



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2016

### **Mayor, WNHAC Director Visit Greenville, SC** *Officials Bring Back Lessons from Revitalized City*

**WHEELING, W.Va.** – Mayor Glenn Elliott and Jake Dougherty, Executive Director of Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC), recently visited Greenville, South Carolina to meet with city leaders and get a first-hand look at the city’s revitalization.

In mid-September, Mayor Elliott and Dougherty traveled to Greenville for a full itinerary, including tours and meetings with Knox White, Mayor of Greenville; Nancy Whitworth, Economic Development Director; Gaye Sprague, Councilwoman; Tripp Muldrow, consultant and former Greenville Planning Commissioner; and Curtis Brison, Wheeling native and Greenville resident.

One goal of the trip was to learn about the successful revitalization strategies that Greenville officials implemented and to bring back those lessons to Wheeling, where applicable. The city of 65,000 has transformed during the last 30 years, under the leadership of Mayor White, who is currently serving his sixth consecutive term.

“I am not suggesting that what has proven best for Greenville in prior decades is necessarily what’s best for Wheeling in 2016 and beyond,” Elliott shared. “But there are parallels that deserve to be further explored, and there is no shame in city leaders borrowing ideas from their peers in other cities that have had success tackling similar challenges. There is no copyright on smart municipal policy.”

Mayor Elliott shared more about the experience on his official Facebook page ([facebook.com/mayorglennelliott](https://www.facebook.com/mayorglennelliott)).

To continue learning from similar cities, Mayor Elliott has identified several other communities for future visits, including Huntington, WV, and Louisville, KY. On September 28-29, Jim Rokakis, Director of the Thriving Communities Institute, is visiting Wheeling to share what cities in Ohio have been able to achieve through the Institute, as well as how Wheeling leaders could implement some of the programs and ideas.

The Greenville trip was supported, in part, by WNHAC sponsorship and in-kind accommodations.

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