

Christian Sigman, City Manager

The Brookhaven City Manager serves as the chief administrative officer for the City of Brookhaven. The City Manager is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The City Manager is responsible for ensuring that City ordinances and laws are enforced. The City Manager develops policy recommendations for the Mayor and City Council and prepares the annual operating and capital budgets. The City Manager has supervisory and hiring for all City employees, except for the Mayor's appointees of the City Clerk and City Attorney.



Mr. Sigman was appointed as Brookhaven City Manager on May 10, 2016. He has served in various leadership roles within several cities and counties including Hamilton County, Ohio, City of Cincinnati, and the District of Columbia. Mr. Sigman has also served as a strategy consultant with Booz | Allen | Hamilton. He began his public service career as a police officer for Indiana University where he doubled majored in Psychology and Criminal Justice and went on to earn his MPA at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He has attended the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard University. Mr. Sigman is a Credentialed Manager with the International City/County Management Association.

Leadership Philosophy: As City Manager, I wear many hats as we execute the Mayor and City Council's vision for the City of Brookhaven. It is a very big WE that makes Brookhaven successful. WE includes not just the City staff and contractors, but the many volunteers who serve on boards and commissions, residents who participate in planning processes, and the many non-profit organizations that partner with the City. While my duties and authority are detailed in the [City Charter](#), how I approach city management is much more important. My leadership philosophy is simple: listen to the Mayor and City Council, the staff, and our residents; foster partnerships with businesses and non-profits; tirelessly promote the City; support and inspire City employees; acknowledge mistakes and learn from them; and be transparent in everything we do.

ICMA Code of Ethics:

Adopted in 1924, the [ICMA Code of Ethics](#) defined the principles that today serve as the foundation for the local government management profession and set the standard for excellence. Leadership in a management structure committed to equity, transparency, integrity, stewardship of public resources, political neutrality, and respect for the rights and responsibility of elected officials and residents strengthens democratic local governance.

Steven Chapman, Deputy City Manager / Chief Financial Officer

The Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer serves as the deputy chief administrative officer for the City of Brookhaven. The Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer is appointed by the City Manager. The Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer is primarily responsible for ensuring that the fiscal health of the City is maintained. The Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer is also responsible for Human Resources, Municipal Court, Parks and Recreation, Information Technology, Finance, and Strategic Partnerships.



Steven Chapman II was appointed as Brookhaven Deputy Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer in August 2016. Mr. Chapman started his financial career with a small investment bank in Atlanta and has since served in many roles with federal, county and city governments over his 30 year career.

Mr. Chapman is currently working on a PhD dissertation in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University. Mr. Chapman also holds an MS in Finance from Georgia State University's Jack M. Robinson School of Business and a BS in Management, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He has also attended the Leading, Educating, And Developing (LEAD) program from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. Mr. Chapman is a Certified Public Finance Officer through the Government Finance Officers Association and is currently applied for credentialing from the International City/County Managers Association.

Mr. Chapman began his career with a focus on business process improvement. His first success was implementing a statistical process control system in a manufacturing environment that drastically improved the quality of the product. Since that time, and due to his interest in contributing to the overall public good, he has been improving government processes on many levels.

Mr. Chapman has been a prolific speaker on the topic of government leadership and finance at various national, state, and local conferences as well as teaching classes at the university level. He previously served six years as a committee member for the GFOA Governmental Budget and Fiscal Policy committee where he championed the most recent best practice in fund balance policy. Mr. Chapman has served as a Director or Officer on many Boards throughout his career such as the Florida League of Cities Pension Investment Advisory Committee and currently serving as treasurer for the Brookhaven Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Patrice S. Ruffin, AICP, Assistant City Manager

The Assistant City Manager serves as the assistant chief administrative officer for the City of Brookhaven and is appointed by the City Manager. The Assistant City Manager is primarily responsible for day-to-day oversight of various city departments and promoting effective and efficient operations. Specifically, the Assistant City Manager is responsible for Community Development, Information Technology, and Public Works.



Patrice S. Ruffin, AICP, was appointed as Brookhaven Assistant City Manager in August 2021. For over 15 years, Ms. Ruffin has had the unique opportunity to work in local government as an urban planner, particularly with newly incorporated municipalities and their citizenry. She began her career as a planner with the cities of Riviera Beach, Florida and Roswell, Georgia, both of which gave her an excellent perspective and understanding of planning fundamentals. Utilizing these skills, Ms. Ruffin was able to quickly advance her career by securing senior level positions as a contractor with the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia.

During her time with the City of Brookhaven, Ms. Ruffin has also served in the Community Development Department as Deputy Director and then Director. Her strong educational and professional foundation in the field of urban planning, along with the geographical setting of the metro Atlanta region has placed her in a sphere of influence and opportunity to have a voice of advocacy for sound and equitable planning. In 2020, she was recognized by Engineering Georgia magazine as one of the *Top 100 Influential Women in Georgia Engineering* as a professional dedicated to sustained improvements to the state in the areas of planning, design, construction, governance, education, and public service.

Ms. Ruffin has earned a juris doctor degree from Georgia State University College of Law as well as bachelor's and master's degrees in urban and regional planning from Alabama A&M University. She is also active in several professional organizations, including the American Planning Association.

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Code of Ethics:

Planners with the [AICP credential](#) are tasked with upholding the highest standards of practice, ethics, and professional conduct while navigating difficult ethical and moral dilemmas presented during project development. The AICP Ethical Principles in Planning assists advisors, advocates, and decision makers during the planning process.

Jeremy Berry, Partner

Jeremy Berry was appointed City Attorney for the City in March 2023. In addition to his local government legal work and representing cities, Mr. Berry focuses his law practice on government contract and procurement issues, campaign finance and election law, governmental and regulatory affairs matter, charter schools, gaming, investigations, and government and public policy litigation. Mr. Berry served as City Attorney for the City of Atlanta in 2017 and 2018. Prior to that service, Mr. Berry was a partner at one of the largest law firms in the world.



Emory College honored Mr. Berry in 2014 with its Young Alumni Service Award for his distinguished community and public service. In 2013, the Daily Report recognized Mr. Berry as being “On The Rise,” an award given to 40 attorneys under the age of 40 in the state of Georgia. Mr. Berry graduated Leadership Atlanta in 2018 and Leadership DeKalb in 2012. Mr. Berry is a graduate of Emory University School of Law.

Representative experience:

Negotiating with Atlanta Hawks and City of College Park in a series of transactions that resulted in \$192 million renovation of Phillips Arena and ensures the Hawks remain in the City for 30 years.

Negotiating, legislating, and implementing the annexation of Emory University and surrounding areas into the City of Atlanta, the largest expansion of City limits in 50 years. Coordinating legal response to extensive ransomware/cyber incident against the City’s information technology infrastructure that affected almost every operational department in the City. Worked with external agencies and federal law enforcement to assist in investigating incident.

Represented three commission charter schools in litigation before trial court and Georgia Supreme Court testing constitutionality of Georgia’s charter school law that created independent state-level charter authorizer. *Gwinnett County School District v. Cox*, 289 Ga. 265 (2011). Represented numerous clients asserting and defending against bid protests before more than a dozen Georgia state and local government agencies.

Defended outdoor advertising company in litigation regarding application of laws governing “multiple message” signs and issuance of state and local permits. Litigation lasted seven years and was before every level of Georgia state court and City and State administrative tribunals. Successfully represented Fortune 500 company in recoupment action brought by Georgia Department of Community Health in which state agency sought to recoup more than \$18 million from client, leading to dismissal of recoupment action.