



**RECOMMENDED  
SEMI-FINALIST CANDIDATES  
FOR  
CITY MANAGER**

**THE MERCER GROUP, INC.**

Dona Higginbotham  
Senior Vice President  
3245 S. Atlantic Ave., Suite 607  
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118

DHHiggin@att.com  
[www.mercergroupincflorida.com](http://www.mercergroupincflorida.com)



# Mercer Group Florida LLC

---

*Consultants To Management*

*Honorable Mayor Williams and Councilmembers,*

*The Mercer Group Florida received sixty-three (63) applicants for the position of City Manager for the City of Cocoa, Florida. After careful review, we present eight (8) for your review and further consideration.*

*Zoom interviews were held with each of the recommended candidates.*

*Attached, you will find the following information on each candidate:*

- *Cover Letter*
- *Resume*
- *Internet Research*

*Should you wish to discuss any of the candidates with me, I would welcome your call. I look forward to our meeting June 30, 2020.*

*Kind regards,  
Dona*

*Dona Higginbotham  
Mercer Group Florida.*

*Cell: 954-559-8865*

**PINPOINTING  
WORKABLE SOLUTIONS  
[www.mercergroupincflorida.com](http://www.mercergroupincflorida.com)**



# Mercer Group Florida LLC

---

## City of Cocoa, Florida City Manager Interview Options

Mayor and Council will have the following interview options:

- All elected officials with each candidate in Council Chambers. Finalist at podium.
- Council one on one interviews with each finalist. Finalist before Mayor and Council for additional questions prior to discussion and vote.
- Council one on one interviews with each finalist. Council would discuss at public meeting and vote based on their individual discussions.
  
- Meetings/Town Hall/Meet and Greet can/will be scheduled with all Department Heads as a group and any special groups the Council has specified.
  - o Citizen's Committee
  - o Residents
  
- Tour of City Hall and City.

**CITY OF COCOA, FLORIDA**  
**CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDED SEMI-FINALISTS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>CURRENT /MOST RECENT SALARY</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
Drumm, James Brunswick, GA	Master of Public Administration	ICMA – CM FCCMA	\$96,000.00	City Manager Brunswick, GA 2015-2020
Gardner-Young, Caryn Boynton Beach, FL	Master of Public Administration Juris Doctorate	ICMA – CM APA – SICIP - FGFOA	Parkland \$250,000.00	Planning Supervisor FDOT
Gleason, James Winter Garden, FL	Master of Arts - Public Administration	ICMA – CM	\$130,000.00	City Manager/Director of Economic Development Mascotte, FL
Hyatt, Andrew Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	Master's Public Administration	ICMA – CM FCCMA NIMS Certified	\$100,000.00	Texas State Director K-9s for Warriors - Contract ended 3/30/2020
Moffett, Keith Lizella, GA	PhD Educational Leadership Executive Master of Business Administration	ICMA – CM candidate	\$142,000	County Manager Macon-Bibb County, GA
Porta, Dan Kennesaw, GA	Master of Public Administration	ICMA – CM NIMS - GAED	\$150,000.00	Assistant City Manager Cartersville, GA
Riggs, Jennifer Cocoa, FL	Master of Arts – Law and Diplomacy		Currently Volunteer	Chair – City of Cocoa Sustainability Committee
Stanton, Susan Berkley, CA	Master of Public Administration Master of Divinity	ICMA – CM CCCMA	On sabbatical	Sabbatical to finish degree

CITY OF COCOA, FLORIDA  
CITY MANAGER APPLICANTS

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DEGREE</b>	<b>CERTIFICATIONS</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
Ambris, Sandra West Palm Beach, FL	Master of Public Administration	ICMA - FEMA	Administrative Services Director Florida Department of Health
Bennett, John Oceanport, NJ	Juris Doctorate		Bennett Law Office
Drumm, James Brunswick, GA	Master of Public Administration	ICMA – CM FCCMA	City Manager Brunswick, GA 2015-2020
Edwards, Christopher Tallahassee, FL	Bachelor of Arts, Public Administration	ICMA - FLC	Structure Commercial Real Estate Associate
Elliott, Lee Texarkana, TX	B.S, History & Geography		Interim Chief Admin Officer – Mayfield, AR
Ensell, Gabriel Rockledge, FL			Self-employed – Estate broker
Evelt, Lee Lake Alfred, FL	Master of Public Administration		
Farrell, Joey Geneva, FL	Cocoa High		Heavy Equipment Mechanic Farrell Auction Service
Fell, Tiffany Oakbank, MB Canada	Master of Business Administration	Leadership Certificate	Mayor/Chief Administrative Office
Fisher, Suzanne Boynton Beach, FL	Master of Public Administration	ICMA - CPRP - FEMA	Assistant City Manager-Delray Beach, FL
Fletcher II, Alfred Woodbridge, VA	Master of Public Administration	ICMA	Assistant Chief Administrative Officer–Montgomery County, MD
Gardner-Young, Caryn Boynton Beach, FL	Master of Public Administration Juris Doctorate	ICMA – CM APA – SICP - FGFOA	Planning Supervisor FDOT
Garside, Matthew Poland, Maine	Master of Public Administration	MTCMA	Town Manager Poland, Maine
Gleason, James Winter Garden, FL	Master of Arts - Public Administration	ICMA – CM	
Guerra, Juan Edinburg, TX	Master of Business Administration	Certified Public Manager – CPA - CGFO	City Manager Edinburg, TX
Hawthorne, Stanley Fort Lauderdale, FL	Master of Arts Public Administration	ICMA - GFOA	Assistant City Manager – Fort Lauderdale, FL 2011 - 2019
Henessee, Shawn Vancouver, WA	Juris Doctorate Master of Arts – Political Science		
Hutka, Thomas Pompano Beach, FL	Master of Public Administration		Dir of Public Works 2009-2020 Broward County, FL
Hyatt, Andrew Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	Master's Public Administration	ICMA – CM FCCMA NIMS Certified	Texas State Director K-9s for Warriors - Contract ended 3/30/2020
Johnson, Leslie Lisbon, Maine	Master of Arts Organizational Development		Insurance Agent
Kabay, Sabrina Cocoa, FL	Dekalb Technical Institute	Surgical Tech	Customer Service Rep Pharmacy Tech
Kim, Sungman (Simon)	PhD Landscape Architecture	AICP – SPHR-SCP –	Community Development

CITY OF COCOA, FLORIDA  
CITY MANAGER APPLICANTS

Starkville, MS	Master of Business Administration		Director – Starkville, MS
Kooiker, Aaron Fairfield, Iowa	Master of Public Administration		City Administrator – Fairfield, IA
Lawrence, William Bartow, FL	Degree in Criminal Justice	ICMA – FLC - FCCMA	City Manager – Bartow, FL
Loadholdt, Letticia Williamston, NC	Master of Science – Human and Social Service		Director Dept of Social Services/Transit
Long, Darcy Gladstone, MI	Master of Public Administration	ICMA - Certified Public Manager	City Manager 2017-2019 Gladstone, MI
McCauley III, William Bensalem, PA	Bachelor of Arts Public Management	ICMA SPMMA	McCauley Consulting
McClure, Scott Monmouth, OR	Master of Public Administration	ICMA	
Maddox, Raphel Blackshear, GA	Bachelor of Science Business Administration		City Administrator – Fort Valley, GA
Mayo, Mark Melbourne Beach, FL			CTN Enterprises
Moffett, Keith Lizella, GA	PhD Educational Leadership Executive Master of Business Administration	ICMA – CM candidate	County Manager Macon-Bibb County, GA
Morales, Alex Boston, MA	Master of Arts – Political Science		Boston, MA – Regional Operations Mgr.
Murdie, Emma Cocoa, FL	Daytona Beach Community College – General Education		Manager GNC
North, Jennifer Cocoa, FL	Master of Science - Nursing	Nurse Practitioner Certified	Brevard Medical - Dermatology
Nibarger, Ben Keller, TX	Master of Business Administration Master of Public Administration	ICMA – NTCMA - GFOA	CEO – Municipal Consulting Group
Nicole, Alicia Cocoa, FL	Cocoa High		Donor Care Tech
Null, Michael Palatka, FL	Bachelor of Science	FCCMA - AWWA	Assistant City Manager Green Cove Springs, FL
Oris, Jeffery Coconut Creek, FL	Master of Public Administration	FCCMA	Municipal Government Consultant
Payne, Mike Cocoa Beach, FL	Webster University-Managerial Leadership		Restaurant Server and Bartender
Pendleton, Patrick Covington, GA	Master of Business Administration	IPMA-SCP	Human Resource Manager Fulton County Sheriff Office
Peoples, Marie Flagstaff, AZ	Ph.D. Public Health Epidemiology MA Sociology & Criminal Justice	Senior Exec in State & Local Governments Cert	Deputy County Manager
Porta, Dan Kennesaw, GA	Master of Public Administration	ICMA – CM NIMS - GAED	Assistant City Manager Cartersville, GA
Quinonez, Jose El Paso, TX	Master of Public Administration		EP Global Consulting
Randall, Scott	B.A. Political Science	ICMA - CM	General Manager – PGA West

CITY OF COCOA, FLORIDA  
CITY MANAGER APPLICANTS

Cathedral City, CA			Master Assoc.
Reynolds, Bruce Blue Springs, MO	Master of Public Administration		Dept. of Homeland Security- student trainer
Riggs, Jennifer Cocoa, FL	Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy		
Ruder, Heather Tucson, AZ	Master of Administration	ICMA	Dir of Facilities Management NWest Fire District - Arizona
Russo, Ronald Lake County, FL	B.A. Criminology	FL State Law Enforcement Certif.	
Simpson Jr, Ron Cocoa, FL	Cocoa High		All Trade Custom Remodeling
Sims, Jarvis Augusta, GA	MBA – International Business		Interim Administrator
Slaughter, James Beacon, NY	M.A. Urban & Regional Planning		Interim Executive Director Park City Communities
Sossamon, Leonard Myrtle Beach, SC	Master of Arts Urban Geography	ICMA	County Administrator Hernando County, FL
Stanton, Susan Berkley, CA	Master of Public Administration Master of Divinity	ICMA – CM CCCMA	Sabbatical to finish degree
Strahl, David Darien, IL	Master of Public Administration, Urban Management	ICMA ICCMA	Interim Village Manager – Schiller Park, IL
Toms, Donald Hoschton, GA	Master of Public Administration	ICMA	City Administrator – Winder, GA 11/2010-2/2020
Trujillo-Villa, Adriana Davenport, FL	Master of Public Administration	Certified Public Manager AICP-CPM	Interim Public Works Director Haines City, FL
Tucker, Kris Standish, ME	Master of Science – Resource Administration and Management	ICMA	Ingenious Pursuits CEO
Vitas, Bogdan Lake Worth, FL	Master of Arts – Public Affairs	ICMA - FCCMA	Independent Consultant
Waggoner, Chase Williams, AZ	Master of Business Administration	ICMA	City Manager/Director of Public Safety Williams, AZ
Williams, Scott Merritt Island, FL	Associate Arts		Owner/Managing Director Apex Security Systems
Wilson, Adam Oak Bluffs, MA	Master of Public Administration	EMT	Public Affairs – Community Liason
Zienkowski, Robert Bryn Mawr, PA	Master of Arts in Humanities – concentration ethics & diversity	ICMA FEMA	Township Manager 2010-2020
Zoukee, George Las Vegas. NV	Master of Business Administration	GFOA – NHASBC - CIFA	Real Estate Investor