

TO: Paul Radford, City Manager, Troy Besseche, Assistant City Manager

Cc. Mayor and Council

FROM: Artagus Newell, Planning and Development Director

DATE: September 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Sugar Hill Designated as a PlanFirst Community by Georgia DCA

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I'm pleased to share that the City of Sugar Hill has officially been designated a PlanFirst Community by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA)—a distinction awarded to only a select number of communities each year.

This designation recognizes Sugar Hill's excellence in comprehensive planning and its successful implementation of the Envision 100 Comprehensive Plan. It affirms our city's commitment to strategic growth, community investment, and long-term sustainability.

**Key Benefits of the PlanFirst Designation:**

- - Statewide recognition for planning excellence
- - Bonus points on applications for:
  - - Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)
  - - Employment Incentive Program (EIP)
  - - Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund (DDRLF)
  - - Redevelopment Fund
- -Annual CDBG eligibility for qualifying non-entitlement communities
- -Reduced interest rates on select Georgia Environment Finance Authority (GEFA) loans
- -Free attendance for two representatives at DCA's Community Planning Institute

This achievement was made possible through the leadership and dedication of Nicole Klein and Logan Witter from our Planning and Development Department. Their work exemplifies the high standards we strive for in public service and urban planning.

Please join me in congratulating Nicole and Logan, and in recognizing the broader Planning team for their continued efforts to position Sugar Hill as a forward-thinking, well-managed community.