



Gwinnett County Government  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**BICENTENNIAL TORCH COMES TO  
THE GWINNETT JUSTICE AND ADMINISTRATION CENTER**

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Dec. 19, 2017) – Gwinnett County’s bicentennial torch made an appearance at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center for a special presentation during the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners’ business session on Tuesday.

The LED-powered torch was carried into GJAC by a group of 12 students representing various county high schools.

The bicentennial torch made its debut on Dec. 15 at the bicentennial celebration’s first official event, A Frontier Affair: Prelude to Gwinnett’s Bicentennial, held at the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse.

The bicentennial torch relay was first suggested by Bicentennial Advisory Committee member and Lawrenceville Mayor Judy Jordan Johnson as a way to promote Gwinnett’s Bicentennial Year of Celebration, which will span from Dec. 15, 2017, to Dec. 15, 2018.

“Light, whether it be from a candle, a Christmas tree or a torch, illuminates,” Johnson said. “As the torch is carried to historical sites, I hope the past is illuminated; when the torch stops at city halls, I hope the present is illuminated; and as the torch is carried by young runners, I hope the future is illuminated.”

Like the torch of the Olympic Games, the bicentennial torch represents goodwill and the connection between communities. The relay represents the journey that Gwinnett County has undergone from 1818 to today, from a largely agrarian community to one of the fastest growing, most diverse counties in the Southeast.

Mayor Johnson recruited cross country and track teams from Gwinnett County Public Schools and Buford City Schools to serve as torchbearers in the yearlong relay.

Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners Chairman Charlotte Nash welcomed the high schoolers to GJAC and thanked them for volunteering to be bicentennial torchbearers.

“My fellow commissioners and I are very excited about the bicentennial’s potential to get our residents involved with their local government,” Nash said. “The torch relay gives our high

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schoolers the opportunity to contribute to the celebration, and we love seeing them excited about the important role they get to play.”

The runners will carry the torch to various historic sites, public facilities and cities in Gwinnett throughout the bicentennial year. A traveling Gwinnett County history exhibit will accompany the torch to many of these locations, including the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center. The exhibit will be on display at GJAC for self-guided tours from Dec. 19 to Jan. 29.

The torch relay will culminate at the County’s 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on Dec. 15, 2018, at the Infinite Energy Center.

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**Note:** *Photos from the presentation are available on [Flickr](#).*