



# TOWN OF MAGNOLIA

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** NC League of Municipalities Board of Directors Nominating Committee

**FROM:** Jeanine Cavanaugh, Mayor Pro-tem, Town of Magnolia

**SUBJECT:** Reference for Dawn R. Ward

**DATE:** March 28, 2025

This is to recommend Dawn R. Ward, Mayor of the Town of Magnolia to be selected as a member of the NCLM Board of Directors. Mayor Ward is currently serving in her first term as mayor. She is such an asset to our town. She's been a quick learner and a "go getter" during her 15 months as mayor.

Mayor Ward's first initiative when taking office was to form the Mayor's Advisory Council (MAC) to help address the tendency of misinformation floating around our community. Misinformation has been an issue within the town for years. MAC members meet monthly to discuss various subjects pertaining to the town so they will be armed with correct information and while out in the community they can help eliminate rumors. The Council is open to any Magnolia citizen desiring to serve.

She has also been instrumental in starting a summer meals program for school aged children living in Magnolia. This is a partnership with Duplin County Schools. Monday – Thursday children are provided a meal during lunch time. On Friday they not only receive a meal for Friday but also meals to take home for the weekend.

Mayor Ward is currently enrolled in a municipality finance class being offered at the local community college to increase her knowledge of how town finances are handled. She maintains an open-door policy so any citizen that needs to meet with her regarding a situation or to make suggestions can have an opportunity to speak with her.

A current project she has been working on is to build unity among the community. A part of this includes bringing the local churches together and getting them more involved within the town. Currently, the Board meeting's invocation is provided by a different pastor from one of the churches each month. She also spends countless hours researching subjects, such as grants, legislature, solutions to problems, etc. that may be beneficial to the town. She certainly goes beyond the call of duty.

The town is truly blessed to have Dawn R. Ward as its mayor, and she would be such an asset as a member of the NCLM Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration of Dawn R. Ward to the Board of Directors.

JC:jc