

# Leading with Purpose: Mayor Lundy's *Pathway To Shape the Future of Fort Valley*



The front of Fort Valley's City Hall building. *Photo Credit: Shemari Salkey*

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FORT VALLEY, GA – Since taking office in January 2022, Mayor Jeffery Lundy has been at the forefront of Fort Valley's efforts to enhance community engagement, ensure public safety, and promote sustainable development. His tenure has been marked by a commitment to transparency, collaboration, and addressing the city's most pressing challenges.

In a recent interview, Mayor Lundy shared his personal life and thoughts about the city of Fort Valley. Below is a portion of our interview.

**Are you originally from the Fort Valley area?**

My pathway—I'm originally from Americus, GA. It was by what I call it divine appointment by my creator that I ended up in Fort Valley. I'm prior military, so when I got out of the military, I always had a passion/dream to become a law enforcement officer. That pathway eventually led me to ending up here in Fort Valley.



Mayor Jeffery Lundy; 13WMAZ

**What is your favorite thing about Fort Valley?**

Fort Valley, and not just because it is the model or mantra that caring is a way of life, people actually care. All over Fort Valley, you're going to get that warm, welcoming embrace somewhere by somebody and that embrace is seen through our different involvements [Fort Valley State University, Peach County Trojans, etc.]. From the first time I came to Fort Valley, even now, I let it be known that I love the job that I do then and now. I love the job that I do for people, all citizens, not just one aspect of town. It gives me the opportunity, and all of us, to serve and make things better, to hear, to listen, and try to resolve some of the issues that we have through policies and procedures like that. So I love what I do and enjoy doing it in this city, which now I do call home.

## What legacy do you wish to leave in Fort Valley?

May the work I've done speak for me. I'm not legacy driven. It's not a day that I get up and say I could have been able to more than I did the day before, because while we're sitting there's somebody out there in Fort Valley standing in need of a helping hand. And so I'm not trying to leave a legacy. I'm trying to say while I'm here. Do the work that is set before me to do. For me, it is at the end of the day, at the end of life, and of my journey, my savior says "serving well done." Service doesn't mean a legacy to me, it means doing the work that we all are supposed to be doing to make our lives and others lives better.



Photo of Downton Fort Valley; *Shemari Salkey*.

**What is one piece of advice you'd give to students interested in public service?**

Martin Luther King Jr. said “if you’re going to be a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be.” So whatever your goals or objectives are do the best you can just for you because it starts with who I see in the mirror. A lot of people think you don’t qualify for this or you’re not deserving, but whatever it is do the best you know that you can do. You all are the future, the change we see every single day.



City of Fort Valley Crest; *Shemari Salkey*.

As Fort Valley continues to evolve, Mayor Lundy's leadership emphasizes unity, resilience, and proactive governance. By addressing internal challenges and fostering community involvement, he aims to build a sustainable future that

reflects the collective aspirations of Fort Valley's citizens.