



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
of **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

January 29, 2025

Honorable Donita Bowen
Mayor, City of Santa Claus
25 December Drive
Lyons, GA 30436

Mayor Bowen:

Congratulations on completing the process of producing and adopting the most recent update of the City of Santa Claus's local comprehensive plan. This is just the first step in achieving the vision that your community has articulated for its future. To help you implement your newly updated plan, the Department of Community Affairs is honored to award Qualified Local Government (QLG) status to the City of Santa Claus.

Your plan can be simultaneously aspirational and practical. It can provide guidance and promote accountability while you manage change. Effective plans are approachable handbooks for elected leaders, local staff, and the general public. We hope yours serves as a solid decision-making framework in balancing your community's collaborative efforts to meet the day-to-day challenges of governing while incrementally progressing toward your long-term goals.

Please understand that QLG status has no effect upon your community's compliance with the Service Delivery Act (O.C.G.A. 36-70-20), a separate, unrelated program under state law. To keep abreast of upcoming planning deadlines for your community you can search the internet for "Georgia planning deadlines" and our website will be at or near the top of the list.

Remember, our team exists for the sole purpose of helping your local government do your work as well as possible. If you have any questions or we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. Best wishes for the successful implementation of your plan!

Sincerely,

Lisa Westin
Director | Planning, Research & Geoanalytics

LW/kml

cc: Brett Manning, Heart of Georgia RC Executive Director
Anna Weaver, Heart of Georgia RC Planning Director
Michelle Brown, Heart of Georgia RC Public Information Coordinator

