



Georgetown County Government

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Services Director receives international leadership award

GEORGETOWN COUNTY – In a surprise presentation, Georgetown County Public Services Director Ray C. Funnye recently received the Presidential Leadership Award from the American Public Works Association. Chosen by the outgoing APWA President, the Presidential Leadership Award is presented to an APWA member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their community.

“Ray is not only an outstanding Public Services Director, but he has also fostered a culture within his community that values the giving of one’s time, talent and treasure,” said APWA Immediate Past-President William E. (Bill) Spearman III, P.E. “Ray is dedicated to developing the next generation of public works professionals who will confront the challenges of tomorrow effectively and sustainably. We are incredibly fortunate to have Ray as a member and leader of APWA, and we all look forward to his accomplishments and work to come.”

Spearman added that Funnye’s “boundless energy and enthusiasm for serving the public” makes him a larger-than-life figure in Georgetown County. Funnye is the executive director and founder of The Village Group, an organization dedicated to youth development; a member of the Frances P. Bunnelle Foundation Board of Directors, dedicated to providing for the underserved in Georgetown County; and the trustee board treasurer of Bethel AME Church. He has inspired thousands of students at local career days and actively seeks interns from under-resourced locales and graduates of the Georgetown County Sheriff’s Re-entry Program for employment opportunities. He is considered Georgetown’s go-to person on a myriad of levels in both a professional and personal context.

As the county’s director of Public Services, Funnye is fiscally, operationally, and managerially responsible for seven major divisions, including Public Works, Engineering/Capital Projects, Stormwater, Environmental Services, GIS, Fleet Services and Facilities Services. During his more than 18 years in this role, he has earned a master’s degree in management, received numerous national and local awards, and secured a valuable accreditation for the County from the American Public Works Association.

Funnye was attending a virtual APWA conference, where he thought he was scheduled to give a brief speech, when the group surprised him with the award, which had been previously mailed to



Georgetown. County Administrator Angela Christian and County Council Chairman John Thomas were waiting in the wings outside Funnye's office to present the award as the announcement was made. Colleagues and Funnye's wife, Queen, were waiting in a nearby conference room for a small celebration after the presentation. A video of the presentation is available on the county's YouTube channel at youtube.com/gtcountysc.

"It is such an incredible honor and surprise to receive this award," Funnye said. "I would like to thank my wife, staff, friends and colleagues for their support throughout my time here in Georgetown County and with APWA. This award is recognition of the amazing programs that I am proud to be a part of, and I look forward to seeing where our efforts take us."

A member of APWA's Government Affairs Committee, Funnye has been active for years in advocating for public works, and consistently shares his public works expertise with policymakers in order to support his community and the profession.

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy, and the exchange of knowledge.

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