner waive any rights or causes of action against anyone else except the City of Gastonia, its officers, employees, agents, or servants.

In witness whereof the undersigned has hereto set his hand,
this the _____ day of _____, _____.

Signature of Participant

NORTH CAROLINA

GASTON COUNTY

I, _____, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that
_____, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due
execution of the forgoing instrument.

Witness my hand and notarial seal, this the _____ day of _____, _____.

My Commission Expires

Signature of Notary Public

181 South Street, PO Box 1748, Gastonia, North Carolina 28053
Office 704.866.6907
www.cityofgastonia.com