



From the Mayor's Desk

June 2022

Hotels in the city recovering from pandemic

We have some good news to report from the tourism front. The hotel business is stabilizing nicely. The weekends are busy and weekday business travel is coming back as well, according to Rayya Robinson, general manager of the Hyatt Place Atlanta. Things are looking up at the Hilton too. We spoke with Carolyn Woolridge, senior sales manager at the Hilton Atlanta Northeast and she said that things are finally getting back to normal. There are athletic groups renting rooms, film crews, and of course, weddings.

Hotel occupancy in the county is more than 70 percent. It was 72 percent pre-Covid, according to Lisa Anders, executive director of Explore Gwinnett. She said Gwinnett has had the highest hotel occupancy in the metro Atlanta region for the past 28 months.

The travel pattern has changed somewhat since the onset of Covid. Historically, hotels have been busier on the weekdays than on the weekends. But now, weekend travel is as strong or stronger than weekdays. People are wanting to get out of the house and go places. Gwinnett County has seen 34 film productions so far this year. We have had three productions in Peachtree Corners so this year; Class of 09, Human Too and Tom Swift.

The full-service hotels are a little slower to recover, but they have been trending up for the past several months, Anders said. They hope to be back to 2019 levels this summer. Hotel staffing is still an issue, which causes some service issues. Overall, we are happy to see business bouncing back for the hotels.

Stay safe, Mike Mason, Mayor