

## **DARREN GRAY**

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100 S. Eola Drive, Unit 1007, Orlando, FL 32801, Phone (352) 536-4751

Email dgray428@gmail.com

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2022 - present	<b>Osceola County, Kissimmee, FL</b> Deputy County Manager
2020 - 2022	<b>Orange County, Orlando, FL</b> Deputy County Administrator
2012 - 2020	<b>City of Clermont, FL</b> City Manager
2010 - 2012	<b>Lake County, Tavares, FL</b> County Manager
2004 - 2010	<b>City of Clermont, FL</b> Assistant City Manager
1995 - 2004	<b>Orange County, Orlando, FL</b> Assistant to Director Fiscal & Administration Supervisor – Parks & Recreation Fiscal & Administration Coordinator – Growth Management & Environmental Resources Senior Management & Budget Analyst – Office of Management & Budget

### **EDUCATION**

1998	MPA, Public Administration, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
1996	BS, Public Administration, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

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## About

Darren Gray is an award-winning, results-driven public administrator with over 25 years' experience at the municipal and county level. He is highly skilled in all areas of government, including budget and finance, human resources, planning and development, communications, public policy, transportation, recreation, community relations and more.

## Education

Master's degree -  
Public Administration  
University of Central Florida

Bachelor's degree -  
Public Administration  
University of Central Florida

## Memberships

Florida City and County Management  
Association

International City/County Management  
Association

Leadership Florida Class 38

## Honors

UCF Alumni Achievement Award in  
Public Administration

Lake County Leader of the Year

Presenter - Florida Government Finance  
Officers Annual Conference

Panelist - Florida City/County Managers  
Association Annual Conference

World Champion Equestrian

## Experience

**Deputy County Manager** – Osceola County, Florida  
*7<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in America*

March 2022 – Present

- Oversee Five Departments -- Community Development, Economic Development, Housing and Human Services, Office of Sustainability and Financial Services.
- Integral part of the NeoCity Team – Osceola's high-tech innovation park.
- Oversee 500+ employees.
- Lead numerous initiatives including NeoCity, Surtax Tax Renewal, Affordable Housing, Sustainable Projects, CRAs and Four Corners Projects.
- Manage strategic development in and around Osceola County.

**Deputy County Administrator** – Orange County, Florida  
*5<sup>th</sup> largest county population in Florida – 1.4 million*

December 2020 – February 2022

- Oversaw \$5.3 billion budget.
- Supervised daily operations of the county in the county administrator's absence.
- Supervised 10 department directors with 1,500 employees.
- Orange County Convention Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in USA.
- Growing county utility.
- Managed key projects, such as county expansion and major county purchases.
- Recommended action regarding labor relations and contract proposals.
- Responsible for hiring, discipline, training, and performance appraisals under my management.
- Provided recommendations on selection of firms providing architectural and engineering services.
- Responded to citizen concerns and determines appropriate resolution.

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## Experience *continued*

### **City Manager** – Clermont, Florida

October 2012 – December 2020

- Oversaw all daily operations.
- Reported to five-member council.
- Managed a budget of \$149 million.
- Oversaw 400+ employees in 14 departments.
- Led numerous, successful initiatives, including: creation of a \$6.3 million arts and recreation center; \$10.2 million Victory Pointe stormwater facility and urban park that transformed the historic downtown; \$8 million police headquarters, \$2.2 million City Center; complete rebranding that attracted major economic development; and an award-winning 10-year master plan.
- Fire Department received Class 1 ISO rating
- Under my leadership, Clermont earned the following honors: Top 20 City in America for Economic Development and Quality of Life, Best Central Florida City to Live In, Top 20 Cities in USA for Retirees, Bicycle-Friendly Community of the Year for Florida and the Florida League of Cities' City Spirit Award. Master Plan won the Florida Redevelopment Association state award and the Lake-Sumter MPO Regional Award.
- Named Lake County Leader of the Year.

### **County Manager** – Lake County, Florida

November 2010 – September 2012

- Reported to five-member county commissioners.
- Oversaw 750 employees.
- Managed a \$430 million budget.
- Streamlined county departments and created new economic development zones.
- Implemented a long-range financial planning analysis.
- Served briefly as deputy county manager before assuming county manager position.

### **Assistant City Manager** – Clermont, Florida

2004 – 2010

- Served as a liaison between the public and City Council.
- Assisted the city manager in a variety of roles.
- Oversaw the city's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

### **Assistant to Director, Fiscal & Administration Supervisor, Senior Management & Budget Analyst -**

Orange County, Florida

1995-2004

- Managed major projects.
  - Oversaw \$77 million budget for Parks & Recreation (90 parks)
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## **CAREER SUMMARY from 1988-2004**

### **Orange County Government**

1995-2004

- Assistant to Director
- Fiscal & Administration Supervisor – Parks & Recreation
- Fiscal & Administration Coordinator – Growth Management & Environmental Resources
- Senior Management & Budget Analyst – Office of Management & Budget

### **Veterans Administration**

1994-1995

- Administrative Assistant

### **U.S. Navy**

1988-1993

- Operations Specialist/Administrative Petty Officer (E-5)

## **Media**

["Orange County hires Clermont City Manager Gray,"](#) Orlando Sentinel.

["City Manager honored by community,"](#) South Lake Chamber of Commerce.

["Darren Gray: Clermont seeing big results from downtown-waterfront master plan,"](#) Orlando Business Journal.

["Clermont City Manager receives UCF Alumni Award,"](#) The Ledger, Palm Beach Post and Daytona Beach News-Journal.

["Darren Gray selected for elite state leadership program,"](#) Lake & Sumter Style.

["Clermont City Manager Darren Gray hopeful about future of Lake's largest city,"](#) Orlando Sentinel.

## **References**

References available upon request.

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November 17, 2022

S. Renee Narloch & Associates  
2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy D4-242  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

Dear Renee:

As someone whose lifelong passion has been serving the public, I was excited to learn that Seminole County was seeking a progressive leader for its county manager position. I believe that my 25+ years' experience in county and municipal management makes me an ideal candidate for this position.

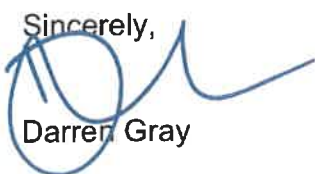
I was formerly the county manager in Lake County and more recently served as the deputy county administrator in Osceola and Orange, where I oversaw a \$5.3 billion budget and supervised 10 department directors with 1,500 employees. I have led a wide range of initiatives that give me insight into challenges and opportunities Seminole County is experiencing. I oversaw Osceola County's sales (penny) tax renewal initiative and was a liaison with Osceola's NeoCity high-tech innovation park. At the municipal level, I led a successful rebranding and master plan, while serving as the city manager of Clermont, that resulted in the city's receiving numerous statewide and national awards.

One of the hallmarks of my leadership is engaging elected officials, staff, and the community to solve problems. As part of Leadership Florida, I dove into the problem of affordable housing. Our community worked with local nonprofits to build workforce housing. I even encouraged our teen advisory group to come up with solutions. Their innovative ideas won a state award from the Florida League of Cities.

It would be an honor to serve as Seminole's county manager. It is truly a premier opportunity – a county that combines high-tech industry, agriculture, an international airport, Port of Sanford, some of the state's best schools, historical neighborhoods, major transportation arteries, and precious natural resources.

I would welcome an opportunity to learn more about your objectives and expectations and to show you how the success I've had, which led to UCF honoring me with its Public Administration Alumni Award, make me a good fit as your county manager.

Sincerely,



Darren Gray