

Council Members

R. Gary Allen
Charmaine Crabb

Travis L. Chambers
Glenn Davis

Byron Hickey
Bruce Huff

R. Walker Garrett
Toyia Tucker

Judy W. Thomas
Joanne Cogle

Clerk of Council
Sandra T. Davis



Council Chambers
C. E. "Red" McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
3111 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

September 24, 2024
5:30 PM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Col Scott Koeman – Senior Command Chaplain of Ft. Moore

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting and Executive Session.

PROCLAMATIONS:

2. **Proclamation:** Tuskegee - Morehouse Football Classic

Receiving: Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin

3. **Proclamation:** Diaper Need Awareness

Receiving: Junior League of Columbus Organization

4. **Proclamation:** Melanie Anne Anderson Day

Receiving: Melanie Anne Anderson

5. **Proclamation:** Jonathan and Christopher Falls Day

Receiving: Jonathan and Christopher Falls

6. **Proclamation:** Daisy Pearson Day
Receiving: Daisy Pearson
7. **Proclamation:** Communities in Motion
Receiving: Director of Transportation, Rosa Evans

PRESENTATION:

8. Underserved and Inmate Healthcare Program Update (Presented by Bob Paskowski, Principal, PYA, P.C. and Jane Jerzack, Principal, PYA, P.C.)

CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **2nd Reading-** REZN-07-24-1562: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5710 Warm Springs Road** (parcel # 101-031-003) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval) (Mayor Pro-Tem)
2. **2nd Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:
- 1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELINE AVE LLC, Owner)
 - 2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)
 - 3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)
 - 4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)
 - 5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)
 - 6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)
 - 7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)
 - 8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (Mayor Pro-Tem)

3. **2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending the procurement ordinance, Section 2-3.03 of the Columbus Code, to revise procurement purchasing limits; and for other purposes. (as amended) (Councilor Tucker)

- 4. 2nd Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-298(b) of the Columbus Code to allow members of the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board to serve on more than one Council appointed board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Thomas)
- 5. 1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 5-42 of the Columbus Code, to amend certain restrictions on the keeping of fowl; and for other purposes. (Councilor Crabb)
- 6. 1st Reading-** An ordinance adding a new Section 2-3.08 of the Columbus Code, to establish a uniform policy for the acceptance of donations made to the consolidated government, and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Miss Brooke Mobley, Re: Columbus Animal Care & Control.
2. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Hostility towards private citizens from Councilors.
3. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, Re: Treatment of citizens.
4. Ms. Desiree Kennison, Re: Trash Pickup Policy Change.
5. Ms. Allie Johnson, representing Columbus Animal Allies, Re: The presentation on CACC at the last Council Meeting.
6. Mrs. Sandy Gunnels, Re: Defense of the Bill of Rights.
7. Mrs. Debbie Wooten, representing Columbus Animal Allies, Re: Reform Plan & Transition at Columbus Animal Care & Control Center.
8. Ms. Nancy Anderson, Re: Columbus Animal Care and Control.
9. Mr. Nathan Smith, Re: Ethics.
10. Ms. Jennifer LeDenney, Re: Request for Rigdon Park hours to be changed from closing at 11:00 to closing at dusk unless permit obtained.
11. Ms. Carol Jameson, Re: Perspectives on Public Agenda.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade

Approval is requested to execute a Lighting Services Agreement with Georgia Power for the Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade in the initial amount of \$260,000.00 to replace the previously demolished lighting in order to facilitate the construction of the various improvements to the Park. The new lighting is located along the ingress path and emergency egress pathways from the Park and will provide visibility to both stadium visitors and first responders during normal operations as well as in an emergency. Georgia Power will furnish and install all wiring, conduit, light poles, pole bases, and light fixtures. Funding is provided by bond proceeds.

2. FY25 HUD Annual Action Plan

Approval is requested to file the FY25 Annual Action Plan, the substantially amended Consolidated Plan, and the amended Citizen Participation Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The sources of federal funding and programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

3. Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) Grant

Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, funds made available to METRA by the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in the amount of \$297,057 to be used for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed.

4. 2023 Brownfield Multipurpose Grant

Approval is requested to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund up to \$1,000,000 for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Multipurpose Grant. The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within Bibb Mill and South Columbus.

5. PURCHASES

- A.** Language Services (Annual Contract) – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Purchase
- B.** Flood Abatement Project 19th Street System – RFB No. 24-0016
- C.** Storm Drain Rehabilitation Through Internal Pipe Lining Priority 1 Pipes (Annual Contract) – RFQ No. 24-0002
- D.** Replacement Fire Hose for Fire & EMS – GSA Cooperative Purchase

- E. Redundant Communications Equipment and Services for Homeland Security/Emergency Management (Annual Contract) – State of Georgia Technology Authority and Federal GSA Cooperative Purchase
- F. Storage Facility Rental Payment for the Sheriff’s Office
- G. Computer Equipment and Computer Services for Information Technology (Annual Contract) – Various Cooperative Contracts Cooperative Purchase
- H. Replacement MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

6. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. ARP - Poverty Reduction Initiative, United Way - Ben Moser, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way, and Jennifer St. John, Senior Vice President of Impact, United Way

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: September 24, 2024

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

September 27, 2024

1. Residential General Contractor Services and Housing Inspection Services for the Community Reinvestment Department II (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0008
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified vendors to provide residential general contractor services (Option A) and housing inspection services (Option B) for rehabilitative single-family housing located throughout Columbus-Muscogee County. The Community Reinvestment Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. Vendors may submit proposals for one, both or all options. Some activities could be a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded project which utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Contracts utilizing CDBG funding are subject to state and local laws, as well as federal regulations found in §2 CFR 200.317 through §2 CFR 300.327 and §24 CFR 570.611. Potential bidders must assure that all project activities will be administered in compliance with labor and civil rights laws and regulations for CDBG funded projects.

October 4, 2024

1. Forcible Entry Door Simulator – PQ No. 25-0002

Scope of PQ

The Columbus Consolidated Government (“the City”) is seeking quotes from qualified vendors to provide one (1) forcible entry door simulator, to be used by the Columbus Fire and EMS Department.

2. Consultant Services for Comprehensive Transit Study for METRA – RFP No. 25-0011

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the “City”) is soliciting proposals for acquiring the services of a Transit Consultant (the “Consultant”) to conduct a comprehensive study on METRA’s behalf. The Consultant will be responsible for conducting a full assessment of METRA’s fixed route bus service, including potential route service to Brookstone Centre, and an assessment of METRA’s Dial-A-Ride ADA complementary paratransit service. In addition, a comprehensive study determining the costs, materials, personnel, and other resources needed for METRA to implement a micro-transit and or on-demand service within the boundaries of Muscogee County, Georgia shall be performed.

3. Single Stream Recycling Materials Processing (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0012

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested parties to receive recycling materials delivered by Public Works collection vehicles and serve as a processor as well as an end market for recycling materials. This contract is needed while the City prepares its facility to receive recycling materials, which may take approximately 2 years.

Please Note: The receiving of this material must be on the property of the proposer. The City’s current facility, 8001 Pinegrove Way, will not be available for this purpose. The Public Works Department will be working with a consultant to purchase and install recycling equipment for the City’s recycling facility in preparation for future processing.

On Hold

1. Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, is seeking proposals for the provision of healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. The requested services consist of medical, dental, and mental health, as well as healthcare personnel. Medical services include but are not limited to x-ray, laboratory, and prescription drug services for a rated capacity of 1069 inmates.

The term of this contract will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

REFERRALS:

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - INFORMATION ONLY

1. Letter from Suzanne Goddard, Solicitor General- Muscogee County placing the employees of the State Court Solicitor General Office under the merit system.

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

2. RESOLUTION - A resolution cancelling the October 29, 2024 Consent Agenda / Work Session.
3. RESOLUTION - A resolution ratifying the appointment of Mr. John Anker to fill the unexpired term of late Mr. Todd Hammonds on the Board of Tax Assessors.
4. Email Correspondence from Chatt Hall, Board Secretary of the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority, requesting that the seat of Mr. Craig Burgess be declared vacant due to a lack of attendance.
5. Email Correspondence from Kristin Youngquist, Chairperson of the Tree Board, requesting that the seats of Mr. Robert Hecht (*Commercial or Industrial Development seat*), Ms. Farah Dewsbury (*At-Large seat*) and Beautie Moore (*At-Large seat*) to be declared vacant due to a lack of attendance.

6. **Minutes of the following boards:**

Audit Committee, July 18, 2024

Board of Elections and Registration, February 8, 2024

Board of Tax Assessors, #30-24

Board of Water Commissioners, September 9, 2024

Development Authority of Columbus, August 1, 2024

New Horizons Behavioral Health- MH, AD & DD- Community Service Board, February 12, March 11, May 13, June 17, & August 12, 2024

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

7. **MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

Armando Fernandez

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Seat declared vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2025

Tamika McKenzie

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Seat declared vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2025

The terms are three years. Board meets quarterly.

B. **COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:**

S. Carson Cummings

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expires: October 24, 2024

The terms are three years. Board meets bi-monthly.

Women: 1

Senatorial District 15: 1

Senatorial District 29: 4

8. **COUNCIL’S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:**

A. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:**

Virginia Dickerson

(District 3 Appointment - Huff)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expired: March 27, 2024

The terms are three years. Board meets quarterly.

9. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

A. **ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:**

Sabine Stull

(Animal Rescue Representative)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expired: April 11, 2024

*Open for Recommendation
by Animal Rescue*

(Council’s Appointment)

Nancy Anderson

(Resigned)

Term Expires: October 15, 2025

Open for Nominations

(Council’s Appointment)

These are two-year terms. Board meets as needed.

Women: 6

Senatorial District 15: 3

Senatorial District 29: 3

B. TREE BOARD:

Jeremy Cummings

(Public Utility Representative)

Resigned

Term Expires: July 1, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Frank Tommey

(Residential Development Seat)

Not eligible to succeed

Term Expired: December 31, 2020

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

These are four-year terms. Meets as needed.

Women: 5

Senatorial District 15: 5

Senatorial District 29: 6

UPCOMING BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

A. Hospital Authority of Columbus (Council's Nomination/Confirmation)

B. Housing Authority of Columbus (Mayor's Appointment)

The City of Columbus strives to provide accessibility to individuals with disabilities and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting. If assistance is needed regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, individuals may contact the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities at 706-653-4492 promptly to allow the City Government to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.

File Attachments for Item:

1. Approval of minutes for the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting and Executive Session.

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

Council Chambers
C. E. “Red” McDaniel City Services Center- Second Floor
311 Citizens Way, Columbus, GA 31906

September 10, 2024
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR’S A G E N D A

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis (arrived at 10:13 a.m.), Bruce Huff (arrived at 9:03 a.m.), Judy W. Thomas and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:34 a.m.). City Manager Isaiah Hugley, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Clerk of Council Sandra T. Davis, and Deputy Clerk Pro Tem Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors R. Walker Garrett and Byron Hickey were absent.

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) Board of Assessors Update Presentation; (2) Columbus Animal Care and Control Update Presentation

The following document was distributed around the Council table: (1) Document Submitted by PA#1 Rev. Lynn Meadows-White

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Presiding

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Wayne Anthony, St. Peter UMC of Columbus, Georgia

NOTE: Councilor Huff arrived at 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Henderson.

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the August 27, 2024, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the six members present, with Councilors Davis and Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

PROCLAMATION:

2. **Proclamation:** Public Safety Week

Receiving: Wayne Anthony, St. Peter UMC of Columbus, Georgia

Mayor Pro Tem Allen read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 8-14, 2024, as *Public Safety Week*, recognizing all Public Safety personnel for their dedication, commitment and sacrifice to protect and serve.

3. **Proclamation:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Month

Receiving: Erin D. Griffin, Regional Program Manager

The proclamation was deferred on the Mayor's Agenda.

4. **Proclamation:** Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Receiving: Kathleen McRae

Councilor Chambers read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 2024, as *Childhood Cancer Awareness Month*, recognizing Alexis Jane McRae for using her personal battle with cancer to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer research.

5. **Proclamation:** Hispanic Heritage Month

Receiving: Natalie Bouyett, Community Reinvestment

Councilor Huff read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 15 - October 15, 2024, as *Hispanic Heritage Month*, recognizing the Tri-City Latino Association and supporting the mission of bringing awareness and education to the Tri-City area by celebrating the diversity within the Latino cultures throughout the community.

6. **Proclamation:** Constitution Week

Receiving: Julie Hobbs, Daughters of the American Revolution

Councilor Crabb read the proclamation into the record proclaiming September 17 - 23, 2024, as *Constitution Week*, recognizing the Daughters of the American Revolution in celebrating the United States Constitution, which stands as a testament to the tenacity of Americans throughout history to maintain liberty, freedom and inalienable rights.

PRESENTATION:

7. Board of Assessors Update

Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse approached the rostrum to provide an update on House Bill 581, which is known as the "Save Our Homes Act". Chief Appraiser Widenhouse provided an outline, which highlighted the changes to notices of assessment, the floating homestead and the

passage of HR 1022. She also discussed the pros and cons of opting out of the homestead exemption in House Bill 581.

NOTE: Councilor Tucker arrived at 9:34 a.m.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CHIEF APPRAISER WIDENHOUSE:

- A request was made to receive a list of all properties that are homesteaded and have a tax bill less than \$1,000 because of the freeze. (*Request of Councilor Crabb*)

FOR THE MAYOR:

- A request was made to set up a meeting with the School District to see what they are planning to do and how it would affect what the Council is planning to do. (*Request of Councilor Thomas*)

NOTE: Councilor Davis arrived at 10:13 a.m.

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **2nd Reading-** REZN-05-24-0918: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **1953 7th Avenue** (parcel # 016-025-001) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with Conditions. (Planning Department Recommends Approval with conditions. PAC recommends denial.) (as amended by substitute 9-10-24) (Councilor Cogle). Councilor Thomas made a motion to withdraw the ordinance at the request of the applicant, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
2. **1st Reading-** REZN-07-24-1562: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5710 Warm Springs Road** (parcel # 101-031-003) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval) (Mayor Pro-Tem) (**Public Hearing Held**)
3. **1st Reading-** An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:
 - 1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELIN AVE LLC, Owner)
 - 2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)
 - 3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)
 - 4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)
 - 5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)
 - 6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)
 - 7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)
 - 8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (Mayor Pro-Tem) **(Public Hearing Held)**

4. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending the procurement ordinance, Section 2-3.03 of the Columbus Code, to revise procurement purchasing limits; and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker) **(Public Hearing Held)**

Councilor Toyia Tucker stated that there were some questions and concerns among the Council regarding the proposed ordinance. She said the two main concerns discussed were raising the purchase threshold and addressing the purchasing authority. She said another issue that was discussed was increasing the spending limit on the purchasing card.

Finance Director Angelica Alexander came forward to address Council's concerns regarding thresholds and purchase authority, clarifying that the City does not issue black cards or have unlimited credit at the bank. She said although she fully supports adjusting the spending limits, she does not recommend raising the purchase card limit to such a high amount. She cautioned against significantly raising the purchase card limit, as this could lead to exceeding the overall purchase limit.

Deputy Chief Daniel Hord came forward to provide some examples of the challenges that the department has faced when trying to make purchases with the current restraints. He also explained how the proposed ordinance would benefit the Fire & EMS Department.

After several minutes of discussion regarding this item, Councilor Cogle made a motion to amend the ordinance to remove \$2,500 for small purchases and replace with \$5,000 and for Competitive quotation purchases amend by removing \$2,501 and replace with \$5,001 to \$25,000, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried by a vote of seven to one with Councilors Chambers, Cogle, Crabb, Davis, Huff, Thomas and Tucker voting yes and Mayor Pro Tem Allen voting no, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

5. **1st Reading-** An ordinance amending Section 2-298(b) of the Columbus Code to allow members of the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board to serve on more than one Council appointed board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Thomas) **(Public Hearing Held)**

RESOLUTIONS

6. **Resolution (345-24):** A resolution authorizing execution of Federal Aviation Administration Grant Airport Improvement Program (AIP) runway improvement. GRANT NO. 3-13-0035-062-2024 (Request of Columbus Airport Commission). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
7. **Resolution (346-24):** A resolution authorizing execution of Federal Aviation Administration Grant Airport Improvement Program (AIP) equipment. GRANT NO. 3-13-0035-061-2024 (Request of Columbus Airport Commission). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
8. **Resolution (347-24):** A resolution approving a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Columbus Fire and EMS Department and the Columbus Airport Commission for the provision of emergency services. (Request of the Columbus Airport Commission). Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously

by the eight members of Council present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Rev. Lynn Meadows-White, representing The Methodist Children's Home, Re: Information on the new Foster Child Success Tax Credit.
2. Mr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Treatment of private citizens. (*Relinquished his time to speak*)
3. Rev. Johnny Flakes, III, representing IMA, Re: Ethics.
4. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, Re: Lame Duck Politicians and Term Limits.
5. Mrs. Stacy McDowell, Re: Animal control procedures.
6. Mrs. Sandy Gunnels, Re: Hiring Practices at CCG.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

Councilor Crabb made a motion to call up the Columbus Animal Control & Care Center Update as the next order of business, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent for the vote.

- C. Columbus Animal Control & Care Center Update – Drale Short, Director, Public Works.
(*NOTE: This update was called up as the next order of business as listed on the City Manager's Agenda Item 12 "C"*)

Public Works Director Drale Short came forward to provide an update on the processes that have been taken to address the challenges of the Animal Control and Care Center such as hiring a veterinarian and securing medical assistance. She also discussed the shelter's status regarding Zoonotic diseases, compliance with the Department of Agriculture policies, the temporary closure of the shelter, as well as the closure of other shelters in Georgia counties due to the disease. Additionally, she addressed cleaning protocols, the importance of vaccinations, the status of the play area and the types of calls the shelter will handle going forward.

1. FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation – Transportation Planning Contract

Resolution (348-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Financial Assistance to carry out the FY 2025 Transportation Planning Work Activities of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS) and to amend the Multi- Governmental Fund by the amount of the contract and local match. This is an annual contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration which will require a 20% match of 84,787.30. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Huff being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

2. FY 2025 Georgia Department of Transportation – Y410 Funds - Transportation Planning Contract

Resolution (349-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for Financial Assistance to carry out the FY 2025 Y410 Planning funds for Safe & Accessible Transportation Options - (H.R. 3684 - Sect, 11206), as outlined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This funding is required to be included in the Transportation Planning Work Activities of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS). The Y410 Transportation planning funds in the amount of \$8,696.12 is requested in the form of a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded. This is a five-year annual contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration which began in FY 2023 and will conclude in FY 2027, as outlined in the IIJA. This will require the creation of a new budget by the Finance Department. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

3. TIA 1 Agreement for METRA

Resolution (350-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of a contractual agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to receive TIA 1 funds available in METRA project PI# 0011435 in the amount of \$3,500,000 or as otherwise made available in a supplemental agreement with GDOT. This agreement is drafted and proposed by GDOT. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

4. American Rescue Plan – Public Safety Project Reallocation

Resolution (351-24): A resolution authorizing the reallocation of available American Rescue Plan funding to the Fire/EMS Department for one ambulance and Fire/EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program for \$545,145.90 and Columbus Police Department IBIS coverage for \$7,297 and Columbus Police Department equipment for \$292,703. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

5. American Rescue Plan – Project Reallocation

Resolution (352-24): A resolution authorizing the reallocation of available American Rescue Plan funding to the Liberty Theatre HVAC project for \$600,000 for a total allocation of \$950k and the Trade Center HVAC project for \$350,000 for a total allocation of \$2.6 million and to authorize an additional \$600k from the General Fund Reserves for the HARP program. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

6. Inclement Weather Policy for Pools

A resolution authorizing the acceptance of the attached policy as the applicable policy for all public pools operated by the City. Councilor Cogle made a motion to delay the resolution for 30 days, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

7. Retiree Health Insurance Plan

Resolution (353-24): A resolution authorizing the renewal of the Medicare-eligible healthcare plan benefits and the United Healthcare Medicare Advantage plan. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion

to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Crabb being absent for the vote and Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

Larry Campbell of the Retirees’ Health Benefits Committee came forward on behalf of the Committee, expressing excitement for favorable federal-level changes, as well as, no health insurance premium increases. He thanked Human Resources Director Reather Hollowell and her staff for their cooperative efforts and commended the Council for what they do for the retirees and the citizens of Columbus.

8. FY2025 Exigent Vehicle Purchases

Resolution (354-24): A resolution authorizing “off the lot” vehicle purchases, due to on-going supply chain issues, for vehicles that have been approved as part of the budget for FY2025, with the exception of vehicles purchased using federal funds, that have been either directly awarded or passed through another entity to CCG. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution as amended to remove the dollar amount, seconded by Councilor Huff and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

9. Donations Accepted on Behalf of Greenpower Racing Program

Resolution (355-24): A resolution authorizing the acceptance of any and all cash and in-kind donations to the Columbus Parks and Recreation Department on behalf of the Greenpower Racing program for Fiscal Year 2025 and 2026, ending on June 30, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

10. Columbus Police Department: Donations

Resolution (356-24): A resolution authorizing the acceptance a donation of \$2,000 for sponsorship of the Columbus Police Department’s 2nd Annual Family Fun Day and other employee activities and a donation of \$100 to support the recently created Heritage Center of the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Huff made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

11. PURCHASES

- A. One (1) 2024 Ford Explorer for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (357-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2024 Ford Explorer for the Parks and Recreation Department from Wade Ford (Smyrna, GA) in the amount of \$37,895.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000183-0006. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

- B. Sixteen (16) John Deere Zero Turn Mowers for Parks and Recreation – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (358-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of sixteen (16) John Deere Zero Turn Mowers, for the Parks and Recreation Department, from Deere and Company (Carey, NC) at a unit price of \$11,102.96, and a total cost of \$177,647.36. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract #99999-001-SPD0000177-0026. Councilor Tucker made a motion to

approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

C. CISCO Smartnet Software Maintenance Renewal for Information Technology – Georgia Statewide Contract Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (359-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of Cisco SMARTnet software maintenance renewal, for the Information Technology Department, from CPAK Technology Solutions (LaGrange, GA) in the amount of \$43,160.00. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Georgia Statewide Contract # 99999-SPD-T20120501-0006. Additionally, it is requested that Council approve payment, plus associated cost increases, for future renewals of the software maintenance. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

D. Provision and Installation of Playground Equipment at Charlie Hill Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (360-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of the purchase and installation of playground equipment, at Charlie Hill Park, from Miracle Recreation-PlayPower, Inc. (Huntersville, NC) in the amount of \$123,282.40. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

E. Provision and Installation of Playground Equipment at Lakebottom Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (361-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of playground equipment, at Lakebottom Park, from Miracle Recreation-PlayPower, Inc. (Huntersville, NC) in the amount of \$483,965.29. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

F. Provision and Installation of Playground Equipment at Boxwood Park – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (362-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase and installation of playground equipment, at Boxwood Park, from Miracle Recreation-PlayPower, Inc. (Huntersville, NC) in the amount of \$117,128.14. The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Sourcewell Contract #010521-LTS. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

G. Outdoor Speakers with Accessories for the Civic Center – OMNIA Partners Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (363-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of four (4) outdoor speakers with accessories, for the Civic Center, from B & H Photo (New York City, NY) in the amount of \$6,084.98. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Omnia Partners contract #R201202. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

H. Tables and Table Truck Carts for the Civic Center – BuyBoard Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (364-24): A resolution authorizing the purchase of twenty (20) tables and two (2) table truck carts, for the Civic Center, from Worthington Direct (Dallas, TX) in the amount of \$13,043.21. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via BuyBoard contract #667-22. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

I. Additional Telescopic Seating for the Civic Center Arena Bowl – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (365-24): A resolution authorizing additional telescopic seating for the Civic Center arena bowl from Hussey Seating (North Berwick, ME) in the amount of \$20,254.32. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #091719-HSC. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

J. Provision and Installation of Outdoor Stage, Deck and Handrail for the Civic Center – OMNIA Partners Cooperative Contract Purchase

Resolution (366-24): A resolution authorizing the provision and installation of an outdoor stage, deck and handrail, for the Civic Center, from Wenger Corporation (Owatonna, MN) in the amount of \$34,294.57. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Omnia Partners contract #R191204. This purchase will be funded from the Friends of Columbus Account for the Civic Center. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

K. Repair of Bulldozer (Vehicle # 11300) for Public Works

Resolution (367-24): A resolution authorizing the payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$49,790.15, for the repair of a 2012 Caterpillar D6T XL T4 Bulldozer, Vehicle #11300. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

L. Repair of Bulldozer (Vehicle # 11554) for Public Works

Resolution (368-24): A resolution authorizing approve payment to Yancey Brothers (Fortson, GA), in the amount of \$158,056.56, for the repair of a 2016 Caterpillar D6T XL T4 Bulldozer, Vehicle #11554. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

M. Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) and Accessories for Risk Management (Annual Contract)– BuyBoard Cooperative Purchase

Resolution (369-24): A resolution authorizing an annual contract for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators (AEDS) and accessories on an as needed basis, for Risk Management, from AED Brands (Kennesaw, Ga). The purchase will be accomplished by cooperative purchase via Buyboard Contract #698-23. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded

by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

- N. On-Call Services for Installation or Replacement of Storm Sewer/Combined Sewer Systems (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 23-0035

Resolution (370-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of annual contracts with Alexander Contracting Company, Inc. (Fortson, Ga), Gordy Construction Company (Fortson, Ga), Kam, Inc. (Columbus, Ga), and Strack, Inc. (Fairburn, Ga) to install or replace elements of storm sewer/combined sewer systems on an as-needed basis. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

- O. Multi-Purpose Dog Handler Packages (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 24-0018

Resolution (371-24): A resolution authorizing the execution of an annual contract with Custom Canine Unlimited (Gainesville, Ga) to provide multi-purpose dog handler packages for the Columbus Police Department. Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

12. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- A. FY24 Budget Update Sheriff’s Office – Greg Countryman, Sheriff, Sheriff’s Office

Finance Director Angelica Alexander advised that Lt. Colonel Joe McCrea of the Sheriff’s Office is appearing before Council pursuant to Ordinance 13-39, requesting an additional appropriation of 1.2 million dollars for the Sheriff’s Office’s FY 2024 Budget for operating costs.

Councilor Tucker made a motion to approve the request for additional appropriation in the FY24 Budget for the Sheriff’s Office in the amount of 1.2 million dollars, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent for the vote

- B. Sign Ordinance Enforcement Update – Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Inspections & Code Director Ryan Pruett approached the rostrum to provide the Council with an outline of the actions that have been taken to enforce the Sign Ordinance. He also offered recommendations to improve the enforcement of the ordinance.

- C. Columbus Animal Control & Care Center Update – Drale Short, Director, Public Works
(NOTE: This item was called upon earlier in the meeting during the City Manager’s Agenda.)

BID ADVERTISEMENT

DATE: September 10, 2024

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

September 11, 2024

- 1. **Liberty Theater Re-Roofing Project – RFB No. 25-0003**

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment and materials to remove the existing roof at the Liberty Theater and install a new fully-adhered Colonial Red FiberTite KEE fleeceback roof system (or equal), in full compliance with the project manual.

September 13, 2024

1. Auditing Services (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0006
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting proposals to establish a contract for the professional services of a Certified Public Accountant for financial and compliance audits. The contract will be for five consecutive fiscal years beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, and ending with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2029, with an option to renew for five additional twelve-month periods.

September 20, 2024

1. Consulting Services for Recycling Center – RFP No. 25-0009
Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested individuals or firms to provide consulting services to perform a needs assessment/recommendation. The consultant will assist with the purchasing of equipment, technology and the writing of specifications for these and other management services pertaining to the efficient operations of the City’s Recycling Facility, to include the processing, sales, marketing of the single stream recycling materials.

2. Bullet Recovery System for the Police Department – RFP No. 25-0010
Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested parties to furnish and install one Bullet Recovery System for use in forensic firearms examinations for the Columbus Police Department.

On Hold

1. Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005
Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office, is seeking proposals for the provision of healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. The requested services consist of medical, dental, and mental health, as well as healthcare personnel. Medical services include but are not limited to x-ray, laboratory, and prescription drug services for a rated capacity of 1069 inmates.

The term of this contract will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

REFERRALS:

Referrals 9.10.24

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

1. **Resolution (369-24):** A resolution excusing Councilor Byron Hickey from the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
2. **Resolution (37-24):** - A resolution excusing Councilor R. Walker Garrett from the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting. **(Add-On)** Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
3. Travel Authorization Request for Councilor Tucker to attend the 2024 GARC Annual Conference in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Councilor Crabb made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
4. Email Correspondence from Emma Kimbrel, Board Secretary for the Community Development Advisory Council, requesting that the seats of Mr. Armando Fernandez (Mayor's Appointment) and Tamika McKenzie (Mayor's Appointment) be declared vacant due to a lack of attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the email correspondence, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
5. Email Correspondence from Jeremy Cummings resigning from his seat on the Tree Board. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the letter of resignation, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.
6. **Minutes of the following boards:**
 - Board of Tax Assessors, #29-24
 - Board of Zoning Appeals, May 1, June 5, and July 5, 2024
 - Columbus Golf Course Authority, August 20, 2024
 - Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority, June 27, 2024
 - Convention & Visitors Board of Commissioners, June 20, 2024
 - Hospital Authority of Columbus, June 25, and July 30, 2024
 - Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, April 11, 2024
 - Retirees' Health Benefits Committee, November 15, 2023, February 21, and May 15, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to receive the minutes of various boards, seconded by Councilor Crabb and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

7. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:

A nominee for the seat of S. Carson Cummings (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on October 24, 2024, on the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority (*Mayor's Appointment*). There were none.

8. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD: Ms. Karen Gaskin was nominated to fill the expired term of Ms. Channon Emery. (*Councilor Hickey's nominee*) Term expires: October 15, 2026. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilor Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

B. BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS: Mr. John Anker was nominated to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Todd Hammonds. (*Councilor Crabb's nominee*) Term expires: December 31, 2029. Councilor Crabb made a motion for confirmation, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members of Council present, with Councilor Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

9. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

A nominee for the seat of Sabine Stull (*Not Eligible to succeed*) for a term expiring on April 11, 2024, as the Animal Rescue Representative on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

A nominee for the seat of Nancy Anderson (*Resigned*) for a term expiring on October 15, 2025, on the Animal Control Advisory Board (*Council's Appointment*). There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Henderson entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel and real estate acquisition or disposal as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:34 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 4:47 p.m., at which time, Mayor Henderson announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation, personnel and real estate acquisition or disposal; however, there were no votes taken.

COMPLIANCE UPDATE:

Councilor Davis made a motion to authorize a compliance update with the Accounting Firm Acuitas, Inc. to follow up on the progress made in the Business License Revenue Collection Division, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

ADD-ON RESOLUTION:

Resolution (374-24): A resolution authorizing payment of \$25,000.00 to Janathaen Strum and/or his attorney to settle all claims, including attorney’s fees in exchange for a full release. The City Manager, City Attorney and Finance Director or their representatives are authorized to execute all appropriate settlement documents to this effect. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Henderson entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Tucker to adjourn the September 10, 2024 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Allen and carried unanimously by the eight members present, with Councilors Garrett and Hickey being absent from the meeting, with the time being 4:48 p.m.

Sandra T. Davis, CMC
Clerk of Council
Council of Columbus, Georgia

File Attachments for Item:

8. Underserved and Inmate Healthcare Program Update (Presented by Bob Paskowski, Principal, PYA, P.C. and Jane Jerzack, Principal, PYA, P.C.)



Community Care Program Project Overview

Prepared for **Columbus Consolidated Government**

September 24, 2024

Presented by:

Bob Paskowski, CPA – Healthcare Consulting Principal
Jane Jerzak, RN, CPA – Healthcare Consulting Principal

Introductions



Bob Paskowski, CPA
Principal

With nearly four decades of experience, Bob has extensive healthcare expertise in payer strategy, operations, finance, reimbursement, and data analytics.

He has senior-level experience with national and regional managed care organizations (MCOs) and integrated health systems.

Bob has a proven record of accomplishments in financial performance, business growth, and operational excellence. He specializes in building and reviewing payer and provider relationships under various arrangements.

Introductions



Jane Jerzak, RN, CPA
Principal

Jane brings three decades of audit and consulting experience to her work with PYA healthcare clients in the areas of financial modeling, clinical data analytics, and strategic advisory support.

Along with the PYA Business Intelligence and Managed Care service lines, she assists health systems, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, and physician clinics to recognize appropriate reimbursement.

Jane is a recognized thought leader and has authored articles on a wide range of topics, including value-based care, strategic hospital analytics and pricing, clinical integration, population health, and more.

Agenda

1. Background – PYA and Project



Project Approach and Workstream Structure



Estimated Timeline and Project Milestones



Q & A

Background – About PYA

Founded in 1983, PYA is a national accounting and healthcare advisory firm providing consulting, audit, and tax services to clients in all 50 states.



OFFICE LOCATIONS

Atlanta
Charlotte
Kansas City
Knoxville
Nashville
Tampa



STRATEGIC & TRANSACTION SOLUTIONS



COMPLIANCE ADVISORY



COMPENSATION VALUATION & PHYSICIAN SERVICES



LITIGATION SUPPORT



TAX COMPLIANCE & PLANNING



AUDIT & ASSURANCE



Background – PYA by the Numbers



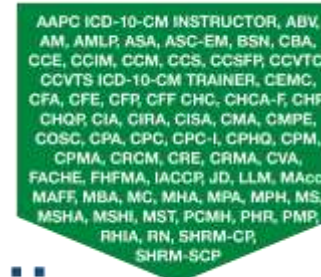
40% FEMALE OWNERSHIP

Over 2x the average of similarly sized firms

- Inside Public Accounting



IN AN INDUSTRY DRIVEN BY CREDENTIALS, OUR TALENTED TEAMS HAVE THE ALPHABET COVERED...



MORE THAN 3400 HEALTHCARE CLIENTS

Academic Medical Centers | Accountable Care Organizations
 Ambulatory Surgery Centers | Blood Centers | Clinically Integrated Networks | County Owned Hospitals | Critical Access Hospitals
 Diagnostic Centers | Dialysis Centers | Health Plans | Health Systems | Home Health Agencies | Hospices | Hospitals
 Independent Practice Associations | Maternity Centers | Medical Groups | Mental Health Centers | Nursing Homes
 Physician-Hospital Organizations | Physician Practices | Physical Therapy Centers | Psychiatric Hospitals | Rural Health Centers
 Safety Net Hospitals | Surgery Centers | Urgent Care Centers

"One of the Most Successful Firms in the Country"

- Accounting Today

Background – Project


Program Objectives:

1. **Identify** a fair, diverse, and inclusive group of **healthcare organizations** located in or near the City of Columbus (the City) **to serve as a network of providers (the Network)** for the provision of medical services
2. **Assess the impact of providing care** to the Target Populations on local hospitals, health providers, and other key stakeholders
3. Recommend a **methodology** for the City to use **for selecting providers to participate in the Network**
4. Development of a contemporary **reimbursement payment model** to appropriately distribute funding to the Network
5. Recommend **tracking mechanisms** and key performance indicators (KPIs) to evaluate the **effectiveness of the Program**
6. Assess the need for establishing **actuarial reserves** for the fund to be maintained year to year


Key Terms:

- Target Population:** Underserved and inmate populations
- Medical Services:** Includes (but not limited to the following) limited acute inpatient care, outpatient care, x-ray, laboratory, primary medical care, and mental/behavioral health services.
- Funding:** A community health care fund established to provide additional funding for the Target Population medical and mental/behavioral health needs.
- Program:** A fair, inclusive, and equitable plan to pay local providers for medical or mental health services related to serving the Target Populations.
- Provider:** An organization that provides some type of medical or mental health services to patients.
- Third Party Administrator (TPA):** A separate entity that performs administrative services for a health plan, which may include billing, claims processing, record keeping, and regulatory oversight on paying providers for medical services.

Project Approach and Workstream Structure







Columbus Consolidated Government
City Council

Office of the City Manager
Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager of Planning



PYA Project Management Office (PMO)
Lee Ann Odom, Emily Wetsel, Colleen Merrill

 <p>Provider Network Development</p> <p><i>PYA: Brian Fuller, Lee Ann Odom</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Objective 1</u>: Identify the Network • <u>Objective 2</u>: Assess impact of providing care on providers and services • <u>Objective 3</u>: Recommend methodology for provider selection 	 <p>Contracting & Reimbursement Models</p> <p><i>PYA: Bob Paskowski, Jane Jerzak</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Objective 4</u>: Develop contemporary reimbursement payment model for funding the Network 	 <p>Measuring Program Effectiveness</p> <p><i>PYA: Lee Ann Odom, Jason Hardin</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Objective 5</u>: Recommend tracking mechanisms and KPIs for Program effectiveness 	 <p>Minimum Actuarial Reserves</p> <p><i>PYA: Bob Paskowski</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Objective 6</u>: Assess need for establishing Actuarial reserves for fund maintenance
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Estimated Timeline and Project Milestones

Workstream	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025	April 2025	May 2025	June 2025
Provider Network Development	Interviews with key stakeholders completed by 10/31/24								
	Draft of objective criteria for selection of network providers completed by 10/31/24								
	Draft list of recommended network providers completed by 12/31/24								
Contracting & Reimbursement Models	Draft of reimbursement methodology completed by 12/31/24								
	Draft of contracting guidelines with key providers completed by 1/31/2025								
Measuring Program Effectiveness	Share draft of key performance indicators with the City completed by 11/30/24								
	Share the program's key performance indicators tracking tool with the City completed by 12/31/24								
Minimum Actuarial Reserves	Determine requirements to establish a claims reserve fund completed by 11/30/24								
	Draft policy to outline the management of the claims reserve fund completed by 1/31/2025								
Program Implementation	The City will be leading the Implementation Phase of putting the Program in place. April – June 2025								

Q & A



Thank you!

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Bob Paskowski, CPA
Principal
bpaskowski@pyapc.com



Jane Jerzak, RN, CPA
Principal
jjerzak@pyapc.com



pyapc.com
800.270.9629

ATLANTA | CHARLOTTE | KANSAS CITY | KNOXVILLE | NASHVILLE | TAMPA

File Attachments for Item:

1. 2nd Reading- REZN-07-24-1562: An ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5710 Warm Springs Road** (parcel # 101-031-003) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend conditional approval) (Mayor Pro-Tem)

AN ORDINANCE

NO. _____

An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5710 Warm Springs Road** (parcel # 101-031-003) from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

The Zoning Atlas on file with the Planning Department is hereby amended by changing the property described below from Neighborhood Commercial (NC) Zoning District to General Commercial (GC) Zoning District with conditions.

“All that tract and parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 30 of the 9th District, Muscogee County, Georgia, being known and designated as PARCEL - 1D 2.06 ACRES, as said parcel is shown upon a map or plat entitled "Replat of Parcel" 1B" Lying in Land Lot 30,9th District, Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia "prepared by EMC Engineering Services, Inc., dated June 5, 2015, a copy of which is recorded in Plat Book 164, page 342, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia, to which reference is made for a more specific location and dimensions of said parcel.”

Section 2.

The above-described property is being rezoned with the following conditions:

- 1) No gasoline sales/pumps shall be permitted, and
- 2) The tree buffer along the northeastern property line shall not be removed.

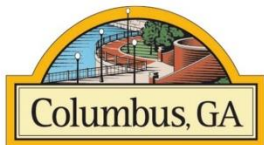
Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 10th day of September, 2024; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____

Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Thomas	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Sandra T Davis
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor



CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
What progress has preserved.
 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

REZN-07-24-1562

Applicant:	Jefcoat Real Estate Services, LLC
Owner:	Warm Springs Road Realty Investments
Location:	5710 Warm Springs Road
Parcel:	101-031-003
Acreage:	2.09 Acres
Current Zoning Classification:	Neighborhood Commercial
Proposed Zoning Classification:	General Commercial
Current Use of Property:	Vacant
Proposed Use of Property:	Multi-Tenant Retail, Office Space
Council District:	District 6 (Allen)
PAC Recommendation:	Conditional approval based on the Staff Report and compatibility with existing land uses. The recommended conditions are: 1) no gasoline sales/pumps shall be permitted, and 2) the tree buffer along the northeastern property shall not be removed.
Planning Department Recommendation:	Conditional approval based on compatibility with existing land uses. The Planning Department concurs with the recommendations of the Planning Advisory Commission.
Fort Benning's Recommendation:	N/A
DRI Recommendation:	N/A

General Land Use: Inconsistent
Planning Area B

Current Land Use Designation: Vacant/ Undeveloped

Future Land Use Designation: Single Family Residential

Compatible with Existing Land-Uses: Yes

Environmental Impacts: The property does not lie within the floodway and floodplain area. The developer will need an approved drainage plan prior to issuance of a Site Development permit, if a permit is required.

City Services: Property is served by all city services.

Traffic Impact: Average Annual Daily Trips (AADT) will increase by 39 trips if used for commercial use.

Traffic Engineering: This site shall meet the Codes and regulations of the Columbus Consolidated Government for commercial usage.

Surrounding Zoning:

North	General Commercial (GC)
South	General Commercial (GC)
East	Single Family Residential – 3 (SFR3)
West	Neighborhood Commercial (NC)

Reasonableness of Request: The request is compatible with existing land uses.

School Impact: N/A

Buffer Requirement: N/A

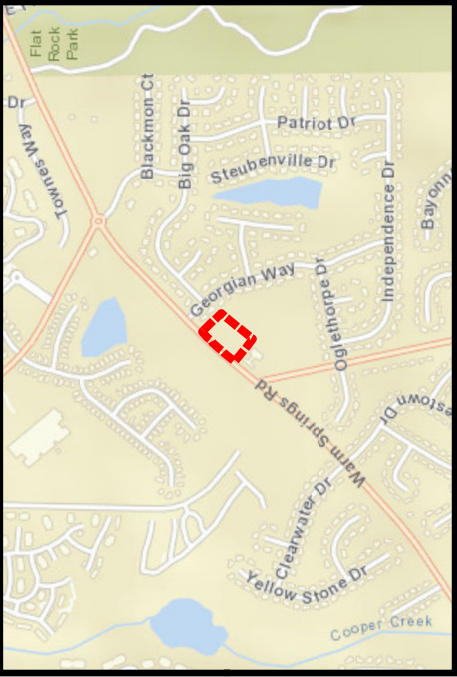
Attitude of Property Owners: **Twenty (20)** property owners within 300 feet of the subject properties were notified of the rezoning request. The Planning Department received one call regarding the rezoning.

Approval	0 Responses
Opposition	0 Responses

Additional Information: N/A

Attachments: Aerial Land Use Map
Location Map
Zoning Map

Existing Land Use Map
Future Land Use Map
Flood Map
Traffic Report
Site Plan



Item #1.



150 Feet
1 inch = 150 feet

Data Source: IT/GIS
Author: DavidCooper

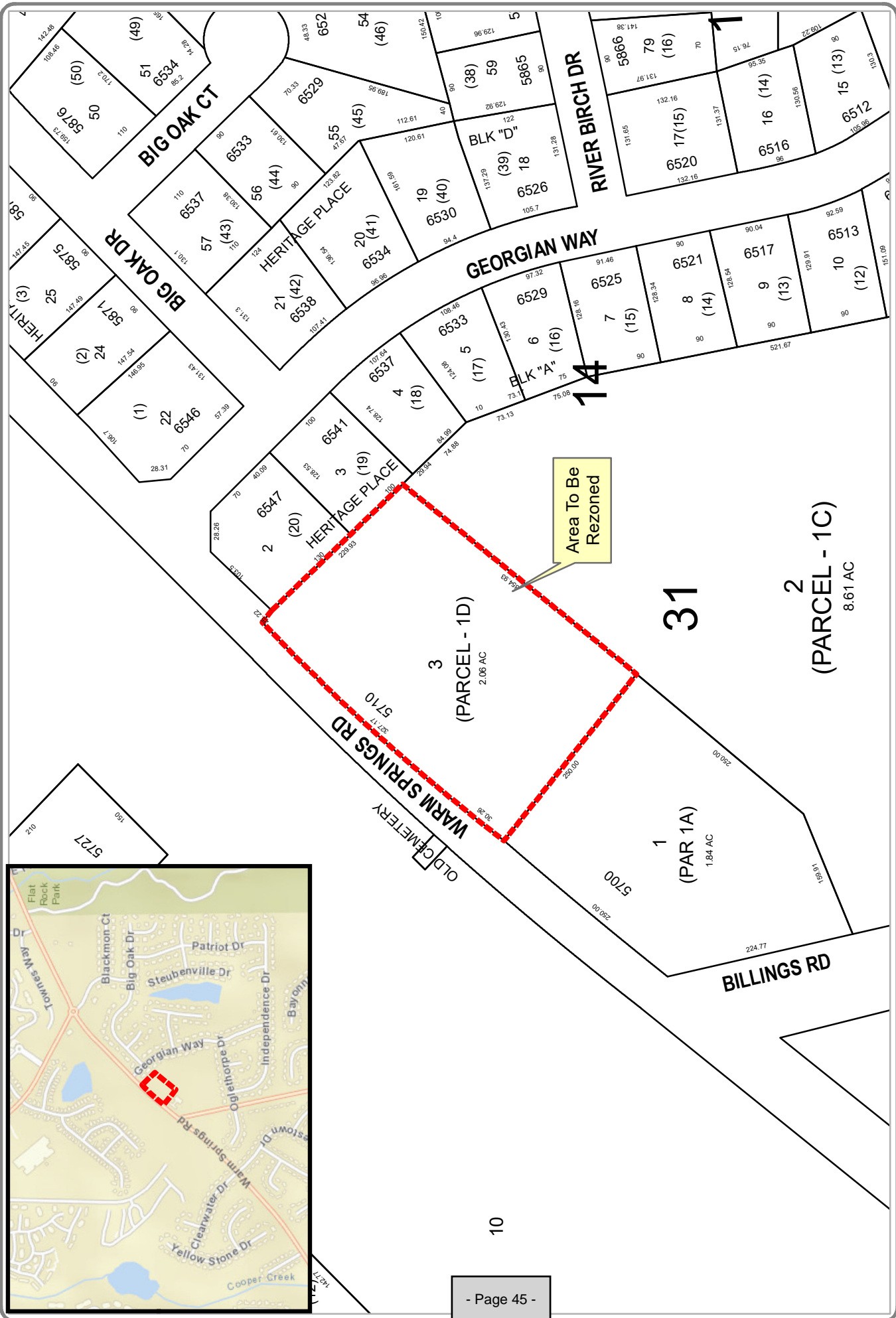
Aerial Map for REZN 06-24-1562
Map 101 Block 031 Lot 003

Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

This material is made available as a public service.
Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only.
The data contained is subject to constant change.
Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.



Date: 7/22/2024



Item #1.



150 Feet
0 75 150
1 inch = 150 feet
Data Source: IT/GIS
Author: DavidCooper

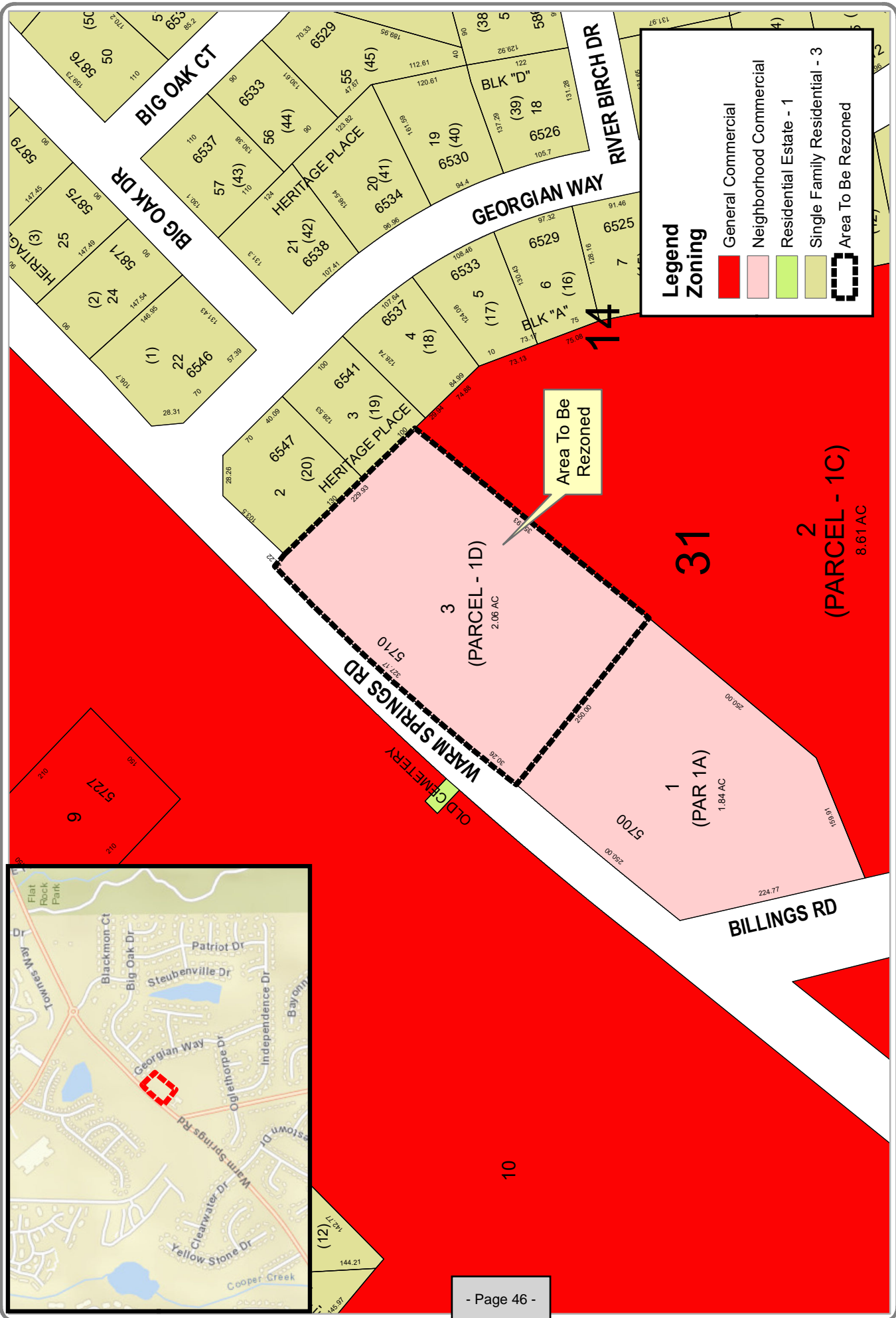
Location Map for REZN 06-24-1562
Map 101 Block 031 Lot 003

Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.



Date: 7/22/2024



Item #1.



1 inch = 150 feet

Data Source: IT/GIS
Author: DavidCooper

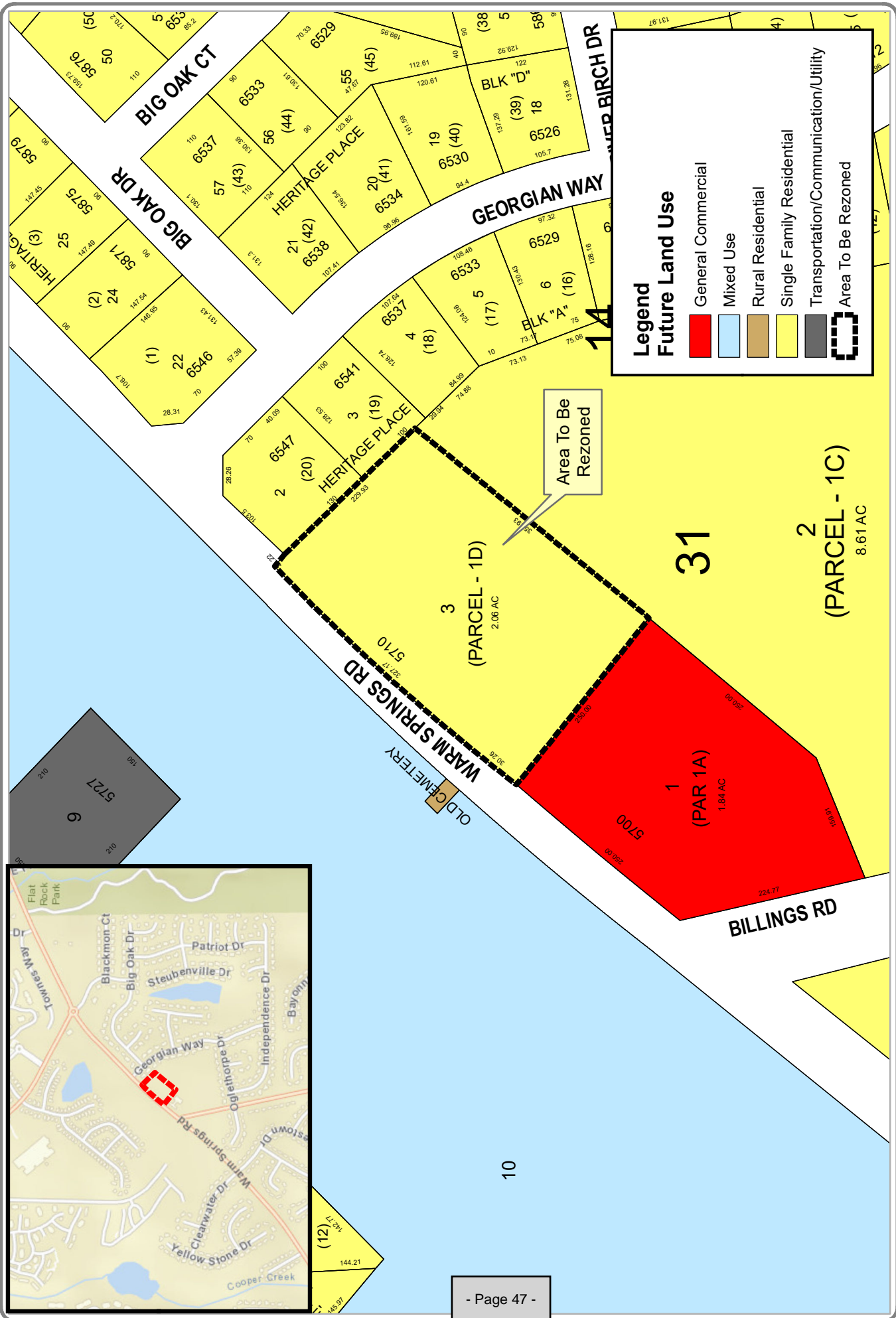
Zoning Map for REZN 06-24-1562
Map 101 Block 031 Lot 003

Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.



Date: 7/23/2024



Legend
Future Land Use

- General Commercial
- Mixed Use
- Rural Residential
- Single Family Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utility
- Area To Be Rezoned



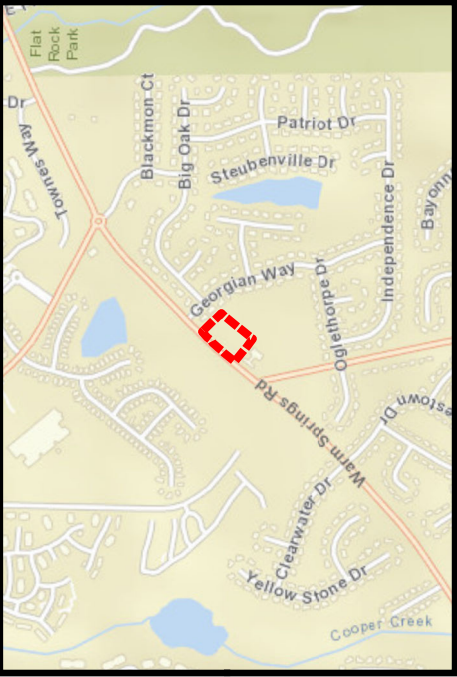
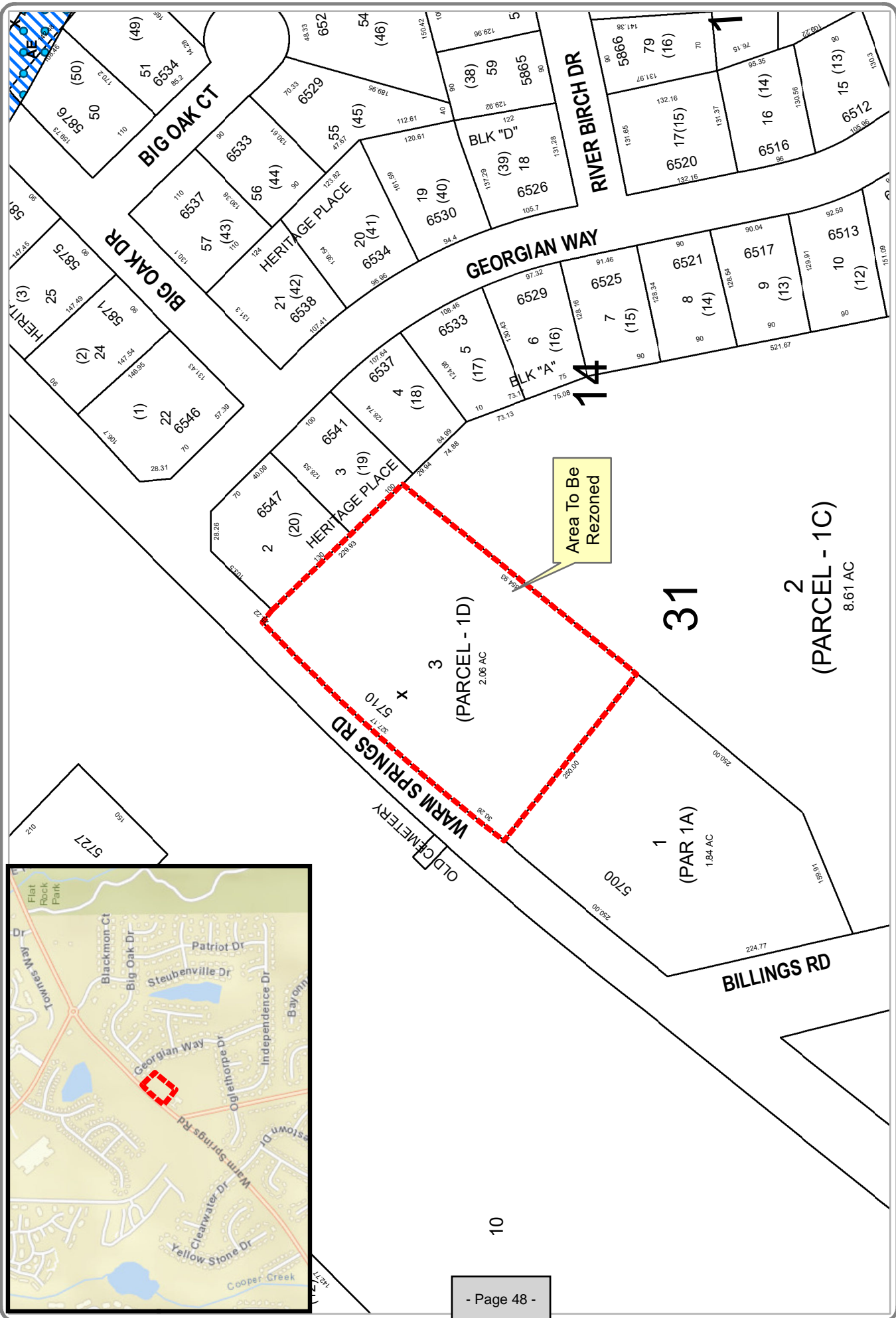
Item #1.
150 Feet
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0
1 inch = 150 feet
Data Source: IT/GIS
Author: DavidCooper

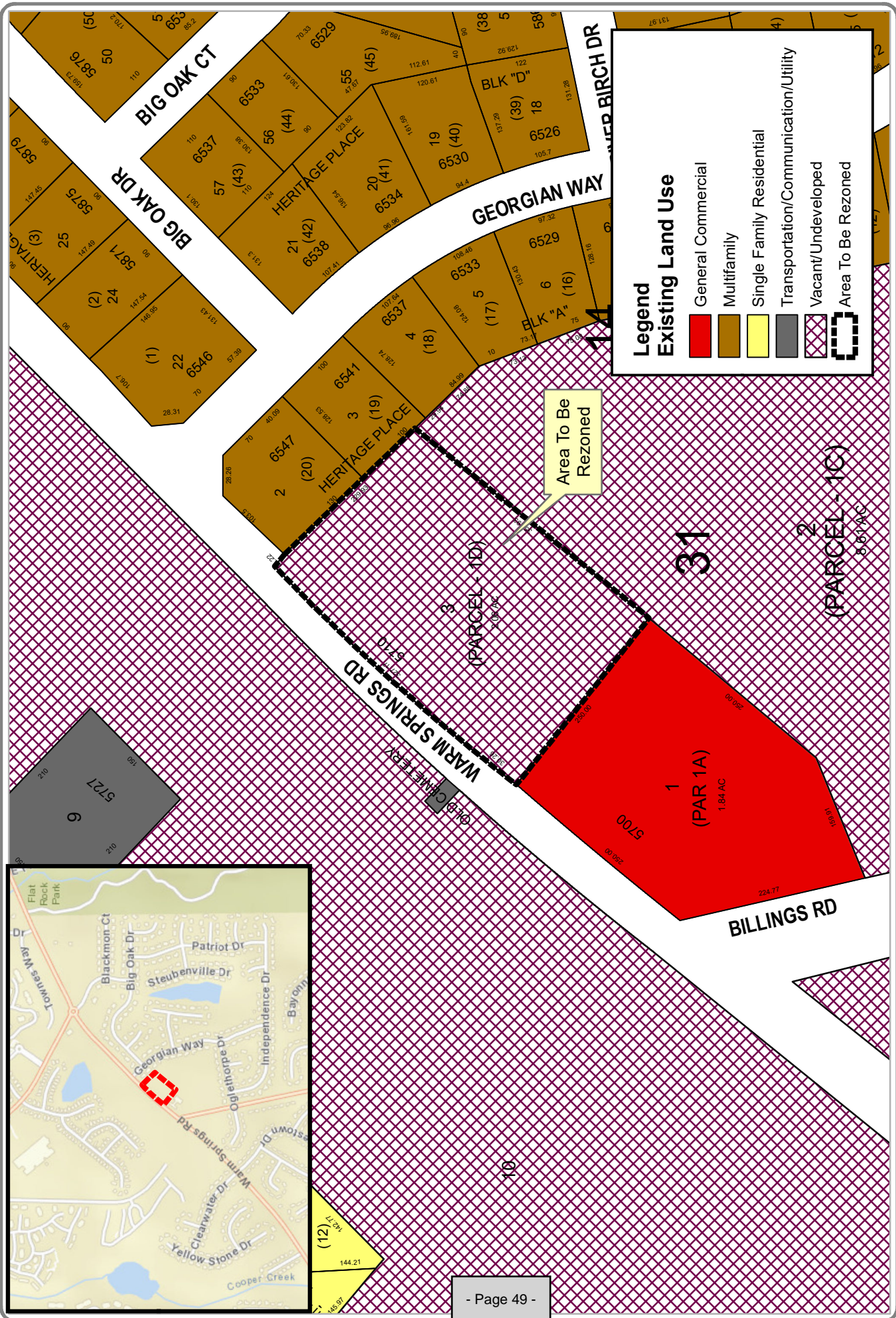
Future Land Use Map for REZN 06-24-1562
Map 101 Block 031 Lot 003
Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.



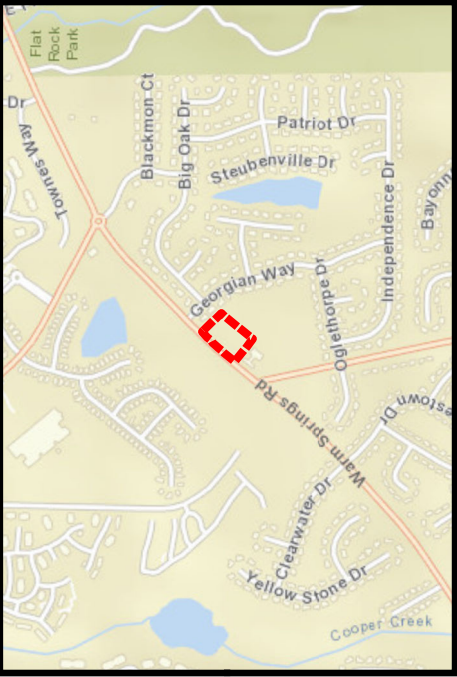
Date: 7/23/2024





Legend
Existing Land Use

- General Commercial
- Multifamily
- Single Family Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utility
- Vacant/Undeveloped
- Area To Be Rezoned



Item #1.

150 Feet
 75
 0
 1 inch = 150 feet
 Data Source: IT/GIS
 Author: DavidCooper

Existing Land Use Map for REZN 06-24-1562
 Map 101 Block 031 Lot 003
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.

Date: 7/23/2024

REZONING TRAFFIC ANALYSIS FORM

ZONING CASE NO. REZN 07-24-1562
PROJECT 5710 Warm Springs Road
CLIENT
REZONING REQUEST NC to GC

LAND USE

Trip Generation Land Use Code* 822, 715, 710
 Existing Land Use Neighborhood Commercial (NC)
 Proposed Land Use General Commercial - (GC)
 Existing Trip Rate Unit NC - Acreage converted to square footage.
 Proposed Trip Rate Unit GC - Square footage of suites

TRIP END CALCULATION *

Land Use	ITE Code	Zone Code	Quantity	Trip Rate	Total Trips
Daily (Existing Zoning)					
Single Tenant Office Building	715	NC	2.06 Acres	13.07	293
Total					293
Daily (Proposed Zoning)					
Strip Retail	822	GC	9600 Sq. Ft.		263
General Office	710	GC	6400 Sq. Ft.	10.84	69
Total					332

Includes AM, PM Peak & Saturday
Weekday

*Note: * Denotes calculation are based on Trip Generation, 8th Edition by Institute of Transportation Engineers*

TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS

EXISTING ZONING (RMF1 & NC)

Name of Street	Warm Springs Road
Street Classification	Undivided Arterial
No. of Lanes	2
City Traffic Count (2023)	5,000
Existing Level of Service (LOS)**	B
Additional Traffic due to Existing Zoning	293
Total Projected Traffic (2024)	5,293
Projected Level of Service (LOS)**	B

PROPOSED ZONING (GC)

Name of Street	Warm Springs Road
Street Classification	Undivided Arterial
No. of Lanes	2
City Traffic Count (2023)	5,000
Existing Level of Service (LOS)**	B
Additional Traffic due to Proposed	332
Total Projected Traffic (2024)	5,332
Projected Level of Service (LOS)**	B

*Note: ** Denotes Level of Service Based on National Standards for Different Facility Type (TABLE 1- General Highway Capacities by Facility Type)*

File Attachments for Item:

2. 2nd Reading- An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

- 1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELINE AVE LLC, Owner)2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet. (Mayor Pro-Tem)

AN ORDINANCE

NO.

An ordinance providing for the demolition of various structures located at:

- 1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELINE AVE LLC, Owner)
- 2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)
- 3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)
- 4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)
- 5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)
- 6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)
- 7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)
- 8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)

and for demolition services for the Inspections and Code Department in accordance with the attached Tabulation of Bid sheet.

WHEREAS, Section 8-81 through 8-90 of the Columbus Code specifies the procedure and requirements for removal of buildings unsafe or unfit for human habitation;

WHEREAS, these provisions and requirements have been and are fully complied with on the property listed below;

WHEREAS, administrative implementation instructions pertaining to this Ordinance are on file in the Finance Department, Accounting Division, the Inspections and Code Department, the Clerk of Council's Office, and the City Manager's Office;

WHEREAS, W.T. Miller is the contractor for the demolition of all structures located at:

- 1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELINE AVE LLC, Owner)
- 2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)
- 3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)
- 4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)
- 5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)
- 6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)
- 7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)
- 8) 245 Rober E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)

in the total amount of **\$123,403.63** for demolition services; and

WHEREAS, funds are budgeted in the FY25 Budget, Community Development Block Grant-Neighborhood Redevelopment-Site Improvements. (Demolitions u
 Community Development Block
 - Page 54 -
 grom (CDBG) and the General

Fund (0101-240-2200-6381).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1.

After adoption and approval of this Ordinance and compliance with such required procedures, including the notices and hearing set forth, the demolition of the structures listed above, and for total costs listed above, in accordance with Sections 8-81 through 8-90 of the Columbus Code, is hereby authorized.

SECTION 2.

After validation by signature of duly appointed officials, the City's Chief Accountant shall cause the assessments to be entered in the Demolition Lien Book located in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court.

SECTION 3.

A copy of this Ordinance shall be mailed to each property owner immediately after entry with a noted date, page, and line number of the Demolition Lien Book.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 10th day of September, 2024; introduced a secondtime at a regular meeting of said council held on the 24th day of September 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation vote of members of Council.

Councilor Allen	voting	_____
Councilor Chambers	voting	_____
Councilor Cogle	voting	_____
Councilor Crabb	voting	_____
Councilor Davis	voting	_____
Councilor Garrett	voting	_____
Councilor Hickey	voting	_____
Councilor Huff	voting	_____
Councilor Thomas	voting	_____
Councilor Tucker	voting	_____

Sandra T. Davis
Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor

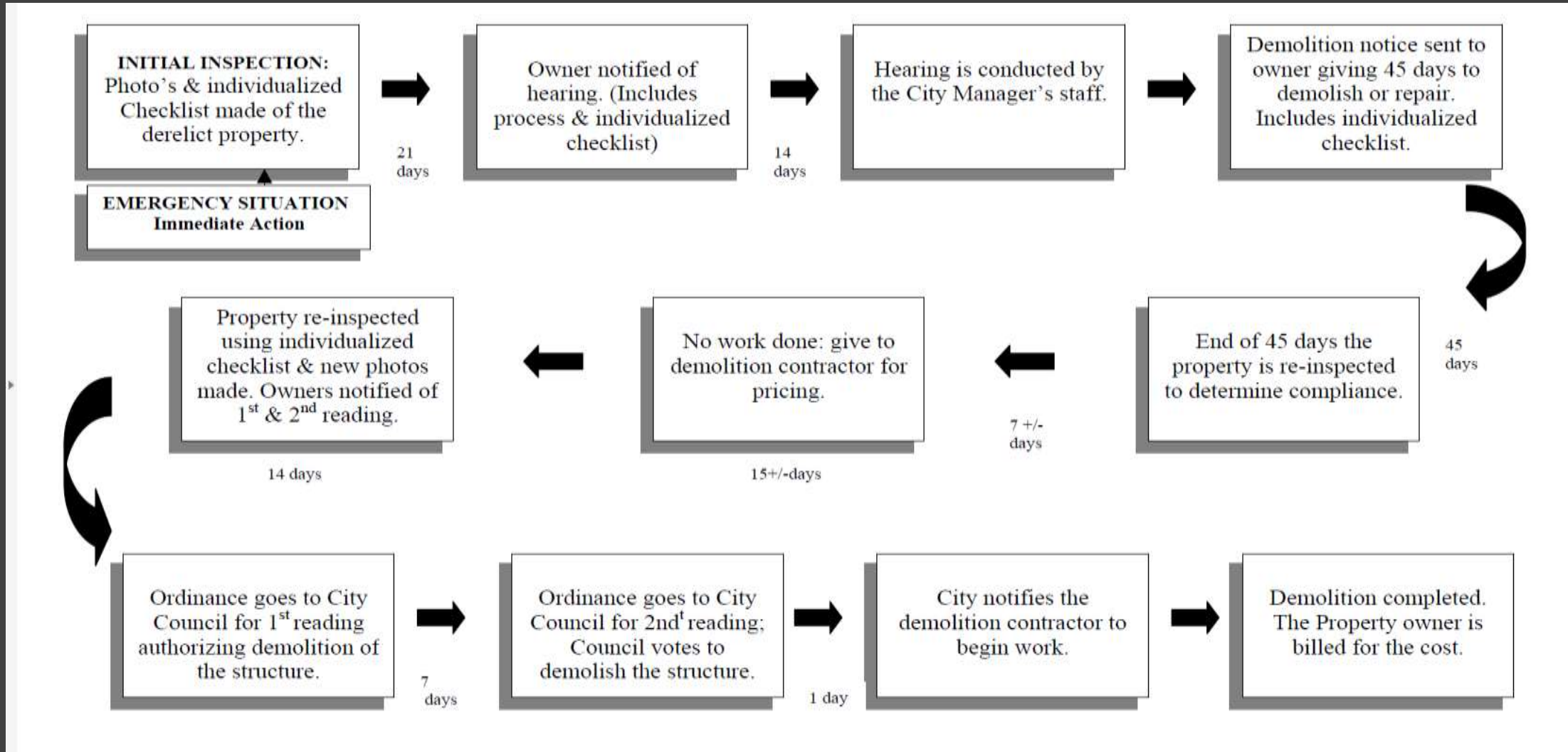
September 2024 Demolition Bid Tabulation Sheet	
Property	Demolition Amount
1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELINE AVE LLC, Owner)	\$23,627.00
2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)	\$12,853.56
3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)	\$12,499.48
4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)	\$15,297.91
5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)	\$11,369.40
6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)	\$24,757.04
7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)	\$11,971.04
8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)	\$11,028.20
TOTAL	\$123,403.63



INSPECTIONS & CODE DEPARTMENT

Demolition Properties

Demolition Process



April 2024 Approved Demolitions

Property	Status
1) 1655 Elvan Avenue (Murtuza Ali Khan, Owner)	Property Owner rehabilitated property
2) 2545 Pye Avenue (Clark Property Management LLC, Owner)	Demolition Complete
3) 32 Woodland Circle (Edna Anderson, Owner)	Demolition Complete
4) 2903 10th Avenue (Dustin Cooper, Owner)	Ownership Changed
5) 2409 Heard Street (Estate of Catherine Greene, Owner)	Demolition Complete

Tabulation Bid Sheet – WT Miller September 2024

Proposed
Properties to
be Demolished

September 2024 Demolition Bid Tabulation Sheet	
Property	Demolition Amount
1) 1119 37th Street (168 ADELIN AVE LLC, Owner)	\$23,627.00
2) 1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)	\$12,853.56
3) 2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)	\$12,499.48
4) 2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)	\$15,297.91
5) 4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)	\$11,369.40
6) 4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)	\$24,757.04
7) 4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)	\$11,971.04
8) 245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)	\$11,028.20
TOTAL	\$123,403.63

1119 37th Street (168 ADELIN AVE LLC, Owner)



1821 St. Elmo Drive (AMY M OURSO & ROBERT BRADFORD BICKERSTAFF II, Owner)

Item #2.



2734 Mimosa Street (WILLIE J. PASSMORE, Owner)



2935 Schaul Street (GLEN E. HEINZELMAN, Owner)



4207 Bellamy Street (GREEN PRIOR LEWIS, JR., Owner)



4245 Meritas Drive (JERAQUIS CHANEY, Owner)



4703 Connor Road (YAUNITA ARRINGTON, Owner)



245 Robert E. Lee Drive (CORTEZ TAYLOR, JR., Owner)





INSPECTIONS & CODE DEPARTMENT

Questions?

2409 Heard Street (Estate of Catherine Greene, Owner)



File Attachments for Item:

3. 2nd Reading- An ordinance amending the procurement ordinance, Section 2-3.03 of the Columbus Code, to revise procurement purchasing limits; and for other purposes. (as amended) (Councilor Tucker)

AN ORDINANCE
NO.

An Ordinance amending the procurement ordinance, Section 2-3.03 of the Columbus Code, to revise procurement purchasing limits; and for other purposes.

SECTION 1.

Section 2-3.03 of the Columbus Code is hereby amended by making the revisions shown on the attached Exhibit A. The purpose of the amendment is to establish the following purchasing limits attached as Exhibit B.

SECTION 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 10th day of September, 2024; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Councilor Allen | voting _____ |
| Councilor Chambers | voting _____ |
| Councilor Cogle | voting _____ |
| Councilor Crabb | voting _____ |
| Councilor Davis | voting _____ |
| Councilor Garrett | voting _____ |
| Councilor Hickey | voting _____ |
| Councilor Huff | voting _____ |
| Councilor Thomas | voting _____ |
| Councilor Tucker | voting _____ |

Sandra T Davis
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor

Sec. 2-3.03. Procurement ordinance.

There is hereby adopted an ordinance entitled "Procurement Ordinance for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia," which is set out below.

(Ord. No. 85-23, 3-5-85; Ord. No. 20-053, 11-17-20)

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Part A: Purpose and Application

1-101.Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for fair and equitable treatment of all persons involved in public purchasing by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia ("the city"); to maximize the purchasing value of public funds in procurement; and to provide safeguards for maintaining a procurement system of quality and integrity.

1-102.Application. This ordinance applies to all purchases and contracts for the procurement of equipment, supplies, services and construction entered into by the city. It shall apply to every expenditure of public funds for public purchasing irrespective of the source of the funds.

Any department, office or agency receiving appropriations from council shall adhere to these purchasing policies, unless exempted by council action.

Exemption: The following agencies or funding sources are exempt from these procurement policies: The Land Bank Authority, The Columbus, Georgia Golf Authority (whether doing business as Bull Creek Golf Course or Oxbow Creek Golf Course), Special Operations Federal Forfeiture Fund Task, Police Forfeiture Fund, Sheriff Forfeiture Fund, and Columbus, Georgia Convention and Trade Center.

When the procurement involves the expenditure of federal assistance or contract funds, the procurement shall be conducted in accordance with any mandatory applicable federal law and regulations. Nothing in this ordinance shall prevent any public agency from complying with the terms and conditions of any grant, gift, or bequest that is otherwise consistent with the law.

Part B: Definitions

1-201.Definitions. The terms, phrases, words and their derivations set forth below shall have the meaning given herein. Words not defined herein or within the Official Code of Georgia Annotated shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage. Words used in the singular shall include the plural, and the plural the singular; words used in the present tense shall include the future tense.

- (1) **Annual contract.** Any contract entered into for a period of one year or multiple one-year periods (including options to renew for additional one year periods), with a vendor or contractor, to provide Columbus Consolidated Government, upon request, with a specified product or service, such as uniforms, concrete, architectural services, at a predetermined or negotiated rate or cost.
- (2) **Architectural/engineering and land surveying services.** Those professional services within the scope of the practice of architecture, professional engineering, or land surveying, as defined by the laws of the State of Georgia.
- (3) **Award.** When the city council has authorized the award of a contract and approved the execution of the contract by the city manager or such other person as may be designated by the mayor and approved by council in accordance with Section 7-500 of the Charter. However no liability shall attach nor shall the contract be considered binding unless it has been duly executed by the contractor and returned with all required submittals including insurance and bonding, if applicable, executed by the city manager, or such other person as council may designate, attested to by the clerk, and approved by city attorney as to form.

- (4) **Bid.** An offer submitted in response to a request for bid issued by Columbus Consolidated Government, which can become a contract upon acceptance by the government.
- (5) **Bid bond.** A written agreement or check by which a third party guarantees that a bidder will accept a contract as bid, if it is awarded.
- (6) **Bid opening.** The public opening of bids which are recorded and made available for public inspection.
- (7) **Bidder (or offeror).** A person, company or firm who make a bid (or offer) to provide the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, or a using agency thereof, with supplies, services, or construction.
- (8) **Brand name or equal specifications.** A specification listing one or more items by manufacturers' names or catalogue number to describe the standard of quality, performance, and other salient characteristics needed to meet requirements, and which provides for the submission of equivalent products.
- (9) **Brand name specification.** A specification limited to one or more items by manufacturers' names or catalogue numbers.
- (10) **Business.** Any corporation, partnership, individual sole proprietorship, joint stock company, joint venture, or other private legal entity.
- (11) **Buyer.** An employee in the purchasing division who is responsible for processing solicitations.
- (12) **Change order.** A written modification to a contract, issued by the city, directing the contractor to make changes to the contract.
- (13) **Columbus Council.** The Governing Body of Columbus Consolidated Government.
- (14) **City Manager.** The Chief Administrative Officer of Columbus Consolidated Government.
- (15) **Collusion.** When two or more parties act together secretly to achieve a fraudulent or unlawful act. May manifest itself in the form of bid collusion when bidders secretly agree to unlawful practices regarding competitive bidding. May inhibit free and open competition in violation of antitrust laws. Also see *Identical bid*.
- (16) **Competitive sealed bidding.** Preferred method of Columbus Consolidated Government for acquiring goods, services, and construction for public use in which award is made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, based solely on the response to the criteria set forth in the RFB (request for bid); does not include discussions or negotiations with bidders.
- (17) **Competitive sealed proposals.** A procurement method used by Columbus Consolidated Government for obtaining goods, services and construction for public use in which discussion and negotiations may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit responsive proposals, i.e. RFP (request for proposals).
- (18) **Confidential information.** Any information which is available to an employee only because of the employee's status as an employee of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia and is not a matter of public knowledge or available to the public on request.
- (19) **Construction.** The process or building, altering, repairing, improving, or demolition any public structure or building, or other public improvements of any kind to any public real property. Routine operation, repair, or maintenance of existing structures, buildings, or real property is not included.
- (20) **Contract.** Any type of administrative agreement, regardless of what it may be called for the procurement or disposal, by Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, of supplies, services, or construction.

-
- (21) **Contract modification (or bilateral change).** Any written alteration in specifications, delivery point, rate of delivery, period of performance, price, quantity, or other provisions of any contract accomplished by mutual action of the parties under contract.
- (22) **Contractor.** Any person, firm, or company having a contract with the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia or a using agency thereof.
- (23) **Cooperative procurement (purchasing).** A) The action taken when two or more entities combine their requirements to obtain advantages of volume purchases including administrative savings and other benefits; B) A variety of arrangements whereby two or more public procurement units purchase from the same supplier or multiple suppliers using a single RFB or RFP; or C) Cooperative procurement efforts may result in contracts that other entities may "piggyback".
- (24) **Cost analysis.** The evaluation of cost data for the purpose of arriving at costs actually incurred or estimates of the costs to be incurred, the prices to be paid, and the costs to be reimbursed.
- (25) **Cost data.** Factual information concerning the cost of labor, material, overhead, and other cost elements which are expected to be incurred or which have been actually incurred by contractor in performing the contract.
- (26) **Cost-reimbursement contract.** A contract under which a contractor is reimbursed for costs that are allowable and allocable in accordance with the contract terms and the provisions of this ordinance, and for a fee or profit, if any.
- (27) **Davis-Bacon Act.** A Federal Law (1931) which requires contractors who perform public works construction projects, that are federally funded, to pay their workers the prevailing wage rate paid in the area for similar work, as set forth by the secretary of labor.
- (28) **Debarment.** To prohibit a seller/contractor from bidding on future requirements for cause for a certain period of time for Columbus Consolidated Government.
- (29) **Debriefing.** A practice used primarily during the request for proposal process, whereby the Columbus Consolidated Government purchasing manager, buyer or other representative will meet with those parties whose proposals were not deemed appropriate for award. It is viewed as a learning process for proposers who may gain a better understanding regarding perceived deficiencies contained within their submitted proposal.
- (30) **Default.** The omission or failure of a vendor to perform a legal or contractual duty, to observe a promise or discharge an obligation, or to perform an agreement for Columbus Consolidated Government.
- (31) **Disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE).** A disadvantaged business enterprise or DBE is a for-profit small business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one individual or at least two individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged. In the case of a corporation, 51 percent of the stock must be owned by one or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. In addition, the business management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it. (*Georgia DOT*) See also *Historically Under-Utilized Business Enterprise, Minority-Owned Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise*.
- (32) **Emergency purchase.** A purchase made by Columbus Consolidated Government due to an unexpected and urgent request where health and safety or the conservation of public resources is threatened. Usually formal competitive bidding procedures are waived.
- (33) **Employee.** An individual drawing a salary or wages from the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, whether elected or not.

- (34) **Financial interest.** Ownership of any interest, or involvement in any relationship, from which or as a result of which a person has received within the past year, or is presently or in the future entitled to receive, any compensation; ownership of ten percent or more of any property or business; or holding a position in business such as officer, director, trustee, partner, employee, or the like, or holding any position of management.
- (35) **Gratuity.** A payment, loan, subscription, advance, or deposit of money, services, or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value is received.
- (36) **Historically underutilized business (HUB).** See definition for *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)*.
- (37) **Identical bid.** A bid that is exactly the same in all respects with another bid submitted to Columbus Consolidated Government at the same time and for the same requirements. Bids that are the same price but submitted by two or more bidders. In some cases, terms and conditions may be the same. Identical bids may raise an antitrust concern when there is reason to suspect collusion between the bidders. Also see *Collusion*.
- (38) **Immediate family.** A spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters.
- (39) **Invitation for bids or request for bid.** All documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, utilized for soliciting sealed bids.
- (40) **Local public procurement unit (or public procurement unit).** Any county, city or any other subdivision of the consolidated government or public agency of any such subdivision; or any educational, health, or other institution or public authority (or, to the extent provided by law, any other entity which expends public funds for the procurement of supplies, services, and construction) within the boundaries or under the jurisdiction of the consolidated government.
- (42) **Minority business enterprises (or MBE)** See definition for *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)*.
- (43) **Only known source (sole source procurement).** A situation created due to the inability to obtain competition. May result because only one vendor or supplier possesses the unique ability or capability to meet the particular requirements of the solicitation. The city requires a justification from the requesting agency explaining why this is the only source for the requirement.
- (44) **Piggyback (piggyback cooperatives).** A form of intergovernmental cooperative purchasing in which an entity will be extended the pricing and terms of a contract entered into by a larger entity. Generally, a larger entity will competitively award a contract that will include language allowing for other entities to utilize the contract which may be to their advantage in terms of pricing, thereby gaining economies of scale that they normally would not receive if they competed on their own. Example: A smaller government agency has the ability to use its state issued contract to obtain goods and services which is also known as "riding" a contract. (*NIGP*)
- (45) **Price analysis.** The evaluation of pricing data without analysis of the separate cost components and profit as is done in cost analysis; it may be used to assist in arriving at prices to be paid and costs to be reimbursed.
- (46) **Pricing data.** Factual information concerning prices for items (including offered or proposed selling prices, historical selling prices, and current selling prices at all levels of contracting and subcontracting) substantially similar to those being prepared.
- (47) **Procurement** The buying, purchasing, renting, leasing, or otherwise acquiring of any supplies, services, or construction; also, all functions that pertain to the obtaining of any supply, service, or construction item, including description of requirements, selection and solicitation of sources, preparation and award of contract, and all phases of contract administration.

- (48) **Professional services.** Those services provided by persons defined by the laws of the state to be professionals (accountants, clergy, physicians, lawyers, dentists, etc.) or any other services found by the city to be professional services (in that provision of these services involves extended analysis; exercising discretion and independent judgment in their performance; an advanced and specialized type of knowledge, expertise, or training customarily acquired either by prolonged course of study or equivalent experience in the field or both).
- (49) **Public agency.** A public entity subject to or created by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia.
- (50) **Public records.** Public records are records prepared and maintained or received in the course of a government agency's operation. They may exist electronically, as a hard copy, or in some other format. The substance of the content matters, not the format. As a result, public records may include:
- Documents.
 - Handwritten notes.
 - Emails.
 - Text messages.
 - Calendars.
 - Papers.
 - Letters.
 - Maps.
 - Books.
 - Tapes.
 - Photographs.
 - Computer-based or computer-generated information.
 - Data.
 - Data fields.
- Public records also include records possessed by a private person or entity in the performance of a service or function on behalf of the "agency." Providing accurate and timely responses to open records requests is vital to the operation of a transparent local government. It is important that the city attorney be consulted on complicated or unusual open records requests to ensure that responses comply with state law and that the records requested are subject to disclosure under Georgia or federal law.
- (51) **Qualified-products list.** An approved list of supplies, services, or construction items described by model or catalogue numbers, which, prior to competitive solicitation, the consolidate government has determined will meet the applicable specification requirements.
- (52) **Request for proposals.** All documents, whether attached or incorporated by reference, utilized for soliciting proposals. The city uses this process to solicit proposals from potential providers for goods and services (Offerors). Price is usually not a primary evaluation factor. Provides for the negotiation of all terms, including price prior to contract award.
- (53) **Responsible bidder (or responsible offeror).** A bidder (or offeror) who has the capability in all respects to fulfill the contract requirements, and the tenacity, perseverance, experience, integrity, reliability, capacity, facilities, equipment, and credit to assure good-faith performance.

- (54) **Responsive bidder (or responsive offeror).** A person who has submitted a bid (or offer) which conforms in all material respects to the requirements set forth in the invitation for bids or request for proposal.
- (55) **Services.** The furnishing of labor, time, or effort by a contractor, not involving the delivery of a specific end product other than reports which are merely incidental to the required performance.
- (56) **Small business.** An independently owned firm, corporation, or establishment, having a small number of employees, low volume of sales, small amount of assets, and limited impact on the market. (*NIGP*)
- (57) **Solicitation.** An invitation for bids, a request for proposals, telephone calls or any document used to obtain bids or proposals for the purpose of entering into a contract.
- (58) **Specifications.** Any description of the physical or functional characteristics or of the nature of a supply, service, or construction item. It may include a description of any requirement for inspecting, testing, or preparing a supply, service, or construction item for delivery.
- (59) **Supplies.** All property, including but not limited to equipment, materials, printing, insurance, and leases of real property, excluding land or a permanent interest in land.
- (60) **Surplus supplies/equipment.** Any tangible city-owned supplies (other than expendable supplies) or equipment no longer of any use to the city. This includes obsolete supplies, equipment, scrap materials and nonexpendable supplies that have completed their useful life cycle.
- (61) **Using agency.** Any department, commission, board, or public agency requiring supplies, services, or construction procured pursuant to this Ordinance.
- (62) **Women-owned business enterprise (WBE).** A business of which 51 percentage is owned or controlled by a woman or women. See also *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)*.

ARTICLE 2. OFFICE OF THE PURCHASING MANAGER

2-101.Appointment and tenure.

- 1) **Appointment.** The purchasing manager shall be appointed by the finance director.
- 2) **Tenure.** The purchasing manager shall be a member of the merit system, responsible directly to the finance director.

2-102.Authority and duties.

- (1) **Principal public purchasing official.** Except as otherwise provided herein, the purchasing manager shall serve as the principal public purchasing official for the city and shall be responsible for the procurement of supplies, services, and construction in accordance with this article, as well as, the management and disposal of supplies.
- (2) **Duties.** The purchasing manager shall be subject to the finance director's supervision to perform the following duties:
 - a. Manage the purchasing division,
 - b. Procure or supervise the procurement of all supplies, services, and construction needed by the city,
 - c. Sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of surplus supplies belonging to the city,
 - d. Establish and maintain programs for specifications development, contract administration, and inspection and acceptance, in cooperation with the public agencies using the supplies, services, and construction,

- e. Interpret and execute the policies and procedures of the city relating to procurement and (through subordinate supervision) develop, install, and maintain a harmonious procurement program for the city,
 - f. Direct and supervise proper procedures to develop the objectives of the city regarding procurement practices,
 - g. Maintain a complete file of all transactions (including bid bonds, performance bonds, contracts, pricing data, etc.) related to all purchases other than small purchases as defined in section 3-104 (1) **Small purchases: Purchases up to \$1,000.00**; and
 - h. Perform such related duties developing and initiating the division budget; proposing cost-efficient models to improve overall efficiency for all departments regarding procurement procedures; and representing the Finance Director in the performance of assigned tasks.
- (3) **Operational procedures.** Consistent with this article, and with the approval of the finance director, the purchasing manager may adopt operational procedures relating to the execution of its duties. These shall be set forth in a procurement handbook.

2-103. Delegations of authority to other city officials. With written approval of the finance director, the purchasing manager may delegate authority to purchase certain supply, service, or construction items to other city officials if such delegation is deemed necessary for the effective procurement of those items, notwithstanding the provisions of section 2-102 (authority and duties).

ARTICLE 3. SOURCE SELECTION AND CONTRACT FORMATION

Part A: Methods of Source Selection

3-101. Purpose. The purpose of this article is to provide written and uniform procedural guidelines for the procurement of goods and services for Columbus, Georgia. These policies shall govern the procurement of commodities, equipment, services and all related contracts and agreements.

Any department, office or agency receiving appropriations from council shall adhere to these purchasing policies, unless exempted by council action.

Exemption: The following agencies or funding sources are exempt from these procurement policies: The Land Bank Authority, Bull Creek Golf Course, Oxbow Creek Golf Course, Special Operations Federal Forfeiture Fund, Police Forfeiture Fund, Sheriff Forfeiture Fund, and Columbus, Georgia Convention and Trade Center.

3-101A. Public access to procurement information. Procurement information shall be a public record to the extent provided in the ordinance and shall be available to the public as provided in such statutes.

3-102. Legal authority. This procurement ordinance is adopted by council as of the effective date of November 17, 2020 pursuant to the authority of Section 7-500 of the Columbus Charter.

3-103. Agency responsibility. Columbus may use a combination of decentralized and centralized purchasing to obtain goods and services for its various agencies.

For decentralized purchasing, this policy is intended to delegate appropriate levels of fiscal and purchasing responsibility to the city's using agencies. It is the responsibility of each department (agency) head to manage all needed purchases within the limits of the department's adopted operating budget, approved each fiscal year.

Departments (agencies), unless exempted by this ordinance, are required to follow all procurement rules and regulations presented in this ordinance. As well as any operational procedural guidelines enacted by the finance department.

3-104. Purchasing limits. The procedures specified in this section shall be employed for all purchases of goods and services which are not otherwise exempt.

- (1) **Small purchases: Purchases up to and including \$ 5,000.00~~1,000.00~~** : Any supply, material or contractual service, including construction, not under an annual contract, with an estimated total cost of ~~\$5,000.00~~~~1,000.00~~ or less may be purchased by the using agency through the use of a city issued credit/procurement card. If the credit/procurement card is not accepted by a merchant, then an official purchase document issued by Columbus or petty cash disbursement may be used (**Petty cash disbursements shall not exceed \$100.00~~50.00~~**). This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or single purchase of multiple items with an estimated total cost not to exceed ~~\$5000.00~~~~1,000.00~~.
- (2) **Competitive quotation purchases: Purchases from \$5001.00~~1,001.00~~ up to and including \$25,000.00~~5,000.00~~**: Any supply, material or contractual service, including construction, not under an annual contract, with an estimated total cost greater than ~~\$5001.00~~~~1,000.00~~, but not more than ~~\$25,000.00~~~~5,000.00~~ may be purchased on the open market by the using agency obtaining and submitting to purchasing at least three written quotations from reputable vendors. This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or single purchase of multiple items with an estimated total cost greater than ~~\$5,001.00~~~~1,000.00~~ and up to and including ~~\$25,000.00~~. An official purchase order of the Columbus Consolidated Government, issued to the awarded vendor(s), shall be used for the procurement. Final purchasing approval authority will be the purchasing manager.
- (3) **Sealed quotations: Purchases from \$25,001.00~~5,001.00~~ up to \$49,999.99~~24,999.99~~**: Any supply, material or contractual service, including construction, not under an annual contract, with an estimated total cost greater than ~~\$25,001.00~~~~5,000.00~~, but not more than ~~\$49,999.99~~~~24,999.99~~ shall be purchased on the open market, without regard for formal advertising by obtaining competitive sealed quotations. The competitive sealed quotation process will be administered by the purchasing division. This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or single purchase of multiple items with an estimated total cost greater than ~~\$25,001.00~~~~5,000.00~~ up to ~~\$49,999.00~~~~24,999.99~~. An official purchase order of the Columbus Consolidated Government, issued to the awarded vendor(s), shall be used for the procurement. Final purchasing approval authority is the city manager, who has delegated this authority to the finance department.
- (4) **Competitive sealed bid (formal) bid process or competitive sealed proposals (negotiation): Purchases \$50,000.00~~25,000.00~~ and greater**: Any supply, material or contractual service, including construction, which has an estimated total cost of ~~\$50,000.00~~~~25,000.00~~ or more shall be purchased through the competitive sealed bid process or through the competitive sealed proposal process. These procurements shall be formally advertised. This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or single purchase of multiple items with an estimated total cost of ~~\$50,000.00~~~~25,000.00~~ or greater. The sealed bid process and the request for proposal process will be administered by the purchasing division. An official purchase order of the Columbus Consolidated Government shall be issued to the awarded vendor(s) for the procurement, or when applicable, a contract shall be executed.

In addition, any supply, material, or contractual service required under an annual contract, for any term length and regardless of the total cost, shall be procured through the use of the formal bid process or competitive sealed proposal process. Purchasing authority: Columbus City Council.

3-105.Small purchases: Purchases up to and including \$5,000.00~~1,000.00~~: Any supply, materials or contractual service, *not under an annual contract*, with an estimated total cost not exceeding ~~\$5000.00~~~~1,000.00~~ may be purchased by the using agency through the use of a credit/procurement card, an official purchase document issued by the city or petty cash disbursement. **However, petty cash disbursements shall not exceed \$100.00~~50.00~~** This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or single purchase of multiple items with an estimated total cost not to exceed ~~\$5,000.00~~~~1,000.00~~.

- (1) **Credit/procurement card.**

- A. **Purpose.** The city has used various methods to accomplish small dollar purchases of goods and services. These methods, such as petty cash and purchase orders, have proven to be costly, time consuming and occasionally have not been accepted by merchants. The city has initiated this credit/procurement card policy for the following reasons:

Credit/procurement card...

- Represents a faster, more efficient way to purchase small dollar items.
- Costs less to process than a purchase order.
- Provides agencies with more flexibility.
- Increases productivity, by decreasing lag time waiting for purchase orders to process.
- Provides sufficient control.

The finance department will develop directives to establish those procedures and policies under which agencies shall control the use of credit/procurement cards that will be assigned to and utilized by selected city employees to purchase goods and services on behalf of the city. The directive will accomplish the following:

- Ensure the procurement with credit/procurement cards is accomplished in accordance with the city's ordinances, policies and established rules.
- Ensure appropriate internal controls are established within each agency procuring with credit/procurement cards so the procurement card is used only for authorized purposes.
- Provide employees who must procure for the city, a convenient method to perform purchasing activities by reducing the need for a purchase order.

Finally, it is intended that the policies and procedures established be viewed as minimum standards for agencies who may wish to establish additional controls beyond those suggested. However, minimum control standards shall be established by the finance director or designee.

- B. **Scope.** The directive will be applicable to any and all city agencies, including elected officials, who have selected employees to use credit/procurement cards to purchase supplies and materials approved by the directive.
- C. **Using agency responsibility.** The decision of when a credit card is issued, and to whom issued, will be decided by the department head/elected official* or his/her designee only. The department head/elected official or his/her designee will request issuance of the credit card from the purchasing manager. The department head/elected official will be responsible for usage of credit/procurement cards by employees.

***In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 36-80-24, Columbus Council shall designate which Columbus and Muscogee County Elected Officials shall receive CCG purchasing/credit cards for themselves or their staff.**

- D. **Controls.** A number of unique controls have been developed for this program that do not exist in a traditional credit card environment. These controls ensure that the card can be used only for specific purposes and within specific dollar limits. In addition, certification of all purchases is required by each cardholder, with verification and approval performed by the approving official (department head/elected official or designee).
- E. **Restrictions.** The use of the credit/procurement card is prohibited for the purchase of the following:

- Personal purchases of any kind, specifically including any purchase not directly related to the cardholder's public duties.
- Purchase of any one item or aggregate items, **from a single vendor**, which cost more than the approved small purchase limit. Currently, the small purchase limit is ~~\$5000.00~~ ~~1,000.00~~.
NOTE: CARDHOLDERS SHALL NOT SPLIT PURCHASES TO STAY UNDER THE \$5000.00 ~~1,000.00~~ **LIMIT FOR SMALL PURCHASES.**
- Cash advances.
- Goods/services under annual contract. These items must be paid through the finance system, as the bid prices for most contracts are loaded in the system as an audit check.
- Microcomputer software and hardware (Unless approved by or purchased by the information technology department).
- Gift cards—Gift cards are prohibited unless approved by the city manager.
- Spouse/significant other travel expenses.
- Entertainment.
- Alcohol products.
- Tobacco products.
- Professional services (i.e. Physicians, attorneys, veterinarians, accountants, etc. These services are 1099 reportable and should be paid through the finance system).
- Food. The purchase of food is prohibited unless for an authorized business purpose.

The department head/elected official will be held responsible for any card violations committed by employees.

(2) **Purchase order—Petty cash disbursement.**

- A. **Purpose.** Although the majority of small purchases should be accomplished with the credit/procurement card, there may be instances where the credit card/procurement card cannot be utilized. In the event a credit/procurement card cannot be used, an official purchase order or petty cash disbursement shall be utilized for small purchases.
- B. **Purchase order.** The purchase order will represent a contract for the small purchase and the using agency will have the option of hand delivering, emailing, or mailing the document to the vendor. The same purchasing restrictions that apply for credit/procurement card purchases will apply for the use of the purchase order for small purchases with a total estimated cost up to ~~\$5000.00~~ ~~1,000.00~~.
- C. **Petty cash disbursement.** Petty cash disbursements may be used when the credit/procurement card or purchase order is not practical. The establishment of Petty cash disbursement Accounts must be approved by the Finance Director. **No petty cash disbursement shall exceed \$100.00** ~~50.00~~.

3-106.Competitive quotation purchases: Purchases from ~~\$5001.00~~ ~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000~~ ~~5,000.00~~.

- (1) **Purpose.** Any supply, material or contractual service, not under an annual contract, with an estimated cost from ~~\$5001.00~~ ~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000~~ ~~5,000.00~~ may be purchased on the open market by the using agency obtaining at least three written quotations from reputable vendors. At least one of the quotations must be from a certified DBE, if a DBE is available to provide the supply, material or contractual service. This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or

single purchase of multiple line items, from a single vendor, with an estimated cost from ~~\$5001.00~~~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000.00~~~~5,000.00~~.

Purchases in this dollar range can also be obtained via cooperative purchasing.

- (2) **Using agency responsibility.** Procurements from ~~\$5001.00~~~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000.00~~~~5,000~~ shall be approved only after the appropriate representative from the using agency has completed training in obtaining written quotations, documentation procedures and has demonstrated knowledge in these areas, as well as, acquainted themselves with the process of identifying and contacting vendors. Minimally, the agency will be responsible for documenting the following: 1) the price quote requesting form or document issued by the department; 2) the names of all businesses submitting quotations; 3) the names of the individual providing the quotations; 4) the date the quotations were received; 5) written quotes submitted by vendors; and 6) city employee obtaining the quotation. All documentation will be filed in the purchasing division as a matter of public record.
- (3) **Purchasing instrument.** The using agency shall initiate an official purchase order to the recommended vendor(s). All documentation will be forwarded to the purchasing division for review and final approval.
- (4) **Purchasing authority.** The purchasing manager shall have final approval for all from ~~\$5.001.00~~~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000.00~~~~5,000.00~~.
- (5) **Award.** The award will be made to the lowest, responsible, responsive vendor(s). Council action is not required.

3-107. Sealed quotations: Purchases from ~~\$25,001.00~~~~5,001.00~~ up to ~~\$49,999.00~~~~24,999.99.00~~.

- (1) **Purpose.** Any supply, material or contractual service, not under an annual contract, with an estimated total cost from ~~\$25,001.00~~~~5,001.00~~ up to ~~\$49,999.00~~~~24,999.99.00~~ shall be purchased on the open market, without regard for formal advertising by obtaining competitive sealed quotations.

Purchases in this dollar range can also be obtained via cooperative purchasing.

The competitive sealed quotation process will be administered by the purchasing division. This requirement shall apply to the purchase of any single item or single purchase of multiple items, from a single vendor, with an estimated total cost from ~~\$25,001.00~~~~5,001.00~~ up to ~~\$49,999.00~~~~24,999.99.00~~. The same procedures will be followed as outlined in **section 3-108, formal competitive sealed bidding**, with the exception of the following changes:

- A. **Using agency responsibility.** The using agency will be required to supply, to the Purchasing Division, the following information: 1) detailed specifications describing the required good/service; 2) suggested vendors whom the using agency is aware can supply the required good/service; 3) the time frame the good or service is required. The using agency shall establish a project manager for the procurement.
- B. **Quotation solicitation.** The purchasing division shall administer the quotation solicitation. No formal advertising is required.
- C. **Notice.** Vendors will be given at least fifteen business days to respond to a competitive sealed quotation solicitation. The city may seek competitive quotations in a shorter period, due to time constraints or need, if necessary, as determined by the purchasing manager.
- D. **Quotation receipt and opening.** Sealed quotations shall be opened publicly in the presence of one or more witnesses at the time and place stated in the public notice. The amount of each quotation, the bidder's name and such other relevant information as the purchasing manager deems appropriate shall be recorded and retained in accordance with Georgia law. The record

and each bid shall be open to the public in accordance with Article 3, 301A of the Procurement Ordinance (Public Access to Procurement Information).

- E. **Evaluation.** Quotation responses will be evaluated by the using agency for award recommendation. Purchasing staff will perform further review for due diligence.
- F. **Award.** The award will be made to the lowest, responsible, responsive vendor(s). Council action is not required.
- G. **Purchase authority.** Final purchasing approval authority is the city manager, who has delegated this authority to the finance department.
- H. **Purchasing instrument.** After approval of the award recommendation, the purchasing division will issue an official purchase order to the awarded vendor(s). All information concerning the procurement will be kept in a project file, in the purchasing division, as a matter of public record.

3-108. Competitive sealed (formal) bid process: Purchases ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~ and greater.

- (1) **Purpose.** All city procurements with an estimated total cost of ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~ and greater will be awarded by the competitive sealed bid process, except as provided in the sections titled competitive sealed proposal (negotiation), emergency procurement, only known source procurement and cooperative purchase.

Procurements with an estimated value less than ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~ may be formally bid if deemed to be in the best interest of the city by the purchasing manager. However, the purchase will be approved by the authority specified for the total cost of the procurement, per section 3-104, purchasing limits.

- A. **Project manager.** For any procurement large enough to require the use of competitive sealed bidding, an officer or employee of the using agency involved in the procurement shall act as project manager. The purchasing manager may assign certain tasks and record keeping requirements related to the procurement. The project manager will keep and make available to the purchasing division all records required for the tasks assigned.
- B. **Request for bid advertisement.** The using agency shall submit to the purchasing manager, applicable specifications, requirements, justifications and cost center(s) to be charged for the procurement.
- C. **Invitation for bids.** An invitation for bids shall be issued and shall include specifications and all contractual terms and conditions applicable to the procurement.
- D. **Public notice.** The public will be given adequate notice of the invitation for bids, provided that, adequate notice shall mean at least 15 business days before the bid opening date, which is stated in the Invitation. ***The city reserves the right to seek competitive sealed bids in a shorter period, if necessary, as determined by the purchasing manager.***

Notice shall be published in a reasonable time before bid opening, contain a description of the procurement in general terms, as well as, the place, date, and time of bid opening, and appear in a newspaper(s) of general circulation, specifically the city's legal organ. In addition to publication in newspapers, notice shall also be made by electronic means, including posting on the Internet and on the city's government access television channel.

Public works construction projects shall be advertised in accordance with Georgia State Law.

The city reserves the right to mail or e-mail invitations directly to vendors under the following circumstances:

- Solicitations for specialized equipment/supplies.

- Solicitations for specialized services.
- Re-bid of solicitations where normal advertising procedures netted no responses.
- Whenever deemed necessary by the purchasing manager.

- E. **Bid opening.** Bids shall be opened publicly in the presence of one or more witnesses at the time and place stated in the public notice. The amount of each bid, the bidder's name and such other relevant information as the purchasing manager deems appropriate shall be recorded and retained in accordance with Georgia law. The record and each bid shall be open to the public in accordance with Article 3. 301A of the Procurement Ordinance (Public Access to Procurement Information).
- F. **Bid receipt and evaluation.** Bids shall be unconditionally received without alteration or correction except as authorized in the city's procurement ordinance. Bids shall be evaluated based on requirements set forth in the invitation for bid, which may include criteria to determine acceptability such as inspection, testing, quality, workmanship, delivery, and suitability for a particular purpose. Those criteria that will affect the bid price and be considered in evaluation for award shall be objectively measurable, such as discounts, transportation cost, and total or life-cycle costs. The specifications presented in the invitation for bids shall represent the evaluation criteria. No other criteria may be used to evaluate bids.
- G. **Correction or withdrawal of bids; Cancellation of awards.** Correction or withdrawal of inadvertently erroneous bids before bid opening, or cancellation of awards or contracts based on such bid mistakes, may be permitted where appropriate. Mistakes discovered before bid opening may be modified or withdrawn by written notice received in the purchasing division.

After bid opening, corrections in bids shall be permitted only to the extent that the bidder can show by clear and convincing evidence that a mistake of a nonjudgmental character was made, the nature of the mistake and the bid price actually intended. After bid opening, no changes in bid prices or other provisions of bids prejudicial to the interest of the city or fair competition shall be permitted. In lieu of bid correction, a low bidder alleging a material mistake of fact may be permitted to withdraw its bid if the mistake is clearly evident on the face of the bid document but the intended correct bid is not similarly evident, or if the bidder submits evidence which clearly and convincingly demonstrate that a mistake was made.

All decisions to permit correction or withdrawal of bids or to cancel awards of contracts based on bid mistakes will be supported by the purchasing manager's written determination.

- H. **Receipt of one sealed bid.** In the event only one sealed bid is received, no formal bid opening shall take place. First, the Purchasing Division shall conduct a survey of vendors to inquire of "no bid" responses and non-responsive vendors. If, from the survey, it is determined by the purchasing division that specifications need revision, the one bid received will be returned unopened to the vendor, with a letter of explanation and a new bid solicitation prepared. If it is determined that other vendors need to be contacted, the bid due date will be extended, and the one bid received will remain sealed until the new bid opening date. The vendor submitting the single bid will receive a letter of explanation.
- If it is determined the one bid received is from the only responsive, responsible bidder, then the bid shall be opened by the purchasing manager or designee, in the presence of at least one other witness.** The single bid will be evaluated by the using agency for award recommendation.
- I. **Receipt of tie bids.** In the event multiple responsive, responsible bidders are tied for the lowest bid price and all other terms and requirements are met by all tied bidders, the award recommendation shall be resolved in the order of the preferences listed below:

1. Award to the local bidder whose principal place of business is located in Columbus, Georgia.
2. Award to bidder previously awarded based on favorable prior experience.
3. Award to bidder whose principle place of business is located in the State of Georgia.
4. If feasible, divide the award equally among the bidders.
5. If it is not feasible to award equally and only two bidders are tied, perform a coin toss in the presence of the two bidders, either in person or virtually.
6. *If the above preferences are insufficient to resolve the tie, all bid responses will be rejected and the bid will be re-advertised.*

- J. **Award.** After evaluation of the bids, the using agency will forward a written award recommendation to the purchasing division. The award recommendation shall be reviewed by the purchasing division. The purchasing manager shall approve the recommendation prior to placement on council agenda for council action.

If the low bidder is not recommended for a bid award, the using agency must submit, in writing, the reason(s) the low bidder is not recommended. The purchasing division will notify the low bidder as to why his/her bid is not recommended. The low bidder will be given the opportunity to respond to any, and all reasons their bid is not recommended. Final decisions to accept or reject the responses and to recommend the bid award will rest with the purchasing manager and the using agency.

If the low responsive and responsible bidder exceeds available budgeted funds as certified by the approved budget for the pertinent fiscal year, the purchasing manager is authorized to negotiate an adjustment of the bid price to bring the bid within the amount of available funds. This should only occur when time or economic considerations preclude re-solicitation of work of a reduced scope. Any such negotiated adjustment shall be based only upon eliminating independent deductive items specified in the invitation for bids.

- K. **Bid award for procurements ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~ and greater.** Any procurement with a total cost ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000~~ and greater shall be approved by council action.

3-109. Annual contracts: Price agreements and service contracts.

- (1) **Purpose.** Any supplies, materials or contractual services required continuously over a specified time frame shall be considered a candidate for an annual contract. All annual contracts, regardless of the estimated total cost, will be established after the formal bid process or competitive sealed proposal process. Price agreements and service contracts are forms of annual contracts which are used to purchase goods or services used on a regular or continual basis, i.e., uniforms, janitorial supplies, or film. Annual contracts eliminate the time required to obtain price quotations or administer a formal bid each time the need arises and provides a more economic price due to the bulk of the contract agreement with the vendor(s). The term of an annual contract can range from three months to one year. Some annual contracts have renewal options, (usually two renewal options), depending on the commodity.
- A. **Price agreement.** An annual contract is established as a price agreement when the goods or services can be easily described in measurable terms and a firm unit price can be established (i.e., a pair of shoes at an established unit price per pair).
- B. **Service contract.** An annual contract is established as a service contract when the goods or services (usually services) cannot be easily described in measurable terms and a firm unit price cannot be established (i.e., a service contract is established for auditing services).

- (2) **Agency responsibility.** All agencies should carefully review any good or service used on a continuous basis to determine if it meets criteria to be placed under an annual contract.

All agencies utilizing an annual contract are required to document and report to the purchasing division any contractual non-performance of the contracted vendor(s). Documentation of the non-performance should be forwarded to the purchasing division within two days of the occurrence. Documentation is essential in the notification process to the vendor to rectify the non-performance. The documentation can be in the form of memos or the current form recommended by the purchasing division.

- (3) **Award.** All annual contracts shall be approved by council action.
- (4) **Contract renewals and extensions.**

- A. **Contract renewals:** Most annual contracts have renewal clauses. If deemed to be in the best interest of the city, the purchasing manager shall be authorized to renew annual contracts which contain renewal clauses. Renewal procedures shall be established by the purchasing division.
- B. **Contract extensions:** After all contract renewals are exhausted, the purchasing manager shall also be authorized to extend annual contracts, for "cause."
- "Cause" will be one of the following: 1) the contract re-bid process has been delayed; 2) the contract re-bid process is interrupted; 3) it is deemed to be in the best interest of the city to extend the contract. contract extensions authorized by the purchasing manager shall be no more than one year. Contract extensions beyond the one-year extension shall be approved by council.
- C. **Mutual agreement:** Contract renewals and extensions shall be authorized only upon the mutual agreement of the using agency, the purchasing manager and the contractor.

3-110.Competitive sealed proposals (negotiations).

- (1) **Conditions for use.** When the purchasing manager determines that the use of competitive sealed bidding for any procurement is either not practicable or not advantageous to the city, a contract may be entered into using the competitive sealed proposals (negotiation) method. In addition, the competitive sealed proposal process shall be used for the procurement of professional services, specialized equipment or supplies.

The competitive sealed proposal process may be used for procurements with an estimated total cost less than ~~\$50,000.00~~^{25,000.00}, if deemed to be in the best interest of the city. If the total cost can be determined, the authority to approve such solicitations will be as prescribed by article 3-104, purchasing limits. If, due to the required services, a total cost cannot be determined then the award recommendation will be approved by council.

- A. **Request for proposals.** Proposals shall be solicited through request for proposals. The purchasing division shall establish the specifications with the using agency and set the date and time to receive proposals. The request for proposal shall include a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the service or item to be procured.
- B. **Public notice.** The public will be given adequate notice of the request for proposals, provided that, adequate notice shall mean at least 15 business days before the due date, which is stated in the request. **The city reserves the right to seek request for proposals in a shorter period, if necessary, as determined by the purchasing manager.**

Notice shall be published in a reasonable time before due date, contain a description of the procurement in general terms, as well as, the place and due date for proposals, and appear in a newspaper(s) of general circulation, specifically the city's legal organ. In addition to publication in newspapers, notice shall also be made by electronic means, including posting on the internet and on the city's government access television channel.

Public works construction projects shall be advertised in accordance with Georgia State Law.

The city reserves the right to mail or e-mail invitations directly to vendors under the following circumstances:

- Solicitations for specialized equipment/supplies.
- Solicitations for specialized services.
- Re-bid of solicitations where normal advertising procedures netted no responses.
- Whenever deemed necessary by the purchasing manager.

- C. **Receipt of proposals.** Proposals must be received by the deadline date established. No public opening will be held. No proposals shall be handled to permit disclosure of the identity of any offeror or the contents of any proposal to competing offerors during the process of discussion. A register of proposals shall be prepared as part of the contract file, and shall contain the name of each offeror, the number of modifications received (if any), and a description sufficient to identify the item offered. The register of proposals shall be open for public inspection only after contract award.
- D. **Evaluation factors.** The request for proposals shall identify the relative importance of cost (when applicable) and other evaluation criteria.
- E. **Evaluation process.** An odd number of voting members of a selection or evaluation committee shall evaluate all proposals received based upon the criteria stated in the request for proposals. Each voting committee member shall grade each submitted proposal based upon the evaluation criteria.
- F. **Discussion with responsible offerors and revisions to proposals.** As provided in the request for proposals, discussions (negotiations) may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award, to assure full understanding of and conformance to the solicitation requirements. All qualified, responsible offerors shall be given fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals, and such revisions may be permitted after submissions and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of the identity of competing offerors or any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. If only one proposal response is received, then the award recommendation shall be to the single offeror, if the offeror meets all requirements.
- G. **Award.** After negotiations, the award recommendation must be presented to Columbus City Council for final approval. Award will be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the city, taking into consideration total cost (if determined) and all other evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposals.

After council approval, a contract based on the negotiations (if negotiations were necessary) will be drawn and signed by all necessary parties. If council does not approve the award, it may direct that further negotiations may take place with the recommended offeror, or that negotiations begin with the next most qualified offeror. Council may also exercise the option to reject all offers and instruct the purchasing manager to begin the procurement process again. The contract file shall contain the basis on which the award is made.

After contract award, the contract file, will be made public. Unsuccessful offerors will be afforded the opportunity to make an appointment with the purchasing division for a debriefing. After the award, the contract file and the unsuccessful proposals will become subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act.

3-111. Architectural/engineering and land surveying services.

- (1) **Purpose.** All architectural/engineering and land surveying services, regardless of the estimated value of the contract or project, will be procured through the use of competitive sealed proposals.

Except as provided under article 3-114, only known source procurement, 3-115, emergency procurements, or 3-118 state contracts and other cooperative contracts, procurements for architectural/engineering or land surveying services will be governed by the guidelines in above article 3-110, with the following modifications in this section:

- A. **Request for proposals.** The cost of services shall not be a required element in proposals for architectural/engineering and land surveying.

3-112. Request for qualifications.

- (1) **Purpose.** For the procurement of services where the qualifications of the firm, or its principals are central to the services performed or equipment required, the initial step may be the issuance of a request for qualifications (RFQ). A request for qualifications allows the city to receive qualification statements from interested vendors. Cost estimates are not required.

- A. **Request for qualifications.** Submissions or statement of qualifications shall be solicited through request for qualifications. The request for qualifications shall include a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the service or item intended to be procured. The RFQ shall also set the date and time to receive submissions.
- B. **Public notice.** Adequate public notice of the request for qualification shall be given in the same manner as provided under the section titled "competitive sealed bids."
- C. **Receipt of qualifications statements.** Qualifications statements must be received by the deadline date established in the RFQ. No public opening will be held. No submissions shall be handled to permit disclosure of the identity of any offeror or the contents of any proposal to competing offerors during the process of discussion. A register of submissions shall be prepared as part of the contract file, and shall contain the name of each offeror, the number of modifications received (if any), and a description sufficient to identify the item offered. The register of submissions shall be open for public inspection only after contract award.
- D. **Evaluation factors.** The request for qualifications shall identify the relative importance of each evaluation criteria.
- E. **Review and evaluation process.** Review of submittals will be conducted by a committee consisting of various stakeholders. Based upon the predetermined rating criteria contained in the RFQ, each voting member of the committee will perform an evaluation and assign a rating for each submittal.

Based on the composite ratings of the submissions, the committee may short-list, at least, the three most qualified firms to receive an invitation to respond to a request for proposal or competitive sealed bid.

If fewer than three vendors respond, the committee may decide to do one of the following:

- Cancel the RFQ. Revise the requirements and re-issue.
- Send request for proposals or invitation for bids to the respondents.
- Contingent upon the services required, contract award could be recommended to the highest ranked vendor or only vendor, as a direct result of the RFQ process and negotiations. The award recommendation must be approved by city council.

3-113. Request for information.

- (1) **Purpose.** In some instances, the using agency may have a general idea of the good or service required, but due to new technology or lack of technical or specialized knowledge in a particular area, the agency may not be able to develop adequate specifications. In such cases the using agency will solicit, through the purchasing division, a request for information (RFI). The purchasing division shall develop general procedures for the request for information.

3-114. Only known source (sole source) procurement.

- (1) **Purpose.** A contract may be awarded without competition if the purchasing manager determines, after conducting a good-faith review of available sources, that there is only one known source for the required supply or service. The purchasing manager (or designee) shall conduct negotiations on price, delivery, and terms as appropriate. A record of only known source procurements shall be maintained as public record and shall list each contractor's name, the amount and type of each purchase, the item (s) procured, and the number identifying each procurement. The final award approval for only known source procurements shall align with articles 3-106, 3-107 and 3-108, per the dollar amount of the only known source.
- (2) **Procurements from ~~\$5,001.01~~ ~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000.00~~ ~~5,000.00~~.** Any agency wishing to make purchases from ~~\$5001.00~~ ~~1,001.00~~ up to and including ~~\$25,000.00~~ ~~5,000.00~~ by using only known source procurement must have the approval of the purchasing manager. Written documentation must be submitted to purchasing by the using agency to justify the procurement.

3-115. Emergency procurement.

- (1) **Purpose.** Regardless of any other provision of the procurement ordinance, the city manager may make or authorize others to make emergency procurements of supplies, equipment, services, or construction services when there exists a threat to public health, welfare, or safety; or other exigent circumstances as specified by the city manager.

Such emergency procurement shall be made with such competition as is practical under the circumstances. A written determination of the basis for the emergency and for the selection of a particular contractor shall be included in the contract file. As soon as practicable, a record of each emergency procurement shall be made and shall set forth the contractor's name, the amount and type of the contract, a list of the item(s) procured, and the number identifying the contract file. When the emergency procurement procedure is used for purchases ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~ or greater, the city manager will report the nature of the emergency and the vendor, item(s) purchased, price, and recommended funding source to the mayor and council at the next regular council meeting. This information is for public records and does not require council approval.

3-116. Cancellation/rejection of solicitations.

- (1) **Purpose.** An invitation for bid, request for proposal, or other solicitation may be canceled, or any or all bids, proposals or responses rejected in whole or in part, at the discretion of the city for any reason whatsoever. The reasons for the cancellation shall be made part of the contract file. Notice of cancellation shall be sent to all businesses solicited or that responded. The notice shall identify the solicitation, give the reasons for the cancellation, and when appropriate state that an opportunity will be given to compete on any re-solicitation or similar procurement in the future.

Reasons for rejection will be provided to unsuccessful bidders or offerors.

3-117. Awards to local businesses. Except for construction contracts, federally funded projects, request for proposals and request for qualifications, awards will be made to responsive and responsible local businesses proposing a cost not more than two percent above the low bid or quote for contracts involving an expenditure less than or equal to ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~; and made to responsive and responsible local businesses proposing a cost not more than one percent above the low bid or quote for contracts involving an expenditure greater than ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~.

3-118.State contracts and other cooperative contracts.

- (1) **Purpose.** The State of Georgia Administrative Services Division secures state contracts for numerous commodities. The city will utilize state contracts when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the city. State contracts may be utilized when time constraints deem it more prudent than the city initiating a competitive sealed quote or competitive sealed bid.

Other cooperative contracts may be used for the same purposes as stated above.

A competitive sealed quote or competitive sealed bid may be administered to compare pricing, product, warranty etc. with a state contract or other cooperative contract. If the state contract or other cooperative contract price is lower and meets all other requirements the purchase will be made via the contract and the competitive sealed quote or competitive sealed bid will be cancelled; submitting vendors will be notified of the reason for the cancellation.

Additionally, state contracts and other cooperative contracts may be utilized in lieu of administering request for proposals, request for qualifications or request for information when deemed to be in the best interest of the city.

3-119.Reimbursement to employees.

- (1) **Scope.** Reimbursements to city employees for personal funds expended will be made only under the following circumstances:
- A. Personal funds utilized during job related travel. **Documentation must be provided to financial planning in the current form prescribed).**
 - B. Personal funds utilized to purchase goods or supplies in the event of an emergency which is job related. **Receipts must be attached to the reimbursement request, accompanied by a memo of explanation of the expenditure addressed to the purchasing manager. An emergency shall be as described in article 3-115, emergency procurement. If the expenditure is deemed not to be an emergency, the employee will not be reimbursed.**

Part B: Qualifications and Duties of Bidders

3-201.Responsiveness and responsibility of bidders and offerors

- (1) *Determination of non-responsive and non-responsible bidder.* If a bidder or offeror who otherwise would have been awarded a contract is found to be non-responsive and or non-responsible, the purchasing manager shall write a determination of such, stating the basis for the finding, send it promptly to the bidder and make it a part of the contract file and a public record. Unreasonable failure of a bidder or offeror to supply information promptly in connection with such finding may be grounds for a determination of non-responsiveness and non-responsibility.
- (2) *Disclosure:* All documents associated with the findings will become part of the contract file and subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act once the determination is completed.

3-202.Cost or pricing data.

- (1) *Required submissions relating to award of contracts.* A prospective contractor shall submit cost or pricing data when the contract is to be awarded by competitive sealed proposals [under] section 3-110 (competitive sealed proposals) or by only known source procurement authority [under] section 3-114 (only known source (sole-source) procurement).
- (2) *Exceptions.* The submission of cost or pricing data relating to the award of a contract is not required when:
- a. The contract price is based on adequate competition,

- b. The contract price is based on established catalogue prices or market prices,
- c. The contract price is set by law or regulation; or
- d. The purchasing manager determines in writing that the requirements of subsection (1) above may be waived, stating the reasons for such waiver.

Such waiver may be made only with the approval of the finance director and city manager.

- (3) *Required submissions relating to change orders or contract modifications.* A contractor shall submit cost or pricing data prior to the pricing of any change order or contract modification including adjustments to contracts awarded by competitive sealed bidding.
- (4) *Exceptions.* The submission of cost or pricing data relating to the pricing of a change order or contract modification is not required when:
 - a. Unrelated, separately priced adjustments for which cost, or pricing data would not be required are consolidated for administrative convenience; or
 - b. The purchasing manager determines in writing that the requirements of subsection (3) above may be waived, stating the reasons for such waiver.

Such waiver may be made only with the approval of the finance director and city manager.

- (5) *Certification required.* A contractor, actual or prospective, required to submit cost or pricing data in accordance with this section shall certify that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the cost or pricing data submitted was accurate, complete and current as of a mutually specified date prior to the award of the contract or the pricing of the change order or contract modification.
- (6) *Price adjustment provision required.* Any contract award, change order, or contract modification requiring the submission and certification of cost or pricing data shall contain a provision stating that the price to the city, including profit or fee, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the city finds such price was increased because cost or pricing data furnished by the contractor were inaccurate, incomplete, or not current as of the date agreed upon between the city and the contractor.

3-203. Cost or price analysis.

- (1) A cost analysis or price analysis, as appropriate, shall be conducted prior to award of any procurement contract not awarded under section 3-108 (competitive sealed bidding). A written record of such cost or price analysis shall be part of the contract file.
- (2) Cost analysis includes the appropriate verification of cost or pricing data and the use of this data, as well as any available historical comparative data, to evaluate:
 - a. Specific elements of cost,
 - b. The necessity of certain costs,
 - c. The reasonableness of amounts estimated for the necessary costs,
 - d. The reasonableness of allowance for contingencies,
 - e. The basis used for allocation of indirect costs,
 - f. The appropriateness of allocations of particular indirect costs to the proposed contract, and
 - g. The reasonableness of the total cost or price.
- (3) Price analysis determines if a price is reasonable and acceptable. It involves an evaluation of prices for the same or similar items or services. Criteria used in price analysis include but are not limited to:
 - a. Price submissions of prospective bidders or offerors in the current procurement,

- b. Prior price quotations and contract prices charged by the bidder, offeror, or contractor,
- c. Prices published in catalogues or price lists,
- d. Prices available on the open market; and
- e. In-house estimates of cost.

Considerations must be given to any differing terms and conditions.

3-204. Bonding on supply and service contracts. Bid and performance bonds or other security may be requested for supply or services contracts as the procurement manager (or the head of the using agency) deems advisable to protect the city's interests. Any such bonding requirements shall be set forth in the solicitation. Bid or performance bonds shall not substitute for a determination of a bidder's or offeror's responsibility. Complete file folders containing all transactions, including bonds, related to each bid will be maintained in the purchasing division.

Part C: Types of Contracts and Contract Administration

3-301. Types of contracts

- (1) *General authority.* Subject to the limitations of this section and applicable laws and regulations, any type of contract which is appropriate to the procurement and which will promote the best interests of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia may be used.
- (2) *Multiterm contract.*
 - a. **Specified period.** Unless otherwise provided by law, a contract for supplies or services may be entered into for any time period deemed to be in the city's best interest, provided such period and any renewal or extension conditions are stated in the solicitation, and funds are available for the first fiscal period at the time of contracting. Performance and payment obligations for later fiscal periods shall be subject to funds availability and appropriation.
 - b. **Determination prior to use.** Before a multi-term contract is used, it shall be determined in writing that estimated requirements cover the period of the contract and are reasonable firm and continuing, and that such a contract will serve the best interests of the city by encouraging affective competition or other promoting cost-effective procurement, and be a multi-year governmental contract that is permitted by Georgia Law.
 - c. **Cancellation Due to unavailability of funds in later fiscal periods.** When funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a later fiscal period, the contract shall be cancelled, and the contractor may be reimbursed for the reasonable value of goods and services already provided. Such cancellation costs may be paid from any funds appropriated and available for such purposes
- (3) *Multiple-source contracting.*
 - a. **General.** A multiple-source award is an award of an indefinite-quantity contract for one or more similar supplies or services to more than one bidder or offeror.
 - b. **Limitations on use.** A multiple-source award may be made when award to two or more bidders or offerors for similar products is necessary for adequate delivery, service, or product compatibility. Any multiple-source award shall be made in accordance with sections 3-108 (competitive sealed bidding), 3-110 (competitive sealed proposals), 3-105 (small purchases), and 3-115 (emergency procurements) as applicable. Multiple-source awards shall not be made when a single award will meet the city's needs without sacrifice of economy or service. Awards shall not be made for the purpose of dividing the business, making available product or supplier selection to allow for user preference unrelated to utility or economy, or avoiding the resolution

of the bids. Any such awards shall be limited to the least number of suppliers necessary to meet all valid procurement requirements.

- c. **Contract and solicitation provisions.** All eligible using agencies of the contract shall be named in the solicitation. It shall be mandatory that the actual requirements of such using agencies which can be met under the contract as obtained in accordance with the contract, provided that the city shall reserve the right to take bids separately if a particular quantity is required or an amount is specified in the contract, or the purchasing manager approved a finding that the supply or service available under the contract will not meet a nonrecurring special need of the consolidated government.
- d. **Intent to use.** If a multiple-source award is anticipated before issuing a solicitation, the city will state all criteria for award in such solicitation and reserve the right to make such an award therein.
- e. **Justification.** The purchasing manager, and or requesting agencies, shall make a written determination, which shall be made a part of the procurement file, setting forth the reasons for any multiple-source award.

3-302.Contract clauses and their administration.

- (1) *Contract clauses.* All city contracts for supplies services, and construction shall include provisions necessary to define the responsibilities and rights of the parties to the contract. Additionally, any clauses required by federal or state laws or regulations shall also be included in every applicable contract.

3-304.Contract administration. A contract administration system designed to ensure that every contractor is performing in accordance with the solicitation under which the contract was awarded, as well as, all contract terms and conditions, shall be maintained.

3-305.Right to inspect plant and/or worksite.The city may, at reasonable times, inspect such portion of any plant, place of business, or worksite of a contractor (or any subcontractor at any tier) as may be pertinent to the performance of any contract awarded or to be awarded by the city.

3-306.Reporting of anticompetitive practices. When, for any reason, collusion or other anticompetitive practices are suspected among any bidders or offerors, a notice of the relevant facts shall be transmitted to the state attorney general and the appropriate legal office for the jurisdiction(s) conducting and/or financially involved in the procurement.

3-307.City procurement records.

- (1) *Contract file.* All determinations and other written records related to the solicitation, award, or performance of a contract shall be maintained for the city in a contract file by the purchasing manager.
- (2) *Retention of procurement records.* All procurement records shall be retained and disposed of by the city in accordance with the established records retention guidelines and schedules, according to federal, state or city rules and regulations, applicable for a particular procurement.

ARTICLE 4. SPECIFICATIONS

Part A: Objectives and Types of Specifications

4-101.Maximum practicable competition. All specifications shall be drafted so as to promote overall economy in the purpose intended and encourage competition in satisfying the city's needs and shall not be unduly restrictive. The policy enunciated in this section applies to all specifications, including but not limited to those prepared for the city by architects, engineers, draftspersons, or other non-employees.

4-102.Brand name or equal specification.

- (1) *Use.* Brand name or equal specifications may be used when the purchasing manager determines in writing that no other design or performance specification or qualified products list is available, time does not permit the preparation of another form of purchase description, without a brand name type of specification, the nature of the product or of the city's requirements makes using a brand name or equal specification suitable for the procurement, or use of a brand name or equal specification is in the city's best interest. It is not intended that the prior written determination required for the use of a brand name or equal specification will impose an undue administrative burden. Rather, it is designed to capture the important management decision to use this specification type. Such determination may be made for categories of supply, service, or construction items, or (in appropriate circumstances) for an entire procurement action, even though a number of different items are being procured.
- (2) *Designation of several brand names.* Brand name or equal specifications shall seek to designate three brands, or as many different brands as are practicable, as "or equal" references and shall further state that substantially equivalent products to those designated will be considered for award.

4-103.Brand name specifications.

- (1) *Use.* Since use of a brand name specification restricts competition, it may be used only when the using agency has provided a written justification that only the identified brand name item(s) will satisfy the city's needs. After performing research to determine the validity, the purchasing manager will make the final decision.
- (2) *Competition.* The purchasing manager shall seek to identify sources from which the designated brand name item(s) can be obtained and shall solicit such sources to achieve whatever degree of price competition is practicable. If only one source can supply the requirement, the procurement shall be made under section 3-114 (only known source (sole-source) procurement).

ARTICLE 5. CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENTS

Part A: Management of Construction Contracting

5-101.Selecting methods.

- (1) The purchasing manager, in consultation with the city's designated project engineer shall have discretion to select the appropriate method of construction contracting management for a particular project. In determining which method to use, the purchasing manager shall consider the city's requirements and resources, and the potential contractor's capabilities. The purchasing manager shall include in the contract file a written statement of the facts leading to the selection of the particular method of construction contracting management for each project.
- (2) *DBE participation.* For projects in which state or federal funds are not used, the city has an aspirational ten percent DBE participation goal. Bidders are encouraged to make a good faith effort to meet or exceed the goal by utilizing the services of DBE subcontractors in any area possible.
 - a. The city reserves the right to request bidders seek additional DBE participation if the bidders DBE participation goal is less than ten percent.
 - b. In the event a DBE subcontractor is unavailable or unable to perform any portion of a project, the bidder may be responsible for providing enough information to enable the city to determine whether efforts to contact DBE subcontractors were made in good-faith.
 - c. If awarded the contract, the bidder should utilize the DBE subcontractors listed in the bidder's submittal. Any changes to DBE utilization should be approved by the purchasing division.

Part B: Bid Security and Performance Bonds

5-201.Bid security

- (1) *Requirement for bid security.* Bid security shall be required for all competitive sealed bids for construction contracts when the price is estimated by the purchasing manager to exceed ~~\$50,000~~ ~~25,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~. Bid security shall be a bond provided by a surety company authorized to do business in the state, or other form satisfactory to the city. Such bonds may also be required on construction contracts under ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000.00~~ or other procurement contracts when circumstances warrant.
- (2) *Amount of bid security.* Bid security shall be in an amount equal to at least five percent of the bid amount.
- (3) *Rejection of bids for noncompliance with bid security requirements.* When the invitation for bids requires security, noncompliance with such requirement shall force rejection of a bid.
- (4) *Withdrawal of bids.* If a bidder is permitted to withdraw its bid before award as provided in section 3-108 subsection (G) (competitive sealed bidding—correction or withdrawal of bids: cancellation of awards), no action shall be had against the bidder or the bid security.

5-202.Contract performance and payment bonds.

- (1) *When required: Amounts.* When a construction contract is awarded in excess of ~~\$50,000.00~~ ~~25,000~~, the following bonds or security shall be delivered to the city, and shall be binding on the parties upon the execution of the contract:
 - a. A performance bond satisfactory to the city executed by a surely company authorized to do business in the state, or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to the city, amounting to 100 percent of the price specified in the contract; and
 - b. A payment bond satisfactory to the city executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the state or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to the city, to protect all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract, amounting to 100 percent of the price specified in the contract.

At the discretion of the purchasing manager, this same condition may be placed on awards of any amount.
- (2) *Authority to require additional bonds.* Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the city to require a performance bond or other security in addition to the bonds, in circumstances other than the circumstances described in subsection (1) above.

5-203.Copies of bond forms. Any person may request and obtain from the city a certified copy of a bond upon payment of the cost of reproduction of the bond and postage, if any. A certified copy of a bond shall be a prime facie evidence of the contents, execution, and delivery of the original.

Part C: Fiscal Responsibility Change Orders/Modifications

5-301.Fiscal responsibility—Change orders.

- (1) The city manager is authorized to sign change orders to construction contracts in an aggregate amount not to exceed ten percent of the original contract amount in order to provide payments for unforeseen construction costs. Changes not directly related to the progress or completion of the project, but designated as non-essential, shall be authorized by city council.

Development costs for a project should be viewed as having a project budget which includes architectural, engineering or consulting costs, construction costs, and a ten percent contingency cost.
- (2) Every contract modification, change order, or contract price adjustment to construction contracts with the city that exceeds an aggregate ten percent of the original contract amount shall be subject to prior approval by the city council, which shall first receive a report from the appropriate fiscal officer to the

effect of the contract modification, change order, or contract price adjustment on the total project budget or the total contract budget.

Part D: Procurement requirements for projects using Federal Aid Highway Program (FAHP) funding

Except as provided in sections 5-402 and 5-403 below, the Columbus Consolidated Government shall use the competitive negotiation method for the procurement of engineering and design related services when FAHP funds are involved in the contract (as specified in 23 U.S.C. 112 (b)(2)(A)). The solicitation, evaluation, ranking, selection, and negotiation shall comply with the qualifications-based selection procurement procedures for architectural and engineering services codified under 40 U.S.C. 1101-1104, commonly referred to as the Brooks Act.

5-401. Competitive negotiation qualification-based selection. In accordance with the requirements of the Brooks Act, the following procedures shall apply to the competitive negotiation procurement method:

- (1) *Solicitation.* The solicitation process shall be by public announcement, public advertisement, or any other public forum or method that assures qualified in-state and out-of-state consultants are given a fair opportunity to be considered for award of the contract. Procurement procedures may involve a single step process with issuance of a request for proposal (RFP) to all interested consultants or a multiphase process with issuance of a request for statements or letters of interest or qualifications (RFQ) whereby responding consultants are ranked based on qualifications and request for proposals are then provided to three or more of the most highly qualified consultants. Minimum qualifications of consultants to perform services under general work categories or areas of expertise may also be assessed through prequalification process whereby statements of qualifications are submitted on an annual basis. Regardless of any process utilized for prequalification of consultants or for an initial assessment of a consultant's qualifications under an RFQ, an RFP specific to the project, task, or service is required for evaluation of a consultant's specific technical approach and qualifications.
- (2) *Request for proposal (RFP).* The RFP shall provide all information and requirements necessary for interested consultants to provide a response to the RFP and compete for the solicited services. The RFP shall:
 - (A) Provide a clear, accurate, and detailed description of the scope of work, technical requirements, and qualifications of consultants necessary for the services to be rendered. The scope of work should detail the purpose and description of the project, services to be performed, deliverables to be provided, estimated schedule for performance of the work, and applicable standards, specifications, and policies;
 - (B) Identify the requirements for any discussions that may be conducted with three or more of the most highly qualified consultants following submission and evaluation of proposals;
 - (C) Identify evaluation factors including their relative weight of importance in accordance with subparagraph (a)(1)(iii) of this section;
 - (D) Specify the contract type and method(s) of payment to be utilized in accordance with § 172.9;
 - (E) Identify any special provisions or contract requirements associated with the solicited services;
 - (F) Require that submission of any requested cost proposals or elements of cost be in a concealed format and separate from technical/qualifications proposals as these shall not be considered in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase; and
 - (G) Provide a schedule of key dates for the procurement process and establish a submittal deadline for responses to the RFP which provides sufficient time for interested consultants to receive notice, prepare, and submit a proposal, which except in unusual circumstances shall be not less than 14 days from the date of issuance of the RFP.
- (3) *Evaluation factors.*

- (A) Criteria used for evaluation, ranking, and selection of consultants to perform engineering and design related services must assess the demonstrated competence and qualifications for the type of professional services solicited. These qualifications-based factors may include, but are not limited to, technical approach (e.g., project understanding, innovative concepts or alternatives, quality control procedures), work experience, specialized expertise, professional licensure, staff capabilities, workload capacity, and past performance.
 - (B) Price shall not be used as a factor in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase. All price or cost related items which include, but are not limited to, cost proposals, direct salaries/wage rates, indirect cost rates, and other direct costs are prohibited from being used as evaluation criteria.
 - (C) In-state or local preference shall not be used as a factor in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase. State licensing laws are not preempted by this provision and professional licensure within a jurisdiction may be established as a requirement which attests to the minimum qualifications and competence of a consultant to perform the solicited services.
 - (D) The following non-qualifications based evaluation criteria are permitted under the specified conditions and provided the combined total of these criteria do not exceed a nominal value of ten percent of the total evaluation criteria to maintain the integrity of a qualifications-based selection:
 - (i) A local presence may be used as a nominal evaluation factor where appropriate. This criterion shall not be based on political or jurisdictional boundaries and may be applied on a project-by-project basis for contracts where a need has been established for a consultant to provide a local presence, a local presence will add value to the quality and efficiency of the project, and application of this criteria leaves an appropriate number of qualified consultants, given the nature and size of the project. If a consultant outside of the locality area indicates as part of a proposal that it will satisfy the criteria in some manner, such as establishing a local project office, that commitment shall be considered to have satisfied the local presence criteria.
 - (ii) The participation of qualified and certified disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) sub-consultants may be used as a nominal evaluation criterion where appropriate in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26 and the Columbus Consolidated Government's FHWA-approved DBE program.
- (4) *Evaluation, ranking, and selection.*
- (A) Consultant proposals shall be evaluated by the Columbus Consolidated Government based on the criteria established and published within the public solicitation.
 - (B) While the contract will be with the prime consultant, proposal evaluations shall consider the qualifications of the prime consultant and any sub-consultants identified within the proposal with respect to the scope of work and established criteria.
 - (C) Following submission and evaluation of proposals, the Columbus Consolidated Government shall conduct interviews or other types of discussions determined three of the most highly qualified consultants to clarify the technical approach, qualifications, and capabilities provided in response to the RFP. Discussion requirements shall be specified within the RFP and should be based on the size and complexity of the project as defined in Columbus Consolidated Government written policies and procedures (as specified in § 172.5(c)). Discussions may be written, by telephone, video conference, or by oral presentation/interview. Discussions following proposal submission are not required provided proposals contain sufficient information for evaluation of technical approach and qualifications to perform the specific project, task, or service with respect to established criteria.

- (D) From the proposal evaluation and any subsequent discussions which have been conducted, the Columbus Consolidated Government shall rank, in order of preference, at least three consultants determined most highly qualified to perform the solicited services based on the established and published criteria.
 - (E) Notification must be provided to responding consultants of the final ranking of the three most highly qualified consultants.
 - (F) The Columbus Consolidated Government shall retain acceptable documentation of the solicitation, proposal, evaluation, and selection of the consultant accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 18.42.
- (5) *Negotiation.*
- (A) Independent estimate. Prior to receipt or review of the most highly qualified consultant's cost proposal, the Columbus Consolidated Government shall prepare a detailed independent estimate with an appropriate breakdown of the work or labor hours, types or classifications of labor required, other direct costs, and consultant's fixed fee for the defined scope of work. The independent estimate shall serve as the basis for negotiation and ensuring the consultant services are obtained at a fair and reasonable cost.
 - (B) Elements of contract costs (e. g., indirect cost rates, direct salary or wage rates, fixed fee, and other direct costs) shall be established separately in accordance with § 172.11.
 - (C) If concealed cost proposals were submitted in conjunction with technical/qualifications proposals, only the cost proposal of the consultant with which negotiations are initiated may be considered. Concealed cost proposals of consultants with which negotiations are not initiated should be returned to the respective consultant due to the confidential nature of this data (as specified in 23 U.S.C. 11 2 (b)(2) (E)).
 - (D) The Columbus Consolidated Government shall retain documentation • of negotiation activities and resources used in the analysis of costs to establish elements of the contract in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 18.42. This documentation shall include the consultant cost certification and documentation supporting the acceptance of the indirect cost rate to be applied to the contract (as specified in § 172.11 (c)).

5-402.Small purchases. The small purchase method involves procurement of engineering and design related services where an adequate number of qualified sources are reviewed and the total contract costs do not exceed an established simplified acquisition threshold. The Columbus Consolidated Government may use the state's small purchase procedures which reflect applicable state laws and regulations for the procurement of engineering and design related services provided the total contract costs do not exceed the federal simplified acquisition threshold (as specified in 48 CFR 2 . 101). When a lower threshold for use of small purchase procedures is established in state law, regulation, or policy, the lower threshold shall apply to the use of FAHP funds. The following additional requirements shall apply to the small purchase procurement method:

- (A) The scope of work, project phases, and contract requirements shall not be broken down into smaller components merely to permit the use of small purchase procedures.
- (B) A minimum of three consultants are required to satisfy the adequate number of qualified sources reviewed.
- (C) Contract costs may be negotiated in accordance with state small purchase procedures; however, the allow ability of costs shall be determined in accordance with the federal cost principles.
- (D) The full amount of any contract modification or amendment that would cause the total contract amount to exceed the established simplified acquisition threshold would be ineligible for federal-aid

funding. The FHWA may withdraw all federal-aid from a contract if it is modified or amended above the applicable established simplified acquisition threshold.

5-403. Noncompetitive method. The noncompetitive method involves procurement of engineering and design related services when it is not feasible to award the contract using competitive negotiation or small purchase procurement methods. The following requirements shall apply to the noncompetitive procurement method:

- (A) The Columbus Consolidated Government may use their own noncompetitive procedures which reflect applicable state and local laws and regulations and conform to applicable federal requirements.
- (B) The Columbus Consolidated Government shall establish a process to determine when noncompetitive procedures will be used and shall submit justification to, and receive approval from, the FHWA before using this form of contracting.
- (C) Circumstances under which a contract may be awarded by noncompetitive procedures are limited to the following:
 - (i) The service is available only from a single source;
 - (ii) There is an emergency which will not permit the time necessary to conduct competitive negotiations; or
 - (iii) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined to be inadequate.
- (D) Contract costs may be negotiated in accordance with the Columbus Consolidated Government noncompetitive procedures; however, the allowability of costs shall be determined in accordance with the federal cost principles.

5-404. Additional procurement requirements.

- (1) *Common grant rule.*
 - (A) The Columbus Consolidated Government must comply with procurement requirements established in state and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures which are not addressed by or in conflict with applicable federal laws and regulations (as specified in 49 CFR 18.36).
 - (B) When state and local procurement laws, regulations, policies, or procedures are in conflict with applicable federal laws and regulations, the Columbus Consolidated Government must comply with federal requirements to be eligible for federal-aid reimbursement of the associated costs of the services incurred following FHWA authorization (as specified in 49 CFR 18.4).
- (2) *Disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) program.*
 - (A) The Columbus Consolidated Government shall give consideration to DBE consultants in the procurement of engineering and design related service contracts subject to 23 U.S.C. 112(b)(2) in accordance with 49 CFR part 26. When DBE program participation goals cannot be met through race-neutral measures, additional DBE participation on engineering and design related services contracts may be achieved in accordance with the Columbus Consolidated Government's FHWA approved DBE program through either:
 - (i) Use of an evaluation criterion in the qualifications-based selection of consultants (as specified in § 172.7(a)(1)(iii)(D)); or
 - (ii) Establishment of a contract participation goal.
 - (B) The use of quotas or exclusive set-asides for DBE consultants is prohibited (as specified in 49 CFR 26.4

- (3) **Suspension and debarment.** The Columbus Consolidated Government must verify suspension and debarment actions and eligibility status of consultants and subconsultants prior to entering into an agreement or contract in accordance with 49 CFR 18.35 and 2 CFR part 180.

Part E: Procurement Requirements for METRA Projects using Federal Transportation Act (FTA) Funding

5-501.METRA's procurement policies and procedures. For all METRA procurements using FTA funding, the Columbus Consolidated Government shall comply with Part 200 of Title 2, Subtitle A of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and the requirements of FTA Circular 4220.1F. METRA's Procurement Policies and Procedures includes the requirements of Part 200 and may be amended from time to time to incorporate updated federal requirements. A copy of METRA's Procurement Policies and Procedures, together with any updated version, will remain on file with the clerk of council. METRA will continue to adhere to the CCG Procurement Ordinance. If there is a conflict in the provisions of federal and CCG policy, METRA will comply with the more stringent requirement.

ARTICLE 6. DEBARMENT OR SUSPENSION

Part A: Procedures

6-101.Authority to debar or suspend.

- (1) *Debarment.* After reasonable notice to the person involved and reasonable opportunity for that person to be heard, and after consulting with the city attorney, the purchasing manager is authorized to debar a person from consideration for award of contracts for cause. Debarment shall be for a period of not more than three years. Causes for debarment include:
- a. Conviction for commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract,
 - b. Conviction under state or federal laws for embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property, or any other offense indicating a lack of business honesty which currently, seriously, and directly affects responsibility as a city contractor;
 - c. Conviction under state or federal anti-trust laws arising out of the submission of bids or proposals,
 - d. Violation of contract provisions as set forth below, of a character regarded by the purchasing manager to be so serious as to justify debarment action:
 - i. Deliberate failure, without good cause, to perform in accordance with the specifications or the time limit stated in the contract; or
 - ii. A recent record of failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts, provided that failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance caused by the acts beyond the control of the contractor shall not be considered to be a basis for debarment; or
 - e. Any other cause the purchasing manager determines to be so serious and compelling as to affect responsibility as a city contractor, including debarment by another governmental entity for any cause listed in this ordinance.
- (2) *Suspension.* After reasonable notice to the person involved and reasonable opportunity for that person to be heard, and after consulting with the city attorney, the purchasing manager is authorized to suspend a person from consideration for award of contracts if there is probable cause to believe that

the person has engaged in any activity which might lead to debarment. Suspension shall be for a period not to exceed three months.

6-102. Decision to debar or suspend. The purchasing manager shall issue a written decision to debar or suspend. The decision shall state the reasons for the action taken and inform the debarred or suspended person involved of its rights concerning judicial or administrative review.

6-103. Notice of decision. A copy of the decision required by section 6-102 above shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the debarred or suspended person.

6-104. Finality of decision. A decision under section 6-102 above shall be final and conclusive unless fraudulent, or unless the debarred or suspended person within ten days after receipt of the decision takes an appeal to the city council or commences a timely action in court in accordance with applicable law.

ARTICLE 7. SURPLUS MANAGEMENT

Part A: Procedures

7-101. Supply management regulations required. The purchasing manager shall promulgate regulations governing management of supplies during their entire life cycle: sale, donation, lease or disposal of such surplus supplies by public auction, competitive sealed bidding, or other appropriate method designated by regulation: and the transfer of excess supplies.

7-102. Records and proceeds. Unless otherwise provided by law, the purchasing manager shall turn all records of and proceeds from the sale, donation, lease, or disposal of surplus supplies over to the accounting manager and finance director.

ARTICLE 8. APPEALS AND REMEDIES

Part A: Types and Procedures

8-101. Right to protest

- (1) *Right of protest.* Any actual or prospective bidder offeror, or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with a solicitation or award of a contract may protest to the purchasing manager initially. All protests shall be filed in the manner prescribed herein. Protests that do not comply with the following rules shall be deemed invalid and of no effect.
- (2) The protest must be in writing, executed by a company officer that is authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the bidder or offeror or provided by an authorized legal representative of the protestor.
- (3) A protest with respect to an invitation for bids or request for proposals shall be submitted in writing no less than five business days prior to the opening of bids or the closing date of proposals or qualification statements.
- (4) *Stay of procurement during protests.* If there is a timely protest submitted as described above, the purchasing manager shall not proceed further with the solicitation or award of the contract until all administrative remedies have been exhausted or until the city council, mayor, or city manager makes a determination on the record that the award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect substantial interests of the city.

8-102. Contract claims.

- (1) *Decision of the purchasing manager.* All claims by a contractor against the city relating to a contract, except bid protests, shall be submitted in writing to the purchasing manager for a decision. The contractor may request a conference with the purchasing manager on the claim. Claims include, but are not limited to, disputes arising under a contract and those based upon breach of contract, mistake, misrepresentation, or other cause for contract modification or rescission.

- (2) *Notice to the contractor of the purchasing manager's decision.* After any requested conference and a full review of the matter, the purchasing manager shall promptly issue a written decision which shall immediately be mailed or otherwise furnished to the contractor. The decision shall state the reasons for the decision reached and shall inform the contractor of its appeal rights under subsection (3) below.
- (3) *Finality of purchasing manager's decision: Contractor's right to appeal.* The purchasing manager's decision shall be final and conclusive unless, within five business days from the date of receipt of the decision, the contractor mails or otherwise delivers a written appeal to the city manager with a copy to the purchasing manager.
- (4) *Failure to render timely decision.* If the purchasing manager does not issue a written decision regarding any contract controversy within five business days after receiving the written request for a final decision, or within such longer period as may be agreed upon between upon between the parties, then the aggrieved party may proceed as if an adverse decision had been received.

8-103. Remedies for illegal solicitations or awards.

- (1) *Prior to bid opening or closing date for receipt of proposals.* If, prior to the bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals, the purchasing manager determines (after consultation with the city attorney) that a solicitation is in violation of federal, state, or municipal law, then the solicitation shall be cancelled or revised to comply with applicable law.
- (2) *Prior to award.* If, after bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals but prior to the contract award, the purchasing manager determines (after consultation with the city attorney) that a solicitation or a proposed award of a contract is in violation of federal, state, or municipal law, then the solicitation or proposed award shall be cancelled.
- (3) *After award.* If, after an award, the purchasing manager determines (after consultation with the city attorney) that a solicitation or award of contract was in violation of applicable law, then:
 - a. If the person awarded the contract has not acted fraudulently or in bad faith, the contract may be ratified and affirmed if such action is in the best interest of the city, or the contract may be terminated, and the person awarded the contract compensated of the actual costs reasonable incurred under the contract (plus a reasonable profit) prior to the termination; or
 - b. If the person awarded the contract has acted fraudulently or in bad faith, the contract may be declared null and void or voidable, if such action is in the best interests of the city.

ARTICLE 9. COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

Part A: Procedures

9-101. Cooperative purchasing authorized. Any local public procurement unit may either participate in sponsor, conduct, or administer a cooperative purchasing agreement for the procurement of any supplies, services, or construction with one or more local public procurement unite or external procurers in accordance with an agreement entered into between the participants. Such cooperative purchasing may include but is not limited to joint or multi-party contracts between public procurement units and external procurers.

9-102. Sale, acquisition, or use of supplies. Any public procurement unit may sell to, acquire from, or use any of the supplies belonging to another public procurement unit or external procurer.

9-103. Cooperative use of supplies or services. Any public procurement unit may enter into an argument with any other public procurement unit or external procurer for the cooperative use of supplies or services under terms agreed upon between the parties.

9-104. Joint use of facilities. Any public procurement unit may enter into agreements for the common use or lease of warehousing facilities, capital equipment, and other facilities with another public procurement unit or an external procurer under the terms agreed upon between the parties.

9-105. Supply of personnel and services.

- (1) *Supply of personnel.* Any public procurement unit is authorized at its discretion upon written request from another public procurement unit or external procurer, to provide personnel to the requesting public procurement unit or external procurer. The public procurement unit or external procurer making the request shall pay the public procurement unit providing the personnel the direct and indirect cost of furnishing the personnel, in accordance with an agreement between the parties.
- (2) *Supply of service.* The informational, technical, and other services of any public procurement unit may be made available to any other public procurement unit or external procurer provided that the requirements of the public procurement unit tendering the services shall have precedence over the requesting public procurement unit or external procurer. The requesting public procurement unit or external procurer shall pay for the expenses of services so provided, in accordance with an agreement between the parties.
- (3) *Information services.* Upon request, the purchasing manager may make available to public procurement units or external procurers the following services, among others:
 - a. Standard forms,
 - b. Printed manuals,
 - c. Product specifications and standards,
 - d. Quality assurance testing services and methods,
 - e. Qualified products lists,
 - f. Source information,
 - g. Common use commodities listings,
 - h. Supplier pre-qualification information,
 - i. Supplier performance ratings,
 - j. Debarred and suspended bidders' lists,
 - k. Forms for invitations for bids, request for proposals, instructions to bidders or offerors, general contract provisions, and other contract forms; and,
 - l. Contracts or published summaries thereof, including price and time of deliver information.
- (4) *Technical services.* The consolidated government, through the purchasing manager, may provide the following technical services, among other:
 - a. Development of products specifications,
 - b. Development of quality assurance testing methods, including receiving, inspection, and acceptance procedures,
 - c. Use of product testing and inspection facilities; and,
 - d. Use of personnel training programs.

ARTICLE 10. ASSISTANCE TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (DBE): SMALL, WOMEN-OWNED AND MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Part A: Policy Statement

10-101. DBE utilization policy statement. The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia ("the city") is committed to using disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) (small, women-owned and minority business

enterprises) to the greatest extent practical in all solicitations and day-to-day procurement needs of the city and to taking specific affirmative actions to meet these commitments.

With the exception of METRA transit system, the purchasing manager will assign the duties of the DBE liaison officer to a purchasing division staff member, and shall develop, apply, and administer the city's current DBE policy statement and program, working with contractors, subcontractors, and city staff to see that the program is understood and carried out.

Consistent with the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law and with the availability of qualified DBEs, our goal is to use DBEs for a given minimum percentage of construction contracts, and to encourage DBEs to participate in all city contracts. Our objective is to better the chances for DBEs to participate in city procurements, to help them gain both experience and profit, and through this to contribute to the economic development of the minority and disadvantage business community—which in turn works for the general good of the entire community.

We believe this policy is fair. It shall be used together with the general principles of sound procurement, to achieve the maximum practical use of DBEs by the city and its contractors and subcontractors.

The city shall provide equal opportunities for all and shall not discriminate against anyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, or disability. The city's current DBE policy statement and program shall be sent to all concerned community and business organizations and to affected city staff.

The liaison officer will conduct annual seminars to inform local DBEs about business opportunities available with the city. Pre-bid conferences to discuss and answer questions about the city's DBE program will be held at the request of interested bidders or proposers.

10-102.METRA transit system DBE program policy statement. The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the city) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE Program) in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The city receives federal financial assistance from the department of transportation, and as a condition of receiving the assistance, the city has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
6. To assist in the development of firms so that they may compete successfully in the marketplace outside of the DBE Program.

The transit compliance officer has been designated as the DBE liaison officer for METRA transit, the public transportation agency for the city. In that capacity, the DBE liaison officer is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program as they relate to METR[A] transit. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia in its financial assistance agreements with the department of transportation.

Columbus Consolidated Government shall disseminate this policy statement to the Mayor, Columbus Council, and all relevant components of our organization. We shall distribute this statement to DBE and non-

DBE communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts by including the statement in procurement documents and by posting the statement on the webpage of METRA Transit System, the public transportation entity of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia.

ARTICLE 11. ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING

Part A: Standards and Regulations

11-101.Criminal penalties. To the extent that violations of the ethical standards of conduct set forth in this article constitute violations of the state criminal code, they shall be punishable as provided herein. Such penalties shall be in addition to the civil sanctions set forth in this article. Criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions against employees or non-employees which are in existence on the effective date of this ordinance shall not be impaired.

11-102.Employee conflict of interest. All elected officials, appointed officials, and employees of the Consolidated Government of Columbus participating directly or indirectly in the purchasing process shall be governed by the Code of Ethics located in Appendix Two of the Charter of Columbus, Georgia and Columbus Code Sections 2-3.05 and 2-3.06.

11-103.Gratuities and Kickbacks.

- (1) *Gratuities.* It shall be unethical for any person to offer, give, or agree to give any city employee or former city employee (or for any city employee or former city employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person) a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, recommendation, or preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement of a contract of subcontract, or to any solicitation of proposal therefor.
- (2) *Kickbacks.* It shall be unethical for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor to a prime contractor or higher-tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith (or for a prime contractor or higher-tier subcontractor, or any person associated therewith, to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept such payment, gratuity or offer of employment from a subcontractor), as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- (3) *Contract clause.* The prohibition against gratuities and kickbacks prescribed in this section shall be conspicuously set forth in every contract and solicitation therefor.

11-104.Prohibition against contingent fees. It shall be unethical to retain a person or for a person to be retained to solicit or secure city contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, or anything of monetary value, except for retention of either bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing businesses.

11-105.Contemporaneous employment prohibited. It shall be unethical for any city employee participating either directly or indirectly in the procurement process to become or to be, while such a city employee, the employee of a person contracting with the governmental body employing the city employee.

11-106.Waivers. The city council may grant a waiver of the employee conflict of interest provision (section 11-102) or the contemporaneous employment provision (section 11-105) upon the purchasing manager's written determination that:

- (a) The contemporaneous employment or financial interest of the city employee has been publicly disclosed;
- (b) The city employee will be able to perform procurement functions without actual or apparent bias or favoritism; and

- (c) The award will be in the best interests of the city.

11-107. Use of confidential information. It shall be unethical for any employee or former employee to use confidential information knowingly for actual or anticipated personal gain, or for the actual or anticipated gain of any other person.

11-108. Sanctions.

- (1) *Employees.* The department director of a city employee violating the ethical standards in this article, and/or the city manager, may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on such city employee:
- (a) Oral or written warnings or reprimands,
 - (b) Suspension with or without pay for specified periods of time; or
 - (c) Termination of employment.
- (2) *Non-employees.* The city council may impose any one or more of the following sanctions on a non-employee for violations of the ethical standards in this article:
- (a) Written warnings or reprimands,
 - (b) Termination of contracts; or
 - (c) Debarment or suspension as provided in section 6-101 (authority to debar or suspend) above.

11-109. Recovery of value transferred or received.

- (1) *General provisions.* The value of anything transferred or received in breach of the ethical standards of this ordinance by a city employee or a non-employee may be recovered from both city employee and non-employee.
- (2) *Recovery of kickbacks by the city.* Upon a showing that a subcontractor made a kickback to a prime contractor or a higher-tier subcontractor in connection with the award of a subcontract or order thereunder, it shall be conclusively presumed that the amount thereof was included in the price of the subcontract or order and ultimately borne by the city and will be recoverable hereunder from the recipient. In addition, that amount may also be recovered from the subcontractor making the kickback. Recovery from one offending party shall not preclude recovery from other offending parties.

(Ord. No. 20-053, § 1, 11-17-20)

**CCG PURCHASING LIMITS & REQUIREMENTS
FOR ONE-TIME PURCHASES**

*Applicable to the **TOTAL PURCHASE AMOUNT** from a single vendor,
and goods/service **NOT UNDER ANNUAL CONTRACT***

<p align="center">Purchases Up to \$5,000</p>	<p>Small Purchases: No competition required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary purchase instrument – City Purchasing Card 2. Alternative Purchase instruments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purchase Order – PD Document b. Petty Cash (\$100.00 or less) <p>*Purchase Authority (final approval): Department</p>
<p align="center">Purchases \$5,001 - \$25,000</p>	<p>Requires one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperative Contract Quote 2. Written price quotes required from at least 3 vendors. <i>(Departments should request quotes from at least five vendors to obtain at least three (3) quotes. **Quotes can only be obtained by Employees who have attended the Price Quote Training. Purchasing will not accept quotes obtained by Employees who have not attended training.)</i> 3. Only Known Source Justification <p>Enter a PD Document for the recommended vendor.</p> <p>*Purchase Authority (final approval): Purchasing</p>
<p align="center">Purchases \$25,001 - \$49,999</p>	<p>Requires one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperative Contract Quote 2. Only Known Source Justification 3. Informal Bid Process administered by Purchasing. <p>*Purchase Authority (final approval): City Manager has designated Finance Department Approval (Purchasing Division Manager, Accounting, Financial Planning and Finance Director)</p>
<p align="center">Purchases \$50,000 and greater</p>	<p>Requires one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperative Contract Quote 2. Only Known Source Justification 3. Formal Bid/RFP process <p>*Purchase Authority (final approval): City Council</p>

File Attachments for Item:

4. 2nd Reading- An ordinance amending Section 2-298(b) of the Columbus Code to allow members of the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board to serve on more than one Council appointed board; and for other purposes. (Councilor Thomas)

AN ORDINANCE

NO.

An Ordinance amending Section 2-298(b) of the Columbus Code to allow members of the Liberty Theatre & Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board to serve on more than one Council appointed board; and for other purposes.

SECTION 1.

Section 2-298(b) of the Columbus Code is hereby amended by striking current paragraph (b) of that Code Section and inserting a new Section 2-298(b) which shall read as follows:

“Sec. 2-298. Board duties.

(b) The seat of any member of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board shall be declared vacant if such member misses three consecutive meetings. Any board vacancies shall be filled as provided in section 2-296 of this Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, any member of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board may accept appointment to or continue serving on another board appointed by council.”

SECTION 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 10th day of September, 2024; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T Davis
Clerk of Council

B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III
Mayor

Sec. 2-298. Board duties.

- (a) The board shall perform duties including, but not limited to:
- (1) The board shall meet at least bimonthly (six times per year) with the director of the civic center and shall elect a chairperson to preside at its meetings;
 - (2) The board shall prepare minutes of its meetings with assistance from civic center personnel and shall transmit a copy of the same to the mayor, council, city manager and clerk of council;
 - (3) The board shall provide written recommendations to the mayor, council, city manager and clerk of council when deemed necessary by the board concerning the operations and programs of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center;
 - (4) The board shall review financial statements of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center with a representative from the finance department at least on an annual basis, and the board chair and civic center director or their designees shall report to council on the results of the review;
 - (5) The board shall inspect and conduct site visits to the facilities of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center at least quarterly, and the board chair and civic center director or their designees shall report quarterly to council on the results of the site visit;
 - (6) The board shall review the policies and procedures which pertain to the operations of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center at least once a year and make any recommendations for amendments as deemed necessary by the board;
 - (7) Perform any other activities or duties as requested by the Columbus Council.
- (b) The seat of any member of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board shall be declared vacant if such member misses three consecutive meetings. Any board vacancies shall be filled as provided in section 2-296 of this Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, any member of the Liberty Theatre and Cultural Arts Center Advisory Board may accept appointment to or continue serving on another board appointed by council

File Attachments for Item:

5. 1st Reading- An ordinance amending Section 5-42 of the Columbus Code, to amend certain restrictions on the keeping of fowl; and for other purposes. (Councilor Crabb)

AN ORDINANCE

NO.

An Ordinance amending Section 5-42 of the Columbus Code, to amend certain restrictions on the keeping of fowl; and for other purposes.

SECTION 1.

Section 5-42 of the Columbus Code is hereby amended by adding a new paragraph 5-42(a)(3) to read as follows:

“Notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph 5-42. (a), the keeping of up to 6 chickens will be permitted on any size lot with a Single Family Residential (SFR) zoning classification subject to compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (b) through (g) below.”

SECTION 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 24th day of September, 2024; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T Davis
Clerk of Council

B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III
Mayor

Sec. 5-42. Keeping of fowl.

- (a) *When permitted.* The keeping of fowl shall be allowed as an accessory use on any lot two acres or more in size. The keeping of such domestic fowl shall be in accordance with the following:
- (1) The number of domestic fowl kept on a given lot shall not exceed the ratio of one bird unit per one acre, with a bird unit identified as follows:
 - 32 chickens equals one bird unit.
 - 16 ducks equals one bird unit.
 - 8 turkeys equals one bird unit.
 - 8 geese equals one bird unit.
 - (2) When determining the number of domestic fowl permitted, only fowl six weeks or older in age shall be counted.
 - (3) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph 5-42. (a), the keeping of up to 6 chickens will be permitted on any size lot with a Single Family Residential (SFR) zoning classification subject to compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (b) through (g) below,
- (b) *Compliance with zoning ordinance.* The keeping of racing, homing or exhibition (fancy) pigeons shall be allowed as an accessory use of a residential lot only in accordance with the "minimum requirements" set forth in the zoning ordinance and the distance from adjacent dwelling requirement established by paragraph (c)(3) of section 5-42.
- (c) *Location of accessory structures.* All accessory structures associated with the keeping or housing of animals shall be located in accordance with the provisions stated as follows:
- (1) Barns or other structures used in connection with agriculture, to include structures for the keeping, confining or sheltering of any poultry as defined in subsection (a)(1) above, shall be located no closer than 100 feet to any lot line. In no instance shall such structures be used for retail sales, except as permitted under the business license section of this Code.
 - (2) Barns or other structures used for the confining or sheltering of domestic fowl not in connection with agriculture shall be no closer than 50 feet to any lot line.
 - (3) Cages, lofts, pens and other structures which are used for the keeping of homing, racing or exhibition (fancy) pigeons shall be located no closer than 150 feet from the nearest part of a house occupied by a person other than the keeper of the birds.
- (d) *Fowl commonly excepted.* Subject to the provisions of paragraph (f) of this section, exotic chickens, ducks and geese six weeks old, birds such as canaries, parakeets, doves, and parrots or other exotic birds normally kept as pets or primarily for hobby purposes shall not be subject to the remaining provisions of this section.
- (e) *Businesses excluded.* Retail stores properly licensed under other provisions of this Code which maintain exotic chickens, ducks and geese six weeks of age, canaries, parakeets, doves, parrots, and other exotic birds for the purpose of retail sales from inventory, and other properly licensed poultry related industries other than retail sales to pet owners shall not be subject to the provisions of this section, except for paragraph (f).
- (f) *Noise and odors.* Notwithstanding any of the provisions contained herein, at no time shall an owner of domestic fowl place a structure or keep domestic fowl in any fashion which would cause emission of noise or odor detrimental to other property or individuals residing thereon in the area. Further, it shall be unlawful to allow domestic fowl or other exotic fowl or birds to run on public property or private property other than the property of its owner.

-
- (g) *Notice of violation.* Any owner of birds or fowl in Columbus, or any owner of property used for the keeping of birds or fowl in the city, shall be notified in writing of any violation of this section by the division of animal services or the health department, and shall be given 30 days to correct stated violation. If after 30 days from the date of the notice, the owner of the birds or fowl or the property owner or occupant of the premises where the birds or fowl reside fails to comply with the provisions of this section, a citation to appear in the recorder's court may be issued to such person.

(Ord. No. 85-118, § 1, 10-15-85; Ord. No. 21-061, § 1(Exh. A), 11-16-21)

File Attachments for Item:

6. 1st Reading- An Ordinance adding a new Section 2-3.08 of the Columbus Code, to establish a uniform policy for the acceptance of donations made to the consolidated government, and for other purposes. (Councilor Tucker)

AN ORDINANCE

NO.

An Ordinance adding a new Section 2-3.08 of the Columbus Code, to establish a uniform policy for the acceptance of donations made to the consolidated government, and for other purposes.

SECTION 1.

A new Section 2-3.08 of the Columbus Code is hereby adopted to read as follows:

“Sec. 2-3.8. – Acceptance of Donations.

All donations in monetary or in kind made by private individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations to the consolidated government or its departments or other agencies will be accepted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- (1) Donations in an amount or having a value of less than \$1000. may be accepted at the departmental level. Each receiving department or agency will be responsible for logging the donation on a donation index which will be updated quarterly and available on the City’s website.
- (2) Donations to be received in a specific fiscal year for a particular project or purpose shall be approved in aggregate by Council Resolution on an annual basis.
- (3) Donations in an amount or having a value over \$1000.00 which are not part of an annual authorization made pursuant to paragraph (2) above shall be brought to Council for approval by resolution on the City Manager’s Agenda.”

SECTION 2.

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 24th day of September, 2024; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____

Councilor Hickey voting _____
Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Thomas voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T Davis
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

1. Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade

Approval is requested to execute a Lighting Services Agreement with Georgia Power for the Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade in the initial amount of \$260,000.00 to replace the previously demolished lighting in order to facilitate the construction of the various improvements to the Park. The new lighting is located along the ingress path and emergency egress pathways from the Park and will provide visibility to both stadium visitors and first responders during normal operations as well as in an emergency. Georgia Power will furnish and install all wiring, conduit, light poles, pole bases, and light fixtures. Funding is provided by bond proceeds.

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

Item #1.

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to execute a Lighting Services Agreement with Georgia Power for the Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade in the initial amount of \$260,000.00 to replace the previously demolished lighting in order to facilitate the construction of the various improvements to the Park. The new lighting is located along the ingress path and emergency egress pathways from the Park and will provide visibility to both stadium visitors and first responders during normal operations as well as in an emergency. Georgia Power will furnish and install all wiring, conduit, light poles, pole bases, and light fixtures. Funding is provided by bond proceeds.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to execute a Lighting Services Agreement with Georgia Power for the Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade in the initial amount of \$260,000.00 to replace the previously demolished lighting in order to facilitate the construction of the various improvements to the Park. The new lighting is located along the ingress path and emergency egress pathways from the Park and will provide visibility to both stadium visitors and first responders during normal operations as well as in an emergency. Georgia Power will furnish and install all wiring, conduit, light poles, pole bases, and light fixtures. Funding is provided by bond proceeds.

Background: The City of Columbus utilizes Georgia Power to install and maintain street lighting and pedestrian lighting throughout the areas of Columbus serviced by Georgia Power. The existing lighting along the entry way and pathways around the exterior of Synovus Park had to be removed to facilitate the construction of the various improvements to the Park. The new lighting is located along the ingress path and emergency egress pathways from the Park and will provide visibility to both stadium visitors and first responders during normal operations as well as in an emergency. The new light fixtures will be LED, which will provide a higher level of visibility than the old fixtures. The new lighting has been coordinated with the design of the site improvements.

Analysis: The proposed lighting improvements includes 38 lighting fixtures around the Park.

Financial Considerations: The upfront capital cost is \$260,000 funded by bond proceeds and an average monthly cost for maintenance and energy of \$1,007.64 funded from the Streetlight budget in the General Fund. The previous monthly costs for lights in this area was approximately \$600 per month. The capital cost includes installation of all new conduit, wire, light poles, pole bases, and light fixtures. Lighting inside the perimeter of Synovus Park is being installed under the existing contract with the design-build contractor. The monthly cost of lighting inside the perimeter of Synovus Park will be included in the lessor's utility payments.

Legal Considerations: Council approval is required to execute this agreement.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to execute a Lighting Services Agreement with Georgia Power for the Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade.

Item #1.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A LIGHTING SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA POWER FOR THE SYNOVUS PARK INGRESS/EGRESS LIGHTING UPGRADE.

WHEREAS, the previous lighting improvements to the park and the lighting needs to be upgraded for vehicle and pedestrian safety; and, Synovus Park had be demolished to facilitate ingress/egress pathways to Synovus Park

WHEREAS, Georgia Power is proposing to install 38 new light fixtures around Synovus Park to include all conduit, wiring, light poles, pole bases, and light fixtures; and,

Item #1.

WHEREAS, the upfront capital cost is \$260,000 funded thru bond proceeds.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

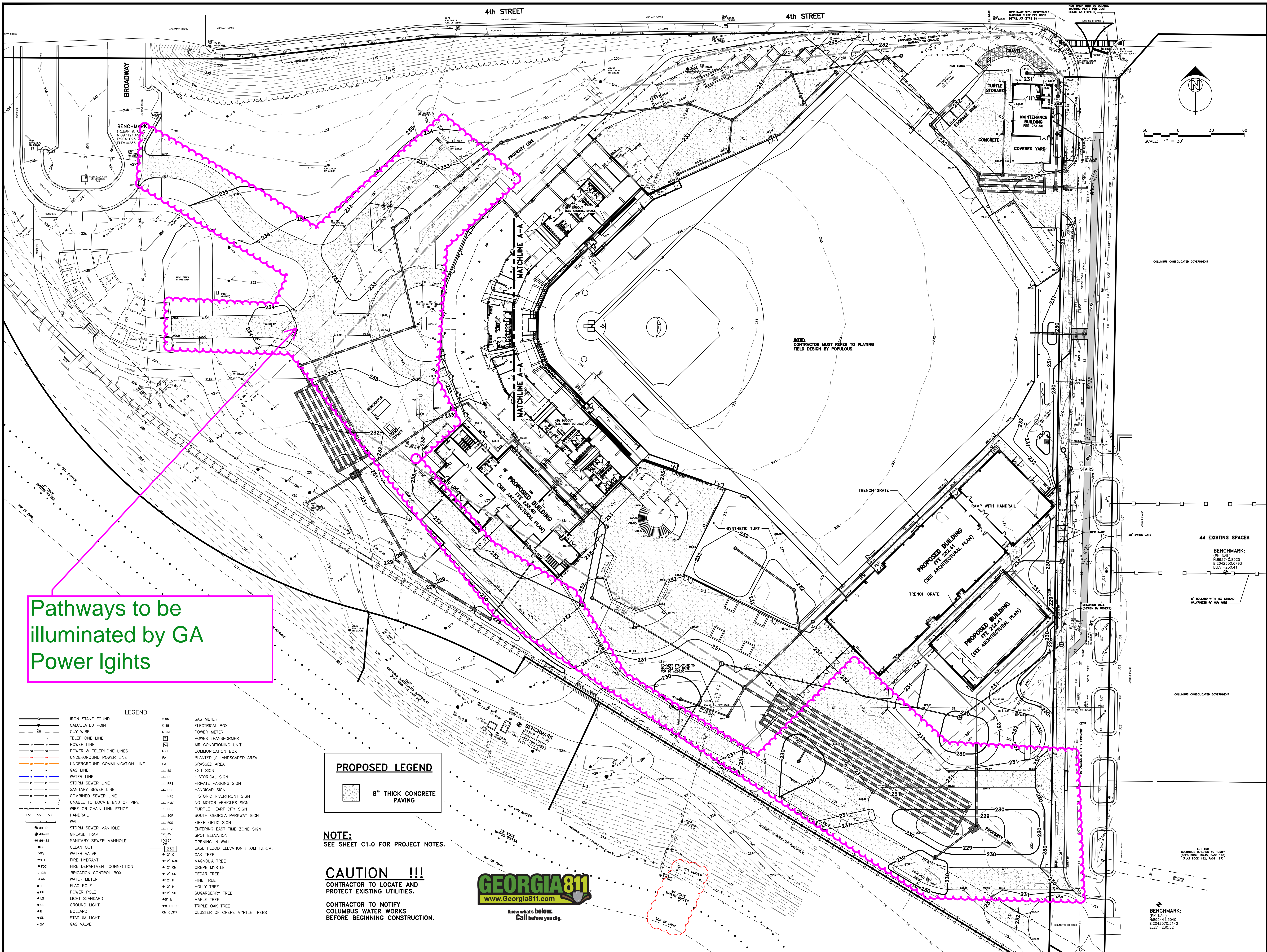
That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a Lighting Service Agreement with Georgia Power for the replacement of the Synovus Park Ingress/Egress Lighting Upgrade.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Chambers voting _____.
- Councilor Cogle voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor Hickey voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor



Pathways to be illuminated by GA Power lights

LEGEND

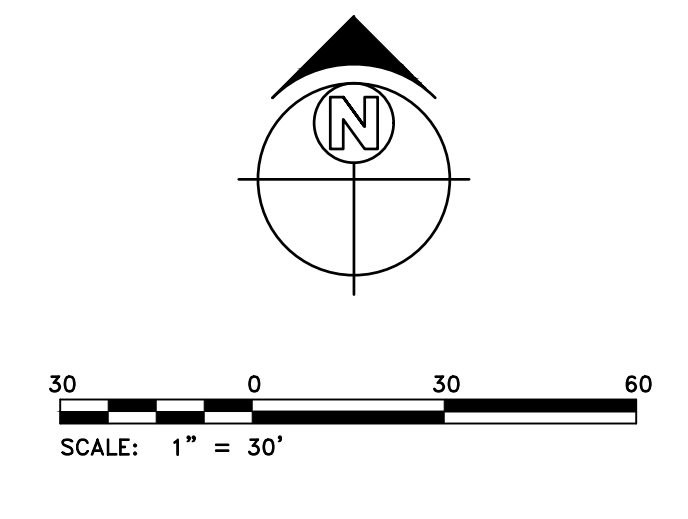
○	IRON STAKE FOUND	□	GM	○	GAS METER
○	CALCULATED POINT	□	EB	□	ELECTRICAL BOX
○	GUY WIRE	□	PM	□	POWER METER
○	TELEPHONE LINE	□	PT	□	POWER TRANSFORMER
○	POWER LINE	□	CB	□	AIR CONDITIONING UNIT
○	POWER & TELEPHONE LINES	□	CB	□	COMMUNICATION BOX
○	UNDERGROUND POWER LINE	□	PA	□	PLANTED / LANDSCAPED AREA
○	UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATION LINE	□	GA	□	GRASSED AREA
○	GAS LINE	□	ES	□	EXIT SIGN
○	WATER LINE	□	HS	□	HISTORICAL SIGN
○	STORM SEWER LINE	□	PPS	□	PRIVATE PARKING SIGN
○	SANITARY SEWER LINE	□	HCS	□	HANDICAP SIGN
○	COMBINED SEWER LINE	□	HRC	□	HISTORIC RIVERFRONT SIGN
○	UNABLE TO LOCATE END OF PIPE	□	NMV	□	NO MOTOR VEHICLES SIGN
○	WIRE OR CHAIN LINK FENCE	□	PHC	□	PURPLE HEART CITY SIGN
○	HANDRAIL	□	SGP	□	SOUTH GEORGIA PARKWAY SIGN
○	WALL	□	FOS	□	FIBER OPTIC SIGN
○	STORM SEWER MANHOLE	□	ET2	□	ENTERING EAST TIME ZONE SIGN
○	GREASE TRAP	□	352,30	□	SPOT ELEVATION
○	SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE	□	42,12"	□	OPENING IN WALL
○	CLEAN OUT	□	230	□	BASE FLOOD ELEVATION FROM F.J.R.M.
○	WATER VALVE	□	12" O	□	OAK TREE
○	FIRE HYDRANT	□	12" MAG	□	MAGNOLIA TREE
○	FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION	□	12" CM	□	CREPE MYRTLE
○	IRRIGATION CONTROL BOX	□	12" CD	□	CEDAR TREE
○	WATER METER	□	12" P	□	PINE TREE
○	FLAG POLE	□	12" H	□	HOLLY TREE
○	POWER POLE	□	12" SB	□	SUGARBERRY TREE
○	LIGHT STANDARD	□	5" M	□	MAPLE TREE
○	GROUND LIGHT	□	8 TRIP O	□	TRIPLE OAK TREE
○	BOLLARD	□	CM CLRTR	□	CLUSTER OF CREPE MYRTLE TREES
○	STADIUM LIGHT				
○	GAS VALVE				

PROPOSED LEGEND

8" THICK CONCRETE PAVING

NOTE:
SEE SHEET C1.0 FOR PROJECT NOTES.

CAUTION !!!
CONTRACTOR TO LOCATE AND PROTECT EXISTING UTILITIES.
CONTRACTOR TO NOTIFY COLUMBUS WATER WORKS BEFORE BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION.



COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

LOT 100
COLUMBUS BUILDING AUTHORITY
(FIELD BOOK TOTAL PAGE 188)
(PLAT BOOK 162, PAGE 197)

BENCHMARK:
(PK MAIL)
N892745.8925
E2042630.6793
ELEV.=230.41

OVERALL GRADING PLAN
GOLDEN PARK RENOVATIONS
LYING IN COWETAH FALLS RESERVE
COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

PHONE: (706) 327-8808
WWW.MOONMEEK.COM
100 SOUTHERN WAY, SUITE A
COLUMBUS, GA 31904

MOON MEES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
CIVIL ENGINEERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
LAND SURVEYORS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

REVISIONS:

4/10/24	REVISED PER CITY COMMENTS
6/19/24	REVISED PER CITY COMMENTS
7/18/24	ADDED MAINTENANCE AREA
7/18/24	REVISED GROUP SALES AND KIDS AREAS, ADDED LANDSCAPING



GSWCC# 8159
MMA# 2024007
DATE: 4/22/24
SCALE: 1" = 30'

SHEET No.
C5.0

File Attachments for Item:

2. FY25 HUD Annual Action Plan

Approval is requested to file the FY25 Annual Action Plan, the substantially amended Consolidated Plan, and the amended Citizen Participation Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The sources of federal funding and programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

Item #2.

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	FY25 HUD Annual Action Plan
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to file the FY25 Annual Action Plan, the substantially amended Consolidated Plan, and the amended Citizen Participation Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The sources of federal funding and programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
INITIATED BY:	Community Reinvestment

Recommendation: Approval is requested to file the FY25 Annual Action Plan, the substantially amended Consolidated Plan, and the amended Citizen Participation Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) due to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) not being included in the previous approval. The sources of federal funding and programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG). The City of Columbus will receive \$1,701,526 in CDBG, \$914,862.28 in HOME, and \$145,932 in ESG.

Background: The City of Columbus received a new funding source in its annual entitlement funding called the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Resolution 147-24 was approved on April 24, 2024. The approval did not include ESG and thus an amendment was necessary for the consolidated plan and the citizen participation plan, along with the initially approved annual action plan to accept ESG funding.

The City of Columbus assesses their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions through its Consolidated Plan, to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions. The Consolidated Plan is mandated by federal law and regulations promulgated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the City of Columbus to receive federal funding for affordable housing and community development initiatives benefiting primarily low- and moderate-income persons. An amendment is proposed to add the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to the Consolidated Plan (CP).

An amendment is proposed to add a revision consideration under the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) to be able to amend the Consolidated Plan when new HUD grant programs are added to annual entitlement funds.

The Annual Action Plan (FY25/PY24) is a document designed to meet the needs identified in the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The Annual Action Plan (2024) is a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) illustrating how CDBG, HOME, and ESG Entitlement funding will be expended during (FY25/PY24) (see attached). The Annual

Action Plan is an annual plan of the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the years 2021 - 2025.

Item #2.

A public hearing was held on September 11, 2024, and the required public comment period will expire on September 27, 2024. These plans must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than September 27, 2024.

Analysis: A resolution is needed to authorize the filing of the FY25 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Financial Considerations: The sources of federal funding for projects recommended in the FY25 Annual Action plan are: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). HUD is in the process of using the Federal Formula for entitlement grant awards for jurisdictions. The City of Columbus will receive \$1,701,526 in CDBG, \$914,862.28 in HOME, and \$145,932 in ESG.

Legal Considerations: Council must approve the filing of the FY25 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Recommendations/Actions: Approval is requested to file the FY25 Annual Action Plan, the substantially amended Consolidated Plan, and the amended Citizen Participation Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The sources of federal funding and programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solution Grant (ESG).

**RESOLUTION
NO.**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE FY25 HUD ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, SUBSTANTIALLY AMENDED CONSOLIDATED PLAN AND AMENDED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Govern - Page 129 - mbus, Georgia, wishes to come into compliance with Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, the

WHEREAS, the FY2025/PY2024 Annual Action Plan for the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, has been developed as prescribed by the Federal Regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and,

WHEREAS, the sources of federal funding and programs are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

WHEREAS, the Citizen Participation Plan was amended, and The Consolidated Plan was substantially amended to accept Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the FY2025/PY2024 Annual Action Plan, amended citizen participation plan and the substantially amended Consolidated Plan are hereby approved for filing with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and executes all contracts, agreements, and understandings related to the FY2025 Annual Action Plan.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the _____ day of _____ 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Chambers voting _____.
- Councilor Cogle voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor Hickey voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor



Item #2.



COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

MAY 2024



Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary – 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

The City of Columbus's 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan provides a comprehensive strategy for leveraging Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the 2024 program year. This plan details the anticipated completion of CDBG, HOME, and ESG projects, funding allocations, associated activities, and projected beneficiaries. Notably, the 2024 program year marks the fourth phase of implementation under Columbus's 2021-2025 Five Year Consolidated Plan, which establishes priorities and directives for HUD fund allocation over a half-decade period. During this year, Columbus is committed to addressing critical needs such as housing affordability, bolstering public services, enhancing public facilities and infrastructure, promoting fair housing practices, and optimizing program administration. By aligning with these priorities, the City aims to efficiently utilize HUD funds to foster sustainable community development and improve the quality of life for its residents.

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Priority needs for the 2021 through 2025 planning period were developed based on citizen participation, stakeholder consultation, and analysis of the city's top housing, homeless, special needs populations, and non-housing community development needs. These priorities included:

Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply

Development of new single-family and multifamily affordable housing units for both homeownership and rental, to include elderly housing units and units produced by qualifying Community Housing Development Organizations.

Housing Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of homeowner housing to benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Housing Assistance and Navigation

Supportive programs and services to increase housing access and safety, including accessibility modifications to existing homes, down-payment assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, and lead-based paint testing.

Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements

Promote quality of life and neighborhood revitalization through improvements to current public infrastructure and facilities.

Public Services

Services provided by nonprofit organizations that benefit low-income residents such as homeless, youth, disabled, elderly, and other special populations.

Fair Housing

Provide services to residents and housing providers to advance fair housing.

COVID-19 Response

Funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 such as temporary rent, mortgage or utility assistance; financial assistance to small businesses, and other pandemic-related community support.

Expanding the Availability of Homeless Services and Housing

Support agencies that provide services and housing to persons that are homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Program Administration

Plan and administer funding for community development and housing activities with transparency, community involvement, and full compliance with federal regulations.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Annually, the City of Columbus assesses its advancements toward both its long-term and yearly objectives through the creation of a Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER). This report must be submitted to HUD within 90 days of the commencement of a new program year. Copies of recent CAPERs can be examined at Columbus's Community Reinvestment and Real Estate Department or accessed online at:

<https://www.columbusga.gov/communityreinvestment/Planning/CAPER>.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

Throughout the program year, the City of Columbus engages in diverse public outreach efforts to gather input from city staff, government and non-profit agencies, affordable housing developers, local service providers, and residents.

During the preparation of this Annual Action Plan, the City held a formal public hearing on January 8, 2024, to gather input from interested stakeholders. A second Public Hearing was held on April 2, 2024, to gather feedback on the draft. This input is summarized in the Participation section of this document. Public comments on the draft Annual Action Plan were received throughout a 30-day public comment period from March 22, 2024, to April 22, 2024. A third public hearing will be held on September 11, 2024, to gather feedback on the draft Annual Action Plan that includes ESG as a new funding source. Public comments on the draft Annual Action Plan will be received throughout a 30-day public comment period from August 28, 2024, to September 27, 2024.

5. Summary of public comments

The City has not received any comments relevant to the 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan during the Public Comment Period or at the Public Hearing held on April 2, 2024.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them.

Not applicable; the City has not received any comments.

7. Summary

During the 2024-2025 program year, the City of Columbus will use its CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds to address priorities identified in its 2021-2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan. Specifically, Columbus will fund affordable housing creation, public services and public facility and infrastructure improvements, fair housing, homelessness services and housing, and program administration.

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	COLUMBUS	The Community Reinvestment Department
HOME Administrator	COLUMBUS	The Community Reinvestment Department
ESG Administrator	COLUMBUS	The Community Reinvestment Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Columbus falls under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG, HOME and ESG programs as an entitlement community. The Annual Action Plan outlines projects slated for funding during the 2024 program year, spanning from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Robert Scott
 Director, Community Reinvestment and Real Estate
 Columbus Consolidated Government
 420 10th Street
 Columbus, GA 31901

AP-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(i)

1. Introduction

In the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan development, Columbus involved 94 residents and stakeholders through meetings, focus groups, interviews, and a survey. The findings were outlined in the Community Participation section of the Consolidated Plan. Additionally, for the 2024 Annual Action Plan interviews were conducted with The Housing Authority of Columbus Georgia and United Way Home For Good.

Ahead of City Council approval and submission to HUD, Columbus plans a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing to gather input from residents and stakeholders on the draft Annual Action Plan.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction’s activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health, and service agencies (91.215(i)).

Columbus collaborates with local medical and housing providers, including mental health services. MercyMed, a partner, offers counseling to low- and moderate-income households. Additionally, the city teams up with NeighborWorks, Habitat for Humanity, and the Land Bank Authority to construct new housing and refurbish existing homes in low- to moderate-income areas. Through these partnerships, Columbus fulfills a crucial function in aligning housing and mental health services for households with limited financial means.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Columbus is represented on the executive committee of the Columbus-Muscogee/Russell County Continuum of Care. Through monthly participation on the committee, city staff help decide strategies to address homelessness in the region. The City also supports several homelessness agencies, including the Southwest Georgia Housing Opportunities, Home for Good, SafeHouse, and the Open Door Community House as they provide direct services to the chronically homeless and families transitioning out of homelessness.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS.

The City plays an active role with the Columbus-Muscogee/Russell County Continuum of Care, the City helps to determine the allocation of ESG funds according to the city’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and the 5-

Year Consolidated Plan. During the City's tenure on the executive committee, the CoC has also updated its Data Quality Management Plan with the HMIS Committee and has introduced system performance measures to lower error rates during data collection.

Performance standards provide a measure for ESG grantees to evaluate the effectiveness of each ESG service provider in the areas of (a) targeting those who need assistance most; (b) reducing the number of people who are homeless or in emergency shelters; (c) reducing the time people spend homeless, and (d) reducing clients' housing barriers or housing stability risks

2. Describe agencies, groups, organizations, and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

	Agency/Group/Organization Name	Type	Section of the Plan Addressed
1	Chattahoochee Valley Libraries	Services - Education	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
2	City of Columbus, City Council	Other - Elected Officials	Economic Development Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
3	City of Columbus, Community Reinvestment	Other - City Staff	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
4	City of Columbus, Fire & EMS	Agency - Emergency Management	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
5	City of Columbus, Parks and Recreation	Services - Children	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
6	City of Columbus, Planning Department	Other - City Staff	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
7	Coldwell Banker KPDD	Housing	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
8	Columbus 2025	Business and Civic Leaders	Economic Development Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs

9	Columbus-Phenix City MPO	Other – Transportation	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs
10	Habitat for Humanity	Services – Housing	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
11	Home for Good	Services – Homeless	Homeless Needs – Families with Children Homeless Needs – Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
12	Homeless Resource Network	Services – Homeless	Homeless Needs – Families with Children Homeless Needs – Unaccompanied Youth Homeless Needs – Veterans Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis
13	Hope Harbour	Services – Victims of Domestic Violence	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
14	Housing Authority of Columbus, GA	Public Housing Authority	Public Housing Needs
15	MercyMed	Health agency	Housing Needs Assessment Market Analysis Non-Homeless Special Needs
16	NeighborWorks	Services – Housing	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis
17	Paz Amigos	Services – Homeless	Homelessness Strategy Non-homeless Special Needs

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

Identify any agency types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting.

During the Consolidated Plan process, a wide variety of community stakeholders throughout the City of Columbus were consulted. A total of 61 professionals were invited to participate in a stakeholder interview. Invitations to participate were emailed to stakeholders or offered by phone. Stakeholders invited to participate represented the following fields: housing developers, real estate agents, public housing authorities, colleges and universities, homeless services, domestic violence services, school districts, non-

profit organizations, health service providers, workforce development organizations, businesses, faith-based coalitions, ethnic group organizations, mental health providers, senior services, transit authorities, elected officials, city staff, libraries, emergency management agencies, legal services providers and regional planning organizations. No agency types were excluded from outreach efforts.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
10 Year Plan to End Homelessness	Columbus Consolidated Government	The 10 Year Plan aims to make homelessness “atypical, temporary, and non-recurring” through the collaboration of service providers across the city. Eliminating homelessness corresponds with the strategic plan’s public services and affordable housing goals.
2024 Annual Moving to Work Plan	Housing Authority of Columbus, GA	Goals of the 2024 Annual Moving to Work Plan Year, includes the continuation of the RAD/Section 18 Blend conversion process for the remaining 424 public housing units throughout the city. The creation of additional units for low-income households overlaps with the Strategic Plan goal to expand affordable housing supply.
Columbus 2025 Plan	Greater Columbus, GA Chamber of Commerce	The guiding principles of the Columbus 2025 Plan include “increasing prosperity, improving quality of life and reducing poverty.” Quality of life goals described in the Columbus 2025 overlap with the Strategic Plan’s goals of infrastructure and public facility improvements and expansion of affordable housing supply.
Columbus Consolidated Government 2038 Comprehensive Plan	Columbus Consolidated Government	Some of the goals highlighted in the 2038 Comprehensive Plan include expanding opportunities for walking, biking, and transit, growing and expanding businesses, and improving access to affordable, quality housing. These goals, along with others listed in the Comprehensive Plan, align with the Strategic Plan goals to

		rehab housing, expand affordable housing supply, provide public services, and improve infrastructure and public facilities.
Columbus – Muscogee County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017-2022	Columbus Consolidated Government	Goals of the city’s Hazard Mitigation Plan include reducing/eliminating community exposure to natural and manmade events and reducing loss to public and private property. These goals indirectly relate to the Strategic Plan’s overall goals of maintaining and expanding affordable housing and protecting and improving infrastructure and public facilities.
River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)	River Valley Regional Commission	The goals of the CEDs Plan include assisting the workforce of the region, improving infrastructure and improving housing stock – which align with the Strategic Plan goals of housing rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional):

N/A

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation

The City held a workshop on January 8, 2024, to review the city's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan priorities. At the workshop staff described eligible activities, provided an estimate of PY 2024 funding, and explained the city's subgrantee application process. A formal public hearing will be held on Monday, April 2, 2024, to discuss the proposed activities to be funded in the program year. A third public hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 to discuss the addition of ESG to the Annual Action Plan.

DRAFT

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Newspaper Ad	Non-targeted/Broad community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Internet Outreach	Non-targeted/Broad community	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Public Hearing	Non-targeted/Broad community	No comments received	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Public Comment Period	Non-targeted/Broad community	No comments received	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The City of Columbus receives annual allocations of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds for housing construction, rehabilitation initiatives, public services, economic development, and other eligible activities. These funding sources are expected to remain available over the five-year term of the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The table below shows the City’s CDBG, HOME, and ESG allocations for the 2024 program year, including prior year resources.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 4				Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing	\$1,701,526	\$0	\$0	\$1,701,526	\$1,701,526	Block grant from HUD to address housing, community development and economic development needs in the City.

		Public Improvements						
		Public Services						
HOME	Public - federal	Acquisition	\$914,862.28	\$0	\$0	\$914,862.28	\$914,862.28	Grant from US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address affordable housing needs in the City.
		Homebuyer down payment assistance						
		Multifamily rental new construction						
		Multifamily rental rehab						
		New construction for ownership						
		Tenant Based Rental Assistance						
ESG	Public - federal	Administration	\$145,932	\$0	\$0	\$145,932	\$145,932	Grant from US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address
		Emergency Shelter						
		Homelessness Prevention						

		Rapid Re-housing HMIS						homelessness needs in the City.
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Table 2 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied.

Nonprofit organizations, as subrecipients of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds from the City, enhance their finances through foundation support and fundraising. These external resources expand the reach of City-sponsored programs. The City also encourages seeking additional public and private funds, in line with the Consolidated Plan. Federal funding enables these organizations to extend services to low to moderate-income individuals.

HUD's HOME Program requires a 25% match from non-federal fund sources. Per these requirements, the City requires organizations who receive HOME funding to provide a 25% match using non-federal funds, which is verified through a report submitted to the City on an annual basis.

HUD's ESG Program requires a 100% match. Per these requirements, the City requires organizations who receive ESG funding to provide a 100% match, which is verified through a report submitted to the City on an annual basis.

If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City continues to identify properties in its portfolio that can be surplus and conveyed as affordable housing or other beneficial uses for the community. Additionally, the Columbus Land Bank Authority has a stated goal of providing land to be used in the creation of affordable housing and jobs for LMI citizens through residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	2024	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	HOME: \$823,376.05	Rental units constructed: 1 housing unit Homeowner Housing Added: 11 housing units
2	Housing Rehabilitation	2024	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$100,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 10 housing units
3	Blight Removal	2024	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Blight Removal	CDBG: \$246,165	Buildings Demolished: 4 buildings

4	Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	2024	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	CDBG: \$759,826.90	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 4,871 persons assisted
5	Public Services	2024	2025	Non-Housing Community Development Homelessness Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Public Services	CDBG: \$255,280.90	Public service activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 10,484 persons assisted
6	Fair Housing	2024	2025	Other: Fair Housing	Citywide	Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 persons assisted
7	COVID-19 Response	2024	2025	Other: COVID-19 Response	Citywide	COVID-19 Response	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 persons assisted
8	<i>Expanding the Availability of Homeless</i>	2024	2025	Homelessness	Citywide South Columbus	Homelessness	ESG: \$134,987.10	Homeless overnight shelter: 40 persons assisted Rapid Rehousing: 5 persons

	Services and Housing				NRSA			assisted Homelessness Prevention: 5 persons assisted
8	Program Administration	2024	2025	Other: Program Administration	Citywide	Program Administration	CDBG: \$340,305.20 HOME: \$91,486.23 ESG: \$10,944.90	N/A

Table 2 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

Goal 1: Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply

Development of new single-family and multifamily affordable housing units for both homeownership and rental, to include elderly housing units and units produced by qualifying Community Housing Development Organizations.

Goal 2: Housing Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of homeowner housing to benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Goal 3: Housing Assistance and Navigation

Supportive programs and services to increase housing access and safety, including accessibility modifications to existing homes, down-payment assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, and lead-based paint testing.

Goal 4: Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements

Promote quality of life and neighborhood revitalization through improvements to current public infrastructure and facilities.

Goal 5: Public Services

Services provided by nonprofit organizations that benefit low-income residents such as homeless, youth, disabled, elderly, and other special populations.

Goal 6: Fair Housing

Provide services to residents and housing providers to advance fair housing.

Goal 7: COVID-19 Response

Funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 such as temporary rent, mortgage or utility assistance; financial assistance to small businesses, and other pandemic-related community support.

Goal 8: Expanding the Availability of Homeless Services and Housing

Support agencies that provide services and housing to persons that are homeless, or at risk of homelessness

Goal 9: Program Administration

Plan and administer funding for community development and housing activities with transparency, community involvement, and full compliance with federal regulations.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The projects listed below represent the activities Columbus plans to undertake during the 2024 program year to address the goals of providing decent safe and affordable housing, promoting a suitable living environment, and encouraging investment in infrastructure.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Public Service Grants
3	Demolitions
4	Infrastructure and Public Facilities
5	Housing Rehabilitation
6	HOME Administration
7	Affordable Housing Development
8	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Reserve
9	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating Costs
10	ESG Administration
11	ESG

Table 3 – Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

The City's allocation priorities reflect its focus on several needs identified through data analysis, community member input, consultation with City staff and other public agencies, and reviews of relevant plans and studies, such as the 2038 Comprehensive Plan. Key priorities include funding public services, public facilities and infrastructure, and affordable housing development.

The City does not anticipate any obstacle to completing the projects it has identified for the 2024-2025 program year.

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Program Administration
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration
	Funding	\$340,305.20
	Description	CDBG Program Administration
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	N/A
	Location Description	Department of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate, 420 10 th Street, Columbus, GA 31901
Planned Activities	Salaries, office supplies, advertising, travel, appraisals, printing, cost allocations, etc.	
2	Project Name	Public Service Grants

	Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
	Goals Supported	Public Services
	Needs Addressed	Public Services
	Funding	\$255,228.90
	Description	Provision of broad public services covering health, education and homelessness.
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	10,484 persons assisted
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Education and career development, healthcare programming, rapid re-housing, financial and wealth building, mentoring, virtual learning programs, CoC and homeless programs, tutorial program, trade-skill training, and similar programs and services designed to benefit LMI persons
3	Project Name	Demolitions
	Target Area	Citywide

	Goals Supported	South Columbus NRSA
	Needs Addressed	Blight Removal
	Funding	\$246,165
	Description	Demolition of dilapidated structures
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	4 units
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Demolition
4	Project Name	Infrastructure and Public Facilities
	Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
	Goals Supported	Infrastructure and Public Facilities Improvements

	Needs Addressed	Infrastructure and Public Facilities Improvements
	Funding	\$759,825.90
	Description	Improvements to recreational facilities in low-to-moderate income census tracts.
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	4,871 persons assisted
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Sidewalks, Street Improvements, Public Facility Improvements
5	Project Name	Housing Rehabilitation Program
	Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
	Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
	Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
	Funding	\$100,000

	Description	Rehabilitation of homeowner housing to benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Provision of accessibility upgrades to income eligible households. Provision of lead-based paint testing to income eligible households.
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	8 household housing units
	Location Description	Citywide
	Planned Activities	Rehabilitation of homeowner housing to benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Provision of accessibility upgrades to income eligible households. Provision of lead-based paint testing to income eligible households.
6	Project Name	HOME Program Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Program Administration
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration
	Funding	\$91,486.23

	Description	HOME Program Administration
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	N/A
	Location Description	Department of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate, 420 10 th Street, Columbus, GA 31901
	Planned Activities	Salaries, office supplies, advertising, travel, appraisals, printing, cost allocations, etc.
7	Project Name	Affordable Housing Development
	Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
	Goals Supported	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
	Needs Addressed	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
	Funding	\$636,146.71 (HOME: \$636,146.71)

	<p>Description</p> <p>Target Date</p> <p>Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity</p> <p>Location Description</p> <p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>Development of affordable single-family rental and homeowner units. Down-payment assistance.</p> <p>June 30, 2025</p> <p>12 household housing units</p> <p>Citywide</p> <p>Development of affordable single-family rental and homeowner units. Down-payment assistance.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Project Name</p> <p>Target Area</p> <p>Goals Supported</p> <p>Needs Addressed</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Description</p>	<p>Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Reserve</p> <p>Citywide South Columbus NRSA</p> <p>Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply</p> <p>Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply</p> <p>\$137,229.34</p> <p>Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of homebuyer properties</p>

	Target Date Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity Location Description Planned Activities	June 30, 2025 1 household housing unit Citywide Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of homebuyer properties
9	Project Name Target Area Goals Supported Needs Addressed Funding Description Target Date	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating Costs Citywide South Columbus NRSA Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply \$50,000 Salaries, wages, and other employee compensation and benefits; employee education, training, and travel; rent; utilities; communication costs; taxes; insurance; equipment; materials; and supplies. June 30, 2025

	<p>Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity</p>	12
	<p>Location Description</p>	Citywide
	<p>Planned Activities</p>	Salaries, wages, and other employee compensation and benefits; employee education, training, and travel; rent; utilities; communication costs; taxes; insurance; equipment; materials; and supplies.
10	<p>Project Name</p>	ESG Program Administration
	<p>Target Area</p>	Citywide
	<p>Goals Supported</p>	Program Administration
	<p>Needs Addressed</p>	Program Administration
	<p>Funding</p>	\$10,944.90
	<p>Description</p>	ESG Program Administration
	<p>Target Date</p>	June 30, 2025
	<p>Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity</p>	N/A

	Location Description	Department of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate, 420 10 th Street, Columbus, GA 31901
	Planned Activities	Salaries, office supplies, advertising, travel, appraisals, printing, cost allocations, etc.
11	Project Name	ESG
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Strategies to Adress Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Homelessness Strategy
	Funding	\$134,987.10
	Description	Funds will be used to support ESG eligible services in emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and HMIS.
	Target Date	June 30, 2025
	Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	Approximately 50 residents will be provided ESG eligible services in emergency shelter, rapid rehousing and/or homelessness prevention.
	Location Description	Citywide

Planned Activities

Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, Homelessness Prevention, and HMIS.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed:

The City directs its CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds into two geographic areas: a Citywide target area and the South Columbus NRSA. The Citywide target area encompasses the entirety of the City of Columbus, allowing the City to direct CDBG HOME, and ESG funds to eligible activities throughout the city. Within the Citywide target area, neighborhoods where the percentage of LMI persons is 51% or higher will be prioritized for CDBG funding. The South Columbus NRSA is a smaller area within the city limits, which is home to approximately 10.8% of the city's total population. An estimated 72% of the residents in the South Columbus NRSA have low or moderate incomes. Eligible activities within both the South Columbus NRSA and Citywide target area include community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
South Columbus NRSA	20%
Citywide	80%

Table 4 – Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

In keeping with the intent and regulations of the federal CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs, the City of Columbus will focus its funding in neighborhoods that are predominately composed of low- and moderate-income households and that have substantial needs related to housing quality and affordability, public facilities and infrastructure, and economic development.

The system for establishing the priority for the selection of these projects in Columbus is predicated upon the following criteria:

- Meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program
- Meeting the needs of LMI residents
- Prioritizing investment in the South Columbus NRSA
- Focusing on LMI areas or neighborhoods
- Coordination and leveraging of resources
- Response to expressed needs

- Sustainability and/or long-term impact
- The ability to demonstrate measurable progress and success

Priority CDBG funding areas include areas where the percentage of LMI persons is 51% or higher.

Discussion

The South Columbus NRSA is located west of Interstate 185 roughly bound by Brown Avenue and Lumpkin Road on the west, State Spur 22 in the north, and Fort Moore in the south. The portion of the NRSA east of Interstate 185 is bound generally by Old Cusseta Road on the north and east and by Fort Moore in the south. The area is comprised primarily of residential neighborhoods and neighborhood commercial shopping centers. Neighborhoods in the NRSA include Wynnton, Willett, and Avondale Heights. According to HUD's low/moderate income data based on the 2015 ACS, nearly three quarters (72.0%) of residents in the South Columbus NRSA have low or moderate incomes. Residents with low or moderate incomes comprise a significantly larger share in the NRSA compared to the overall population of the city where roughly a third of all residents have low or moderate incomes (39.9%).

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Over the next program year, the City of Columbus plans to assist 6 homebuyers through the production of affordable for-sale units as well as rehab 5 homeowner occupied units. The City of Columbus also intends to assist 6 households through homelessness prevention activities.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	16
Non-Homeless	12
Special-Needs	0
Total	28

Table 3 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	12
Rehab of Existing Units	0
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	12

Table 4 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The estimates in the tables above are derived from the anticipated PY 2024 CDBG, HOME, and ESG projects and activities.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

Founded in 1938, the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG) provides publicly supported housing options for Columbus residents. The HACG also manages and maintains (but does not own) the Harris County, Ellaville, and Buena Vista Housing Authorities. In 2013, the HACG became one of 39 initial Moving To Work agencies. Having shown success with this designation, the HACG has expressed its long-term plans to become a regional Moving To Work agency.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

During its 2024 Moving To Work Plan Year, the HACG plans to continue the RAD/Section 18 Blend conversion process for the remaining 424 public housing units throughout the city. Under this conversion process, the conventional public housing units at Warren Williams + Rivers Homes and Elizabeth F. Canty Homes will become project-based Section 8 voucher units. Once converted there will be no more conventional public housing properties in Columbus, GA.

In 2023, HACG began construction of 90 new mixed-income housing units. BTW South will contain 80 units for low-income seniors earning no more than 60% AMI, and 10 market rate units. This project will be funded utilizing 9% LIHTC, along with other funding sources such as HUD MTW funds, HOME and CDBG. As part of the RAD/Section 18 Blend conversion of Warren Williams + Rivers Homes, the property will be substantially rehabilitated through the use of 4% LIHTC/private activity bonds allocated by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). All 182 units will be reserved for low-income families earning 60% or below AMI and project-based Section 8 voucher holders earning no more than 50% AMI. All current residents will be temporarily relocated during construction and relocated back to the site once construction is complete.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

Public housing residents are encouraged to become involved in management with the HACG. The housing authority provides a placement for an HACG resident to serve as a commissioner on the HACG leadership team. Residents are also invited to participate in hearings regarding its Annual Moving To Work Plan and year-end report. The HACG collects and replies to resident comments on these plans. Resident comments are recorded in the final version of the annual plan.

To encourage public housing residents to participate in homeownership, the HACG offers a voluntary Family Self-Sufficiency program to help residents achieve increased financial stability over a 5-year period. The program offers career counseling, job readiness programs, and money management courses. Childcare and transportation assistance are provided.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

Not applicable.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

Columbus is a participant in the Columbus-Muscogee Continuum of Care, aimed at fostering a collective community commitment to eradicating homelessness. This collaborative effort involves partner agencies working together to enhance access to and utilization of their programs. Columbus remains dedicated to collaborating with the Continuum of Care and local homelessness service providers to realize the city's objectives in addressing homelessness.

The City of Columbus will utilize \$145,932 of FFY 2024 Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement funding for eligible services in emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, HMIS, and the administration of the ESG program.

Describe the jurisdiction's one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

One of the City's priorities for the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan was to expand the availability of homeless services and housing. Activities funded under this priority may include outreach to unsheltered homeless persons. Local homelessness service providers include the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley and The Salvation Army. These organizations offer outreach to people experiencing homelessness by providing food, clothing, and other resources.

Actions to address homeless outreach needs in the 2024 program year include:

- Supporting the Continuum of Care by providing funding for homeless outreach services.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

Through the City's HOME-ARP funding (slated for implementation beginning July 1, 2023), Columbus will contribute \$1,167,947 toward the development of 17 family shelter units to be operated by the Columbus Salvation Army. The City will also contribute \$50,000 in HOME-ARP to Hope Harbour, the region's domestic violence emergency shelter. During PY 24, the City of Columbus may fund services provided by emergency or transitional housing providers, such as the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, and The Salvation Army. These providers will continue to offer emergency and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs in the 2024 program year include:

- Funding through ESG for emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, and HMIS
- Funding through HOME-ARP to support development of 17 new family shelter units
- Supporting the PATH Stability Program
- Funding supportive services for victims of domestic violence
- Conducting rapid re-housing for homeless families

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City of Columbus and the Columbus-Muscogee CoC support a Housing First model that prioritizes permanent housing and offers case management and other supportive services. The Housing First model supports one of the CoC's priorities, which is to increase access to affordable and permanent supportive housing.

Actions to assist residents experiencing homelessness in making the transition to permanent housing in the 2024 program year include:

- Supporting the PATH Stability Program
- Funding supportive services for victims of domestic violence
- Conducting rapid re-housing for homeless families

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Housing and service providers in Columbus work together to prevent homelessness in populations who are vulnerable to or at risk of homelessness. At-risk populations include extremely low-income individuals and families, people discharged from institutions, and persons receiving direct assistance with housing, health, social services, education or youth needs. Local service providers such as The Salvation Army offer rent and utility assistance in the city.

Actions to prevent homelessness in the 2024 program year include:

- Conducting rapid re-housing for homeless families

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

In the upcoming year, the department is gearing up to tackle the challenges posed by various public policies hindering affordable housing. These policies encompass a broad spectrum, ranging from land use controls and tax policies to zoning ordinances and building codes. Recognizing the detrimental impact of these policies, stakeholders have pinpointed the city's property tax structure in Columbus as a significant barrier to affordable housing. At present, homeowners benefit from a homestead exemption tied to the year of purchase, effectively freezing the assessed value of their properties and locking in a fixed tax payment for the duration of their ownership. This tax structure, implemented since 1983, means that property taxes only see adjustments upon sale, improvement, or overall tax rate changes. Despite efforts in 2016, when Columbus citizens voted against a proposition to alter this structure, the community remains committed to exploring avenues to address these housing affordability challenges.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

Instead of continuing to explore additional adjustments to property taxes, Columbus introduced a new proposal: a 1% increase in sales tax. This proposition received voter approval in November 2021, resulting in a raise of the local sales tax rate from 8% to 9%. The revenue generated from this Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) will be allocated towards financing a new judicial building and bolstering the city's public safety budget. This measure is expected to remain effective for a duration of 9 months, during which the community aims to address pressing infrastructure and safety needs without burdening property owners further. The decision to opt for a sales tax hike reflects a strategic shift in funding mechanisms, diversifying revenue sources and distributing the financial responsibility across a broader base of contributors. Proponents argue that this approach ensures that essential civic projects receive adequate funding while mitigating the strain on property owners who may already be grappling with housing affordability challenges. The successful passage of the SPLOST underscores the community's willingness to explore innovative solutions to meet its evolving needs and demonstrates a commitment to responsible fiscal management.

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

This section delineates the City of Columbus's comprehensive approach to safeguarding residents' access to safe, affordable housing while also targeting underserved populations, combating poverty, establishing

robust institutional frameworks, and fostering stronger collaboration among public and private sector entities engaged in housing and community development initiatives.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

During the Consolidated Plan planning process, residents and stakeholders voiced concerns about the significant gap in accessible, well-maintained affordable housing. Identifying key barriers, they highlighted:

High development expenses,

Necessity for subsidies to facilitate new affordable housing projects, and

Erosion of existing affordable housing due to rising rents and aging infrastructure requiring renovations.

Moreover, residents and stakeholders stressed the urgency for expanded facilities and services catering to low-income individuals and homeless populations. These services encompass job creation, vocational training, entrepreneurial support, childcare, and case management.

In response, the City of Columbus intends to allocate funding towards a diverse array of initiatives addressing these unmet needs in housing, services, and infrastructure. The goal is to bridge the gap in affordable housing while simultaneously bolstering support systems for vulnerable populations, thereby enhancing community resilience and fostering sustainable growth.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City does not have any plans to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing and therefore does not have any refinancing guidelines for that activity.

To bolster and diversify the existing stock of affordable housing, the City aims to forge partnerships with non-profit housing entities and private firms, with the primary objective of augmenting the availability of affordable housing options. Collaborative efforts may involve engaging LIHTC (Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) developers or other entities contemplating housing ventures within the city limits. Additionally, the City will explore avenues for securing funding or grants that can be leveraged to inject fresh capital into affordable housing initiatives or programs.

Building upon its commitment to enhancing housing affordability, the City will sustain momentum through various ongoing initiatives. These include the homebuyer down payment assistance program and Homeowner occupied rehabilitation, which facilitates crucial repairs and installations encompassing heating and air conditioning systems, roofing, flooring, plumbing, electrical updates and repairs, windows, and exterior doors.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

In the past decade, HUD has prioritized the mitigation of lead-based paint hazards, an effort echoed by numerous jurisdictions nationwide. The federal Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, an amendment to the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act of 1971, regulates lead-based paint in federally funded housing. These statutes, alongside subsequent regulations outlined in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's guidelines (24 CFR, part 35), safeguard young children from lead exposure in housing receiving financial assistance or undergoing federal sale.

In the event of property rehabilitation projects, the City of Columbus will conduct assessments to determine the presence of lead-based paint. If identified, the City will adhere to the provisions outlined in the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. Demonstrating its dedication to this cause, the City of Columbus pledges to test and mitigate lead in all pre-1978 housing units benefiting from federal grant funds across its various housing programs.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

Columbus's strategy to combat poverty centers on elevating the economic status of low-income households, ensuring they surpass the poverty threshold. Presently, educational and employment initiatives targeting poverty reduction are administered by entities like the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board, WorkSource Georgia, Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, Goodwill, Better Work, and local nonprofit organizations.

In a collaborative effort with community stakeholders, the City secured a Vice President of Poverty Reduction with the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. This individual will cultivate strategic partnerships across the region and craft a ten-year actionable plan to reduce poverty in Columbus and the broader Chattahoochee Valley area, incorporating input from various stakeholders. Spearheading this endeavor is the Chattahoochee Valley Poverty Reduction Coalition, which secured \$1 million in start-up funding from American Rescue Plan to sustain the position and its associated initiatives for an initial three-year period, while concurrently establishing permanent funding streams.

Economic development strategies at both municipal and regional levels are intricately linked to poverty alleviation and workforce enhancement. The River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, updated in 2022, prioritizes equipping the local workforce with the requisite knowledge, skills, and competencies for 21st-century employment. Key objectives under this mandate involve maintaining dialogue with local employers to ensure workforce training programs align with industry needs, facilitating educational initiatives within the local school systems, aiding military-to-civilian job transitions, and promoting apprenticeships and internships for youth.

Similarly, the Columbus 2025 plan, part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, underscores the importance of nurturing a skilled and educated workforce to bolster regional competitiveness. Objectives within this

framework encompass establishing a comprehensive cradle-to-career partnership to synchronize education, training, business, and social services, expanding access to high-quality early childhood education and family support services, fostering awareness of educational and career pathways from an early age, enhancing mentoring programs for at-risk K-12 students, launching adult education campaigns, forging collaborations between businesses and educational institutions to tailor programs to target industry needs, and developing retention programs for military personnel transitioning out of service.

Moreover, several nonprofit organizations within Columbus provide emergency assistance to individuals in need. These multifaceted efforts highlight the city's commitment to tackling poverty through a holistic approach, combining educational, employment, and social support initiatives to uplift vulnerable communities and foster inclusive economic growth.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

In August 2023, the Community Reinvestment Department held a mandatory training for all CDBG Public Service sub-recipients. The training covered the department's new CDBG-PS policy manual, and included such topics as client eligibility, eligible activities, reimbursements, beneficiary information, monthly reports, and monitoring. The department has also updated its HOME policies and internal financial management and procurement policies. The department will intensify its sub-recipient monitoring in PY 24, including on-site monitoring for the highest risk sub-recipients. Finally, starting in PY 24, the department will implement its "first in, first ready, first out" process for CDBG Public Facilities. Using this process, the department will accept public facilities applications on a rolling basis. Currently, many projects are facing significant material and construction delays, which makes it difficult to select and implement CDBG-PF projects within the Action Plan year. The alternative process will allow us to plan for construction projects over longer and more realistic timeframes.

In the 2023 program year, the City worked within existing partners and coalitions, such as the Continuum of Care, to meet homeless service needs. In addition, the Community Reinvestment Department held mandatory training for all potential CDBG Public Facilities sub-recipients. The training covered the department's new CDBG-PF policy manual, and included such topics as client eligibility, eligible activities, reimbursements, beneficiary information, monthly reports, procurement, Davis-Bacon and monitoring. In the 2024 program year, The Community Reinvestment Department will work closely with state and local agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other service providers to coordinate delivery of services to city residents. Columbus Consolidated Government will also continue to consult with various housing, homelessness, social service, elderly and disability resource agencies to gather data and identify service gaps and utilize ESG funding for eligible services. In addition, the Community Reinvestment Department will hold a mandatory training for all potential HOME nonprofit and For-profit developers, as well as those administering our Sweet Home Columbus down payment program, to bring rigidity and specificity to affordable housing development. The training will cover the department's new HOME Affordable Housing

Development and Accessibility policy manual, and included such topics as client eligibility, eligible activities, reimbursements, beneficiary information, monthly reports, contractor procurement, BABA, and monitoring.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

The City of Columbus will maintain its active involvement in the Columbus–Muscoogee Continuum of Care, a collaborative initiative uniting nonprofit, governmental, and business leaders in a collective effort to address homelessness. This partnership encompasses a diverse membership, including providers of emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, alongside nonprofit social service organizations and government agencies.

Furthermore, the city hosts an annual affordable housing workshop designed to convene stakeholders with a vested interest in enhancing housing accessibility for populations earning below 80% of the area median income. The workshop serves as a platform for fostering dialogue and collaboration among participants, aiming to bolster both the availability and accessibility of affordable housing options. Additionally, it aims to facilitate the provision of comprehensive support services tailored to the needs of low-income households.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I) (1,2,4)

Introduction:

This section describes program specific requirements for CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income over the 2024 Program Year period is 70.00%.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan	\$0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	\$0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.	\$0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	\$0
Total Program Income	\$0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	\$0
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2a. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit – A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. 70%

2b. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan. 2024
Program Year

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

Other forms of investment being used in the HOME Program include Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and funding appropriated through the American Rescue Plan act of 2021. No other forms of investment are contemplated for the use in the HOME Program beyond those identified in 92.205. outside of those listed above.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The City's Home Program Resale/Recapture Provisions are included in the Grantee Unique Appendices attached to this plan document.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

The City's Home Program Resale/Recapture Provisions are included in the Grantee Unique Appendices attached to this plan document.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

The City does not have any plans to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing and therefore does not have any refinancing guidelines for that activity.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Reference 91.220(I)(4)

1. **Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment) the City of Columbus will focus on the two eligible populations that can be assisted with funds: persons at risk of becoming homeless and persons who are literally homeless. While these are the targeted populations, it is important to give assistance to eligible participants who are in the most need of funds.**

Eligibility for Assistance

Each individual or family who is receiving assistance must first meet with case manager or intake personnel who can determine the appropriate type of assistance to meet their needs. The household must be at or below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI). Assets are counted for determining AMI eligibility. AMI is prospective and only counts income generated at that particular time. The household must be either homeless or at risk of losing its housing and meet both of the following circumstances: (1) no appropriate subsequent housing options have been identified; AND (2) the household lacks the financial resources and support networks needed to obtain immediate housing or remain in its existing housing

Homelessness Prevention Assistance

Although there are minimum requirements, HUD encourages grantees and subrecipients to target prevention assistance to individuals and families at the greatest risk of becoming homeless. The target population for the City will have the following risk factors:

- Sudden and significant loss of income
- Eviction within two weeks from a private dwelling
- Severe house cost burden (greater than 50% of income for housing costs)
- Pending rental housing foreclosure
- Credit problems that preclude obtaining housing

Rapid Re-Housing Assistance

Rapid re-housing assistance is available for persons who are homeless according to HUD's definition of homeless. The target population for the City's rapid re- housing program will have the following risk factors:

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;

- Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs)
- Is exiting an institution where an individual has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

The purpose of these funds is to assist eligible program participants to move into permanent housing and achieve housing stability. Therefore, the City's subrecipients providing assistance will utilize a process to assess the level of service needed for all potential program participants, other resources available to them, and the appropriateness of their participation in the rapid re-housing assistance portion of ESG.

Coordination

The City will coordinate with the Continuum of Care (CoC) by attending and participating in the bi-monthly Continuum of Care meetings and monthly steering committee for the CoC. The Continuum includes several emergency shelter providers, essential service providers, homeless prevention and rapid re-housing assistance providers, other homeless assistance providers, mainstream service, and housing providers. In addition to bi-monthly meetings, there are several committees that also meet on a monthly basis to coordinate and establish policies. These committees include the Emergency Action Team and the Emergency Housing Team meetings.

Determining and Prioritizing Eligibility

The City and its providers within the Continuum recognize that individuals and households must be prioritized to ensure that funding is distributed to best serve the needs of those who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

Subrecipients will perform intake and evaluate each individual and household on a case-by-case basis. They recognize that each case is different, and that the demographics throughout the county are so different so as to not be able approach potential clients with a "one size fits all strategy." To best prioritize those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless for rapid re-housing or homeless prevention funds, those who are at-risk of becoming homeless will need to show that they will become homeless if they do not receive ESG Homeless Prevention funds, and they must have also suffered an economic hardship to become at risk of losing their home.

Subrecipients may choose to prioritize homeless individuals and households who have been involved with their particular program for Rapid Re-housing assistance, although each individual and household will be evaluated before being able to receive funding.

In addition to the household income being below 30% AMI and the household currently experiencing homelessness or being at imminent risk of becoming homeless, there must be documented evidence in the client files that determine:

- There is a lack of financial resources.
- There are no other housing options.
- There are no support networks.

Client share of rent and utilities costs

When a provider determines that a household is a priority for either Homeless Prevention or Rapid Re-housing rental assistance, they will be eligible to receive up to 100% rental assistance for no more than the full amount of the rent, as stated on the lease.

Short Term and Medium-Term Rental Assistance Duration

The City will require short-term and medium-term rental assistance to allow individuals and families to remain in their existing rental units or to help them obtain and remain in rental units they select. A lease must be in place in the program participants name for them to receive assistance.

Short-term rental assistance can only be used for three (3) months while medium-term rental assistance ranges from four (4) to 24 months. No program participant may receive more than 24 months of assistance under ESG, and each program participant must be evaluated every three (3) months to determine the amount of assistance needed.

Rental assistance may also be used to pay up to six (6) months of rental arrears for eligible program participants; however, the six (6) months count towards the 24 month total. The rental assistance paid cannot exceed the actual rental cost, which must be in Compliance with HUD's standard of "rent reasonableness." This means that the total rent charged for a unit must be reasonable in relation to the rents being charged during the same time for comparable units in the private unassisted market and must not be in excess of rents being charged by the owner during the same time period for comparable non-luxury unassisted units.

Rental assistance payments cannot be made on behalf of eligible individuals or families for the same period of time and for the same cost types that are being provided through another federal, state or local housing subsidy program. Cost types are the categories of eligible HPRP financial assistance: rent from the client portion or the subsidy; security deposits, utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and hotel/motel vouchers.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

United Way Home for Good Continuum of Care has not formally developed a coordinated assessment system; however, the City – in conjunction with the Balance of State CoC – and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs are utilizing the same ESG forms as a first step towards developing an outreach and intake system.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

The City of Columbus Community Reinvestment Department publishes a notification of funding availability in the Ledger Enquirer, the local newspaper, to announce the availability of program funds. Application notices are also emailed to the Community Reinvestment Department's wide network of stakeholders and posted on the Community Reinvestment Department's website for organizations to download and apply for funding. These applications are then reviewed by an application rating committee for conformance with the program requirements, qualifications of applicants, availability of matching funds, and other factors. The applications committee makes recommendations to the Columbus City Council for final approval of funding allocations.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The City of Columbus Community Reinvestment Department requires subrecipient organizations to include homeless or formerly homeless individuals or other equivalent policymaking entity. Non-profit organizations recommended for PY2024 funding have procedures in place for homeless or formerly homeless persons to be involved with the program design and implementation.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

Performance standards provide a measure for the City to evaluate the effectiveness of each ESG service provider in the areas of: (a) Targeting those who need assistance most; (b) Reducing the number of people living on the streets or in emergency shelters; (c) Reducing the time people spend homeless; and, (d) Reducing clients' housing barriers or housing stability risks. A complete listing of ESG written standards can be found attached as an appendix.

The City of Columbus will evaluate each ESG service provider's performance based on the following standards:

1. Subrecipients will develop and adhere to priorities for service delivery by need.
2. Subrecipients will assist clients in rapid movement to permanent housing from shelters or from the street.
3. Subrecipients will ensure that clients have easy access to services
4. Subrecipients will provide comprehensive case management to address a spectrum of needs for each client.



COLUMBUS 2021-2025

CONSOLIDATED PLAN SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT AND 2021 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AUGUST 2024

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Executive Summary

ES-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

Every five years, the City of Columbus is required to prepare a strategic plan (known as the Consolidated Plan) which governs the use of federal housing and community development grant funds that the city receives from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). When preparing a Consolidated Plan, grantees must assess the needs and issues in their jurisdictions as a part of their preparation of these documents.

The grant funds received from HUD by the City of Columbus that are covered in the Consolidated Plan include:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program

The City must also submit to HUD separate Annual Action Plans for each of the five years during the Consolidated Plan period. The Annual Action Plans serve as the city's yearly applications to HUD that are required for the city to receive annual allocations from the two federal grant programs. These grants from HUD are known as Entitlement Grant Programs because communities receive the funds every year if they meet program requirements and criteria associated with each of the grants. Under HUD's grant program regulations, Columbus may use its CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds within the City of Columbus.

In 2022, the City of Columbus amended its 2021–2026 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan in order to reprogram prior year funding from program years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 – as well as funding already within this 2021 plan – totaling \$2,253,987.64 in CDBG and \$300,000 in HOME to other projects. These prior year fund amounts result from balances remaining after certain projects were completed, recaptures from canceled projects, and reprogramming from projects that have not moved as quickly as necessary. The specific funding years, amounts, and projects affected are detailed in the reprogramming schedule attached here and, in the SP-35 / AP-15 sections. Revisions associated with this amendment may also be found in the SP-45, AP-20, and AP-35 sections.

Community Development Block Grant					
Year	Status	Organization	Activity	Project Description	Amount
2015	Remaining Balance	City of Columbus	Demolition	Demolition - Elimination of Slum and Blight	(\$3,075.20)
2015	Reprogramming	Housing Authority Columbus Georgia	Affordable Housing	Chase Homes Redevelopment	(\$80,852.21)
2016	Reprogramming	Housing Authority Columbus Georgia	Affordable Housing	Chase Homes Redevelopment	(\$72,994.98)
2017	Reprogramming	Housing Authority Columbus Georgia	Affordable Housing	Chase Homes Redevelopment	(\$4,287.60)
2018	Supply Chain	City of Columbus	Public Facilities	ADA Accessible Playground Equipment	(\$91,865.21)
2019	Remaining Balance	City of Columbus	Demolition	Demolition - Elimination of Slum and Blight	(\$15,330.10)
2019	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Economic Development	Economic Development / Job Training	(\$70,000.00)
2019	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Acquisition / Disposition	Land Banking Activities	(\$175,154.44)
2020	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Demolition	Demolition - Elimination of Slum and Blight	(\$101,000.00)
2020	Supply chain	City of Columbus	Public Facilities	ADA Accessible Playground Equipment	(\$362,633.00)
2020	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Acquisition / Disposition	Property Acquisition	(\$170,357.00)
2020	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Lead Based Paint	Testing Program	(\$20,000.00)
2020	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Section 3	Job Training	(\$30,000.00)
2020	Reprogramming	Housing Authority Columbus Georgia	Affordable Housing	Chase Homes Redevelopment	(\$250,000.00)
2021	Recapture	Homeless Resource Network	Public Services	Rapid Re-Housing Program	(\$15,000.00)
2021	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Demolition	Demolition - Elimination of Slum and Blight	(\$200,000.00)
2021	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Acquisition / Disposition	Property Acquisition	(\$191,437.90)
2021	Supply Chain	City of Columbus	Public Facilities	ADA Accessible Restrooms (Cooper Creek, Flat Rock Parks)	(\$350,000.00)
2021	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Lead Based Paint	Testing Program	(\$20,000.00)
2021	Reprogramming	City of Columbus	Section 3	Job Training	(\$30,000.00)
Proposed CDBG Recaptured Funding:					\$2,253,987.64
2021	CDBG	City of Columbus	Infrastructure Improvement	Wyntonn Road Retaining Wall	\$150,000.00
2021	CDBG	Food Mill, Inc.	Public Facilities	Neighborhood Facility Renovation: Fox Community Center	\$250,000.00
2021	CDBG	City of Columbus	Infrastructure Improvement	5th Street, Street Continuance	\$350,000.00
2021	CDBG	City of Columbus	Infrastructure Improvement	19th Street Flood Abatement	\$1,503,987.64
Proposed CDBG Reprogrammed Funding:					\$2,253,987.64
HOME Investment Partnerships					
Year	Grant	Organization	Activity	Project Description	Amount
2021	HOME	Truth Spring, Inc.	Affordable Housing Development	Single Family Rental Housing	(\$300,000.00)
Proposed HOME Recaptured Funding:					(\$300,000.00)
2021	HOME	Housing Authority of Columbus Georgia	Affordable Housing Development	BTW South Affordable Housing Development Phase	\$300,000.00
Proposed HOME Reprogrammed Funding:					\$300,000.00

PY 2021 Reprogramming Schedule

In September 2024, the Consolidated Plan was amended to include the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

2. Summary of the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

Needs Assessment Overview

When preparing a Consolidated Plan, grantees must assess the needs in their jurisdictions as a key part of the process. To inform the development of priorities and goals over the next five years, the Consolidated Plan’s Needs Assessment discusses housing, community development, and economic development needs in Columbus. The Needs Assessment relies on data from the US Census, 2013–2017 5–Year American Community Survey (ACS), and a special tabulation of ACS data known as Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data that estimates the number of households with one or more housing needs. Local data regarding homelessness and assisted living is included. Finally, public input gathered through interviews, a focus group, a public meeting, and the community survey are coupled with data analysis to identify priority needs related to affordable housing, homelessness, assisted housing, community development, and economic development in Columbus.

3. Evaluation of past performance

Noted accomplishments from Columbus's FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, shown below, indicate the city's performance on its previous Consolidated Plan goals through April 2021. The city has met or exceeded its service goals, particularly in areas such as rental assistance, home rehabilitation, park improvements and the development of the entrepreneurship center. Most service goals have not yet met their targets and are still in progress. Connectivity activities, including sidewalk and streetlighting improvements, may need additional attention in order to meet their targets.

Improving Access to Quality of Housing

- 11 households at risk of homelessness have received rental assistance totaling \$156,948.90. The city designated \$100,000 for this activity.
- \$317,229 was designated for the acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale of homes for income eligible residents. Another \$133,446 was set aside as CHDO reserve funding for acquisition/rehabilitation of 1 homebuyer property. The city has granted \$464,686.28 to NeighborWorks Columbus for the rehabilitation of 11 homes.
- 5 households have received bridge loan gap financing (totaling \$97,800) and 10 individuals have received down payment assistance (totaling \$98,880). A total of \$250,000 in HOME funds were designated for these activities.
- \$150,000 was designated for minor home repairs. A total of \$122,289.50 has been provided to the Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity to conduct minor home repairs on 12 homes.
- \$80,000 was designated for accessible home repairs usable by 8 homeowners with disabilities. Through Access 2 Independence, the city has modified 6 homes at a cost of \$48,333.
- The city planned to spend \$102,000 to remove slum and blight. The city has utilized \$73,452 to demolish three dilapidated buildings.
- A total of \$174,115 was designated for property acquisition and disposition, of which \$24,945.66 has been used for one downtown property – 2212 1st Avenue.
- The city has spent \$8,061.75 to complete 19 lead-based paint inspections. A total of \$20,000 was designated for this activity.
- Out of \$374,400 designated for land bank authority activities, the city has utilized \$72,390.70.

Provide Public Services

- An estimated 7,433 low-income individuals were designated to receive benefit from the provision of public services through CDBG funding. Approximately, 2,590 individuals were identified as having received services including counseling, healthcare, job training, youth recreation, fair housing education, housing counseling, and meal delivery.

- Recreational facilities, parks and playgrounds were designated \$201,753 for improvements. The city has spent \$178,499.47 to rehabilitate the Tillis Recreation Center at 1425 13th Avenue.
- The city has spent \$118,235.57 for new playground equipment in six parks located in low-income census tracts. These parks included Rose Hill Park, Anderson Village Park, Ewart Park, Tillis Playground and J. Fluellen Park).
- The city has been designated to spend \$300,000 on connectivity, including sidewalks, street lighting and infrastructure in low-income neighborhoods.

Economic Development

- The city committed \$70,000 to economic development, including technical assistance for businesses and land acquisition for commercial development. Economic development activities have utilized \$289,248.78 toward the rehabilitation of a building for an entrepreneurship center.
- The city acquired the former State Farmer's Market for \$1,150.

4. Summary of citizen participation process and consultation process

An important component of the research process for the Consolidated Plan involved gathering input regarding fair and affordable housing conditions and needs in Columbus. The city used several public engagement approaches with residents and stakeholders, including a community survey, a public meeting, a focus group with faith leaders and stakeholder interviews with professionals in the community.

Substantial Amendment

As required by HUD regulations and the City's Citizen Participation Plan, the City of Columbus published a public notice specifically describing each recapture and reallocation of funding in the Ledger-Inquirer on April 22, 2022. A Public Comment Period was held from April 28 to May 30, 2022, during which the public was invited to review the proposed substantial amendment and provide comments. The City held a Public Hearing on the substantial amendment at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, in the Columbus Consolidated Government Annex at 420 10th Street in Columbus. No comments were received at the public hearing or in writing during the public comment period. The Columbus Council approved the Substantial Amendment at its meeting on May 31, 2022.

Public Meeting

A virtual public meeting was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021. The public meeting offered residents an opportunity to identify housing and community development needs in their

neighborhoods. The public meeting began with a short presentation providing an overview of the Consolidated Plan and related grant programs. The presentation was followed by an interactive discussion of housing and community development needs in the city. 43 members of the public attended the virtual meeting.

Stakeholder Interviews

Professionals from the fields of affordable housing, homelessness, public services, transportation, health, and business, as well as city staff and elected officials, were invited to participate in 50-minute stakeholder interviews. Interviews were conducted by phone from May 11 – May 21, 2021. 18 professionals participated in the stakeholder interviews.

In response to the addition of the ESG program, an interview was held with the Vice President of Home for Good (Continuum of Care lead agency) on August 21, 2024. The interview helped update the needs of homelessness populations as well as service homeless service delivery within the City.

Focus Group

The project team was invited to speak at a virtual meeting held by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance on May 7, 2021. Following a short presentation, the group participated in an interactive discussion about the housing and community development needs in the city. 13 faith leaders were in attendance.

Community Survey

A community survey was available to members of the public. The survey invited participants to identify high needs in categories of housing, homelessness, public service, infrastructure, and economic development. The survey also inquired about participants’ knowledge of their fair housing rights, local fair housing resources, and their experiences with housing discrimination. The survey was available from April 26 – June 7, 2021. A total of 94 members of the public completed the survey.

5. Summary of public comments

Columbus held a 30-day comment period and a public hearing to receive input from residents and stakeholders on the draft Consolidated Plan prior to approval by the City Council and submission to HUD. The city received one written comment on the plan. After attending the public hearing, a citizen suggested the City work with the River Valley Area Agency on Aging to host a centralized database of senior housing resources and waitlists.

Columbus held a second 30-day comment period and public hearing to receive input from residents and stakeholders on the addition of the ESG program. The city received one written comment on the plan. After attending the public hearing, a citizen suggested the City work with the River Valley Area Agency on Aging to host a centralized database of senior housing resources and waitlists.

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them.

All public comments were accepted and taken into consideration in preparing the Consolidated Plan.

7. Summary

During the development of the Consolidated Plan, a set of priority needs were identified. These priorities include the expansion of affordable housing supply, housing rehabilitation, blight removal, infrastructure and public facility improvements, public services, fair housing, COVID-19 response, and program administration. The Consolidated Plan also contains goals, measurable objectives, and implementation actions for each of the plan's elements.

DRAFT

The Process

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies 24 CFR 91.200(b)

1. Describe agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source

The following are the agencies/entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name	Department/Agency
CDBG Administrator	COLUMBUS	The Community Reinvestment Department
HOME Administrator	COLUMBUS	The Community Reinvestment Department
ESG Administrator	COLUMBUS	The Community Reinvestment Department

Table 1 – Responsible Agencies

Narrative

Columbus is an entitlement community under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs. The Consolidated Plan covers the period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2025. The plan identifies priority community development and housing needs in Columbus and provides a strategy to address them. The attached Annual Action Plan discusses specific projects to be funded during the 2021 program year, which begins July 1, 2021, and ends June 30, 2022.

Along with Columbus’s CDBG, HOME, and ESG allocations, the city receives additional CDBG and HOME funds to prevent, prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its related health, social and economic impacts. These funds, including CDBG-CV and CDBG-CV3, were designated through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law in March 2020. In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan also allotted HOME funds, called HOME-ARP, to prevent homelessness and increase housing stability for vulnerable populations.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

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PR-10 Consultation – 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(b), 91.300(b), 91.215(I) and 91.315(I)

1. Introduction

To inform the Consolidated Plans goals and priorities, the City of Columbus engaged residents and stakeholders in a community-wide meeting; a focus group for faith leaders; interviews with 17 stakeholders working in housing, community development, and homelessness; and a community-wide survey, to which 94 individuals responded. Results of these outreach efforts are summarized in the Community Participation section of this Plan.

The City of Columbus held a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing to receive input from residents and stakeholders on the draft Consolidated Plan prior to approval by the City Council and submission to HUD. The comment period began on Monday, June 28 and ended on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. The city received one written comment on the plan.

The City of Columbus is holding another a 30-day public comment period and a public hearing to receive input from residents and stakeholders on the draft Consolidated Plan prior to approval by the City Council and submission to HUD. The comment period began on Wednesday, August 28 and ends on Friday, September 27, 2024.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction’s activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health, and service agencies (91.215(I)).

The City of Columbus partners with local non-profits and service agencies, including mental health providers, government health providers, and public and assisted housing providers to support coordinated activities among these organizations. The City works with Mercy Medical to provide mental health counseling to low- and moderate-income households. The City also works with NeighborWorks, Habitat for Humanity and the Land Bank Authority to create new housing units and repair existing housing in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. By participating with these agencies on an ongoing basis, as well as developing new partnerships, the city plays a critical role in the coordination of housing and mental health services for low-to-moderate income households.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The City of Columbus is represented on the executive committee of the Columbus-Muscogee/Russell County Continuum of Care. Through monthly participation on the executive committee, city staff help decide strategies

to address homelessness in the City. The City also supports several homelessness agencies, including the Southwest Georgia Housing Opportunities, Home for Good and the Open Door Community House as they provide direct services to the chronically homeless and families transitioning out of homelessness.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS.

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The City of Columbus works in conjunction with Home for Good, the lead agency for the local Continuum of Care (CoC), to enhance the coordination of projects and programs serving its homeless populations. In its role on the Columbus–Muscogee/Russell County Continuum of Care, the City helps to determine the allocation of state ESG funds according to the city’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and the 5–Year Consolidated Plan. During the City’s tenure on the executive committee, the CoC has updated its Data Quality Management Plan with the HMIS Committee and has introduced system performance measures to lower error rates during data collection.

In May 2024, the City of Columbus was awarded an ESG entitlement grant. During consultation for this Consolidated Plan amendment, Home for Good staff recommended allocating ESG funds towards homelessness prevention (e.g., rental assistance), as this service need was identified as having the least amount of funding. As a new ESG recipient, the City will utilize performance standards and evaluation techniques from Home for Good’s Data Quality Management Plan to ensure low data quality error rates. To support the funding and policies and procedures of HMIS, Home for Good staff recommended that the City could assist by funding HMIS licenses and administrative costs. City staff will continue to attend quarterly CoC executive committee meetings where HMIS policy decisions are discussed.

Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdictions consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

	Agency/Group/Organization Name	Type	Section of the Plan Addressed	Consultation Method
1	South Columbus Public Library	Services – Education	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
2	City of Columbus, City Council	Other – Elected Officials	Economic Development Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
3	City of Columbus, Community Reinvestment	Other – City Staff	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview

4	City of Columbus, Fire & EMS	Agency – Emergency Management	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
5	City of Columbus, Parks and Recreation	Services – Children	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
6	City of Columbus, Planning Department	Other – City Staff	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis	Interview
7	Coldwell Banker KPDD	Housing	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
8	Columbus 2025	Business and Civic Leaders	Economic Development Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
9	Columbus-Phenix City MPO	Other – Transportation	Market Analysis Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview
10	Habitat for Humanity	Services – Housing	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis	Interview
11	Home for Good	Services – Homeless	Homeless Needs – Families with Children Homeless Needs – Unaccompanied Youth Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis	Interview
12	Homeless Resource Network	Services – Homeless	Homeless Needs – Families with Children Homeless Needs – Unaccompanied Youth Homeless Needs – Veterans Homelessness Strategy Market Analysis	Interview

13	Hope Harbour	Services – Victims of Domestic Violence	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis	Interview
14	Housing Authority of Columbus, GA	Public Housing Authority	Public Housing Needs	Interview
15	Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance	Other – Faith Leaders	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis Homelessness Needs – Families with Children Non-homeless Special Needs Anti-poverty Strategy	Focus Group
16	MercyMed	Health agency	Housing Needs Assessment Market Analysis Non-Homeless Special Needs	Interview
17	NeighborWorks	Services – Housing	Housing Need Assessment Market Analysis	Interview
18	Paz Amigos	Services – Homeless	Homelessness Strategy Non-homeless Special Needs	Interview

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting.

Efforts were made to consult a wide variety of community stakeholders throughout the City of Columbus. A flyer advertising the May 18 public meeting was distributed by email to participating stakeholders and was shared on the Community Reinvestment Facebook Page. A total of 61 professionals were invited to participate in a stakeholder interview. Invitations to participate were emailed to stakeholders or offered by phone. Stakeholders invited to participate represented the following fields: housing developers, real estate agents, public housing authorities, colleges and universities, homeless services, domestic violence services, school districts, non-profit organizations, health service providers, workforce development organizations, businesses, faith-based coalitions, ethnic group organizations, mental health providers, senior services, transit authorities, elected officials, city staff, libraries, emergency management agencies, legal services providers and regional planning organizations. No agency types were excluded from outreach efforts.

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan:

Several local planning documents provided important background, context, or data used by the planning team to assess needs in the City. These resources are listed in Table 3 below.

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
10 Year Plan to End Homelessness	Columbus Consolidated Government	The 10 Year Plan aims to make homelessness “atypical, temporary, and non-recurring” through the collaboration of service providers across the city. Eliminating homelessness corresponds with the strategic plan’s public services and affordable housing goals.
2019 Annual Moving to Work Report	Housing Authority of Columbus, GA	Goals of the 2019 Annual MTW Report include converting public housing units to PBV, as well as implementing several activities to expand access to housing for low-income families. These goals overlap with the Strategic Plan goal to expand affordable housing supply.
2022 Annual Moving to Work Plan	Housing Authority of Columbus, GA	Goals of the 2022 Annual Moving to Work Plan include the completion of RAD conversion/demolition for its remaining public housing developments. The creation of additional

		units for low-income households overlaps with the Strategic Plan goal to expand affordable housing supply.
2024 Annual Moving to Work Plan	Housing Authority of Columbus, GA	Goals of the 2024 Annual Moving to Work Plan Year, includes the continuation of the RAD/Section 18 Blend conversion process for the remaining 424 public housing units throughout the city. The creation of additional units for low-income households overlaps with the Strategic Plan goal to expand affordable housing supply.
Columbus 2025 Plan	Greater Columbus, GA Chamber of Commerce	The guiding principles of the Columbus 2025 Plan include “increasing prosperity, improving quality of life and reducing poverty.” Quality of life goals described in the Columbus 2025 overlap with the Strategic Plan’s goals of infrastructure and public facility improvements and expansion of affordable housing supply.
Columbus Consolidated Government 2038 Comprehensive Plan	Columbus Consolidated Government	Some of the goals highlighted in the 2038 Comprehensive Plan include expanding opportunities for walking, biking and transit, growing and expanding businesses, and improving access to affordable, quality housing. These goals, along with others listed in the Comprehensive Plan, align with the Strategic Plan goals to rehab housing, expand affordable housing supply, provide public services, and improve infrastructure and public facilities.

<p>Columbus – Muscogee County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017–2022</p>	<p>Columbus Consolidated Government</p>	<p>Goals of the city’s Hazard Mitigation Plan include reducing/eliminating community exposure to natural and manmade events and reducing loss to public and private property. These goals indirectly relate to the Strategic Plan’s overall goals of maintaining and expanding affordable housing and protecting and improving infrastructure and public facilities.</p>
<p>River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)</p>	<p>River Valley Regional Commission</p>	<p>The goals of the CEDS Plan include assisting the workforce of the region, improving infrastructure and improving housing stock – which align with the Strategic Plan goals of housing rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements.</p>

Table 3 – Other local/regional/federal planning efforts

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Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(I))

As Columbus implements this 5-Year Plan, the city will continue to work with other public entities including the City of Phenix City, AL, adjacent counties, and the State of Georgia. Through the Columbus-Phenix City Metropolitan Planning Organization, the City currently partners with Chattahoochee County (GA), Lee County (AL) and parts of Russell County (AL) to conduct regional transportation planning. Columbus-Muscogee County collaborates with Russell County, AL to address homelessness through Home for Good, the region's Continuum of Care. The City also invites the Phenix City Housing Authority to provide input during the 5-Year Consolidated Plan planning process. Through these and other partnerships, the City of Columbus will continue to promote communication with other public entities and provide coordinated services to the region's low-to-moderate income households.

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PR-15 Citizen Participation – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(c) and 91.300(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal setting.

Columbus residents were invited to provide input for the Consolidated Plan by taking a community survey or participating in the City’s virtual public meeting. In addition to the survey and public meeting, the planning team led a focus group and conducted in-depth interviews with key stakeholders representing a variety of viewpoints relevant to the development of the Consolidated Plan. Priorities identified during the public engagement were used to guide the strategic plan, including the Consolidated Plan priorities and description of possible activities.

The City held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, May 18th at 6:30pm EST. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public meeting was held online using the Zoom platform. Residents and stakeholders could join online or by phone. A total of 43 members of the public participated in the public meeting.

A Housing and Community Needs Survey was available to residents on the City’s Community Reinvestment webpage: www.columbusga.gov/communityreinvestment/Consolidated-Plan. The survey was available from April 26 through June 7, 2021. A total of 94 responses were received from members of the public.

Advertisement for the public meeting and survey targeted the general public, as well as non-profits, service providers, housing providers and other organizations working with low- and moderate-income households. Notice was given to residents through advertisements placed the City’s Community Reinvestment Facebook page and flyers distributed through the City’s network of service providers.

The planning team also conducted one-on-one interviews with staff from a variety of service organizations and city departments. Interviews were held by phone from Tuesday, May 11th through Friday, May 21st. The interviews engaged 18 stakeholders representing 16 organizations or city departments. An additional interview was conducted with the Home for Good Continuum of Care to receive input for the addition of the ESG program on August 21, 2024.

Columbus held a 30-day public comment period to receive comments on the draft 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan and PY 2021 Annual Action Plan from June 28 to July 27, 2021. During that time, copies of the draft were available for public review on the City’s website, and residents and stakeholders could provide written comments. The City received one comment from a citizen who suggested the River Valley Area Agency on Aging as a desirable host for a centralized database of senior housing resources and waitlists. Columbus also held a public meeting on July 20, 2021, to discuss key findings and receive input from residents and stakeholders on the draft plans. The 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan and PY 2021 Annual Action Plan was approved by the City Council on Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

As required by HUD regulations and the City’s Citizen Participation Plan, the City of Columbus published a public notice specifically describing each recapture and reallocation of funding in the Ledger–Inquirer on April 22, 2022. A Public Comment Period was held from April 28 to May 30, 2022, during which the public was invited to review the proposed substantial amendment and provide comments. The City held a Public Hearing on the substantial amendment at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, in the Columbus Consolidated Government Annex at 420 10th Street in Columbus. No comments were received at the public hearing or in writing during the public comment period. The Columbus Council approved the Substantial Amendment at its meeting on May 31, 2022.

Columbus is holding a 30–day public comment period to receive comments on the amended draft 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan and PY 2021 Annual Action Plan from August 28, 2024 to September 27, 2024. During that time, copies of the draft were available for public review on the City’s website, and residents and stakeholders could provide written comments.

A summary of community outreach efforts and responses is shown below. Complete survey results and evidence of outreach materials are found in the appendix.

Table 4. Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Order	Mode of Outreach	Target of Outreach	Summary of response/ attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comments not accepted and reasons
1	Community Survey	Non–targeted/ Broad community	94 participants	<p>The top 3 housing and community development needs identified by survey participants are as follows:</p> <p><u>Affordable Housing Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of affordable rental housing/apartments • Family housing • Housing that accepts Section 8 vouchers <p><u>Homeless Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional/permanent supportive housing programs 	N/A

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supportive services/case management• Homelessness prevention <p><u>Public Service Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and mental health services• Substance abuse/crime prevention• Childcare <p><u>Public Facility Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Childcare centers• Community centers (e.g., youth centers, senior centers, cultural centers)• Homeless centers <p><u>Public Infrastructure Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-speed internet access• Street/road improvements• Water/sewer improvements <p><u>Economic Development Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redevelopment or demolition of blighted properties• Incentives for creating jobs• Financial assistance to entrepreneurs and small businesses <p>When looking at the availability and quality of community resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 47% of respondents said garbage collection was equally provided in all neighborhoods.	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 37% of respondents said parks and trails were equally provided in all neighborhoods.• 36% of respondents said fire and police services were equally provided in all neighborhoods.• 83% of respondents said property maintenance was <i>not</i> equally provided in all neighborhoods.• 74% of respondents said grocery stores and other shopping were <i>not</i> equally provided in all neighborhoods.• 73% of respondents said roads and sidewalks were <i>not</i> equally provided in all neighborhoods. <p>Fair Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60% of respondents understand their fair housing rights. 26% of respondents “somewhat understand” their fair housing rights and 14% do not understand their fair housing rights.• 42% of respondents know where to file a housing discrimination complaint. 19% “somewhat” know where to file a complaint and 39% do not know where to file a complaint.• 14% of respondents reported that they had personally experienced housing discrimination. 72% report that they have not personally experienced housing discrimination, and 14% responded “N/A.”• Of the 12 respondents who stated that they been discriminated against:	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 people experienced discrimination from a landlord or property manager.• 3 people experienced discrimination from a real estate agent.• 2 people experienced discrimination from a mortgage lender.• 2 people experienced discrimination from a city, county, or housing authority staff person. <p>(Respondents could select more than one option.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of the 12 respondents who stated that they been discriminated against:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 people believed the discrimination was due to race/color.• 4 people believed it was due to familial status.• 3 people believed it was due to ethnicity or gender/sex.• 2 people believed it was due to a disability.• Three people filed a report of the discrimination.• Of the 9 who did not file a report, 6 people stated that they “didn’t know what good it would do.” Two people reported that they were afraid of retaliation. One person did not know where to file. Another person did not realize the discrimination was against the law.• 45% of respondents stated that they believed housing discrimination was an issue in Columbus. 26% of respondents believed it was “somewhat” of an issue,	
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				<p>while 21% stated “I don’t know.” Only 8% of respondents stated it was not an issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When considering barriers to fair housing, 88% of respondents stated there was not enough affordable housing for families. 78% of respondents stated that there was not enough affordable housing for individuals. 76% of respondents stated that neighborhoods that need revitalization and new investment. 	
2	Stakeholder Interviews	Non-profit and service organizations, city staff and elected officials, Housing Authority.	18 stakeholders	<p><u>Columbus’s Greatest Housing Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing that is affordable, available, of good quality, and in safe areas • Single-family houses for rent • Assistance with first and last month’s rent • Housing affordable to very low-, low-, and moderate-income households • “Missing middle” housing available for sale at \$150,000-\$250,000 • Housing affordable to households earning 120% AMI (or the “working poor”) • Demolition of blighted homes • Repair work/Maintenance on rental housing • Family housing • Senior housing • More Section 8 • Utility assistance • Energy efficiency upgrades/weatherization • In-fill 	N/A

- Housing for the homeless (e.g., temporary housing, tiny homes)
- One-bedroom units that are energy efficient.
- Mental health independent housing with intensive case management
- Removing restrictive zoning
- Affordable housing in north Columbus

Columbus's Greatest Community Development Needs:

- Job training
- Community events/activities
- Keeping the bike trails safe and up to date
- Signage for Spanish speakers, as well as a Spanish language hotline to find resources.
- Sidewalk repairs, additions, and upgrades, including new curbs.
- Youth activities
- Increased number of police and park/recreation staff
- Upgrades to parks, including ADA accessible restrooms, building rehabilitation and painting, roof replacement.
- Additional grocery stores in food deserts
- Additional trade programs like Truth Spring
- Attracting major businesses to the South Columbus
- Additional classroom-size facilities to offer programs to the public.

- Upgrades to aging infrastructure.
- Smaller neighborhood community centers that are accessible on foot for children.
- Improved communication about activities in the city (e.g., a community calendar)
- Removing the property tax freeze
- Adding trails on the east side of the city
- More ADA improvements to city buildings, sidewalks, curb cuts
- Leveraging CDBG for larger transportation projects
- Youth employment with the city

How big of an issue is homelessness?

- There are a lot of homeless individuals on 2nd Avenue and near the Chattahoochee River.
- Because we are near Ft. Benning, many of the homeless men are vets.
- Local religious shelters require you to be sober. There need to be resources for people who cannot be sober.
- Because of Home for Good, it is not that big of an issue.
- It is a big issue. Abandoned schools could be reused for shelters.
- You see groups at the park downtown by the hospital. There are also campgrounds in the woods.

- There are very few resources for the chronically homeless, homeless individuals, and homeless youth.
- Addressing homeless sex offenders is a major issue in the city. There is a known encampment where many sex offenders live.
- We do not have a safe house for people with SPMI.
- HUD has prioritized veteran homelessness, so we do not see the number we used to.
- There are not really any LGBT shelters.
- I do not know what homelessness is going to look like when the moratorium is lifted, and people must pay their rent/mortgage.

Successful housing and community development initiatives (in Columbus or elsewhere):

- New affordable housing in Bibb City and off Victory Drive
- Investments in downtown and the city's trail system.
- Home for Good
- Ashley Station, Columbus Commons are well maintained.
- Tiny homes for the homeless
- Neighborhoods with grocery stores near housing.
- Communities with grassroots engagement
- A one-stop shop for homeless individuals.

				<p><u>Suggestions for new uses of HUD grant funds</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure• Invest in home repairs for seniors.• Cover the cost of household necessities, such as furniture and household goods, to help families who find housing.• Improve the timeliness of drawdowns.• Public education on affordable housing and transit <p><u>Areas of Opportunity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Columbus• Midtown• Uptown and the Historic District for people who like to walk places.• North of Macon Road• The Panhandle• East Columbus (considered more affordable) <p><u>Barriers to Moving to Areas of Opportunity/Housing Choice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is expensive.• Shortage of places to buy or rent.• If you cannot afford a \$150,000 mortgage, the available housing stock is old and in poor condition/in bad neighborhoods.• Unspoken barriers based on status.• Landlords market to Ft. Benning families to get the most rent.	
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- Lack of financial wellness classes
- Limited lending resources for non-English speakers
- Landlords require 3 times the rent in income.
- Transportation
- Credit checks and criminal histories
- How a person looks.
- Lack of housing that is ADA accessible and does not segregate disabled persons into clustered housing.
- NIMBYism towards LIHTC in non-minority areas.

Are you aware of housing discrimination?

- A white woman with mixed children has difficulty finding housing.
- Landlords use VAWA rules as a reason not to accept Section 8 tenants.
- Once people are housed, the quality of maintenance by the landlord depends on the tenant.
- Realtors steer people away from areas. Our realtors do not know the areas where they do not work, so they just generalize.
- There is a community barrier. They fight affordable housing on every level.
- A co-worker had to go to three different mortgage lenders because they were getting an inflated interest rate.

Are people segregated in where they live?

- Harris County took a lot of white people when integration began.
- Columbus is segregated by money.
- There is a lot of history you must deal with here and you have to challenge it when you hear it.
- Yes. Jobs and transportation cause segregation to occur.
- Yes, due to redlining.
- Macon Road has been the dividing line. South of Macon Road there are African American communities.
- Yes, the schools are 99% one way or the other.
- Yes. I think it is related to income, not race.
- Yes. We started having white flight in the early 1990s.

What types of fair housing services are offered in the area?

- Community Reinvestment has resources on fair housing.
- You can call the real estate commission or HUD directly.
- Metro Fair Housing (Atlanta-based)
- Home for Good
- Georgia Legal Services.
- I do not know.

Are public resources evenly available throughout all neighborhoods in the City?

- I live in midtown. We have sidewalks and police patrols.
- It is uneven. Shirley Winston Park – there is a pool that I have never seen open but the pools on the north side are open.
- The fire department is certified so they are strategically placed. The stations have been built in the last 20 years.
- Garbage service needs to improve. Houses where evictions took place – the trash stays there a long time.
- There was a work camp where inmates would mow grass on city property. But with the pandemic they were not locking people up, so the grass has not been cut.
- Bus routes are difficult. Some health clinics are not on a bus route.
- Most of the TIAA projects and infrastructure dollars have been spent in south Columbus.
- Columbus has pockets that are nicer than others. It is not very cohesive.
- The taxes do not allow for services to be evenly available everywhere.
- The roads are terrible everywhere.

- You can call the police and maybe they will come and maybe they will not.
- I live in south Columbus and was informed that animal control does not come out on weekends. However, my friend who lives in another part of town has gotten animal control to come out on the weekend.
- No. I do not think everyone is on the same page about what public space is for. A public good does not always make a profit. Recreation and transit routes should depend on the needs of the people, not where you can make a profit.
- It is pretty even. Our police department lacks officers because police come to Columbus to get trained then go elsewhere.
- Lack of staff pay is a citywide issue that affects services.

Is there anything else that is important to our research?

- Community gardens should be promoted, especially as in-fill in vacant lots.
- Next year's AAP should look at how homelessness has changed when people no longer have extra unemployment or food stamps or get evicted.
- Provide tools and incentives for landlords not to be slumlords.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have difficulty doing housing rehabs in the city. • We need funding streams for furniture and childcare, not just rent and utilities. • We need to make funding easier to receive. When reimbursements are sent back for minor issues it takes up time that can be used to serve our clients. • Solar panels. This would be great for weatherization. • Between 95–99% of households are within 2–5 miles of a library. We should offer hotspots in libraries to create more broadband equity. 	
3	Public Meeting	Non-targeted/ Broad community	43 participants	<p><u>What are Columbus’s greatest affordable housing needs?</u> <u>Are there parts of the city where housing needs are greater than others?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Vacancy and Blight in South Columbus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are blighted properties in the Wynnton area. • There are 15–20 vacant homes in Oakland Park that have been vacant since the owner passed away. • When properties have several changes in ownership, the yards are not maintained. • Improvements are needed on 5th and 6th Avenues, to include redevelopment or demolition. • Assisting property owners with home maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older residents who live in dilapidated housing needs information on assistance with home repairs, ramp installation, etc. 	N/A

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing emergency funding to keep people housed during the pandemic.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homelessness will increase once the eviction moratoria are lifted.• Emergency funds are needed to keep people housed who are 7-8 months behind on the mortgage or rent.• If not emergency funds, the city will need more housing counselors to help people on the back end.• Expanding code enforcement services<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Code enforcement could do a better job. Some departments within Columbus do not coordinate with one another.• Expanding housing stock for voucher holders<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few landlords accept vouchers for \$700/month. The housing stock that is affordable with a voucher is minimal. Those units that are available are not in good condition.• The “cliff effect” raises a person’s rent substantially if they get a job paying higher wages.• Providing information on how to access housing resources.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Columbus is converting to RAD and people do not understand what this means or how to access housing.• Subsidized housing is limited, so people are looking for housing in the private market.	
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the private market there are two options: overpriced housing or housing that is in poor condition. There is no middle ground in Columbus.• People do not know about short-term rental assistance. People will need this information as unemployment benefits end. Landlords may not know that they can also apply to receive assistance.• Some residents are interested in homeownership, but saving the down payment is a hurdle.• Increasing the supply of affordable housing<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scattered affordable housing on the north and south side.• Affordable housing available for rent. Seniors prefer renting over buying.• Creating housing for people released from jail or mental health facilities.• Maintaining the supply of existing affordable housing<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Midtown, there is a rise in the number of people who have bought properties, improved them and are renting them as short-term rentals. This takes housing off the market for sale or for rent.• Changing perceptions of south Columbus<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People are being encouraged to go north of Macon Road, including families with vouchers.• Most development goes north of Macon Road.• Crime deters people from buying property in South Columbus.	
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- People south of Macon Road are seen as “lesser caliber.”
- Macon Road is referred to as the “Macon Dixon” line.

What do you believe are Columbus’s greatest community improvement needs?

- Youth activities
- Job training
 - Columbus may not have had any job training since the pandemic began. If job training is being offered virtually, people without Wi-Fi people may not be able to join a Zoom training.
 - You can train for jobs, but the pay is not keeping up with the cost of living. Some people live better on unemployment than when they are working.
- Urban playgrounds and parks
 - Children play basketball in the street.
 - Playgrounds at local schools are gated and locked. Children jump over the fence to play on the playground.
There is only one outdoor basketball court in District 4.
 - There needs to be better coordination of public facilities between the schools and the local government.
- Sidewalks
 - Sidewalks and streetlights are needed in Oakland Park.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sidewalks are needed but focusing on streetscaping/sidewalks can be a sign of gentrification. Focus on housing assistance and repair.• Better wheelchair accessibility, including ramps that are level.• Homelessness• Case management services<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12–24 month long-term case management services that are not tied to housing programs. There is a 6-month follow-up by case managers from housing programs, but by this time a family may have had their lights turned off.• Economic development to promote employment.• Community resource centers along Cusseta Road, Manchester Expressway or other areas with poverty• Health resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The health department just moved up Veterans Parkway. People in South Columbus no longer have access to what they need.• Childcare• Better communication and collaboration• Public safety cameras that are monitored off-site to prevent crime and human trafficking.• Funding for Neighborhood Watch patrols	
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Are there housing or community development initiatives you know of that have been especially successful? What made them successful?

- Patriot Point Apartment Complex offers quality housing that is also affordable.
- Not aware of programs that the City should try. It would be good to have more knowledge of what other places are doing.

Are there new uses of HUD grant funds you would like to see Columbus consider?

- Demolition of blight – especially abandoned houses and trailer parks.
- Support entrepreneurs

Do residents of similar incomes generally have the same range of housing options? Are there any barriers other than income/savings that might impact housing choices? Are you aware of any housing discrimination?

- There is a need to address housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as source of income.
- There is a lot of homelessness in the community, including people living in hotels with their families.
- Transportation can be a barrier to housing choice and employment. People may want to work on the edge of

town, but there may not be a bus route and cabs are too expensive.

What types of fair housing services (education, complaint investigation, testing, etc.) are offered in the area?

- Home for Good
- Homeless Resource Network
- NeighborWorks
- There could be more communication about the fair housing services offered by these agencies.
- Increased fair housing education would help.
- These organizations need more resources and funding to expand their programs.

Are public resources in Columbus available evenly throughout all neighborhoods in the city?

- As more people move to north Columbus, there is a need for a park north of Moon Road.
- There are food deserts in south Columbus.
- Apart from the Walmart on Victory Drive, there are many Dollar Stores in south Columbus. These are not good grocery options.
- Another Navy Federal with working ATMs would be helpful.
- Buses should accept debit/credit payments instead of requiring cash.

Is there anything else that is important to our research?

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be a more walkable path around the spider web in south Columbus. The planned roundabout would be good along with pedestrian paths and bridges. • Electrification of public transportation would have environmental benefits. It would be good to use a US-based bus manufacturer. • Bike path expansion would be good. 	
4	Focus Group	Faith leaders	13 attendees	<p><u>Columbus's Greatest Housing Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior housing • Rent assistance, utility assistance. Churches get a lot of requests for these services, especially on the south side. • Transitional housing for families. • Additional landlords who will accept housing vouchers. • Home improvement • Homeless veteran services • First time homebuyer assistance <p><u>Columbus's Greatest Community Improvement Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for young men that are hopeless because they made bad choices early in life. • Technical assistance and capacity building for local organizations that want to receive HUD funds. • Urban gardens, playgrounds, and sidewalks in Oakland Park. • Speed bumps and additional stop signs in Oakland Park to increase safety. 	N/A

				<p><u>Barriers to Fair Housing Choice:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A disabled vet wanted to buy their first home and the mortgage lender said their credit score was not what it needed to be. • Financial literacy programs. Programs that claim to fix a person’s credit often take the customer’s money. • Long waiting lists for public/private housing. 	
5	Public comment period	Non-targeted/Broad community	1 comment	One comment was received from a citizen who suggested that the City work with the River Valley Area Agency on Aging to host a centralized database of senior housing resources and waitlists.	N/A

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Needs Assessment

NA-05 Overview

Needs Assessment Overview

To inform development of priorities and goals over the next five years, this section of the Consolidated Plan discusses housing, community development, and economic development needs in Columbus. It uses data from the U.S. Census, the 2013–2017 Five–Year American Community Survey (ACS), and a special tabulation of ACS data known as Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data that estimates the number of households with one or more housing needs. Local data regarding homelessness and assisted housing is included. Finally, public input gathered through interviews, public meetings, and a community survey are coupled with data analysis to identify priority needs related to affordable housing, homelessness, assisted housing, community development and economic development in Columbus.

NA-10 Housing Needs Assessment - 24 CFR 91.205 (a,b,c)

According to the 2013–2017 Five–Year American Community Survey (ACS), Columbus is home to about 198,645 residents living in 73,175 households. While the population grew by 5% since the 2005–2009 ACS estimate, the number of households expanded by only 1%. The city’s population growth rate is roughly on par with that of the Columbus GA–AL metro area at 6%, but below the statewide growth rate of 9%. While household growth lagged population in both comparison geographies, the difference was not as pronounced as in Columbus (4% household growth in the metro area and 7% in Georgia).

This section looks closely at housing needs in the city, most particularly, affordability, using HUD’s CHAS data. Because CHAS data requires additional tabulation of American Community Survey data, its availability typically lags that of the ACS. This section uses the most recent CHAS data available from HUD at the time of this writing, which is based on the 2013–2017 Five–Year ACS.

Table 6 segments households by income and type, including small families (2–4 members), large families (5 or more members), households with seniors, and households with young children. As shown, 31,540 households in Columbus have low or moderate incomes (defined by HUD as incomes under 80% of the HUD Adjusted Median Family Income (HAMFI)) and constitute about 43% of the city’s households. Of households with young children, about one–half have low or moderate incomes, as do about 46% of households with at least one member over age 62.

Summary of Housing Needs

Demographics	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2017	% Change
Population	188,737	198,645	5%
Households	72,631	73,175	1%
Median Income	\$40,549.00	\$43,239.00	7%

Table 5 – Housing Needs Assessment Demographics

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2013–2017 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Number of Households Table

	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80- 100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	11,065	8,835	11,640	7,320	34,325
Small Family Households	3,505	3,350	4,355	3,170	17,220
Large Family Households	765	550	770	860	2,695
Household contains at least one person 62–74 years of age	1,965	1,824	2,320	1,115	6,620
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	910	1,320	1,390	729	3,060
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	2,073	1,563	2,010	1,513	3,939

Table 6 – Total Households

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

Housing Needs Summary Tables

Table 7 through Table 12 identify housing needs by tenure based on CHAS data at a variety of HUD-defined income levels (primarily 30, 50, and 80% HAMFI) and for household types of a particular interest to planners and policy makers. HUD defines four housing problems:

1. **Cost Burdens:** A household has a cost burden if its monthly housing costs (including mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, and utilities for owners and rent and utilities for renters) exceed 30% of monthly income.
2. **Overcrowding:** A household is overcrowded if there is more than 1 person per room, not including kitchens and bathrooms.
3. **Lack of complete kitchen facilities:** A housing unit lacks complete kitchen facilities if it lacks one or more of the following: cooking facilities, refrigerator, or a sink with piped water.
4. **Lack of complete plumbing facilities:** A housing unit lacks complete plumbing facilities if it lacks one or more of the following: hot and cold piped water, a flush toilet, or a bathtub or shower.

HUD also defines four severe housing problems, which include a severe cost burden (more than 50% of monthly household income is spent on housing costs), severe overcrowding (more than 1.5 people per room), lack of complete kitchen facilities, and lack of complete plumbing facilities. (Note: Lack of complete kitchens and plumbing are considered both housing problems and severe housing problems by HUD.)

Table 7 shows that an estimated 24,951 households, or 34% of all housing in Columbus, experience a housing problem. Data for households experiencing severe housing problems (see Table 8) shows that 19% (or 13,895 households) experience one or more of the severe housing problems identified by HUD.

1. Housing Problems (Households with one of the listed needs)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total	0- 30% AMI	>30- 50% AMI	>50- 80% AMI	>80- 100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Substandard Housing – Lacking complete	375	195	190	110	870	20	25	25	4	74

plumbing or kitchen facilities										
Severely Overcrowded – With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	65	15	90	60	230	0	0	0	30	30
Overcrowded – With 1.01–1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	229	195	230	85	739	4	45	4	145	198
Housing cost burden greater than 50% of income (and none of the above problems)	5,410	2,270	590	40	8,310	1,340	1,290	665	145	3,440
Housing cost burden greater than 30% of income (and none of the above problems)	720	1,905	3,880	1,300	7,805	370	740	1,270	875	3,255
Zero/negative Income (and none of the	1,090	0	0	0	1,090	405	0	0	0	405

above problems)

Table 7 – Housing Problems

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

2. Housing Problems 2 (Households with one or more Severe Housing Problems: Lacks kitchen or complete plumbing, severe overcrowding, severe cost burden)

	Renter		Owner							
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Having 1 or more of four housing problems	6,080	2,680	1,100	295	10,155	1,360	1,365	695	320	3,740
Having none of four housing problems	1,340	2,845	6,295	3,585	14,065	790	1,955	3,555	3,120	9,420
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	1,090	0	0	0	1,090	405	0	0	0	405

Table 8 – Housing Problems 2

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

3. Cost Burden > 30%

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	2,390	2,135	1,765	6,290	465	800	760	2,025
Large Related	430	370	249	1,049	75	105	125	305
Elderly	1,119	790	819	2,728	725	764	605	2,094
Other	2,645	1,240	1,820	5,705	470	405	450	1,325
Total need by income	6,584	4,535	4,653	15,772	1,735	2,074	1,940	5,749

Table 9 – Cost Burden > 30%

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

4. Cost Burden > 50%

	Renter				Owner			
	0–30% AMI	>30–50% AMI	>50–80% AMI	Total	0–30% AMI	>30–50% AMI	>50–80% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS								
Small Related	2,150	1,065	165	3,380	390	580	275	1,245
Large Related	405	205	29	639	75	45	55	175
Elderly	865	565	184	1,614	505	420	170	1,095
Other	2,380	635	245	3,260	395	250	175	820
Total need by income	5,800	2,470	623	8,893	1,365	1,295	675	3,335

Table 10 – Cost Burden > 50%

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

5. Crowding (More than one person per room)

	Renter					Owner				
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	>80-100% AMI	Total
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS										
Single family households	250	145	270	85	750	4	35	4	155	198
Multiple, unrelated family households	33	70	45	44	192	0	10	0	25	35
Other, non-family households	15	0	4	20	39	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	298	215	319	149	981	4	45	4	180	233

Table 11 - Crowding Information - 1/2

Data Source: 2013-2017 CHAS

	Renter				Owner			
	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total	0-30% AMI	>30-50% AMI	>50-80% AMI	Total
Households with Children Present								

Table 12 - Crowding Information - 2/2

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

Estimates of the number of non-elderly single person households in need of housing assistance are included in the “other, non-family” category of Table 9 and Table 10. This category also includes multi-person households whose members are unrelated (e.g., roommates, unmarried partners, etc.). There are an estimated 7,030 single-person or multi-person unrelated households with incomes under 80% HAMFI who spend more than 30% of their income on housing. They comprise about one-third of all households experiencing cost burdens. The majority are renters (81%) and the remaining 19% are homeowners. Severe cost burdens are common – of the 7,030 single-person and multi-person unrelated households with a cost burden, most (58% or 4,080 households) actually spend more than 50% of income on housing.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

According to the 2015–2019 5-Year American Community Survey, there are an estimated 34,150 people with a disability in Columbus, comprising about 18% of the population. About one-third (32%) of the disabled population is age 65 or older and 10% are under age 18. CHAS data provides estimates of housing need by disability type for Columbus households with a member with a disability, outlined below:

Hearing or Vision Impairment

There are an estimated 3,980 low- or moderate-income households (80% HAMFI or below) with a housing need (cost burden, overcrowding, lack of complete kitchen or plumbing facilities) where a household member has a hearing or vision impairment. The majority (69%) are renters.

Ambulatory Limitation

There are an estimated 5,405 low- or moderate-income households with one or more housing needs where a household member has an ambulatory limitation. Renters make up about 70%.

Cognitive Limitation

An estimated 4,795 low- or moderate-income households have one or more housing needs and a household member with a cognitive limitation. About 74% of these are renters.

Self-Care or Independent Living Limitation

As estimated 3,920 low- or moderate-income households with one or more housing needs have a household member with a self-care or independent living limitation. About 71% are renters.

Of the four disability types discussed here, households where someone has an ambulatory limitation are most common. Housing needs for people with ambulatory difficulties may include accessibility improvements such as ramps, widened hallways and doorways, and installation of grab bars, along with access to community services such as transit. Cognitive limitations are the second most common in Columbus. For some people with these limitations, housing in a group home or other supportive setting with services may be a desired option.

Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking

The number of families in Columbus in need of housing assistance who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking is unknown. However, the Center for Disease Control estimates that approximately 37% of women and 30% of men in Georgia have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner and an estimated 46% of women and 50% of men in Georgia have experienced physiological aggression by an intimate partner. Section NA-45 (Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment) further discusses needs related to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

What are the most common housing problems?

Overwhelmingly, the most common housing problem in Columbus is affordability. Cost burdens impact more than two out of three households with incomes under 80% HAMFI (21,521 households). Severe cost burdens affect 8,893 renters and 3,335 owners, or 39% of all households with incomes under 80% HAMFI. For those households with incomes under 30% HAMFI, severe cost burdens have the greatest effect. As Table 10 shows, there are 7,165 households with incomes under 30% HAMFI spending more than 50% of income on housing, comprising 65% of households in that income group.

Although cost burdens have the greatest impact on Columbus households with incomes under 80% HAMFI, overcrowded and substandard housing also impacts these residents, particularly renters. About 885 low- or moderate-income households in Columbus are overcrowded (about 3% of households in that income group) and 830 lack complete plumbing or kitchen facilities (also about 3% of the income group). While these housing needs occur in small percentages, substandard housing that lack sufficient plumbing or kitchens are severe housing issues.

In addition to the housing needs identified in CHAS data, community input received for this project indicates that housing quality and blight is an issue in Columbus. In public meetings, several participants noted the prevalence of blighted properties in their neighborhoods, including vacant residences and abandoned properties. Meeting attendees also noted a need for home rehab/repair activities, particularly for seniors living in older homes. Participants noted concerns about affordability, echoing what is indicated through CHAS data. Community members particularly noted that evictions and foreclosures are likely to rise as moratoria expire. Rental and utility assistance, as well as support for renters and homeowners needing emergency assistance to prevent losing their homes, were identified as needs.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

Renters in Columbus face cost burdens and severe cost burdens at a significantly higher rate than homeowners. The number of cost-burdened renters in the city (15,772) is about 2.7 times greater than the number of cost-burdened homeowners (5,749). This ratio remains consistent when examining severe cost burdens. Additionally, renters are more likely than homeowners to live in overcrowded or substandard housing. Of the 944 households residing in substandard housing in Columbus, 92% are renters (Table 7). Similarly, 80% of the 1,214 overcrowded households in the city are renters (Table 11).

When analyzing need by household type, the largest shares of low- and moderate-income households experiencing cost burdens are small, related families (two to four people) and other non-family households, such as single-person or unrelated multi-person households. These groups make up 38–39% of households with a cost burden or severe cost burden, respectively.

For renters, cost burdens and severe cost burdens are most prevalent among households in the lowest income bracket (0 to 30% HAMFI). Forty-two percent of cost-burdened renters have incomes below 30% HAMFI, while 65% of renters facing severe cost burdens fall within this income range.

The significant cost burdens and severe cost burdens on renters, particularly those with the lowest incomes, increase the risk of homelessness in Columbus. As housing costs become unaffordable, especially for those earning under 30% HAMFI, vulnerable populations face a higher likelihood of losing their homes. Overcrowding and substandard living conditions, which predominantly affect renters, further contribute to housing instability, pushing families and individuals closer to homelessness.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance.

According to 2015–2019 ACS data, more than one out of five Columbus residents (21%) fall below the poverty line. About 75% of households with incomes under 30% AMI are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing, not including childcares, medical or transportation costs (see Table 6 and Table 9). Low wages, rising rental costs, and the scarcity of safe, quality affordable housing for extremely low and very low-income households place vulnerable households at even greater risk for eviction or homelessness. Individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness often face a myriad of barriers including prior histories of homelessness or eviction, chronic physical or mental disabilities, poor credit, criminal histories, and limited access to job skills training.

For formerly homeless families and individuals nearing the termination of assistance, top needs are for affordable permanent housing; increased and sustainable income; access to Social Security disability and other mainstream benefits; linkages to health, mental health, and legal services; access to affordable transportation and childcare; and ongoing supportive services.

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

Neither the City of Columbus nor the Home for Good, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care, prepare estimates of the number of households at-risk of homelessness. While estimates are not available, stakeholders note that risk of homelessness has increased considerably during the pandemic and is likely to continue as

eviction moratoria expire. Some assistance is available for renters through the Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program, administered by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, which provides up to twelve months of rental and utility assistance paid directly to landlords and service providers on behalf of tenants.

In its *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* prepared in partnership with the City’s Task Force on Homelessness, the City of Columbus defined imminent risk of homelessness as situations where a person must leave his or her current housing within the next 14 days with no other place to go and no resources or support networks to obtain housing.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

The most fundamental risk factor for homelessness is poverty, leading to unaffordable rents or homeowner costs. Renters with incomes under 30% HAMFI and housing cost burdens over 50% are at risk of homelessness, especially if they experience a destabilizing event such as a job loss, reduction in work hours, or medical emergency/condition. Such factors may also put low-income homeowners at risk of foreclosure and subsequent homelessness. The COVID-19 pandemic and related economic impacts has likely put additional individuals and families at risk of homelessness due to job losses, reduction in hours, and medical expenses.

NA-15 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

This section assesses the housing needs of racial and ethnic groups at various income levels in comparison to the needs at that income level as a whole. The purpose of this assessment is to identify if any racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater needs than all other groups at this income level.

According to HUD, a disproportionately greater need exists when members of a racial or ethnic group at a given income level experience housing problems at a greater rate (10 percentage points or more) than the income level as a whole. Table 13 through Table 16 identify the number of households experiencing one or more of the four housing problems by race, ethnicity, and income level. The four housing problems include:

(1) cost burdens (paying more than 30% of income for housing); (2) overcrowding (more than 1 person per room); (3) lacking complete kitchen facilities; and (4) lacking complete plumbing facilities.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	7,765	1,005	1,510

White	2,125	255	560
Black / African American	5,050	660	690
Asian	44	50	85
American Indian, Alaska Native	15	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	385	35	100

Table 13 – Disproportionally Greater Need 0 – 30% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,345	2,300	0
White	1,815	959	0
Black / African American	3,880	1,210	0
Asian	65	35	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	55	0	0
Hispanic	430	84	0

Table 14 – Disproportionally Greater Need 30 – 50% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,915	4,455	0
White	2,490	1,925	0
Black / African American	3,560	2,149	0
Asian	84	30	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	14	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	565	304	0

Table 15 – Disproportionally Greater Need 50 – 80% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Housing Problems	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,190	4,505	0

White	1,385	1,950	0
Black / African American	1,360	2,065	0
Asian	154	28	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	185	325	0

Table 16 – Disproportionally Greater Need 80 – 100% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than one person per room, 4. Cost Burden greater than 30%

Discussion

At extremely low incomes (under 30% HAMFI), 76% of Columbus households have a housing problem. White, Black, and Hispanic households make up the largest shares of households and range from 72% to 79% with a housing problem. One group – American Indians/Alaska Natives – show a disproportionate need, with all 15 households estimated to have a housing problem.

At low incomes (30 to 50% HAMFI), housing problems impact 73% of households citywide, ranging from 65% for White and Asian households to 100% for American Indian/Alaska Native and Pacific Islander households (although the latter two groups include a very small number of households – 4 and 55, respectively). One other group has a disproportionate need – 84% of Hispanic households have a housing problem.

At moderate incomes (50 to 80% HAMFI) about 61% of the city’s households have a housing problem. Fifty-six percent (56%) of white households have a housing problem, as do 62% of Black households. Two groups have a disproportionate need: Asians (74% of 114 households) and American Indian/Alaska Natives (78% of 18 households).

At middle incomes (80 to 100% HAMFI), housing problems are less common, impacting 41% of all households. Asians have a disproportionate need, with 85% of 182 households having a problem.

Overall, disproportionate housing needs in Columbus are most often found in segments with very small population numbers, including American Indian/Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Asians. Because CHAS estimates rely on sample data, they are less reliable for groups with small population counts, making it difficult to draw strong conclusions from these figures. They do, however, indicate a need to ensure that

affordable housing efforts are affirmatively marketed to people of all race and ethnicities in Columbus, including those comprising only small shares of the city's population.

NA-20 Disproportionately Greater Need: Severe Housing Problems – 91.205 (b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction

This section assesses the severe housing needs of racial and ethnic groups at various income levels in comparison to the needs at that income level as a whole. The purpose of this assessment is to identify if any racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater severe needs than all other groups at this income level.

Like the preceding analysis, this section uses HUD's definition of disproportionately greater need, which occurs when members of a racial or ethnic group at a given income level experience severe housing problems at a greater rate (10 percentage points or more) than the income level overall. Table 17 through Table 20 identify the number of households experiencing one or more of the four severe housing problems by race, ethnicity, and income level. The four severe housing problems include: (1) severe cost burdens (paying more than 50% of income for housing); (2) severe overcrowding (more than 1.5 person per room); (3) lacking complete kitchen facilities; and (4) lacking complete plumbing facilities.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	6,510	2,265	1,510
White	1,790	595	560
Black / African American	4,195	1,525	690
Asian	44	50	85

American Indian, Alaska Native	10	10	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	330	90	100

Table 17 – Severe Housing Problems 0 – 30% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

30%-50% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	3,745	4,885	0
White	1,175	1,614	0
Black / African American	2,215	2,875	0
Asian	55	45	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	55	0
Hispanic	265	250	0

Table 18 – Severe Housing Problems 30 – 50% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

50%-80% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,760	9,615	0
White	665	3,730	0
Black / African American	865	4,840	0
Asian	39	79	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	18	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	155	725	0

Table 19 – Severe Housing Problems 50 – 80% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

80%-100% of Area Median Income

Severe Housing Problems*	Has one or more of four housing problems	Has none of the four housing problems	Household has no/negative income, but none of the other housing problems
Jurisdiction as a whole	750	6,945	0
White	299	3,040	0

Black / African American	285	3,130	0
Asian	54	127	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	75	440	0

Table 20 – Severe Housing Problems 80 – 100% AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

*The four severe housing problems are: 1. Lacks complete kitchen facilities, 2. Lacks complete plumbing facilities, 3. More than 1.5 persons per room, 4. Cost Burden over 50%

Discussion

There are fewer instances of disproportionate severe housing needs than of housing needs overall. At extremely low incomes (under 30% HAMFI), 63% of Columbus households have a severe housing problem. Rates range from 25% for Asian households to 65% for Black/African American households and no group has a disproportionate need.

At low incomes (30 to 50% HAMFI), about two-out-of-five Columbus households have a severe housing problem. Rates are quite similar for the two largest population groups (white and Black/African American households, 42–44%), however, for smaller groups, rates of severe housing problems are disproportionately higher. About 55% of the 100 Asian households are estimated to have a severe housing problem, as are all four of the American Indian/Alaska Native households.

Asian households also have disproportionate severe housing problems at moderate and middle income. At moderate incomes (50–80% HAMFI), 15% of all Columbus households have a severe housing problem compared to one-third of Asian households. Similarly, at moderate incomes (80–100% HAMFI), 10% of households citywide have a severe housing problem compared to 30% of Asian households. Again, these figures indicate the need to ensure information about and access to affordable housing opportunities reach all racial and ethnic groups in Columbus.

NA-25 Disproportionately Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens – 91.205

(b)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

Introduction:

This section looks at levels of need by race and ethnicity to identify groups that are disproportionately likely to have housing needs compared to the city overall. While the preceding sections assessed all housing and severe housing problems, Table 21 focuses only on what share of their income households spend on housing. Data is broken down into groups spending less than 30% of income on housing costs, those paying between 30 and 50% (i.e., with a cost burden) and those paying over 50% (i.e., with a severe cost burden). The final column, “no/negative income,” identifies households without an income, for whom housing as a share of income was not calculated. Although several groups have households with no computed income, the share of these households does not exceed 5% for any racial or ethnic group.

Housing Cost Burden

Housing Cost Burden	<=30%	30-50%	>50%	No / negative income (not computed)
Jurisdiction as a whole	44,855	14,575	11,710	1,610
White	23,320	5,595	3,665	590
Black / African American	17,230	7,405	7,025	745
Asian	1,025	258	178	85
American Indian, Alaska Native	133	34	14	0
Pacific Islander	35	55	0	0
Hispanic	2,435	900	640	110

Table 21 – Greater Need: Housing Cost Burdens AMI

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

Discussion:

As Table 21 above shows, 62% of all households in Columbus spend less than 30% of their income on housing costs. Approximately 36% are cost burdened (spending more than 30% of income on housing) and 16% are severely cost burdened (spending more than 50% of income on housing). Note that the group with a severe cost burden is a subset of the group with a cost burden. There is a considerable difference in rates of cost burdens and severe cost burdens between the two largest population segments – white and Black/African

American households. About 28% of white households have a cost burden and 11% have a severe cost burden. In contrast, about 45% of Black households are cost burdened and 22% are severely cost burdened.

Using HUD's definition, only one group is disproportionately cost or severely cost burdened. Of the approximately 90 Pacific Islander households in Columbus, it is estimated that about 61% are cost burdened, well above the citywide rate of 36%. No other group shows a disproportionate need relative to the city overall.

NA-30 Disproportionately Greater Need: Discussion – 91.205(b)(2)

Are there any income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

Table 13 through Table 21 identified several instances of disproportionately greater need, which are summarized below:

- Asian households make up relatively small shares of the city's population but frequently face disproportionately high incidence of housing problems and severe housing problems. Moderate- and middle-income Asian households have disproportionate housing needs and severe housing needs. Low-income Asian households are disproportionately likely to have a severe housing need.
- American Indian/Alaska Native households comprise a very small share of households throughout Columbus. They are estimated to experience disproportionate housing problems at extremely low, low, and moderate incomes and disproportionate severe housing problems at low incomes.
- Pacific Islander households have disproportionate housing problems at low incomes and are disproportionately likely to have a cost burden regardless of income.
- Hispanic households showed a disproportionate rate of housing problems in one income level (low income).

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

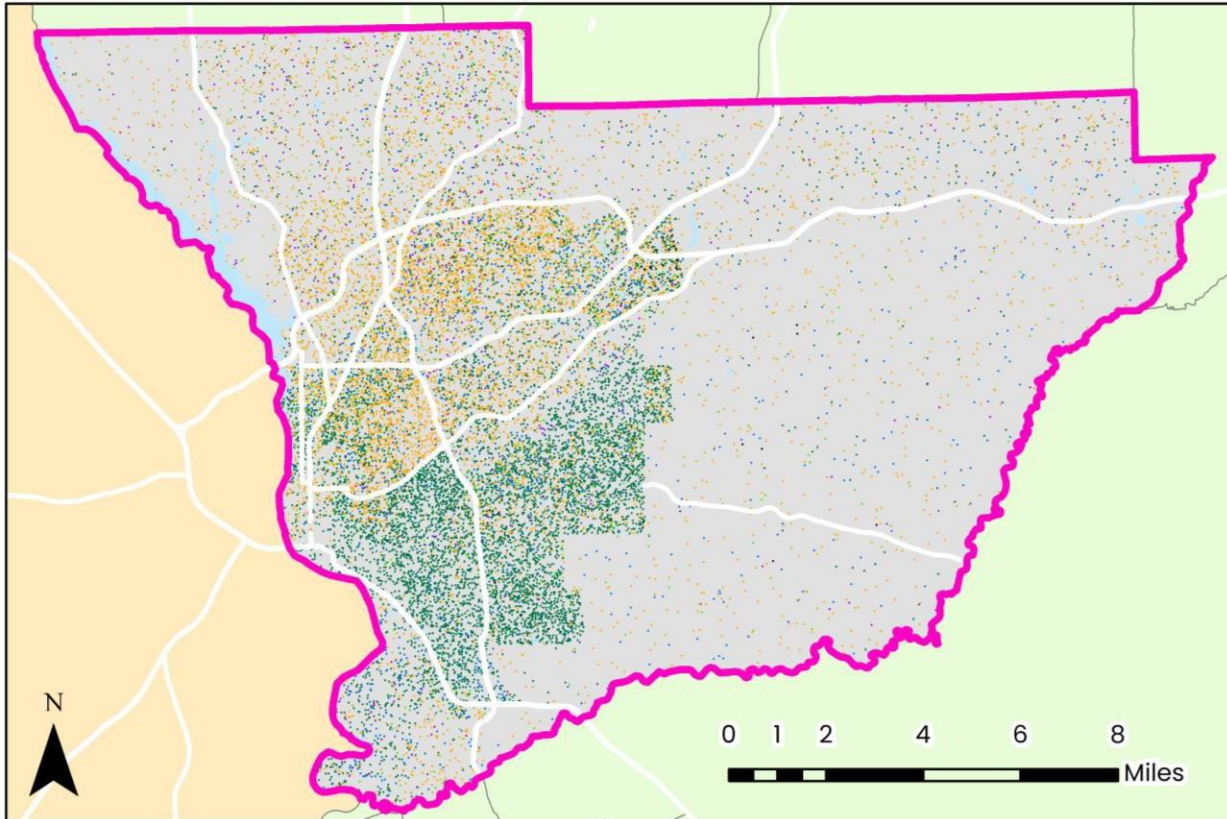
Housing quality and affordability were critical focuses identified by stakeholders that provided input for this research. Other housing needs identified include blight reduction, housing rehabilitation, senior housing, assistance for homeowners to make repairs, and homelessness prevention. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) completed in conjunction with this Consolidated Plan also indicated several fair housing concerns, including not enough affordable housing for families, individuals, and seniors; neighborhoods that need revitalization and new investment; discrimination by landlords or rental agents; and displacement of residents due to rising housing costs.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

Figure 1 shows geographic patterns by race and ethnicity in Columbus. There is a relatively strong level of segregation between Black and white residents, with white residents living in the north part of the city and Black residents in the south. However, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders do not

appear to live within any specific areas of the community. Segregation data examined in the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice indicates that there is a high level of segregation between Black and white residents but low levels of segregation among Hispanic and white and Asian or Pacific Islander and white residents in Columbus.

Figure 1. Population by Race and Ethnicity in Columbus, 2015-2019



Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019

Race and Ethnicity

1 Dot = 10 People

- Black, Non-Hispanic
- White, Non-Hispanic
- Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
- Multiple Races
- Asian or Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic
- Native American, Non-Hispanic
- Other Race, Non-Hispanic

- ▭ City of Columbus
- ▭ Roads
- ▭ Water
- ▭ Georgia
- ▭ Alabama

NA-35 Public Housing – 91.205(b)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG) provides publicly supported housing for residents of Columbus. The HACG also manages and maintains the Harris County, Elleville and Buena Vista Housing Authorities. However, these authorities are independently owned, and their housing supply is not included in the data below. HACG has a Moving To Work (MTW) designation, which allows the housing authority greater flexibility in its use of operating and capital funds and its implementation of policies not typically permitted under HUD regulations.

According to the HACG’s most recent approved Moving To Work Report completed in Fall 2019, the agency leased 518 public housing units and 4,282 vouchers, including 1,062 project-based vouchers and 3,220 tenant-based or housing choice vouchers. These figures differ from those shown in Table 22 and reflect the HACG’s RAD conversion projects in recent years, including 783 public housing units that have already been converted to project-based vouchers. The HACG also implements several approved MTW activities which expand the types of tenant-based vouchers available to Columbus residents. The “Innovation to Reduce Homelessness” activity provides 150 tenant-based vouchers for chronically homeless families. The “Next Step Vouchers” activity offers 10 tenant-based vouchers for youth aging out of foster care. Finally, the Sponsor-Based Emergency Voucher Program offers 24 tenant-based vouchers for victims of flooding, fire, natural disasters, and condemned housing.

Although newer demographic data for the HACG is not currently available, comparative trends in the housing authority’s demographic data are shown in Table 22 through Table 25 below. Around 17% of public housing residents are elderly, as are 10% of all voucher holders. Nearly 25% of all public housing residents and 17% of all voucher holders have a disability. Looking at HACG residents by race and ethnicity, 90% of public housing residents and 96% of voucher holders are Black. White residents comprise 10% of all public housing residents and 4% of voucher holders. Hispanic residents make up less than 1% of public housing residents and 1.2% of voucher holders. The average annual income for HACG’s public housing residents is \$9,334. Housing choice voucher holders earn an average of \$10,124 per year. Income and demographic data for the HACG indicates the significant role that publicly supported housing plays in providing housing options to very low-income households and minorities.

Totals in Use

Program Type			
	Certificate		Vouchers

		Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers in use	0	54	1,637	2,370	183	2,138	23	0	0

Table 22 – Public Housing by Program Type

*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Characteristics of Residents

Program Type									
	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	

Average Annual Income	0	616	9,334	10,124	12,007	9,853	11,589	0
Average length of stay	0	2	5	5	0	5	0	0
Average Household size	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	0
# Homeless at admission	0	9	1	1	1	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	1	279	233	8	221	0	0
# of Disabled Families	0	2	409	409	55	345	5	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	54	1,637	2,370	183	2,138	23	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 – Characteristics of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

Program Type				
Race	Certificate			Vouchers

		Mod- Rehab	Public Housing	Total	Project - based	Tenant -based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
White	0	8	156	86	9	73	2	0	0
Black/African American	0	46	1,478	2,277	174	2,058	21	0	0
Asian	0	0	2	6	0	6	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition									

Table 24 - Race of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Ethnicity of Residents

Program Type

Ethnicity	Certificate	Mod-Rehab	Public Housing	Vouchers					
				Total	Project - based	Tenant - based	Special Purpose Voucher		
							Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
Hispanic	0	2	7	29	4	25	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	52	1,630	2,341	179	2,113	23	0	0

Table 25 - Ethnicity of Public Housing Residents by Program Type

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Section 504 Needs Assessment: Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units:

According to 2020 estimates from A Picture of Subsidized Households, 18% of all persons in HACG households have a disability. Since many people with disabilities live on limited incomes, often no more than \$771/month in SSI benefits, there are few independent living options for them other than housing provided by the local housing authorities. The availability of additional units with accessibility features is one of the greatest needs of this population. New LIHTC projects under the HACG are required to meet HUD accessibility standards, providing at least 5% accessible units, including 2% of all units accessible to persons with visual impairments. Stakeholders in the planning process noted that all ground floor units in the city's new LIHTC developments are ADA accessible. HACG also maintains a reasonable accommodation policy which provides additional assistance to public housing tenants and applicants awaiting accessible units who may need accommodations. These accommodations include conducting voucher briefings at the tenant's home, extension of the initial voucher term up to 120 days if the voucher holder has difficulty finding housing and allowing persons with disabilities to lease a unit from a relative.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders:

Current public housing residents and HCV holders are most immediately in need of opportunities and supports to attain a level of financial stability and develop personal and professional skills. These supports include resources in areas such as job training and assistance, food, childcare, transportation, health, and mental health-related assistance, after-school programs, adult education, credit repair and financial management.

How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large?

The needs of public housing residents and voucher holders are different from those of the city's overall low- and moderate-income population primarily in that these residents are housed in stable and decent housing. With this need met, residents can work on other needs that families typically face in addition to housing insecurity. These other needs frequently include childcare, healthcare, employment, transportation, and food.

NA-40 Homeless Needs Assessment – 91.205(c)

Introduction:

This section provides estimates of the population experiencing homelessness in the region and details the needs of people experiencing homelessness in the city of Columbus. Columbus is part of the Columbus–Muscookee Continuum of Care (CoC), which conducts an annual Point-in-Time count of people who are homeless during the last ten days of January each year. The 2020 Point-in-Time count for the Columbus–Muscookee CoC was held on January 22, 2020. It counted a total of 249 people experiencing homelessness in the city of Columbus and Muscookee County. Initial data from the 2021 Point-in-Time count estimates that 237 people were experiencing homelessness in Columbus and Muscookee County in January 2021.

For persons in rural areas who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, describe the nature and extent of unsheltered and sheltered homelessness with the jurisdiction:

Although a significant portion of Russell County, Alabama is rural, the 2020 Columbus–Muscookee Point in Time Count does not specify the number of rural homeless individuals or families.

If data is not available for the categories "number of persons becoming and exiting homelessness each year," and "number of days that persons experience homelessness," describe these categories for each homeless population type (including chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth):

Of the 249 people experiencing homelessness counted in the Point-in-Time count, 29 were chronically homeless (11.6% of all people experiencing homelessness), 21 were veterans (8.4%), 48 were in families with children (19.3%), and 11 were unaccompanied youth (4.4%).

Nature and Extent of Homelessness: (Optional)

	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Total number of households	174	41	215
Total number of persons	208	41	249
Persons in households with children	48	0	48
Persons in households without children	160	41	201

Table 26 – Nature and Extent of Homelessness

Data Source: Columbus–Muscogee CoC 2020 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

All of the 48 individuals in households with children were in emergency shelter. Of the 21 veterans, seven were unsheltered (33.3%), 13 were in emergency shelter (61.9%), and one was in transitional housing (4.8%).

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

The Point-in-Time count categorized the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in the city of Columbus and Muscogee County by race and ethnicity. The count found that 53.0% of people experiencing homelessness in the county were Black or African American, 43.0% were white, 3.2% were multiple races, 0.4% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.4% were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. An estimated 1.6% of residents experiencing homelessness were Hispanic or Latino (of any race).

Race	Number	Percent
Black or African American	132	53.0%

White	107	43.0%
Multiple Races	8	3.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1	0.4%
Asian	0	0.0%
Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino	245	98.4%
Hispanic / Latino	4	1.6%

Table 27 – Nature and Extent of Homelessness 2

Data Source: Columbus–Muscogee CoC 2020 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

The 2020 Point-in-Time Count noted a total of 249 people experiencing homelessness in Muscogee County, including 208 sheltered (83.5%) and 41 unsheltered persons (16.5%). Note that these figures do not represent the entire population experiencing homelessness in the city of Columbus and Muscogee County, but rather the number of people experiencing homelessness who were sheltered and unsheltered at the time of the 2020 Point-in-Time count. As the inventory of homeless facilities in the area shows, a considerably higher number of people who are homeless are assisted within the county than the Point-in-Time count reflects. Further, stakeholders interviewed during this planning process noted that people experiencing homelessness may be doubling up with other families, staying with friends or relatives, or living in vehicles. For this reason, many people experiencing homelessness may not be included in the Point-in-Time count.

NA-45 Non-Homeless Special Needs Assessment - 91.205 (b,d)

Introduction:

This section discusses the characteristics and needs of people in various subpopulations in Columbus who are not necessarily homeless but may require supportive services, including people with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, people with disabilities (mental, physical, or developmental), people with alcohol or drug addiction, survivors of domestic violence, and individuals with a criminal record and their families.

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

Elderly

An estimated 13.0% of Columbus's population is aged 65 and over, and 5.4% of the population is aged 75 and over. About 43.9% of residents aged 65 and over in the city have one or more disabilities.¹

People with Disabilities

As estimated 18.4% of all Columbus residents have one or more disabilities.²

People with HIV/AIDS and Their Families

According to AIDSvu, an interactive mapping tool from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, there were an estimated 54,600 people living with HIV in Georgia in 2018, including 2,501 people newly diagnosed that year. In Muscogee County, about 677 out of every 100,000 residents were living with HIV, and 37.8 of every 100,000 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2018.³

Persons with Alcohol or Drug Addiction

The region that includes Muscogee County and 30 other Georgia counties has an estimated 4.5% rate of alcohol use disorder in the past year for individuals aged 12 and older, according to 2016–2018 data from the US Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA). About 1.4% of the region's population is estimated to have used cocaine use in the past year, and heroin use in the past year is estimated at 0.1%.⁴ From 2017 to 2019, the drug overdose death rate in Muscogee County was 12 deaths per 100,000 residents.⁵

Survivors of Domestic Violence

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 37.4% of women and 30.4% of men in Georgia have experienced any contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their

¹ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015–2019

² Ibid.

³ Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, AIDSvu. (2018). Retrieved from: <https://map.aidsvu.org/map>

⁴ Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive. "Interactive National Survey on Drug Use and Health Substate Estimates." <https://pdas.samhsa.gov/saes/substate>

⁵ County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. "Drug Overdose Deaths." <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>

lifetimes.⁶ This equates to an estimated 37,475 women and 29,044 men living in Columbus, based on the city's population of 195,739.⁷

Re-entry Populations

In the state of Georgia, an estimated 404,000 residents are on probation, and 21,000 are on parole.⁸ This equates to an estimated 7,601 Columbus residents on probation and 395 residents on parole, based on city and state populations for 2015 to 2019. The considerable numbers of city residents under criminal justice supervision indicate a continuing need to address the housing and supportive service needs of this population in Columbus.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

The primary housing and supportive service needs of these subpopulations (the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, persons with alcohol or drug addiction, survivors of domestic violence, and reentry populations) were determined by input from housing and service providers and the public through public meetings and stakeholder interviews, as well as through a review of research on housing and service needs of specific populations.

❖ Housing that is Affordable, Accessible, Safe, and Low-Barrier

Residents with special needs often live at or below the federal poverty level. High housing costs make it difficult for these populations to afford housing. Low incomes force many residents to live in congregate care, have roommates, or live with family. HUD's fair market rent documentation for FY 2021 estimates fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit in Columbus at \$832 per month, and for a three-bedroom unit at \$1,118 per month.⁹ Due to the high cost of housing, there is a need to increase the availability of affordable housing for populations with special needs. This could include options such as smaller housing units; multifamily 'missing middle housing, including duplexes, triplexes, quadraplexes, and other small multifamily units; accessory dwelling units; cohousing with shared services; and other housing types that support increased levels of affordability. Residents and stakeholders who participated in public meetings and stakeholder interviews also discussed a need to increase the supply of affordable housing that is in good condition and to support housing rehabilitation for low-income homeowners.

Housing may be inaccessible to populations with special needs for a variety of reasons. Persons with disabilities may find that their housing options are not ADA compliant or are outside the service range for

⁶ The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) | 2010–2012 State Report.
<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>

⁷ 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05

⁸ Prison Policy Initiative. Profiles. Retrieved from: <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles>

⁹ HUD User. HUD FY 2021 Fair Market Rents. Retrieved from:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2021_code/2021summary.odn

public transportation. People living with HIV/AIDS, immigrants and refugees, people with criminal histories, and other populations with special needs are often discriminated against in housing application processes. People living with HIV/AIDS have a particular need for low-barrier housing that is free from requirements surrounding drug testing, sobriety, criminal background, and medical appointments. For these reasons, there is a need to ensure that accessible, low-barrier housing is available and to take actions to reduce discrimination, such as providing fair housing services.

The elderly, people with disabilities, and others who may not have access to vehicles often need housing that is accessible to transportation, recreation, and employment. These populations need housing options that are integrated into the community to provide access to needed services and to reduce social isolation. Like other populations with special needs, people living with HIV/AIDS also need housing that provides easy access to health services, resources, and employment.

Housing that is safe and clean is another need for people with special needs. Units that are not clean or have other unhealthy conditions can worsen health issues for people who are already vulnerable.

❖ *Transportation*

Access to transportation is an important concern for people with special needs. People with disabilities and others who may not have access to vehicles need housing close to transportation services to access employment, health services, and recreation opportunities. Persons with HIV/AIDS need housing nearby transportation services to access health services and other resources. If transit is not within walking distance, special needs populations require accessible, reliable transportation services to provide access to everyday needs.

❖ *Specialized Housing and Supportive Services*

Specialized housing addresses needs of specific populations. People with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; people living with HIV/AIDS; and people with alcohol or drug addiction have specific housing needs that may be addressed through housing with wraparound services, such as case management, life skills programming, and health services. The Housing First model emphasizes that supportive services should not be required for people to access housing.

❖ *Workforce Development and Employment Services*

Special needs populations may also need workforce development and employment services. These programs may include employment navigation, job training, education, transportation services, and case management focused on employment, among others.

❖ *Physical and Mental Health and Treatment Services*

Access to healthcare is a need for special needs populations, as they are more likely to experience barriers such as economic disadvantage; medical issues and disability; language and literacy age; and cultural,

geographic, or social isolation. To increase access to healthcare, it is important for local governments and stakeholders to take steps to define, locate, and reach at-risk populations.¹⁰

❖ *Education/ Combating Perceptions*

Combating stigmas is an important concern for people with special needs. For adults with criminal histories and people living with HIV/AIDS, discrimination may make accessing adequate housing difficult. Further, a lack of understanding regarding the transmission of HIV may cause people to lose housing or employment, thus increasing risk of homelessness.

❖ *Outreach*

Outreach to special needs populations to ensure they are aware of available services is another need. Clarity in marketing and in public buildings about what services are available is important in supporting awareness of available services among vulnerable populations. Outreach also includes the development of relationships and trust so that people feel comfortable seeking out needed services.

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

There were an estimated 54,600 people living with HIV in Georgia in 2018, including 2,501 people newly diagnosed that year. In Muscogee County, about 677 out of every 100,000 residents were living with HIV, and 37.8 of every 100,000 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2018.¹¹

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). Public health workbook to define, locate, and reach special, vulnerable, and at-risk populations in an emergency. Retrieved from: https://emergency.cdc.gov/workbook/pdf/ph_workbookfinal.pdf

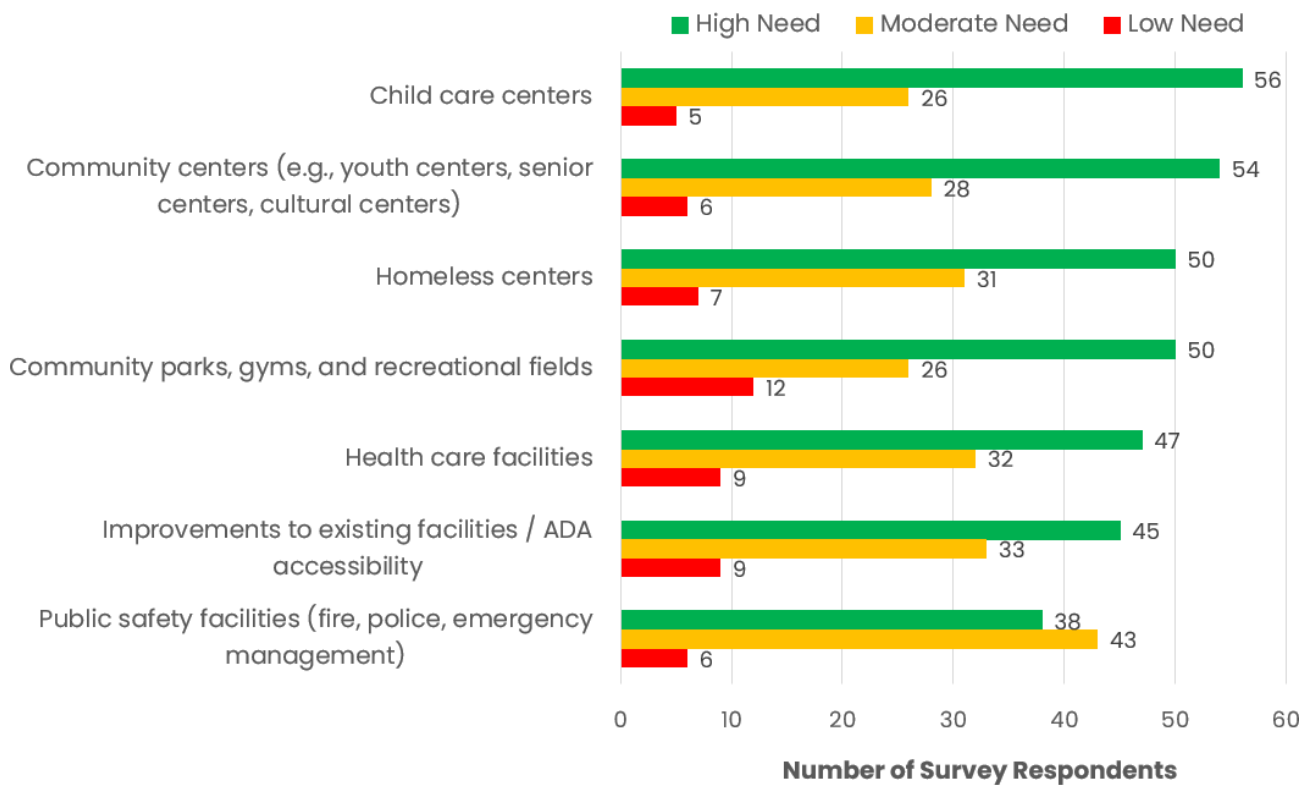
¹¹ Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, AIDSvu. (2018). Retrieved from: <https://map.aidsvu.org/map>

NA-50 Non-Housing Community Development Needs – 91.215 (f)

Describe the jurisdiction’s need for Public Facilities:

Buildings open to the general public or for use by target special needs populations, whether owned by the government or by nonprofit organizations, may be considered public facilities under the CDBG program. Respondents to the Housing and Community Needs Survey ranked public facility needs in Columbus, with the following top responses: (1) child care centers; (2) community centers (i.e. youth centers, senior centers, cultural centers); and (3) homeless centers (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Public Facility Needs from the Community Survey



Residents and stakeholders who participated in community meetings and interviews also detailed public facility needs in the city, including continued investment in libraries, quality childcare facilities, early learning centers, public parks, upgrades to existing parks, ADA improvements to facilities, recreational facilities, and increased park maintenance. Other plans recently completed for Columbus and the region identify the following public facility goals and opportunities:

- Upgrade existing infrastructure and public facilities in Targeted Redevelopment Areas to accommodate infill development.

- Develop pedestrian friendly mixed-use activity centers at selected intersections. Limiting the scale of mixed-use development to 2-3 stories would be in keeping with the character of neighboring low-rise residential areas. Give these activity centers priority in the funding and location of new public facilities.
- Columbus must preserve or enhance existing transportation facilities.
- Encourage developers and builders to incorporate solar energy infrastructure into new developments and structures.
- Preserve short-term and long-term homeless facilities and associated services.
- Pursue park renovations/ additions when economically feasible.

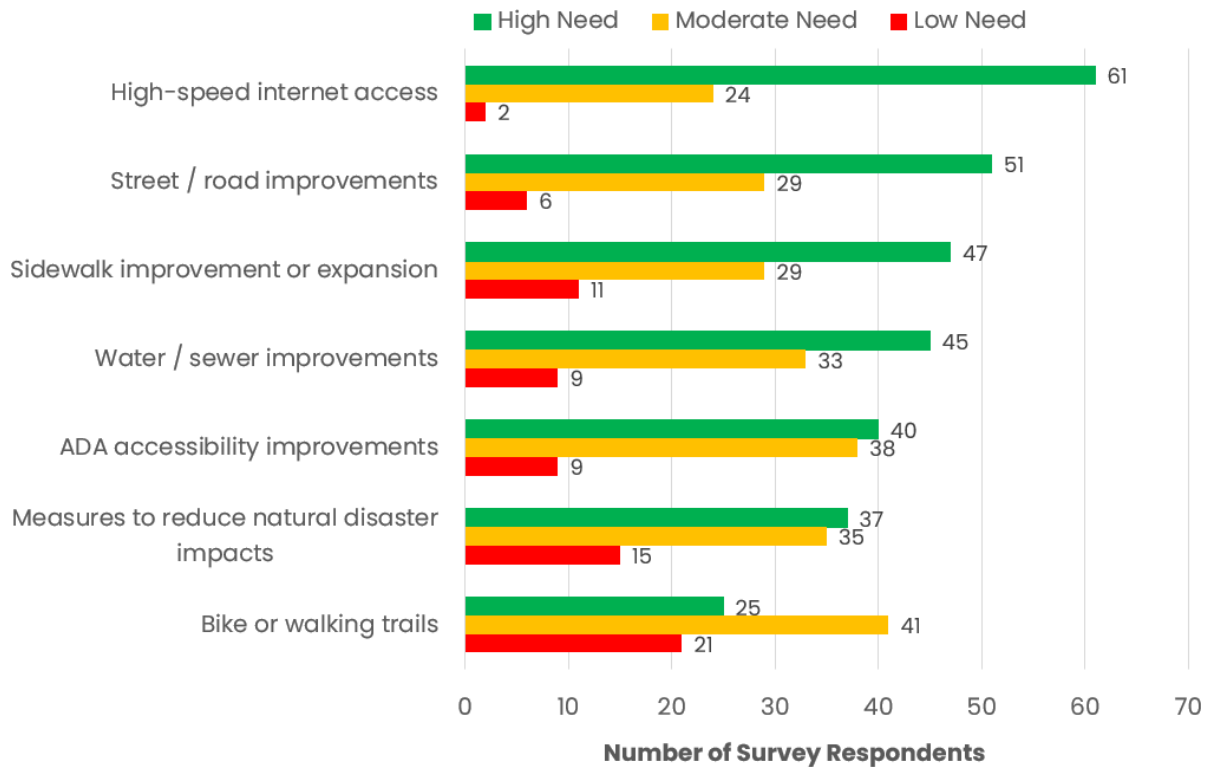
How were these needs determined?

Columbus's public facility needs were determined based on input from residents and stakeholders engaged through the community survey, in-depth interviews, and community workshops (see Table 2 for a list of participating organizations). Needs were also determined based on a review of local plans including the Columbus Consolidated Government 2038 Comprehensive Plan, the Columbus 2025 plan (Regional Prosperity Initiative: A Vision for a Greater Columbus), the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017), and other local and regional plans (see Table 3 for the full list of plans).

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Improvements:

Survey respondents were asked to rank public improvement needs in the city. The top three responses were (1) high-speed internet access, (2) street/ road improvements, and (3) sidewalk improvement or expansion (see Figure 3). Residents and stakeholders who participated in community meetings and interviews noted the need for sidewalk repairs and additions, expansion of walking and biking trails, expansion of trails, sidewalks, and other infrastructure in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, infrastructure to increase access for people with disabilities, street resurfacing, painted bike lanes, and streetscaping.

Figure 3. Public Infrastructure Needs from the Community Survey



Other plans recently completed for Columbus and the region identify the following public improvement goals and opportunities:

- Advance on-going and develop future efforts to improve walking and biking connectivity.
- Build on the theme of alternative transportation modes and enhanced operational efficiency by introducing multi-modal plans and programs designed to create a seamless transportation system with efficient and effective operations.
- Develop a formal policy to expand alternative transportation opportunities by adding bicycle lanes, bicycle friendly shoulders, or parallel multi-use paths to roadways during all widenings and new construction projects for all collector or arterial streets. Expansions should be considered with other related bicycle studies.
- Initiate a Sidewalk Connectivity program to fill identified gaps in the pedestrian network, placing priority on projects within a half mile of schools, parks, and transit stops.
- Implement bicycle safety improvements throughout the community.
- Conduct a land needs assessment to identify buildable lands, infrastructure needs, and redevelopment barriers.

- Maintain public facilities in public right-of-way, including street lighting, sidewalks, benches, and curb, in the Liberty District, Columbus Historic District, Bibb City, and Columbus Tech/ Beallwood character areas.
- Upgrade existing infrastructure and public facilities in Targeted Redevelopment Areas to accommodate infill development.
- Columbus must prepare the community and update infrastructure for driverless vehicles.
- Continue to improve access control requirements, such as medians, turn lanes and supportive local ordinances, in developing areas, including. Such controls help improve the driving atmosphere, preserve existing character, and improve safety for bikers and pedestrians.
- Improve transportation opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Improve transportation opportunities for aging populations.
- Study the feasibility of adding bike lanes to downtown areas that would complement and potentially connect to the Riverwalk. As an element of the study, identify key locations for bicycle facilities.

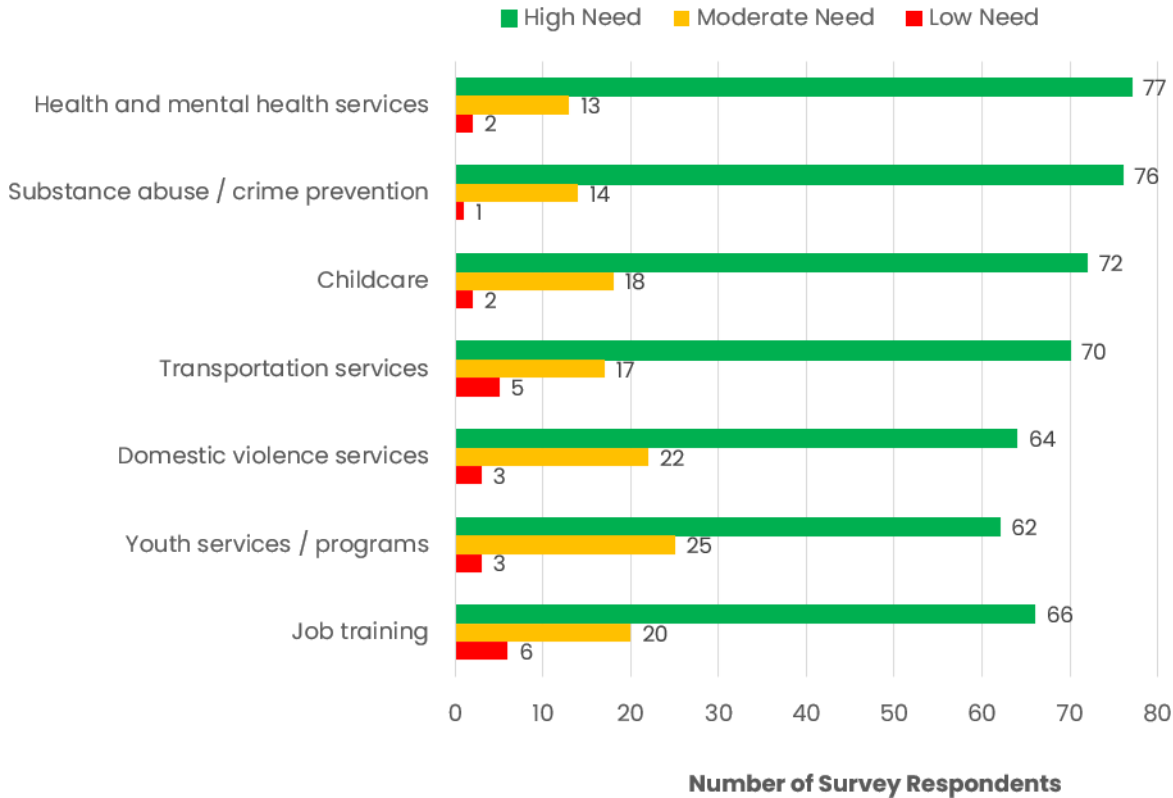
How were these needs determined?

Columbus's public improvement needs were determined based on input from residents and stakeholders engaged through the community survey, in-depth interviews, and community workshops (see Table 2 for a list of participating organizations). Needs were also determined based on a review of local plans including the Columbus Consolidated Government 2038 Comprehensive Plan, the Columbus 2025 plan (Regional Prosperity Initiative: A Vision for a Greater Columbus), the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017), and other local and regional plans (see Table 3 for the full list of plans).

Describe the jurisdiction's need for Public Services:

Public services are an important component of the City's community development strategy, and the City can spend up to 15% of its annual CDBG funding on public services over the next five years. The top four public service needs selected by respondents to the Housing and Community Needs Survey include: (1) health and mental health services; (2) substance abuse/ crime prevention; (3) childcare; and (4) transportation services (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Public Needs from the Community Survey



Public service needs identified by meeting attendees and interview participants include job training, workforce development programs, youth jobs programs, community events, Spanish-language services and signage, youth programs, afterschool programs, programs for people with disabilities, police services, crime prevention, programs to increase food access, and investments in small businesses that provide food and jobs.

Community plans also identified goals for the provision of public services in Columbus, including:

- Create cradle-to-career (C2C) partnerships to align education, training, business and social services in an effort to increase talent levels in Greater Columbus.
- Formalize a collaborative Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program to ensure optimal conditions for existing firms to thrive.
- Maintain connections with local employers to ensure that skills needed are addressed in workforce training initiatives (Employer Committee, Technical College, Dept of Labor).

- Facilitate and encourage programs within the local school systems – Dual Enrollment/Move On When Ready.
- Support the transition from military to civilian jobs.
- Encourage apprenticeships and internships for businesses to teach high school and college aged students; develop region-wide mentoring programs to include internships and apprenticeships.
- Explore and support local economic development plans, and provide Technical Assistance where needed.
- Support local and regional development authorities by providing technical assistance, information on tax credits, low interest loans and other incentives as requested.
- Use and support Main Street and Better Hometown organizations throughout the region.
- Allow pop-up stores in empty storefronts.
- Encourage and support land banks.
- Evaluate options to expand public transportation coverage, frequency, and operating hours to connect residents to jobs and amenities.
- Sponsor clean-up days in neighborhoods using City staff and volunteers to remove graffiti, litter, dumped trash, and other debris.
- Work closely with neighborhood groups to develop local events that will promote unique neighborhood attributes and potentially spur greater economic development.
- Establish and publicize availability of affordable credit counseling for elderly and other homeowners who are facing foreclosure or first time homebuyers.
- Preserve short-term and long-term homeless facilities and associated services.

How were these needs determined?

Columbus’s public service needs were determined based on input from residents and stakeholders engaged through the community survey, in-depth interviews, and community workshops (see Table 2 for a list of participating organizations). Needs were also determined based on a review of local plans including the Columbus Consolidated Government 2038 Comprehensive Plan, the Columbus 2025 plan (Regional Prosperity Initiative: A Vision for a Greater Columbus), the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017), and other local and regional plans (see Table 3 for the full list of plans).

Housing Market Analysis

MA-05 Overview

Housing Market Analysis Overview:

Housing choices are limited by household income and wealth; however, a lack of affordable housing in an area may also create significant hardships for low- and moderate-income households. Households that spend more than 30% of income on housing are considered 'housing cost burdened' and may have difficulty affording other necessities, such as food, clothing, and childcare. Data examined in the following sections shows that there is a lack of rental and for-sale housing in the city that is affordable to residents with very low incomes, and a significant proportion of households are cost-burdened or severely cost-burdened by housing costs. Stakeholders and residents who participated in this planning process also noted a need development of new housing units affordable to residents with incomes below 30% to 50% AMI.

In addition to reviewing current housing market conditions, this section analyzes the availability of assisted and public housing and facilities to serve homeless individuals and families. It also analyzes local economic conditions and summarizes existing economic development resources and programs that may be used to address community and economic development needs identified in the Needs Assessment.

MA-10 Number of Housing Units – 91.210(a)&(b)(2)

Introduction

There are 84,143 housing units in Columbus, according to 2011–2015 Five-Year American Community Survey estimates. The largest share of units are single-family detached structures (65%), followed by units in small multifamily buildings of 5 to 19 units (16%). About 9% of units are in duplexes, triplexes, and quadruplexes, and 7% are in large multifamily buildings of 20 or more units. Single-family attached structures comprise about 2% of units, and mobile homes, boats, RVs, and vans comprise another 2%.

Slightly less than half of occupied units in Columbus are owner-occupied (48%), and slightly more than half are renter-occupied (52%). Almost all owned housing has at least two bedrooms: about 10% has two bedrooms and 90% has three or more bedrooms. Rental units tend to be smaller: 19% of units are one-bedroom units, and 3% have no bedrooms. The most common rental units contain two bedrooms (39%) or three or more bedrooms (38%).

All residential properties by number of units

Property Type	Number	%
1-unit detached structure	54,605	65%

1-unit, attached structure	1,320	2%
2-4 units	7,425	9%
5-19 units	13,700	16%
20 or more units	5,795	7%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc.	1,298	2%
Total	84,143	100%

Table 28 – Residential Properties by Unit Number

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS

Unit Size by Tenure

	Owners		Renters	
	Number	%	Number	%
No bedroom	44	0%	1,164	3%
1 bedroom	260	1%	7,339	19%
2 bedrooms	3,385	10%	14,750	39%
3 or more bedrooms	31,765	90%	14,470	38%
Total	35,454	101%	37,723	99%

Table 29 – Unit Size by Tenure

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia serves low-income individuals and families through its Housing Choice Voucher program, which distributes an estimated 3,220 vouchers annually, and its conventional public housing program, which offers 518 units. The Housing Authority also provides HUD-subsidized housing

through its affiliations with Ashley Station; Arbor Pointe I, II and III (the Cottages @ Arbor Pointe); Patriot Pointe; and Columbus Commons.

The HUD LIHTC database also indicates that there are two LIHTC properties in the city that provide an estimated 379 housing units affordable to residents with incomes at or below 60% AMI.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

Several trends exist that, absent policies focused on preserving the city's existing affordable housing stock and developing diverse new housing options, indicate that Columbus will continue to experience a loss of affordable housing inventory. Trends include high levels of demand for housing due to population growth in the city; increasing home values and median rents over the past 10 years; a shortage in the supply of rental and homeowner housing units affordable to households with incomes below 50% HAMFI; and aging housing stock in need of rehabilitation. The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia will continue to administer Housing Choice Vouchers and provide public housing in the city.

Federal law requires any LIHTC properties awarded credits after 1989 to maintain affordability for 30 years, although after the first 15 years, owners can leave the program through a relief process. After 30 years (or 15 years if owners are granted regulatory relief), properties can be converted to market-rate units. During the 2021–2025 Five-Year Consolidated Plan, 15 LIHTC properties in Columbus will age out of the 30-year affordability period. Together these properties provide an estimated 207 low-income units.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

Cost burden data shows that housing affordability needs are particularly severe for renters with incomes under 80% of HUD Area Median Family Income (HAMFI), and in particular for those with incomes under 30% HAMFI. An estimated 15,772 renter households with incomes below 80% HAMFI are housing cost burdened, spending more than 30% of income on housing, or severely housing cost burdened, spending more than 50% of income on housing (see Table 9). Renters with incomes of 50% HAMFI and below make up 70.5% of these cost-burdened renter households.

On the ownership side, income and home value data indicate that starter home prices in the city are out of reach for many moderate- and middle- income households. Based on American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2015–2019, the median home value of owner-occupied units in Columbus is \$141,300, up 12.1% from the 2005–2009 median of \$126,100 and up 0.8% from the 2013–2017 median of \$140,200. Affordability data in the Needs Assessment also shows affordability challenges, with cost burdens impacting households with incomes up to 100% HAMFI. Stakeholders interviewed during this planning process also described an increasingly tight housing market due to high demand for housing and insufficient new housing under development, noting the need to increase the supply of housing for both rental and homeownership units to support housing affordability in the city. In addition to the need to increase housing supply, stakeholders

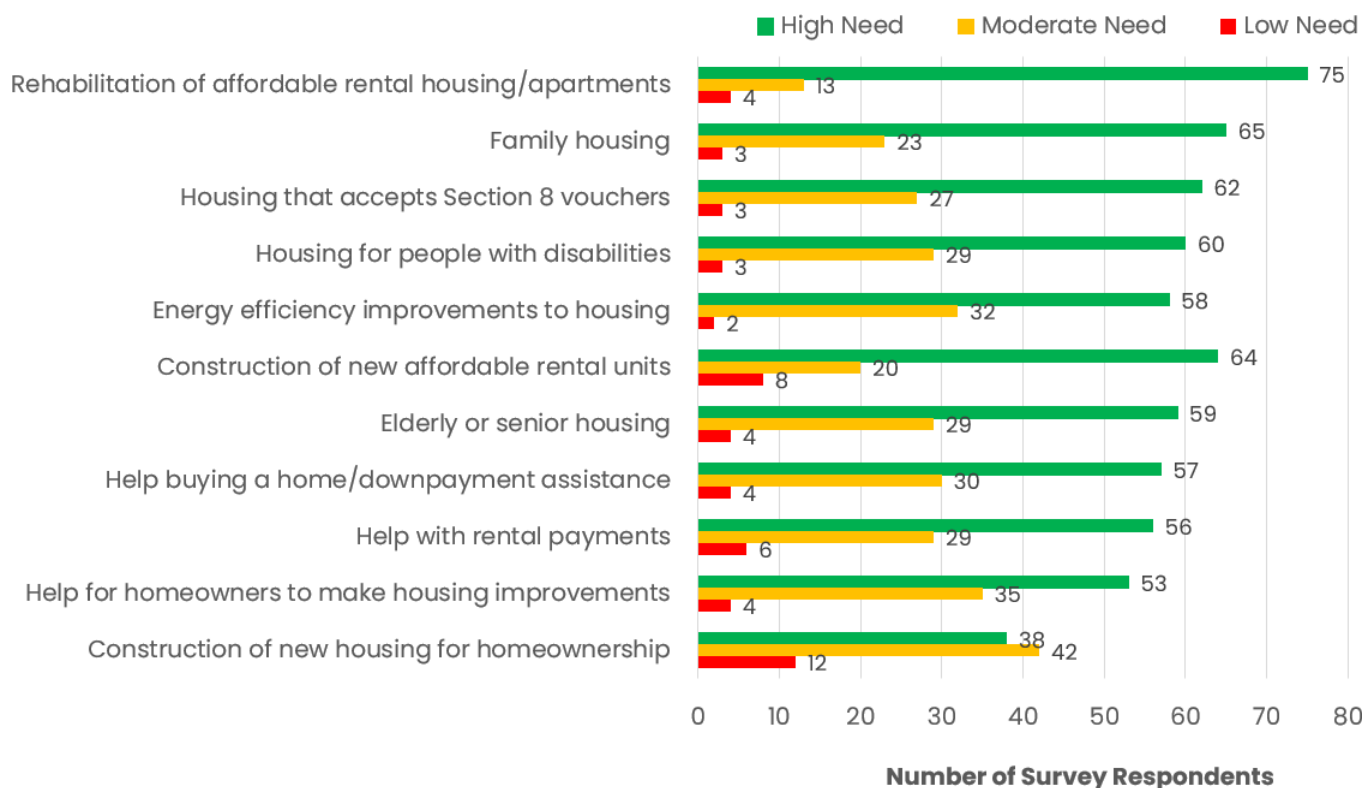
noted the need to assist property owners in making needed repairs to housing units to support housing affordability and quality.

Describe the need for specific types of housing:

Data discussed in the Housing Need Assessment and in this section indicate a particular need for rental and for-sale housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Housing types that allow for increased affordability of both rental and homeownership units might include options such as smaller housing units; multifamily ‘missing middle housing, including duplexes, triplexes, quadraplexes, and other small multifamily units; accessory dwelling units; cohousing with shared services; or tiny homes. Rehabbing units that are aging or dilapidated or that have poor energy efficiency can also increase the number of high- quality affordable units.

Survey respondents also emphasized a need for rehabilitation of affordable rental housing and apartments, family housing, and housing that accepts Section 8 vouchers (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Affordable Housing Needs from the Community Survey



MA-15 Housing Market Analysis: Cost of Housing - 91.210(a)

Introduction

Data on housing costs and affordability in Columbus shows that rents in the city have increased more rapidly than home values and indicates a need for an increase in supply of housing that is in good condition--particularly in units affordable to residents with incomes below 30% to 50% HAMFI.

The city's median home value is estimated at \$140,200 according to 2013–2017 ACS data, up 11% from the 2005–2009 ACS estimate of \$126,100 (see Table 30). The most recent ACS five-year estimates available, for 2015–2019, show the city's median home value at \$141,300, a 12.1% increase from the 2005–2009 estimate and a 0.8% increase from the 2013–2017 estimate. These findings align input from stakeholders, who noted that housing costs have increased in recent years.

Median rent is relatively modest at \$664 (2013–2017 ACS), up 28% from the 2005–2009 estimate of \$517. The most recent ACS five-year estimates available, for 2015–2019, show the city's median contract rent at \$710, a 37.3% increase from the 2005–2009 estimate and an 6.9% increase from the 2013–2017 estimate. ACS data shows that 29.5% of the city's rental units rent for under \$500 per month, and 52.7% have rents between \$500 and \$999 per month. Rental rates are \$1,000 or more for about 17.8% of units.

Residents and stakeholders emphasized that the greatest affordable housing needs in the city include rehabilitation and weatherization of existing units, family housing, housing that accepts Section 8 vouchers, the development of new housing--particularly units affordable to households with incomes under 30% to 50% HAMFI, and rental assistance. Housing affordability is often an especially acute issue for people who are homeless, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, seniors, and people re-entering the community from long-term care facilities or other institutions.

Cost of Housing

	Base Year: 2009	Most Recent Year: 2017	% Change
Median Home Value	126,100	140,200	11%
Median Contract Rent	517	664	28%

Table 30 – Cost of Housing

Data Source: 2000 Census (Base Year), 2013–2017 ACS (Most Recent Year)

Rent Paid	Number	%
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Less than \$500	11,122	29.5%
\$500-999	19,883	52.7%
\$1,000-1,499	4,710	12.5%
\$1,500-1,999	1,495	4.0%
\$2,000 or more	508	1.4%
Total	37,718	100.0%

Table 31 – Rent Paid

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5 Year Estimates

Housing Affordability

Number of Units affordable to Households earning	Renter	Owner
30% HAMFI	1,755	No Data
50% HAMFI	6,928	3,570
80% HAMFI	18,766	8,710
100% HAMFI	No Data	12,415
Total	27,449	24,695

Table 32 – Housing Affordability

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

Monthly Rent

Monthly Rent (\$)	Efficiency (no bedroom)	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent	643	714	862	1,175	1,514

High HOME Rent	643	707	851	974	1,066
Low HOME Rent	522	559	671	775	865

Table 33 – Monthly Rent

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

Table 32 estimates the number of units affordable to renters and owners in Columbus at different income levels. This data can be compared to the number of households at each income level, as provided in Table 6 of the Needs Assessment.

According to CHAS estimates, there are 8,500 renter households with incomes under 30% HAMFI in the city but only 1,755 rental units affordable at that income level (see Table 32). Thus, there is insufficient rental housing for households with extremely low incomes. There appear to be a sufficient number of renter units affordable to renter households at the other income levels, although data is not available regarding the number of units available for households with incomes above 80% HAMFI. These figures do not take into account unit condition or size; nor do they reflect the possibility that a unit that would be affordable to a low- or moderate-income household may be unavailable to them because it is occupied by a higher-income household.

Turning to owners, there are an estimated 5,880 owner households with incomes 50% HAMFI and below in the city, and 3,570 owner-occupied housing units affordable at that income level (see Table 32). At income levels above 50% HAMFI, there appear to be an adequate number of affordable units. As with rental housing, these figures do not take into account housing size or condition, or the possibility that higher-income households will choose to occupy lower cost units.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition's Out of Reach data examines rents relative to income levels for counties and metro areas throughout the U.S. using HUD Fair Market Rents. Fair Market Rent (FMR) is a standard set by HUD at the county or regional level for use in administering its Section 8 rental voucher program. FMRs are typically the 40th percentile gross rent (i.e., rent plus utility costs) for typical, non-substandard rental units in the local housing market. To afford a two-bedroom rental unit at the Muscogee County FMR of \$790 without being cost-burdened would require an annual income of \$31,600. This amount translates to a 40-hour work week at an hourly wage of \$15.19, an 84-hour work week at minimum wage, or a 39-hour work week at the county's mean renter wage of \$17.51. A three-bedroom unit at the FMR of \$1,062 would require an annual wage of \$42,480.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

Table 30 shows that the median home value in Columbus increased by 11% from the 2005–2009 ACS to the

2013–2017 ACS, and median rent increased by 28%. In this way, affordability has decreased for both renters and owners. The lack of rental and for–sale housing in good condition and affordable to residents with

incomes less than 30% to 50% HAMFI indicates that housing affordability is likely to continue as a pressing issue in the city of Columbus, particularly for renters.

How do HOME rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

Table 33 above shows HUD Fair Market Rents and HOME rents for the Columbus MSA. The city's median contract rent of \$710 (2015–2019 ACS) falls below the Fair Market Rent for one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom units and below the high HOME rent for two-, three-, and four-bedroom units. As of the 2015–2019 ACS data, about 62.1% of rental units with cash rent in Columbus have rents under \$800, which falls under the FMR and high HOME rents for two-, three-, and four-bedroom units. As noted in the previous section, about 39% of rental units have 2 bedrooms, and about 38% have 3 or more bedrooms. Combined, these figures suggest that housing choice voucher holders would be able to access a variety of units, given the share of housing renting for less than FMRs.

Note that this data does not reflect housing condition, which is an important consideration. While the rent may be affordable, substandard housing conditions may make a unit unsafe or lead to exceptionally high utility costs, negating any savings in rent as compared to a more expensive unit. Additionally, housing choice voucher holders may have difficulty finding units that will accept vouchers or difficulty qualifying for leases due to past evictions or credit history.

MA-20 Housing Market Analysis: Condition of Housing – 91.210(a)

Introduction

This section examines the condition of housing in the city of Columbus, including the presence of selected housing conditions: 1) lack of complete plumbing facilities, (2) lack of complete kitchen facilities, (3) more than one person per room, and (4) cost burden greater than 30%. This section also examines the age of housing stock, vacancy rate and suitability of vacant housing for rehabilitation, and the risk of lead-based paint hazards.

Renters in Columbus are more likely than owners to experience one or more of the selected housing conditions. About 51% of renter-occupied units and 26% of owner-occupied units have at least one of the conditions described above. CHAS data discussed in the Needs Assessment indicates that cost burdens are by far the most common housing condition. About 25% of owner-occupied units in the city have one selected condition (8,965 units), about 0.2% have two selected conditions (70 units), and less than 0.1% have three selected conditions (20 units). In contrast, 48% of renter-occupied units have one selected condition (18,025 units), 3% have two selected conditions (1,165 units), and less than 0.1% have three or four selected conditions. These figures indicate that rental units are more likely to be physically substandard (i.e., lack a complete kitchen or plumbing).

Age of housing reflects periods of development in Columbus. The area contains a significant supply of housing built prior to 1980, of which 20,585 units are owner-occupied (58% of owner-occupied units) and 18,430 are rental units (49% of renter-occupied units). More than two-fifths of owner-occupied units (42%) and more than half of rental units (51%) were built in 1980 or later. Renters are more likely than owners to occupy housing built in 2000 or later and prior to 1950, while owners are more likely to occupy housing built between 1950 and 1999. While some older units may be well-maintained, the considerable share of housing built prior to 1980 indicates potential need for rehabilitation assistance.

Definitions

For the purpose of this Consolidated Plan, the City of Columbus defines units to be in “standard condition” if they meet HUD Section 8 housing quality standards. A unit is defined as “substandard” if it lacks complete plumbing, a complete kitchen, or heating fuel (or uses heating fuel that is wood, kerosene, or coal). A unit is “substandard but suitable for rehabilitation” if it lacks complete plumbing, a complete kitchen or a reliable and safe heating system but has some limited infrastructure that can be improved upon. These units are likely to have deferred maintenance and may have some structural damage such as leaking roofs, deteriorated interior surfaces, and inadequate insulation. They may not be part of public water or sewer systems but have sufficient systems to allow for clean water and adequate waste disposal.

Condition of Units

Condition of Units	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
With one selected Condition	8,965	25%	18,025	48%
With two selected Conditions	70	0%	1,165	3%
With three selected Conditions	20	0%	10	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	4	0%
No selected Conditions	26,400	74%	18,525	49%
Total	35,455	99%	37,729	100%

Table 34 – Condition of Units

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Year Unit Built

Year Unit Built	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
2000 or later	5,594	16%	10,300	27%
1980-1999	9,270	26%	8,985	24%
1950-1979	17,250	49%	13,870	37%
Before 1950	3,335	9%	4,560	12%
Total	35,449	100%	37,715	100%

Table 35 – Year Unit Built

Data Source: 2013–2017 CHAS

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	20,585	58%	18,430	49%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	6,648	19%	2,083	6%

Table 36 – Risk of Lead-Based Paint

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates (Total Units) 2013–2017 CHAS (Units with Children present)

Vacant Units

	Suitable for Rehabilitation	Not Suitable for Rehabilitation	Total
Vacant Units			
Abandoned Vacant Units			
REO Properties			
Abandoned REO Properties			

Table 37 – Vacant Units

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation

While data on housing condition and age points to low levels of substandard owner-occupied housing in Columbus, the large numbers of owner-occupied housing units built before 1980 and 1950 indicate that housing maintenance and rehabilitation may be needs for low-income homeowners. Data regarding housing conditions indicates that 90 owner-occupied units (about 0.3% of all owner-occupied units) in Columbus have at least two housing conditions (likely including cost burden and one other condition), and data in the Housing Needs Assessment shows that owner households in Columbus tend to experience cost burdens more often than overcrowding or lack of complete plumbing or kitchen facilities.

While the number of owner-occupied housing units with two or more selected conditions is low, 3,335 owner-occupied housing units (9% of total owner-occupied units) in the city were built before 1950, indicating the highest risk for deferred maintenance and rehabilitation need. About 17,250 units of owner-occupied housing units in Columbus (49%) were built between 1950 and 1980, and as this housing ages, maintenance needs will continue to grow. This data on housing age in Columbus indicates that some owner-occupied units are at risk of deferred maintenance and may currently or soon be in need of some rehabilitation. Additionally, seniors living on Social Security or retirement income who have paid off their mortgages may be unable to afford necessary repairs and maintenance as their homes age.

About 12% of rental housing units in the city (4,560 units) were built before 1950, and 37% of units were built between 1950 and 1980 (13,870 rental units). Further, a greater number of rental units (1,179) than owner units (90) have at least two housing conditions, likely including cost burdens and at least one other housing condition. Combined, these factors indicate that while there is a high level of need for rehabilitation of both renter- and owner-occupied housing, renters in Columbus experience the highest levels of need.

Residents and stakeholders who participated in this planning process also indicated a high level of need for rehabilitation of both rental and owner-occupied housing in Columbus.

Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low- or Moderate-Income Families with LBP Hazards

Exposure to lead-based paint represents one of the most significant environmental threats from a housing perspective. Housing conditions can significantly affect public health, and exposure to lead may cause a range of health problems for adults and children. The major source of lead exposure comes from lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings, including residential properties built before 1978 that contain lead-based paint.

Unfortunately, measuring the exact number of housing units with lead-based paint hazards is difficult. However, risk factors for exposure to lead include housing old enough to have been initially painted with lead-based paint (i.e., pre-1978), households that include young children, and households in poverty. Table 36 identifies the total number of housing units in Columbus built before 1980 and the total number of renter and owner units built before 1980 that house children under age 6. This includes 6,648 owner-occupied units (19% of all owner-occupied housing units) and 2,083 renter-occupied units (6% of all renter-occupied housing units) with at least two risk factors for exposure to lead-based paint (built before 1980 and housing young children).

MA-25 Public and Assisted Housing – 91.210(b)

Introduction

According to the HACG’s most recent approved Moving To Work Report completed in Fall 2019, the agency leased 518 public housing units and 4,282 vouchers, including 1,062 project-based vouchers and 3,220 tenant-based or housing choice vouchers. The HACG’s 2022 Annual MTW Plan indicates that there are a total of 596 public housing units remaining, which will be converted to project-based vouchers in the next 1–3 years.

Totals Number of Units

Program Type	Certificate			Mod-Rehab			Public Housing			Vouchers		
	# of units	vouchers	available	# of units	vouchers	available	Total	Project-based	Tenant-based	Special Purpose Voucher		
										Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	Family Unification Program	Disabled *
# of units vouchers available	0			60			4,282	1,062	3,220	0	0	0
# of accessible units												

*Includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-Year and Nursing Home Transition

Table 38 – Total Number of Units by Program Type

Data Source: Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia, 2019 Annual MTW Report

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

The HACG has two large public housing developments that it plans to convert to project based vouchers within the 1–3 years. These developments include Warren Williams Homes (184 units) and Elizabeth Canty Homes (249 units). In 2020, the HACG demolished 108 public housing units at Chase Homes under SAC Section 18 demolition approval. All 108 households were relocated through tenant protection vouchers. The site of Chase Homes will be replaced with HCV PBV units, including 76 project-based voucher units available to residents earning 50% AMI, and 11 market-rate units. Former Chase Homes residents will have preference in returning to the new development. Approximately 24 HCV PBV units will also become available at the Warm Springs Senior Village. The HACG also plans to convert 31 public housing units at Patriot Pointe and 24 public housing units at Columbus Commons to project-based vouchers in the next 1–2 years. At the completion of these RAD conversions and demolitions, the HACG will consist entirely of project-based and tenant-based vouchers.

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

Both Warren Williams Homes (184 units) and Elizabeth Canty Homes (249 units) are partially located in a floodplain and will require mitigation during the RAD conversion process. The HACG plans to demolish units 702G and 702H at Warren Williams Homes due to substantial physical deterioration and significant foundation issues that cannot be repaired.

As a Moving to Work agency, the HACG has opted out of the PHAS scoring process, as shown in Table 39.

Public Housing Condition

Public Housing Development	Average Inspection Score
Elizabeth Canty Homes, 100 Canty Place	N/A
Warren Williams Homes, 1200 Warren Williams Road	N/A

Table 39 – Public Housing Condition

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

Warren Williams Homes, originally built in 1945, is currently in need of renovations to the kitchens and bathrooms, other interior renovations, and additional exterior lighting and landscaping.¹² In the HACG's 2017 fiscal year, Elizabeth Canty Homes (built in 1952) received several upgrades including water and sewer line repair, replacement of roofs, doors and windows, landscaping, repainting, and additional security features. However, both sites will receive additional renovations under RAD conversion.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

The HACG manages all its LIHTC units through its management company, CSG Management. The HACG also provides interior and exterior upkeep through its maintenance company, CSG Residential. All HACG properties offer a common room with computers and Wi-Fi service. The HACG plans to incorporate Wi-fi infrastructure at all HACG properties. Other on-site supportive services are limited at RAD developments. Under Moving To Work, on-site services are not required under Moving To Work. The HACG also partners with several local agencies to provide a wide range of programs for participants. Resident programs include arts and crafts through the Columbus Museum, food assistance through Feeding the Valley, instruction on cooking on a budget through the UGA Extension office, health screenings through Piedmont Hospital, and credit repair with NeighborWorks. The HACG also offers gardening, diaper programs, and youth activities, among other programs.

¹² Giles, Roslyn. (May 11, 2016) WTVM.com "Multimillion dollar project planned for Columbus housing complex." <https://www.wtvm.com/story/31951371/multimillion-dollar-project-planned-for-columbus-housing-complex/>

MA-30 Homeless Facilities and Services – 91.210(c)

Introduction

A range of facilities provide housing and services to support people experiencing homelessness in Columbus, including emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing. Using data from the Columbus–Muscogee Continuum of Care, stakeholder interviews, and community input sessions, this section provides an overview of shelter facilities, housing, and mainstream and other services that aim to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Columbus.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

	Emergency Shelter Beds		Transitional Housing Beds	Permanent Supportive Housing Beds	
	Year-Round Beds (Current & New)	Voucher / Seasonal / Overflow Beds	Current & New	Current & New	Under Development
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	146	0	0	30	
Households with Only Adults	89	0	34	172	
Chronically Homeless Households	N/A	N/A	N/A	202	
Veterans	6	0	1	56	
Unaccompanied Youth	0	0	0	0	

Table 40 – Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

Data Source: HUD 2020 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs, Housing Inventory Count Report

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are used to complement services targeted to homeless persons

A variety of mainstream services complement services targeted to people experiencing homelessness in Columbus. The Columbus–Muscookee Continuum of Care focuses on supporting coordination and collaboration among these systems so that people experiencing homelessness can access mainstream resources to assist them in transitioning to and remaining stable in permanent housing. Examples of health, mental health, employment, and other services that complement services targeted to people experiencing homelessness in Columbus include:

- Current programs to reduce poverty through access to education and jobs are provided by the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board and WorkSource Georgia, Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, and nonprofit organizations in the city; and
- MercyMed, Valley Healthcare System, and New Horizons Community Service Board provide sliding scale fee health and mental health programs in Columbus.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

Multiple organizations in Columbus provide emergency, transitional, and permanent housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness in the city. Facilities include:

- An estimated 235 year-round emergency shelter beds through Chattahoochee Valley Jail Ministries, Hope Harbour, House of Mercy, Salvation Army, Valley Interfaith Promise, and Valley Rescue Mission, about 38% of which are adult-only beds (89 beds) and about 62% of which are family beds (146 beds);
- An estimated 34 transitional housing beds through House of TIME and Open Door Community House (12 beds), all of which are adult-only beds;
- An estimated 202 permanent supportive housing beds through House of TIME, the Housing Authority of Columbus, New Horizons Community Service Board, and Stewart Community Home, about 15% of which are family beds (30 beds) and 85% of which are adult-only beds (172 beds); and
- An estimated 94 Rapid Re-housing beds provided by Homeless Resource Network and Open Door Community House, about 82% of which are family beds (77 beds) and 18% of which are adult-only beds (17 beds).

MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services – 91.210(d)

Introduction

This section describes the housing and social service needs of specific populations, including the elderly and frail elderly, people with disabilities, residents with diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, residents with substance use or mental health disorders, and survivors of domestic violence.

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs

❖ *The Elderly and People with Disabilities*

The elderly and people with disabilities often need housing that provides access to transit or transportation services in order to facilitate access to resources, services, and/or employment. Access to these needs should be primary considerations in the location of supportive housing for seniors and people with disabilities. Supportive services for the elderly and people with disabilities may include health services, assistive technologies, independent living support, and educational assistance and planning for children with disabilities.¹³ People with intellectual and developmental disabilities may also require case management or life skills programming. Housing should focus on integrating these populations into the community, reducing social isolation through programming, and facilitating access to resources and services.

❖ *People with Substance Use Disorders*

People with alcohol or other substance use disorders may need services including screening, diagnosis, assessment, and treatment. People recovering from these disorders may need recovery supportive services, including clinical case management, housing and transportation assistance, mental health services, family engagement, behavioral therapy, and vocational and education, childcare, financial, and health services.¹⁴

❖ *People Living with HIV/AIDS*

Low-barrier housing free from requirements such as those surrounding drug testing, sobriety, criminal background, and medical appointments is a primary need for people living with HIV/AIDS. A 'Housing First' model, in which housing is provided without these kinds of barriers, increases access to housing and reduces risk of homelessness for people living with HIV/AIDS. Like other special needs populations, people living with HIV/AIDS need housing that provides easy access to health services, resources, and employment. This population may need case management services; however, the Housing First model emphasizes that supportive services should not be required for people living with HIV/AIDS to access housing. In addition to low-barrier housing, people living with HIV/AIDS may need a variety of services, including access to core

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) Disability and health information for people with disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/people.html>

¹⁴ Rural Health Information Hub. (n.d.) Treatment and Recovery Support Services. Retrieved from: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/substance-abuse/1/support-services>

medical services, as well as supportive services, including childcare services, medical transportation, and non-medical case management, among others.¹⁵

❖ *Public Housing Residents*

Public housing residents often need supportive services such as case management and long-term follow-up; employment services, including transitional jobs, job-search assistance, sector-based job training, work-related childcare support, and continuing technical and professional education; programs that teach financial literacy; and housing counseling.

Some public housing residents need more intensive case-management and may benefit from integrated supportive housing, in which small numbers of permanent family-supportive housing units are incorporated into mixed-income developments and case management and services are provided on-site. Vouchers with wraparound services provide an alternative model in which case managers support voucher-holders with the same services delivered in permanent supportive housing. Incentives models may also support families in moving toward self-sufficiency by providing rewards for achievements, such as paying rent on time, getting their children to school, applying for a job, and volunteering.

Finally, some public housing residents—particularly those with serious physical and mental health disabilities—may have greater supportive service needs, such as assisted living (meals, housekeeping, activities, health care, case management, grocery store access) and on-site services, including parenting support, childcare, and after-school services for those who have custody of children or grandchildren.¹⁶

❖ *Survivors of Domestic Violence*

The greatest need for survivors of domestic violence is access to safe and affordable housing. Transitional housing options may also provide supportive services such as counseling, childcare, transportation, life skills, education and job training for up to 24 months, providing survivors time and services to obtain safety and stability.¹⁷

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing:

People with mental health and substance abuse disorders often require supportive housing following discharge from inpatient treatment to reduce risk of homelessness. People returning from these institutions need access to affordable housing and health services and may also require supportive services such as

¹⁵ Health Resources and Services Administration. (n.d.). Get HIV Care and Treatment. Retrieved from: <https://hab.hrsa.gov/get-care/get-hiv-care>

¹⁶ Theodos, B., Popkin, S. J., Parilla, J., & Getsinger, L. (2012). The challenge of targeting services: a typology of public-housing residents. *Social Service Review*, 86(3), 517–544.

¹⁷ Rogers, L. (2019). Transitional housing programs and empowering survivors of domestic violence. Retrieved from: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/blog/transitional-housing-programs-and-empowering-survivors-domestic-violence>

case management and transportation assistance. In Columbus, the following programs serve people with mental health and substance abuse disorders:

- MercyMed, Valley Healthcare System, and New Horizons Community Service Board provide sliding scale fee health programs in Columbus.
- House of TIME and Open Door Community House provide transitional housing in the city of Columbus. House of TIME, the Housing Authority of Columbus VASH program, New Horizons Behavioral Health, and Stewart Community Home provide permanent supportive housing.

Permanent supportive housing should be affordable, close to needed health services, and accessible to transportation options. The use of funds such as those provided through the HOME Investment Partnerships program can support the development of affordable housing near services and transportation, facilitating access to care and resources and supporting the use of in-home services.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals. 91.315(e)

Columbus's first year Annual Action Plan specifies the activities the City plans to support during the 2021 program year to address housing and/or supportive service needs. These include:

- The Continuing Hope Program, providing minor home repair to eligible households through the Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity.
- A mobile medical trailer which will provide health services throughout the city, operated by the Columbus Health Department.
- Health programming offered by MercyMed of Columbus.
- Provision of home delivered meals for seniors, offered by Direct Services.
- The Access 2 Independence accessibility home compliance program, which will increase residential accessibility for persons with disabilities.

MA-40 Barriers to Affordable Housing – 91.210(e)

Negative Effects of Public Policies on Affordable Housing and Residential Investment

Stakeholders identified the city's property tax structure as a major barrier to affordable housing in Columbus. Under the current property tax structure, homeowners receive a homestead exemption based upon the year of purchase. The assessed value of the home is "frozen" from the year of purchase, producing a fixed tax payment for the entirety of the owner's tenure in the home. Using this tax structure, property taxes only

increase on a residential property when the property is sold or improved, or when the overall tax rate is adjusted. The property tax “freeze” has been in effect since 1983.¹⁸

In 2016, Columbus citizens voted against a proposition to “Thaw the Freeze.” Many citizens saw the proposal as an effort to raise taxes, particularly on older residents. While changing the property tax policy is likely to raise taxes on long-standing homeowners, stakeholders note that the tax policy limits the city’s overall revenues, which has produced subsequent effects on the quality of city services provided to residents. Proponents of an alternate tax policy also state that the current property tax structure places a disproportionate amount of tax burden on the city’s newer homeowners. Much of the region’s residential growth has occurred in adjacent jurisdictions such as Russell County (AL), Lee County (AL) and Harris County (GA). Stakeholders note that these adjacent areas offer large lots, large homes, placement in high performing school systems or proximity to Ft. Benning. An ideal property tax structure will help retain affordability for seniors or other low-income households while offering property taxes and public services for new homeowners that are competitive with adjacent jurisdictions.

¹⁸ Wright, Ben. “Two sides of ‘Thaw the Freeze’ considered at forum.” (September 20, 2016) Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. <https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/article103074897.html>

MA-45 Non-Housing Community Development Assets – 91.215 (f)

Introduction

This section outlines employment, labor force, and educational attainment data that informs the Consolidated Plan’s priorities and goals.

Economic Development Market Analysis

Business Activity

Business by Sector	Number of Workers	Number of Jobs	Share of Workers %	Share of Jobs %	Jobs less workers %
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	168	106	0	0	0
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	9,165	11,364	15	15	0
Construction	2,481	3,383	4	5	0
Education and Health Care Services	9,827	13,441	16	18	2
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	5,924	9,276	10	13	3
Information	1,098	1,171	2	2	0
Manufacturing	6,190	6,628	10	9	-1
Other Services	1,802	2,422	3	3	0
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	4,829	6,581	8	9	1

Public Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Trade	8,212	9,318	14	13	-1
Transportation and Warehousing	2,084	1,893	3	3	-1
Wholesale Trade	2,013	2,342	3	3	0
Total	53,793	67,925	--	--	--

Table 41 – Business Activity

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates (Workers), 2017 Longitudinal Employer–Household Dynamics (Jobs)

Labor Force

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	87,782
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	79,020
Unemployment Rate	9.97
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16–24	25.70
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25–65	5.57

Table 42 – Labor Force

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates

Occupations by Sector	Number of People
Management, business and financial	16,545
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	3,600
Service	8,930
Sales and office	21,090
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	5,325
Production, transportation and material moving	4,625

Table 43 – Occupations by Sector

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates

Travel Time

Travel Time	Number	Percentage
< 30 Minutes	65,850	82%
30–59 Minutes	11,428	14%
60 or More Minutes	2,765	3%
Total	80,043	100%

Table 44 – Travel Time

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates

Education:**Educational Attainment by Employment Status (Population 16 and Older)**

Educational Attainment	In Labor Force		Not in Labor Force
	Civilian Employed	Unemployed	
Less than high school graduate	4,865	1,035	5,310
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15,505	1,930	9,435
Some college or Associate's degree	23,905	1,935	8,840
Bachelor's degree or higher	20,995	860	4,545

Table 45 – Educational Attainment by Employment Status

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates

Educational Attainment by Age

	Age				
	18-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45-65 yrs	65+ yrs
Less than 9th grade	235	739	780	1,430	2,350
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	2,449	2,250	2,184	3,845	2,555
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	6,935	8,380	5,630	13,565	7,874
Some college, no degree	9,285	10,190	6,070	11,130	4,685
Associate's degree	950	2,455	2,845	4,115	1,595
Bachelor's degree	1,510	6,005	4,335	7,555	2,595
Graduate or professional degree	24	2,430	2,935	4,740	2,604

Table 46 – Educational Attainment by Age

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates

Educational Attainment – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Educational Attainment	Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months
Less than high school graduate	80,590
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	108,095
Some college or Associate's degree	133,615
Bachelor's degree	175,145
Graduate or professional degree	214,620

Table 47 – Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months

Data Source: 2013–2017 ACS 5–Year Estimates

Based on the Business Activity table above, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The employment sectors in Columbus with the largest numbers of jobs are education and health care services (13,441 jobs or 18% of all jobs); arts, entertainment, and accommodations (11,364 jobs or 15%); and finance, insurance, and real estate (9,276 jobs or 13%).

The jobs in which the most city residents are employed reflect these major employment sectors. The largest shares of Columbus residents are employed in education and health care services (9,827 workers or 16% of all workers); arts, entertainment, and accommodations (9,165 workers or 15%); manufacturing (6,190 workers or 10%); and finance, insurance, and real estate (5,924 workers or 10%).

The largest mismatches between the share of workers (i.e., employed residents) and the share of jobs by sector are in finance, insurance, and real estate. Finance, insurance, and real estate workers make up a smaller proportion of workers living in the city of Columbus than do finance, insurance, and real estate jobs of the city's jobs. This difference indicates that many jobs in the finance, insurance, and real estate sector in Columbus are filled by workers who live outside of the city. Differences between the share of workers and share of jobs by sector are about two percentage points or less in all other sectors.

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The Columbus 2025 plan (Regional Prosperity Initiative: A Vision for a Greater Columbus) and the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017) detail several goals and strategies related to addressing workforce and infrastructure needs, including:

- Create cradle-to-career (C2C) partnerships to align education, training, business and social services in an effort to increase talent levels in Greater Columbus.
- Formalize a collaborative Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program to ensure optimal conditions for existing firms to thrive.
- Develop a comprehensive economic development marketing program.
- Maintain connections with local employers to ensure that skills needed are addressed in workforce training initiatives (Employer Committee, Technical College, Dept of Labor).
- Facilitate and encourage programs within the local school systems – Dual Enrollment/Move On When Ready.
- Support the transition from military to civilian jobs.
- Encourage apprenticeships and internships for businesses to teach high school and college aged students; develop region-wide mentoring programs to include internships and apprenticeships.
- Support mission and continued work of Ft. Benning and be prepared for future BRAC.
- Explore and support local economic development plans, and provide Technical Assistance where needed.

- Support local and regional development authorities by providing technical assistance, information on tax credits, low interest loans and other incentives as requested.
- Identify and promote industrial parks in the region, including virtual parks/virtual buildings and viable development authorities to support business retention and expansion.
- Use and support Main Street and Better Hometown organizations throughout the region.
- Encourage infill development in our downtowns.
- Allow pop-up stores in empty storefronts.
- Support code enforcement, nuisance ordinances and zoning laws throughout the region.
- Encourage and support land banks.
- Eliminate substandard housing.

Stakeholders interviewed during this planning process noted that needs include job training programs for youth and adults, employment navigation, affordable childcare, and investments in infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, and trails.

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

Several factors shape economic development in the city of Columbus and the region. In particular, the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy details goals for investing in workforce development and education. Investments in these high-priority areas will help to address the city's workforce development, job creation, and infrastructure needs.

Affordable housing that is in good condition is also increasingly important in supporting workforce and business attraction and retention. The Columbus 2025 plan details goals for the city's housing, including catalyzing the development of new housing options and supportive neighborhood retail in the region's core neighborhoods. The plan lists potential actions to address this goal, including:

- Ensuring that zoning and development regulations are optimized for redevelopment and evaluate potential development incentives to defray development costs related to hardscapes, parking infrastructure, utility upgrades and/or relocations, and so forth on qualified products.
- Leverage economic development staff capacity to assist prospective developers in pursuing commercial tenants or retailers such as grocery stores to promote additional residential development in key areas.
- Prioritize mixed-use projects that promote a "downtown" or "walkable" character that appeals to the professional and young adult market segments.
- Consider developing incentives for projects that set aside a percentage of residential units at below-market rates to provide options for entry-level workers and other individuals.

Stakeholders interviewed as part of this planning process also emphasized the need for quality affordable housing close to jobs, resources, and transportation, including a particular needs for ‘missing middle’ housing priced at \$150,000 to \$250,000. Affordable, accessible housing is of particular need for seniors, people with disabilities, people transitioning from homelessness, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Finally, there is a need for rehabilitation of existing housing stock to increase the supply of high-quality affordable housing. For these reasons, there is a growing need to devote resources to the development of affordable housing with access to jobs, services, and transportation.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

The Columbus 2025 plan details key data points and trends in educational attainment:

- Greater Columbus’ workforce is not in dire straits, but the proportion of adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher is well below the national average and last among a competitive set of 10 Southeastern metros. The community also has elevated levels of adults who started but did not finish college or have a high school diploma or less.
- If current trends hold, Greater Columbus will fall even further behind on the educational attainment metric, as its younger residents are relatively less educated than their counterparts nationwide and the region is not attracting new residents in significant numbers to account for the difference.

About 39.3% of the city’s population aged 25 and over have a high school education or less, while 25.8% have a bachelor’s degree or higher, according to American Community Survey data for 2015–2019. Occupation projections for the lower Chattahoochee region indicate that positions requiring an associate’s or bachelor’s degree or higher tend to pay more than those requiring a high school diploma or equivalent. An estimated 68.9% of total annual openings require a high school diploma or equivalent or less, while 24.1% require a bachelor’s degree or higher. While a high percentage of positions require a high school diploma or less, several occupations with the highest projected employment growth from 2016 to 2026 require an bachelor’s degree or higher, including general and operations managers, registered nurses, and elementary school teachers. Several of the occupations with high numbers of projected jobs in 2026 also require more than a high school level education or training, including general and operations managers, registered nurses, and nursing assistants. For these reasons, workforce development efforts should continue to focus on training workers in high-demand skills and on supporting workers in accessing educational opportunities in high-demand job sectors with positions that pay a living wage. Stakeholders interviewed during this planning process noted a need for job and soft skills training.

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

Workforce development programs in Columbus focus on training workers in high-demand, well-paying industries and connecting job seekers with regional employers in these sectors. WorkSource Georgia- Lower Chattahoochee provides career counseling and assessment, exploration of training/educational needs, on-the-job training for adults and dislocated workers, internships for in-school youth, internship and placement services for out-of-school youth (ages 18-24), work reintegration and placement services for adults and dislocated workers, remedial and adult literacy, and occupational skills/classroom training. Columbus State University and Columbus Technical College offer academic degrees, certificates, and workforce training opportunities.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

The City of Columbus participated in the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017) prepared by the River Valley Regional Commission. The strategy serves as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in accordance with the U.S. Economic Development Administration's requirements, and as a guide for policies, programs, and investments to support economic development in the region.

Activities that the City anticipates undertaking over the next five years will support several of the strategies listed in the CEDS, including increasing investment in public infrastructure and amenities and developing affordable housing tools that address the need for improved housing quality and affordability. The City will also continue to work with regional workforce development stakeholders to support job training and employment readiness education.

MA-50 Needs and Market Analysis Discussion

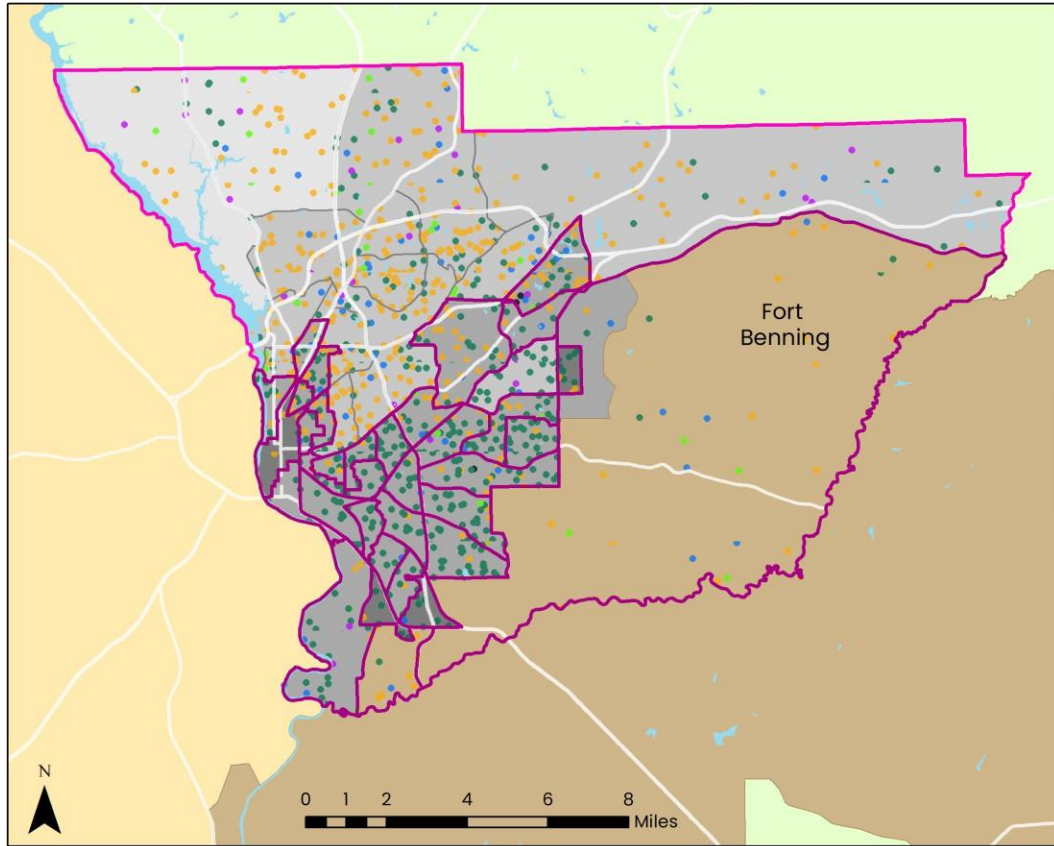
Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

HUD defines four types of housing problems: (1) cost burden of more than 30%, (2) more than 1 person per room, (3) lack of complete kitchen facilities, and (4) lack of complete plumbing facilities. The HUD-provided map on the following page shows the share of households within each census tract that have least one of these housing problems.















A concentration of households with housing needs is defined as a census tract where more than 40% of households have at least one housing need. Using this definition, there are 35 census tracts with a

concentration of housing problems in Columbus. Census tracts with high percentages of households with housing burdens are concentrated in the southern half of the city below Manchester Expressway, as shown in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6. Census Tracts with Concentrations of Housing Problems



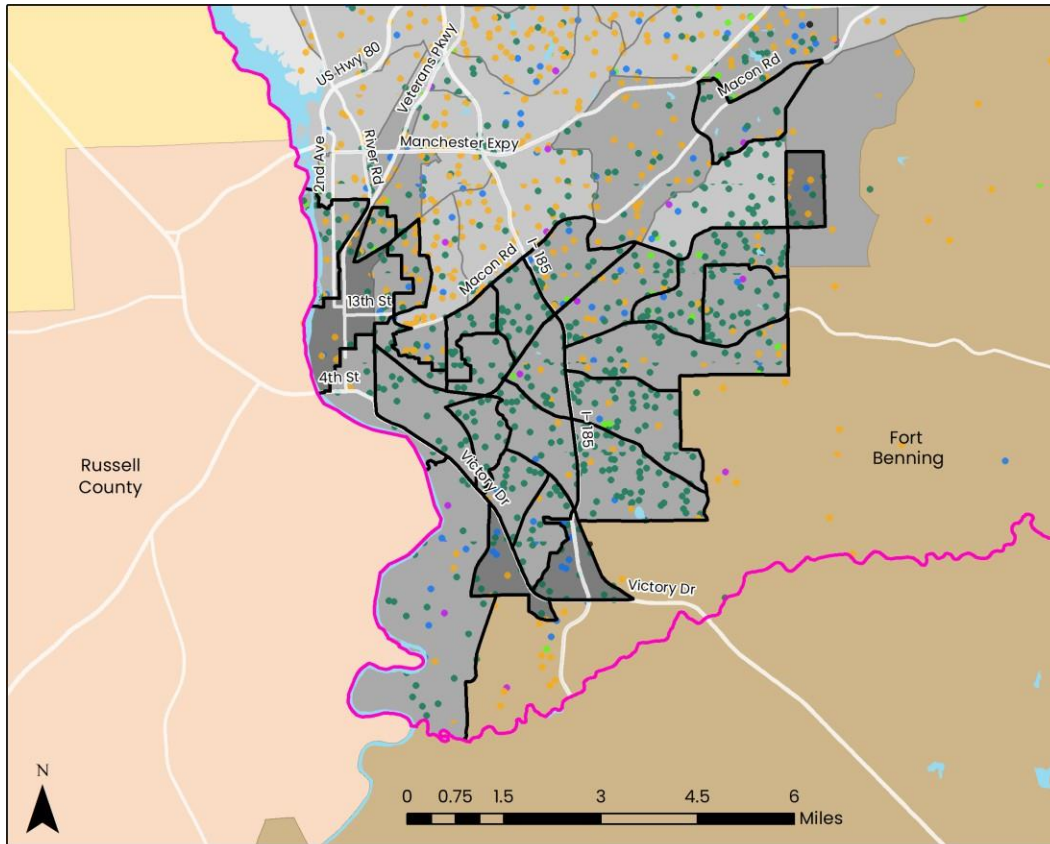
Legend

	Census Tract with a Concentration of Households with Housing Problems		Race and Ethnicity 1 Dot = 200 people		Percent Households with Housing Burden
	Columbus city limit		White, Non-Hispanic		0% - 20%
			Black, Non-Hispanic		20.1% - 40%
			Native American, Non-Hispanic		40.1% - 60%
			Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic		60.1% - 85%
			Other, Non-Hispanic		
			Multiple Races		
			Hispanic		

Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Geographic patterns for racial or ethnic minorities residing in Columbus are shown in Figure 7. Concentration is defined as a census tract in which more than 50% of residents are considered people of color. Almost half of Columbus's total population is Black, therefore, many census tracts in the city are also predominately Black. Census tracts where the majority of the population is Black are concentrated south of Macon Road, with some additional concentrations in downtown and midtown Columbus. Populations of other racial or ethnic minority groups are not significant enough to comprise more than 50% in any census tract in Columbus.

Figure 7. Census Tracts with a Concentration of Housing Problems and Racial Minorities



Legend

- Columbus city limit
- Census Tract with a Concentration of Housing Problems and Racial Minorities

- Race and Ethnicity**
- 1 Dot = 200 people
- White, Non-Hispanic
 - Black, Non-Hispanic
 - Native American, Non-Hispanic
 - Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic
 - Other, Non-Hispanic
 - Multiple Races
 - Hispanic

- Percent Households with Housing Burden**
- 0% - 20%
 - 20.1% - 40%
 - 40.1% - 60%
 - 60.1% - 85%

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

There are 26 census tracts in Columbus where more than 40% of households have one or more housing problems and the majority of the population is comprised of Black residents. The data presented below reflects census estimates from the 2015–2019 5–Year American Community Survey.

There are approximately 35,002 housing units in the 26 census tracts noted above, of which 28,302 are occupied with a renter or homeowner. Renter occupied housing units in these census tracts makes up 57% of all households. Renter households are most common in downtown and midtown Columbus. Comparatively, around 52% of all Columbus residents are renters. Two–thirds (66%) of all housing units in these highlighted census tracts were built before 1980, compared to 54% of all housing units across the city.¹⁹ Construction prior to 1978 may indicate an increased likelihood of lead–based paint or other lead–containing materials in the structure. The vacancy rate in these tracts is 19.1%, which may be due to the age and condition of the housing stock. The city’s vacancy rate is slightly lower at 14.1%.²⁰ Age of housing and vacancy may help to explain the cause of increased housing problems in these highlights census tracts.

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Due to the large area covered by the 26 census tracts reflected above, there are a wide variety of community assets in these neighborhoods. Assets include parts of Columbus’s Historic District, the Columbus Museum, the Civic Center, and the city’s Aquatic Center. Parks include the Columbus Waterworks Park, Lake Bottom Park, S. Lumpkin Park and golf course, Primus King Park and Carver Park. These areas also have several schools and libraries. These resources are connected via major thoroughfares including 2nd Avenue, Victory Drive, I– 85, Macon Road, and Buena Vista Road. However, these tracts cover a large portion of the city, and community assets may be difficult to access without a vehicle.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

This area sits adjacent to Ft. Benning and at one time provided military housing for the base. These areas are also connected to I–185, a major north–south highway connecting Columbus to I–85.

¹⁹ 2015–2019 5 Year ACS Estimates, Table DP04.

²⁰ Ibid.

MA-60 Broadband Needs of Housing occupied by Low- and Moderate-Income Households - 91.210(a)(4), 91.310(a)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

Broadband connectivity is a vital community resource that offers citizens access to employment, education, and other personal enrichment opportunities found through the internet. Disparities in broadband access – particularly for low-to-moderate income households – can create a “digital divide” that limits personal and professional opportunities. In 2015, the FCC defined broadband as internet access with download speeds of the 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of 3 Mbps (otherwise notated as 25/3). With broadband access, internet users can partake in file downloading, video streaming, email and other critical features that are necessary for modern communications.

Columbus’s broadband coverage is captured in the 2019 Broadband Deployment Initiative data published by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Georgia’s broadband map and data identify the availability of broadband service for every home and business in the state at the census block level. A census block is considered “served” with broadband if at least 80% of the locations within the census block have broadband service.²¹ Broadband coverage in Columbus is shown in Figure 8 and Figure 9 below.

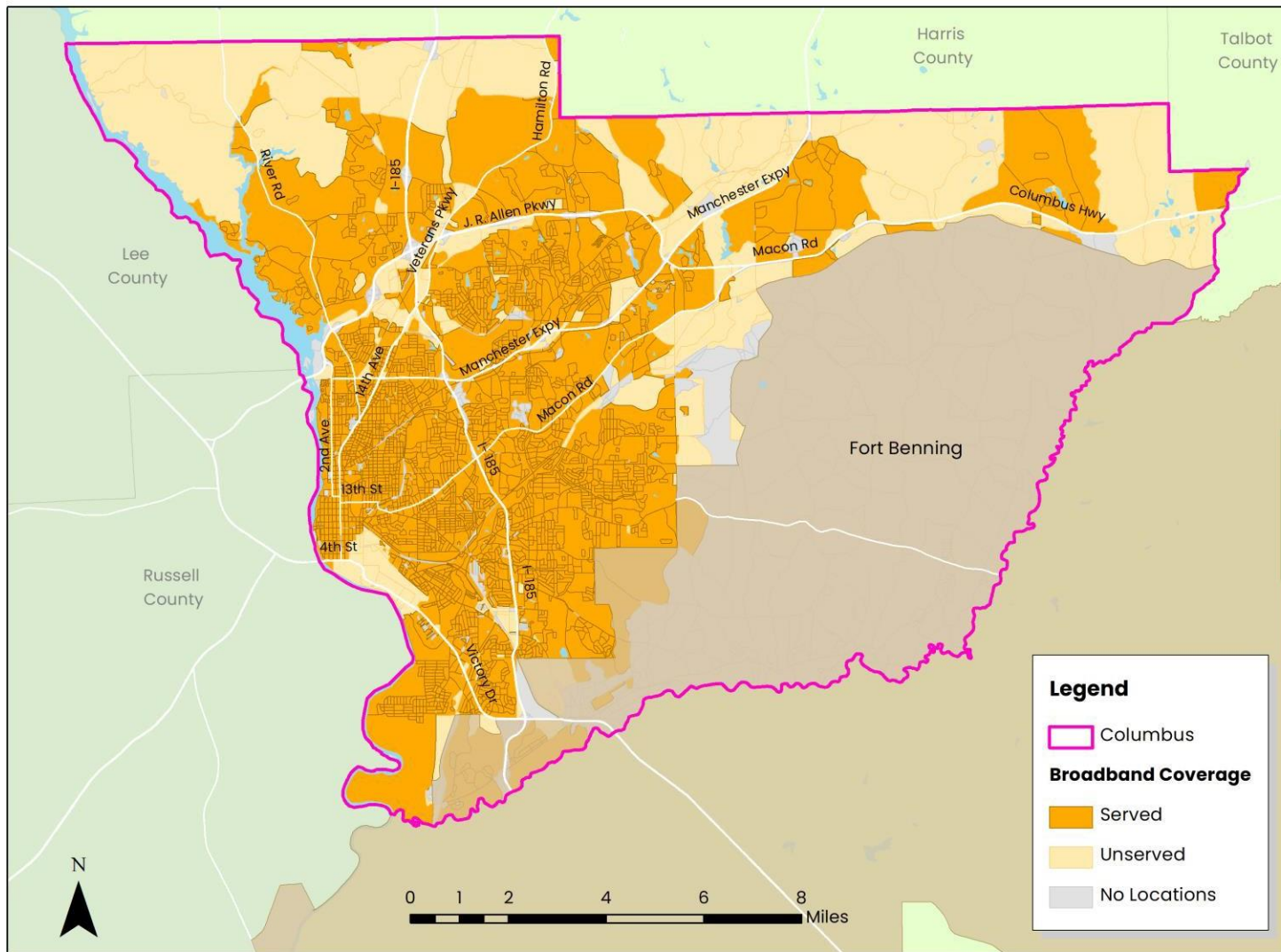
Georgia DCA broadband data indicates that most addresses in Columbus can access internet at broadband speeds. Areas that are considered “unserved” include a section of Victory Drive that includes the Civic Center, National Civil War Museum, the Porterdale Cemetery and several industrial uses along 10th Avenue. Broadband is also limited in the commercial areas along Old Cusseta Road at I-185 and along Whitesville Road. Areas with growing residential development along the easternmost portion of Macon Road and Columbus Highway are considered unserved. Rural areas adjacent to Harris County, including areas north of Wooldridge and Hubbard Roads and Heiferhorn Creek are also considered unserved.

Looking at the city’s low-to-moderate income census tracts in Figure 9, many of these areas are served with broadband. Large “unserved” areas in the city’s low-to-moderate income census tracts are found in commercial, industrial, or civic districts with few residential users, or near areas containing a prison (e.g., Schatulga Road). Despite these findings, participants in the community survey noted that high speed internet was the top public infrastructure need in the city. The disconnect between broadband availability and use may be due to several factors including the cost of service, lack of information about how to obtain low-cost

²¹ Georgia Department of Community Affairs. (2020) “2020 Broadband Report.” See <https://broadband.georgia.gov/resources>, p.9

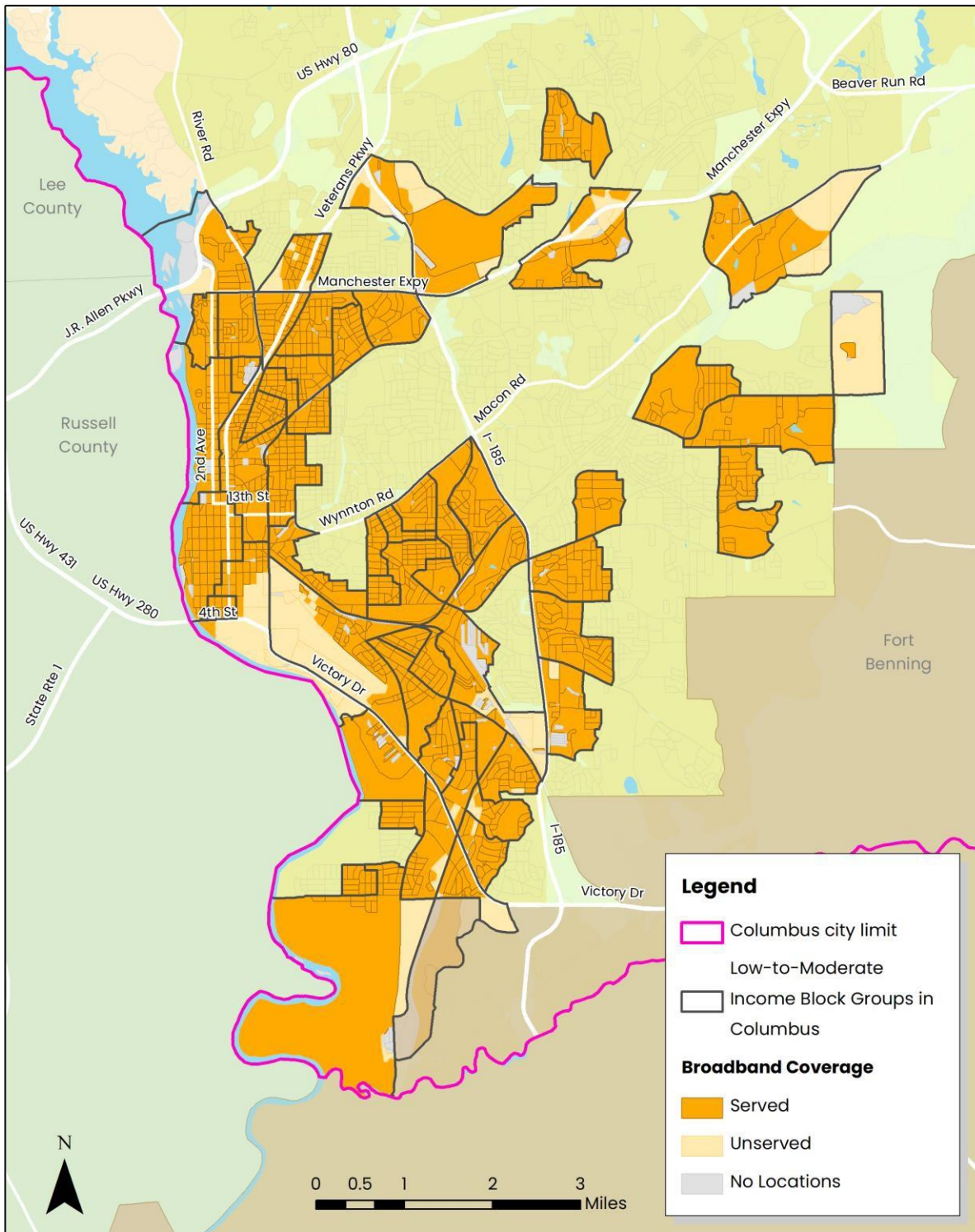
internet, limited reliability of low-cost internet, limited access to technology (laptops, desktops, tablets, etc.) or limited knowledge about how to access the internet.

Figure 8. Broadband Coverage in Columbus



Source: Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, 2019

Figure 9. Broadband Coverage in Low-to-Moderate Income Census Tracts



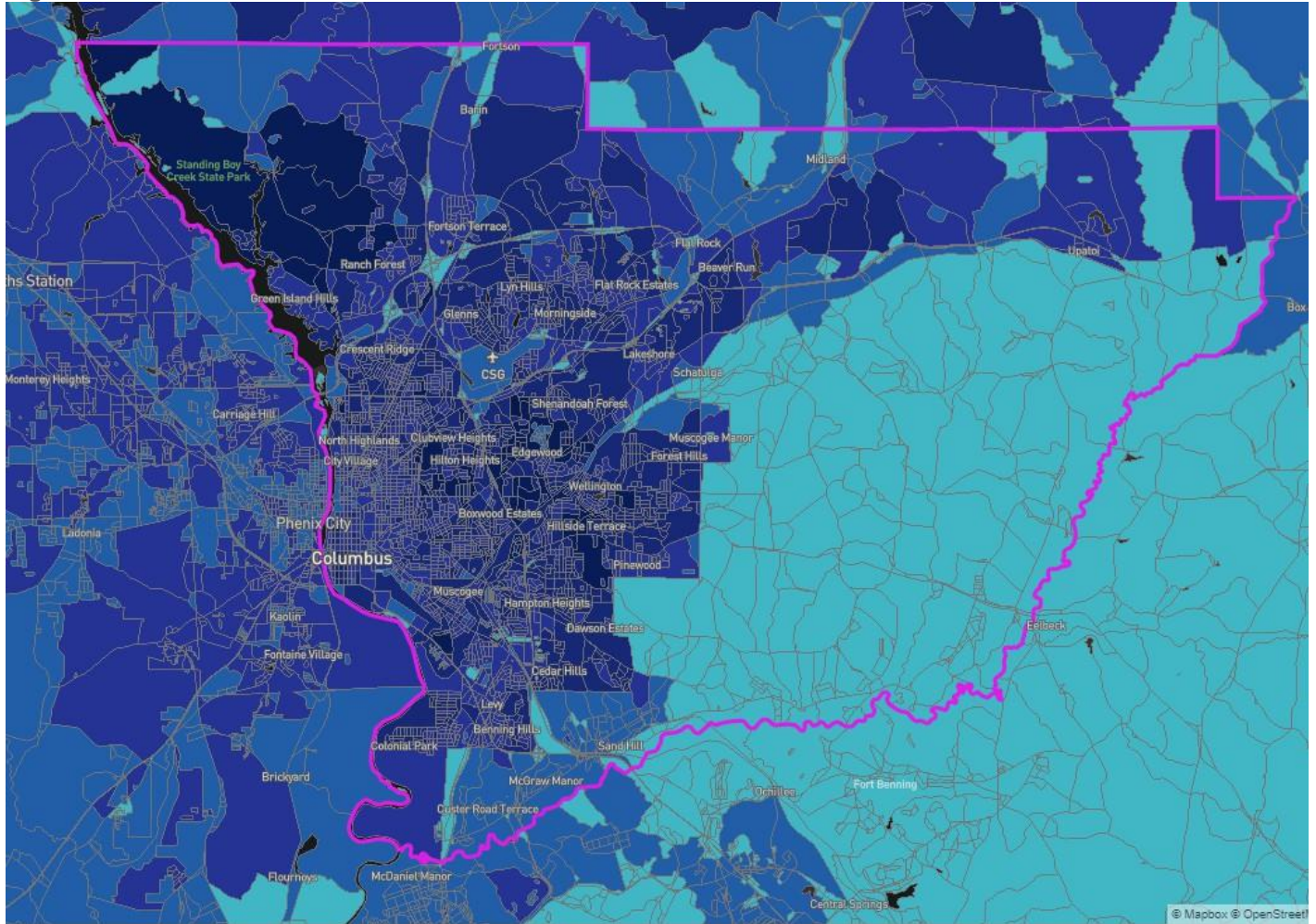
Source: Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, 2019

Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

Columbus is served by several providers offering internet at broadband speeds. Fiber internet is offered throughout the city by WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, doing business as WOW! Internet. AT&T also offers fiber internet for select neighborhoods across the city. Cable internet is offered by Charter Communications (doing business as Spectrum), WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, Mediacom Communications Corp., and Comcast. ADSL service is offered by AT&T in some locations in north Columbus. Finally, satellite internet is offered widely by ViaSat and Hughes Network Systems.

In those areas served by AT&T or Spectrum, low-to-moderate income residents receiving SNAP benefits are eligible to receive low-cost internet services. However, AT&T and Spectrum are not available in all neighborhoods. Public reviews for WOW! Internet and Mediacom indicate several common concerns from the public including unreliable service, variable speeds from day to day, pricing concerns, and negative customer service experiences. By building relationships with local broadband providers to identify and resolve common issues, the city can improve its existing network of broadband service.

Figure 10. Number of Fixed Residential Broadband Providers in Columbus



Number of Fixed Residential Broadband Providers



Data Source: FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Map

MA-65 Hazard Mitigation - 91.210(a)(5), 91.310(a)(3)

Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

The impacts of increasing natural hazard risks driven by with climate change on low- and moderate-income households are important considerations for city staff, regional planners, and housing and service providers in the city of Columbus and the region. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notes impacts of climate change that are specific to Georgia, including:

- Continued intensification of wind speeds and rainfall rates for tropical storm and hurricanes as the climate continues to warm;
- Increased precipitation during heavy rainstorms, leading to increased severity of inland flooding; and
- Increased demand for and reduced availability of water due to rising temperatures, which increase the rate at which water evaporates;
- Shifts in the types of trees found in forests; and
- Impacts to human health--particularly for vulnerable populations including children, the elderly, sick, and poor populations-- resulting from extreme temperatures, heat events, and increased formation of ground-level ozone.²²

The City of Columbus participates in the updating and implementation of the Columbus-Muscogee County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was most recently updated to cover the years 2017 to 2022. The plan details strategies and recommendations related to the following objectives:

- Reduce damage to property and loss of life from flooding;
- Minimize the damage to property and loss of life resulting from high wind events;
- Provide advanced severe weather warning;
- Provide educational awareness to citizens regarding the dangers of natural hazards;
- Implement initiatives for water conservation and wildfire protection;
- Increase the ability of Columbus Consolidated Government and its citizens to respond to natural and manmade hazards;
- Maintain continuity of critical operations during and after hazard events;
- Minimize damage to property and loss of life resulting from winter storm events;
- Minimize damage to property and loss of life resulting from seismic events; and
- Implement additional protective measures and capabilities in response to manmade incidents.

²² United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2016). What Climate Change Means for Georgia. Retrieved from: <https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-ga.pdf>

Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

The vulnerability of low- and moderate-income households to hazards associated with climate change is an important consideration for jurisdictions and regions in planning for environmental resiliency. The Fourth National Climate Assessment (2018) notes that vulnerable populations, including low-income and marginalized communities, have reduced capacity to prepare for and cope with severe weather and other climate change-related events and are expected to experience greater impacts. For these reasons, it is important that jurisdictions prioritize adaptation actions to support vulnerable populations.²³ American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for 2015–2019 show that:

- An estimated 20,809 of the city's 72,759 households (28.6%) have incomes of less than \$25,000 per year, and
- An estimated 20.7% of the city's residents were living below the poverty level in the past 12 months.

For these reasons, a large proportion of the city's residents have reduced capacity to prepare for and cope with the impacts of climate change, and the City of Columbus should prioritize actions that support these populations in preparing for and coping with these impacts.

²³ U.S. Global Change Research Program. (2018). Fourth National Climate Assessment. Retrieved from: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

Strategic Plan

SP-05 Overview

Strategic Plan Overview

This strategic plan will guide the allocation of Columbus's CDBG, HOME and ESG funding during the 2021–2025 planning period. Goals for the 2021–2025 period focus on high priority needs identified through data analysis, community input, consultation with city staff and partner agencies, and a review of relevant recently completed plans and studies. The priority and goal sections of this strategic plan describe anticipated activities within each of several broader areas to which the city will allocate funding. The city will rely on partnerships with local agencies and internal departments to achieve its Consolidated Plan goals and address priority needs.

SP-10 Geographic Priorities – 91.215 (a)(1)

Geographic Area

Area Name	Area Type	Percentage of Funds
South Columbus NRSA	Strategy Area	20%
Citywide	Local Target Area	80%

Table 48 – Geographic Priority Areas

General Allocation Priorities

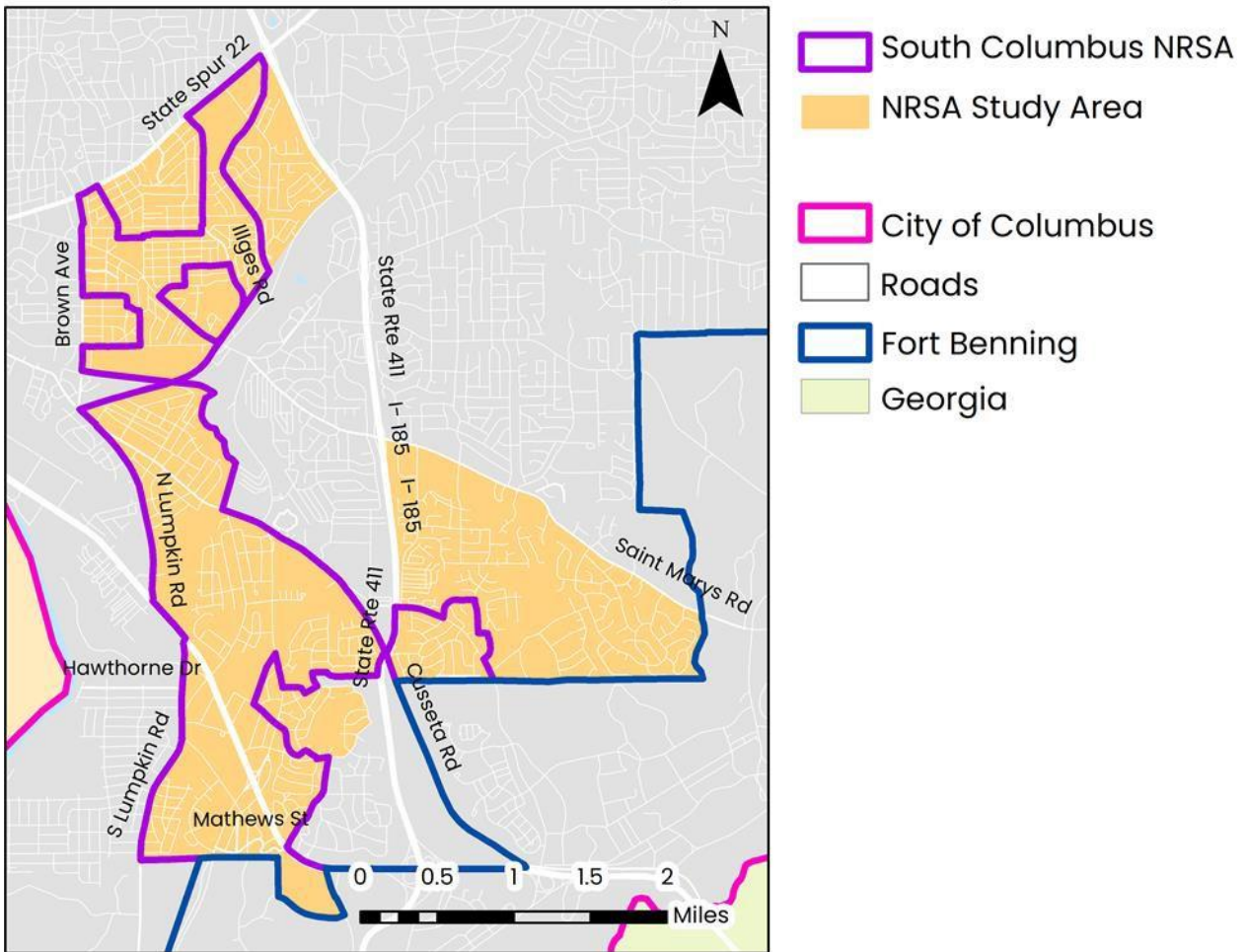
Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

In keeping with the intent and regulations of the federal CDBG, HOME, and ESG Programs, the City of Columbus will focus its funding in neighborhoods that are predominately composed of low- and moderate-income households and that have substantial needs related to housing quality and affordability, public facilities and infrastructure, and economic development. While the City will allocate CDBG funding to projects and activities throughout Columbus, the City proposes as part of this Consolidated Plan, to designate a new Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) in South Columbus.

The South Columbus NRSA is located west of Interstate 185 roughly bound by Brown Avenue and Lumpkin Road on the west, State Spur 22 in the north, and Fort Benning in the south. The portion of the NRSA east of Interstate 185 is bound generally by Old Cusseta Road on the north and east and by Fort Benning in the south. The area is comprised primarily of residential neighborhoods and neighborhood commercial shopping

centers. Neighborhoods in the NRSA include Wynnton, Willett, and Avondale Heights. According to HUD’s low/moderate income data based on the 2015 ACS, nearly three quarters (72.0%) of residents in the South Columbus NRSA have low or moderate incomes. Residents with low or moderate incomes comprise a significantly larger share in the NRSA compared to the overall population of the city where roughly a third of all residents have low or moderate incomes (39.9%).

Figure 11. South Columbus NRSA and Study Area



Source: TIGER/Line Shapefiles, 2019

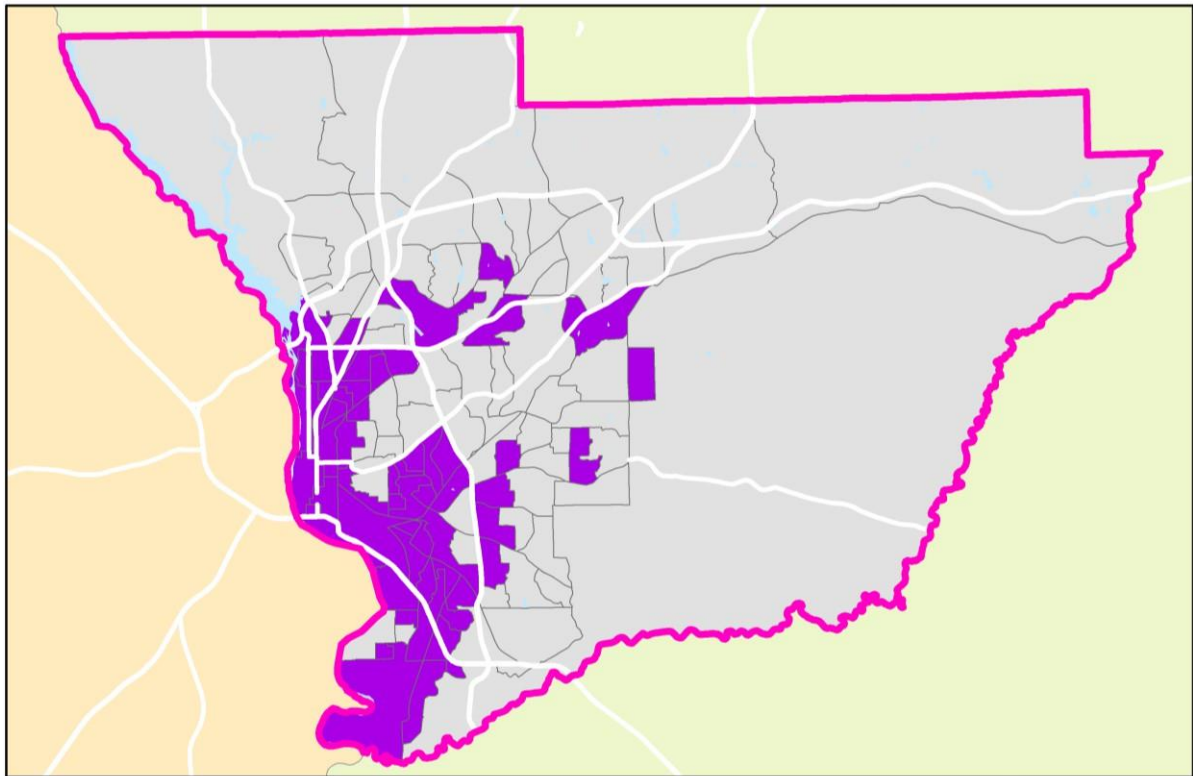
Eligible activities within both the South Columbus NRSA and Citywide target area include community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

The system for establishing the priority for the selection of these projects in Columbus is predicated upon the following criteria:

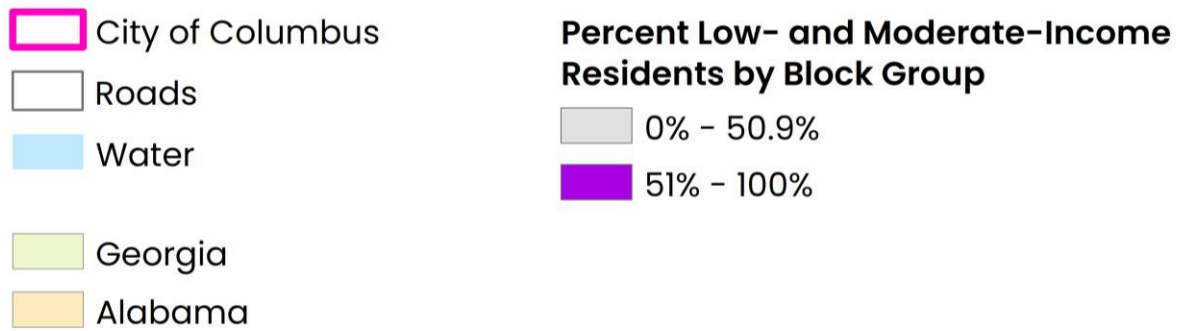
- Meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program
- Meeting the needs of LMI residents
- Prioritizing investment in the South Columbus NRSA
- Focusing on LMI areas or neighborhoods
- Coordination and leveraging of resources
- Response to expressed needs
- Sustainability and/or long-term impact
- The ability to demonstrate measurable progress and success

Priority CDBG funding areas include areas where the percentage of LMI persons is 51% or higher. Block groups within the city meeting this criterion are indicated in Figure 12.

Figure 12. Percent of Low-to-Moderate Income Residents by Block Group



Data Source: American Community Survey Low- and Moderate-Income Summary Data, 2011-2015



SP-25 Priority Needs - 91.215(a)(2)

Priority Needs

Priority Need	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
1 Priority Level	High
Population(s) served	Extremely low income Low income Moderate income Large families Families with children Elderly/frail elderly Public housing residents People with disabilities
Geographic areas(s) affected	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Associated goal(s)	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Description	Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investments in new housing supply serving low to moderate income households or located in LMI census tracts. • Property acquisition/disposition • Down payment or closing cost assistance • Short-term rental, utility, or household item assistance, including for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and/or at risk of homelessness. • Housing or financial management counseling
Basis for priority	Community members indicate a need to create additional housing supply that is affordable and of good quality. Short term needs include emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. Long term needs include assistance with purchasing home or entering subsidized housing. This priority is also identified in HACG Moving to Work Plans/Reports and the city's Comprehensive Plan.

Priority Need		Housing Rehabilitation
2	Priority Level	High
	Population(s) served	Extremely low income Low income Moderate income Large families Families with children Elderly/frail elderly Public housing residents People with disabilities
	Geographic areas(s) affected	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
	Associated goal(s)	Housing Rehabilitation
	Description	Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehab, repair, or energy efficiency/weatherization programs • ADA accessibility improvements • Lead-based paint testing
	Basis for priority	Community survey participants noted that “rehabilitation of affordable rental housing/apartments” was the top affordable housing need. Additional needs identified during the public meeting and stakeholder interviews indicated a need to address vacant and blighted housing.

Priority Need		Blight Removal
3	Priority Level	High
	Population(s) served	Extremely low income Low income Moderate income Large families Families with children

	<p>Elderly/frail elderly</p> <p>Geographic areas(s) affected Citywide South Columbus NRSA</p> <p>Associated goal(s) Blight Removal</p> <p>Description Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition of blighted properties </p> <p>Basis for priority Stakeholders note a continued need for removing blighted properties in older neighborhoods. Stakeholders state that blight removal will reduce crime and improve community aesthetics.</p>
	<p>Priority Need</p> <p>Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements</p>
4	<p>Priority Level High</p> <p>Population(s) served Extremely low income Low income Moderate income Large families Families with children Elderly/frail elderly Public housing residents People with disabilities</p> <p>Geographic areas(s) affected Citywide South Columbus NRSA</p> <p>Associated goal(s) Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements</p> <p>Description Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road and sidewalk improvements Access to high-speed internet Park and recreation facility improvements ADA Accessibility modifications </p>

	Basis for priority	Community members indicate a need for high-speed internet, sidewalk and road improvements (including speed bumps, curb and gutter, etc.), and water/sewer improvements.
Priority Need		Public Services
5	Priority Level	High
	Population(s) served	Extremely low income Low income Moderate income Large families Families with children Elderly/frail elderly Homeless individuals Homeless Families with Children Public housing residents People with disabilities Victims of Domestic Violence
	Geographic areas(s) affected	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
	Associated goal(s)	Public Services
	Description	Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment and training programs • Technical assistance and capacity building • Youth programs and childcare • Food access
	Basis for priority	Community members indicate an increased need for youth activities and employment and job training opportunities.
	Priority Need	
6	Priority Level	High

Population(s) served	All
Geographic areas(s) affected	Citywide
Associated goal(s)	Fair Housing
Description	<p>Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair housing education services to help residents, community organizations, landlords and other housing providers understand fair housing rights and responsibilities. • Consumer education around landlord-tenant issues. • Engaging the city’s real estate and banking professional in ongoing fair housing education and campaigns.
Basis for priority	Input from community members and professionals indicates a very limited number of fair housing education services in the city. The Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice recommends the expansion of fair housing activities in Columbus.

Priority Need		COVID-19 Response
7	Priority Level	Low
	Population(s) served	Extremely low income Low income Moderate income Large families Families with children Elderly/frail elderly Homeless individuals Homeless Families with Children Public housing residents People with disabilities Victims of Domestic Violence

Geographic areas(s) affected	Citywide
Associated goal(s)	COVID-19 Response
Description	<p>Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention, preparation for, and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to possibly include, but not be limited to, rent and utility assistance, small business assistance, infrastructure or technology for remote learning, medical supplies or personal protective equipment (PPE), and assistance with food access.
Basis for priority	Columbus households and businesses facing the economic, health, and education impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Priority Need	Expanding the Availability of Homeless Services and Housing
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8	Priority Level	High
	Population	<p>Chronic Homelessness</p> <p>Homeless Individuals</p> <p>Homeless Families with Children</p> <p>Homeless Persons with Mental Disabilities</p> <p>Homeless persons with Chronic Substance Abuse</p> <p>Homeless Veterans</p> <p>Homeless Persons with HIV/AIDs</p> <p>Homeless Victims of Domestic Violence</p> <p>Homeless Unaccompanied Youth</p>
	Geographic Areas Affected	<p>Citywide</p> <p>South Columbus NRSA</p>
	Associated Goals	Expanding the availability of homeless services and housing.

	<p>Description</p> <p>Basis for Relative Priority</p>	<p>Activities to possibly be funded under this priority include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter Operations Renovations to Homeless Facilities Shelter Essential Services Property Acquisition/Disposition Rapid Rehousing HMIS Street Outreach Homeless Prevention Coordinated Entry <p>There is a need for housing opportunities and services for homeless persons and persons at risk of becoming homeless. The need for homeless services was determined by a review of data. Between 2022 and 2023 PIT count totals increased by 10% over the previous year and the increase is showing sustainability. The most recent Point in time Count found over 272 persons experiencing homelessness within the City.</p>
9	<p>Priority Need</p>	<p>Program Administration</p>
	<p>Priority Level</p>	<p>High</p>
	<p>Population(s) served</p>	<p>All</p>
	<p>Geographic areas(s) affected</p>	<p>Citywide</p>
	<p>Associated goal(s)</p>	<p>Program Administration</p>

Description	Support general administration, planning, and staff costs for Columbus's CDBG and HOME programs.
Basis for priority	Program administration costs associated with the coordination and delivery of services to Columbus residents.

Table 49 – Priority Needs Summary

SP-30 Influence of Market Conditions – 91.215 (b)

Influence of Market Conditions

Affordable Housing Type	Market Characteristics that will influence the use of funds available for housing type
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	High level of cost burdens among low-income households; waiting lists for assisted housing units; and need for short-term rental assistance for homeless individuals and families transitioning to permanent housing. Currently, TBRA is provided through HUD’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program administered through local housing authorities. The Housing Authority of Columbus’s Housing Choice Voucher program distributes an estimated 3,220 vouchers annually.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	High level of cost burdens among low-income households, including non-homeless special needs populations; waiting lists for assisted housing units for seniors and people with disabilities.
New Unit Production	Age and condition of housing; waiting lists at existing assisted housing developments; high occupancy rates and rental rates; sales prices unaffordable to low/moderate income households.
Rehabilitation	Age and condition of housing; issues related to substandard housing, especially for low-income renters; need for home repairs for seniors and other homeowners, including lead-based paint remediation.
Acquisition, including preservation	Subsidized housing developments anticipated to age out of their affordability period; age, condition, and availability of multifamily properties suitable for acquisition/rehabilitation; vacant/hazardous buildings identified through code enforcement.

Table 50 – Influence of Market Conditions

SP-35 Anticipated Resources - 91.215(a)(4), 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The City of Columbus receives annual allocations of CDBG and HOME funds for housing construction, rehabilitation initiatives, public services, economic development, and other eligible activities. These funding sources are expected to remain available over the next five years. Table 51 below shows the City’s CDBG and HOME allocations for the 2021 program year, along with an estimate of anticipated grant funding for the remaining four years covered by this Consolidated Plan. This estimate assumes level CDBG and HOME funding over those four years equivalent to the 2021 allocations.

In 2022, the Anticipated Resources section was updated to reflect prior year resources added into this plan resulting from a reprogramming of funds from past projects. A detailed breakdown of the funding years, amounts, and projects affected is provided in the Discussion field within this section.

Lastly, this section has been updated to reflect Emergency Solutions Grant funding added into this plan resulting from the funding first being introduced in FY24 HUD Entitlement funding, during the 4th year of this Consolidated plan.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		

CDBG	Public – federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing	\$1,672,656	\$0	\$0	\$1,672,656	\$6,720,624	Block grant from HUD to address housing, community development and economic development needs in the City.
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		Public Improvements						
		Public Services						
HOME	Public – federal	Acquisition Homebuyer rehabilitation and down payment assistance Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership	\$986,139	\$0	\$0	\$986,139	\$3,944,556	Grant from US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address affordable housing needs in the City.

ESG	Public - Federal	Shelter Operations	\$145,932	\$0	\$0	\$145,932	\$291,864	Grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address homelessness needs in the City.
		Renovations to Homeless Facilities						
		Shelter Essential Services						
		Property Acquisition/Disposition						
		Rapid Rehousing						
		HMIS						
		Street Outreach						
		Homeless Prevention						
		Coordinated Entry						

Table 51 – Anticipated Resources

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied:

The nonprofit organizations receiving CDBG, HOME and ESG funds from the City as subrecipients have additional financial capacity through foundation support, fundraising campaigns, and other state, local and national, grant opportunities. These external resources extend the reach

and scale of City-funded programs. In addition, the City proactively encourages applicants and subrecipients to seek out other public and private resources that address the needs and goals identified in the Consolidated Plan. Federal funds provide these organizations with the opportunity to expand their services to benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

HUD’s HOME Program typically requires a 25% match from non-federal fund sources, however, HUD has issued Columbus a 50% HOME match reduction due to “fiscal distress” criteria, namely, that the City’s percentage of persons in poverty exceeds 125% of the average national rate. The match reduction requires that the City effectively match only 12.5% of its HOME allocation. To meet the match requirement, the City requires organizations who receive HOME funding to provide the necessary match using non-federal funds, which is verified through a report submitted to the City on an annual basis.

HUD’s ESG Program requires a 100% match from a wide variety of fund sources identified in 24 CFR part 576.201. To meet the match requirement, the City requires organizations who receive ESG funding to provide the necessary match, which is verified through a report submitted to the City on an annual basis.

If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City continues to identify properties in its portfolio that can be surplus and conveyed as affordable housing or other beneficial uses for the community. Additionally, the Columbus Land Bank Authority has a stated goal of providing land to be used in the creation of affordable housing and jobs for LMI citizens through residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Discussion

A detailed breakdown of the funding years, amounts, and projects from which the prior year resources that were moved in a 2022 substantial amendment are provided below.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Year / Organization / Activity / Project Description / Amount

2015 City of Columbus Demolition Demolition – Elimination of Slum and Blight (\$3,075.20)

2015 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$80,852.21)

2016 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$72,994.98)



- 2017 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$4,287.60)
- 2018 City of Columbus Public Facilities ADA Accessible Playground Equipment (\$91,865.21)
- 2019 City of Columbus Demolition Demolition – Elimination of Slum and Blight (\$15,330.10)
- 2019 City of Columbus Economic Development Economic Development / Job Training (\$70,000.00)
- 2019 City of Columbus Acquisition / Disposition Land Banking Activities (\$175,154.44)
- 2020 City of Columbus Demolition Demolition – Elimination of Slum and Blight (\$101,000.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Public Facilities ADA Accessible Playground Equipment (\$362,633.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Acquisition / Disposition Property Acquisition (\$170,357.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Lead Based Paint Testing Program (\$20,000.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Section 3 Job Training (\$30,000.00)
- 2020 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$250,000.00)

Total Recaptured Prior-Year CDBG Funding: \$1,447,549.74

NOTE: The City is also reprogramming an additional \$806,437.90 in PY 2021 CDBG funds to other PY 2021 projects. These reprogramming’s within PY 2021 do not add new resources to the plan and are not included in the totals here. The specific PY 2021 projects affected are shown in the ES-05 attachment and listed in AP-35.

SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure – 91.215(k)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

Agencies and organizations through which the City of Columbus will carry out its Consolidated Plan are shown in Table 52. In addition to those listed in the table, the City will rely on a variety of non-profit and private sector housing developers, including Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs), Low Income Housing Tax Credit developers, and others.

Responsible Entity	Responsible Entity Type	Role	Geographic Area Served
City of Columbus	Government	Ownership, Rental, Public Facilities, Neighborhood Improvements, Planning, Public Services, Economic Development	Jurisdiction
Home for Good	Continuum of Care	Homelessness, Public Services	Jurisdiction

Table 52 – Institutional Delivery Structure

Assess of Strengths and Gaps in the Institutional Delivery System

The City of Columbus supports a variety of programs with goals of increasing housing affordability and homeownership, providing public services, and improving public facilities and infrastructure. The City has developed strong partnerships with the Columbus– Muscogee County Continuum of Care and nonprofit service providers. Stakeholders who participated in this planning process noted that the availability of providers serving families (e.g., Home for Good and Salvation Army) is a strength of the institutional delivery system.

Stakeholders also noted gaps in the institutional delivery system, including:

- A lack of providers serving chronically homeless individuals and individual men and women experiencing homelessness;
- A lack of transitional housing for men;

- A need for additional shelter beds for single-parent families;
- A need for additional housing options for families;
- A need for more shelters for women and children;
- A need for a safe house where individuals can access resources and services; and
- A lack of homeless shelters serving LGBTQ populations.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services

Homelessness Prevention Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Homelessness Prevention Services			
Counseling/Advocacy	X	X	X
Legal Assistance	X	X	
Mortgage Assistance	X	X	
Rental Assistance	X	X	
Utilities Assistance	X	X	

Street Outreach Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Law Enforcement	X		
Mobile Clinics	X	X	
Other Street Outreach Services	X	X	

Supportive Services	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	X	X	X
Child Care	X	X	
Education	X	X	X
Employment and Employment Training	X	X	
Healthcare	X	X	X
HIV/AIDS	X		X
Life Skills	X	X	
Mental Health Counseling	X	X	X
Transportation	X	X	X

Other	Available in the Community	Targeted to Homeless	Targeted to People with HIV
Other			

Table 53 – Homeless Prevention Services Summary

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth)

The Columbus–Muscogee County Continuum of Care and a variety of agencies and organizations provide housing and services to people experiencing homelessness, including:

- An estimated 235 year–round emergency shelter beds through Chattahoochee Valley Jail Ministries, Hope Harbour, House of Mercy, Salvation Army, Valley Interfaith Promise, and Valley Rescue Mission, about 38% of which are adult–only beds (89 beds) and about 62% of which are family beds (146 beds);
- An estimated 34 transitional housing beds through House of TIME and Open Door Community House (12 beds), all of which are adult–only beds;
- An estimated 202 permanent supportive housing beds through House of TIME, the Housing Authority of Columbus, New Horizons Community Service Board, and Stewart Community Home, about 15% of which are family beds (30 beds) and 85% of which are adult–only beds (172 beds);
- An estimated 94 Rapid Re–housing beds provided by Homeless Resource Network and Open Door Community House, about 82% of which are family beds (77 beds) and 18% of which are adult–only beds (17 beds).
- Current programs to reduce poverty through access to education and jobs are provided by the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board and WorkSource Georgia, Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, and nonprofit organizations in the city; and
- MercyMed, Valley Healthcare System, and New Horizons Community Service Board provide sliding scale fee health and mental health programs in Columbus.

Describe the strengths and gaps of the service delivery system for special needs population and persons experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, the services listed above.

The City of Columbus works with community partners to support projects that provide housing and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness. The collaborating organizations and agencies will coordinate funding and resources to make additional beds available to people experiencing homelessness. Efforts include increasing emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing and streamlining the assessment and referral process.

The primary gap in the service delivery system for special needs populations is the lack of funding needed to create additional beds and services. There is also a gap in services delivery for difficult–to–place special needs clients. The lack of supply of high–quality affordable rental and for–sale housing in the city presents another gap in the service delivery system. Additional gaps in the service delivery system discussed by stakeholders include:

- Case management at emergency shelters;
- Resource navigation;
- Services focused on meeting the needs of homeless individuals and chronically homeless individuals and families;
- Job and skills training;

- Community gardens;
- Services for displaced women and children;
- Clothing and laundry services;
- Mental health services; and
- Substance abuse treatment.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs.

Over the next 5 years the city of Columbus will work with city departments and local partners, such as the Housing Authority of Columbus Georgia; Homeless housing and service providers; nonprofit partners; and other local and regional partners to leverage, CDBG, HOME, and ESG funding to address the identified gaps in service delivery.

Each year, the city will consider projects that strengthen opportunities for collaboration among the city and its partners. Further, the city may use CDBG and ESG funding to support projects that provide basic needs to support people experiencing homelessness and transitioning to permanent housing, including job training, food, education, childcare, transportation and other services.

SP-45 Goals Summary – 91.215(a)(4)

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	CDBG: \$978,640 HOME: \$4,437,630	Rental units constructed: 5 housing units Homeowner Housing Added: 25 housing units
2	Housing Rehabilitation	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$1,600,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 120 housing units
3	Blight Removal	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Blight Removal	CDBG: \$1,000,000	Buildings Demolished: 50 buildings

4	Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	CDBG: \$1,750,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 5,000 persons assisted
5	Public Services	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development Homelessness Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Public Services	CDBG: \$1,386,275	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 13,580 persons assisted Businesses assisted: 5 businesses assisted
6	Fair Housing	2021	2025	Other: Fair Housing	Citywide	Fair Housing	CDBG: \$30,000	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 260 persons assisted
7	COVID-19 Response	2021	2025	Other: COVID-19 Response	Citywide	COVID-19 Response	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 persons assisted

8	Expanding the Availability of Homeless Services and Housing	2024	2025	Homelessness	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Homelessness	ESG: \$291,864	Homeless Overnight Shelter: 40 persons assisted Rapid Rehousing: 5 persons assisted Homelessness Prevention: 5 persons assisted
9	Program Administration	2021	2025	Other: Program Administration	Citywide	Program Administration	CDBG: \$1,648,365 HOME: \$493,065	N/A

Table 54 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

Goal 1: Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply

Development of new single-family and multifamily affordable housing units for both homeownership and rental, to include elderly housing units and units produced by qualifying Community Housing Development Organizations.

Goal 2: Housing Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of homeowner housing to benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Supportive programs and services to increase housing access and safety, including accessibility modifications to existing homes, down-payment assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, and lead-based paint testing.

Goal 3: Blight Removal

Blight removal in older neighborhoods to remove uninhabitable structures, improve community aesthetics and reduce crime.

Goal 4: Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements

Promote quality of life and neighborhood revitalization through improvements to current public infrastructure and facilities.

Goal 5: Public Services

Services provided by nonprofit organizations that benefit low-income residents such as homeless, youth, disabled, elderly, and other special populations.

Goal 6: Fair Housing

Provide services to residents and housing providers to advance fair housing.

Goal 7: COVID-19 Response

Funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 such as temporary rent, mortgage or utility assistance; financial assistance to small businesses, and other pandemic-related community support.

Goal 8: Expanding the Availability of Homeless Services and Housing

Support services provided by nonprofit organizations that benefit homeless, youth, disabled, elderly, and other special populations.

Goal 9: Program Administration

Plan and administer funding for community development and housing activities with transparency, community involvement, and full compliance with federal regulations.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2)

The City of Columbus will provide affordable housing for an estimated 150 individuals or families during the 2021 through 2025 program years. This includes approximately 120 families assisted through homeowner rehabilitation, 25 new affordable units added for homeownership, and 5 affordable rental units to be developed.

SP-50 Public Housing Accessibility and Involvement – 91.215(c)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement)

All new federally assisted developments are required to design 5% of all units as accessible units for persons with disabilities. Two percent (2%) of all new units are required to be accessible for persons with visual impairments. As the HACG continues the RAD conversion or demolition of its public housing, all new developments will abide by these federal regulations.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

The HACG offers a voluntary Family Self-Sufficiency program to help residents achieve increased financial stability over a 5-year period. The program offers career counseling and job readiness programs, credit, and money management courses, as well as childcare and transportation assistance. The HACG also partners with several local agencies to provide a wide range of programs for participants. Resident programs include arts and crafts through the Columbus Museum, food assistance through Feeding the Valley, instruction on cooking on a budget through the UGA Extension office, health screenings through Piedmont Hospital, and credit repair with NeighborWorks. The HACG also offers gardening, diaper programs, and youth activities, among other programs.

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

As a Moving To Work agency, the HACG is no longer scored through the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS).

Plan to remove the ‘troubled’ designation:

Not applicable.

SP-55 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.215(h)

Barriers to Affordable Housing

Stakeholders identified the city’s property tax structure as a major barrier to affordable housing in Columbus. Under the current property tax structure, homeowners receive a homestead exemption based upon the year of purchase. The assessed value of the home is “frozen” from the year of purchase, producing a fixed tax payment for the entirety of the owner’s tenure in the home. Using this tax structure, property taxes only

increase on a residential property when the property is sold or improved, or when the overall tax rate is adjusted. The property tax “freeze” has been in effect since 1983.²⁴

In 2016, Columbus citizens voted against a proposition to “Thaw the Freeze.” Many citizens saw the proposal as an effort to raise taxes, particularly on older residents. While changing the property tax policy is likely to raise taxes on long-standing homeowners, stakeholders note that the tax policy limits the city’s overall revenues, which has produced subsequent effects on the quality of city services provided to residents. Proponents of an alternate tax policy also state that the current property tax structure places a disproportionate amount of tax burden on the city’s newer homeowners. Much of the region’s residential growth has occurred in adjacent jurisdictions such as Russell County (AL), Lee County (AL) and Harris County (GA). Stakeholders note that these adjacent areas offer large lots, large homes, placement in high performing school systems or proximity to Ft. Benning. An ideal property tax structure will help retain affordability for seniors or other low-income households while offering property taxes and public services for new homeowners that are competitive with adjacent jurisdictions.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

In 2016, Columbus proposed a ballot measure that would alter the city’s current property tax structure, removing the property tax freeze for future home buyers. A proposed alternative would allow the city to grandfather the tax freeze for all home purchases made before a selected year. Purchased made after the selected year would receive an additional \$6,500 with their standard homestead exemption.²⁵

Despite efforts to offer an alternative property tax structure with a grandfathered property tax freeze for most residents, voters opposed the proposal. Stakeholders in the community engagement process noted that the benefits of altering the property tax structure were not well communicated, unlike the benefits of other approved tax measures such as T-SPLOST and E-SPLOST.

SP-60 Homelessness Strategy – 91.215(d)

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City of Columbus is a member of the Columbus-Muscogee Continuum of Care. One of the City’s priorities for the 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan is to expand the availability of homeless services and housing. Activities funded under this priority may include outreach to unsheltered homeless persons. House of Mercy, SAFE

²⁴ Wright, Ben. “Two sides of ‘Thaw the Freeze’ considered at forum.” (September 20, 2016) Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. <https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/article103074897.html>

²⁵ Blair, Benjamin F. (March 2015) “Community Information Brief – The Muscogee County Property Tax Freeze Part 4: An Analysis of a Proposed Alternative.” The Butler Center for Business and Economic Research – Columbus State University. <https://turner.columbusstate.edu/docs/butler-center/research-publications/brief-4.pdf>

HOUSE, Salvation Army, and Valley Rescue Mission will continue to offer outreach to people experiencing homelessness by providing food, clothing, and other resources.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City may fund facility improvements or services provided by emergency or transitional housing providers over the next five years under the priority of expanding the availability of homeless services and housing. The City of Columbus 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2010) designated ‘rapid re-housing into transitional and permanent housing’ as a key strategy in ending homelessness in the city. Action items related to transitional housing and emergency shelter include increasing the supply of transitional housing and development of additional emergency shelter beds.

House of Mercy, Valley Rescue Mission, Hope Harbour, Salvation Army, and other providers will continue to provide emergency and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

The City of Columbus and the Columbus–Muscogee Continuum of Care support a Housing First model that prioritizes permanent housing and offers case management and other support services. The City of Columbus 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2010) designated ‘rapid re-housing into transitional and permanent housing’ as a key strategy in ending homelessness in the city. Action items related to permanent housing include conducting a market study to determine the availability of affordable housing and increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing. One of the Continuum of Care’s priorities is to increase access to affordable and permanent supportive housing.

Over the next five years, the City will continue to support the Continuum of Care and homeless service providers that recognize the need to shift focus and resources to long-term, permanent housing in order to end homelessness. In particular, the Continuum of Care has prioritized permanent housing through organizations such as Stewart Community Home, New Horizons Community Service Board, and House of TIME.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

Housing and service providers in Columbus work together to prevent homelessness in populations who are vulnerable to or at risk of homelessness, including extremely low-income individuals and families, people discharged from institutions, and those receiving assistance from agencies addressing a variety of needs, such as housing, health, social services, education, or youth needs. The City of Columbus 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2010) designated prevention and intervention programs as key strategy in ending homelessness. The plan's action items related to prevention and intervention include development of a detox program for people at risk of homelessness, development of programs to overcome barriers to accessing housing and employment, childcare, and rent and utility assistance, among others.

Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, St. Anne Outreach, Salvation Army, Valley Rescue Mission, and other service providers offer rent, mortgage, and utility assistance in the city. Columbus Consolidated Government has offered rental assistance through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SP-65 Lead based paint Hazards – 91.215(i)

Actions to address LBP hazards and increase access to housing without LBP hazards:

The City of Columbus follows HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule requirements in all of the City's federally funded affordable housing development activities. The rule includes requirements for disclosure of lead-based paint hazards, risk assessment, evaluation, hazard reduction, interim controls, maintenance, and rehabilitation of properties. The Georgia Department of Public Health West Central Health District conducts home investigations to find lead sources in homes when a child has a confirmed elevated blood lead level as part of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

The City of Columbus reduces risk of lead poisoning and hazards by following the Lead Safe Housing Rule requirements in federally funded housing activities and through the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The Lead Safe Housing Rule is designed to reduce hazards relating to lead-based paint in housing, which include irreversible health effects, brain and nervous system damage, reduced intelligence, and learning disabilities. Children, pregnant women, and workers are most at risk of experiencing negative health effects resulting from exposure to lead-based paint hazards. More than 20 million homes in the United States built before 1978 contain lead-based paint hazards. For these reasons, it is vital that the City of Columbus reduce lead-based paint hazards in all federally funded housing activities.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

The City of Columbus integrates Lead Safe Housing Rule requirements into housing policies and procedures by following HUD's Lead Safe Housing Rule requirements in all of the City's federally funded affordable housing development activities.

SP-70 Anti-Poverty Strategy – 91.215(j)

Jurisdiction Goals, Programs and Policies for reducing the number of Poverty-Level Families

An estimated 20.7% of Columbus residents were living below the poverty level in the past 12 months, above the statewide poverty rate of 15.1%, according to American Community Survey 5–Year Estimates for 2015–2019. The city’s poverty rate has increased since the 2008–2012 ACS estimates, when it was estimated at 18.8%. The Columbus Consolidated Government 2038 Comprehensive Plan, the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017), and the Columbus 2025 plan (Regional Prosperity Initiative: A Vision for a Greater Columbus) detail goals related to reducing poverty, including:

Economic and Workforce Development

- Maintain connections with local employers to ensure that skills needed are addressed in workforce training initiatives (Employer Committee, Technical College, Dept of Labor).
- Facilitate and encourage programs within the local school systems – Dual Enrollment/Move On When Ready.
- Support the transition from military to civilian jobs.
- Encourage apprenticeships and internships for businesses to teach high school and college aged students; develop region-wide mentoring programs to include internships and apprenticeships.
- Create a comprehensive cradle-to-career (C2C) partnership to align education, training, business, and social services around increasing talent levels in Greater Columbus.
- Ensure that three- and four-year-olds have access to high-quality early childhood education.
- Ensure that infants, toddlers, and expecting parents have access to comprehensive child development and family support services.
- Expand efforts to introduce students to education and career possibilities from a young age.
- Leverage existing programs to coordinate a community-wide mentoring program for at-risk K12 students.
- Launch a broad-based adult education campaign to connect individuals who did not complete high school or college coursework with opportunities for advancement and employment.
- Connect business and education providers to develop post-secondary programs and high school curricula that support target business growth and introduce young people to job opportunities.
- Challenge the region’s business community to leverage, expand, and develop internship and apprenticeship opportunities for high school and college students.
- Develop a formal retention program for individuals retiring from or exiting the military.
- Welcome and engage new residents who move to Greater Columbus with a relocating family member.
- Efforts shall be made to direct technical and business assistance, such as Section 108 loan repayments.

Housing

- Create and/or preserve affordable housing, such as housing rehabilitation assistance, down payment and/or closing cost assistance, and new construction.
- Efforts shall be made to demolish vacant and/or unsafe structures.

Homelessness

- Preserve short-term and long-term homeless facilities and associated services.

Other

- Expand and continue non-housing community development supportive services.
- Maintain (and possibly expand) administrative and planning costs to operate the CDBG and HOME programs successfully.

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan?

The housing affordability, workforce development, and homelessness programs detailed in this plan aim to support the achievement of housing and economic development goals for the city and region. The goal of expanding housing choice and affordability is central to goals detailed in both the City's Comprehensive Plan and this Consolidated Plan. The City will continue to fund services to assist individuals in obtaining housing and employment and in meeting other needs.

In addition to resources available through economic development programs and general public services, assistance focused on reducing poverty is offered through homelessness service providers in the city of Columbus. For example, House of Mercy, Valley Rescue Mission, Hope Harbour, Salvation Army, and other providers offer emergency and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

SP-80 Monitoring – 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures that the jurisdiction will use to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and will use to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements.

The city's monitoring process requires recipients of CDBG, HOME, or ESG funding to submit quarterly and year-end reports to the city's Community Reinvestment Department, describing client demographics and the number of clients served. Housing providers receiving HOME funds must provide data for tenants who receive federal grant funds to ensure that the recipients meet income eligibility requirements. Community Reinvestment staff conduct regular reviews of CDBG, HOME, and ESG expenditures by monitoring reimbursement requests and tracking correspondence with grantees. Staff also conduct annual on-site monitoring visits for all developers, sub-recipients, and projects to ensure compliance with HUD regulations. In November 2020, the city adopted additional policies to aid disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), including small, women-owner and minority owned businesses (see Sec. 2-3-7, Article 10, Columbus Code of Ordinances). This policy encourages the use of DBEs for a minimum percentage of city contracts and prohibits discrimination based on race, color,

national origin, religion, age, sex, or disability.

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

The City of Columbus receives annual allocations of CDBG and HOME funds for housing construction, rehabilitation initiatives, public services, economic development, and other eligible activities. These funding sources are expected to remain available over the next five years. Table 55 below shows the City’s CDBG and HOME allocations for the 2021 program year, along with an estimate of anticipated grant funding for the remaining four years covered by this Consolidated Plan. This estimate assumes level CDBG and HOME funding over those four years equivalent to the 2021 allocations.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Expected Amount Available Year 1				Expected Amount Available Remainder of Con Plan	Narrative Description
			Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$		
CDBG	Public – federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	\$1,672,656	\$0	\$0	\$1,672,656	\$6,720,624	Block grant from HUD to address housing, community development and economic development needs in the City.
HOME	Public – federal	Acquisition Homebuyer rehabilitation and	\$986,139	\$0	\$0	\$986,139	\$3,944,556	Grant from US Department of Housing and Urban Development to address affordable

		down payment assistance						housing needs in the City.
		Multifamily rental new construction						
		Multifamily rental rehab						
		New construction for ownership						

Table 55 – Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied.

The nonprofit organizations receiving CDBG and HOME funds from the City as subrecipients have additional financial capacity through foundation support and fundraising campaigns. These external resources extend the reach and scale of City-funded programs. In addition, the City proactively encourages applicants and subrecipients to seek out other public and private resources that address the needs and goals identified in the Consolidated Plan. Federal funds provide these organizations with the opportunity to expand their services to benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

HUD's HOME Program typically requires a 25% match from non-federal fund sources, however, HUD has issued Columbus a 50% HOME match reduction due to "fiscal distress" criteria, namely, that the City's percentage of persons in poverty exceeds 125% of the average national rate. The match reduction requires that the City effectively match only 12.5% of its HOME allocation. To meet the match requirement, the City requires organizations who receive HOME funding to provide the necessary match using non-federal funds, which is verified through a report submitted to the City on an annual basis.

If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

The City continues to identify properties in its portfolio that can be surplus and conveyed as affordable housing or other beneficial uses for the community. Additionally, the Columbus Land Bank Authority has a stated goal of providing land to be used in the creation of affordable housing and jobs for LMI citizens through residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Discussion

Substantial Amendment

A detailed breakdown of the funding years, amounts, and projects from which the prior year resources are being moved in this Substantial Amendment is provided below.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Year / Organization / Activity / Project Description / Amount

2015 City of Columbus Demolition Demolition – Elimination of Slum and Blight (\$3,075.20)

2015 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$80,852.21)

2016 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$72,994.98)

2017 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$4,287.60)

2018 City of Columbus Public Facilities ADA Accessible Playground Equipment (\$91,865.21)

2019 City of Columbus Demolition Demolition – Elimination of Slum and Blight (\$15,330.10)

- 2019 City of Columbus Economic Development Economic Development / Job Training (\$70,000.00)
- 2019 City of Columbus Acquisition / Disposition Land Banking Activities (\$175,154.44)
- 2020 City of Columbus Demolition Demolition – Elimination of Slum and Blight (\$101,000.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Public Facilities ADA Accessible Playground Equipment (\$362,633.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Acquisition / Disposition Property Acquisition (\$170,357.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Lead Based Paint Testing Program (\$20,000.00)
- 2020 City of Columbus Section 3 Job Training (\$30,000.00)
- 2020 Housing Authority Columbus Georgia Affordable Housing Chase Homes Redevelopment (\$250,000.00)

Total Recaptured Prior-Year CDBG Funding: \$1,447,549.74

NOTE: The City is also reprogramming an additional \$806,437.90 in PY 2021 CDBG funds to other PY 2021 projects. These reprogramming's within PY 2021 do not add new resources to the plan and are not included in the totals here. The specific PY 2021 projects affected are shown in the ES-05 attachment and listed in AP-35.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply	CDBG: \$195,728 HOME: \$887,526	Rental units constructed: 1 housing units Homeowner Housing Added: 5 housing units Buildings acquired/disposed: 1 housing unit
2	Housing Rehabilitation	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$320,000	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 24 housing units
3	Blight Removal	2021	2025	Affordable Housing	Citywide	Blight Removal	CDBG: \$200,000	Buildings Demolished: 10 buildings

					South Columbus NRSA			
4	Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements	CDBG: \$350,000	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 1,000 persons assisted
5	Public Services	2021	2025	Non-Housing Community Development Homelessness Non-Homeless Special Needs	Citywide South Columbus NRSA	Public Services	CDBG: \$277,255	Public service activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 2,716 persons assisted Businesses assisted: 1 business assisted
6	Fair Housing	2021	2025	Other: Fair Housing	Citywide	Fair Housing	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 persons assisted
7	COVID-19 Response	2021	2025	Other: COVID-19 Response	Citywide	COVID-19 Response	CDBG: \$0	Public service activities other than Low/ Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 0 persons assisted

8	Program Administration	2021	2025	Other: Program Administration	Citywide	Program Administration	CDBG: \$329,673 HOME: \$98,613	N/A
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Table 56 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

Goal 1: Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply

Development of new single-family and multifamily affordable housing units for both homeownership and rental, to include elderly housing units and units produced by qualifying Community Housing Development Organizations.

Goal 2: Housing Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation of homeowner housing to benefit extremely low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Supportive programs and services to increase housing access and safety, including accessibility modifications to existing homes, down-payment assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, and lead-based paint testing.

Goal 3: Blight Removal

Blight removal in older neighborhoods to remove uninhabitable structures, improve community aesthetics and reduce crime.

Goal 4: Infrastructure and Public Facility Improvements

Promote quality of life and neighborhood revitalization through improvements to current public infrastructure and facilities.

Goal 5: Public Services

Services provided by nonprofit organizations that benefit low-income residents such as homeless, youth, disabled, elderly, and other special populations.

Goal 6: Fair Housing

Provide services to residents and housing providers to advance fair housing.

Goal 7: COVID-19 Response

Funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 such as temporary rent, mortgage or utility assistance; financial assistance to small businesses, and other pandemic-related community support.

Goal 8: Program Administration

Plan and administer funding for community development and housing activities with transparency, community involvement, and full compliance with federal regulations.

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

Substantial Amendment

The following projects have been canceled and removed from this plan:

- 3 – Demolitions
- 4 – Recreational Facilities
- 8 – Lead-Based Paint Testing Program
- 9 – Section 3 Training

The following new projects have been added to this plan:

- 13 – Wynnton Road Retaining Wall
- 14 – Neighborhood Facility Renovation: Fox Community Center
- 15 – 5th Street, Street Continuance
- 16 – 19th Street Flood Abatement
- 17 – BTW South Affordable Housing Development Phase 1

The projects listed below represent the activities Columbus plans to undertake during the 2021 program year to address the goals of providing decent safe and affordable housing, promoting a suitable living environment and encouraging investment in infrastructure.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	CDBG Administration
2	Public Service Grants
3	Demolitions
4	Recreational Facilities
5	Property Acquisition/Disposition

6	Minor Home Repair Program
7	Accessibility Home Compliance Program
8	Lead-Based Paint Testing Program
9	Section 3 Training
10	HOME Program Administration
11	Affordable Housing Development
12	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Reserve

Table 57 - Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs:

The City’s allocation priorities reflect its focus on highest-priority needs. Priority needs were identified through data analysis, extensive community engagement, public survey results, consultation with stakeholders, and reviews of other plans and studies developed for Columbus and the region. The key strategic priorities that emerged from the Consolidated Plan process are listed below:

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	CDBG Administration
	Target Area	Citywide
	Goals Supported	Program Administration
	Needs Addressed	Program Administration
	Funding	\$329,673.20
	Description	CDBG Program Administration
	Target Date	June 30, 2022
	Location Description	Department of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate, 420 10 th Street, Columbus, GA 31901
	Planned Activities	Salaries, office supplies, advertising, travel, appraisals, printing, cost allocations, etc.
2	Project Name	Public Service Grants
	Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA

Goals Supported	Public Services
Needs Addressed	Public Services
Funding	\$247,254.90
Description	Provision of broad public services covering health, education and homelessness.
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	2,716 persons assisted
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Education and career development, healthcare programming, rapid re-housing, drug testing analysis, financial and wealth building, mentoring, virtual learning programs, CoC and homeless programs, PATH stability program, tutorial program, trade-skill training
3 Project Name	Demolitions
Target Area	Citywide
	South Columbus NRSA

Goals Supported	Blight Removal
Needs Addressed	Blight Removal
Funding	\$200,000
Description	Demolition of dilapidated structures
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	10 buildings
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Demolition
4 Project Name	Recreational Facilities
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Infrastructure and Public Facilities Improvements
Needs Addressed	Infrastructure and Public Facilities Improvements

Funding	\$350,000
Description	Improvements to recreational facilities in low-to-moderate income census tracts.
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	1,000 persons assisted
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	ADA accessibility restroom upgrades
5 Project Name	Property Acquisition/Disposition
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Needs Addressed	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Funding	\$195,727.90

Description	Acquisition/Disposition
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	1 unit
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Acquisition/Disposition
6 Project Name	Minor Home Repair Program
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
Funding	\$150,000
Description	The Continuing Hope Program (formerly known as Project Care) will assist income eligible homeowners with much needed repair, maintenance, weatherization, safety, and beautification of homes.

Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	8 household housing units
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Home repair and maintenance activities
7 Project Name	Accessibility Home Compliance Program
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
Funding	\$150,000
Description	Provision of accessibility upgrades to income eligible households
Target Date	June 30, 2022

Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	15 household housing units
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Provision of accessibility upgrades to income eligible households
8 Project Name	Lead-Based Paint Testing Program
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Housing Rehabilitation
Needs Addressed	Housing Rehabilitation
Funding	\$20,000
Description	Provision of lead-based paint testing to income eligible households.
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	1 household housing unit

Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Provision of lead-based paint testing to income eligible households.
9 Project Name	Section 3 Training
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Program Administration
Needs Addressed	Program Administration
Funding	\$30,000
Description	Section 3 Training
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	1 business assisted
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	The City will work with a subrecipient to certify Section 3 businesses and to provide training to low-income individuals to be registered as Section 3-certified residents.

10 Project Name	These businesses and individuals will be referred to developers and contractors who are hired to work on HOME and CDBG projects. HOME Program Administration
Target Area	Citywide
Goals Supported	Program Administration
Needs Addressed	Program Administration
Funding	\$98,613
Description	HOME Program Administration
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	
Location Description	Department of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate, 420 10 th Street, Columbus, GA 31901
Planned Activities	Salaries, office supplies, advertising, travel, appraisals, printing, cost allocations, etc.

11 Project Name	Affordable Housing Development
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA
Goals Supported	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Needs Addressed	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Funding	\$739,605.15
Description	Development of affordable single-family rental and elderly units
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	5 household housing units
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Development of affordable single-family rental and elderly units
12 Project Name	Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Reserve
Target Area	Citywide South Columbus NRSA

Goals Supported	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Needs Addressed	Expansion of Affordable Housing Supply
Funding	\$147,920.85
Description	Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of homebuyer properties
Target Date	June 30, 2022
Estimate the number and type of persons that will benefit from the proposed activity	1 household housing unit
Location Description	Citywide
Planned Activities	Acquisition and/or rehabilitation of homebuyer properties

Table 58 – Projects

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed:

The City has identified two geographic areas where CDBG and HOME funding will be directed: the Citywide target area and the new South Columbus NRSA. The Citywide target area encompasses the entirety of the City of Columbus, allowing the City to direct CDBG and HOME funds to eligible activities throughout the city. Within the Citywide target area, neighborhoods where the percentage of LMI persons is 51% or higher will be prioritized for CDBG funding. The South Columbus NRSA is a smaller area, entirely within the city limits, and is home to approximately 10.8% of the city's total population. An estimated 72.0% of the residents in the South Columbus NRSA have low or moderate incomes. Eligible activities within both the South Columbus NRSA and Citywide target area include community facilities and improvements, housing rehabilitation and preservation, affordable housing development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
South Columbus NRSA	20%
Citywide	80%

Table 59 – Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically:

In keeping with the intent and regulations of the federal CDBG and HOME Programs, the City of Columbus will focus its funding in neighborhoods that are predominately composed of low- and moderate-income households and that have substantial needs related to housing quality and affordability, public facilities and infrastructure, and economic development.

The system for establishing the priority for the selection of these projects in Columbus is predicated upon the following criteria:

- Meeting the statutory requirements of the CDBG program
- Meeting the needs of LMI residents
- Prioritizing investment in the South Columbus NRSA
- Focusing on LMI areas or neighborhoods
- Coordination and leveraging of resources

- Response to expressed needs
- Sustainability and/or long-term impact
- The ability to demonstrate measurable progress and success

Priority CDBG funding areas include areas where the percentage of LMI persons is 51% or higher.

Discussion

While the City will allocate CDBG funding to projects and activities throughout Columbus, the City proposes as part of the 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan, to designate a new Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) in South Columbus. The South Columbus NRSA is located west of Interstate 185 roughly bound by Brown Avenue and Lumpkin Road on the west, State Spur 22 in the north, and Fort Benning in the south. The portion of the NRSA east of Interstate 185 is bound generally by Old Cusseta Road on the north and east and by Fort Benning in the south. The area is comprised primarily of residential neighborhoods and neighborhood commercial shopping centers. Neighborhoods in the NRSA include Wynnton, Willett, and Avondale Heights. According to HUD’s low/moderate income data based on the 2015 ACS, nearly three quarters (72.0%) of residents in the South Columbus NRSA have low or moderate incomes. Residents with low or moderate incomes comprise a significantly larger share in the NRSA compared to the overall population of the city where roughly a third of all residents have low or moderate incomes (39.9%).

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing – 91.220(g)

Introduction

Over the next program year, the City of Columbus anticipates assisting 13 households at risk of homelessness through tenant-based rental assistance. The city anticipates assisting 24 homeowners with home repairs, 5 homebuyers through the production of affordable for-sale units and acquiring or disposing of 1 housing unit.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	13
Non-Homeless	19
Special-Needs	11
Total	43

Table 60 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	13
The Production of New Units	5
Rehab of Existing Units	24
Acquisition of Existing Units	1
Total	43

Table 61 – One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

Discussion

The estimates in Table 60 and Table 61 above are derived from the anticipated PY 2021 HOME and CDBG projects and activities.

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG) provides publicly supported housing for residents of Columbus. HACG has a Moving To Work (MTW) designation, which allows the housing authority greater flexibility in its use of operating and capital funds and its implementation of policies not typically permitted under HUD regulations.

According to the HACG's most recent approved Moving To Work Report completed in Fall 2019, the agency leased 518 public housing units and 4,282 vouchers, including 1,062 project-based vouchers and 3,220 tenant-based or housing choice vouchers. The HACG also implements several approved MTW activities which expand the types of tenant-based vouchers available to Columbus residents. The "Innovation to Reduce Homelessness" activity provides 150 tenant-based vouchers for chronically homeless families. The "Next Step Vouchers" activity offers 10 tenant-based vouchers for youth aging out of foster care. Finally, the Sponsor-Based Emergency Voucher Program offers 24 tenant-based vouchers for victims of flooding, fire, natural disasters, and condemned housing.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing:

Over the next year, the HACG will prepare its remaining public housing developments for RAD conversion. Activities include the demolition of two units at Warren Williams Homes which have substantial foundation issues. The HACG will also demolish a building at Elizabeth Canty Homes which contains 6 units due to its location in the floodplain and flood risk to residents. Finally, the HACG will submit a RAD application for Patriot Pointe and Columbus Commons.²⁶

The HACG will continue to work on its long-term goals to expand affordable housing supply by acquiring new units, increasing security at existing developments, and installing Wi-fi infrastructure in all HACG developments, in addition to a variety of other policy and programming goals.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership:

Public housing residents are encouraged to become involved in management with the HACG. The housing authority provides a placement for an HACG resident to serve as a commissioner on the HACG leadership team. Residents are also invited to participate in hearing regarding MTW plans and reports. The HACG tracks resident comments and provides a reply, which is recorded in the annual reports. To encourage public housing residents to participate in homeownerships, the HACG offers a voluntary Family Self-Sufficiency

²⁶ HACG. "FY 2022 MTW Annual Plan." <https://www.columbushousing.org/assets/FY-2022-MTW-Annual-Plan---HUD-Approved-6.10.21.pdf>, p. 11

program to help residents achieve increased financial stability over a 5-year period. The program offers career counseling and job readiness programs, credit, and money management courses, as well as childcare and transportation assistance.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance.

Not applicable.

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i)

Introduction

The City of Columbus is a member of the Columbus–Muscookee Continuum of Care, which is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC consists of partner agencies working together to promote access and utilization of their programs. The City of Columbus will continue to partner with the Continuum of Care and local homelessness service providers to achieve the City's homelessness goals.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including:

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

One of the City's priorities for the 2021–2025 Consolidated Plan is to expand the availability of homeless services and housing. Activities funded under this priority may include outreach to unsheltered homeless persons. House of Mercy, SAFE HOUSE, Salvation Army, and Valley Rescue Mission will continue to offer outreach to people experiencing homelessness by providing food, clothing, and other resources.

Actions to address homeless outreach needs in the 2021 program year include:

- Supporting the Continuum of Care by funding homeless outreach services

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City may fund facility improvements or services provided by emergency or transitional housing providers over the next five years under the priority of expanding the availability of homeless services and housing. The City of Columbus 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2010) designated 'rapid re-housing into transitional and permanent housing' as a key strategy in ending homelessness in the city. Action items related to transitional housing and emergency shelter include increasing the supply of transitional housing and development of additional emergency shelter beds.

House of Mercy, Valley Rescue Mission, Hope Harbour, Salvation Army, and other providers will continue to provide emergency and transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs in the 2021 program year include:

- Supporting the PATH Stability Program
- Funding supportive services for victims of domestic violence
- Providing rental assistance
- Conducting rapid re-housing for homeless families

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again:

The City of Columbus and the Columbus–Muscogee Continuum of Care support a Housing First model that prioritizes permanent housing and offers case management and other support services. The City of Columbus 10–Year Plan to End Homelessness (2010) designated ‘rapid re-housing into transitional and permanent housing’ as a key strategy in ending homelessness in the city. Action items related to permanent housing include conducting a market study to determine the availability of affordable housing and increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing. One of the Continuum of Care’s priorities is to increase access to affordable and permanent supportive housing.

Over the next five years, the City will continue to support the Continuum of Care and homeless service providers that recognize the need to shift focus and resources to long-term, permanent housing in order to end homelessness. In particular, the Continuum of Care has prioritized permanent housing through organizations such as Stewart Community Home, New Horizons Community Service Board, and House of TIME.

Actions to assist residents experiencing homelessness in making the transition to permanent housing in the 2021 program year include:

- Supporting the PATH Stability Program
- Funding supportive services for victims of domestic violence
- Providing rental assistance
- Conducting rapid re-housing for homeless families

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs

Housing and service providers in Columbus work together to prevent homelessness in populations who are vulnerable to or at risk of homelessness, including extremely low-income individuals and families, people discharged from institutions, and those receiving assistance from agencies addressing a variety of needs, such as housing, health, social services, education or youth needs. The City of Columbus 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (2010) designated prevention and intervention programs as key strategy in ending homelessness. The plan's action items related to prevention and intervention include development of a detox program for people at risk of homelessness, development of programs to overcome barriers to accessing housing and employment, childcare, and rent and utility assistance, among others.

Chattahoochee Valley Episcopal Ministry, St. Anne Outreach, Salvation Army, Valley Rescue Mission, and other service providers offer rent, mortgage, and utility assistance in the city. Columbus Consolidated Government has offered rental assistance through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actions to prevent homelessness in the 2021 program year include:

- Providing rental assistance
- Conducting rapid re-housing for homeless families

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing – 91.220(j)

Introduction:

Stakeholders identified the city's property tax structure as a major barrier to affordable housing in Columbus. Under the current property tax structure, homeowners receive a homestead exemption based upon the year of purchase. The assessed value of the home is "frozen" from the year of purchase, producing a fixed tax payment for the entirety of the owner's tenure in the home. Using this tax structure, property taxes only increase on a residential property when the property is sold or improved, or when the overall tax rate is adjusted. The property tax "freeze" has been in effect since 1983.²⁷ In 2016, Columbus citizens voted against a proposition to "Thaw the Freeze."

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment:

²⁷ Wright, Ben. "Two sides of 'Thaw the Freeze' considered at forum." (September 20, 2016) Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. <https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/article103074897.html>

In lieu of pursuing any further proposals on property taxes, the City of Columbus is currently pursuing a special local option sales tax (SPLOST) to help cover the cost of renovations to the city’s government building. The sales tax, if approved, would increase the city’s sales tax rate to 9%.²⁸

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

This section details the City of Columbus’s plans to ensure safe and affordable housing for its residents, meet underserved needs, reduce poverty, develop institutional structure, and enhance coordination between public and private sector housing and community development agencies.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs:

Residents and stakeholders who participated in this planning process noted affordable housing that is in good condition as the greatest underserved need in the city. Obstacles to meeting underserved housing needs include:

- High costs of new development and associated need for subsidies for development of new affordable housing, and
- Loss of existing affordable housing due to factors such as increasing rents and aging housing stock in need of rehabilitation.

In addition to needs related to housing affordability, residents and stakeholders emphasized a need for additional facilities and services focused on meeting the needs of low-income residents and people experiencing homelessness. Residents and stakeholders who participated in this planning process noted a particular need for job creation, workforce training, support for entrepreneurs, childcare, and case management.

To develop additional resources to meet affordable housing and homelessness needs, the City of Columbus will fund a variety of projects to support underserved needs such as affordable housing, homelessness, public facilities and infrastructure, and public services.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing:

To maintain and expand the current affordable housing stock, the City of Columbus will work to identify and develop partnerships with nonprofit housing organizations and private agencies with the goal of increasing the supply of affordable housing. These may include LIHTC or other developers considering housing projects

²⁸ Chitwood, Tim. (June 4, 2021) “Sales tax vote to help fund new Government Center is coming. What residents need to know.” Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. <https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/politics-government/article251873813.html>

in the city. The City will also look at using funding or grants that can be leveraged to bring new dollars for affordable housing or homelessness into the community. The City will also continue to increase housing affordability in Columbus through the homebuyer down payment assistance program, tenant-based rental assistance, Continuing Hope Program (critical repairs and/or installations, including heating and air conditioning systems, roofs, flooring, plumbing, electrical updates and repairs, windows and exterior doors), and the Home Access Program (Americans with Disabilities Act modifications for improved accessibility).

In addition to specific programs designed to foster and maintain affordable housing, the City will review its zoning ordinance for prospective barriers to affordable housing development and make amendments as needed, including possible changes that would decrease costs or risk for multifamily and other affordable housing developments, and identifying zones where multifamily and other affordable housing types, such as accessory dwelling units or smaller homes, may be built as-of-right.

The City is also developing an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice to examine barriers to fair housing and access to opportunity in Columbus. As a result of this study, the City will undertake additional approaches to fostering fair and affordable housing.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards:

An important initiative emanating from HUD in the last decade is the reduction of lead-based paint hazards, and many jurisdictions around the country have focused on reaching this goal. The federal Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992) amends the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act of 1971, which is the law covering lead-based paint in federally funded housing. These laws and subsequent regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (24 CFR part 35) protect young children from lead-based paint hazards in housing that is financially assisted or being sold by the federal government.

Should the City of Columbus undertake any property rehabilitation projects, the City will assess whether lead-based paint might be present and, if so, follow the guidelines set forth in the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992. The City of Columbus is committed to testing and abating lead in all pre-1978 housing units assisted with federal grant funds in any of the housing programs it implements.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families:

The City of Columbus's anti-poverty strategy focuses on helping all low-income households improve their economic status and remain above the poverty level. Current programs to reduce poverty through access to education and jobs are provided by the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Development Board and WorkSource Georgia, Columbus State University, Columbus Technical College, and nonprofit organizations in the city.

Economic development plans for the city and region include strategies to address poverty and support economic and workforce development in the city. A primary goal of the River Valley Regional Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (updated in 2017) is to assist the workforce in the region gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for regional jobs in the 21st Century. Objectives related to this goal include:

- Maintain connections with local employers to ensure that skills needed are addressed in workforce training initiatives (Employer Committee, Technical College, Dept of Labor);
- Facilitate and encourage programs within the local school systems – Dual Enrollment/Move On When Ready;
- Support the transition from military to civilian jobs; and
- Encourage apprenticeships and internships for businesses to teach high school and college aged students; develop region-wide mentoring programs to include internships and apprenticeships.

A primary goal of the Columbus 2025 plan (Regional Prosperity Initiative: A Vision for a Greater Columbus) is to provide a skilled, educated workforce in order to remain competitive. Objectives related to this goal include:

- Create a comprehensive cradle-to-career (C2C) partnership to align education, training, business, and social services around increasing talent levels in Greater Columbus.
- Ensure that three- and four-year-olds have access to high-quality early childhood education.
- Ensure that infants, toddlers, and expecting parents have access to comprehensive child development and family support services.
- Expand efforts to introduce students to education and career possibilities from a young age.
- Leverage existing programs to coordinate a community-wide mentoring program for at-risk K12 students.
- Launch a broad-based adult education campaign to connect individuals who did not complete high school or college coursework with opportunities for advancement and employment.
- Connect business and education providers to develop post-secondary programs and high school curricula that support target business growth and introduce young people to job opportunities.
- Challenge the region's business community to leverage, expand, and develop internship and apprenticeship opportunities for high school and college students.
- Develop a formal retention program for individuals retiring from or exiting the military.
- Welcome and engage new residents who move to Greater Columbus with a relocating family member.

Emergency assistance is also provided by several nonprofit organizations in the city.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure:

The unmet needs of rental housing affordable to low-income residents and social services for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness present an opportunity for the City to connect with organizations, affordable housing developers, and agencies working to address these needs in Columbus. The City will also continue to work within existing partnerships and coalitions, such as the Continuum of Care, to work toward meeting local housing and service needs. The Community Reinvestment Department will continue to work closely with state and local agencies and governments, nonprofit organizations, and other service providers to coordinate delivery of services to city residents. Columbus Consolidated Government will continue to consult with various housing, homelessness, social service, elderly and disability resource agencies to gather data and identify service gaps.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies:

The City of Columbus will continue to be an active participant in the Columbus- Muscogee Continuum of Care. The Continuum of Care brings together nonprofit, government, and business leaders to provide a shared approach to goals of ending homelessness. Membership includes emergency, transitional, and permanent housing providers; nonprofit social service organizations; and government agencies.

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction:

This section describes program specific requirements for CDBG and HOME funds. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income over the 2021 Program Year period is 70.00%.

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	\$0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan	\$0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	\$0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan.	\$0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	\$0
Total Program Income	\$0

Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	\$0
2a. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit – A consecutive period	70%

of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.

2b. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.

2021

Program Year

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME)

Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

No other forms of investment are contemplated for the use in the HOME Program beyond those identified in 92.205.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The City's Home Program Resale/Recapture Provisions are included in the Grantee Unique Appendices attached to this plan document.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

The City's Home Program Resale/Recapture Provisions are included in the Grantee Unique Appendices attached to this plan document.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

The City does not have any plans to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing and therefore does not have any refinancing guidelines for that activity.

COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN
AMENDMENT

RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

Displayed for Public Review and Comment: August 28 – September 27,
2024

Present to City Council for Action: September 24, 2024

Submit to HUD for Review: September 27, 2024

Effective Date:

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A. Introduction

Purpose

AMENDMENT

An amendment is proposed to add a revision consideration under the Consolidated Plan (CP) to be able to amend the CP when new HUD grant programs are added to annual entitlement funds.

Pursuant to the citizen participation requirements of 24 CFR Section 91.105 and 24 CFR Part 5, the Columbus Consolidated Government, hereinafter referred to as the “City”, sets forth the following Citizen Participation Plan as it relates to the administration of the Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Citizen Participation Plan presents the City’s plan for providing for and encouraging all citizens to participate in the development, revision, amendment, adoption, and implementation of:

- 1) The Citizen Participation Plan
- 2) The Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI), or any other successor study or report for the purpose of evaluating the City’s affirmative commitment to fair housing
- 3) The Consolidated Plan (CP)
- 4) The Annual Action Plan (AAP)
- 5) The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), and
- 6) The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Lead Agency

The Community Reinvestment Department is the lead agency responsible for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), including the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME).

Effective Date

Subsequent to approval of this Citizen Participation Plan by the City, the Plan shall be effective until it is amended or otherwise replaced.

B. Encouragement of Citizen Participation

General

The City provides for and encourages citizens to participate in the development, revision, amendment, adoption and implementation of the Citizen Participation Plan, the Assessment of Fair Housing, the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan, and the CAPER. The City encourages participation by low- and moderate-income persons, particularly those living in areas designated as revitalization areas or in slum and blighted areas and in areas where HUD funds are proposed to be used, and by residents of predominantly low- and moderate- income neighborhoods. With respect to the public participation initiatives included in this Plan, the City will take appropriate actions to encourage the participation of all its citizens, including minorities, non-English speaking persons, and persons with disabilities, as described below.

*If virtual hearings are used, real-time responses and accommodation for persons with disabilities and/or with limited English proficiency will be made available to the greatest extent possible. Also, the virtual hearing method will only be used in lieu of an in-person hearing if national or local health authorities recommend social distancing and limit public gatherings for public health reasons.

Non-English Speakers

The City has determined that Spanish speakers who speak English less than very well comprise 2.3% of its population age 5 years and older based on 2009-2014 American Community Survey data.

To encourage these residents to participate in the development of the Assessment of Fair Housing and the Consolidated Plan, the City will undertake the following initiatives in addition to publishing advertisements in the *Ledger-Inquirer* for these activities:

- At least one stakeholder interview or focus group session will be scheduled during the stakeholder consultation processes for each and will focus on persons with limited English proficiency, and

- The City will provide a Spanish version of meeting agendas, handouts and surveys at meetings and stakeholder interviews conducted for each planning process.

Persons with Disabilities

To encourage the participation of persons with disabilities, the City will continue to include the following language in all of its public meeting notices published in the *Ledger-Inquirer*:

The building is handicapped accessible. Persons requiring special accommodations can make arrangements by contacting the Community Reinvestment Department, 420 Tenth Street, Columbus, GA 31901 (phone 706- 653-4613). The City TDD number is 1-800-225-0056.

The City will conduct all public meetings in locations that are handicapped-accessible, when available.

If requested, the City will mail copies of public meeting notices to persons who are homebound, and request such accommodation no less than seven days prior to the public meeting.

Low- and Moderate-Income Persons

When conducting in-person public meetings, the City will conduct at least one public meeting in a neighborhood that contains 51% low- and moderate-income residents based on HUD data, during the development of the Assessment of Fair Housing, the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan.

Organizations and Agencies

The City encourages the participation of local and regional institutions, the Continuum of Care, businesses, developers, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, and community-based and faith-based organizations in the process of developing, revising, amending, adopting and implementing all documents covered by this Plan. This will be achieved through stakeholder interviews, focus groups and/or public meetings held during the development,

revision, amendment, adoption and implementation processes for all documents covered by this Plan.

Local Public Housing Authorities

The City encourages, in consultation with local public housing agencies, the participation of residents of any public housing developments located within the City, in the process of developing, revising, amending, adopting and implementing the documents covered by this Plan. The City will provide information to the executive directors of the Columbus Housing Authority and the Phenix City Housing Authority about the Assessment of Fair Housing, its affirmatively furthering fair housing strategy, and Consolidated Plan activities related to the public housing developments and communities so that the housing authorities can make this information available at the annual public hearings required for their respective Public Housing Authority Plans.

The City encourages participation by resident advisory boards and resident councils of local public housing authorities. This will be carried out by providing to the local housing authorities information on public meetings, surveys and other outreach initiatives related to the documents covered by this Plan.

Public Notices

Public review/comment periods and public hearings held in the process of developing, revising, amending, adopting and implementing the documents covered by this Plan shall be advertised in the *Ledger-Inquirer* no less than seven days before the public review and comment period commences or the public hearing is held.

Public Hearings

All public hearings will be scheduled at times and locations that are convenient for potential and actual program beneficiaries, and with accommodation for persons with disabilities and Spanish speakers in accordance with this Plan.

Technical Assistance

Staff from the Community Reinvestment Department are available to assist organizations and other eligible individuals that are interested in submitting a

proposal to obtain funding through the CDBG and HOME programs. All potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the Department for technical assistance before initiating a funding request application.

Online Access

The City will post draft copies and final copies of all documents covered by this Plan on its website accessible at:

<http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>

Other Engagement Techniques

The Citizen Participation Plan has been and will continue to be amended as the City continues to gain access to technology that improves the avenues of participation by its residents.

City Contact Person

All communication regarding the Citizen Participation Plan, the Assessment of Fair Housing, the Consolidated Plan, the Annual Action Plan, the CAPER, comments, complaints, reasonable accommodation for disabled persons, translation services, or other elements shall be directed to:

Robert Scott

Director of Community Reinvestment and Real Estate

Columbus Consolidated Government

420 10th Street

Columbus, GA 31901

Email: scott.robert@columbusga.org

Phone: (706) 225-3918

C. The Citizen Participation Plan

Plan Development

The City shall follow the following procedure when amending its Citizen Participation Plan.

a. Public Review of the Draft Plan

The draft Citizen Participation Plan will be made available for public review for a 30-day period prior to City consideration and adoption, and may be done concurrently with the public review and comment process for the Consolidated Plan. The Citizen Participation Plan shall be provided in a format accessible to persons with disabilities upon request.

Copies of the draft Citizen Participation Plan will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

b. Public Hearing

The City will conduct a public hearing to accept comments on the draft Citizen Participation Plan prior to its approval and submittal to HUD. This public hearing may be held concurrently with the public hearing held in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan.

c. Comments Received on the Draft Plan

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30- day public review period.

d. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the Plan will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action. A summary of all written comments and those received orally during the public hearing, as well as the City's responses to all written comments, will be attached to the Plan prior to submission to City Council.

e. Submission to HUD

The Citizen Participation Plan will be approved as a stand-alone document and submitted to HUD with a summary of all written comments and those received orally during the public hearing as well as the City's responses to written comments and proof of compliance with the 30-day public review and comment period requirement. A summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore shall be supplied to HUD as well.

Amendments to the Approved Citizen Participation Plan

The City shall follow the following procedure to amend its approved Citizen Participation Plan, as needed.

a. Amendment Considerations

The City will amend the Citizen Participation Plan, as necessary, to ensure adequate engagement and involvement of the public in making decisions related to its HUD programs. Substantial amendments to the Citizen Participation Plan may be required should a provision of the plan be found by the City to conflict with HUD regulations, or when changes in HUD regulations occur. Edits to the Plan that only include updated contact information or editorial changes for clarity will not be released for public review and comment.

*The CARES Act, American Rescue Plan Act, and other federal relief legislation have made available supplemental funding, to include

Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG–CV) and HOME–ARP funds. The federal legislation adds additional flexibility for administration of both the supplemental funding and, in some cases, for the annual HUD entitlement CDBG and HOME grants in these unprecedented times. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days, grantees may use virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons, the public services cap is suspended during the emergency, and States and local governments may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

In addition, the CARES Act authorizes the Secretary of HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements of statutes and regulations the Secretary administers in connection with the use of CDBG–CV funds and HUD fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment). Waivers and alternative requirements can be granted when necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Other similar waivers have been issued by HUD and may be issued in the future concerning other funding streams and program years.

These edits do not change current citizen participation policies but permit modifications to allow for necessary expedited actions during times of declared disaster or emergencies.

b. Draft Amended Plan Review

The draft Amended Citizen Participation Plan will be made available for public review for a 15-day period prior to City consideration and adoption and may be done concurrently with the public review and comment process for the Consolidated Plan. Copies of the draft Amended Citizen Participation Plan will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department

- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

c. Comments Received on Draft Amended Citizen Participation Plan

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the public review period.

d. Public Hearing

The City will conduct a public hearing to review and accept public comments on the draft Amended Citizen Participation Plan prior to its approval and submittal to HUD. This public hearing may be held concurrently with the public hearing held in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan.

e. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the Plan will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

f. Submission to HUD

A copy of the Amended Citizen Participation Plan, including a summary of all written comments and those received during the public hearing as well as the City's responses and proof of compliance with the 15-day public review and comment period requirement, will be submitted to HUD. A summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons therefore shall be supplied to HUD as well.

Plan Access

The approved Amended Citizen Participation Plan will be kept on file at the Community Reinvestment Department office located in the Government Annex Building at 420 Tenth Street, Columbus.

The plan can be accessed online at:

<http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>

Hard copies can be made available to those requesting the approved Amended Plan by contacting the City Contact Person, or a designee.

D. The Fair Housing Study (AFH, AI, or successor study)

Plan Development

The City will follow the process and procedures described below in the development of its Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI), or any other successor study or report for the purpose of evaluating the City's affirmative commitment to fair housing.

a. HUD-approved Data for Public Review

No later than the date of the first public hearing on the AFH/AI (see part c below), the HUD-provided data and other supplemental data will be made available to the general public. The data will be made available online and accessible at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>. This may include a link to HUD's website where the data can be readily accessed. The data will also be made available during the stakeholder consultation and citizen outreach initiatives conducted during the preparation of the AFH/AI.

b. Stakeholder Consultation and Citizen Outreach

In the development of the AFH/AI, the City will consult with other public and private agencies including, but not limited to, the following:

- Local public housing authorities
- Other assisted housing providers
- Social service providers including those focusing on services to minorities, families with children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, homeless persons, and other protected classes

- Community-based and regionally-based organizations that represent protected class members and organizations that enforce fair housing laws
- Regional government agencies involved in metropolitan-wide planning and transportation responsibilities

A variety of mechanisms may be utilized to solicit input from these entities. These include telephone or personal interviews, mail surveys, internet-based feedback and surveys, focus groups, and/or consultation workshops.

c. Public Hearings

To obtain the views of the general public on fair housing-related data and affirmatively furthering fair housing in the City's housing and community development programs, the City will conduct at least two public hearings on the AFH/AI.

The first public hearing shall be held before the draft AFH/AI is published for comment, and will solicit input on fair housing issues in the City.

The second public hearing will be conducted during or after the 30-day public comment period during which the City will address identified factors contributing to fair housing issues, and proposed fair housing goals and priorities for affirmatively furthering fair housing.

d. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft AFH/AI will be placed on display for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary of the content and purpose of the draft AFH/AI, the dates of the public display and comment period, the locations where copies of the proposed document can be examined, how comments will be accepted, when the document will be considered for action by Council, and the anticipated submission date to HUD. Copies of the draft AFH/AI will be made available for public review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

In addition, the City will make available a reasonable number of free copies of the proposed document to residents and groups that request them.

e. Comments Received on the Draft Fair Housing Study

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30- day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing, or orally at the public hearings, in preparing the final AFH/AI. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final AFH/AI for submission to City Council and to HUD.

f. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the AFH/AI will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

g. Submission to HUD

The Assessment of Fair Housing will be submitted to HUD no less than 270 days before the start of the City's five-year program cycle beginning in 2021. Thereafter, the AFH will be submitted to HUD no less than 195 calendar days before the start of the City's five-year program cycle beginning in 2026. Unless HUD requires or releases guidance indicating otherwise, an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice or other successor fair housing study may be prepared by the City concurrently with the Consolidated Plan

covering the same 5-year program cycle; submission to HUD is not required.

Revisions to the Fair Housing Study

The City shall follow the following procedure to revise its AFH/AI, as needed.

a. Revision Considerations

The City will revise its AFH/AI under the following circumstances:

- A material change occurs. A material change is a change in circumstances in the City that affects the information on which the AFH/AI is based to the extent that the analysis, the fair housing contributing factors, or the priorities and goals of the Assessment no longer reflect actual circumstances. Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Presidentially declared disasters, under Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 *et seq.*), in the City that are of such a nature as to significantly impact the steps the City may need to take to affirmatively further fair housing
 - Significant demographic changes
 - New significant contributing factors in the City, and
 - Civil rights findings, determinations, settlements (including voluntary compliance agreements), or court orders
- Upon HUD's written notification specifying a material change that requires the revision.

b. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft Revised AFH/AI will be placed on display for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary of the revisions, the dates of the public display and comment period, the locations where copies of the proposed revised plan can be examined, how comments will be accepted, when the document will be considered for action by City Council, and the

anticipated submission date to HUD, if any. Copies of the draft Revised AFH/AI will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

In addition, the City will make available a reasonable number of free copies of the proposed revised document to residents and groups that request it.

c. Comments Received on the Draft Revised Fair Housing Study

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30- day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing, or orally at public hearings, in preparing the final Revised AFH/AI. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final Revised AFH/AI for submission to HUD.

d. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the Revised AFH/AI will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

e. Submission to HUD

If so required by HUD, the Revised Fair Housing Study will be submitted to HUD within 30 calendar days following the end of the public display and comment period.

Plan Access

The HUD-accepted AFH or final AI will be kept on file at the Community Reinvestment Department office located in the Government Annex Building at 420 Tenth Street, Columbus. The AFH can also be accessed online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>

Hard copies can be made available to those requesting the HUD-accepted AFH or final AI by contacting the City Contact Person, or a designee.

E. The Consolidated Plan (CP)

Plan Development

The City will follow the process and procedures described below in the development of its Consolidated Plan (CP).

The CARES Act, American Rescue Plan Act, and other federal relief legislation have made available supplemental funding, to include Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) and HOME-ARP funds. The federal legislation adds additional flexibility for administration of both the supplemental funding and, in some cases, for the annual HUD entitlement CDBG and HOME grants in these unprecedented times. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days, grantees may use virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons, the public services cap is suspended during the emergency, and States and local governments may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

In addition, the CARES Act authorizes the Secretary of HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements of statutes and regulations the Secretary administers in connection with the use of CDBG-CV funds and HUD fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment). Waivers and alternative requirements can be granted when necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Other similar waivers have been issued by HUD and may be issued in the future concerning other funding streams and program years.

These edits do not change current citizen participation policies but permit modifications to allow for necessary expedited actions during times of declared disaster or emergencies.

a. Stakeholder Consultation and Citizen Outreach

In the development of the CP, the City will consult with other public and private agencies including, but not limited to, the following:

- Local public housing authorities
- Other assisted housing providers
- Social service providers including those focusing on services to minorities, families with children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, homeless persons, and other protected classes
- Community-based and regionally-based organizations that represent protected class members and organizations that enforce fair housing laws
- Regional government agencies involved in metropolitan-wide planning and transportation responsibilities

When preparing the portion of the CP concerning lead-based paint hazards, the City shall consult with local or state health and child welfare agencies and examine existing data related to lead-based paint hazards and poisonings, including health department data on the addresses of housing units in which children have been identified as lead-poisoned.

When preparing the description of priority non-housing community development needs, the City will notify adjacent units of local government, to the extent practicable. This shall involve, at a minimum, the city sending a letter to the chief elected official of each adjacent unit of government notifying them of the draft CP and how to access a copy online for review and comment. In addition, the City will submit its non-housing community development plan to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

A variety of mechanisms may be utilized to solicit input from these persons/service providers/agencies/entities. These include written letters, telephone or personal interviews, mail surveys, internet-based feedback and surveys, focus groups, and/or consultation workshops.

b. Public Hearings

The City will conduct at least two public hearings annually to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions. The first public hearing will be conducted before the CP draft is published for public comment, during which the City will address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, the amount of assistance the City expects to receive (including grant funds and program income), the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit low- and moderate-income residents, and a review of program performance.

The second public hearing will be conducted during or after the 30-day public comment period during which the City will address identified housing and community development needs, proposed eligible activities, and proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing consistent with the Assessment of Fair Housing.

c. Potential Displacement of Persons

Although the City does not anticipate any residential displacement to occur in the foreseeable future, it is required to describe its plans to minimize the displacement of persons and to assist any persons displaced. When displacement is unavoidable on a temporary or permanent basis, the City will comply with the federal Uniform Relocation Act. Should displacement of residents be necessary as a result of the use of funds covered by this Plan, the City shall compensate residents who are actually displaced in accordance with *HUD Handbook No. 1378, Tenant Assistance, Relocation and Real Property Acquisition*. This resource is accessible online at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/hudclips/handbooks/cpd/13780.

d. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft CP will be placed on display for a period of no less than 30 days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary and purpose of the CP; the anticipated amounts of funding (including program income, if any); proposed activities likely to result in displacement, if any; plans for minimizing the displacement of persons as a result of CDBG or HOME activities, if any; plans to assist persons actually displaced by the project, if any; the dates of the public display and comment period; the locations where copies of the draft CP can be examined; how comments will be accepted; when the document will be considered for action by City Council; and, the anticipated submission date to HUD. Copies of the draft CP will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

In addition, the City will make available a reasonable number of free copies of the draft document to residents and groups that request them.

e. Comments Received on the Draft Consolidated Plan

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30- day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing, or orally at the public hearings, in preparing the final CP. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final CP for submission to City Council and to HUD.

f. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the CP will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

g. Submission to HUD

The CP will be submitted to HUD no less than 45 days before the start of the City's five-year program cycle.

Revisions to the Consolidated Plan

The City shall follow the following procedure to revise its CP, as needed.

a. Revision Considerations

There are two types of amendment that may occur with the CP: minor amendments and substantial amendments. An amendment to the approved CP is considered substantial under the following circumstances:

- When an eligible activity is added
- When a change occurs in the priorities established in the CP
- When new HUD grant programs are added to annual entitlement funding

All other changes that do not meet the criteria defined above will be considered minor amendments, will be reviewed and approved by Community Reinvestment Department staff and will not be subject to public comments. These changes will be fully documented and signed by the City Manager.

The City may choose to submit a copy of each amendment to the CP to HUD as it occurs, or at the end of the program year. Letters transmitting copies of amendments will be signed by the City Manager.

b. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft Revised CP will be placed on display for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary of the revisions, the dates of the public

display and comment period, the locations where copies of the proposed

revised CP can be examined, how comments will be accepted, when the document will be considered for action by City Council, and the anticipated submission date to HUD. Copies of the draft Revised CP will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

In addition, the City will make available a reasonable number of free copies to residents and groups that request them.

For projects subject to waivers or other program flexibilities related to pandemic response or other emergency situations, the Columbus Consolidated Government may provide a 5-day notice/comment period for proposed amendments necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergency conditions.

c. Comments Received on the Draft Revised Consolidated Plan

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30-day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing, or orally at public hearings, in preparing the final Revised CP. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final Revised CP for submission to City Council and to HUD.

d. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the Revised CP will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

e. Submission to HUD

The Revised CP will be submitted to HUD within 30 calendar days following the end of the public display and comment period.

Plan Access

The HUD-approved Revised CP will be kept on file at the Community Reinvestment Department office located in the Government Annex Building at 420 Tenth Street, Columbus. The plan can also be accessed online at:

<http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>

Hard copies can be made available to those requesting the HUD-approved CP by contacting the City Contact Person, or a designee.

F. The Annual Action Plan (AAP)

The Annual Action Plan (AAP) is a component of the CP, and it describes the City's proposed use of available federal and other resources to address the priority needs and specific objectives in the CP for each program year; the City's method for distributing funds to local non-profit organizations; and, the geographic areas of the City to which it will direct assistance.

Plan Development

The City will follow the process and procedures described below in the development of its AAP.

The CARES Act, American Rescue Plan Act, and other federal relief legislation have made available supplemental funding, to include Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) and HOME-ARP funds. The federal legislation adds additional flexibility for administration of both the supplemental funding and, in some cases, for the annual HUD entitlement CDBG and HOME grants in these

unprecedented times. The public comment period is reduced to not less than 5 days, grantees may use virtual public hearings when necessary for public health reasons, the public services cap is suspended during the emergency, and States and local governments may reimburse costs of eligible activities incurred for pandemic response regardless of the date.

In addition, the CARES Act authorizes the Secretary of HUD to grant waivers and alternative requirements of statutes and regulations the Secretary administers in connection with the use of CDBG–CV funds and HUD fiscal year 2019 and 2020 CDBG funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment). Waivers and alternative requirements can be granted when necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Other similar waivers have been issued by HUD and may be issued in the future concerning other funding streams and program years.

These edits do not change current citizen participation policies but permit modifications to allow for necessary expedited actions during times of declared disaster or emergencies.

a. Public Hearings

The City will conduct at least two public hearings annually to obtain residents' views and to respond to proposals and questions. The first public hearing will be conducted before the AAP draft is published for public comment, during which the City will address housing and community development needs, development of proposed activities, the amount of assistance the City expects to receive (including grant funds and program income), the range of activities that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount that will benefit low- and moderate-income residents, and a review of program performance.

The second public hearing will be conducted during or after the 30-day public comment period during which the City will address identified housing and community development needs, proposed eligible activities, and proposed strategies and actions for affirmatively furthering fair housing consistent with the Assessment of Fair Housing.

If virtual hearings are used, real-time responses and accommodation for persons with disabilities and/or with limited English proficiency will be made available to the greatest extent possible. Also, the virtual hearing method will only be used in lieu of an in-person hearing if national or local health authorities recommend social distancing and limit public gatherings for public health reasons.

b. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft AAP will be placed on display for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary of the AAP, the anticipated amounts of funding (including program income, if any), the dates of the public display and comment period, the locations where copies of the draft AAP can be examined, how comments will be accepted, when the document will be considered for action by the Columbus City Council, and the anticipated submission date to HUD. Copies of the draft AAP will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

In addition, the City will make available a reasonable number of free copies to residents and groups that request them.

For projects subject to waivers or other program flexibilities related to pandemic response or other emergency situations, the Columbus Consolidated Government may provide a 5-day notice/comment

period for proposed amendments necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergency conditions.

c. Comments Received on the Draft Annual Action Plan

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30- day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing, or orally at the public hearings, in preparing the final AAP. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final AAP for submission to HUD.

d. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the AAP will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

e. Submission to HUD

The AAP will be submitted to HUD no less than 45 days before the start of the City's annual program year.

Revisions to the Annual Action Plan

The City shall follow the following procedure to revise its AAP, as needed.

a. Revision Considerations

There are two types of amendment that may occur with the AAP: minor amendments and substantial amendments. An amendment to the approved AAP is considered substantial under the following circumstances:

- When an eligible activity is added or deleted
- When a change occurs in the purpose, location, or beneficiaries of an activity previously approved
- When a 50 percent change in federal funding occurs where the project is \$25,000 or less

- When a 25 percent change in federal funding occurs where the project is more than \$25,000.

All other changes to the method of distribution or investment strategy that do not meet the criteria defined above will be considered minor amendments, will be reviewed and approved by Community Reinvestment Department staff, and will not be subject to public comments. These changes will be fully documented and signed by the City Manager.

The City may choose to submit a copy of each amendment to the AAP to HUD as it occurs, or at the end of the program year. Letters transmitting copies of amendments will be signed by the City Manager.

b. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft Revised AAP will be placed on display for a period of no less than 30 calendar days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary of the revisions, the dates of the public display and comment period, the locations where copies of the draft AAP can be examined, how comments will be accepted, when the document will be considered for action by the Columbus City Council, and the anticipated submission date to HUD. Copies of the draft Revised AAP will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

In addition, the City will make available a reasonable number of free copies to residents and groups that request them.

For projects subject to waivers or other program flexibilities related to pandemic response or other emergency situations, the Columbus Consolidated Government may provide a 5-day notice/comment period for proposed amendments necessary to expedite and facilitate the use of funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergency conditions.

c. Comments Received on the Draft Revised Annual Action Plan

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30-day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing, or orally at public hearings, in preparing the final Revised AAP. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final Revised AAP for submission to HUD.

d. City Council Action

Following the public hearing, the Revised AAP will be presented to City Council for consideration and formal action.

e. Submission to HUD

The Revised CP will be submitted to HUD within 30 calendar days following the end of the public display and comment period.

Plan Access

The HUD-approved Revised CP will be kept on file at the Community Reinvestment Department office located in the Government Annex Building at 420 Tenth Street, Columbus. The plan can also be accessed online at:

<http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>

Hard copies can be made available to those requesting the HUD-approved Revised AAP by contacting the City Contact Person, or a designee.

G. Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Report Development

The City shall follow the following procedure in the drafting and adoption of its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

a. Report Considerations

The Community Reinvestment Department staff will evaluate and report the accomplishments and expenditures of the previous program year for CDBG and HOME, and draft the CAPER in accordance with HUD requirements.

b. Public Display and Comment Period

The draft CAPER will be placed on display for a period of no less than 15 days to encourage public review and comment. The public notice shall include a brief summary and purpose of the CAPER, a summary of program expenditures, a summary of program performance, the dates of the public display and comment period, the locations where copies of the draft CAPER can be examined, how comments will be accepted, and the anticipated submission date to HUD. Copies of the draft CAPER will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

c. Comments Received on the Draft CAPER

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 15- day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing in preparing the final CAPER. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final CAPER for submission to City Council and to HUD.

d. Submission to HUD

The CAPER will be submitted to HUD no more than 90 days following the end of the City's annual program year.

H. Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Development of Section 108 Loan Guarantee Application

Applications for assistance filed by the City for Section 108 Loan Guarantee assistance authorized under HUD regulation 24 CFR Part 570, Subpart M, are subject to all provisions set forth within this Citizen Participation Plan. Such applications for Section 108 assistance may be included as part of the Consolidated Planning process or may be undertaken separately anytime during the City's program year.

Before the City submits an application for Section 108 loan guarantee assistance, the City will make available to citizens, public agencies and other interested parties information that includes the amount of assistance the City expects to be made available (including program income), the range of activities that may be undertaken, the estimated amount that will benefit persons of low- and moderate-income, and any activities likely to result in displacement.

Public Display and Comment Period

The City will publish its proposed Section 108 loan application for review and comment. The public notice shall include a summary describing the contents and purpose of the application and listing the locations where the entire application may be examined. An application for Section 108 Loan Guarantee funding shall be made available for public review for a 30-day period prior to consideration and

submission to HUD, and may be done concurrently with the public review and comment process for the five-year Consolidated Plan. Copies of the proposed Section 108 loan application will be made available for review at the following locations:

- Online at <http://www.columbusga.org/CommunityReinvestment/>
- 420 10th Street, Columbus Consolidated Government Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Community Reinvestment Department
- 3111 Citizens Way, Columbus Consolidated Government, Citizen Services Center
- 3000 Macon Road, Columbus Public Library
- 640 Veterans Parkway, Mildred L. Terry Public Library
- 5689 Armour Road, North Columbus Public Library
- 2034 South Lumpkin Road, South Columbus Public Library

Comments Received on the Proposed Section 108 Application

Written comments will be accepted by the City Contact Person, or a designee, during the 30-day public display and comment period. The City will consider any comments or views of City residents received in writing in preparing the final application. A summary of these comments or views, and a summary of any comments or views not accepted and the reasons why, will be attached to the final application for submission to HUD.

Submission to HUD

The Section 108 Loan Application will be submitted to HUD.

I. Complaints

Residents may register complaints regarding any aspect of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs by contacting the City Contact Person, or a designee. All written complaints received will be addressed in writing within 15 days.

Residents wishing to object to HUD approval of the final CP may send written objections to the HUD Area Office at Five Points Plaza Building, 40 Marietta Street, Atlanta, GA 30303. Objections should be made within 30 calendar days after the City has submitted the CP to HUD. Any objections made will only be submitted to HUD for the following reasons:

- The applicant's description of needs and objectives is plainly inconsistent with available facts and data
- The activities to be undertaken are plainly inappropriate to meeting the needs and objectives identified by the applicant
- The application does not comply with the requirements of the Community Development Block Grant and/or HOME programs or other applicable laws
- The application proposed activities which are otherwise ineligible under the program regulations.

Objections shall include both an identification of requirements not met and available facts and data.

File Attachments for Item:

3. Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) Grant

Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, funds made available to METRA by the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in the amount of \$297,057 to be used for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed.

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

Item #3.

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) Grant
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, funds made available to METRA by the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in the amount of \$297,057 to be used for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed.
INITIATED BY:	Department of Transportation/METRA

Recommendations: Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, funds made available to METRA by the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in the amount of \$297,057 to be used for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed.

Background: During the 2021 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed HB 511 (as codified at O.C.G.A. § 48-13-141) establishing a Georgia Transit Trust Fund Program as a separate fund in the State Treasury, with annual appropriations made to this fund. Funding is generated by fees placed on for-hire ground transport service and is to be used to fund transit projects within the State of Georgia. Projects proposed must be new, innovative and enhance public transit in Georgia. This funding program is administered through Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Analysis: By approving this request, METRA will be able to apply for this grant and if awarded, use funds to procure and install 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stops as needed.

Financial Considerations: The Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) requires no local match.

Legal Considerations: METRA Transit System has been allocated \$297,057 through the Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP). METRA is eligible to apply for these funds.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to apply for and accept, if awarded, funds made available to METRA by the State Fiscal Year 2025 (SFY25) Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in the amount of \$297,057 to be used for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE TRANSIT TRUST FUND PROGRAM (TTFP) IN AN AMOUNT OF \$297,057 AWARDED TO BE USED FOR THE PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF 360 METAL COMPACT SEATS AT METRA BUS STOP LOCATIONS AS NEEDED.

WHEREAS, during the 2021 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed HB 511 (as codified at O.C.G.A. § 48-13-141) establishing a Georgia Transit Trust Fund Program as a separate fund in the State Treasury, with annual appropriations made to this fund; and,

WHEREAS, funds in the amount up to \$297,057 have been allocated from the State fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) to the Department of Transportation/METRA; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation/METRA shall apply for these funds for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed; and,

WHEREAS, the Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) requires no local match.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the City is hereby authorized to submit an application to Transit Trust Fund Program (TTFP) in an amount up to \$297,057 and if awarded, use funds for the procurement and installation of 360 metal compact seats at METRA bus stop locations as needed.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of September _____ and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Chambers voting _____.
- Councilor Cogle voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor Hickey voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

4. 2023 Brownfield Multipurpose Grant

Approval is requested to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund up to \$1,000,000 for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Multipurpose Grant. The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within Bibb Mill and South Columbus.

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

Item #4.

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	2023 Brownfield Multipurpose Grant
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund up to \$1,000,000 for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Multipurpose Grant. The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within Bibb Mill and South Columbus.
INITIATED BY:	Community Reinvestment

Recommendation: Approval is requested to amend the Multi-Governmental Fund up to \$1,000,000 for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Multipurpose Grant. The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within Bibb Mill and South Columbus.

Background: On October 24, 2023, City Council approved the submission of a rewrite of an Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield assessment and Cleanup Grant award through resolution 395-23. If awarded the Brownfield Assessment Grant would provide up to \$500,000 to conduct environmental studies and perform hazardous cleanup activities on properties located within Columbus, Georgia.

The assessment will provide the City with information on the environmentally contaminated properties that exist within the boundaries along the industrial areas of Bibb Mill and South Columbus, as well as provide resources to mitigate potential hazards. This plan is important in order for the properties to be redeveloped for future uses. In addition to authorizing the submission, Resolution 395-23 also approved amending the multi-governmental fund by \$500,000.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the FY 2024 Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grant Awards. Community Reinvestment was notified that the City of Columbus was selected as a recipient of the grant. The City of Columbus has received \$1,000,000, which exceeded the amount originally approved.

Analysis: The City was awarded \$1,000,000 to conduct assessments of the properties within Bibb Mill and South Columbus to determine how many may be environmentally impacted. The report will be a useful tool for redevelopment purposes. On the back end of the funding, it could be used to potentially remediate some of the potentially identified environmentally contaminated properties.

Financial Considerations: There will be no financial impact. There are no match requirements for this grant.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney will review all grant agreements prior to obtaining the City Manager's signature.

Item #4.

Recommendation/Action: Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within Bibb Mill and South Columbus.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND AMENDMENT OF THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT AWARDED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA). THE GRANT FUNDING WILL BE UTILIZED TO CONDUCT BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS OF PROPERTIES AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES WITHIN BIBB MILL AND SOUTH COLUMBUS.

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced awards for the FY 2024 Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grants; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus was awarded \$1,000,000 to conduct environmental studies and cleanup activities on properties located within Columbus, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the grant funds will assist the City in developing a plan for the remediation of environmentally contaminated properties so these properties can be redeveloped for future uses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

The City Manager is authorized to accept and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a Brownfield Assessment of properties located within Columbus, Georgia.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Chambers voting _____.
- Councilor Cogle voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor Hickey voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

A. Language Services (Annual Contract) – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Purchase

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Language Services (Annual Contract) – Georgia Statewide Cooperative Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve an annual contract for the provision of Language Services from the following suppliers: Language Line Services, Inc. (Monterey, CA), Homeland Language Services, LLC (Oxnard, CA), Propio LS, LLC (Overland Park, KS), PGLS, LLC (Arlington, VA), Ad Astra, Inc. (Silver Spring, MD), Lionbridge Technologies, LLC (Waltham, MA), Masterword Services, Inc. (Houston, TX), Translation Station, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), SOS Agency (Woodstock, GA), Latin American Translators Network (Atlanta, GA) and Interpreters Unlimited (San Diego, CA), via the Georgia State Contract Numbers 99999-001-SPD0000204-01-0001 thru 99999-001-SPD0000204-0011.

The purpose of the contract is to provide translation, interpretation, and sign language services for a plethora of languages such as: ASL, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Hemispheric Indigenous Languages, Chinese, Hmong, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Khmer (Cambodian), Thai, Laotian, Mandarin, Arabic, African Dialects, Russian and Polish. Other languages are available upon request. These services will be utilized by various departments on an “as needed” basis.

Georgia Statewide Contract SWC 99999-001-SPD0000204 is a cooperative contract whereby multiple vendors have been awarded a state contract to provide Language Services. The term of the contract is good through May 14, 2026, with three (3) one-year renewal options. The contract is available for use by any Georgia Governmental entity. The City’s Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Funds will available each fiscal year for this on-going expense for various Departments.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIERS: LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC. (MONTEREY, CA), HOMELAND LANGUAGE SERVICES, LLC (OXNARD, CA), PROPIO LS, LLC (OVERLAND PARK, KS), PGLS, LLC (ARLINGTON, VA), AD ASTRA, INC. (SILVER SPRING, MD), LIONBRIDGE TECHNOLOGIES, LLC (WALTHAM, MA), MASTERWORD SERVICES, INC. (HOUSTON, TX), TRANSLATION STATION, INC. (ATLANTA, GA), SOS AGENCY (WOODSTOCK, GA), LATIN AMERICAN TRANSLATORS NETWORK (ATLANTA, GA) AND INTERPRETERS UNLIMITED (SAN DIEGO, CA), VIA THE GEORGIA STATEWIDE CONTRACT NUMBERS 99999-001-SPD0000204-01-0001 THRU 99999-001-SPD0000204-0011.

WHEREAS, the vendors will provide translation, interpretation, and sign language services for a plethora of languages such as: ASL, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, Hemispheric Indigenous Languages, Chinese, Hmong, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Khmer (Cambodian), Thai, Laotian, Mandarin, Arabic, African Dialects, Russian and Polish. Other languages are available upon request. These services will be utilized by various departments on an “as needed” basis; and,

WHEREAS, Georgia Statewide Contract SWC 99999-001-SPD0000204 is a cooperative contract whereby multiple vendors have been awarded a state contract to provide Language Services. The term of the contract is good through May 14, 2026, with three (3) one-year renewal options. The contract is available for use by any Georgia Governmental entity. The City’s Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to purchase Language Services on an as need basis from the following suppliers: Language Line Services, Inc. (Monterey, CA), Homeland Language Services, LLC (Oxnard, CA), Propio LS, LLC (Overland Park, KS), PGLS, LLC (Arlington, VA), Ad Astra, Inc. (Silver Spring, MD), Lionbridge Technologies, LLC (Waltham, MA), Masterword Services, Inc. (Houston, TX), Translation Station, Inc. (Atlanta, GA), SOS Agency (Woodstock, GA), Latin American Translators Network (Atlanta, GA) and Interpreters Unlimited (San Diego, CA), via the Georgiat State Contract Numbers 99999-001-SPD0000204-01-0001 thru 99999-001-SPD0000204-0011. Funds will be available each fiscal year for this on-going expense for various Departments.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting _____
Councilor Chambers voting _____

Councilor Cogle voting _____
Councilor Crabb voting _____
Councilor Davis voting _____
Councilor Garrett voting _____
Councilor Hickey voting _____
Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Thomas voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

B. Flood Abatement Project 19th Street System – RFB No. 24-0016

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Flood Abatement Project 19 th Street System – RFB No. 24-0016
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of a construction contract with Southeastern Site Development, Inc. (Newnan, GA) in the amount of \$13,590,652.61 for Flood Abatement 19th Street System project.

The scope of work includes: 4,628 feet of 8-foot x 6-foot reinforced concrete box culvert, 128 feet of 84-Inch to 36-Inch, 129 feet of 24-Inch, 50 feet of 18-Inch, 16 feet of 15-Inch reinforced concrete pipe; 49 feet of 48-Inch, 192 feet of 24-inch, 237 feet of 16-Inch Ductile Iron Pipe; cast-in-place structures; precast concrete manholes, catch basins and headwalls; 45 feet of 12-inch and 80 feet of 6-Inch ductile iron pipe water main, including line stops, tapping sleeves & valves, water service changeovers and cleanup & testing of water lines; 229 square yards of light duty pavement replacement, 4,138 square yards of heavy duty pavement replacement and 2,277 square yards of asphalt resurfacing, 2,599 feet of 30-inch curb & gutter, asphalt milling and pavement marking; 5-inch thick concrete sidewalks, pedestrian access ramps and concrete driveway apron; Norfolk Southern railroad crossing; grading of a flood basin, Meritas Mill site and reconstruction of the ball field parking. Erosion, sedimentation & pollution control of the site.

Bid Specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, Georgia Procurement Registry and DemandStar on July 1, 2024. Four bids were received by the due date of August 7, 2024. This bid has been advertised, opened and reviewed. The bidders were:

Contractors	Total Unit Price Bid	DBE Participation
Southeastern Site Development, Inc. (Newnan, GA)	\$ 13,590,652.61	10%
Garney Companies, Inc. (Alpharetta, GA)	\$ 17,131,023.00	10.1%
Kiewit (Peachtree City, GA)	\$ 21,102,903.38	5.32%
North Georgia Pipeline (Fayetteville, GA)	\$ 15,808,329.50	7%

Funds are available in the FY25 Budget as follows:

\$397,658.81: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Paving Fund Supported
Capital Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0508-660-3000-CPPF-7622-21120-20160

\$3,685,301.00: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Paving Fund Supported
Capital Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements – 0508-660-3000-CPPF-7622-21120-20230

\$3,982,371.35: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Paving Fund Supported
Capital Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements – 0508-660-3000-CPPF-7622-21120-20250

\$2,543,401.01: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects –
Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622-53032-20110

\$138,840.85: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects –
Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622-53032-20120

\$1,488,522.00: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects –
Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622-53032-20210

\$1,116,190.29: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects –
Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622– 53032-20250

\$24,150.75: Lease Revenue Bonds/2003A Fund – Finance – Drainage/Street Improvements;
0554-200-2439-CBA-7622-40243-20110

\$139,907.95: Lease Revenue Bonds/2003A Fund – Finance – Drainage/Street Improvements;
0554-200-2439-CBA-7622-40243-20140

\$74,308.60: Lease Revenue Bonds/2003A Fund – Finance – Drainage/Street Improvements;
0554-200-2439-CBA-7622-40243-20250

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH SOUTHEASTERN SITE DEVELOPMENT, INC. (NEWNAN, GA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,590,652.61 FOR THE FLOOD ABATEMENT PROJECT 19TH STREET SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the scope of work includes: 4,628 feet of 8-foot x 6-foot reinforced concrete box culvert, 128 feet of 84-Inch to 36-Inch, 129 feet of 24-Inch, 50 feet of 18-Inch, 16 feet of 15-Inch reinforced concrete pipe; 49 feet of 48-Inch, 192 feet of 24-inch, 237 feet of 16-Inch Ductile Iron Pipe; cast-in-place structures; precast concrete manholes, catch basins and headwalls; 45 feet of 12-inch and 80 feet of 6-Inch ductile iron pipe water main, including line stops, tapping sleeves & valves, water service changeovers and cleanup & testing of water lines; 229 square yards of light duty pavement replacement, 4,138 square yards of heavy duty pavement replacement and 2,277 square yards of asphalt resurfacing, 2,599 feet of 30-inch curb & gutter, asphalt milling and pavement marking; 5-inch thick concrete sidewalks, pedestrian access ramps and concrete driveway apron; Norfolk Southern railroad crossing; grading of a flood basin, Meritas Mill site and reconstruction of the ball field parking. Erosion, sedimentation & pollution control of the site.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute a construction contract with Southeastern Site Development, Inc. (Newnan, GA) in the amount of \$13,590,652.61 for Flood Abatement Project 19th Street System. Funds are available in the FY25 Budget as: \$397,658.81: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Paving Fund Supported Capital Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0508-660-3000-CPPF-7622-21120-20160, \$3,685,301.00: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Paving Fund Supported Capital Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements – 0508-660-3000-CPPF-7622-21120-20230, \$3,982,371.35: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Paving Fund Supported Capital Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements – 0508-660-3000-CPPF-7622-21120-20250, \$2,543,401.01: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622-53032-20110, \$138,840.85: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622-53032-20120, \$1,488,522.00: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622-53032-20210, \$1,116,190.29: 1999 Sales Tax Project Fund – 1999 SPLOST – 1999 SPLOST Projects – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0540-695-2000-TPJT-7622– 53032-20250, \$24,150.75: Lease Revenue Bonds/2003A Fund – Finance – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0554-200-2439-CBA-7622-40243-20110, \$139,907.95: Lease Revenue Bonds/2003A Fund – Finance – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0554-200-2439-CBA-7622-40243-20140, \$74,308.60: Lease Revenue Bonds/2003A Fund – Finance – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0554-200-2439-CBA-7622-40243-20250.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day
of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of
_____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

C. Storm Drain Rehabilitation Through Internal Pipe Lining Priority 1 Pipes (Annual Contract) – RFQ No. 24-0002

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Storm Drain Rehabilitation Through Internal Pipe Lining Priority 1 Pipes (Annual Contract) – RFQ No. 24-0002
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the annual contract for Storm Drain Rehabilitation Through Internal Pipe Lining Priority 1 Pipes with Gulf Coast Underground, LLC (Theodore, AL), Inliner Solutions, LLC (Stone Mountain, GA), Institutorm Technologies, LLC (Chesterfield, MO), SAK Construction, LLC (O’Fallon, MO), Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. (Patterson, GA), Utility Asset Management, Inc. (Perry, GA) and Vortex Services, LLC (Greenville, SC).

The *initial project* will include the installation of cured in-place pipe (CIPP) for approximately 5,100 feet of varying material type storm sewer pipe, ranging in size from 10-inch VCP to 60-inch CMP in diameter. Additionally, the project includes the installation of centrifugally cast cementitious or geopolymer lining (CC) for approximately 2,500 linear feet of storm sewer pipe varying in sizes and material type from 36-inch brick to 46- inch by 72-inch CMP, located throughout Columbus.

Due to the number of anticipated future projects, the Engineering Department determined the City’s best interest would be served by pre-qualifying all responsive vendors and initiate an annual contract. This would allow the City to have On-Call vendors readily available to provide these services. Submitting vendors were contacted and agreed to the annual contract terms. As each project arises, the Engineering Department will request quotes from the pre-qualified vendors.

The initial term of the contract shall be for three (3) years, with the option to renew for two (2) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal will be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor(s).

Specifications were posted on DemandStar, the City’s website and Georgia Procurement Registry on March 5, 2024. RFQ responses were received on April 5, 2024. This bid has been advertised, opened and reviewed. The bidders were:

- Gulf Coast Underground, LLC (Theodore, AL)
- Inliner Solutions, LLC (Stone Mountain, GA)
- Institutorm Technologies, LLC (Chesterfield, MO)
- Michels Trenchless, Inc. (Brownsville, WI)*
- SAK Construction, LLC (O’Fallon, MO)
- Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. (Patterson, GA)
- Utility Asset Management, Inc. (Perry, GA)

Vortex Services, LLC (Greenville, SC)

*Response from Michels Trenchless, Inc., was rejected as it did not include Form 3 – Communication Concerning this Solicitation, a mandatory submission requirement.

Funds for the initial project are available in the FY25 budget as follows: Special Project - Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Sewer Supported Capital Project – Drainage/Street Improvements; 0508-660-2000-CPSF-7622-20770-20230 (\$14,591.24) and 20770-20240 (\$432,880.00).

Funds for future projects will be available as appropriate each fiscal year for this ongoing expense.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR STORM DRAIN REHABILITATION THROUGH INTERNAL PIPE LINING PRIORITY 1 PIPES WITH GULF COAST UNDERGROUND, LLC (THEODORE, AL), INLINER SOLUTIONS, LLC (STONE MOUNTAIN, GA), INSTITUFORM TECHNOLOGIES, LLC (CHESTERFIELD, MO) SAK CONSTRUCTION, LLC (O’FALLON, MO) SOUTHEAST PIPE SURVEY, INC. (PATTERSON, GA), UTILITY ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC. (PERRY, GA) AND VORTEX SERVICES, LLC (GREENVILLE, SC).

WHEREAS, the *initial project* will include the installation of cured in-place pipe (CIPP) for approximately 5,100 feet of varying material type storm sewer pipe, ranging in size from 10-inch VCP to 60-inch CMP in diameter. Additionally, the project includes the installation of centrifugally cast cementitious or geopolymer lining (CC) for approximately 2,500 linear feet of storm sewer pipe varying in sizes and material type from 36-inch brick to 46- inch by 72-inch CMP, located throughout Columbus; and,

WHEREAS, due to the number of anticipated future projects, the Engineering Department determined the City’s best interest would be served by pre-qualifying all responsive vendors and initiate an annual contract. This would allow the City to have On-Call vendors readily available to provide these services. Submitting vendors were contacted and agreed to the annual contract terms. As each project arises, the Engineering Department will request quotes from the pre-qualified vendors; and,

WHEREAS, the initial term of the contract shall be for three (3) years, with the option to renew for two (2) additional twelve-month periods. Contract renewal shall be contingent upon the mutual agreement of the City and the Contractor(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute an annual for Pre-Qualification for Storm Drain Rehabilitation Through Internal Pipe Lining Priority 1 Pipes with Gulf Coast Underground, LLC (Theodore, AL), Inliner Solutions, LLC (Stone Mountain, GA), Institutform Technologies, LLC (Chesterfield, MO), SAK Construction, LLC (O’Fallon, MO), Southeast Pipe Survey, Inc. (Patterson, GA), Utility Asset Management, Inc. (Perry, GA) and Vortex Services, LLC (Greenville, SC). Funds for the initial project are available in the FY25 budget as follows: Special Project-Capital Project Fund – Capital Projects – Sewer Supported Capital Project – Drainage/Steet Improvements; 0508-660-2000-CPSF-7622-20770-20230 (\$14,591.24) and 20770-20240 (\$432,880.00).

Funds for future projects will be budgeted as appropriate each fiscal year for this ongoing expense.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

D. Replacement Fire Hose for Fire & EMS – GSA Cooperative Purchase

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Replacement Fire Hose for Fire & EMS – GSA Cooperative Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the purchase of replacement fire hose from North America Fire Equipment Company, Inc/NAFECO (Decatur, AL), in the amount of \$51,900.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via Federal GSA contract #GS-07F-0304W.

The Fire and EMS Department will use the new fire hose to replace existing damaged and worn fire hose.

The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Federal GSA Contract # GS-07F-0304W awarded to NAFECO. The term of the contract is good through March 10, 2025, with renewals up to March 10, 2030. General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal purchasing cooperative providing products and services for purchase by state and local governments. The City's Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Funds are available in the FY25 budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund – 2021 SPLOST – 21 SPLOST Public Safety – Capital Expenditure Above \$5,000; 0567-696-3111-STPS-7761-54152-20240 and American Rescue Plan/Fiscal Recovery Funds – Federal ARP – Federal Revenue Recovery - Capital Expenditure/Over \$5,000 – Revenue Recovery - Fire Apparatus (ARP); 0218 – 691 – 1300 – ARRR – 7761 – 40496 – 20230.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REPLACEMENT FIRE HOSE FROM NORTH AMERICA FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC/NAFECO (DECATUR, AL), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,900.00. THE PURCHASE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATIVE PURCHASE, VIA FEDERAL GSA CONTRACT #GS-07F-0304W.

WHEREAS, the Fire and EMS Department will use the new fire hose to replace existing damaged and worn fire hose; and,

WHEREAS, the purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Federal GSA Contract # GS-07F-0304W awarded to NAFECO. The term of the contract is good through March 10, 2025, with renewals up to March 10, 2030. General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal purchasing cooperative providing products and services for purchase by state and local governments. The City’s Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to replacement fire hose from North America Fire Equipment Company, Inc/NAFECO (Decatur, AL), in the amount of \$51,900.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via Federal GSA contract #GS-07F-0304W. Funds are available in the FY25 budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund – 2021 SPLOST – 21 SPLOST Public Safety – Capital Expenditure Above \$5,000; 0567-696-3111-STPS-7761-54152-20240 and American Rescue Plan/Fiscal Recovery Funds – Federal ARP – Federal Revenue Recovery - Capital Expenditure/Over \$5,000 – Revenue Recovery - Fire Apparatus (ARP); 0218 – 691 – 1300 – ARRR – 7761 – 40496 – 20230.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

E. Redundant Communications Equipment and Services for Homeland Security/Emergency Management (Annual Contract) – State of Georgia Technology Authority and Federal GSA Cooperative Purchase

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Redundant Communications Equipment and Services for Homeland Security/Emergency Management (Annual Contract) – State of Georgia Technology Authority and Federal GSA Cooperative Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the annual contract for the purchase of redundant communications equipment and services from **AT&T Mobility National Accounts LLC/AT&T FIRSTNET** (Hanover, MD) and **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink** (Hawthorne, CA). Purchases of equipment and services will be made at the current established rates at the time of purchase. Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via State of Georgia Technology Authority contract #GTA0000794/9800-GTA794 and Federal GSA Contract # 47QRAA21D007N.

The goal of the Homeland Security/Emergency Management Department is to have redundant communications during and emergency and times of disaster. One way to accomplish redundant communications is to have devices on the two leading cellular networks (Verizon and AT&T First Net). Currently, CCG has a contract with Verizon so most, if not all cellular phones, internet access hot spots, and SIM cards are on the Verizon network. It is not often, but even Verizon's service is subject to being interrupted. Additionally, the department is seeking to have Starlink (Satellite Internet Service) on the new unified command vehicle once it is delivered.

AT&T has worked hard to develop FIRSTNET which was designed as a public-private partnership in response to the 9/11 disaster. The goal of FIRSTNET is to provide a dedicated 700 MHz frequency band (band 14) for first responders to have access, even when civilian phones may not work. First responders will have priority.

State of Georgia Technology Contract # GTA0000794/ 9800-GTA794-A is a cooperative contract whereby AT&T Mobility National Accounts is one of the awarded vendors contracted to provide Mobility Devices and Services. The term of the contract is good through June 30, 2025. The state renews the contract on a year-to-year basis. The contract is available for use by any Georgia governmental entity. The City's Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink is a new technology satellite service that provides mobile broadband service. Starlink is subscription service that the department will utilize much to provide uninterrupted broadband (internet) service to the mobile command vehicle. The vehicle will be equipped with a cradlepoint piece of equipment that will decide

which internet signal is the best, based on location and other factors, and that service is what the vehicle will operate on.

Federal GSA Contract # 47QTCA19DO0MM is a cooperative contract awarded to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink. The term of the contract is good through July 8, 2026, with renewals up to July 8, 2041. General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal purchasing cooperative providing products and services for purchase by state and local governments. The Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Funding for this ongoing expense will be charged to: General Fund – Homeland Security – Homeland Security – Operating Materials; 0101-450-1000-HSEC-6728.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF REDUNDANT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES FROM AT&T MOBILITY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS LLC/AT&T FIRSTNET (HANOVER, MD) AND SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION/STARLINK (HAWTHORNE, CA). PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES WILL BE MADE AT THE CURRENT ESTABLISHED RATES AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. PURCHASES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATIVE PURCHASE, VIA STATE OF GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY CONTRACT #GTA0000794/9800-GTA794 AND FEDERAL GSA CONTRACT # 47QRAA21D007N.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Homeland Security/Emergency Management Department is to have redundant communications during and emergency and times of disaster. One way to accomplish redundant communications is to have devices on the two leading cellular networks (Verizon and AT&T First Net). Currently, CCG has a contract with Verizon so most, if not all cellular phones, internet access hot spots, and SIM cards are on the Verizon network. It is not often, but even Verizon's service is subject to being interrupted. Additionally, the department is seeking to have Starlink (Satellite Internet Service) on the new unified command vehicle once it is delivered; and,

WHEREAS, AT&T has worked hard to develop FIRSTNET which was designed as a public-private partnership in response to the 9/11 disaster. The goal of FIRSTNET is to provide a dedicated 700 MHz frequency band (band 14) for first responders to have access, even when civilian phones may not work. First responders will have priority; and

WHEREAS, State of Georgia Technology Contract # GTA0000794/ 9800-GTA794-A is a cooperative contract whereby AT&T Mobility National Accounts is one of the awarded vendors contracted to provide Mobility Devices and Services. The term of the contract is good through June 30, 2025. The state renews the contract on a year-to-year basis. The contract is available for use by any Georgia governmental entity. The City's Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing; and,

WHEREAS, Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink is a new technology satellite service that provides mobile broadband service. Starlink is subscription service that the department will utilize much to provide uninterrupted broadband (internet) service to the mobile command vehicle. The vehicle will be equipped with a cradlepoint piece of equipment that will decide which internet signal is the best, based on location and other factors, and that service is what the vehicle will operate on; and,

WHEREAS, Federal GSA Contract # 47QTCA19DO0MM is a cooperative contract awarded to Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink. The term of the contract is good through July 8, 2026, with renewals up to July 8, 2041. General Services Administration (GSA) is the Federal purchasing cooperative providing products and services for purchase by state and local governments. The Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the annual contract for the purchase of redundant communications equipment and services from **AT&T Mobility National Accounts LLC/AT&T FIRSTNET** (Hanover, MD) and **Space Exploration Technologies Corporation/Starlink** (Hawthorne, CA). Purchases of equipment and services will be made at the current established rates at the time of purchase. Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via State of Georgia Technology Authority contract #GTA0000794/9800-GTA794 and Federal GSA Contract # 47QRAA21D007N. Funding for this ongoing expense will be charged to: General Fund – Homeland Security – Homeland Security – Operating Materials; 0101-450-1000-HSEC-6728.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

F. Storage Facility Rental Payment for the Sheriff's Office

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Storage Facility Rental Payment for the Sheriff's Office
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve payment to Family Holdings Sub (Columbus, GA) for the annual storage facility rental fee, in the amount of \$63,159.96, for the Sheriff's Office. Approval is further requested for subsequent annual rental fees.

The storage facility is utilized by the Sheriff's Office to store items that have been seized during executed search warrants and other criminal activity. Sensitive equipment such as the MCSO bomb trailer, utility trailer and surplus equipment are stored at the facility, as well as, the Mobile Command Unit and the Gaming trailer. Additionally, storage may be used to house evidence from Superior Court cases that may go to Appeal. The facility is gated and uses closed circuit security cameras that are monitored offsite.

Funds are available in the FY25 Budget: General Fund – Sheriff – Special Operations/Investigations – Contractual Services; 0101-550-2200-INFU-6319. Funds will be budgeted in subsequent fiscal years for future annual rental fee payments.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO FAMILY HOLDINGS SUB (COLUMBUS, GA) FOR THE ANNUAL STORAGE FACILITY RENTAL FEE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,159.96, FOR THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE, PAYMENT IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED FOR SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL RENTAL FEES.

WHEREAS, the storage facility is utilized by the Sheriff’s Office to store items that have been seized during executed search warrants and other criminal activity. Sensitive equipment such as the MCSO bomb trailer, utility trailer and surplus equipment are stored at the facility, as well as, the Mobile Command Unit and the Gaming trailer. Additionally, storage may be used to house evidence from Superior Court cases that may go to Appeal. The facility is gated and uses closed circuit security cameras that are monitored offsite.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to render payment to Family Holdings Sub (Columbus, GA) for the annual storage facility rental fee, in the amount of \$63,159.96, for the Sheriff’s Office. The City Manager and/or his designee is further authorized to render payment for subsequent annual rental fees. Funds are available in the FY25 Budget: General Fund – Sheriff – Special Operations/Investigations – Contractual Services; 0101-550-2200-INFU-6319. Funds will be budgeted in subsequent fiscal years for future annual rental fee payments.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

G. Computer Equipment and Computer Services for Information Technology (Annual Contract) – Various Cooperative Contracts Cooperative Purchase

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Computer Equipment and Computer Services for Information Technology (Annual Contract) – Various Cooperative Contracts Cooperative Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the annual contract for the purchase of computer equipment and computer services from CDW-G (Vernon Hills, IL) on an as needed basis, for the Information Technology Department. Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #081419-CDW, Sourcewell Contract #121923-CDW; Omnia Partners Contract #23-6692-02; and Omnia Partners Contract #2024056-01. The Department will obtain quotes from the vendor as goods and services are needed

The Information Technology Department is tasked with purchasing various computer equipment, supplies and services for City Departments on a regular basis. The department makes purchases from CDW-G under various cooperative Contracts most frequently. Establishing annual contracts with CDW-G per the various cooperative contracts will enable the Information Technology Department to make needed purchases as expeditiously as possible.

Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) **#081419** initiated by **Sourcewell**, whereby CDW Government LLC was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Technology Catalog Solutions. The contract, which commenced November 21, 2019, is good through October 30, 2024. Additionally, purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) **#0121923** initiated by **Sourcewell**, whereby CDW Government LLC was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Technology Products and Services with Related Solutions. The contract, which commenced March 13, 2024, is good through February 27, 2028. This Contract allows up to three additional one-year extensions upon the request of Sourcewell and written agreement by Supplier. The contracts available under Sourcewell has been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with State and Federal statutes. Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that offers cooperative procurement solutions to government entities. Participation is open to federal, state/province, and municipal governmental entities, higher education, K-12 education, tribal government, and other public entities located in the United States and Canada. The RFP process utilized by Sourcewell meets the requirements of the Procurement Ordinance; additionally, the Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Purchases will also be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal #**23-6692** initiated by **Omnia Partners** (formerly known as National IPA), whereby CDW-G was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Technology Product Solutions and Related Services. The contract, which commenced May 1, 2023, is good through April 30, 2026, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods through April 30, 2028.

Additionally, purchases will also be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal # **2024056** initiated by **Omnia Partners** (formerly known as National IPA), whereby CDW-G was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Information Technology Solutions Products and Services. The contract, which commenced July 2, 2024, is good through July 1, 2028, with the option to renew for three (3) additional two-year periods through July 1, 2034. The contracts available under Omnia Partners has been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with State and Federal statutes. OMNIA Partners, Public Sector is the premier purchasing organization for state and local government, K-12 education, colleges and universities. All contracts available have been competitively solicited and publicly awarded by a government entity serving as the lead agency while utilizing industry best practices and processes. With the most experienced team in cooperative procurement and supply chain management, OMNIA Partners, Public Sector has the expertise to help public organizations achieve their strategic goals. The RFP process utilized by Omnia Partners meets the requirements of the Procurement Ordinance; additionally, the Procurement Ordinance, Article 9- 101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Funding will be available each fiscal year for these as needed purchases in various line-items of the Information Technology budget, as well as applicable City Department and Project budgets.

AREOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER SERVICES FROM CDW-G (VERNON HILLS, IL) ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS, FOR THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT. PURCHASES WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATIVE PURCHASE VIA SOURCEWELL CONTRACT #081419-CDW, SOURCEWELL CONTRACT #121923-CDW; OMNIA PARTNERS CONTRACT #23-6692-02; AND OMNIA PARTNERS CONTRACT #2024056-01. THE DEPARTMENT WILL OBTAIN QUOTES FROM THE VENDOR AS GOODS AND SERVICES ARE NEEDED.

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Department is tasked with purchasing various computer equipment, supplies and services for City Departments on a regular basis. The department makes purchases from CDW-G under various cooperative Contracts most frequently. Establishing annual contracts with CDW-G per the various cooperative contracts will enable the Information Technology Department to make needed purchases as expeditiously as possible; and,

WHEREAS, Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) #081419 initiated by **Sourcewell**, whereby CDW Government LLC was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Technology Catalog Solutions. The contract, which commenced November 21, 2019, is good through October 30, 2024. Additionally, purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) #0121923 initiated by **Sourcewell**, whereby CDW Government LLC was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Technology Products and Services with Related Solutions. The contract, which commenced March 13, 2024, is good through February 27, 2028. This Contract allows up to three additional one-year extensions upon the request of Sourcewell and written agreement by Supplier. The contracts available under Sourcewell has been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with State and Federal statutes. Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that offers cooperative procurement solutions to government entities. Participation is open to federal, state/province, and municipal governmental entities, higher education, K-12 education, tribal government, and other public entities located in the United States and Canada. The RFP process utilized by Sourcewell meets the requirements of the Procurement Ordinance; additionally, the Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing; and,

WHEREAS, Purchases will also be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal #23-6692 initiated by **Omnia Partners** (formerly known as National IPA), whereby CDW-G was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Technology Product Solutions and Related Services. The contract, which commenced May 1, 2023, is good through April 30, 2026, with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods through April 30, 2028. Additionally, purchases will also be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal # 2024056 initiated by **Omnia Partners** (formerly known as National IPA), whereby CDW-G was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Information

Technology Solutions Products and Services. The contract, which commenced July 2, 2024, is good through July 1, 2028, with the option to renew for three (3) additional two-year periods through July 1, 2034. The contracts available under Omnia Partners has been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with State and Federal statutes. OMNIA Partners, Public Sector is the premier purchasing organization for state and local government, K-12 education, colleges and universities. All contracts available have been competitively solicited and publicly awarded by a government entity serving as the lead agency while utilizing industry best practices and processes. With the most experienced team in cooperative procurement and supply chain management, OMNIA Partners, Public Sector has the expertise to help public organizations achieve their strategic goals. The RFP process utilized by Omnia Partners meets the requirements of the Procurement Ordinance; additionally, the Procurement Ordinance, Article 9- 101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to purchase of computer equipment and computer services from CDW-G (Vernon Hills, IL) on an as needed basis, for the Information Technology Department. Purchases will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #081419-CDW, Sourcewell Contract #121923-CDW; Omnia Partners Contract #23-6692-02; and Omnia Partners Contract #2024056-01. The Department will obtain quotes from the vendor as goods and services are needed.

Funding will be available each fiscal year for these as needed purchases in various line-items of the Information Technology budget, as well as applicable City Department and Project budgets.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

H. Replacement MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Replacement MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire & EMS – Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the purchase of six (6) replacement self-contained breathing apparatus from TEN-8 Fire and Safety (Bradenton, FL), in the amount of \$38,907.78. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via Sourcewell contract # 011824-MSS.

The Fire and EMS Department will use the new breathing apparatus to replace expired apparatus.

The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) #011824 initiated by Sourcewell, whereby MSA Safety Sales was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Breathing Air Systems with Related Equipment. Ten-8 Fire and Safety is the authorized dealer for MSA for this region. The contract, which commenced June 17, 2024, is good through March 29, 2028. The contract available under Sourcewell has been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with State and Federal statutes. Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that offers cooperative procurement solutions to government entities. Participation is open to federal, state/province, and municipal governmental entities, higher education, K-12 education, tribal government, and other public entities located in the United States and Canada. The RFP process utilized by Sourcewell meets the requirements of the Procurement Ordinance; additionally, the Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing

Funds are available in the FY25 budget: LOST/Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety/LOST – Other Equipment; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7762.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SIX (6) REPLACEMENT SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS FROM TEN-8 FIRE AND SAFETY (BRADENTON, FL), IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,907.78. THE PURCHASE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATIVE PURCHASE, VIA SOURCEWELL CONTRACT # 011824-MSS.

WHEREAS, the Fire and EMS Department will use the new breathing apparatus to replace expired apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, the purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) #011824 initiated by Sourcewell, whereby MSA Safety Sales was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Breathing Air Systems with Related Equipment. Ten-8 Fire and Safety is the authorized dealer for MSA for this region. The contract, which commenced June 17, 2024, is good through March 29, 2028. The contract available under Sourcewell has been awarded by virtue of a public competitive procurement process compliant with State and Federal statutes. Sourcewell is a State of Minnesota local government agency and service cooperative created under the laws of the State of Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes Section 123A.21) that offers cooperative procurement solutions to government entities. Participation is open to federal, state/province, and municipal governmental entities, higher education, K-12 education, tribal government, and other public entities located in the United States and Canada. The RFP process utilized by Sourcewell meets the requirements of the Procurement Ordinance; additionally, the Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager and/or his designee is hereby authorized to purchase six (6) replacement self-contained breathing apparatus from TEN-8 Fire and Safety (Bradenton, FL), in the amount of \$38,907.78. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase, via Sourcewell contract # 011824-MSS. Funds are available in the FY25 budget: LOST/Public Safety Fund – Fire & EMS – Public Safety/LOST – Other Equipment; 0102-410-9900-LOST-7762.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____

Councilor Davis voting _____
Councilor Garrett voting _____
Councilor Hickey voting _____
Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Thomas voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

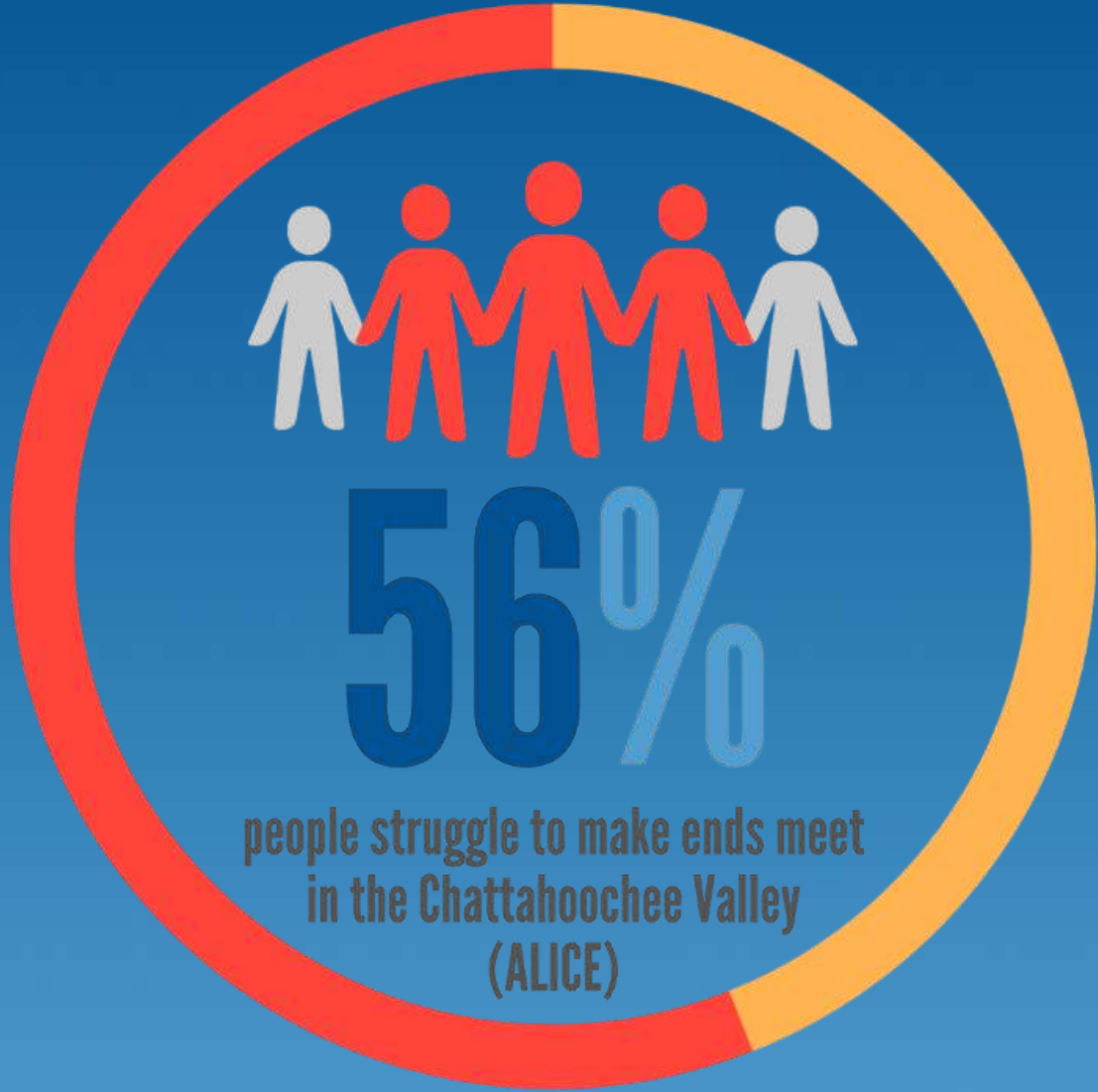
A. ARP - Poverty Reduction Initiative, United Way - Ben Moser, President and Chief Executive Officer, United Way, and Jennifer St. John, Senior Vice President of Impact, United Way



Poverty Reduction

Our Community's Mission:

To reduce poverty in our community by 50% in 10 years.





UNITED WAY OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY

Item #A.

Our mission: To reduce poverty by 50% over the next 10 years.

Community Resiliency

Addressing urgent needs today for a better tomorrow.

Health Access

Improving health and wellbeing for all.

Educational Equity

Helping young people realize their full potential.

Economic Mobility

Building financial stability and strength.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS



REVENUE GENERATION



SUSTAINING THE ORGANIZATION

Poverty Reduction Collaborative Results

Item #A.

Vice President of Poverty Reduction was hired by United Way in 2023 to form strategic relationships and begin the creation of a 10-year actionable, poverty reduction strategic plan.

Successes include:

- ✓ Ten participants graduated Jobs for Life and six completed additional training with Goodwill of the Southern Rivers
- ✓ Mental Health Provider Changed Income Eligibility Criteria due to ALICE education
 - ✓ YouTHRIVE Pilot
 - ✓ Reached more than 800 community members in outreach events
 - ✓ Engaged more than 355 people through presentations and briefings
- ✓ 18,611 contacts to 211 resulting in 46,645 information resources provided
 - ✓ Established Partnerships for Poverty Awareness Activities
 - ✓ Established a System to Support Transitions from Incarceration
 - ✓ Created Actionable Initiatives to Connect People to Good Jobs

Poverty Reduction

Expected/Planned Near Term Activities

- Quarterly Poverty Awareness & Engagement Trainings
- Stakeholder and Community Conversations
- Strengthen Community Partnerships
- Survey State-level Policies and Regulations
- Identify Top Priorities for Pilot Projects and Begin Implementation
- Bolster Household Stability, Financial Security, and Opportunities for Mobility
- Continued Planning and Preparation to Launch Community Management Information System
- Finalize an actionable poverty reduction plan by December 2025

Leading Collaboration for Poverty Reduction

- Community needs are increasing and straining the system
- Strategic partnerships between non-profits, government, businesses, industries and individuals are more necessary than ever
- The community goal of reducing the poverty rate by 50% over 10 years requires a community supported solution
- Sustained change will require multiple levers, including direct programming, **capacity building**, and **policy and systems-level work**
- Together, we can solve the problem and become a community of opportunity

Thank You

File Attachments for Item:

DATE: September 24, 2024

TO: Mayor and Councilors

FROM: Finance Department

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFOs

September 27, 2024

Residential General Contractor Services and Housing Inspection Services for the Community Reinvestment Department II (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0008

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified vendors to provide residential general contractor services (Option A) and housing inspection services (Option B) for rehabilitative single-family housing located throughout Columbus-Muscogee County. The Community Reinvestment Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. Vendors may submit proposals for one, both or all options. Some activities could be a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded project which utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Contracts utilizing CDBG funding are subject to state and local laws, as well as federal regulations found in §2 CFR 200.317 through §2 CFR 300.327 and §24 CFR 570.611. Potential bidders must assure that all project activities will be administered in compliance with labor and civil rights laws and regulations for CDBG funded projects.

October 4, 2024

Forcible Entry Door Simulator – PQ No. 25-0002

Scope of PQ

The Columbus Consolidated Government (“the City”) is seeking quotes from qualified vendors to provide one (1) forcible entry door simulator, to be used by the Columbus Fire and EMS Department.

Consultant Services for Comprehensive Transit Study for METRA – RFP No. 25-0011

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the “City”) is soliciting proposals for acquiring the services of a Transit Consultant (the “Consultant”) to conduct a comprehensive study on METRA’s behalf. The Consultant will be responsible for conducting a full assessment of METRA’s fixed route bus service, including potential route service to Brookstone Centre, and an assessment of METRA’s Dial-A-Ride ADA complementary paratransit service. In addition, a comprehensive study determining the costs, materials, personnel, and other resources needed for METRA to implement a micro-transit and or on-demand service within the boundaries of Muscogee County, Georgia shall be performed.

Single Stream Recycling Materials Processing (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0012

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested parties to receive recycling materials delivered by Public Works collection vehicles and serve as a processor as well as an end market for recycling materials. This contract is needed while the City prepares its facility to receive recycling materials, which may take approximately 2 years.

Please Note: The receiving of this material must be on the property of the proposer. The City’s current facility, 8001 Pinegrove Way, will not be available for this purpose. The Public Works Department will be working with a consultant to purchase and install recycling equipment for the City’s recycling facility in preparation for future processing.

On Hold

Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office, is seeking proposals for the provision of healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. The requested services consist of medical, dental, and mental health, as well as healthcare personnel. Medical services include but are not limited to x-ray, laboratory, and prescription drug services for a rated capacity of 1069 inmates.

The term of this contract will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Bid Advertisement - Agenda Item**

DATE: September 24, 2024
TO: Mayor and Councilors
FROM: Finance Department
SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

September 27, 2024

1. Residential General Contractor Services and Housing Inspection Services for the Community Reinvestment Department II (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0008

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the City) invites qualified vendors to provide residential general contractor services (Option A) and housing inspection services (Option B) for rehabilitative single-family housing located throughout Columbus-Muscogee County. The Community Reinvestment Department will procure the services on an as-needed basis. Vendors may submit proposals for one, both or all options. Some activities could be a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded project which utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Contracts utilizing CDBG funding are subject to state and local laws, as well as federal regulations found in §2 CFR 200.317 through §2 CFR 300.327 and §24 CFR 570.611. Potential bidders must assure that all project activities will be administered in compliance with labor and civil rights laws and regulations for CDBG funded projects.

October 4, 2024

1. Forcible Entry Door Simulator – PQ No. 25-0002

Scope of PQ

The Columbus Consolidated Government (“the City”) is seeking quotes from qualified vendors to provide one (1) forcible entry door simulator, to be used by the Columbus Fire and EMS Department.

2. Consultant Services for Comprehensive Transit Study for METRA – RFP No. 25-0011

Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government (the “City”) is soliciting proposals for acquiring the services of a Transit Consultant (the “Consultant”) to conduct a comprehensive study on METRA’s behalf. The Consultant will be responsible for conducting a full assessment of METRA’s fixed route bus service, including potential route service to Brookstone Centre, and an assessment of METRA’s Dial-A-Ride ADA complementary paratransit service. In addition, a comprehensive study determining the costs, materials, personnel, and other resources needed for METRA to implement a micro-transit and or on-demand service within the boundaries of Muscogee County, Georgia shall be performed.

3. Single Stream Recycling Materials Processing (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0012

Scope of RFP

The Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia (the City) invites qualified and interested parties to receive recycling materials delivered by Public Works collection vehicles and serve as a processor as well as an end market for recycling materials. This contract is needed while the City prepares its facility to receive recycling materials, which may take approximately 2 years.

Please Note: The receiving of this material must be on the property of the proposer. The City's current facility, 8001 Pinegrove Way, will not be available for this purpose. The Public Works Department will be working with a consultant to purchase and install recycling equipment for the City's recycling facility in preparation for future processing.

On Hold**1. Comprehensive Inmate Healthcare Services for Muscogee County Jail (Annual Contract) – RFP No. 25-0005**Scope of RFP

Columbus Consolidated Government, on behalf of the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, is seeking proposals for the provision of healthcare services for offenders incarcerated at the Muscogee County Jail. The requested services consist of medical, dental, and mental health, as well as healthcare personnel. Medical services include but are not limited to x-ray, laboratory, and prescription drug services for a rated capacity of 1069 inmates.

The term of this contract will be for two (2) years, with the option to renew for three (3) additional twelve-month periods.

File Attachments for Item:

1. Letter from Suzanne Goddard, Solicitor General- Muscogee County placing the employees of the State Court Solicitor General Office under the merit system.

RECEIVED
9/17/24

Item #1.



David Ranieri
Chief Assistant

Jan Vardeman
Court Coordinator

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL

MUSCOGEE COUNTY
SUZANNE GODDARD, SOLICITOR-GENERAL

100 Tenth Street • The Government Center
Columbus, Georgia 31901



Post Office Box 1340 (31902)
Phone (706) 653-4327
Fax (706) 653-4330

Linda Crowe
Chief Investigator

September 9, 2024

To: Mayor and Council

Please place the employees of the State Court Solicitor General into the merit system and under the jurisdiction of the Personnel Review Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne Goddard".

Suzanne Goddard
Solicitor General, Muscogee County

File Attachments for Item:

2. RESOLUTION - A resolution cancelling the October 29, 2024 Consent Agenda / Work Session.

RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A Resolution cancelling the regularly scheduled Council Consent Agenda / Work Session for October 29, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Council desires to make changes in its regular meeting schedule by cancelling the Council Consent Agenda / Work Session for October 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-103 of the Charter, the Council shall provide for regular meetings, and shall fix the date and place of all regular meetings; provided, however, that any regular meeting may be canceled upon the adoption of a resolution by a majority vote of the Council at least seven days prior to the meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

The Council Consent Agenda / Work Session scheduled for October 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. is hereby cancelled.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 24th day of September 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore
Deputy Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

3. RESOLUTION - A resolution ratifying the appointment of Mr. John Anker to fill the unexpired term of late Mr. Todd Hammonds on the Board of Tax Assessors.

RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A Resolution appointing John Anker to the Board of Tax Assessors.

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on a current term that is due to expire on December 31, 2029 on the Board of Tax Assessors; and,

WHEREAS, the law requires the County Commission must appoint a successor when a board term expires or when a vacancy occurs; and,

WHEREAS, the board member appointed would serve the remainder of a six (6) years term of the late Mr. Todd Hammonds; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

That John Anker is hereby appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Mr. Todd Hammonds on the Muscogee County Board of Tax Assessors with this term of office to begin upon the completion of the necessary Oaths of Office and expires on December 31, 2029.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 24th day of September 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore
Deputy Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

4. Email Correspondence from Chatt Hall, Board Secretary of the Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Authority, requesting that the seat of Mr. Craig Burgess be declared vacant due to a lack of attendance.

From: [Chatt Hall](#)
To: [Sandra T Davis](#)
Cc: [Lindsey Mclmore](#)
Subject: Trade Center Authority Member Craig Burgess
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 11:25:53 AM

Good morning,

This email is being sent to inform you that due to the lack of attendance during the past twelve months, by member Craig Burgess, and in accordance with Resolution No. 525-02 the position is being considered vacant. The Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center Authority is asking Council to appoint a successor to fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

Craig is in his second term. His first term began October 25, 2019, and he was reappointed in October 2022. His term is due to expire October 2025.

Beginning August 2023 through August 2024, member Craig Burgess was absent five of the seven meeting held. As noted in the recorded minutes of each meeting Craig was absent August 24, 2023, he then attended the October 19th and December 28, 2023, meetings, then was absent February 22nd, April 25th, June 27th and August 22, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Chatt

Chasity Hall Deppe
Administrative Assistant
Columbus GA Convention and Trade Center
706-327-4522 (Main)
706-225-3710 (Office)

File Attachments for Item:

5. Email Correspondence from Kristin Youngquist, Chairperson of the Tree Board, requesting that the seats of Mr. Robert Hecht (*Commercial or Industrial Development seat*), Ms. Farah Dewsbury (*At-Large seat*) and Beautie Moore (*At-Large seat*) to be declared vacant due to a lack of attendance.

From: [Kristin Y](#)
To: [Sandra T Davis](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tree Board Positions
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 12:56:41 PM

Hello Ms. Davis,

At the meeting you held on Monday for board presidents and secretaries, you mentioned that we could contact you if we have members that have been absent for 3 or more meetings. The Tree Board has 5 members that have not attended more than 4 meetings in a row. We would like to have these positions become vacant so they can be filled. As it stands, it is hard for our 11 member board to have a quorum with 5 people not attending. The board positions are as follows:

Public Utility Representative (Jeremy Cummings), Commercial or Industrial Development (Robert Hecht), Residential Development (Frank Tommey), and two At-Large positions (Farah Dewsbury and Beautie Moore)

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Kristin Youngquist

File Attachments for Item:

6. Minutes of the following boards:

Audit Committee, July 18, 2024

Board of Elections and Registration, February 8, 2024

Board of Tax Assessors, #30-24

Board of Water Commissioners, September 9, 2024

Development Authority of Columbus, August 1, 2024

New Horizons Behavioral Health- MH, AD & DD- Community Service Board, February 12, March 11, May 13, June 17, & August 12, 2024

Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting

July 18, 2024

Committee Attendees:

John Redmond, Chairperson

Toyia Tucker, Vice Chairperson

Mike Baker

Michael Bruder

Glenn Davis, Secretary

Other Attendees:

Donna McGinnis, Internal Auditor and Compliance Officer

Isaiah Hugley, City Manager

Pamela Hodge, Assistant City Manager- Finance and Planning

Vice Chair Toyia Tucker called the meeting to order at 2:00pm, in the absence of former Chairperson, Tyson Begly, whose temporary appointment to City Council had expired. Vice Chair Toyia Tucker requested nominations from members of the Audit Committee for a new Chairperson. Councilor Glenn Davis, newly appointed member to

replace Former Councilor/Chairperson Begly, nominated John Redmond to serve as Chairperson. Councilor Tucker seconded the motion and moved that the nominations be closed. Mr. Redmond was approved by acclamation. Since Mr. Redmond was previously serving as Secretary, nominations for Secretary were taken and Councilor Davis was elected by voice vote. Councilor Davis accepted the position of Secretary and asked that he assume those duties at the next meeting. Mr. Redmond agreed to take the minutes for the remainder of the meeting, while serving as Chairperson.

Mr. Redmond presented the minutes from the Audit Committee Meeting of July 18, 2024, for approval, Councilor Tucker motioned for approval of the minutes, and Michael Bruder seconded the motion. Mr. Redmond then signed the minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting, and handed them to Clerk of Council, Sandra Davis. Ms. Davis then left the meeting.

Chairperson Redmond then announced that the committee has a lot of work to do in order to be functional, and it needs to meet more frequently until those tasks are completed. These include reviews of audited financial statements, involvement with establishing audit priorities, providing guidance to the Internal Auditor/Compliance Officer, assisting with assessment of audit staffing needs, reviewing the budgetary request of the Internal Audit Department, obtaining budgetary funds for specialized assistance as needed, and involvement in the selection of the External Auditors. The Committee selected September 18, 2024, at 2pm, for its next meeting to be held in the City Hall's First Floor Conference Room. Subsequent meetings will occur about every two months, thereafter.

Donna McGinnis provided an update on the status of several audits in progress. The audit of Recorder's Court is about 90% complete, and she and her staff are reviewing information obtained by the Sheriff's Office as a follow-up on the Finance Department audit completed last year. Upcoming audits include the Civic Center as a Transition Audit following the departure of the Director, last year. She also noted that one of her staff members has completed his Fraud Examiner Certification.

She noted that she is in the process of hiring another staff auditor for her department, and there were some communication delays in the selection process, impeding the hiring process. Councilor Davis requested that the Committee go into Executive Session to discuss the personnel issues and their causes. Chairperson Redmond suggested the Committee wait until the end of the regular agenda business completion before dealing with the issue in Executive Session.

Mrs. McGinnis noted that several other approved audits are still pending. The Committee had a brief discussion on how those should be prioritized. The Internal Auditor noted that several factors contribute to the prioritization. These include City Council preferences, her assessment of risk, staff availability, and management requests. Chairperson Redmond noted that during his time as Internal Auditor, he established a methodology for risk assessment, but he was aware that such analysis has become more formalized, and we might need some outside assistance with a prioritization process. Mr. Redmond offered to contact the City's External Auditors for assistance.

Ms. Pamela Hodge, Deputy City Manager of Finance and Planning, requested permission to speak to the committee, and such was granted. Ms. Hodge informed the committee that the External Audit Contract

was out for bids and the Audit Committee might wish to review the bids and be involved in the recommendation of the selection process. If so, she suggested that the Chairperson contact the Purchasing Manager in the Finance Department and inform her of the Committee's interest in being involved. The Committee voiced its interest in doing so. Later, Chairperson Redmond phoned the Purchasing Manager, leaving a voice mail expressing the Committee's interest in doing so.

The Internal Auditor stated that she was in the process of hiring another staff auditor for her department, and there were some communication delays in the selection process. Councilor Davis requested that the Committee go into Executive Session to discuss this personnel issue. Chairperson Redmond suggested we wait until the regular business was completed before dealing with the issue in Executive Session.

Chairperson Redmond noted that during his time as Auditor, he established a methodology for risk assessment, but he was aware that such analysis has become more formalized, and we might need some outside assistance with a prioritization process. Mr. Redmond offered to contact the City's External Auditors for assistance. This has resulted in the Audit Firm of Mauldin and Jenkins agreeing to provide a Zoom Presentation of their Audit Risk Assessment Process, for the Audit Committee.

At the end of the regular business of the committee, Chairperson Redmond directed the guests to leave the meeting so that an Executive Session could occur to discuss a personnel matter. The Committee briefly met with the Internal Auditor to review the issue, and then she was dismissed from the meeting.

Upon completion of the Executive Session, the Committee returned to its regular meeting announcing that a personnel matter was discussed In Executive Session, and that no decisions were made, nor any action was taken.

Following the announcement, Councilor Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting and Michael Bruder seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Redmond, Secretary



Board of Elections and Registrations

Post Office Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340
"Georgia's First Consolidated Government"
(706) 653-4392

Item #6.

Uhland "U.D." Roberts, Chair
Linda Parker, Vice-Chair
Edwin Roldan
Diane Scrimshire
Annette Williams

Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration February 8, 2024 Minutes

The monthly meeting for the Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registration was held Thursday, February 8th. Vice Chairperson Uhland Roberts called the meeting to order at 2p.m.

Board Comments: Welcome new board member Annette Williams to the Board.

Agenda Request: N/A

Approval of Minutes:

- Linda Parker seconded Edwin Roldan's motion to approve the December board meeting minutes.

New Business:

- **Election of Chair and Vice Chair-** Diane Scrimshire made a motion for Uhland Roberts to become Chair and Linda Parker to become vice-chair. Edwin Roldan seconded the motion. Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.
- **Obituaries and Vital Report Totals-** Linda Parker moved acceptance of the obituary report. Diane Scrimshire seconded. Board unanimously approved the report accepting 50 obituary deaths for the month of January.
- **Special Election- HD 139-** A special election to fill the vacancy in HD 139 will be held on April 9. If a runoff is necessary, it will be May 7. Early voting will begin as soon as ballots are available. If a runoff is necessary, it will be during a part of early voting for the May General Primary.
- **FY25 Budget Request-** The FY25 budget request includes additional poll pad printers for each early voting location and the replacement of damaged equipment at the North Warehouse because of a water leak in roof.

Board discussed increased in bi-weekly pay.

The General Assembly is considering ballot paper that contains a water-mark to enhance security paper. If this legislation is passed, all ballot stock on hand will be replaced with new ballot paper. All old stock will be destroyed.

Old Business:

- **Presidential Preference Primary-** Early voting will begin February 19th 7am-7pm at three locations: City Services Center, Shirley Winston Recreation Center, and Columbus Public Library.
- **Human Resources Processes-** On-boarding process for returning employees has been changed by the Human Resources Department. This change will affect all previously employed temporary employees. This new policy is not the same for all departments. Director Nancy Boren asked for an exception due to it being so close to early voting to begin but was denied.



Board of Elections and Registrations

Post Office Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340
"Georgia's First Consolidated Government"
(706) 653-4392

Item #6.

Uhland "U.D." Roberts, Chair
Linda Parker, Vice-Chair
Edwin Roldan
Diane Scrimshire
Annette Williams

- **Deputy Registrar Program-** Tabled because of voter registration deadlines for Presidential Preference Primary..

Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items: Laura Walker thanked the Board and staff as she announces her departure from the state in April of 2024. Ms. Walker is the former chair of the Democratic Party in Columbus.

Nancy Boren thanked Laura Walker and Alton Russell, former chair of the Republican Party, for their participation in the audit of the 2020 election.

Correspondence: N/A

No further business Vice- Chair, Uhland Roberts, adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Uhland Roberts
Vice-Chairperson



Columbus, Georgia, Board of Tax Assessors

Item #6.

GEORGIA'S FIRST CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

City Services Center
3111 Citizens Way
Columbus, GA 31906

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1340
Columbus, GA 31902

Telephone (706) 653-4398, 4402
Fax (706) 225-3800

Board Members

Jayne Govar
Chairman

Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Assessor

Kathy J. Jones
Assessor

Todd A. Hammonds
Assessor

Trey Carmack
Vice Chairman

Chief Appraiser
Suzanne Widenhouse

MINUTES #30-24

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jayne Govar calls the Columbus, Georgia Board of Assessors' meeting to order on Monday, August 26, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT ARE:

Chairman Jayne Govar
Vice Chairman Trey Carmack
Assessor Kathy Jones
Assessor Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Deputy Chief Appraiser Glen Thomason
Chief Appraiser/Secretary Suzanne Widenhouse

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Assessor Jones motions to accept agenda. Vice Chairman Trey Carmack seconds and the motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice Chairman Trey Carmack motions to accept the minutes as presented. Assessor Jones seconds and the motion carries.

MISCELLANEOUS: Reminder of no meeting next Monday on Sept 2nd due to the Labor Day Holiday.

At 9:05, Administrative Manager Leilani Floyd/Mary Hale present to the Board:

- Homesteads - Signed & Approved.

At 9:25, Residential Property Manager Paul Borst presents to the Board:

- Digest Correction - #063 023 009 - Signed & Approved.

At 9:30, Commercial Property Manager Jeff Milam presents to the Board:

- A2H Hearing Officer - Signed & Approved.
- A4H Hearing Officer Changes - Signed & Approved.
- Tax Exempt Request - #111 012 010 Signed & Approved.

At 9:48, Chief Deputy Appraiser Glen Thomason presents to the Board:

- Map Splits - #178 013 020 & 021 - Signed & Approved.

At 10:01, Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse presents to the Board:

- DOAA Sales Ratio Study 2024 - placed into record.
- Executive Session – Proposals X2017101 & X2019101 Vice Chairman Carmack motions to allow Atty Greg Ellington to write up the agreement for all parties to sign. Assessor Sandifer Hicks seconds and the motion carries.

At 10:35, Chairman Jayne Govar adjourns the meeting without any objections.

Suzanne Widenhouse
Chief Appraiser/Secretary

APPROVED: _____

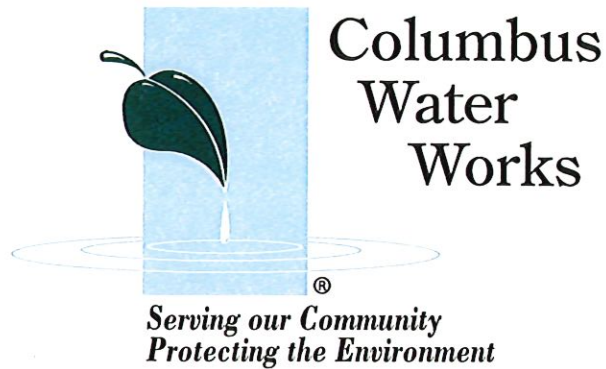
MIN# 31-24 SEP 16 2024

Absent
J. GOVAR
CHAIRMAN

L. SANDIFER HICKS
ASSESSOR

K. JONES
ASSESSOR

T. CARMACK
VICE CHAIRMAN



September 9, 2024

This is a summary of items acted on during the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners of Columbus, Georgia, held at our Main Office, Chattahoochee Room. It was on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. Chairman Rodney Close took the roll call and the following Commissioners were present:

Rodney Close, Chair
Nick Smith, Vice Chair
Wes Kelley
Jennifer Upshaw
Mayor Skip Henderson

Receipt of the Minutes from the last regular meeting on June 17, 2024, and called meeting on July 22, 2024, were presented to the Board. The Board approved the Minutes.

The Financial Reports for the months of June, July and August 2024 including Ft. Moore were provided to the Board. The Board approved the Financial Reports.

Management requested Board approval to award the NCWRF Finished Water Pump and Chemical Improvements Project to P. F. Moon Construction at the valued engineered price of \$10,075,274.00. Board approved.

Management requested Board approval to accept Georgia Power's proposal to rebuild the NCWRF 2.4kv Electrical System at a cost of \$1,601,190.00. Board approved.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Carl Robertson, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS GEORGIA
August 1, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selvin Hollingsworth, Charles Ray Sheffield, Laura Gower, Will White

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Geniece Granville

ALSO PRESENT: Jerald Mitchell, Joe Sanders, Audrey Tillman, Pam Hodge, Rob McKenna, Conner Miller, Alison Nalley, Tracey Herring, Helen Williams, Jennifer Bickerstaff and Ben Moser w/C4C, Christy Bozeman w/Georgia USA, Joshua Beard w/Mayor's ofc, (Rob McKenna interns: Trent Swinehart, Candace Callahan, Savannah Godowns)

The meeting was called to order by Selvin Hollingsworth at 8:35am

I. WELCOME

- a. July 18, 2024, Minutes - **Having been distributed prior to the meeting and upon motion made by Charles Ray Sheffield and seconded by Laura Gower, the Authority unanimously approved the minutes for July 18, 2024 meeting attached as "Exhibit A."**

II. FINANCES

- a. July 2024 Financial Update – Joe Sanders reviewed the P&L and balance sheet. **Upon motion made by Laura Gower and seconded by Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the July 2024 Financial Reports attached as "Exhibit B."**

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

- a. FY2025 Budget Review
 - i. Handouts provided to the board members
 - ii. Joe reviewed the data
 - b. Economic Development Updates:
 - i. Alison provided a project pipeline update:
 1. Projects increase of 40
 2. 8 Leads (3 leads since the last DA meeting)
 - ii. Action item: Jerald will send Will the link for the list of sites
 - iii. Parcel 11, 64 acres at Technology Park – site development underway
 - iv. Parcel 19, 62 acres at Technology Park – permits under review
 - v. Parcel 18, 101 acres
 - c. Robotics:
 - i. Ted Maciuba robotics consultant from Ft. Moore attending conferences to get Columbus on the radar
 - ii. K12 in robotics competition
 - iii. Commanding General @ Ft. Moore is now the head of robotics for the U.S. Army
 - d. Small Business updates by Alison Nalley
 - i. Small Business visits and new business checkup continues
 - ii. Tracey continues to work on the small business toolkit
 - iii. Roundtable with Mayor Henderson was July 2nd, hosted at the Chamber – the next mayor's roundtable is October 1, 2024 @ 9am
 - iv. Small Business Summer Series: Strategic Planning for your business, Speed Coaching/ACE
- IV. The Columbus Railyards Presentation by Jack Schley w/Page Scrantom
- a. Jack shared a slide presentation on the Columbus GA Railyards (Past, Present & Future)

Exhibit A

V. LEGAL ISSUES

a. Rob McKenna provided the legal updates:

- Bond Resolution for Project Maverick (Engine Center) \$144mil
- Bond Resolution for Project Maverick (Forge) \$60mil
Upon motion made by Charles Ray Sheffield and seconded by, Will White, the Authority unanimously approved the Bond Resolution for Pratt & Whitney Project Maverick (Engine Center and Forge)
- Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the SPLOST Funds
Upon motion made by Laura Gower and seconded by Will White, the Authority unanimously approved the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the Authority governing the transfer of SPLOST Funds from the City to the Development Authority
- Request for Amendments to the CCRs for MTP
Upon motion made by Charles Ray Sheffield and seconded by, Will White, the Authority unanimously agreed that Selvin will meet with Rob to better understand the requested changes to the declaration and make the final decisions based on the recommendations made at the meeting
- Termination of the 2002 Assessment Bonds – expired in 2022
Upon motion made by Laura Gower and seconded by, Charles Ray Sheffield, the Authority unanimously approved the terminate of the 2002 Cessna Bond at Cessna's request

VI. CITY REPORT

a. Pam Hodge provided updates on the following items:

- i. RFP out for the Trade Center parking lot (neighborhood meeting scheduled Friday, Aug 9th)
- ii. Farmers Market on 10th Ave demolition work and environment work started (public meeting to be scheduled to discuss what to do with this property)
- iii. Council approved \$6 million for minor repairs at the jail
- iv. Implementing the One Cart System for trash pick-up starts Sep 9th – options to purchase an additional container is available

VII. C4C Update: Ben Moser provided an update:

- a. Ben recognized the passing Rick McKnight – Ben provided the date & time for the visitation and funeral
 - i. Workforce Development – Phase II Recompete announcement is next week
 1. If the grant is not approved this year, it will push into the finals for next year
 - ii. Land Development – awarded \$1.55 mil thru the HUD Spending Bill – starting work on the site north of Columbus
 - iii. Partnerships
 1. Working with GA Tech on a housing survey study

Government Affairs:VIII. Upcoming Events

a. Inter-City Leadership Conference – September 25 – 27

IX. NEW BUSINESS – Nothing to report

X. OLD BUSINESS – Nothing to report

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XII. MEETING ADJOURNED

Selvin Hollinsworth, Chairman

Charles Ray Sheffield, Vice Chair



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: February 12, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Joseph Williams,
Terry Edwards, LaVerne Chaffin, Karen Johnson,
and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Ed Harbison, April Hughes, Linda McElroy,
David Ranieri, and Edwina Turner

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Danny Davenport, Cyndy Pattillo, Karen Cotton-Everett,
Kenyetta Plummer, Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:37 p.m.
A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Dr. LaKaren
Rickman, Psychologist and new employee of New Horizons.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of December 11, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph
Williams/LaVerne Chaffin to approve the December 11, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOCUS GROUP: With a goal to better understand the needs of our
communities and how New Horizons can meet them, Cyndy and LaKaren presented questions and
requested feedback/input from Board Members in response to our community needs assessment for
our Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) process. Topics for discussion
included: Community Needs, Access and Barriers to Care, Services, Staffing and Workforce, and
Partnerships and Care Coordination. Board Members responded that stigma, housing instability,
lack of information/education and hesitancy from law enforcement and others to
respond/understand mental health issues/behaviors are barriers for individuals to receive the help
they need. The data will be compiled and information shared with staff and the Board.

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For 24-Hour Emergency Services Call (706) 323-0174 or Toll Free (800) 241-3659*

***ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2024:** As announced in the December Board meeting, it is time to elect officers for 2024. Our current slate of officers are: Damon Hoyte, Chair, Nancy Schroeder, Vice Chair, and Sandra Gill, Secretary. M/S/P Joseph Williams/LaVerne Chaffin to re-elect Damon Hoyte as Board Chair, Nancy Schroeder as Vice Chair, and Sandra Gill as Secretary, Board Approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported on November and December financial data as January is still being closed out. Overall, November revenue is \$200,397 over budgeted projections. Medicaid Waiver revenue is trending upwards for the month and Medicaid fees are improving, but are still under budget by \$38,000 YTD. Grant-in-Aid FFS is below YTD budget by \$24,000. Grant in Aid revenue is \$450,000 above YTD budgeted projections. November expenses were \$438,246 over budgeted projections resulting in a November operating deficit of \$237,849. Salaries and benefits continue to be the largest area for budget overages, attributable to bringing staff to market rate, filling vacant positions, and an Employee Retention Bonus distributed in November. November ended with a YTD surplus of \$599,781. Operating under the CCBHC model with no corresponding CCBHC payment rate from DBHDD and the two Federal grants ended September 30th, we will continue to experience financial stress on the Agency. For December, revenue was \$363,300 under budgeted projections. Medicaid Fees and Grant-in-Aid FFS revenues are lower than budgeted as is Contract Revenue. YTD revenue is \$1,475,360 over budgeted predictions. Expenses, including salary and benefits, continue to be higher than budgeted. The Governor announced Bonus payments for all State employees, however, our contract was not amended until January and revenue will be reflected on the January financials. The YTD losses of \$276,712 reflect the financial impact of the federal grants and CCBHC contract sunseting. We are operating as a CCBHC in a Fee for Service payment model with FFS rates that have not increased since 2008. December KPI scores indicated our Cash on Hand was 156.92 days. Continued delays in operating without a PPS rate could reduce our COH to 90 days or lower. . We have been in discussion with DBHDD since it became evident the State PPS rate would be delayed. We received a CCBHC contract amendment of \$505,000 through June 2024 based on those discussions, however, this is not enough to continue CCBHC operations without a PPS rate and it cannot be used for salary expenses. These discussions escalated in December and January with a written proposal requesting an additional \$165,000 per month to support personnel and other costs while awaiting the PPS payment rate. At this time, we do not have an agreement for additional funding from DBHDD. As was reported in previous meetings, this gap in implementation is having a financial impact on the agency and our goal is to maintain our cash reserves and, if necessary, cut back on expenses and/or staff.

AGGREGATED INCIDENT REPORT ANALYSIS – FY 23: New Horizons Behavioral Health is strongly committed to protecting the welfare of those who seek our services and to offer quality, professional care in a safe and humane environment. The agency is dedicated to delivering the highest quality of services in an ethical environment that is respectful to the rights and confidentiality of each individual served. Kenyetta Plummer, Compliance Director, reported that this analysis is a tool that assists the agency in ensuring the health and safety of individuals and staff, and to identify areas for program improvement. The Corporate Compliance Department is charged with oversight of all reporting to DBHDD. Deaths and Critical Incidents are reportable to DBHDD and Internal Incidents are used as a performance improvement tool to enhance services and safety.

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All incidents are reported by category and type and are subject to further analysis. Lowanna Richardson maintains the reports and collects the data. The information is used to identify trends and is reported to the Performance Improvement Committee, Individual Rights Committee, and the Clinical Care Committee. Total incidents, agency wide, by type for 2023 were 170, a significant decrease from 2021 and 2022. This includes Critical Incidents, Internal Incidents, Ethics, and Individual Rights complaints. Categories and Incident types have been the same since 2019 with the exception of reporting requirements for Covid-19. These were revised in September 2022 requiring the agency to only report Covid positive cases and Covid deaths for individuals only. In May of 2023, DBHDD discontinued all reporting requirements for Covid-19. A Safety Plan is now required with all reporting types. The Safety Plan is strategic in promoting incident intervention and prevention and formulates as a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for ongoing use. Reporting a death is required within 2 hours and non-death reporting the same day. Once DBHDD reviews the CIR and/or Safety Plan and confirms appropriate care and services were provided to the individual before, during, and after an incident, the objective is to close cases in a timely manner. Analysis of the report indicated CIR deaths increased by 2 in FY23, psychiatric hospitalizations decreased over 50%, ER visits for I/DD individuals decreased, and there was one Aggressive Physical Act (hit and run) by an individual resulting in death. CAPS were submitted for two incidents of Financial Exploitation (Staff to Individual) and for two Suicides. Programs with 10 or more internal incident reports are required to complete a CAP to assist with formulating performance improvement practices. New Horizons works tirelessly towards program improvement methods to address any issues identified from Compliance investigations, any DBHDD CAP, and/or any ongoing training needs identified.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on an array of outreach events she and other New Horizons staff have attended recently. These included Christmas Winter Wonderland, Goodwill Christmas Resource Fair, Domestic Violence Roundtable Virtual Resource Fair, Harris County Senior Center Resource Fair, MLK Jr. Unity Award Breakfast, and the Clay County Career Fair. She also listed numerous upcoming events on her schedule. A number of staff and individuals attended Mental Health Day at the Capitol in January, and Chloe and Amelia Copeland will attend the GACSB Day at the Capitol February 13th. Marquis Hill, Youth Motivational Speaker, spoke at schools in Clay, Randolph, Harris, and Talbot counties. He was very well-received by the students and faculty. New Horizons' staff filled over 10 large donation boxes during the Christmas Donation Drive providing clothing, school supplies, and toys for the McKinney Vento Program and the Sara Spano clothing bank to benefit homeless children in Muscogee County. Social Media contacts continue to increase and collaborations with community partners are thriving and growing. Chloe indicated that New Horizons has a strong presence on our local TV stations and their websites and announced upcoming marketing plans that include schedule planning for our new Mobile Clinic unit, I/DD Awareness Month (March) activity planning, Mental Health Awareness Month (May) activity planning, a Suicide Prevention public service TV announcement, and a half-hour special on WRBL featuring Marquis Hill in mid-March.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea shared information from Commissioner Tanner’s letter regarding support for Community Service Boards and Funding Enhancements. The letter indicated that without sustainable funding approved by the Georgia General Assembly, DBHDD was unable to expedite the request for financial assistance at this time, however, funds for crisis bed rates at Behavioral Health Crisis Centers were increased.

Our NADD Certification site visit is scheduled for February 28th – March 1st. This certification, for providing services to individuals with intellectual/developmental disability and mental health needs through the development of competency-based professional standards and through promoting ongoing professional development, is required for our CCBHC implementation process.

GACSB Day at the Capitol is February 13, 2024. Chloe plans to attend.

Mr. Hoyte shared ideas/thoughts on how he could advocate for behavioral health services for his colleagues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:20 p.m. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Sandra Gill to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: March 11, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, April Hughes,
Terry Edwards, LaVerne Chaffin, and Karen Johnson

Members Excused: Ed Harbison, Joseph Williams, Linda McElroy,
David Ranieri, Sandra Gill, and Edwina Turner

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry,
LaKaren Rickman, Cyndy Pattillo, Karen Cotton-Everett,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:36 p.m.
A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: No guests were in
attendance.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of February 12, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Laverne
Chaffin/Karen Johnson to approve the February 12, 2024 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Fees, and GIA-FFS
were significantly below budget in January. This was expected as we transitioned to CareLogic.
The Revenue Acquisition Department (RAD) team is working to ensure staff understand
CareLogic processes, reports, and how to move claims through the billing system. January
expenses were \$142,939 over budget with salaries and benefits being the largest contributors to the
budget variance. The Year to Date deficit is \$625,861 and for the month ending January 31st, a
monthly deficit of \$349,148. We continue to operate under the CCBHC model with no CCBHC
payment rate from DBHDD. We have been working with DBHDD for funding to support our
CCBHC activities and anticipate a contract amendment providing an additional \$625,000 through
June 30. This amendment supports personnel costs and is in addition to the \$505,000 contract
amendment awarded in December. January 2024 Financial KPI scores indicated Days Cash on
Hand is 154.58 days with total daily expenditures of \$59,185.

An initial FY25 budget meeting was held in February with members of the finance team. They will meet in March to finalize the FY25 budget that will be presented to the Board in June. Efforts to automate purchasing and check requests processes continue and a list of agency-approved supplies is being created to streamline purchasing. We are looking at lease/purchase building opportunities, especially for Midtown Recovery, Integrated Health, and Youth Serving programs. An ERC tax credit of approximately \$625,000 is expected that will improve our cash position on the Balance Sheet.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE: Andrea reminded Board Members that the CCBHC initiative focuses on improved access to services for all individuals with a new payor type billed under Medicaid. With many layers of certification and requirements, this initiative has been the biggest project we have undertaken.

- a. **MTM/DBHDD MEETINGS:** There have been countless meetings with MTM and DBHDD throughout the CCBHC process, often as many as 10 hours of meetings per week. From the early stages of the steering committee, to attestation, and certification, the process has been a long, stressful, and challenging one.
- b. **COST REPORT:** New Horizons was selected as a CCBHC candidate with an initial \$4 million dollar DBHDD contract from November 1, 2021 through October 30, 2023. Other members of our CCBHC Cohort include: Advantage Behavioral Health, Pineland Behavioral Health, and River Edge Behavioral Health. New Horizons Steering Committee participated in several MTM Cost studies prior to the contract that gave us a global look at cost of services by providers, service codes, programs, and disabilities. In addition to our financial reporting system and the proposed new Electronic Health Record, a Cost Accountant position was included in the CCBHC budget with C. Reid Denson hired to fill that position. Reid initially worked with Sherry Smith and Tara Malone to complete the MTM SPQM Costing report using FY20 data. The decision was made to move from SPQM Costing process to the CMS (Medicaid) Cost Report. Upon the loss of our CFO, Susan was identified to work with Tom Hoover, Advantage CFO, on the Cost Study, CCBHC Readiness, Budgets, Audits, DBHDD reporting, and the CareLogic transition. FY22 information was later added to the Cost Report calculations and Reid quickly became known as the go-to person among the CSBs regarding the Cost Report process and provided group and staff trainings. Our CMS Cost Report is an Excel Workbook with over 74 tabs and pivot tables, supported by 19 separate schedules and the audited financial statements.
- c. **SUBMITTED PPS RATE:** In January of 2024, we began the final push to establishing a PPS rate. Working closely with the DBHDD CCBHC Team and their MTM consultants, we began developing anticipated costs and the Community Mental Health Needs Assessment. We had numerous meetings and over 18 hours of technical assistance with MTM during February in order to meet the February 29th PPS deadline. There were many sessions with DBHDD reviewing staff productivity, defending projected Unique Daily Visits, and adjustments to the PPS rate. A tentative rate has been submitted and we are waiting for approval.

- d. **COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:** LaKaren reviewed the Needs Assessment that was conducted to assess barriers that exist in our service area that limit access to behavioral health services and to investigate crucial limited or nonexistent services across the service area. The report assesses the needs and service gaps across the eight-county region that New Horizons serves. Data was collected from community surveys, a focus group, and from interviews with key informants. Secondary data was analyzed to estimate the prevalence of mental health disorders and provide a socioeconomic context of the residents in the NHBH service area. Behavioral Health needs for our service area were identified and prioritized based on data collected. These priorities were measured within the context of NHBH's existing programs, resources, strategic goals, and partnerships with the following criteria considered: Barriers to accessing services, specific community and individual needs in the service area, and alignment of needs with NHBH strategic plan and core capabilities. As a result, the assessment addressed these key priorities for FY24 to FY27: Advance workforce development initiatives that support our community's needs, enhance and expand NHBH levels of care, access, services, and scope of services in the communities, and empower NHBH service area, families, and individuals through mental health education, access, and stigma reduction.
- e. **NEXT STEPS:** Currently, we are awaiting results from our DBHDD site visit for CCBHC Certification, have made "substantial progress" per DBHDD on the PPS rate (which they state will be in place by July 1, 2024), our site visit for NADD Accreditation is nearly complete, the new Electronic Health Record, CareLogic, has been implemented and will be configured and mapped for CCBHC billing, required reporting/data collection/KPIs for CCBHC are being reviewed, and the DBHDD Provider Manual updates are needed and expected soon. Andrea gave a shout out to all the staff who have worked diligently in this process to help us reach these goals.

ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE SURVEY RESULTS: The survey is conducted annually in December through the GACSB Association. 141 employees participated in the FY24 survey, an increase over previous years. Employees were surveyed about the mission and purpose of the organization, provision of feedback, coworkers, and teamwork, communication, resources and procedures, opportunities for growth, compensation, work-life balance, fairness, diversity and security, and meaningfulness of the work. Overall, more than 70% of employee responses were positive responses. Of those surveyed, 90% or more were familiar with the mission, vision, and values of NHBH and could see the link between their work and the organization. Additionally, over 90% of employees felt supported by their coworkers and experienced a sense of teamwork. The lowest ranked responses were regarding compensation with only 47% agreeing that they are paid fairly for the work they do. Comparisons to NHBH and other CSBs in Georgia (New Horizons scored higher in every domain) who participated in the survey and a five-year comparison (consistent overall) of NHBH domain scores were also reviewed. Results of the survey were reviewed in SEC and PI meetings and an action plan will be developed to address concerns.

NADD CERTIFICATION SITE VISIT: Karen reported that the mission of the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) is to promote leadership in the expansion of knowledge, training, policy, and advocacy for mental health practices that promote a quality life for individual with dual diagnosis (Intellectual Developmental Disabilities/Mental Illness) in their communities. NADD is committed to supporting organizations in improving services for the dually diagnosed individuals and offers trainings in treating clients who are dually diagnosed and certification programs for direct support and clinical staff. The accreditation is a requirement for CCBHC certification through DBHDD. The survey took place February 28th – March 1st with two surveyors on-site, one focused on our I/DD Residential Program and one on Outpatient Services. The visit included chart reviews and tours of programs. An additional surveyor is scheduled to visit on March 14th to more closely review the Outpatient Services standards/policies prior to our final report being sent.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on a number of outreach events that she and other New Horizons staff attended recently including the Men’s Resource Fair, Maintaining the Total Man, and the Goodwill Hiring Event in LaGrange. Upcoming events on her schedule are: Lonnie Jackson Elementary School Resource Fair, NHBH I/DD Talent Show, Harris County Health Fair, Clay County Women’s Health Fair, DRC Resource Fair, and the Stewart County First Saturday event. I/DD individuals and several staff had a great time at the Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and Cascade Hills church. Social Media contacts dipped slightly over the last month, but are expected to increase. Our new Mobile Unit should be ready to roll in April and Chloe is preparing a schedule for the outreach program to reach as many locations as possible. Mental Health First Aid class, made possible in partnership with Columbus Family Connections, is offered May 30th from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm for faith leaders and other community advocates. Chloe regularly attends many community meetings to further enhance our agency partnerships. Other upcoming projects include: I/DD Awareness Month proclamation to be presented at City Council this week, Columbus CEO video distributed this month, suicide prevention public service announcement to begin filming this week, a 30-minute special with Marquis Hill to air on WRBL March 30th, and the Recovery on the River date is set for September 20th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board Members were encouraged to reach out to their local county commissioners to discuss the Opioid Settlement meetings for their counties that will determine how the settlement funds will be distributed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Board Members were appreciative of information/data contained in the Needs Assessment related to demographics, prevalence of mental illness/substance abuse, and diversity in their communities and of how these needs will be addressed, and the role Board Members can play in bridging the gap.

Karen Johnson asked for clarification of some of the acronyms used in the meeting, DBHDD, CCBHC, MTM, SPQM, KPI. In the past, a list was created to aid in understanding these terms. A new list will be compiled as there are many new additions.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:10 p.m. M/S/P April Hughes/Terry Edwards to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson



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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: May 13, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Ed Harbison,
Terry Edwards, LaVerne Chaffin, Karen Johnson,
Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: April Hughes, Joseph Williams, David Ranieri, and Edwina Turner

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Danny Davenport,
Karen Cotton-Everett, Denise Wade McLeod,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:32 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Dr. Edward Minor, Medical Director, NHBH and Dr. Harjesus Sandhu, St. Francis-Emory Healthcare.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of March 11, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Terry Edwards/Nancy Schroeder to approve the March 11, 2024 minutes, Board approved.

JERRY "POPS" BARNES TRIBUTE: In Loving Memory of Jerry "Pops" Barnes - 1943 to 2024. Among all of the great things Jerry "Pops" Barnes was, he was a dear friend and great supporter of New Horizons and those we serve. He served our community, our people, and our country in so many ways. He was in the Army for 20 years, on the Columbus City Council for 20 years, was a nurse, a proud Columbus resident, devoted husband and father, and a public servant in every sense. He cared deeply about his constituents, taking the time to go door-to-door and personally meet hundreds of residents in his district. He used his platform to support and promote local organizations whose mission is to serve the underserved, like New Horizons, through his CCG-TV show and live FaceBook shows. A wide range of topics and information related to health, mental health, well-being, and community events were presented on his shows by New Horizons staff and others in the community, but "Pops" made the show relatable, informative, and entertaining. "Pops" will be greatly missed, but his impact will remain everlasting. A moment of silence followed honoring "Pops" memory.

ST. FRANCIS/EMORY RESIDENCY PROGRAM: Dr. Edward Minor, Medical Director at New Horizons, introduced Dr. Harjesus Sandhu. Dr. Sandhu presented an overview of the Psychiatry Residency Program of St. Francis-Emory Healthcare. The program's mission is to make communities healthier, train psychiatrists to be excellent clinicians who will be leaders in our communities, provide high quality healthcare, promote health and wellness of our residents and staff, and engage in social/charitable organizations to decrease health disparities in underprivileged populations. A number of community psychiatrists and Internal Medicine physicians are on board to teach and supervise the residents and community partners including West Central Georgia Regional Hospital, Martin Army Community Hospital, Pastoral Institute, New Horizons Behavioral Health, and the Bradley Center will offer residents experience in inpatient and outpatient clinical psychiatric rotations for adults, elderly patients, children and adolescents. The program will enable Board Certified Psychiatrists to take care of the community in inpatient and outpatient settings, conduct outreach seminars to teach disparities in cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, and enhance community workforce and economic development. With a goal of to create the best psychiatry residency program and the vision to have 7 residents each year for a total of 28 residents in the 4-year program, this is a great opportunity for New Horizons and our community, and the impact will be significant.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that for February 2024, Medicaid and GIA-FFS billing remained below budget. The Revenue Acquisition Department (RAD) Team and Information Technology (IT) Team continue to work to ensure CareLogic growing pains are identified and addressed. In response to the Change Healthcare cyber attack, we have moved to Availity to facilitate claims processing. Grant in Aid and Federal Funds revenue are higher than budgeted while contract revenue is trending downward. Investment interest was not budgeted and is part of the Employer Retention Tax Credit interest earned. Overall, YTD actual revenues are higher than YTD budgeted revenues, but expenses are also higher than budgeted. February expenses were \$215,572 over budget with Salaries/Benefits the largest contributors to the budget variance due to salary increases and bonuses mandated from the Governor's office. The YTD deficit is \$841,431 for the month ending February 29th. We continue to operate under the CCBHC model with no corresponding CCBHC payment rate from DBHDD. Costing Information was provided to DBHDD on February 29 to establish the PPS rate for the agency, but we have not had any feedback or approval from DBHDD. We received an additional \$625,000 from DBHDD for our CCBHC contract that provided \$125,000 monthly for assistance with personnel costs. In March, Medicaid and GIA-FFS billing continued to be below budgeted amounts. Grant in Aid and Federal Funds revenue were higher than budgeted and contract revenue reversed its downward trend due to the CCBHC contract in March. Overall, YTD actual revenues are higher than YTD budgeted revenues, but again, expenses continue to be higher than budgeted. March expenses were \$181,212 over budget for the month; however, we did realize a monthly surplus of \$87,547 due to additional CCBHD funding of \$125,000 per month for February and March. Without this funding, our loss for March would be \$162,436. YTD deficit is \$753,885 for the month ending March 31. The Executive Leadership Team is looking at current staffing levels, open positions posted, and program census levels to see where reductions in Salaries/Benefits can be made without jeopardizing CCBHC readiness, and while factoring in the State's proposed 4% salary increase for full-time State employees. April Medicaid, Medicaid Waiver, and GIA-FFS continue to be below budgeted amounts. RAD and IT teams continue to work on CareLogic billing/collection issues.

Grant in Aid and Federal Funds revenue are higher than budgeted and contract revenue reversed its downward trend. YTD actual revenues are higher than YTD budgeted revenue, but expenses continue to be higher than budgeted. April expenses were \$279,275 over budget for the month with Salaries/Benefits, as in February and March, being the largest contributors to the variance. YTD deficit is \$1,033,160 for the month ending April 30th. The Leadership Team continues to review ways to reduce expenses. The DBHDD State CCBHC Team is aware of our need for continued financial support while awaiting a PPS rate. In addition, we have indicated on our Financial Quarterly Reporting to DBHDD the need for additional funding to maintain the current level of operations without a PPS rate.

We have experienced a 33 day reduction of Days Cash on Hand since the sunset of the SAMHSA and DBHDD grants in October. This is a serious concern and is not sustainable. Our March Financial KPI scores indicate Cash on Hand is 148.21 with daily expenditures of \$66,778.

The Finance Department continues to have budget meetings with Executive Leadership and are budgeting for three possible scenarios: PPS Rate starting July 1, PPS Rate starting January 1, and no PPS Rate in FY25.

We have partnered with Morehouse School of Medicine on an HRSA Rural Community Opioid grant that was submitted on May 6. Cheryl Williams, CSS Coordinator, submitted multiple applications to DCA/HUD for funding to allow us to leverage resources, if awarded. This would allow for more funding of our CCBHC Rural Expansion Plans while we await a PPS rate. We continue to explore lease/purchase opportunities to return to our Pre-Covid level of facilities and CCBHC expansion, especially for Midtown Recovery, Integrated Health, and Youth Serving programs.

SERVICE PROCESS QUALITY MANAGEMENT (SPQM) – GACSB FINANCIAL DATA: Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be presented in the June Board Meeting

CARELON AUDIT RESULTS: Due to time constraints, this agenda item will be presented in the June Board Meeting.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT UPDATE: Turning the tide on opioids in Georgia is a mission to collaboratively eradicate and prevent the opioid crisis in Georgia, fostering healing and safeguarding future generations. Andrea reminded Board Members that, in 2021, a nationwide settlement was reached to resolve all opioid litigation brought by States and local political subdivisions against the three largest pharmaceutical distributors, McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Johnson & Johnson. In 2022, the Georgia Opioid Crisis Abatement Trust, with Commissioner Kevin Tanner of DBHDD as Trustee, was created to receive Georgia's portion of the settlement funds and any interest generated by those funds. The Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission was established by Executive Order from Governor Brian Kemp in May of 2023. Georgia's share of the settlement funds is just over \$636 million. That money is coming in over 18 years and must be spent for Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, and Harm Reduction. The Advisory Commission is responsible for administering the grant process to local entities in Region 6 via an RFP and approval process. Applications will be accepted from April 15th to May 17th.

INTENSIVE TREATMENT RESIDENCE FIRE: Denise reported on a fire that occurred April 2 during the night at the ITR group home. Thankfully, all four residents and one staff got out safely, with no injuries. Staff noticed one of the individuals walked outside during the night and upon checking the individual's bedroom, noticed the fire. That individual, who had started the fire, was sent to The Bradley Center and the other three residents were transported to another group home. An arson investigator visited the home April 4th and warrants were later issued for the individual for multiple charges and he was incarcerated April 5th. McIntosh Trail (another CSB) accepted the other three individuals into their residential program. The Insurance Adjuster inspected the home and damage and submitted an estimate for clean-up and repairs. The ITR remains closed at this time.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on a number of outreach events attended recently including health fairs, resource, and wellness fairs, New Horizons' I/DD Talent Show, clothing giveaways, and the HOPE Center Celebration. In June, staff will participate in the Pride Festival and the Juneteenth Celebration. Social Media contacts continue to increase and Suicide Prevention and HIV PSAs are airing over the next few months on TV and Radio. Mental Health First Aid Training for faith leaders is May 30 and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is offered in English and Spanish June 26th and 27th. New online donation and sponsorship forms are available on New Horizons Behavioral Health's website. Andrea presented of overview of New Horizons for the Columbus CEO website and email newsletter, and WRBL filmed an in-depth interview with motivational speaker Marquis Hill that is airing on their website. Upcoming projects include: Mental Health Awareness Month proclamation presentation at Columbus City Council meeting tomorrow, Dr. LaKaren Rickman and Susan Gallagher are attending Board of Commissioner meetings in all eight counties to present the Community Mental Health Needs Assessment, the new Mobile Unit has arrived, decals will be installed soon, and sponsors are being sought for Recovery on the River to be held in September. Chloe encouraged Board Members and staff to vote for New Horizons for Columbus Peoples' Choice Award.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Susan announced New Horizons will participate in setting up a scholarship in memory of Jerry "Pops" Barnes. A meeting has been held to discuss implementation with his family involved and more details will follow.

Board Members were reminded to save the date for the GACSB Leadership Conference October 27-29 at Lake Lanier.

Mr. Hoyte expressed appreciation to New Horizons staff who reached out to assist following a tragic family violence episode in his area.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:15 p.m. M/S/P Laverne Chaffin/Ed Harbison to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: June 17, 2024 (Rescheduled from June 10, 2024)

Members Present: David Ranieri, Terry Edwards, Ed Harbison,
Karen Johnson, and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, April Hughes, Nancy Schroeder, Edwina Turner,
Linda McElroy, and LaVerne Chaffin

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade McLeod,
Karen Cotton-Everett, Randall Newberry,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Member David Ranieri at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was not established during the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Calena Brown, Mental Health Supported Employment Program Director.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH WILLIAMS: Staff and Board Members expressed their heartfelt sympathy for the passing of Mr. Williams on June 10, 2024. Mr. Williams faithfully served on our Board since 2017 and was a community and servant leader in Stewart County and surrounding areas. He advocated for the citizens of his district and those in need. His leadership and legacy will have a lasting impact on all who knew him and he will be greatly missed. A moment of silence to honor his memory was shared by those attending the meeting.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 13, 2024 minutes):** A quorum was not established during the meeting.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that for May 2024, Medicaid Revenues demonstrate our forward progress with Medicaid Waiver revenue as we are above budget for both the month and year-to-date. However, we continue to experience below budgeted performance with Medicaid Fees and GIA-FFS as we work to improve the collection rate in CareLogic. Our Grant-in-Aid, Federal Funds, and Contract Revenue collections are well above budget, offsetting the current 80% billing collections rate. Year-to-Date (YTD), our Actual Revenue is above Budget Projections. This information is used to make budget predictions for FY25.

May expenses were \$121,411 over budget with salaries and benefits being the largest contributors to the budget variance. Salary increases and bonuses mandated from the Governor's office contribute to this. Our YTD deficit is \$865,613 for the month ending May 31. We continue to operate under the CCBHC model with no corresponding CCBHC/PPS payment rate. We have been requested by DBHDD to provide updated Costing information to adjust our Unique Daily Visits. DBHDD is very supportive of the CCBHC Model of Care and the 4 CSB candidates as we work together to improving access to care for our communities. We anticipate receiving additional financial support from DBHDD in FY25 as the mechanisms are refined, defined, and implemented for Georgia to have a PPS payment rate. Key Performance Indicators as of May 31, 2024 indicate 151 days cash on hand with average daily expenditures of \$66,778. The accounting department is working on year-end close process in preparation for the annual external audit. There are over 57 schedules and items required to be provided to the auditors by July 31. We anticipate the auditors to be on-site the third week of August.

NEW HORIZONS FY 25 ANNUAL BUDGET: The FY25 recommended Annual Budget of \$21,074,240, balanced between revenues and expenses with no support from Fund Reserves, was presented and discussed. Revenue assumptions include Medicaid Waiver Revenue remaining stable, Medicaid and GIA-FFS rates continuing to improve, and Contract and Grant-in-Aid revenue increasing. Expenditure assumptions indicate salaries will increase by 4% per the State's mandated increase, building rents have been budgeted to more closely reflect actual rents, and additional financial support from DBHDD is anticipated in FY25 for CCBHC implementation. Budget revisions may be made once that information is finalized. As a quorum was not reached at the meeting, no motion was made for FY25 budget approval.

REVIEW OF GACSB NETWORK – FY23: Comparisons of New Horizons to our statewide safety-net partners, other CSBs in Georgia, from FY19 to FY23 was reviewed. Adult MH/AD clients served, net operating margin, management and general (overhead) expenses, days cash on hand, and debt ratio categories were categories listed in the report. The most significant findings noted were New Horizons' clients served has decreased (as have other CSBs), and our days cash on hand has significantly increased (many CSBs have not).

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE: Andrea reviewed the CCBHC implementation process to date, Covid-related and grant funding received for implementation that was very beneficial to New Horizons, and discussed the financial impact of the delayed PPS rate. Operating as a CCBHC with no PPS rate is creating a deficit month after month. This was discussed in a recent meeting with DBHDD with next steps to submit a detailed request indicating what it will take to continue operating as a CCBHC and how we can remove barriers to help our individuals have better access to care. Maintaining our reserve funds is critical with the uncertainties and delays of the PPS rate being approved and finalized.

CARELON AUDIT RESULTS: Karen reported that our most recent Carelon Audit, in March of 2024, had an overall score of 82%, compared to the March 2023 score of 80% and the September 2023 score of 87%. This was our first audit in the CareLogic EMR system so we expected some issues around that, but overall, it went fairly smoothly. Opportunities for improvement include overall progress not documented in some group notes, whole health and wellness not addressed on all treatment plans, “suicide history” flags not included on all records, and some services provided and billed when the service was not listed on the treatment plan for that time period. Strengths and improvements noted during the audit were complete and well-organized staff files that met credentialing requirements, Intensive Case Management charts indicating the timeframe between referral and engagement was within five days, successful discharge of individuals in Crisis Respite Apartments into independent housing and evidence of staff assistance with housing were noted and Psychosocial Rehab Program (9REACH) progress notes detailed specific response from participants. All programs involved in the Quality Review audit worked with the Utilization Management Department to complete a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for specific issues identified, documentation and treatment plan training is being conducted, and EMR updates to streamline workflows implemented.

CHANGES IN GACSB OFFICE: Andrea reported that the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards (GACSB) recently announced a change in their relationship with Strategic Healthcare Partners (SHP) and Capitol Strategy Group effective July 6th. SHP has provided 16 years of dedicated service to the CSB network and the Strategy Group has represented the CSBs at the Capitol for the past 8 years. The change was sudden and unexpected, and the announcement indicated they are focusing their resources on other opportunities. CSB leadership staff throughout the state will take on a more active role in the Association.

PRESENTATION: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT: Calena Brown, Supported Employment Program Director, reported that Supported Employment provides services to assist individuals, with a mental health diagnosis, in locating and maintaining meaningful employment in their communities. Supports are designed to capture their strengths, needs, and interests. With Supported Employment services, it is likely that people with significant mental illness will have the chance to engage in competitive integrated employment having real jobs and the chance to build financial security. The planned outcomes of SE services are to increase the hours worked by each individual toward the goal of full-time employment and to increase the wages of each individual toward the goal of financial independence. The benefits of steady competitive employment are: Increased income, improved self-esteem, improved social networks, increased quality of life, better control of symptoms, reduced substance use, and reduced use of mental health services. Following the eight principles of supported employment, the program currently has 57 individuals enrolled, 30 are currently employed, and 13 have been employed for over 90 days with pay ranging from \$8.50 to \$20.00 per hour. Two individuals will graduate from SEP at the end of the month and our current Supported Employment rate is 45%. SEP events include monthly workshops with individuals to work on resume skills, job interview tips, work skills, time management, customer service and work attire, and step down celebrations to congratulate the individuals and acknowledge their success.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on a number of outreach events attended recently including a Harris County Rotary Club presentation, Civic Center Hiring Event, and the Pride Festival. Upcoming events are the Juneteenth Jubilee, HIV Testing Day, Kingdom Faith Outreach Event, and several Back to School events throughout our eight county area. Social Media contacts continue to increase on Facebook, Instagram, and Constant Contact. Mental Health First Aid Training for faith leaders was May 30 and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is offered in English and Spanish June 26th and 27th. A Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation was presented to Dr. Pamela Shaw and Dr. LaKaren Rickman at the Columbus City Council meeting during the month of May. Dr. Rickman shared results of the Community Mental Health Needs Assessment throughout our eight counties and on local television stations. Recovery on the River will be held in September with a state-wide recovery bus tour and partnerships with DBHDD and the Georgia Council for Recovery, plus local sponsors on board. The new Mobile Unit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be announced at a later date and the Pops Barnes Scholarship Kickoff is June 18th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: No announcements were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:41 p.m. M/S/P Terry Edwards/Ed Harbison to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson



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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: August 12, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, Terry Edwards,
April Hughes, Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: David Ranieri and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade McLeod,
Randall Newberry, Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:34 p.m. A quorum was not established at that time, but was established later in the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Board Members and staff welcomed Arcola Scott, Stewart County Commission Vice Chair, and New Horizons Behavioral Health staff members, Olympia Alexander, Sandy Jackson, JoAnn Mosley, and Amelia Copeland.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 13 and June 17, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Sandra Gill/Terry Edwards to approve the minutes of May 13 and June 17, 2024, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that June is our Fiscal Year End where we accrue financial information around accounts payable and accounts receivable. Information presented is unaudited information for FY24. June revenues demonstrate our continued difficulties around collections for billable services with Medicaid Waiver and Medicaid/Medicare Fees under the monthly targets. Our Grant-In-Aid, Federal Funds, and Contract Revenue collections are well above budget, offsetting the current 80% average billing collections rate. Year to Date our total actual revenue is above budget projections. Our unaudited loss for the fiscal year ending June 30 is \$1,090,555. Audit adjustments may cause this figure to change. We operated in FY24 as a CCBHC Provider with no corresponding CCBHC/PPS payment rate. DBHDD is very supportive of the CCBHC Model of Care and the 4 CSB candidates as we work together toward improving access to care for our communities. We anticipate receiving additional financial support from DBHDD in FY25 as the mechanisms are refined, defined, and implemented for Georgia to have a PPS payment rate.

Salaries and benefits were the largest contributing factors to our expense over budget variance. This demonstrates our move under CCBHC to ensure staff at all levels are paid competitive rates.

***NEW HORIZONS FY25 ANNUAL BUDGET:** The proposed FY25 Annual Budget of \$23,712,009, balanced between revenues and expenses with no support from Fund Reserves, was presented and discussed. Revenue assumptions include Medicaid Waiver Revenue remaining stable, despite the 5% IDD rate increase, Medicaid and GIA-FFS rates continuing to improve, and Contract and Grant-in-Aid revenue increasing. DBHDD is providing a CCBHC supplement of \$1,728,000 for the first 6 months of FY25. Expenditure assumptions indicate salaries will increase by 4% per the State mandated increase, benefits are projected at 38% of total payroll and opportunities exist for expense reduction for Contracted Labor. Building rent will increase due to inflation and expansion, and motor vehicle expenses should decrease. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Terry Edwards to approve the FY25 Annual Budget, Board approved.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE: Andrea reported there are two main issues we are facing financially with CCBHC: 1) To operate CCBHC without the necessary funding, recoup losses, and be able to pay for CCBHC and, 2) the migration to our new EMR system and the need to increase revenue collection with anticipated waiver and behavioral health rate increases. We have reached out for enhanced technical assistance from the EMR vendor.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON HEALTH: Several New Horizons staff are participating on the Commission, founded by Mayor Skip Henderson, to develop a comprehensive program to improve the health of the people of Columbus and to reduce the incidence of both physical and mental health issues. The Commission has gained momentum over the past few months with the following community partners participating: United Way, Tree of Life Healthcare, Valley Healthcare The Bradley Center, MercyMed, Piedmont, Health Equity Navigator Program, St. Francis, DBHDD, Columbus Fire and EMS, and New Horizons Behavioral Health. Current goals of the Commission include information/data sharing between all partners, development of a means/platform that allows sharing of information/data, branding, supporting one another at community events, and addressing a high utilization group. A completed plan of action will be presented by the end of the year.

BACK TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: A number of New Horizons' staff have participated in Back to School events throughout our eight county service area. School supplies and notebooks were distributed in Harris, Stewart, Chattahoochee, Randolph, and Muscogee counties. Chloe added that additional school supplies are available to other counties for upcoming events during the school year,

RANDOLPH-CLAY SERVICE CENTER SUMMER FUN PROGRAMS: Sandy Jackson, along with Olympia Alexander, gave an overview of services offered at RCSC and shared highlights of the many community activities and outings that individuals have enjoyed over the summer. From visits to the Coca Cola Space Science Center and Columbus Museum, to arts and crafts, holiday cookouts, and an ice cream social, staff has ensured that those attending the program participate in and enjoy outings, activities, and fun. The care and compassion of the staff for the individuals was evident in their reporting and through pictures shared of the events. IDD Program Coordinator JoAnn Mosley commended the staff at RCSC and Program Director Mike Giglio for doing a great job.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on outreach events attended recently including Back to School Bashes, Kingdom Faith Outreach Ministries Resource Fair, and Let's Connect Veterans Summit. Youth Mental Health First Aid training was held in June along with the kickoff for the Pops Barnes scholarship at CSU. FaceBook, Instagram, and Constant Contact outreach continue to increase and new Website traffic data shared. The Mobile Unit signage wrap is complete and the ribbon cutting date will be announced soon. Recovery on the River plans continue with 10 speakers confirmed, 4 food trucks, 12 vendors, 9 sponsors, an MC, and a conversation tent. Also in the works are a Columbus CEO video with John Burdeshaw to be posted on-line, a River Valley Regional Commission presentation, and development of marketing materials for our Hospital Liaison services.

PRESENTATION: TALBOT COUNTY BHFIT PROGRAM: Amelia Copeland, Program Director, reported on the Better Health & Fitness (BhFIT) program created through a partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine. Covering Talbot, Chattahoochee, Stewart, Randolph, Quitman, and Clay counties, the purpose of the program is to: Act as a resource for law enforcement to help distribute Narcan and administer Narcan training to help reverse opioid overdoses, implement Red Ribbon Week into the schools in each county, raise awareness about the opioid crisis, provide Peer Recovery (target area males 18-30), and connect with individuals who have substance use disorders to provide intake services. Accomplishments, since April of 2023, include distribution of Narcan to over 300 individuals, provided Narcan training to 120 individuals, implemented Red Ribbon week in Talbot County with goody bags, and door and essay contests. Future goals are to implement Red Ribbon week and Prevention Plus Curriculum in all 6 county schools, administer Narcan training in Quitman and Clay counties, and implement Peer Recovery in all counties. Amelia also presented information on Naloxone (the medicine in Narcan Nasal Spray) Training that illustrated signs of overdose, how to administer Narcan, rescue breathing steps, caring for someone after you give Narcan, and the top five drugs that cause overdoses (Fentanyl, Prescription Pain Relievers, Heroin, Cocaine, Methamphetamine). For additional information, other resources were also made available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea shared a note from Columbus State University and the Barnes family for New Horizons' contribution to the Jerry "Pops" Barnes scholarship fund.

Board Member LaVerne Chaffin has been reappointed for another three year term by the Clay County Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Thanks and appreciation to Ms. Scott for attending today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:46 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Terry Edwards to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson

File Attachments for Item:

. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Armando Fernandez

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Seat declared vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2025

Tamika McKenzie

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Seat declared vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2025

The terms are three years. Board meets quarterly.

COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:

S. Carson Cummings

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expires: October 24, 2024

The terms are three years. Board meets bi-monthly.

Women: 1

Senatorial District 15: 1

Senatorial District 29: 4

COUNCIL’S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Virginia Dickerson

(District 3 Appointment - Huff)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expired: March 27, 2024

The terms are three years. Board meets quarterly.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

Sabine Stull

Open for Recommendation

(Animal Rescue Representative) *by Animal Rescue*

Not Eligible to succeed **(Council’s Appointment)**

Term Expired: April 11, 2024

Nancy Anderson

Open for Nominations

(Resigned)

(Council’s Appointment)

Term Expires: October 15, 2025

These are two-year terms. Board meets as needed.

Women: 6

Senatorial District 15: 3

Senatorial District 29: 3

TREE BOARD:

Jeremy Cummings

Open for Recommendation

(Public Utility Representative) *by Animal Rescue*

Resigned **(Council's Appointment)**

Term Expires: July 1, 2025

Frank Tommey

Open for Nominations

(Residential Development Seat)

(Council's Appointment)

Not eligible to succeed

Term Expired: December 31, 2020

These are four-year terms. Meets as needed.

Women: 5

Senatorial District 15: 5

Senatorial District 29: 6

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Board Appointments – Action Requested**

7. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Armando Fernandez

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Seat declared vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2025

Tamika McKenzie

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Seat declared vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2025

The terms are three years. Board meets quarterly.

B. COLUMBUS IRONWORKS CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER AUTHORITY:

S. Carson Cummings

(Mayor’s Appointment)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expires: October 24, 2024

The terms are three years. Board meets bi-monthly.

Women: 1

Senatorial District 15: 1

Senatorial District 29: 4

8. COUNCIL’S DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Virginia Dickerson

(District 3 Appointment - Huff)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expired: March 27, 2024

The terms are three years. Board meets quarterly.

9. **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

Sabine Stull

(Animal Rescue Representative)

Not Eligible to succeed

Term Expired: April 11, 2024

*Open for Recommendation
by Animal Rescue*

(Council’s Appointment)

Nancy Anderson

(Resigned)

Term Expires: October 15, 2025

Open for Nominations

(Council’s Appointment)

These are two-year terms. Board meets as needed.

Women: 6

Senatorial District 15: 3

Senatorial District 29: 3

B. TREE BOARD:

Jeremy Cummings

(Public Utility Representative)

Resigned

Term Expires: July 1, 2025

*Open for Recommendation
by Animal Rescue*

(Council’s Appointment)

Frank Tommey

(Residential Development Seat)

Not eligible to succeed

Open for Nominations

(Council’s Appointment)

Term Expired: December 31, 2020

These are four-year terms. Meets as needed.

Women: 5

Senatorial District 15: 5

Senatorial District 29: 6

File Attachments for Item:

A. Hospital Authority of Columbus (Council's Nomination/Confirmation)

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & AUTHORITIES

Hospital Authority of Columbus: This board is responsible for the operation of Muscogee Manor and Highland House nursing homes. It has nine members. The Columbus Council makes three nominations for each vacancy. The authority itself fills the vacancies from the Council's nominees. The terms are three years. (O.C.G.A. Sec 31-7-72 and Columbus Charter, Sec. 4-621) (Ordinance No. 11-23 removes the limitation of two full consecutive terms for this authority.) The Hospital Authority Bylaws allows for three consecutive terms.

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Ernest Smallman, IV (SD-15)	11/14/2024	Council/Authority
Mike Welch (SD-29)	11/14/2024	Council/Authority
Dr. John Kingsbury (SD-15)	11/14/2024	Council /Authority
John R. Jones (SD-29)	11/14/2025	Council/Authority
Darrell Floyd (SD-15)	11/14/2025	Council/Authority
Charles K. Hecht, III (SD-15)	11/14/2025	Council/Authority
Wayne Joiner (SD-29)	11/14/2026	Council/Authority
Warner Kennon, Jr. (SD-29)	11/14/2026	Council/Authority
Sarah Banks-Lang (SD-15)	11/14/2026	Council/Authority
Samuel Frank Morast (SD-15)	n/a	Administrator (Treasure of Authority)

Expiring Term(s):

The terms of office for Ernest Smallman, IV, Mike Welch and Dr. John Kingsbury will expire on November 14, 2024. These are three (3) year terms with an expiration date of November 14, 2027. Dr. Kingsbury, Mr. Smallman and Mr. Welch are all eligible to serve another term.

File Attachments for Item:

B. Housing Authority of Columbus (Mayor's Appointment)

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & AUTHORITIES

Housing Authority of Columbus: This board is responsible for all public housing projects. It is also, in conjunction with the Department of Community Development, responsible for the various urban renewal projects. It has seven (7) members, all of which are appointed exclusively by the Mayor. (Ga Laws, 1937, Page 210 and Columbus Charter, Sec. 4-620) (Increased by one member approved by Res. No. 444-99 pursuant to O.C.G.A. Sec. 8-3-50 appoint a Resident Advisory Board Member). These are five (5) year terms, with the exception of the Resident Position which is a one (1) year term. (Ordinance No. 11-23 removes the limitation of two full consecutive terms for this authority.)

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Tiffani Stacy	11/16/2024	Mayor (Resident Position)
John F. Greenman	04/30/2025	Mayor
Larry Cardin (SD-29)	04/30/2026	Mayor
John Sheftall (SD-15)	04/30/2026	Mayor
Jeanella Pendleton (SD-29)	04/30/2027	Mayor
Ryan Clements (SD-15)	04/30/2028	Mayor
Linda Hadley (SD-29)	04/30/2029	Mayor

Expiring Term(s):

The term of office for Tiffani Stacy will expire on November 16, 2024. This is a one (1) year term with the new term expiring on November 16, 2025. Ms. Stacy is eligible to succeed herself.