



**Russell County
Commission**

CITIZENS' ACADEMY

**COMMISSIONER
CHANCE CORBETT**



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YOUR COUNTY COMMISSION

**COMMISSIONER
CHANCE CORBETT**

CONCEPT

- ACCA Conference 2013
 - Overview of a Citizens' Academy Program
- Established
 - Objectives
 - Application process
 - List of topics
 - Schedule
 - Placed on agenda
 - Media Release

OBJECTIVES

- Introduce Russell County Citizens to the operation of their county government
- To help our county department heads and employees understand the issues on the minds of our citizens

WHY?

- They can just ask, right?
- What is there to know?
- They might be trying to get information to use to run.

“A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes”

Mark Twain

MOTIVATED

- ALL County Commissioners were immediately excited about the program
- The County Administrator was ready to start immediately

DEDICATION

- Someone will have to sell it!
- You have to know what you want to do and how to make it happen.
- Department Heads and Elected Officials may have questions as well.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **21 Citizens – Applications submitted**
- **3 Citizens from each district**
- **Session lasts 6 months (1 night / month)**
- **Each class the same night of the month**
- **First class was in November 2013**
- **Last class is on April 2014**
- **Session graduation**

PRESENTATIONS

- **The Duties of a County Commissioner**
- **The County Administrator & Budget**
- **Probate Judge**
- **Revenue Commissioner**
- **Tag Commissioner**
- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Mapping and Appraisal**

- **Building Inspections**
- **License Inspector**
- **Other County Services**

ON – LOCATION PRESENTATIONS

- **ENGINEER'S OFFICE**
- **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**
- **CORONER'S OFFICE**
- **SHERIFF'S OFFICE & JAIL**

6 Month Process

- **Sept. 25, 2014** - **Application Process Announced**
- **Oct. 9, 2014** - **Applicants are chosen**
- **Oct. 23, 2014** - **Applicants announced (Meeting)**
- **Nov. 5, 2014** - **First Class Session**
- **Apr. 23, 2014** - **Class Graduation**

ISSUES TO ADDRESS

- What if I miss one class session?
- Transportation to on-site locations
- When can my neighbor sign up for the next class?
- When is my road going to be paved?

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Very positive comments
- Hard to track but sometimes you are tagged in the post (provide tag info)
- Gain momentum from comments



“I was very impressed with the program as a whole, I learned a lot and found that things were going even better than I had heard. The program was very educational and those that didn’t attend really missed out...”

Dee Brahn (Citizen) –
District 2



“This was a great program and it should continue. I was familiar with some of the departments due to my job in Ft. Mitchell but I was most impressed by the jail and the Emergency Management Office. Other citizens should get involved in this...”

David Ellis (Citizen) – District 2



- ***“The Citizens’ Academy has educated me to the daily operations of government in Russell County. Not only have I been impressed with the dedication of the employees, I have been impressed with the care they take to stretch their budgets in order to offer many services to this county. I recommend the Citizens’ Academy to any concerned resident.”***

Peggy Blackshear (Citizen) – District 3



“I loved the program. I now have a great sense of how our government works. I found the information very informative and I feel that everyone would want to attend...”

Jeannie Jenkins (Citizen) – District 6





SHERIFF HEATH TAYLOR







NACO



2014

ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD
WINNER



PROGRAM'S SUCCESS

2ND SESSION

BEGAN 8/12/14

QUESTIONS?

CHANCE CORBETT
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
RUSSELL COUNTY, AL

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