



News Release

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Commissioners Hire Cannon as New County Manager

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners announced tonight that it has hired Amy H. Cannon as the county manager effective immediately. The commissioners held a special meeting and unanimously voted to hire Cannon, who has served as interim county manager since April 1.

Former County Manager James Martin retired in March after serving 14 years in the position.

Cannon, who is the first woman to manage the county, became the deputy county manager in February 2011 after previously serving as the assistant county manager for financial and administrative services since 2000. She was the county's finance director from 1998 to August 2013 and has worked for the county's finance department since 1990.

The commissioners hired The Mercer Group consulting firm to conduct a nationwide county manager search and received 59 applications from across the nation and one from overseas. Early in the process, Mercer representatives met one-on-one with county commissioners and in small groups with department heads to learn the characteristics and qualities they valued in a county manager. After narrowing the applicant pool, the commissioners interviewed two in-state and two out-of-state candidates and asked them to complete personality and management style assessment tools.

"Ms. Cannon has all the skills to do an excellent job as a leader and manager of a large county. She has extensive experience as a sound financial manager administering a large budget," said Ellis Hankins, senior vice president of The Mercer Group. Cumberland County is the fifth most populous county in the state with a population of approximately 331,000. County government has 34 departments and about 2,300 employees. The recommended general fund budget for fiscal year 2015 is \$312 million.

"I was impressed with the commissioners' determination to maintain open minds and carefully consider all well-qualified candidates. They made a very sound decision at the end of a rigorous process," Hankins said.

"We were pleased with the hiring process, which was very extensive and deliberate. We received an excellent pool of candidates," said Chairman Jeannette Council.

"Ms. Cannon has really had a two-month interview with the commissioners, complete with a recommended budget presentation on May 29," Council said. "She has the experience and skills to manage our county government team and has already introduced new initiatives in her recommended budget as we face economic challenges on the state and federal level."

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Cannon, 49, is a Fayetteville native and graduated from Seventy-First High School. She holds an accounting degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and is a certified public accountant and a North Carolina Certified Government Finance Officer. Under her leadership, the county's finance department has received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting every year from 1998 to 2013.

"I am honored to be selected as the county manger and look forward to working with our talented department heads and management team," Cannon said. "I believe our goals should be to define our core functions, seek efficiencies and enhance our service delivery, particularly through technology."

Cannon's annual salary as county manager will be \$187,695.



County Manager Amy Cannon

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