

CITY OF CHICKAMAUGA, GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

TREY DECK

For Immediate Release via Counsel for the Mayor

Jeremy Penland, Esq. and Michael M. Thomas, Esq

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 (1:00 pm)

**PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE FROM THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICKAMAUGA TREY DECK**

Earlier today, the Office of Mayor Deck became aware of information indicating a potential threat of violence associated with the upcoming city council meeting later this afternoon. The law firm of Penland, Romans & Rayburn, GP received a phone call from an individual early on Monday who disclosed a threat to harm the mayor and the attorneys representing the mayor during tonight's City Council meeting. The threat was immediately reported to law enforcement, and counsel for all parties associated with this afternoon's meeting were immediately notified.

The safety of our residents, elected officials, city employees, and first responders is our highest priority. Upon learning this information, my representatives immediately coordinated with local and regional law enforcement agencies. Given the seriousness of this matter, members of the public are strongly encouraged to evaluate whether in person attendance is necessary should the city council elect to move forward with the proceedings this evening. Those who choose to attend should expect heightened security procedures, limited access areas, and potential delays. Any suspicious activities should be reported immediately to law enforcement. The situation is being actively monitored and additional actions will be taken if warranted. The City will provide updates as appropriate. We appreciate the cooperation of the public as we take steps to ensure safety and maintain order while continuing the work of local government.

Democracy survives on disagreement and our community survives on respect. I care more about protecting the citizens of Chickamauga than any outcome of tonight's hearing. It is incumbent upon each citizen to uphold the values instilled in us as North Georgians and citizens of our great nation. We have the privilege to be tasked with upholding these principals during this time of political tension. I ask all of you to come together to support the legal process and allow justice to prevail.

This incident remains under investigation and members of the community with information are encouraged to contact the Chickamauga Police Department's nonemergency line at 706-375-3172