

Council Members

R. Gary Allen
Charmaine Crabb

Travis L. Chambers
Glenn Davis

Byron Hickey
Bruce Huff

R. Walker Garrett
Toyia Tucker

John Anker
Joanne Cogle

Clerk of Council
Lindsey G. McLemore



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

April 14, 2026
9:00 AM
Regular Meeting

MAYOR'S AGENDA

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Rev. Grace Burton-Edwards - St. Thomas Episcopal Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

MINUTES

- 1. Approval of minutes for the March 31, 2026, Consent Agenda / Work Session and Executive Session.

PROCLAMATIONS

- 2. **Proclamation:** Jubilee Freedom Day
Receiving: Johnnie Warner, Aaron Guest, Sr., and Spencer High School Students
- 3. **Proclamation:** Arts & Culture Month
Receiving: Carrie Beth Wallace, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Columbusite
- 4. **Proclamation:** Ridgecrest Rehab & Skilled Nursing Center Recognition Day
Receiving: Jennifer Kelley, Administrator of Ridgecrest

5. **Proclamation:** Georgia Cities Week

Receiving: Teasha Hollis, Director of Communications & Community Affairs, City Manager's Office

6. **Proclamation:** Fair Housing Month

Receiving: John Bunn, Jerry Tucker, and Anthony Montgomery

PRESENTATIONS

7. National Travel and Tourism Week, May 3-9, 2026 – Presented by: Ashley Woitena, President-CEO of VisitColumbusGA

CITY ATTORNEY'S AGENDA

ORDINANCES

1. **1st Reading:** REZN-07-25-1259: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **6821 Mobley Road** (parcel # 190-014-020) from Single Family Residential – 1 (SFR1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Davis)

2. **1st Reading:** REZN-02-26-0189: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5306 Buena Vista Road** (parcel # 095-045-019) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Tucker)

3. **1st Reading:** REZN-02-26-0346: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **9055 Veterans Parkway** (parcel # 079-001-034) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to Residential Estate - 1 (RE1)(Planning Department and PAC recommend approval)(Councilor Davis)

RESOLUTIONS

4. A resolution approving a Special Exception to allow for a Tattoo Studio in the existing building located at **1023 Broadway** located in the Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Cogle)

PUBLIC AGENDA

1. Mr. Timothy Veals, Re: School Zone Signs, Neighborhood Property Owners, Responsibility of Landlords to Clean Up Properties
2. Mr. Joshua Broomfield, Re: Inclusion of Local and Minority Businesses in Major Projects.
3. Mr. Paul Olson, Re: Public Agenda, Open Meetings Act, and the Planning Advisory Commission (PAC).
4. Mr. Gregory Foster, Re: The Ugly Truth About the *Stop Hypercycle Data Centers in Muscogee County Group*.
5. Mr. Daniel Veach, Re: Proposed Data Center.
6. Mrs. Jessica Warchal, Re: Who are the purveyors of misinformation?
7. Ms. Theresa El-Amin, representing Southern Anti-Racism Network, Re: Correct Care, Crime Prevention Department Reforms. (*Referral from Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities*)
8. Mr. Joshua Ferguson, Re: Business Development, Public Goods, and the Signal that Columbus Sends.
9. Mr. Scott Johnson, Re: Proposed Data Center for AI.
10. Mr. Matthew Davidson, Re: Inconsistencies in Zoning Overlay for Data Center.
11. Ms. Sophia Rother, Re: Moratorium or Send to Ballot – Zoning Overlay for Data Center.
12. Dr. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., Re: Board Appointment Concerns.
13. Dr. Natalie Nicole, representing Role Model Academy, Re: Fight Blight Columbus, GA Initiative.
14. Ms. Inja Gordon, representing Haygood (Boxing Gym) Recreation Center, Re: Community Legacy, Exposure & Athletic Funding, and Accessibility Alignment.
15. Ms. Pamela Mulvaney, Re: Data Center, Tech and Environmental Concerns.
16. Ms. Patricia Stephens, Re: Patterns in Economics.
17. Mrs. Debra Jarzomjoski, Re: Contradictions of Politics.
18. Mrs. Darlene Laird, Re: Proposed Technology Overlay District.
19. Mr. Val McGowan, Re: Civility and Good Trouble.

20. Mrs. Audrey Holston Palmore, Re: Heir Property.

CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

1. Sidewalk and Maintenance Easement Deed for Additional Right-of-Way Adjacent to Manchester Expressway and Armour Road

Approval is requested to accept two Easement Deeds for Sidewalks: 1) from the Columbus Airport Commission, being in that portion of Land Lot 48 of the 8th District, 27.14 sq. ft. 0.001 Acres, adjacent to Manchester Expressway, 2) from the Baynes Family LLC, being in that portion of Land Lot 48, 8th District, 290.88 Sq. Feet 0.007 Acres adjacent to Manchester Expressway, and 609.22 Sq. Feet 0.014 Acres Adjacent to Armour Road southwest property line.

2. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Program

Approval is requested for the to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program that provides lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations, in the amount of \$40,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

3. PURCHASES

- A.** Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for Public Safety Building Renovations – RFP No. 26-0016
- B.** Provision and Installation of Lighting Upgrade for Cooper Creek Tennis Center – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase
- C.** Memorandum of Agreement for Mental Health Services for Muscogee County Prison
- D.** Retrofit/Upgrade of Bomb Squad Robot for EMA/Homeland Security

4. UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

- A.** Parks & Recreation Update - Holli Browder, Director Parks & Recreation

CLERK OF COUNCIL'S AGENDA

ENCLOSURES - ACTION REQUESTED

- 1. Resignation:** Correspondence received from Avianca C. Dowdell, resigning from her seat on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC).
- 2. Travel Authorization Request:** Approval is requested for Councilor Toyia Tucker to attend the 2026 ACCG Annual Conference, scheduled for April 23-26, 2026.

3. Minutes of the following boards:

Board of Historic and Architectural Review 12-11-23

Board of Historic and Architectural Review 07-08-24, 10-15-24

Board of Historic and Architectural Review 09-08-25, 10-14-25

Board of Tax Assessors #10-26, 11-26, 12-26

Board of Water Commissioners 02-09-26

Development Authority of Columbus 02-12-26, 02-24-26

New Horizon Behavioral Health 01-13-20, 04-13-20, 05-11-20, 06-08-20, 07-13-20, 11-09-20, 12-14-20

New Horizon Behavioral Health 01-09-23, 02-13-23, 03-13-23, 05-08-23, 06-12-23, 08-14-23, 09-11-23, 10-09-23, 12-11-23

New Horizon Behavioral Health 09-09-24, 10-14-24, 12-09-24

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES' BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Vacant
(Business Community)
Term Expires: June 30, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Mayor's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	4 Year	Term Limit: n/a
Meetings:	Monthly – 1 st Wednesday	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 9
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 2

5. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

A. AIRPORT COMMISSION:

Vacant

Term Expires: December 31, 2026

**The Airport Commission has submitted Daria Cruzen for confirmation.*

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	5 Year	Term Limit: n/a
Meetings:	Monthly – 4 th Wednesday	
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15: 3
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 1

B. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

Vacant

Columbus Homebuilders Association

Term Expires: January 31, 2028

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Vacant

Uptown Business Association

Term Expires: January 31, 2029

**Alan Udy is unable to serve currently. (Confirmed 02-10-2026)*

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 2 nd Monday	
Women:	5	Senatorial District 15: 7
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 2

6. NOMINATIONS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

- A. DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Laura Gower was nominated to serve another term. New term expires: 04/30/2030 (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)
- B. DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:** Doug Jenkins was nominated to serve another term. New term expires: 04/30/2030 (*Mayor Pro Tem Allen*)

7. COUNCIL DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 1 – Hickey)

Tracy Belt

Not Eligible

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 4 -Tucker)

Vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

Vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 9 -Anker)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 3 Year (Mayor Appts); 2 Year (Council Appts) Term Limit: 2

Meetings: Quarterly – 2nd Thursday (March, June, September & December)

Women: 4 Senatorial District 15: 7

Vacancies: 2 Senatorial District 29: 3

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Paul T. Berry, III

Eligible

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

Term Expired: October 31, 2025
**Not interested in serving another term.*

Scott Taft
Not Eligible
Term Expired: October 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(District 9 – Anker)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3 rd Thursday		
Women:	3	Senatorial District 15:	4
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29:	3

8. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

Vacant
(Georgia Veterinary Technician)
Term Expires: October 15, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant
(Animal Rescue Shelter Representative)
Term Expires: October 15, 2026
Recommendations are submitted by a licensed animal shelter.

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Note: The Animal Control Advisory Board is currently developing recommendations for Council’s consideration regarding the board’s composition.

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Semiannually		
Women:	7	Senatorial District 15:	3
Vacancies:	3	Senatorial District 29:	4

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

Yasmine Cathright
Not Eligible

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Term Expires: December 31, 2025

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	5 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 4 th Wednesday	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 0
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 5

C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

_____ *Vacant*

Term Expires: March 24, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit: n/a
Meetings:	As needed.	
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15: 1
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 3

D. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

_____ *Vacant*

Term Expired: August 14, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

_____ *Vacant*

Term Expired: August 14, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

_____ *Vacant*

Term Expired: August 14, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Civic Center Director Recommendation / Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	4 Year	Term Limit: 3
Meetings:	Bimonthly – 2nd Thursday (January, March, May, July, September & November)	
Women:	5	Senatorial District 15: 4
Vacancies:	4	Senatorial District 29: 4

E. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD:

Judge David Ranieri

Does not desire reappointment

Term Expired: June 30, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: n/a
Meetings:	Monthly – 2nd Monday	
Women:	2	Senatorial District 15: 2
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29: 1

F. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

Vacant

(Alternate Member 1)

Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Vacant

(Alternate Member 2)

Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Vacant

(Alternate Member 3)

Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Delano Leftwich

Not Eligible

(Alternate Member 4)

Term expired: December 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3rd Wednesday	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 2
Vacancies:	4	Senatorial District 29: 4

COUNCIL HEARING(S):

9. [Request](#) for refund of property taxes as submitted by Mr. Andrew Ruh, Executive Director of Columbus Botanical Garden, for property located in Columbus, Georgia in the amount of \$28,706.62. (*NOTE: Request for waiver of penalty and interest on property tax in the amount of \$7,935.60 was approved by Council on 03/24/2026. Property taxes for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 were paid in full on 03/25/2026.*)

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 March 31, 2026, Consent Agenda / Work Session and Executive Session.

COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

March 31, 2026
9:00 AM
Consent Agenda/Work Session

C O N S E N T A G E N D A / W O R K S E S S I O N

PRESENT: Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III and Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen and Councilors John Anker, Travis L. Chambers, Joanne Cogle, Charmaine Crabb, Glenn Davis, R. Walker Garrett, and Toyia Tucker (arrived at 9:18 a.m.). Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge, City Attorney Clifton Fay, Assistant City Attorney Lucy Sheftall, Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore and Deputy Clerk of Council Tameka Colbert.

ABSENT: Councilors Byron Hickey and Bruce Huff were absent. Deputy City Manager Lisa Goodwin was also absent.

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

INVOCATION: Offered by Pastor Wayne Anthony - St. Peter United Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Mayor Skip Henderson

The following documents have been included as a part of the electronic Agenda Packet: (1) WS#1 - State of the Fire-EMS Department PP; (2) WS#2 - Clerk of Council Operations Update PP; (3) WS#3 – Project Update PP; (4) Short Term Vacation Rental Update – 03-31-2026 PP;

The following documents were distributed around the Council table: (1) Clerk of Council Annual Activity Summary; (2) Clerk of Council Operations Update March 31, 2026 – Work Session; (3) Columbus Administered Projects – March 31, 2026

C O N S E N T A G E N D A

MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes for the March 24, 2026, Council Meeting and Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cogle and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

ORDINANCES:

2. **Ordinance (26-010) - 2nd Reading:** An ordinance amending Section 2-3.02. of the Columbus Code to insert a new paragraph (c) which provides that members of the Columbus Airport Commission may be residents of Muscogee County or any adjacent county, and for other lawful purposes. (Councilors Davis and Crabb) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

3. **Resolution (084-26)** - A resolution expressing the Council's intent with respect to Airport Commission residency requirements. (Councilor Crabb) Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.
4. **Resolution (085-26)** - A resolution excusing Councilor Byron Hickey from the March 31, 2026, Consent Agenda / Work Session. Mayor Pro Tem Allen made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilor Garrett and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Tucker being absent for the vote and Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

I. State of the Fire & EMS Department - Sal Scarpa, Chief, Fire & EMS

Sal Scarpa, Chief, Fire & EMS, recognized a recent off-duty incident that received statewide attention and commendation from the Governor and introduced Mr. Richard Barfield Jr. to share details of his actions.

Richard Barfield Jr. Fire & EMS described responding to a serious off-duty vehicle accident where he assisted multiple victims, ultimately helping to save the lives of seven individuals.

Sal Scarpa, Chief, Fire & EMS, presented a State of Fire & EMS update, highlighting the department's role as an all-hazards response agency, its ISO Class 1 and long-standing accredited status, and key initiatives. He also reported that while staffing levels are stable, retention remains a challenge. He emphasized ongoing concerns with aging fleet and facility needs as well as the need to restore pay parity, and the department's continued focus on mental health support, technology, and data-driven operations.

II. Clerk of Council Operations Update - Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

Clerk of Council Lindsey G. McLemore provided an update on the operations of the Clerk of Council's Office, highlighting its broad responsibilities in supporting Council, maintaining official records, coordinating boards and authorities, managing public access to information, and assisting citizens with city processes. She also outlined improvements made over the past year, including stronger team collaboration, streamlined workflows, expanded digital records access, and a continued commitment to transparency, efficiency, and high-quality service to Council and the public.

(Mayor Henderson left the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m., at which time Mayor Pro Tem R. Gary Allen began presiding over the meeting.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE CLERK OF COUNCIL:

-A request was made for staff to send Council an email outlining the challenges associated with maintaining cemetery operations and processes. *(Councilor Tucker)*

-A request was made for staff to provide a list of necessary boards and evaluate their effectiveness.
(*Councilor Chambers*)

III. Project Update - Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code, Vance Beck, Director, Engineering, Will Johnson, Director, Planning

Vance Beck, Director, Engineering, introduced Assistant Engineer John Ussery and provided an update on ongoing and completed infrastructure projects, pointing out steady progress across multiple initiatives despite delays caused primarily by utility conflicts.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

A request was made to provide information on the process for citizens to report roadway hazards such as debris causing tire damage. (*Councilor Tucker*)

A request was made to review traffic calming options, particularly for safety concerns in areas like Oakland Park on Walker and Bland streets. (*Councilor Cogle*)

Will Johnson, Director, Planning, provided an update on multiple transportation and infrastructure projects, reporting that several are in design, right-of-way acquisition, or planning phases with timelines extending through 2027 and beyond. He also highlighted coordination with GDOT on several projects and ongoing efforts to align designs and construction.

Vance Beck, Director, Engineering, continued his presentation with updates on resurfacing and maintenance efforts, including coordination with Norfolk Southern on roadway improvements. He reported that the city's average PCI score has improved from approximately 42 to 48 since implementing new software. Ongoing efforts include in-house sidewalk and ADA projects, use of an on-call contractor, and addressing roadway striping needs, with some work completed and additional striping scheduled.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

-A request was made to explore providing accessible and possibly online visual maps of roadway conditions to better track and communicate progress on road improvements. (*Councilor Crabb*)

-A request was made to add deteriorating/eroding shoulder areas to the resurfacing or maintenance list for further evaluation. (*Councilor Davis*)

- A request was made to assess roadway conditions and evaluate degraded pavement conditions and identify necessary repairs on Smith Road and the Wooldridge intersection. *(Councilor Davis)*
- A request was made to Review worn section on the curve for possible milling, resurfacing, or repair on the new Whittlesey Boulevard. *(Councilor Davis)*
- A request was made to explore improvements/upgrades to the existing parking garage of the Trade Center. *(Councilor Davis)*
- A request was made to upgrade from metal halide lights to LED lighting at Cooper Creek Park and provide an update on the status. *(Councilor Davis)*
- A request was made to provide a list outlining how the \$12 million in allocated Parks and Recreation funds have been used or is currently being utilized. *(Councilor Tucker)*
- A request was made to conduct a survey of all school sidewalks. *(Councilor Tucker)*
- A request was made to provide an update on the roof condition and needed repairs at the Gallops Recreation Center, and to have staff to provide an update at the April 8 meeting. *(Councilor Cogle)*
- A request was made to inspect and repair broken concrete panels at the 45th Street Railroad crossing. *(Councilor Davis)*
- A request was made to provide an update on the roof condition and needed repairs at the Gallops Recreation Center, and to have staff attend the April 8 meeting to address concerns directly. *(Councilor Davis)*

Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code provided an update on several facility and capital improvement projects, stating that the Judicial Center is over 95% complete and on track for completion later this year. He also shared updates on fire station projects, the upcoming Oxbow Creek clubhouse construction, and ongoing planning for the Muscogee County Jail, emphasizing steady progress across multiple initiatives.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

- A request was made to revisit and discuss the city's budget process in a future work session, including consideration of strategies such as zero-based budgeting and budget reductions. *(Councilor Anker)*

-A request was made for documentation outlining the history, timelines, and prior actions related to the jail. *(Councilor Anker)*

IV. Short Term Rental Update - Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code

Ryan Pruett, Director, Inspections & Code provided an update on the city's short-term rental ordinance, explaining that it was last updated in January 2023 and requires annual permits, business licenses, inspections, and background checks for operators. He shared that online permitting is expected to be available by June 2026 and highlighted concerns raised by both operators and residents regarding the current regulations.

REFERRAL(S):

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

-A request was made to look at placing short-term rental regulations, on the legislative agenda for the next session. *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*

-A request was made to evaluate options for limiting short-term rentals, including implementing caps, requiring zoning variances for approval, or developing overlay districts in targeted areas. *(Councilor Garrett)*

FOR THE CITY ATTORNEY:

-A request for staff to develop a proposal outlining options for regulating short-term rentals. *(Councilor Garrett)*

FOR THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER:

-A request was made to coordinate with the Columbus Board of Realtors to provide education on short-term rental regulations. *(Councilor Crabb)*

(Note: Councilor Cogle left the meeting at 12:29 p.m.)

Deputy City Manager Pam Hodge announced that a community meeting for the Liberty Theater and Liberty District will be held on April 6 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss matters of litigation as requested by City Attorney Fay earlier in the meeting. Councilor Garrett made a motion to go into

Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Chambers and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting, and the time being 12:29 p.m.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 1:12 p.m., at which time, Mayor Pro Tem Allen announced that the Council did meet in executive session to discuss matters of litigation; however, there were no votes taken.

With there being no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Allen entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion by Councilor Garrett to adjourn the March 31, 2026, Consent Agenda/Work Session, seconded by Councilor Tucker and carried unanimously by the seven members present, with Councilor Cogle being absent for the vote, Councilors Hickey and Huff being absent from the meeting, and the time being 1:13 p.m.

Lindsey G. McLemore
Clerk of Council
Council of Columbus, Georgia

File Attachments for Item:

5. Proclamation: Georgia Cities Week

Receiving: Teasha Hollis, Director of Communications & Community Affairs, City Manager's Office



Item #5.



We do amazing.



Our Hometown
April 14, 2026

The Columbus Trade Center

Tuesday April 21, 2026
12:30PM-1:30PM Bring your lunch (and your friends) to enjoy time under shaded pavilion & tour our venue!

LUNCH & LEARN
at The Columbus Trade Center

**TUESDAY
APRIL 21ST, 2026**
12:30PM - 1:30PM

Bring your lunch (and your friends) to enjoy time under our shaded pavilion & tour our venue!

Georgia
CITIES WEER

801 FRONT AVE
COLUMBUS GA 31901

The poster features three circular inset images: the top-left shows the exterior glass facade of the Columbus Trade Center; the top-right shows an outdoor seating area with wooden benches and trees; the bottom-center shows an aerial view of the building complex. The background is white with a decorative pattern of small black dots.

Columbus Family Connection

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

CONNECTION & COMMUNICATIONS DAY

— GEORGIA CITIES WEEK —

Connect with Your City. Stay Informed. Get Connected.

Join us for a hands-on community event that helps you stay informed, build connections, and access the resources you need.

JOIN US TO:

- SIGN UP FOR RAVE ALERTS**
Get important notifications that help keep you and your family safe.
- LEARN HOW TO USE THE COLUMBUS 311 APP**
Report issues, find information, and connect with city services—fast.
- EXPLORE LOCAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES**
Discover programs and support available to you.
- CONNECT WITH DEPARTMENTS SERVING YOU**
Meet city teams, ask questions, and get the help you need.

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

COLUMBUS family connection
MUSCOGEE COUNTY

Columbus GEORGIA
City Manager's Department
Communications & Community Affairs

Join us for a hands-on community event that helps you stay informed, build connection , and access the resources you need

Columbus Civic Center Celebrates Georgia Cities Week with KidsBash

- The Columbus Civic Center is proud to celebrate Georgia Cities Week with a fun-filled, family-friendly event, KidsBash, taking place on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Columbus Civic Center. Admission is free for children, parents, and guardians, making KidsBash an accessible and welcoming event for families across the community.



Department Litter Clean Up Day

All divisions within the department of Public Works will dedicate ½ a day to the cleaning up of various areas in town:

Administration - Cusseta Road from 10th Ave, to Ft. Benning Road

Paving & Repairs - Technology Pkwy from Macon Rd to Buena Vista Road

Rainwater Mgt - Levy Rd, Melrich Ave, Marathon Dr, Phillip St, Commerce St, Shelby St, Ft. Benning Rd & Benning Drive

Community Service - Skylake Dr, New Castle Way, Regency Dr, Forrest Rd

Cemetery - Martin Luther King Blvd, Shephard Dr, Oakview Ave, Brown Ave.

Urban Forestry & Beautification - Milgen Rd, Gentian Blvd, Warm Springs Rd.

Total of 21 Streets will be impacted



Parks & Recreation



Scavenger Trivia Passport Instructions

• Once you acquire your Scavenger Trivia Passport, fill out the information below on the backside and use the clues inside to figure out which Parks & Recreation facility is being described in each clue box.



- After you decipher a clue, go to that facility with your passport and ask the facility supervisor to sign the box next to your clue if you are correct. Complete this for all 14 facilities.
- Once you get your 14th and final signature, you will leave your Scavenger Trivia Passport with the supervisor. At the end of the event, all completed passports will be put in for a drawing and the name that is pulled will win the grand prize! Completed passports must be turned in by April 25th

Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader

Reading to Inspire

Community Readers Visiting Our
Schools

Help Inspire the Next Generation
of Readers!

Local leaders are visiting
elementary schools to share the
joy of reading with students.
Through storytelling and positive
engagement, we hope to
encourage young minds to
develop a lifelong love of books.

April 20-24, 2026

CCG READERS WEEK
Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader

April 20-24, 2026 | Local Elementary Schools

JOIN THE FUN & INSPIRE YOUNG READERS!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

- Storytime Adventures
- Smiles & Laughter
- Positive Role Models
- Inspiring Young Minds

SCHOOLS:

- Double Churches Elementary
- Rigdon Road Elementary
- Waddell Elementary
- Blanchard Elementary
- Fox Elementary
- Key Elementary
- MLK Jr. Elementary
- Downtown Elementary

BOOKS PROVIDED!
Or Bring Your Favorite Book!

LET'S MAKE READING FUN TOGETHER!

KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL

Friday April 17 **ROOTS** *for the Future*
 Students and volunteers will come together to plant trees and help create a greener, healthier campus while inspiring the next generation.

Saturday April 18 **CLEAN & GREEN**
 Kick-Off Cleanup Event from 9 AM to 11 AM!
 Scan the QR Code to Register as a Volunteer!

Monday April 20 **RECYCLE REVIVAL**
 Fill the Bin Challenge!
 1. Fill your bin
 2. Take a photo of your filled recycle bin
 3. Share it on social media with #WOCOPITtheBinChallenge. Get highlighted on KCBC's page!

Tuesday April 21 **FEED** *the Soil*
 Don't trash it, compost it! Drop off food scraps at the Columbus Botanical Garden from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM and help support a healthier environment.

Wednesday April 22 **ENERGY AWARENESS**
 Participate in Earth Hour and turn off the lights for 1 hour!

Thursday April 23 **SUSTAINABILITY STARS**
 Recognize individuals and businesses who are committed to sustainability by posting the stars in your life on FB and tag Keep Columbus Beautiful so we can highlight!

Friday April 24 **WATER WISE**
 Discover water conservation tips with KCBC and Columbus Water Works!

Saturday April 25 **RECYCLE & RESTORE**
 Free Community Paper Shred 9 AM - 1 PM at the City Services Center 3111 Citizens Way

SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2026 | 9am to 1pm

RIVER MILL DATA MANAGEMENT

Free Community Paper Shred Drive-Thru

PAPER SHREDDING DETAILS

- LIMIT TO 3 TRASH BAGS PER CONSUMER.
- Place items in trunk for contactless retrieval.
- Boxes will be emptied & returned.

WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT:

- 3-RING BINDERS
- EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES
- METAL PRODUCTS

City Services Center
 3111 Citizens Way
 Columbus, GA 31906

****PAPER TO BE SHREDED ON SITE****

For More Information Call (706) 225-4008 or Email kcbc1987@columbusga.org



We do amazing.

JOB FAIR

Join us for a day of networking and career exploration

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



DATE
APRIL 24, 2026



TIME
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM




LOCATION
CITY SERVICES CENTER
3111 CITIZENS WAY,
COLUMBUS, GA 31906



Human Resources

Community Reinvestment

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT 



Affordable Housing 101

Breaking down myths and building a clearer understanding of what affordable housing is AND isn't.

COLUMBUS PUBLIC LIBRARY
3000 MACON ROAD, SYNOVUS A ROOM

April 22, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Go to our Facebook to sign up!



Tax Commissioner

Trivia game, open to the public on Monday 4/20 at 12 pm at the library. It will be a fun way to share with the public some information and FAQs about our office. Let me know if this works.



MUSCOGEE COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER OFFICE'S PRESENTS

TC TRIVIA

**MONDAY APRIL 20, 2026 12-1:30PM
COLUMBUS PUBLIC LIBRARY SYNOVUS A ROOM
3000 MACON RD , COLUMBUS GA 31906**

**CELEBRATING GEORGIA CITIES WEEK
JOIN US FOR OFFICE INSIGHT, FUN, AND PRIZES**

for more information, email TaxCommissioner@Columbusga.org

Department of Transportation/ METRA

Item #5.

GEORGIA CITIES WEEK

April 20th - 25th, 2026



with Daily Drawings at Our
Transfer Center (814 Linwood Blvd) for
FREE TRIPS
on Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride

- ▶ Participants will be able to fill out a raffle ticket at our Dispatch Office that will be entered in a daily drawing for a free trip on our Fixed Route or Dial-A-Ride bus during the week of April 20st - 25th, 2026. Winners will be drawn, contacted, and announced daily between 10am - 2:00pm.

City Connections Day

will be held on Friday, April 24
at the City Services Center
11-2pm

City Connections Day will be a wonderful opportunity for residents to connect with and meet the dedicated individuals who work each day to keep our community safe, informed, and supported. Our goal is to create a family-friendly environment that encourages conversation, engagement, and community pride.

A vibrant poster for 'City Connections Day' featuring a city skyline at the top. The main title 'CITY CONNECTIONS DAY' is in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below it, a blue banner reads 'FRIDAY, APRIL 24' and another banner below that says 'AT THE CITY SERVICES CENTER' with 'Outside the Aquatic Center / Garage Entrance' in smaller text. The poster shows three tents: a blue 'POLICE' tent with a police car, a red 'FIRE DEPT' tent, and a green 'PARKS & REC' tent. A fourth green 'SHERIFF' tent with a sheriff's car is also visible. A large black grill with food cooking on it is in the foreground. The event time '11AM - 2PM FRIDAY, APRIL 24' is prominently displayed. A list of activities includes 'Info Booths & Demos', 'Equipment Displays', 'Music & Kids Activities', and 'Free Hot Dogs & Hamburgers!'. A section titled 'LEARN ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES!' lists 'Meet Our City Staff', 'Explore Safety & Service Vehicles', and 'Fun for the Whole Family!'. The bottom features a red banner with the slogan 'Connecting Our Community Together!' and contact information: 'For more information, email Hamilton.Ashley@columbusga.org or call 706-225-3108'.

CITY CONNECTIONS DAY
FRIDAY, APRIL 24
AT THE CITY SERVICES CENTER
Outside the Aquatic Center / Garage Entrance

11AM - 2PM FRIDAY, APRIL 24

- ◆ Info Booths & Demos
- ◆ Equipment Displays
- ◆ Music & Kids Activities
- ◆ Free Hot Dogs & Hamburgers!

LEARN ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES!

- Meet Our City Staff
- Explore Safety & Service Vehicles
- Fun for the Whole Family!

★ ★ *Connecting Our Community Together!* ★ ★

For more information, email Hamilton.Ashley@columbusga.org
or call **706-225-3108**



QUESTIONS

File Attachments for Item:

7. National Travel and Tourism Week, May 3-9, 2026 – Presented by: Ashley Woitena,
President-CEO of VisitColumbusGA



National Travel & Tourism Week May 3-9, 2026



TOURISM IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.1
MILLION



Total
Visitors

Jobs Supported
6,269



Local Sales & Lodging Tax Revenue
\$30.3 MILLION



\$650
MILLION



Local
Visitor
Spending

State Sales Tax Revenue
\$58.8 MILLION



\$730
Tax Savings per Household in FY 2025



\$1.0 BILLION
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

NATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURISM WEEK

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR
MAY 02

COLUMBUS PORCHFEST 2026

CALENDAR
MAY 03

TOURISM DAY AT THE COLUMBUS CLINGSTONES GAME

CALENDAR
MAY 06

TOURISM CELEBRATION

CALENDAR
MAY 07

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION LUNCH

CALENDAR
MAY 08

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION LUNCH



Thank You

Feel free to reach out
with any questions.



Ashley Woitena

President-CEO

Awoitena@visitcolumbusga.com

706.957.3148



File Attachments for Item:

1. 1st Reading: REZN-07-25-1259: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **6821 Mobley Road** (parcel # 190-014-020) from Single Family Residential – 1 (SFR1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Davis)

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 **6821 Mobley Road** (parcel # 190-014-020) from Single Family Residential – 1 (SFR1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District.

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 Single Family Residential – 1 (SFR1) Zoning District to Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District.

“All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Muscogee County, Georgia and being located in Land Lot 78 of the 8th District of said County, and being known and designated as "Parcel B" of a survey made for Louise D. Mobley March 15, 1982 of Part of Land Lot 78, 8th District, Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, by G. V. Carr & Co., Engineers, Surveyors, Columbus, Georgia which is recorded in Plat Book 80, Page 22 in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia containing 2.9595 acres, and being more particularly described as follows:

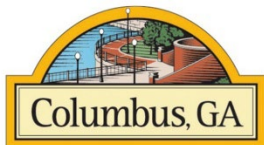
Beginning at an iron stake on the Northerly side of Mobley Road which is located North 04 degrees 40 minutes 33 seconds West a distance of 2059.03 feet from the Southeast corner of Land Lot 78, 8th District and from said beginning point running North 55 degrees 36 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of 246.73 feet to an iron stake; thence South 71 degrees 40 minutes 51 seconds West a distance of 143.14 feet to an iron stake located on the line dividing the property of Louise D. Mobley from the property of Fred Mobley; thence running Northerly 36 degrees 15 minutes 09 seconds West a distance of 399.08 feet to an iron stake; thence running southerly 89 degrees 28 minutes 06 seconds East a distance of 334.67 feet to an iron stake; run thence southerly 47 degrees 56 minutes 27 seconds East a distance of 422.72 feet to an iron stake located on the Northwesterly line of Mobley Road; thence running Southerly along the Mobley Road 29 degrees 20 minutes 19 seconds West a distance of 149.02 feet to the Point of Beginning.”

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of April 2026; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of ____ 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G Mclemore
Clerk of Council

B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III
Mayor



CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
What progress has preserved.
 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

REZN-07-25-1259

Applicant:	Randall Scott Burkhalter
Owner:	Randall Scott Burkhalter
Location:	6821 Mobley Road
Parcel:	190-014-020
Acreage:	2.96 Acres
Current Zoning Classification:	Single Family Residential - 1
Proposed Zoning Classification:	Single Family Residential - 2
Current Use of Property:	Single Family Residential
Proposed Use of Property:	Replat at future date, if possible
Council District:	District 2
PAC Recommendation:	Approval based on the Staff Report and compatibility with existing land uses.
Planning Department Recommendation:	Approval based on compatibility with existing land uses.
Fort Benning's Recommendation:	N/A
DRI Recommendation:	N/A
General Land Use:	Consistent Planning Area A
Current Land Use Designation:	Rural Residential

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

Surrounding Zoning:

North	Single Family Residential - 2
South	Single Family Residential - 1
East	Single Family Residential - 2
West	Single Family Residential - 1

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

School Impact: N/A

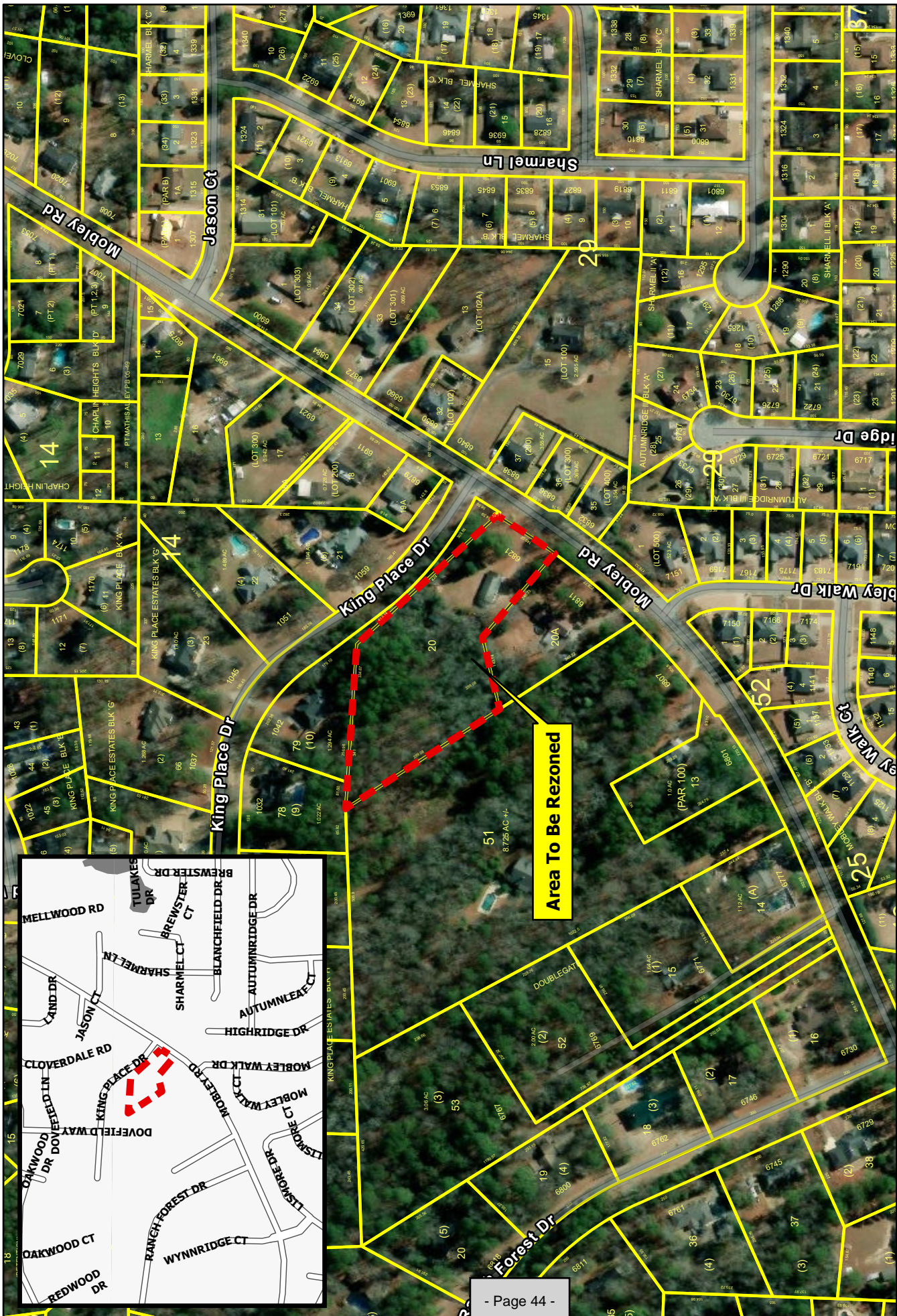
Buffer Requirement: N/A

Attitude of Property Owners: **Twenty-Two (22)** property owners within 300 feet of the subject properties were notified of the rezoning request. The Planning Department received one calls and/or emails regarding the rezoning.

Approval	0 Responses
Opposition	0 Responses

Additional Information: Future redivision of two lots

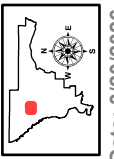
Attachments: Aerial Land Use Map
Location Map
Zoning Map
Existing Land Use Map
Future Land Use Map
Flood Map

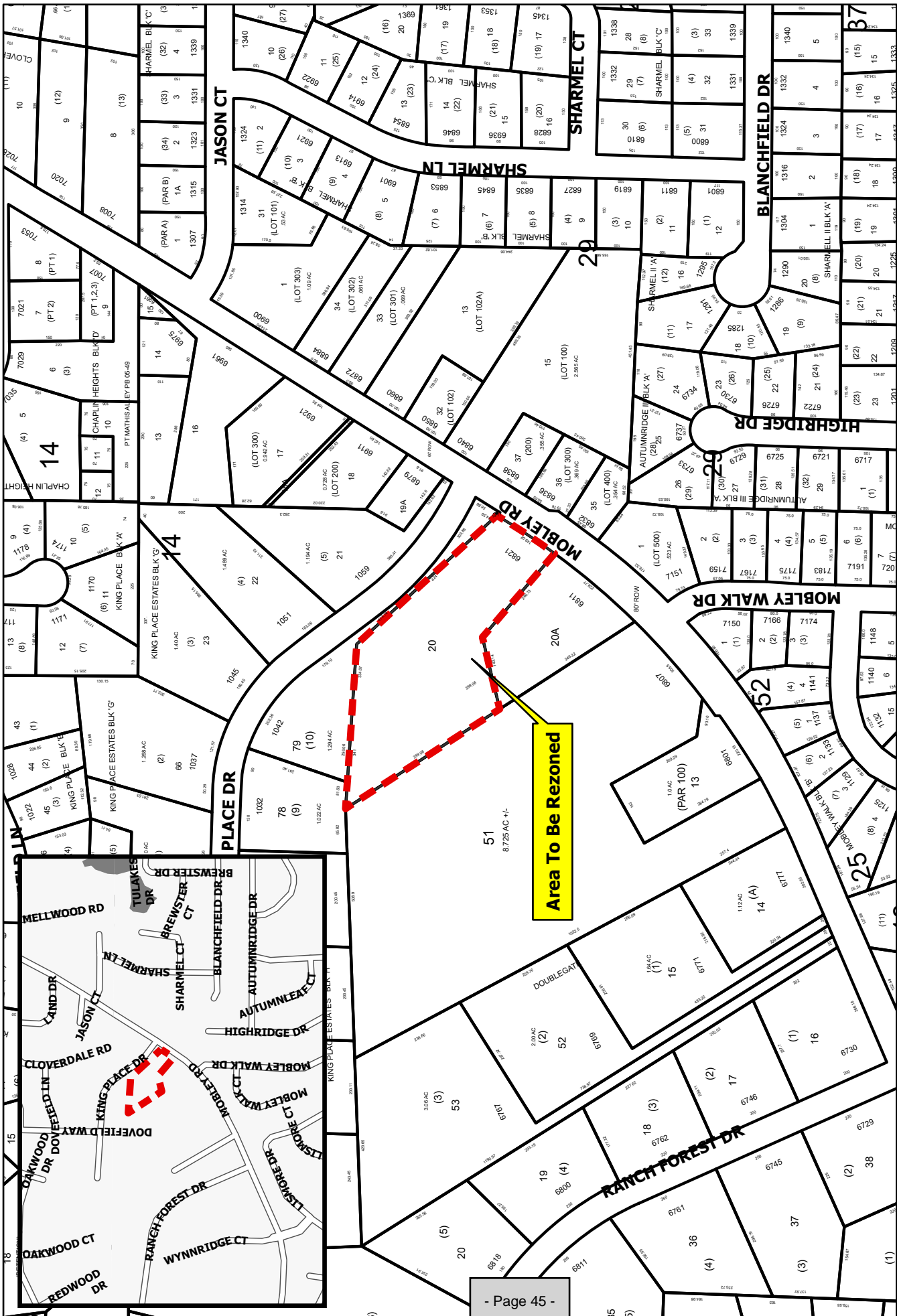


Data Source: IT/GIS
Author:

Aerial Map for For REZN 07-25- 1259
Map 190 Block 014 Block 045 Lot 020
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.



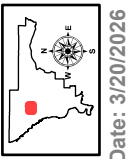


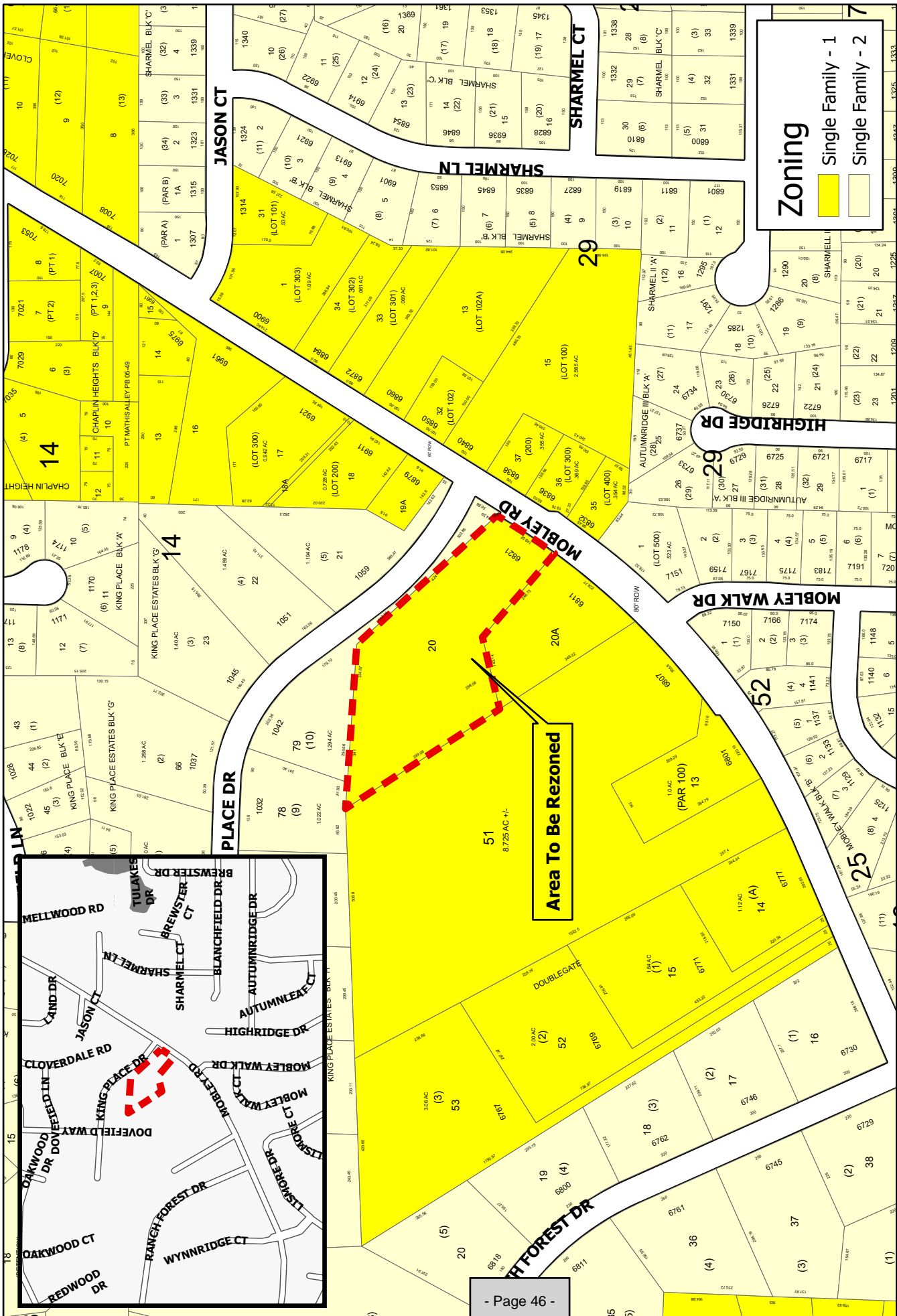
0 75 150 300 US Feet

Data Source: IT/GIS
Author:

Location Map for For REZN 07-25- 1259
Map 190 Block 014 Block 045 Lot 020
Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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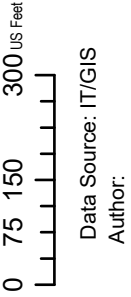




Zoning

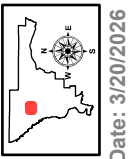
- Single Family - 1
- Single Family - 2

Item #1.

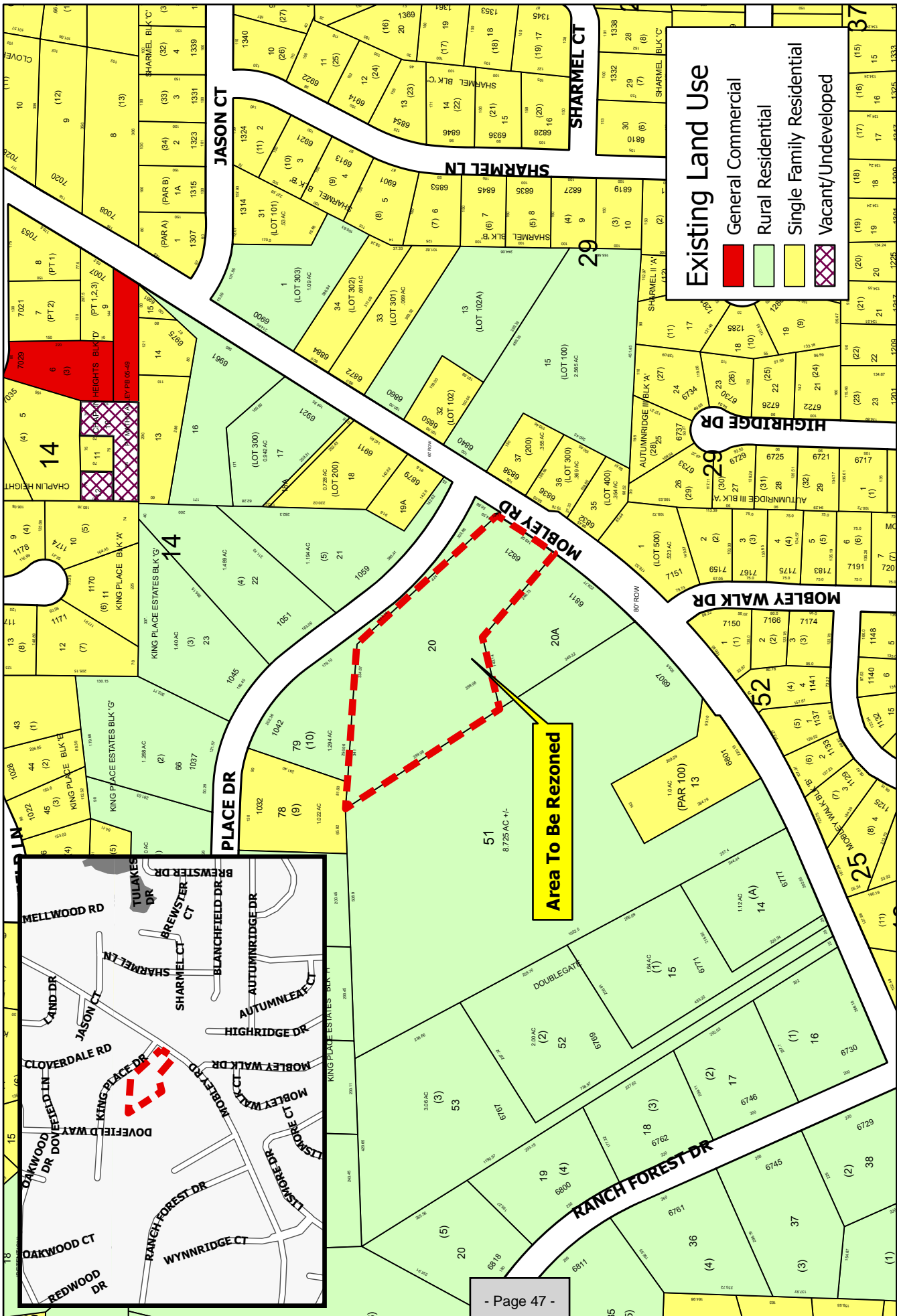


Zoning Map for For REZN 07-26- 1259
 Map 190 Block 014 Block 045 Lot 020
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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Date: 3/20/2026



Existing Land Use

- General Commercial
- Rural Residential
- Single Family Residential
- Vacant/Undeveloped

Area To Be Rezoned

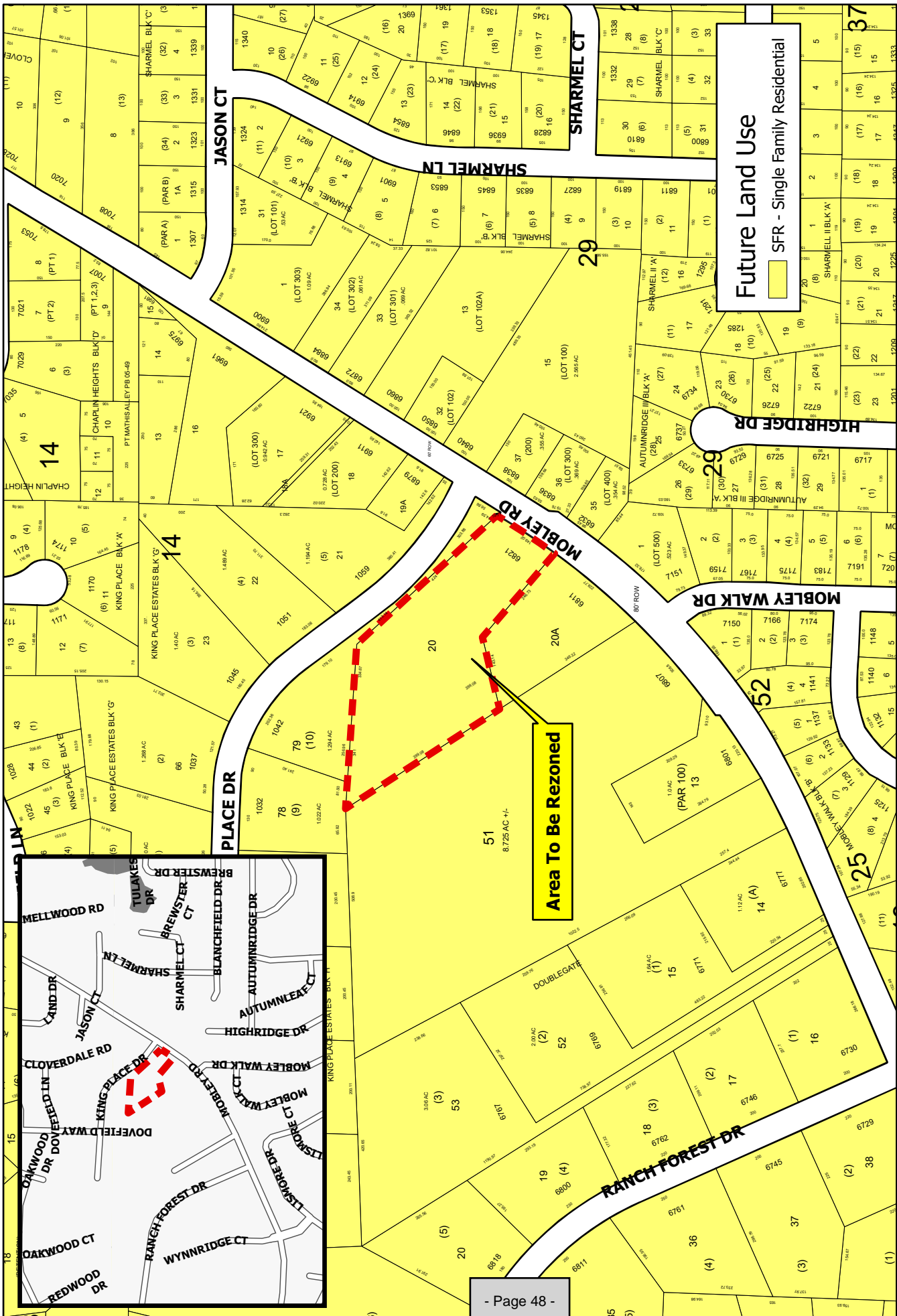
0 75 150 300 US Feet

Data Source: IT/GIS
Author:

Existing Land Use Map for For REZN 07-26- 1259
Map 190 Block 014 Block 045 Lot 020
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: 3/20/2026



Future Land Use
 SFR - Single Family Residential

Area To Be Rezoned

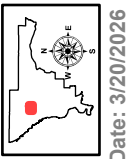
Item #1.



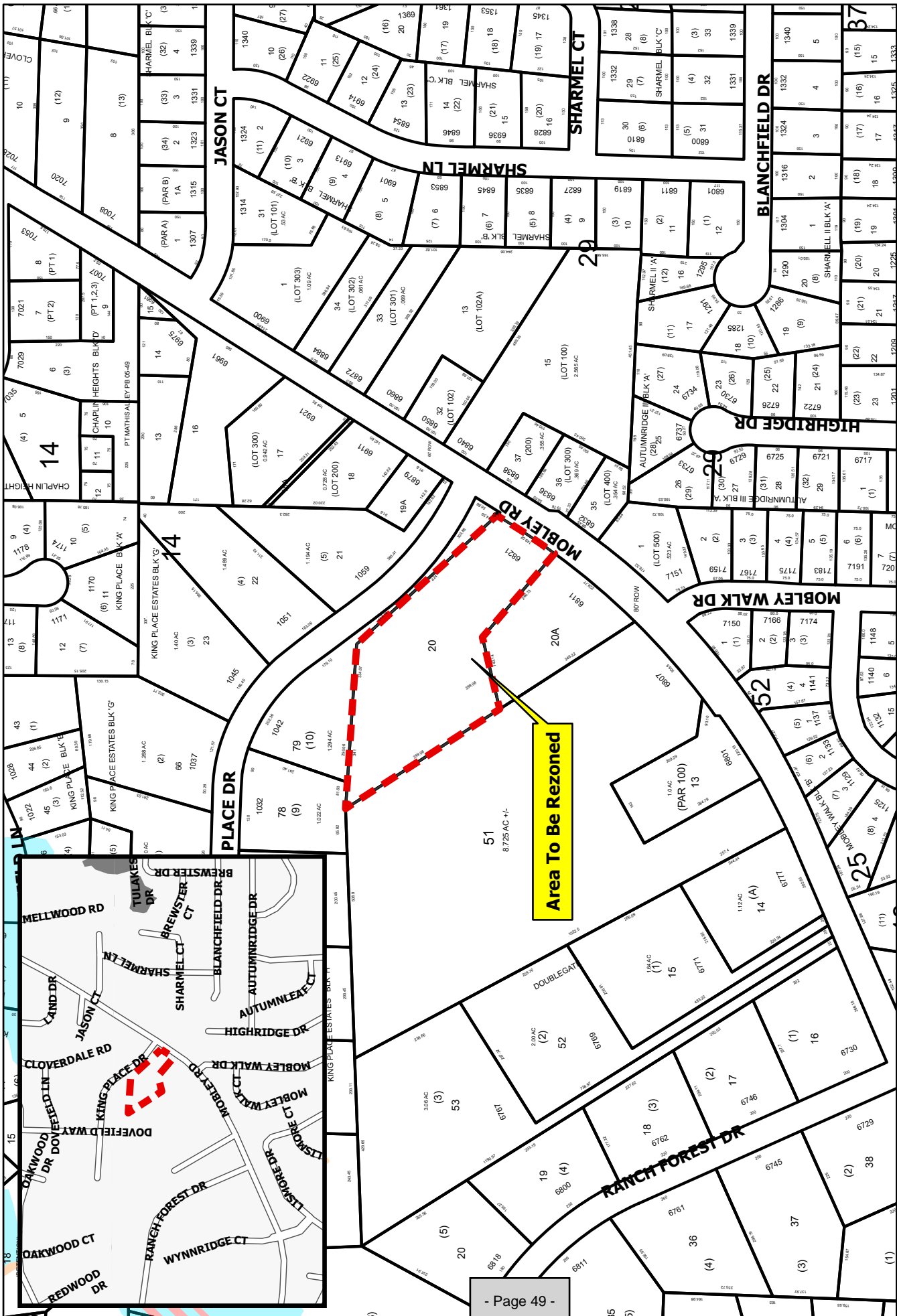
Data Source: IT/GIS
 Author:

Future Land Use Map for REZN 03-26-1259
 Map 190 Block 014 Block 045 Lot 020
 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: 3/20/2026



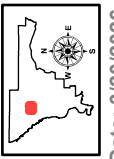
Item #1.



Data Source: IT/GIS
Author:

Flood Hazard Map for For REZN 07-2- 1259
Map 190 Block 014 Block 045 Lot 020
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: 3/20/2026

File Attachments for Item:

2. 1st Reading: REZN-02-26-0189: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **5306 Buena Vista Road** (parcel # 095-045-019) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with conditions. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Tucker)

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 **5306 Buena Vista Road** (parcel # 095-045-019) from Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) 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 Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2) Zoning District to Residential Multifamily – 1 (RMF1) Zoning District with conditions.

“All that certain tract or parcel of land situate lying and being part of Land Lot 12 of the Ninth Land District, being in the City of Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia and being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at the most Southern corner of Lot 1, Belvedere Park, Section One as recorded in Plat Book 28, Page 77B and go South 00 degrees 29 minutes 07 seconds West a distance of 666.47 feet; go thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes 53 seconds West a distance of 538.51 feet; go thence North 01 degree 34 minutes 55 seconds East a distance of 1,152.42 feet to the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road; go thence South 67 degrees 35 minutes 45 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 218.38 feet; go thence Southeasterly along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road 128.75 feet along the arc of a curve concave to the Southwest, having a radius of 1,102.92 feet, a chord bearing of South 64 degrees 15 minutes 06 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road and a chord distance of 128.68 feet; go thence South 29 degrees 05 minutes 32 seconds West along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 29.00 feet; go thence South 60 degrees 28 minutes 57 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 15.93 feet; go thence North 29 degrees 56 minutes 33 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 29.00 feet; go thence Southeasterly along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road 239.66 feet along the arc of a curve concave to the Southwest, having a radius of 1,102.92 feet, a chord bearing of South 53 degrees 49 minutes 57 seconds East and a chord distance of 239.19 feet; go thence South 42 degrees 23 minutes 33 seconds West along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 32.00 feet; go thence South 47 degrees 20 minutes 58 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 9.64 feet; go thence North 42 degrees 54 minutes 58 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 32.00 feet; go thence South 47 degrees 05 minutes 29 seconds East along the Southwest right-of-way of Buena Vista Road a distance of 115.38 feet; go thence South 41 degrees 56 minutes 12 seconds West a distance of 156.55 feet to the most Southern corner of Lot 1, Belvedere Park, Section One and to the point of beginning.

Said tract or parcel contains 12.803 acres.”

Section 2.

The above-described property is rezoned subject to the following condition:

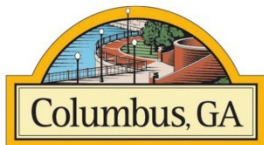
1. The maximum allowed building height will be 45 feet.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of April 2026; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of ____ 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G Mclemore
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, III
Mayor



CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
What progress has preserved.
 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

REZN-02-26-0189

Applicant:	Integrity Development Partners, LLC
Owner:	Heath Crowe Power of Attorney for Connie Crowe
Location:	5306 Buena Vista Road
Parcel:	095-045-019
Acreage:	12.80 Acres
Current Zoning Classification:	Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2)
Proposed Zoning Classification:	Residential Multifamily – 1
Proposed Condition:	1. Maximum height of 45 feet
Current Use of Property:	Vacant/ Undeveloped
Proposed Use of Property:	Multi Family Residential
Council District:	District 4 (Tucker)
PAC Recommendation:	Approval based on the Staff Report.
Planning Department Recommendation:	Approval
Fort Benning's Recommendation:	N/A
DRI Recommendation:	N/A
General Land Use:	Inconsistent Planning Area E
Current Land Use Designation:	Vacant/ Undeveloped
Future Land Use Designation:	Single Family Residential

Compatible with Existing Land-Uses:

No

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 Engineering:

This site shall meet the Codes and regulations of the Columbus Consolidated Government for residential usage.

If built to maximum density, the apartment complex will generate approximately 1,064 new daily trips and 91 PM peak hour trips. The traffic impact is moderate and manageable. Ongoing major infrastructure upgrades by GDOT (Spiderweb Improvements, DDI at I-185, and road widening) will significantly increase corridor capacity and mitigate impacts. The rezoning from SFR2 to RMF1 is traffic-feasible given the arterial nature of Buena Vista Road.

Surrounding Zoning:

North
South
East
West

Single Family 2 (SFR2)/NeighborCommercial
Single Family Residential – 3 (SFR3)
Single Family Residential – 3 (SFR3)
Single Family Residential – 2 (SFR2)

Reasonableness of Request:

The request is compatible with existing land uses.

School Impact:

N/A

Buffer Requirement:

The site shall include a Category B buffer along all property lines. The 3 options under Category B are:

- 1) 15 feet with a certain amount of canopy trees, under story trees, and shrubs / ornamental grasses per 100 linear feet.
- 2) 10 feet with a certain amount of shrubs / ornamental grasses per 100 linear feet and a wood fence or masonry wall.
- 3) 20 feet undisturbed natural buffer.

Attitude of Property Owners:

Fifty-Five (55) property owners within 300 feet of the subject properties were notified of the rezoning request. The Planning Department received 4 calls and/or emails regarding the rezoning.

Approval 0 Responses
Opposition 3 Responses

Additional Information:

56 units proposed, with a potential build out of 160 units with 1,2- and 3-bedroom units to be built in two phases.

Attachments:

- Aerial Land Use Map
- Location Map
- Zoning Map
- Existing Land Use Map
- Future Land Use Map
- Flood Map
- Traffic Report
- Conceptual Site Plan



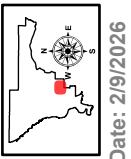
Area To Be Rezoned

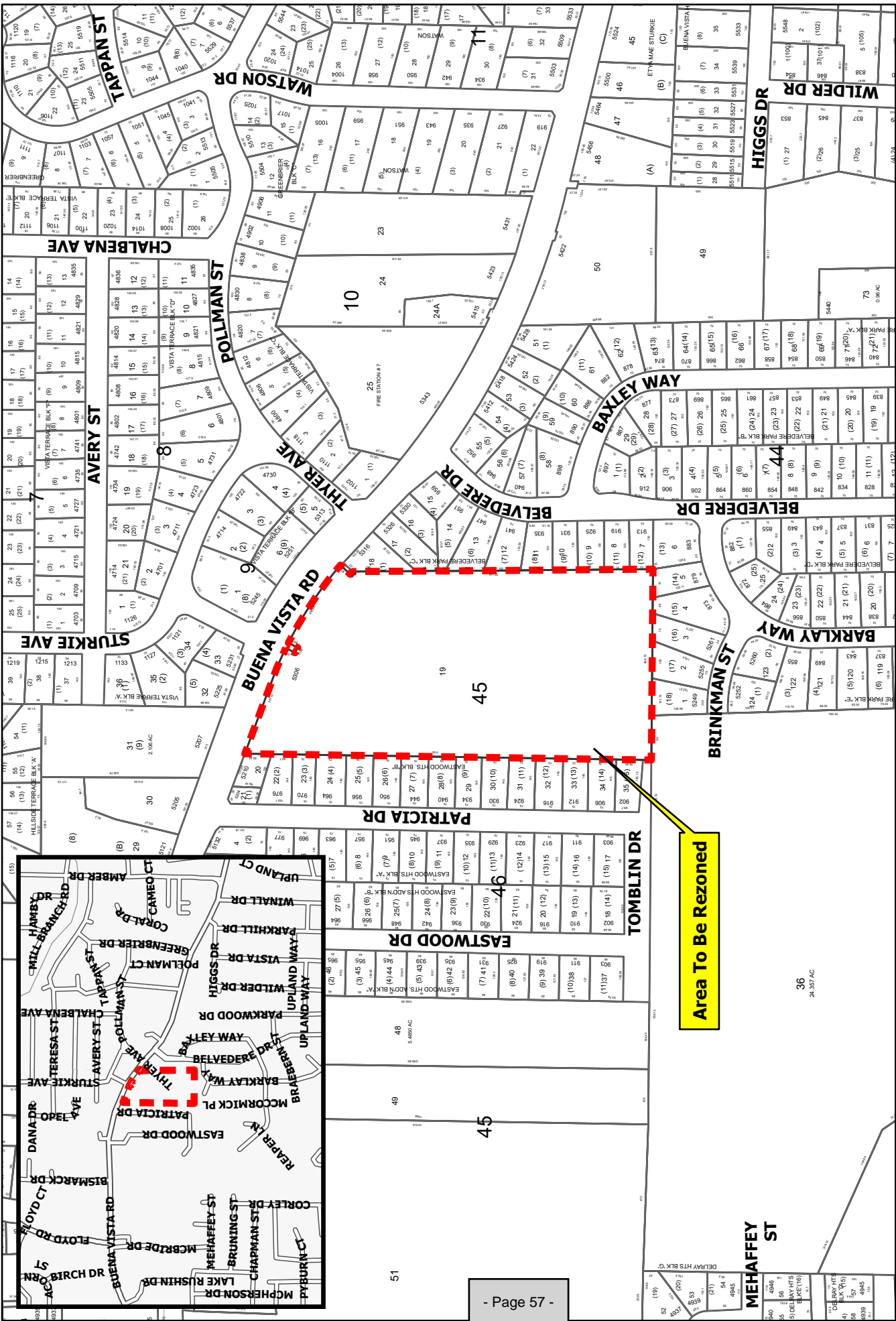


0 100 200 400 US Feet
 Data Source: FEMA.Gov

Aerial Map for For REZN 02-26-0189
 Map 095 Block 045 Lot 019
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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Area To Be Rezoned

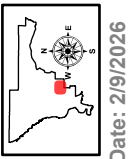


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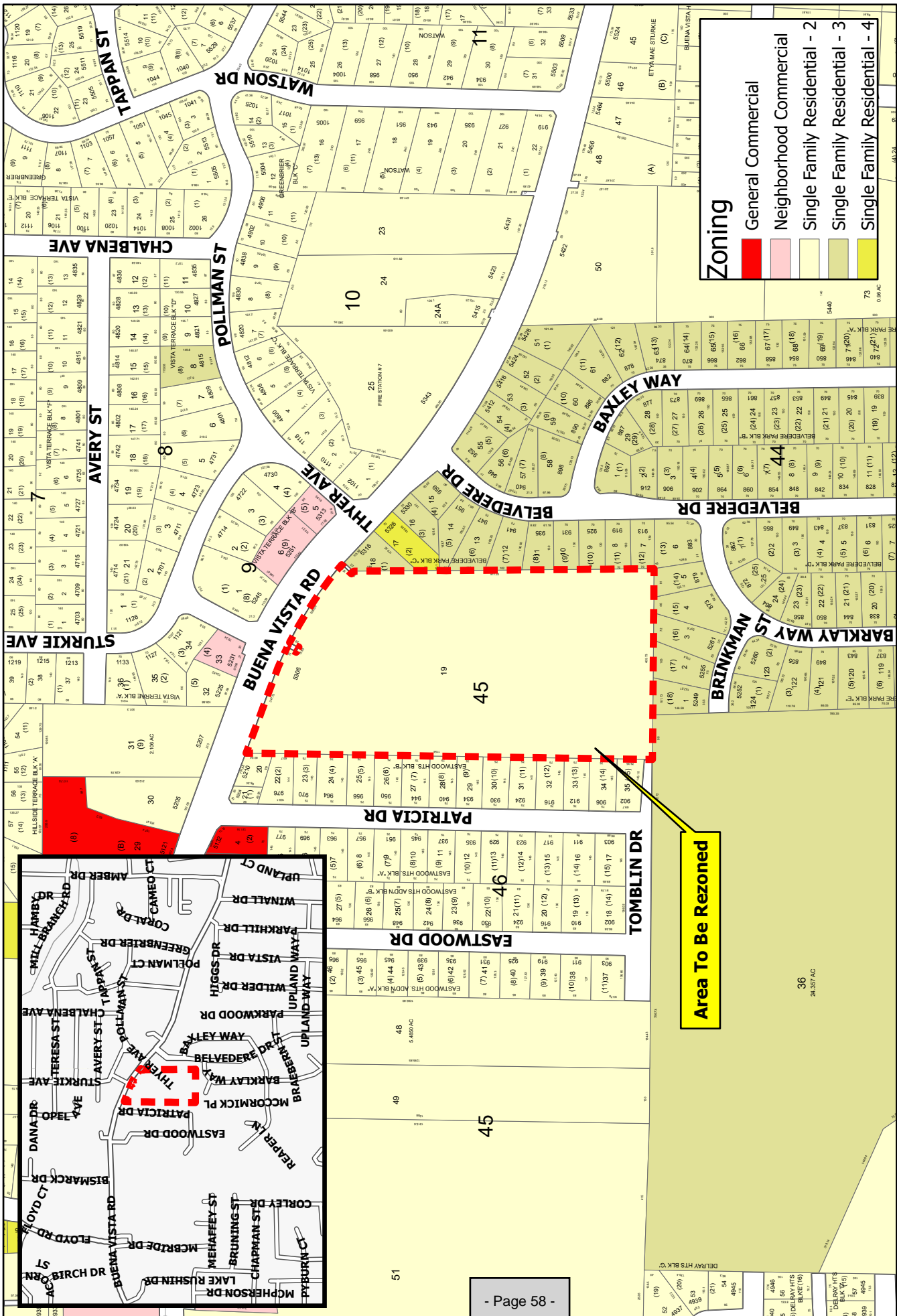
Location Map for For REZN 02-26-0189
Map 095 Block 045 Lot 019
Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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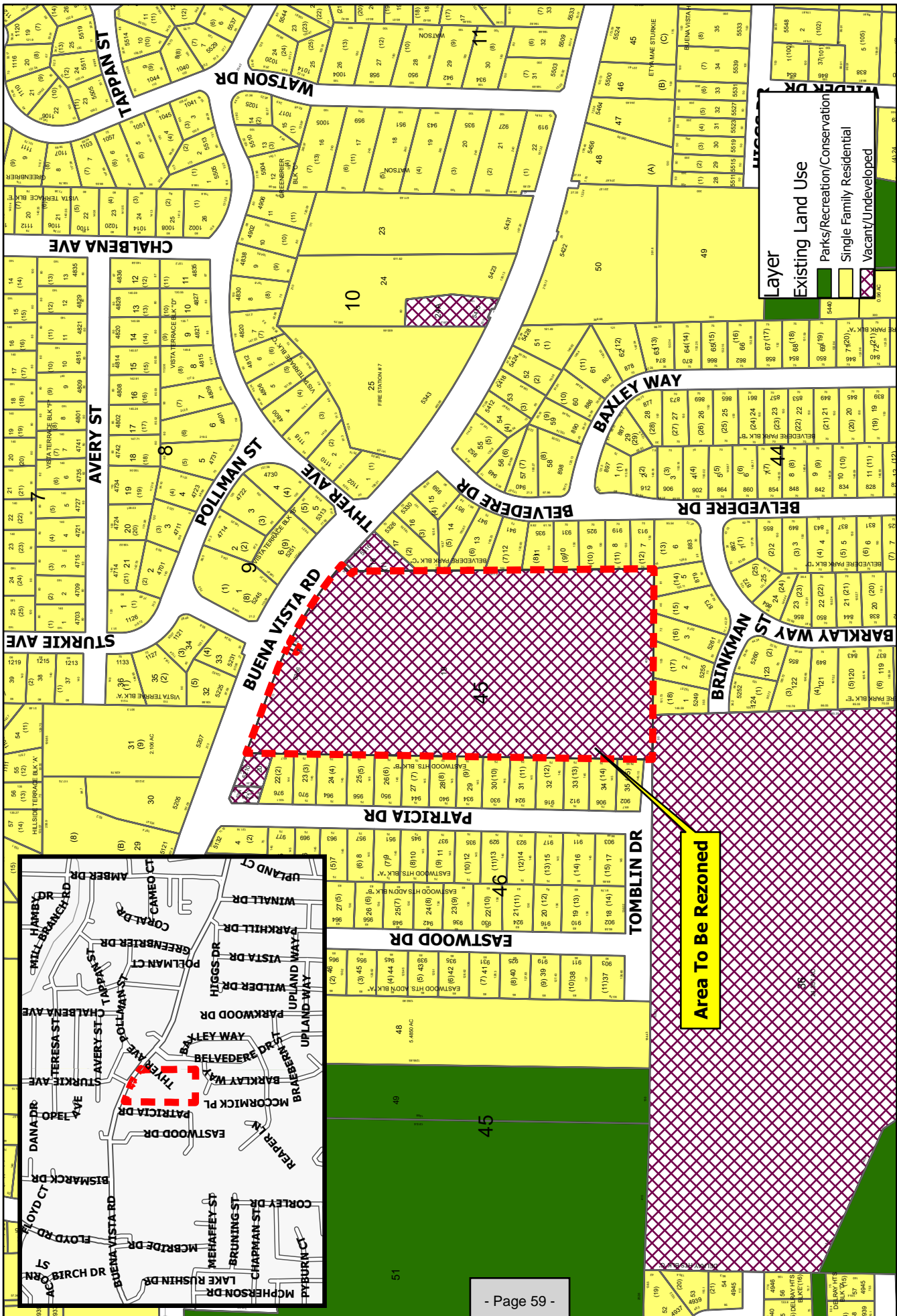
Date: 2/9/2026

Item #2.



Area To Be Rezoned

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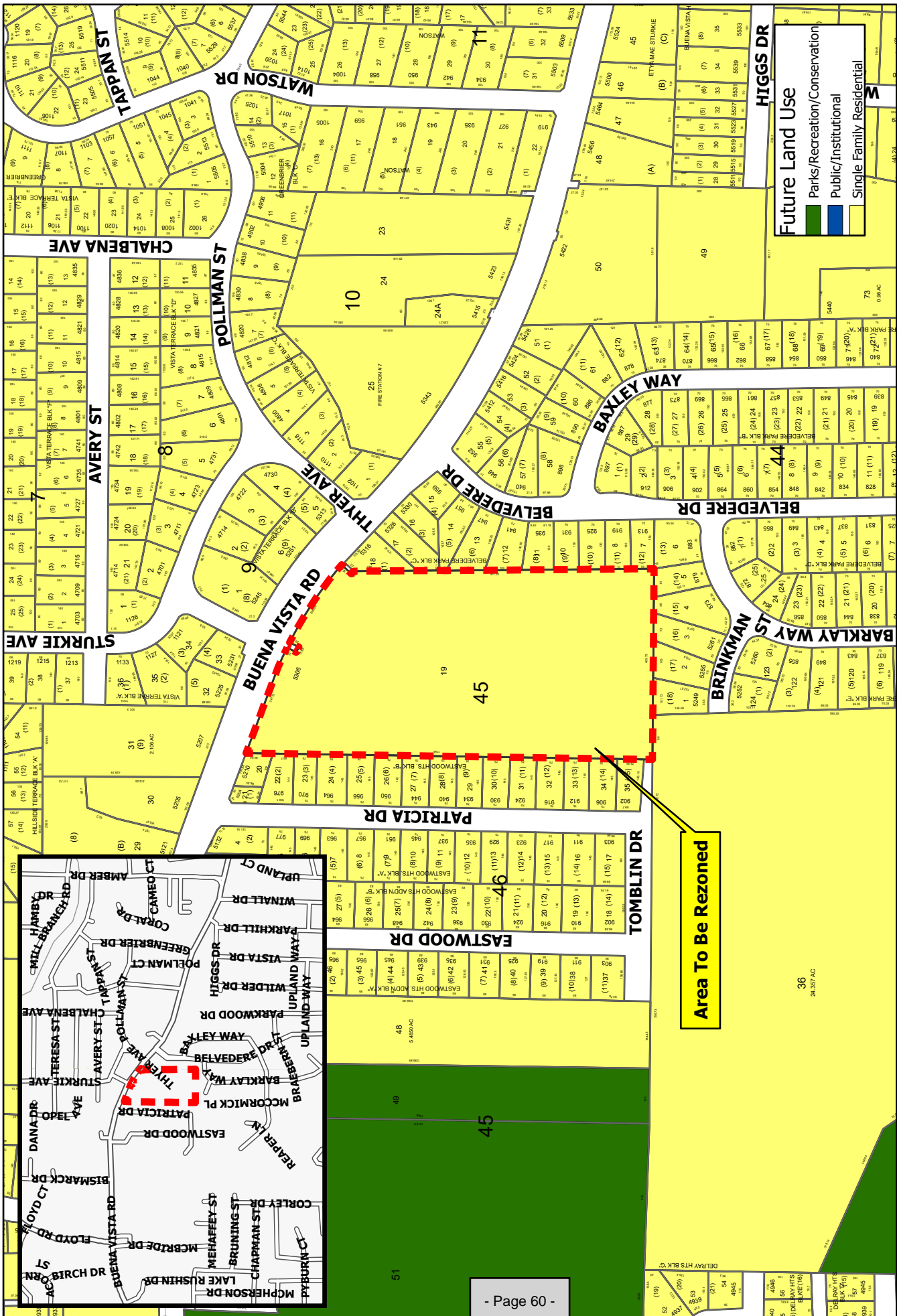


Layer

- Existing Land Use
- Parks/Recreation/Conservation
- Single Family Residential
- Vacant/Undeveloped

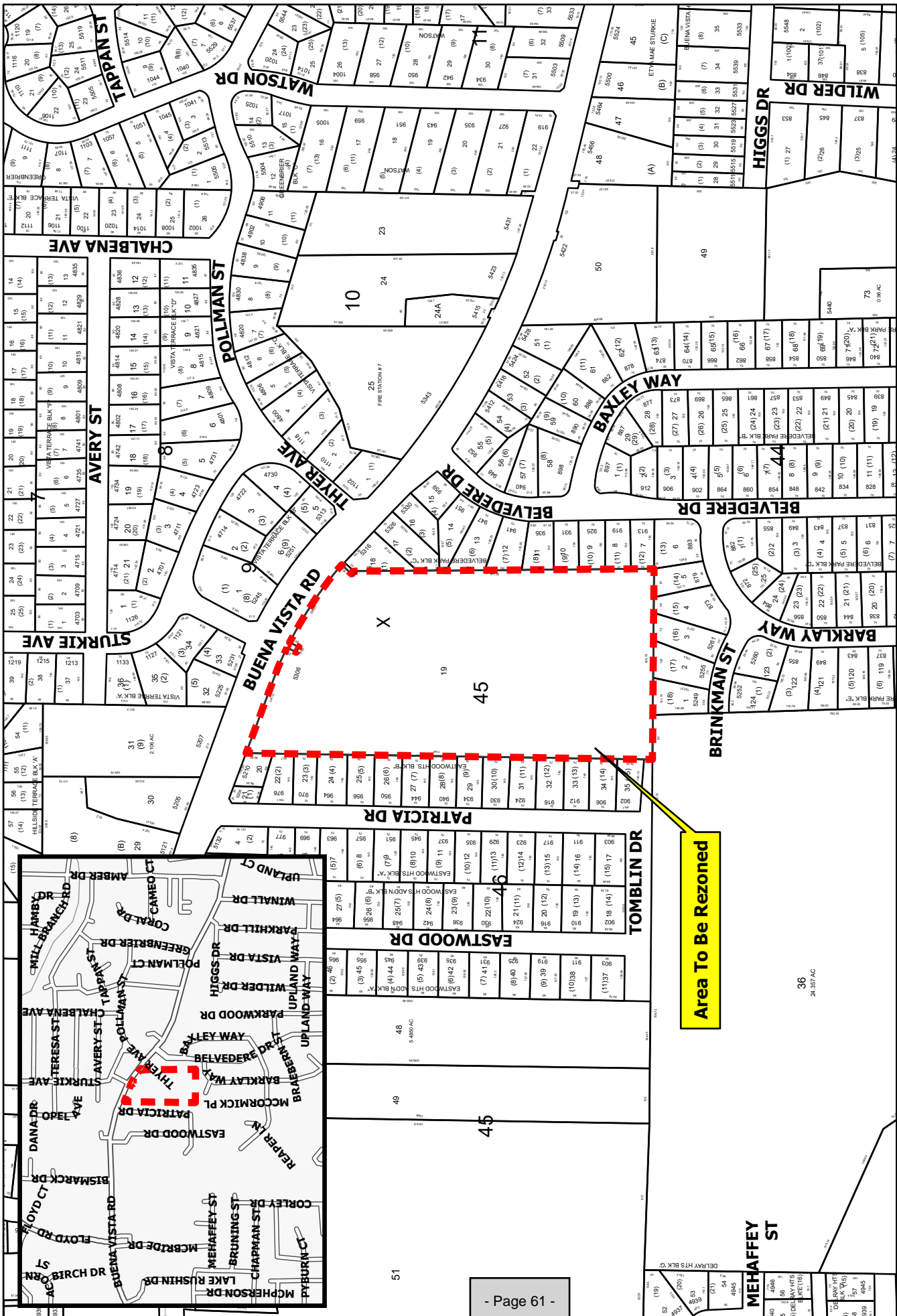
Area To Be Rezoned

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Area To Be Rezoned

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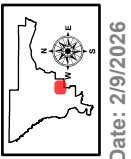
Area To Be Rezoned



Item #2.
0 100 200 400 US Feet
Data Source:
FEMA.Gov

Flood Hazard Map for For REZN 02-26-0189
Map 095 Block 045 Lot 019
Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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The data contained is subject to constant change.
Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.



Date: 2/9/2026

Traffic Impact Report

Rezoning Application – 160-Unit Multifamily Apartment Development

Project Name: Buena Vista Apartments **Address:** 5306 Buena Vista Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907 **Date:** February 2026

1. Project Overview

- **Address:** 5306 Buena Vista Road, Columbus, GA 31907
- **Current Zoning:** SFR2 (Single-Family Residential)
- **Current Use:** Vacant land
- **Proposed Zoning:** RMF1 (Residential Multi-Family)
- **Proposed Use:** 160 Apartment Units (Multifamily Residential)
- **Site Area:** 12.80 Acres

The proposed development consists of 160 multifamily apartment units on a large vacant parcel along Buena Vista Road.

2. Road Characteristics – Buena Vista Road (CR 2226)

- **Street Classification:** Principal Arterial
- **Number of Lanes:** 2–4 lanes (predominantly 3-lane section with center turn lane in many areas)
- **Existing Traffic Count (AADT):** Approximately **8,750 vehicles per day** (2024 data)
- **Existing Level of Service (LOS):** Generally **LOS D** during peak hours (congested corridor with known bottlenecks, heavy truck traffic, and frequent accidents)

Buena Vista Road is a major north-south arterial corridor connecting downtown Columbus to I-185 and south Columbus. The corridor is currently undergoing major capacity improvements, including the **Buena Vista Road Spiderweb Improvements, Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)** at I-185, and road widening projects.

3. Trip Generation (ITE Trip Generation Manual, 11th Edition)

Land Use:

- Proposed: **ITE Code 220** – Multifamily Housing (Apartments)

Trip Generation Rates Used:

- Weekday Average Daily Traffic (ADT): **6.65 trips per dwelling unit**
- PM Peak Hour (4-6 PM): **0.57 trips per dwelling unit**

Trip Generation Summary

Description	Units	ADT Rate	Total ADT	PM Peak Rate	Total PM Peak Trips
Current (Vacant)	0	0	0	0	0
Proposed - 160 Apartments	160	6.65	1,064	0.57	91
Net New Trips	-	-	+1,064	-	+91

Comparison to Current Zoning (SFR2): Under current SFR2 zoning, the site could theoretically support 12–25 single-family homes (depending on density). This would generate approximately 240–500 daily trips. The proposed 160-unit apartment development generates **higher daily traffic** than low-density single-family but is typical for multifamily density on this acreage.

4. Traffic Impact Analysis

- **Total Projected Site Traffic: 1,064 vehicles per day**
- **Peak Hour Impact:** ~91 trips during the PM peak hour (roughly 45 entering / 46 exiting)
- **Percentage Increase on Buena Vista Road:** Approximately **12% increase** in daily volume (from 8,750 to ~9,814 ADT)

Projected Level of Service:

- Without improvements: Minor degradation (LOS D → borderline LOS E in peak hours)
- With ongoing GDOT improvements (widening + DDI at I-185): **LOS remains acceptable (C/D)**

The additional traffic represents a **moderate impact** on Buena Vista Road.

5. Road Network & Access

- **Primary Access:** Direct driveway access onto **Buena Vista Road** (Principal Arterial)
- **Key Nearby Intersection:** I-185 Interchange (currently being upgraded to Diverging Diamond Interchange – major capacity improvement)

- The site benefits from excellent regional connectivity to I-185, Fort Moore, and downtown Columbus.

6. Community Context

The project is located in a transitioning area of South Columbus along a major transportation corridor. The surrounding area includes a mix of residential neighborhoods, commercial uses, and vacant land. Buena Vista Road experiences high commuter and military-related traffic due to proximity to Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning).

7. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

1. The proposed 160-unit apartment development will generate approximately **1,064 new daily trips** and **91 PM peak hour trips**.
2. The traffic impact is **moderate** and manageable.
3. Ongoing major infrastructure upgrades by GDOT (Spiderweb Improvements, DDI at I-185, and road widening) will significantly increase corridor capacity and mitigate impacts.
4. The rezoning from SFR2 to RMF1 is **traffic-feasible** given the arterial nature of Buena Vista Road.

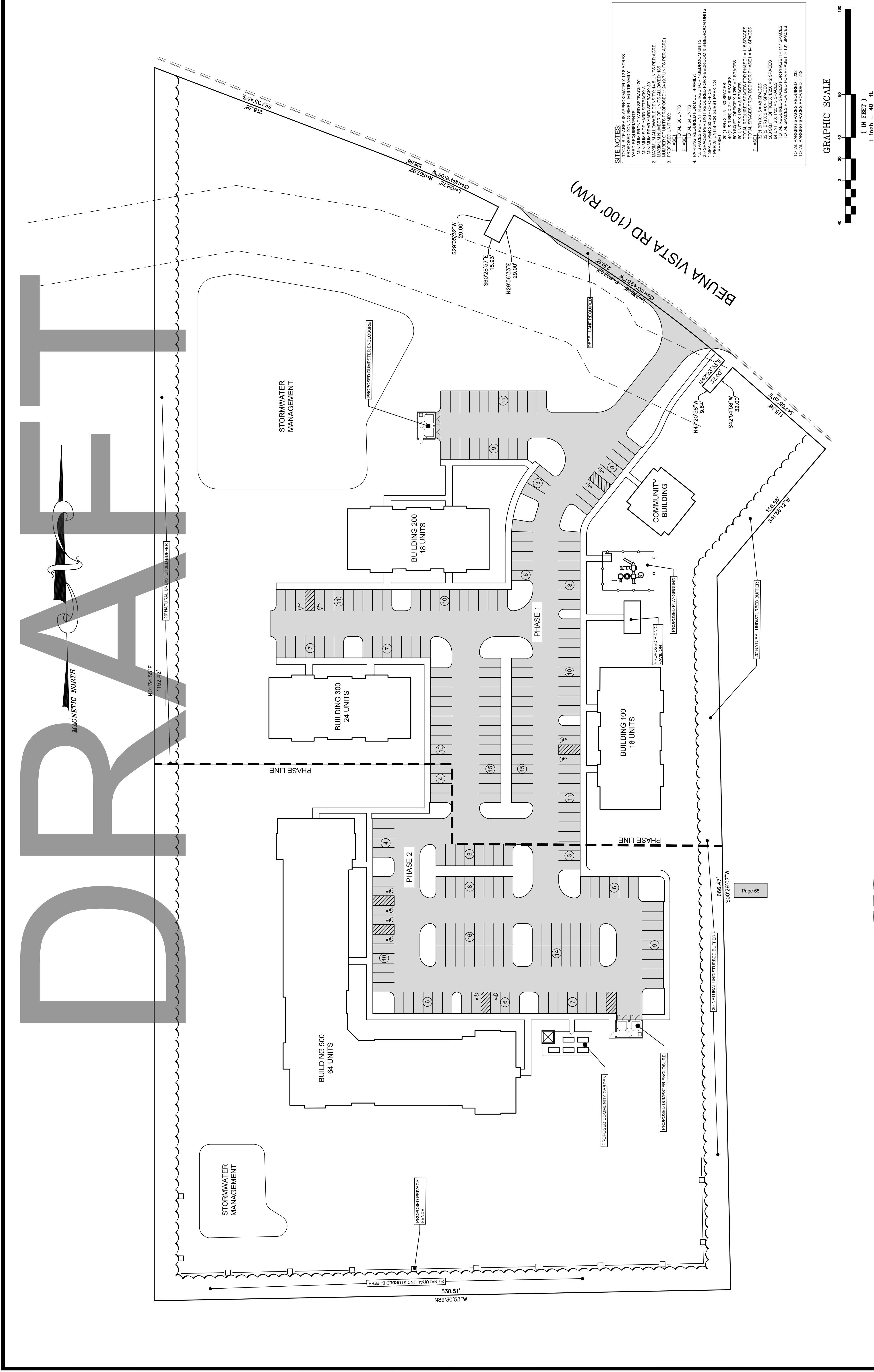
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REVISIONS	
NO.	DATE

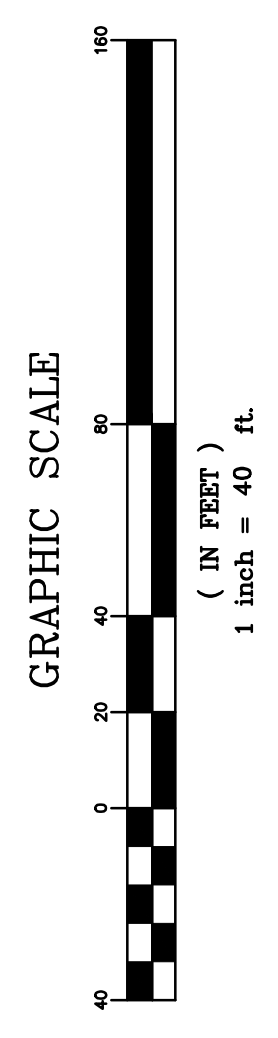
LANIER ENGINEERING INC.
 CIVIL ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS
 1504 W. THIRD AVENUE ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707
 (229) 438-0522 FAX (229) 438-0921
 SURVEY BY: SVY DESIGNED BY: DSN DRAWN BY: DBN

INTEGRITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, LLC
 CONCEPTUAL APARTMENT LAYOUT
 5306 BUENA VISTA ROAD
 PART OF LAND LOT 12, 9TH LAND DISTRICT
 CITY OF COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SCALE: 1"=40' / DATE: MARCH 20, 2026

JN: 26009
 SHEET No. 1
 OF 1



SITE NOTES:
 1. TOTAL DEVELOPMENT IS APPROXIMATELY 11.2 ACRES.
 2. PROPOSED ZONING: RMF1 - MULTIFAMILY
 3. VAND REQUIREMENTS: SETBACK: 30'
 MINIMUM SIDE YARD SETBACK: 5'
 MINIMUM REAR YARD SETBACK: 30'
 4. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF UNITS ALLOWED: 845
 5. PROPOSED UNIT MIX:
 PHASE I: 60 UNITS
 PHASE II: 117 UNITS
 PHASE III: 168 UNITS
 6. PARKING TOTAL UNITS MULTIFAMILY:
 1.5 SPACES PER UNIT REQUIRED FOR 1-BEDROOM UNITS
 2. SPACES PER UNIT REQUIRED FOR 2-BEDROOM & 3-BEDROOM UNITS
 3. SPACES PER UNIT FOR OFFICE
 1 PER 25 UNITS FOR GUEST PARKING
 PHASE I: 1 BR X 1.5 = 30 SPACES
 PHASE II: 1 BR X 1.5 = 30 SPACES
 PHASE III: 1 BR X 1.5 = 30 SPACES
 7. TOTAL REQUIRED SPACES FOR PHASE I = 118 SPACES
 8. TOTAL REQUIRED SPACES FOR PHASE II = 177 SPACES
 9. TOTAL REQUIRED SPACES FOR PHASE III = 117 SPACES
 10. TOTAL REQUIRED SPACES FOR PHASE I+II+III = 412 SPACES
 11. TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED FOR PHASE I = 41 SPACES
 12. TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED FOR PHASE II = 41 SPACES
 13. TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED FOR PHASE III = 41 SPACES
 14. TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED FOR PHASE I+II+III = 123 SPACES
 15. TOTAL PARKING SPACES PROVIDED = 222
 16. TOTAL PARKING SPACES PROVIDED = 242



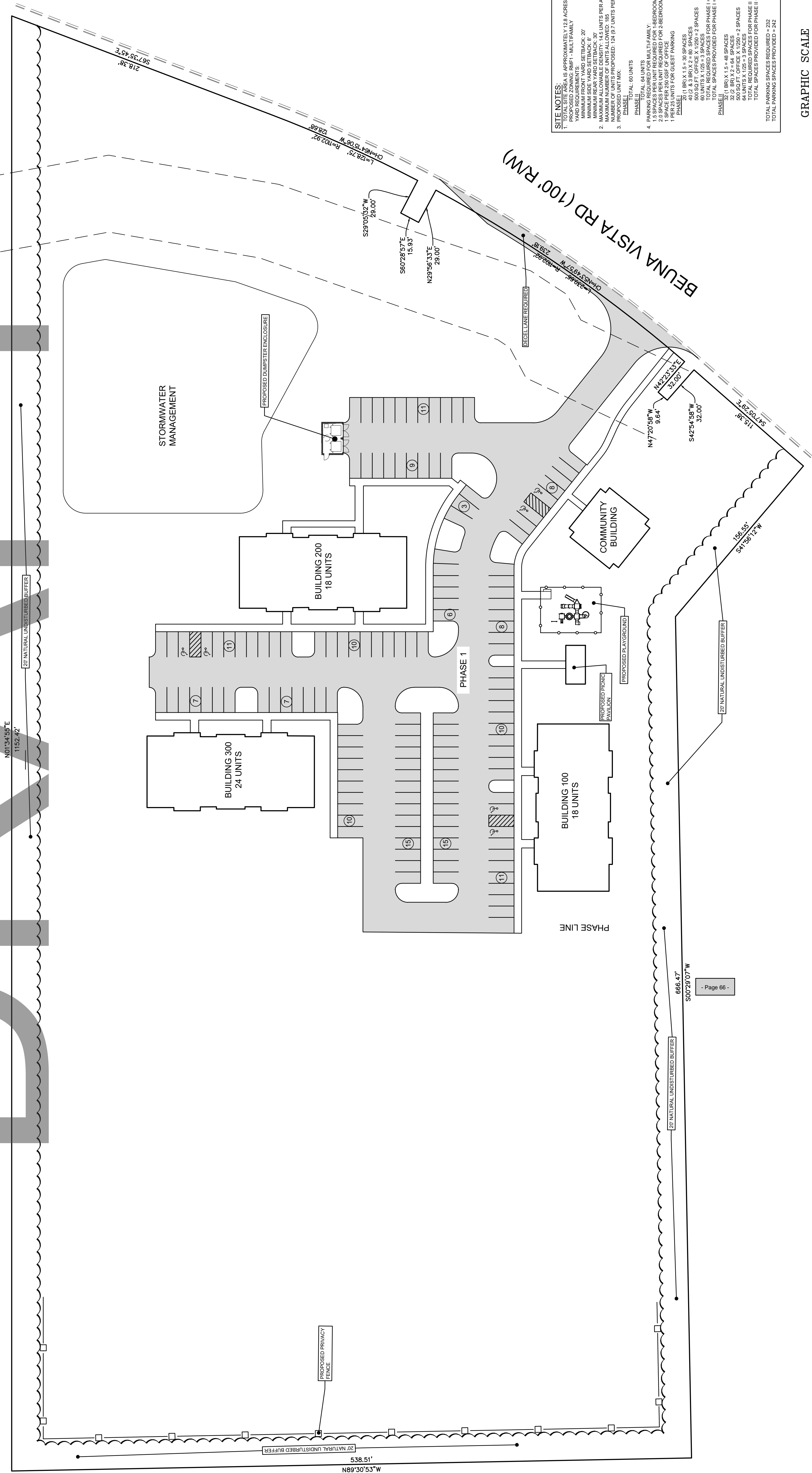
GEORGIA811
 www.Georgia811.com
 Contact 811 before you dig.

BELVEDERE DR

Page 65

DRAFT

MAGNETIC NORTH



SITE NOTES:

1. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IS 1.2 ACRES.
2. PROPOSED ZONING: RMF1 - MULTIFAMILY.
3. VARD REQUIREMENTS: SETBACK: 20'
4. MINIMUM SIDE YARD SETBACK: 6'
5. MINIMUM REAR YARD SETBACK: 30'
6. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF UNITS ALLOWED: 85
7. PROPOSED UNIT MIX:

PHASE I - 60 UNITS

1. 40 (2 & 3 BR) X 2 = 80 SPACES
2. 15 SPACES PER UNIT REQUIRED FOR 1-BEDROOM UNITS
3. 2 SPACES PER UNIT REQUIRED FOR 2-BEDROOM & 3-BEDROOM UNITS
4. 1 PER 25 UNITS FOR GUEST PARKING

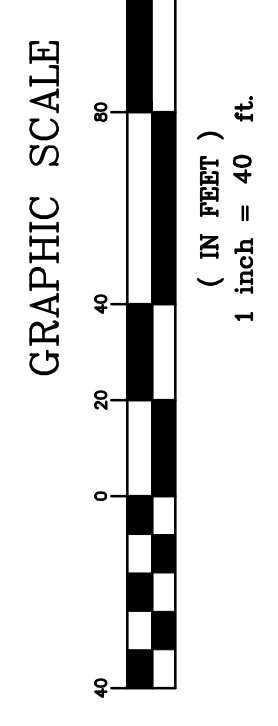
PHASE II - 117 UNITS

1. 40 (2 & 3 BR) X 1.5 = 30 SPACES
2. 1 BR X 1.5 = 30 SPACES
3. 40 UNITS X 1.25 = 50 SPACES
4. 60 UNITS X 1.25 = 75 SPACES
5. 1 PER 25 UNITS FOR GUEST PARKING

PHASE III - 141 UNITS

1. 50 (3 BR) X 1.25 = 62 SPACES
2. 32 (2 BR) X 1.5 = 48 SPACES
3. 590 (SQUAT) OFFICE X 1.025 = 2 SPACES
4. 1 PER 25 UNITS FOR GUEST PARKING

TOTAL REQUIRED SPACES FOR PHASE I = 115 SPACES
 TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED FOR PHASE I = 115 SPACES
 TOTAL REQUIRED SPACES FOR PHASE II = 117 SPACES
 TOTAL SPACES PROVIDED FOR PHASE II = 101 SPACES
 TOTAL PARKING SPACES REQUIRED = 222
 TOTAL PARKING SPACES PROVIDED = 242



CONCEPTUAL APARTMENT LAYOUT

INTEGRITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, LLC

5306 BUENA VISTA ROAD
 PART OF LAND LOT 12, 9TH LAND DISTRICT
 CITY OF COLUMBUS, MUSCOGEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCALE: 1"=40' / DATE: MARCH 20, 2026

LARRIER ENGINEERING INC.
 CIVIL ENGINEERS • SURVEYORS

1504 W. THIRD AVENUE ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707
 (229) 438-0522 FAX (229) 438-0921

SURVEY BY: SVY DESIGNED BY: DSN DRAWN BY: DBN

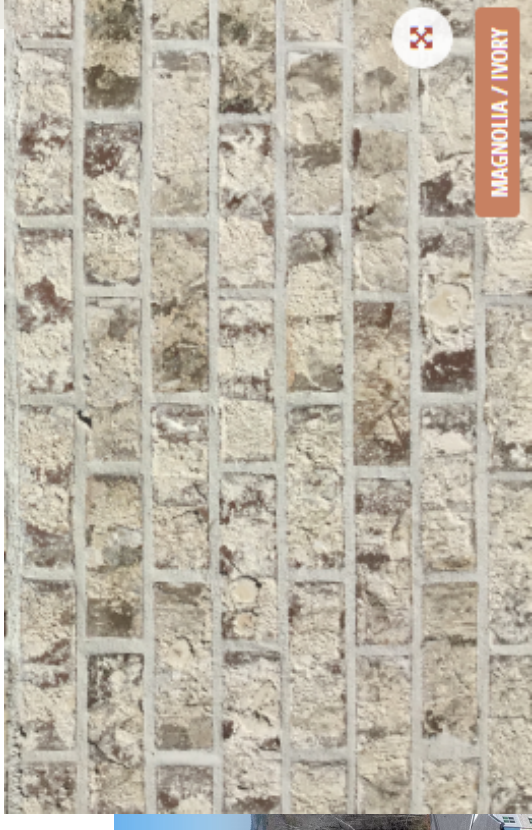
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JN: 26009
 SHEET No. 1
 OF 1

Columbus Apartments Presentation Board

SW 7005

Pure White

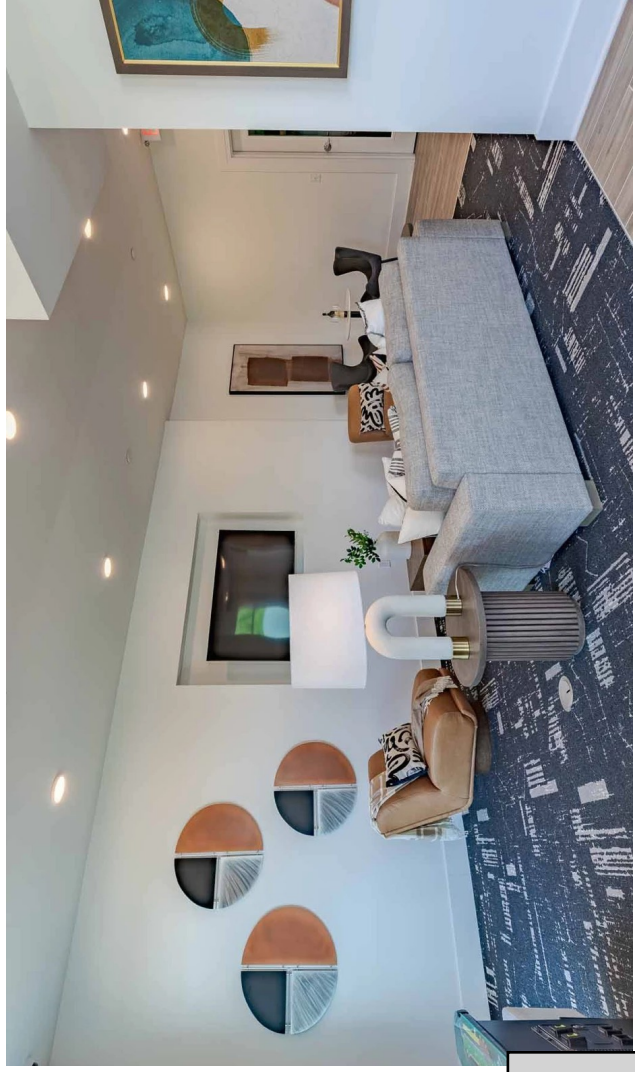
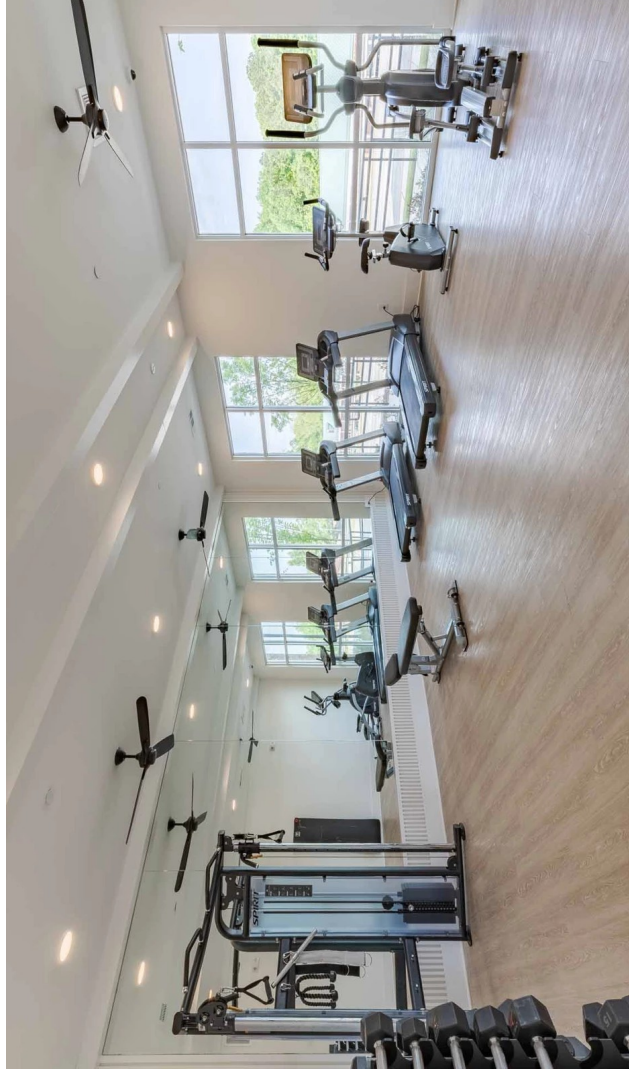


SW 2860
Sage



Columbus Apartments Presentation Board

- Interior



File Attachments for Item:

3. 1st Reading: REZN-02-26-0346: An Ordinance amending the Zoning Atlas of the Consolidated Government of Columbus, Georgia, to change certain boundaries of a district located at **9055 Veterans Parkway** (parcel # 079-001-034) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to Residential Estate - 1 (RE1)(Planning Department and PAC recommend approval)(Councilor Davis)

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 **9055 Veterans Parkway** (parcel # 079-001-034) from Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to Residential Estate - 1 (RE1)

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 Residential Office (RO) Zoning District to Residential Estate - 1 (RE1)

“All that lot, tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 266 of the 19th Land District of Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, and being known and designated as ALL OF TRACT NO. 1, 2.4337 AC., as said lot is shown upon a map or plat entitled "Survey for the Lawand Company, Land Lot 266, 19th Land District, Muscogee County, Georgia," made by Stothard Engineering, Inc., dated April 2, 1994, and recorded in Plat Book 125, at Folio 26, in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia, to which map or plat reference is hereby made for the more particular location and dimensions of said lot.

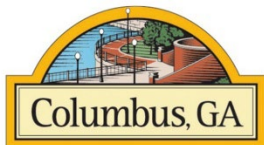
Located thereon is structure numbered 9055 Veterans Parkway, according to the present system of numbering structures in Columbus, Georgia.”

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of April 2026; introduced a second time at a regular meeting of said Council held on the ____ day of ____ 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G Mclemore
Clerk of Council

B. H. “Skip” Henderson, III
Mayor



CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
What progress has preserved.
 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

REZN-02-26-0346

Applicant:	Nakia Miller
Owner:	Janet Lawand
Location:	9055 Veterans
Parcel:	079-001-004
Acreage:	2.43 Acres
Current Zoning Classification:	Residential Office
Proposed Zoning Classification:	Residential Estate - 1
Current Use of Property:	Vacant
Proposed Use of Property:	Personal Care Home, Type 1
Council District:	District 2
PAC Recommendation:	Approval based on the Staff Report and compatibility with existing land uses.
Planning Department Recommendation:	Approval based on compatibility with existing land uses.
Fort Benning's Recommendation:	N/A
DRI Recommendation:	N/A
General Land Use:	Consistent Planning Area A
Current Land Use Designation:	Single Family Residential

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

Surrounding Zoning:	North	Residential Estate 1 (RE1)
	South	Residential Estate 1 (RE1)
	East	Residential Office (RO)
	West	Residential Office (RO)

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

School Impact: N/A

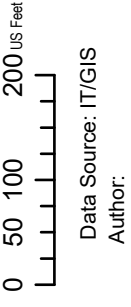
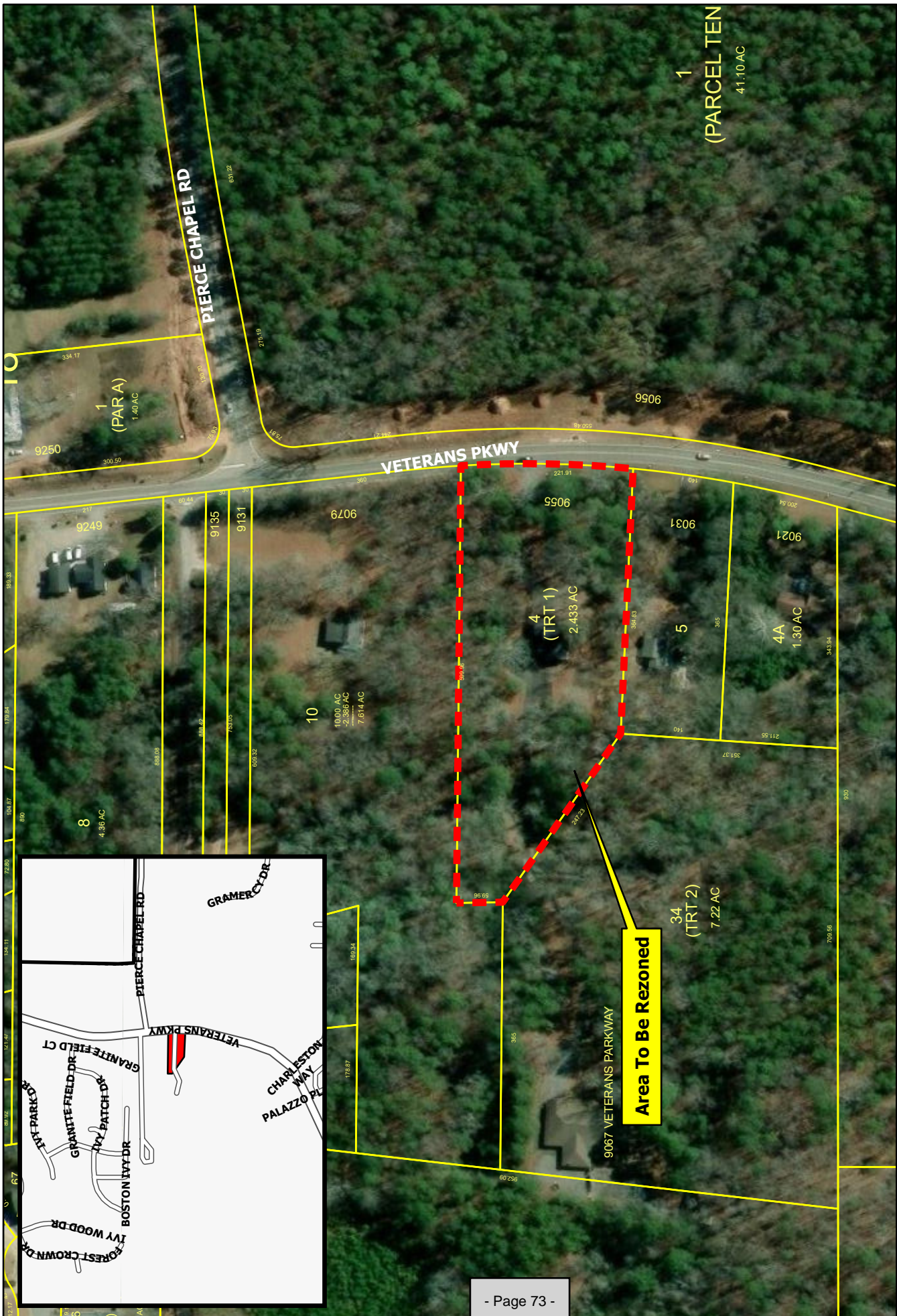
Buffer Requirement: N/A

Attitude of Property Owners: **Nine (9)** property owners within 300 feet of the subject properties were notified of the rezoning request. The Planning Department received no calls and/or emails regarding the rezoning.

Approval	0 Responses
Opposition	0 Responses

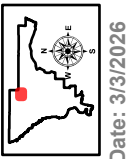
Additional Information: Personal Care Home, Type 1

Attachments: Aerial Land Use Map
Location Map
Zoning Map
Existing Land Use Map
Future Land Use Map
Flood Map



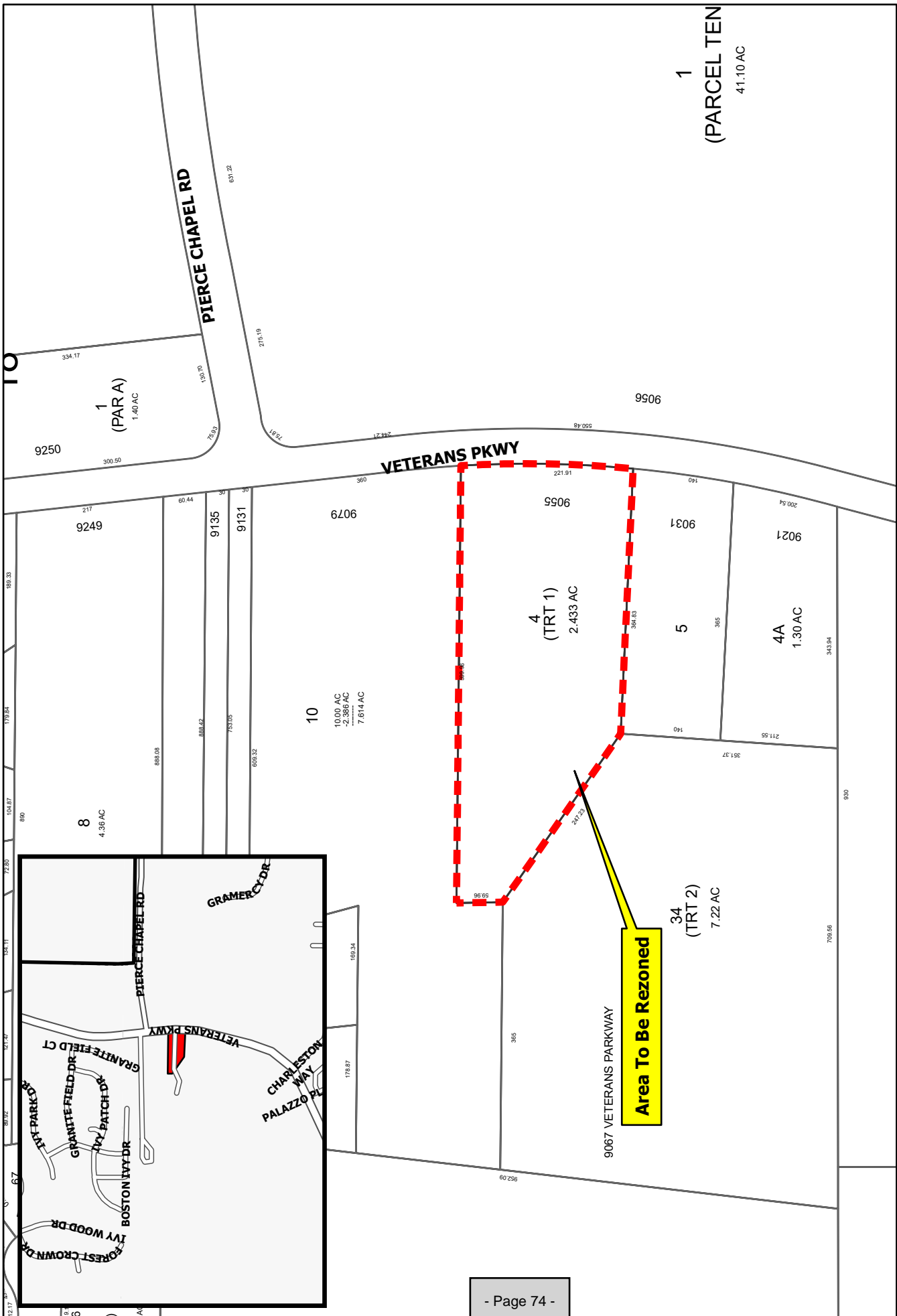
Aerial Map for For REZN 02-26-0346
 Map 079 Block 001 Lot 004
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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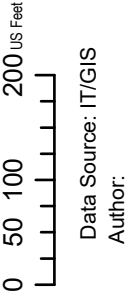


Date: 3/3/2026

Item #3.

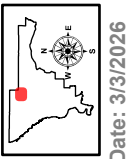


Area To Be Rezoned

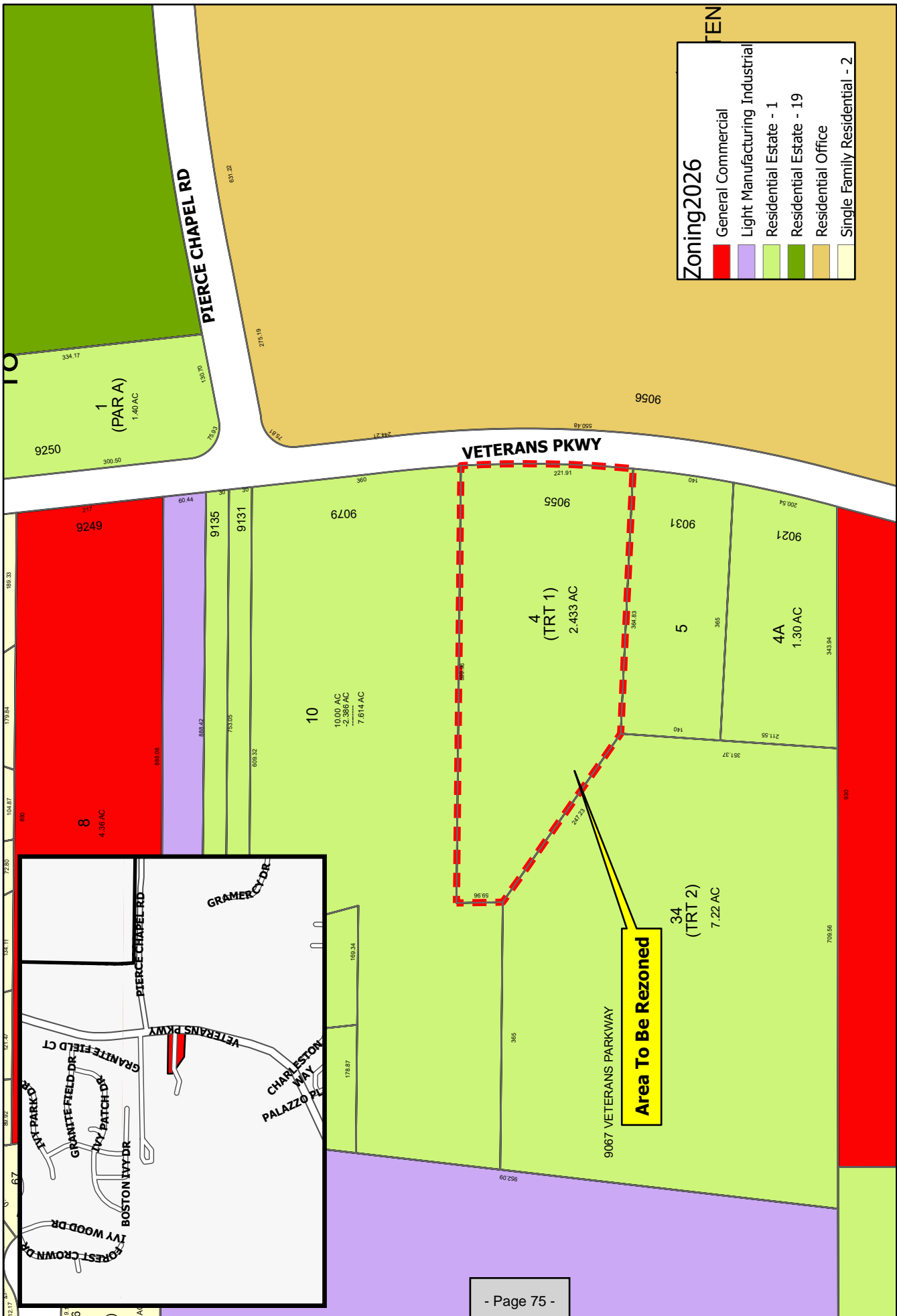


Location Map for For REZN 02-26-0346
 Map 079 Block 001 Lot 004
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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Date: 3/3/2026



Zoning2026

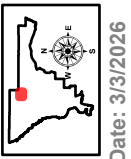
■	General Commercial
■	Light Manufacturing Industrial
■	Residential Estate - 1
■	Residential Estate - 19
■	Residential Office
■	Single Family Residential - 2

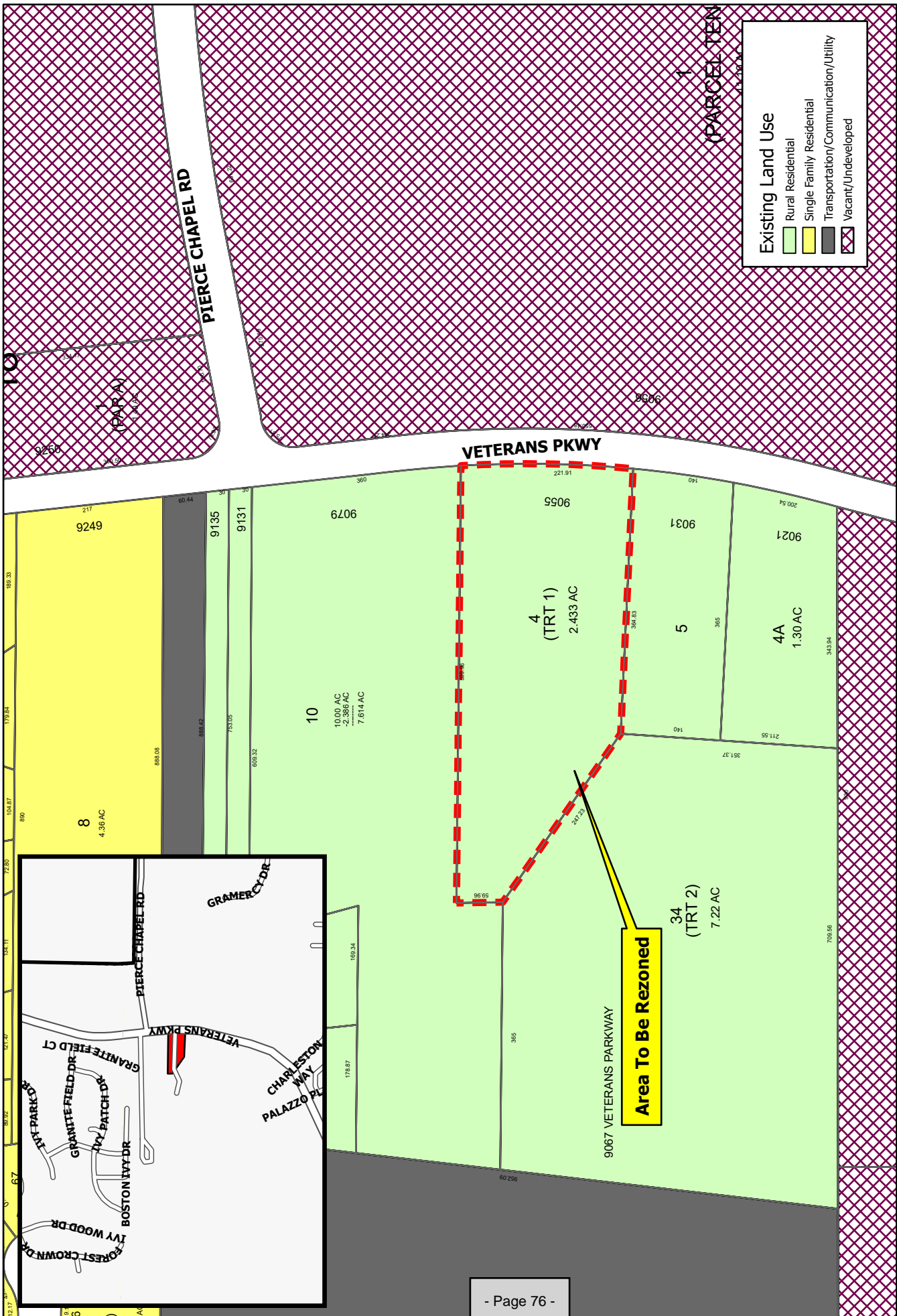


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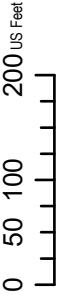
Zoning Map for For REZN 02-26-0346
 Map 079 Block 001 Lot 004
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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Item #3.

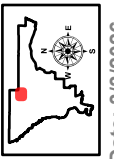


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Author:

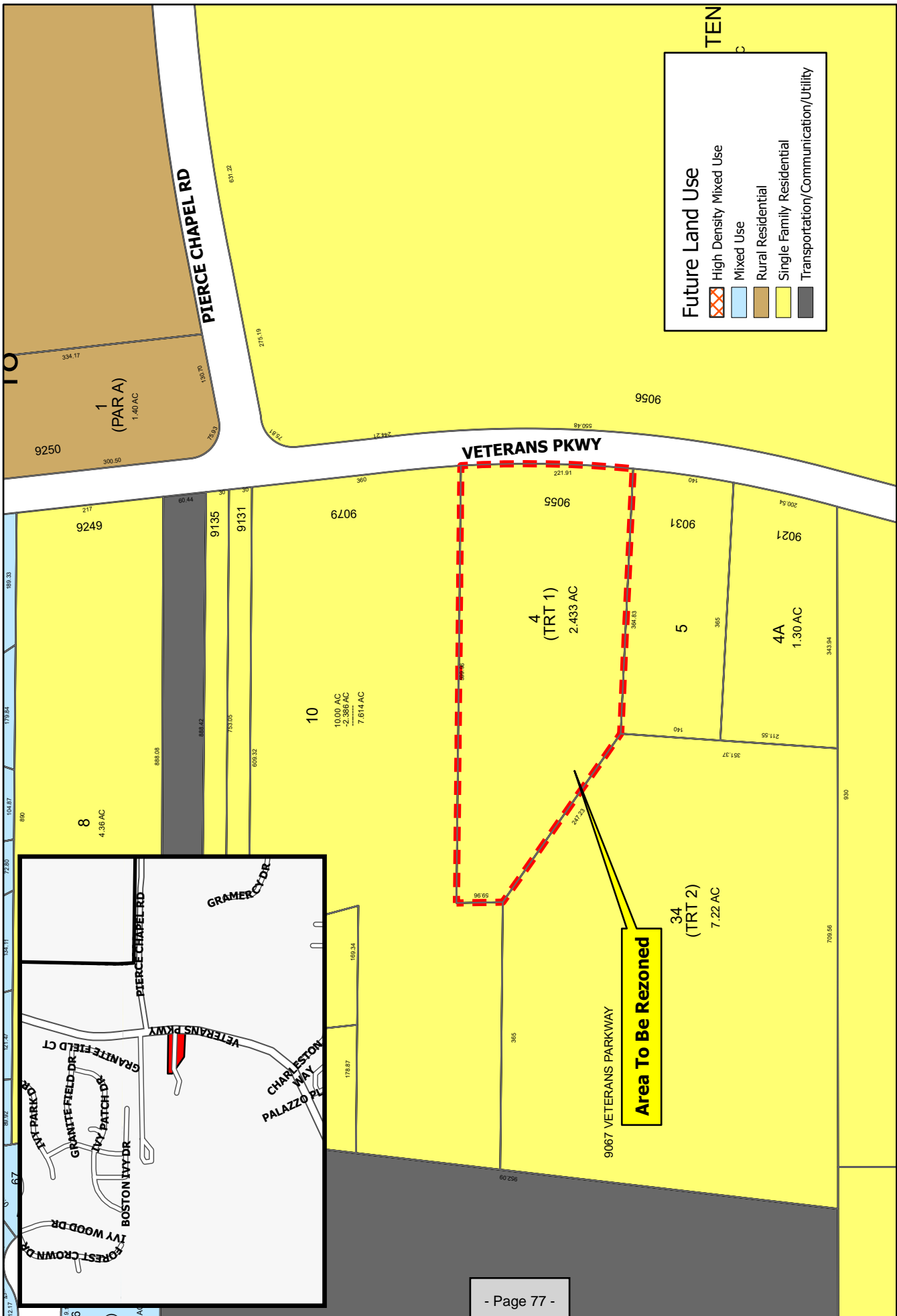
Existing Land Use Map for For REZN 02-26-0346
Map 079 Block 001 Lot 004

Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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Date: 3/3/2026



Future Land Use

- High Density Mixed Use
- Mixed Use
- Rural Residential
- Single Family Residential
- Transportation/Communication/Utility



Item #3.

200 US Feet

50 100

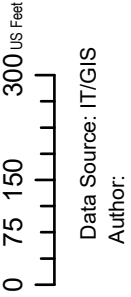
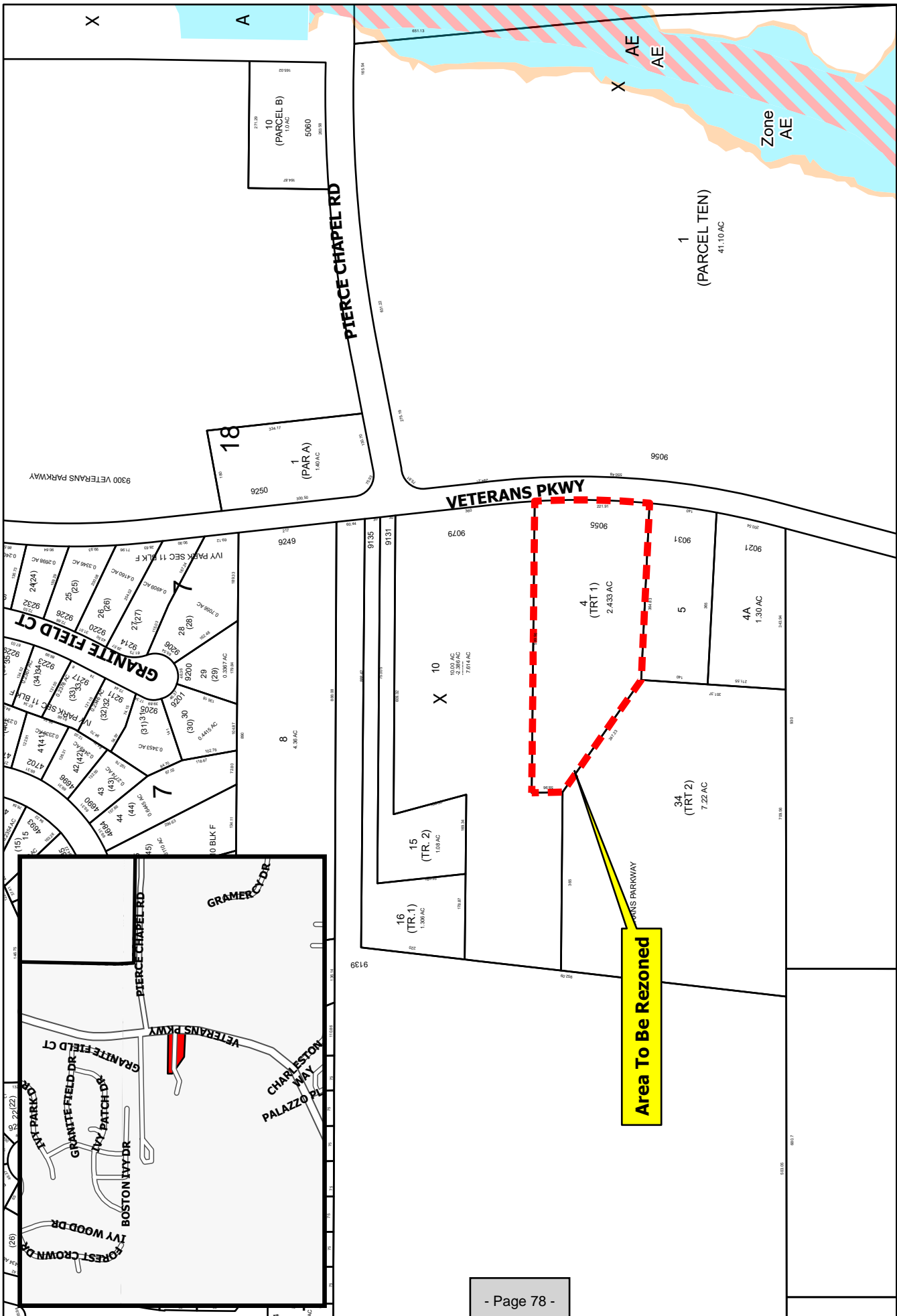
Data Source: IT/GIS

Author:

Future Land Use Land Use Map for For REZN 02-26-03460
Map 079 Block 001 Lot 004
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

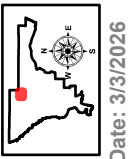
This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.

Date: 3/3/2026



Flood Hazard Map for For REZN 02-26-0346
 Map 079 Block 001 Lot 004
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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Date: 3/3/2026

Item #3.

File Attachments for Item:

4. A resolution approving a Special Exception to allow for a Tattoo Studio in the existing building located at **1023 Broadway** located in the Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district. (Planning Department and PAC recommend approval.)(Councilor Cogle)

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A resolution approving a Special Exception to allow for a Tattoo Studio in the existing building located at **1023 Broadway** located in the Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district.

WHEREAS, Ernest Smallman IV has appropriately applied for a Special Exception, to allow a Tattoo Studio in Central Riverfront (CRD) zone to be granted a special exception; and

WHEREAS, a Tattoo Studio is permitted solely as a Special Exception Use under the current Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Department and the Planning Advisory Commission have reviewed the request and recommend granting a Special Exception Use.

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

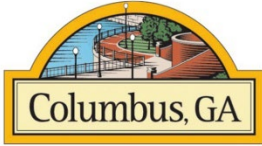
That all the criteria listed under Section 10.2.7 (B) of the Unified Development Ordinance have been properly met and a Special Exception Use to operate a Tattoo Studio is approved for the property located at 1023 Broadway.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the 14th day of April 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G Mclemore
Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson, II
Mayor



CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT
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 PLANNING DEPARTMENT

March 30, 2026

Honorable Mayor and Councilors
 City Manager
 City Attorney
 Clerk of Council

Subject: (EXCP-02-26-0319) Special Exception Use request to allow for a Tattoo Studio at 1023 Broadway.

Ernest Smallman IV has submitted an application for the Special Exception Use cited above. The property is located in the Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district. The site for the proposed Tattoo Studio is located at 1023 Broadway. The purpose of the Special Exception Use is to allow for the operation of a tattoo studio located within the Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district:

(1) Access: Is or will the type of street providing access to the use be adequate to serve the proposed special exception use?

Broadway will provide adequate free flow movement. This use will be in an existing building.

(2) Traffic and Pedestrian Safety: Is or will access into and out of the property be adequate to provide for traffic and pedestrian safety, the anticipated volume of the traffic flow, and access by emergency vehicles?

Access into and out of the property in question will provide for adequate traffic and pedestrian safety and emergency access.

(3) Adequacy of Public Facilities: Are or will public facilities such as school, water, or sewer utilities and police and fire protection be adequate to serve the special exception use?

Services such as water, utilities, police, and fire protection are adequate. This is an existing building.

(4) Protection from Adverse Affects: Are or will refuse, service, parking and loading areas on the property be located or screened to protect other properties in the area from such adverse effects as noise, light, glare or odor?

The property is surrounded by Central Riverfront (CRD) zoning district. Noise, light, flare and odor should not cause adverse impacts.

(5) Hours of Operation: Will the hours and manner of operation of the special exception use have no adverse effects on other properties in the area?

The hours of operation for this use will not have an adverse impact on the neighboring properties in the area.

(6) Compatibility: Will the height, size, or location of the buildings or other structures on the property be compatible with the height, size, character, or location of buildings or other structures on neighboring properties?

The business will run out of an existing building.

Council District: District 7 (Cogle)

Twenty (20) property owners within 300 feet of the property have been notified by mail of the proposed Special Exception Use. The Planning Department received no calls and/or emails regarding the rezoning.

Approval: 0 Responses

Opposition: 0 Responses

Additional Information: N/A

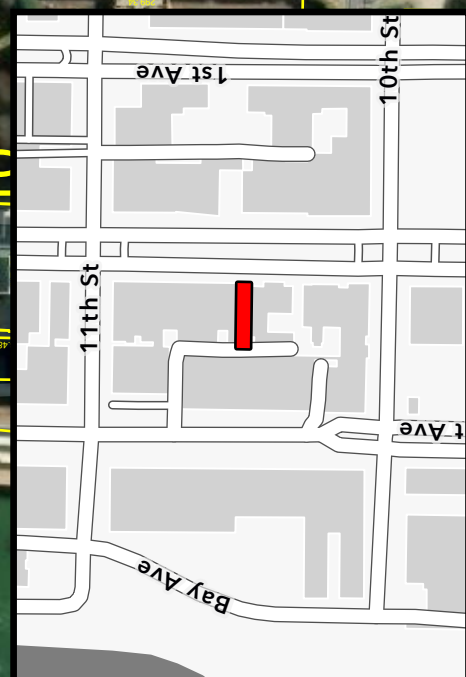
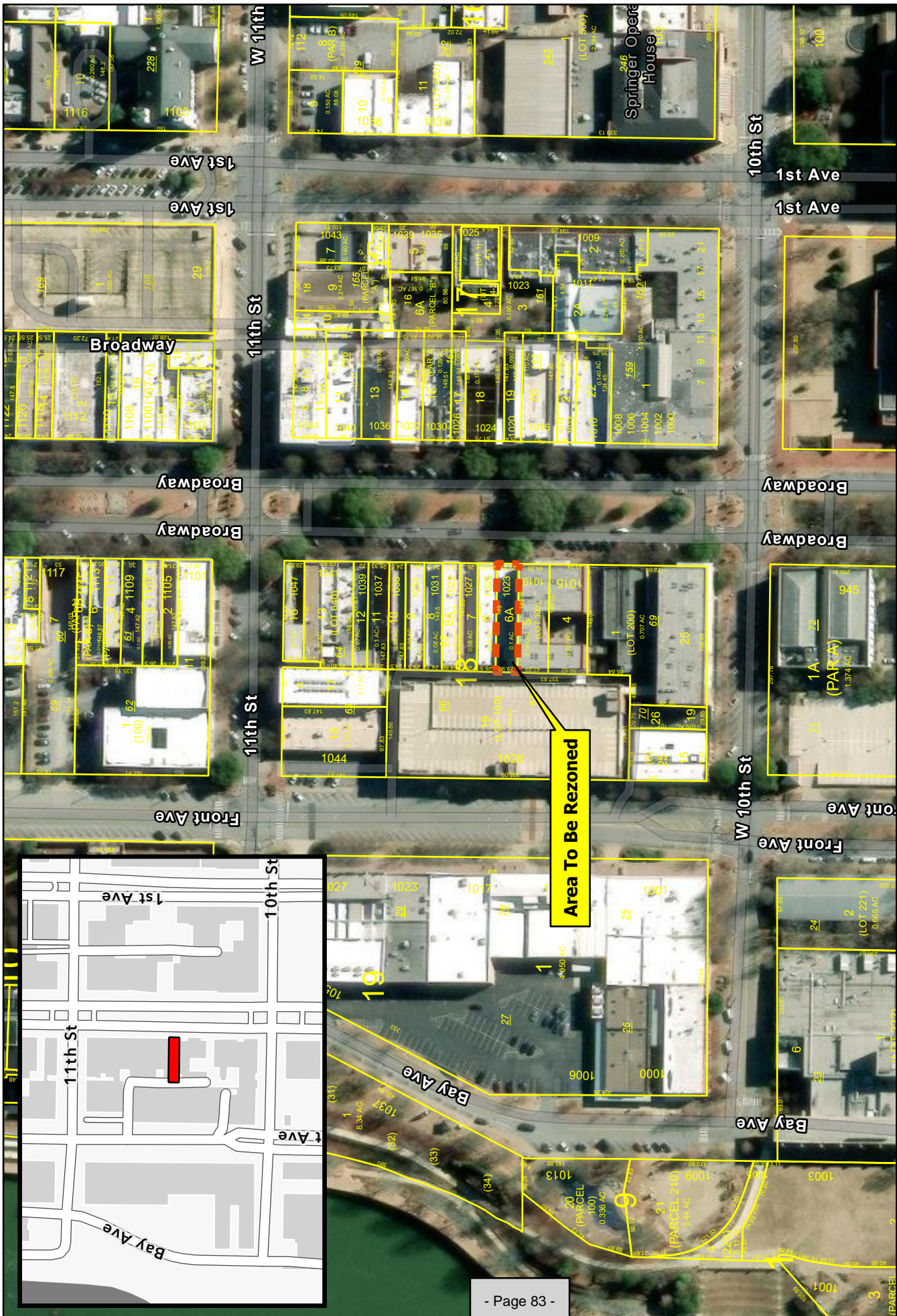
The Planning Advisory Commission recommended **approval** and the Planning Department recommended **approval**.

Additional Information: N/A

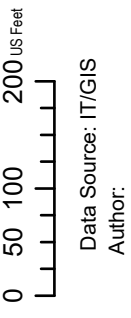
Respectfully,

Will Johnson
Director, Planning Department

- Attachments:**
- Aerial Land Use Map
 - Location Map
 - Zoning Map
 - Existing Land Use Map
 - Future Land Use Map
 - Flood Map



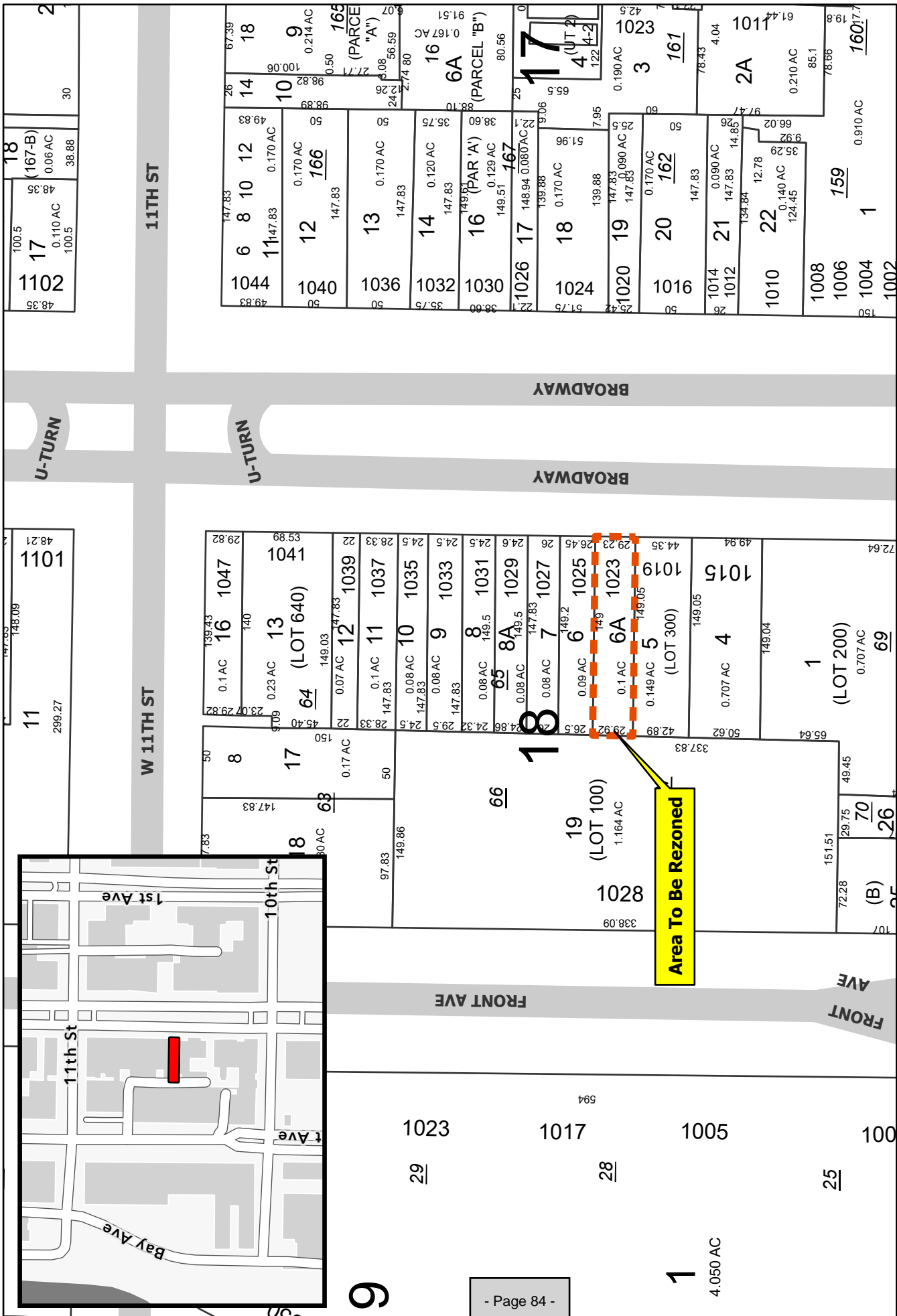
Area To Be Rezoned



Data Source: IT/GIS
 Author:

Aerial Map for EXCP 002 - 026 - 0319
 Map 004 Block 018 006A
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

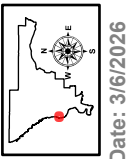
This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.



0 25 50 100 US Feet
 Data Source: IT/GIS
 Author:

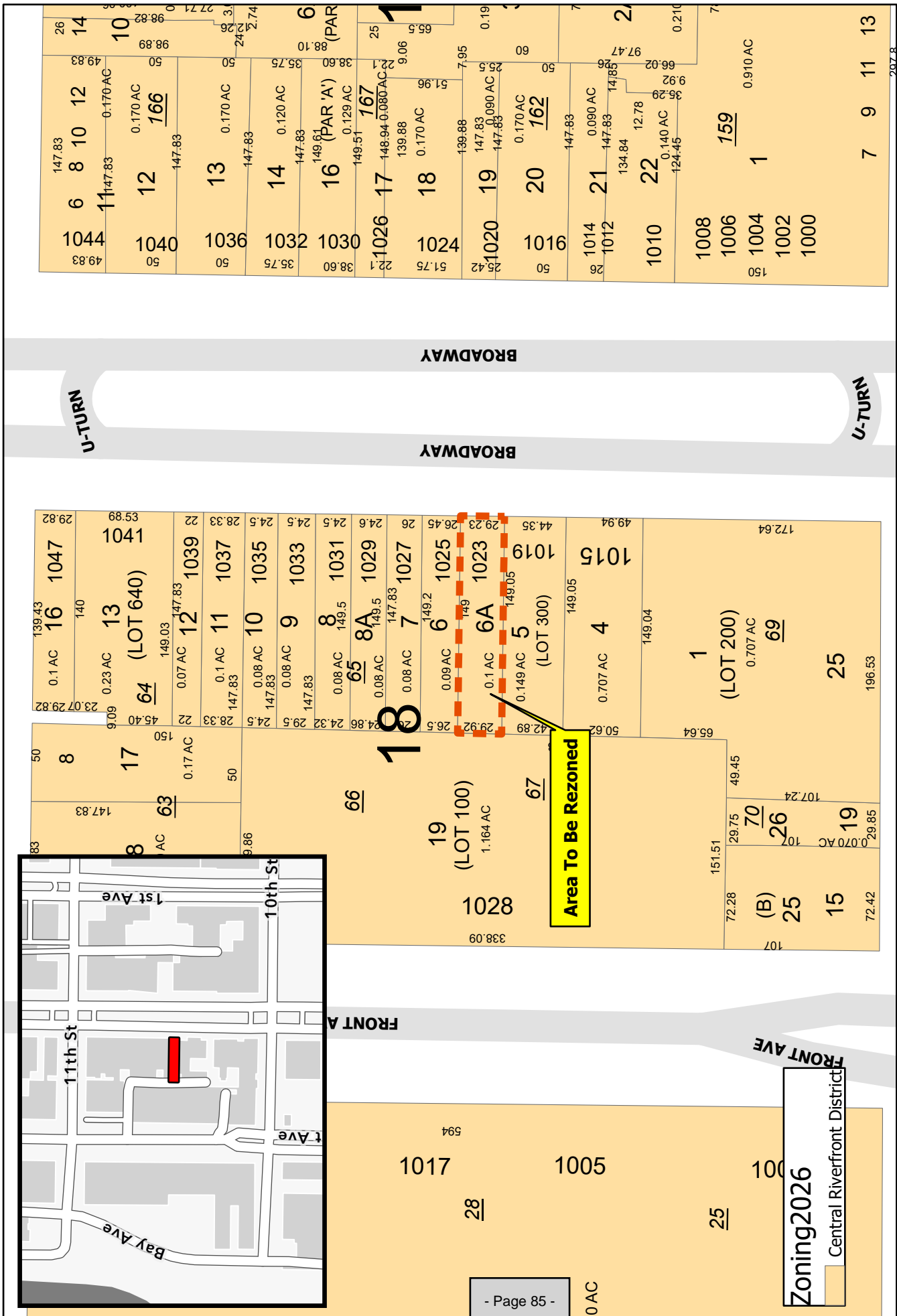
Location Map for EXCP 002 - 026 - 0319
 Map 004 Block 018 006A
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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: 3/6/2026

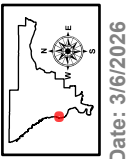
Item #4.



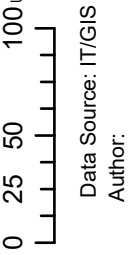
Item #4.

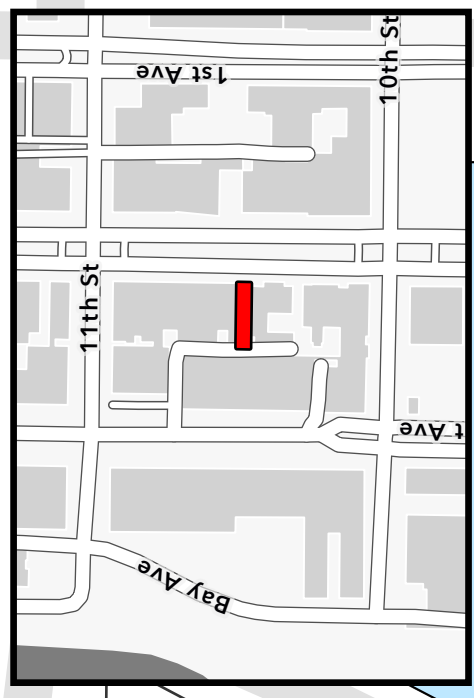
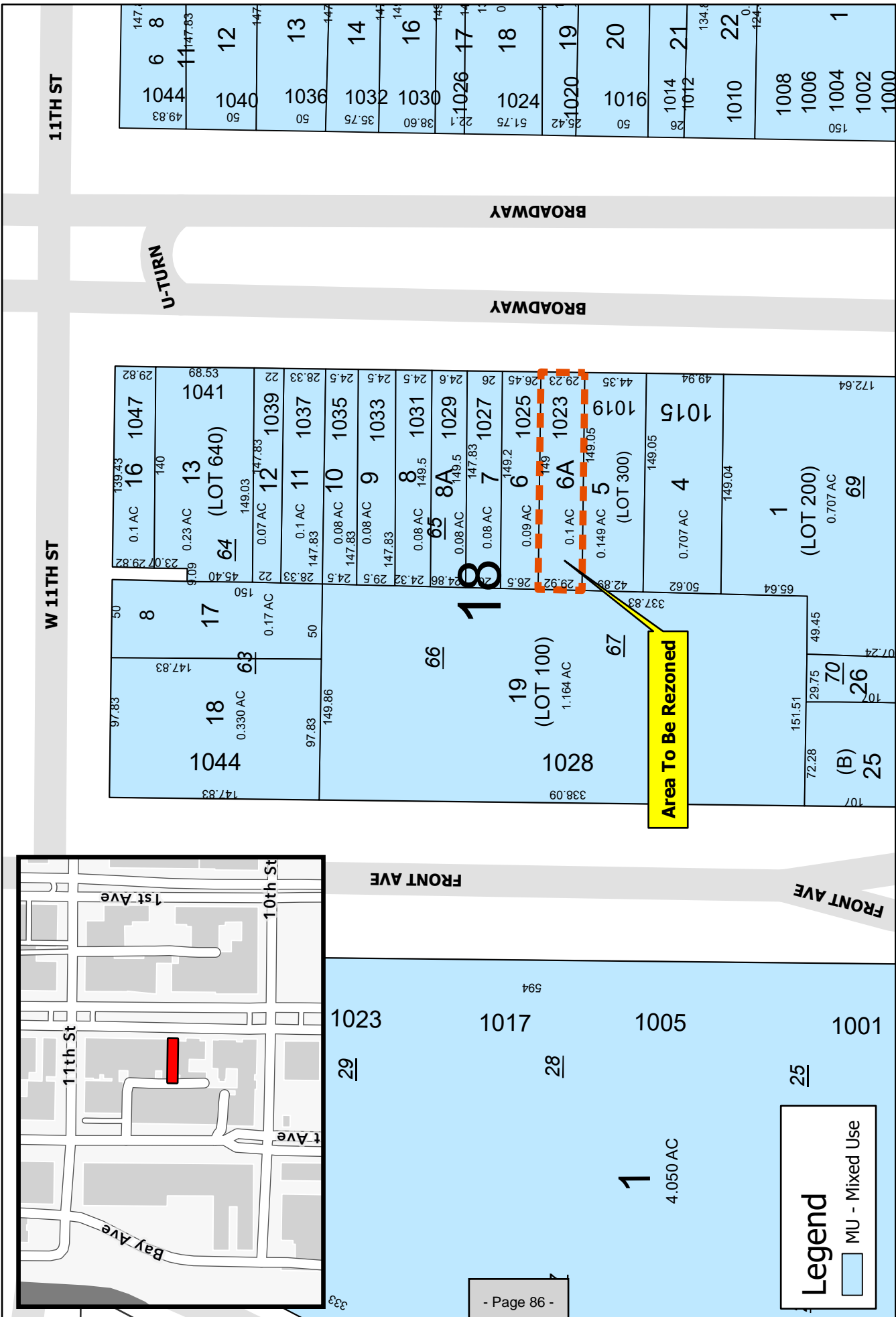
Zoning Map Map for EXCP 002 - 026 - 0319
Map 004 Block 018 006A
Planning Department-Planning Division
Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

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.



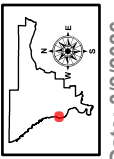
Date: 3/6/2026





Legend

- MU - Mixed Use

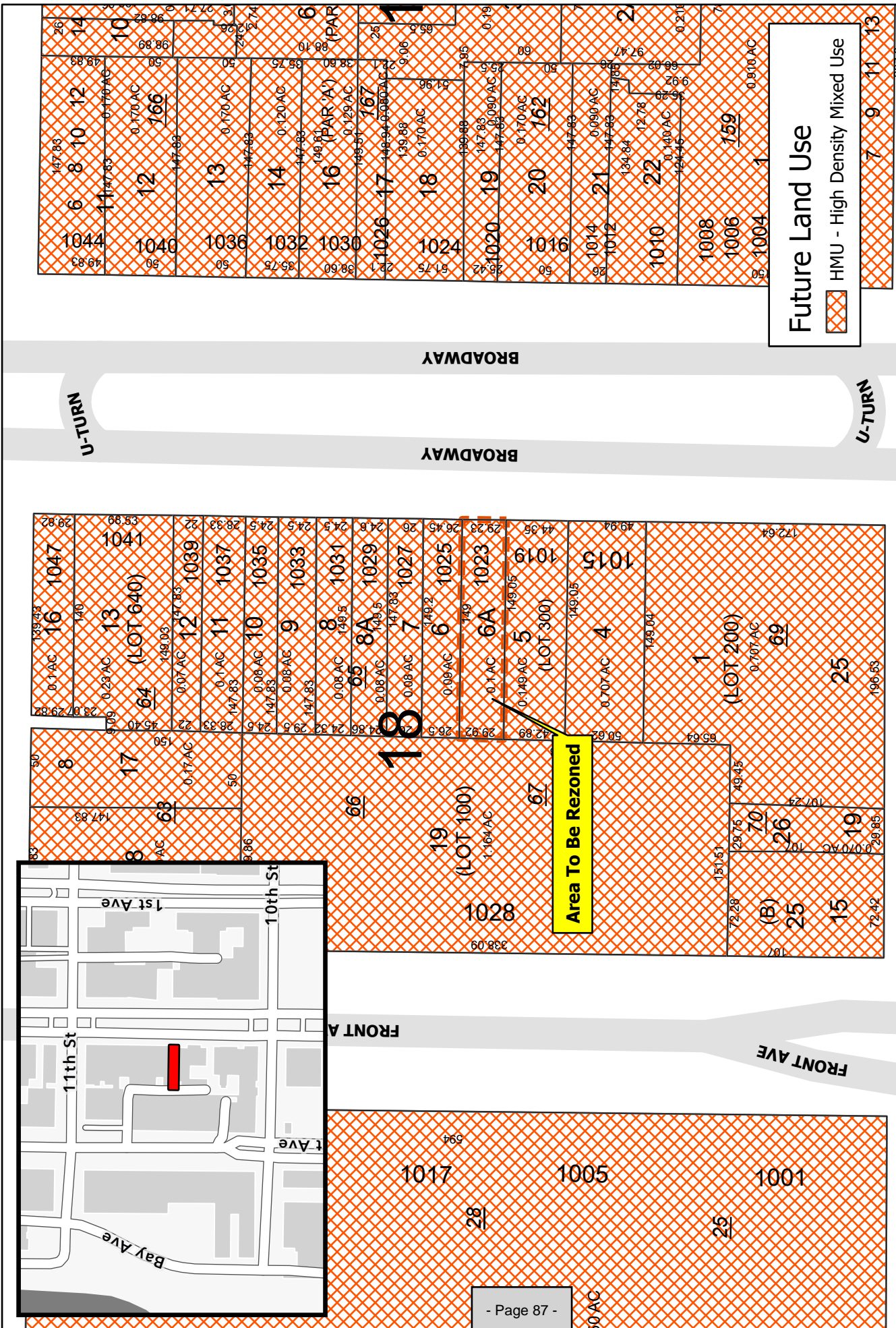


This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.

Existing Land Use Map for EXCP 002 - 026 - 0319
 Map 004 Block 018 006A
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

Data Source: IT/GIS
 Author:





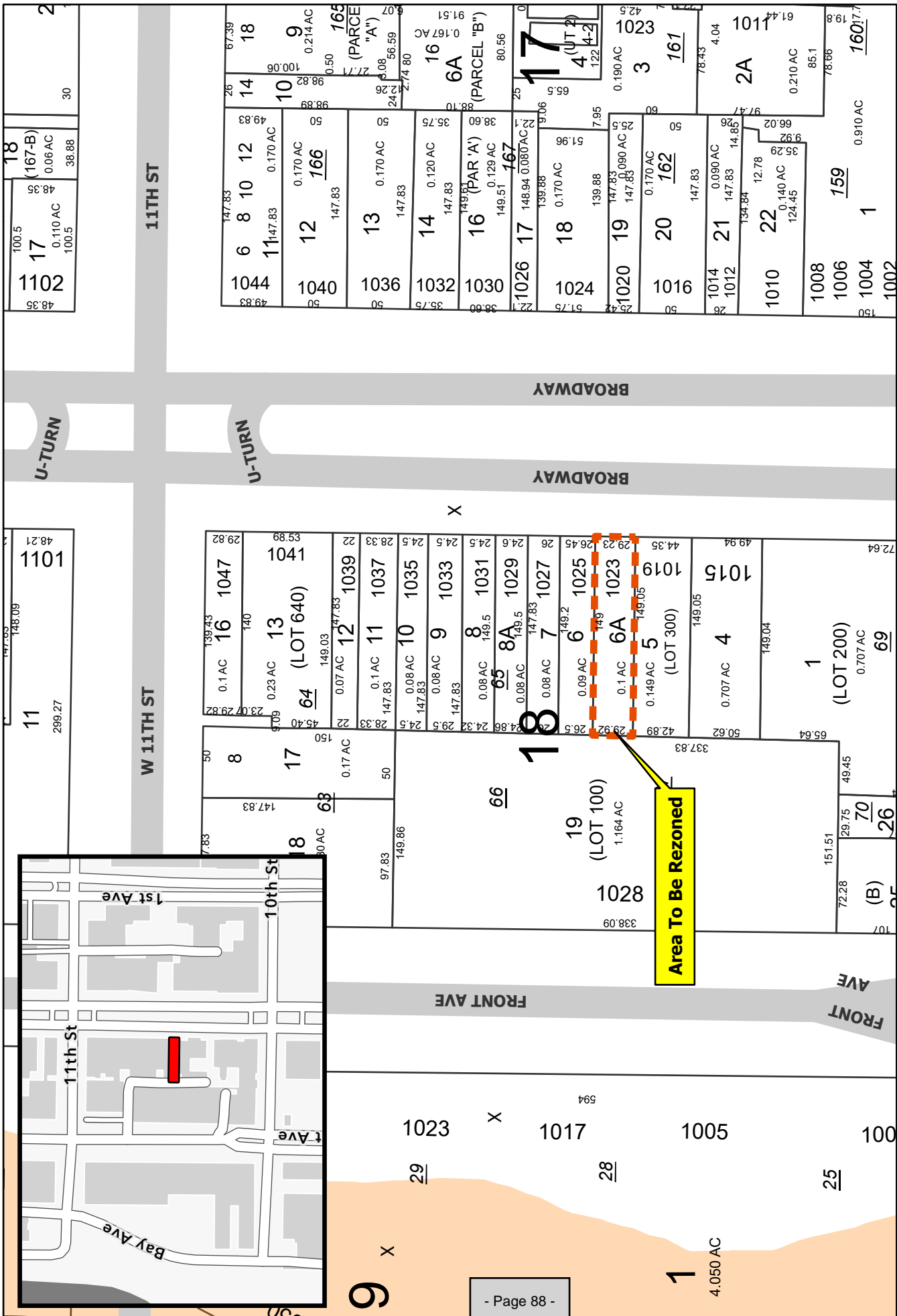
This material is made available as a public service. Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. The data contained is subject to constant change. Map information is believed to be correct but is not guaranteed.

Future Land Use Map for EXCP 002 - 026 - 0319
 Map 004 Block 018 006A
 Planning Department-Planning Division
 Prepared By Planning GIS Tech

Item #4.

100 US Feet
 0 25 50 100 US Feet
 Data Source: IT/GIS
 Author:

Date: 3/16/2026



11 299.27
1101 48.21

17 48.35
1102 100.5
18 (167-B) 38.88
0.06 AC

16 1047 29.82
13 1041 35.89
64 (LOT 640) 23.07
12 1039 149.03
11 1037 28.33
10 1035 24.5
9 1033 24.5
8 1031 24.5
8A 1029 24.6
7 1027 26
6 1025 26.45
6A 1023 29.23
5 (LOT 300) 44.35
4 1015 49.94
1 (LOT 200) 72.64
69 0.707 AC

10 1044 49.83
12 1040 50
13 1036 50
14 1032 35.75
16 (PAR 'A') 1030 38.80
17 1026 22
18 1024 51.75
19 1020 25.4
20 1016 50
21 1014 8
22 1010 28
1008 78.86
1006 66.02
1004 85.1
1002 16017.7

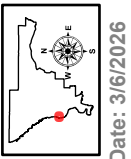
Area To Be Rezoned



0 25 50 100 US Feet
Data Source: IT/GIS
Author:

Flood Hazard Map for EXCP 002 - 026 - 0319
Map 004 Block 018 006A
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.



File Attachments for Item:

1. Sidewalk and Maintenance Easement Deed for Additional Right-of-Way Adjacent to Manchester Expressway and Armour Road

Approval is requested to accept two Easement Deeds for Sidewalks: 1) from the Columbus Airport Commission, being in that portion of Land Lot 48 of the 8th District, 27.14 sq. ft. 0.001 Acres, adjacent to Manchester Expressway, 2) from the Baynes Family LLC, being in that portion of Land Lot 48, 8th District, 290.88 Sq. Feet 0.007 Acres adjacent to Manchester Expressway, and 609.22 Sq. Feet 0.014 Acres Adjacent to Armour Road southwest property line.

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Sidewalk and Maintenance Easement Deed for Additional Right-of-Way Adjacent to Manchester Expressway and Armour Road
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to accept two Easement Deeds for Sidewalks: 1) from the Columbus Airport Commission, being in that portion of Land Lot 48 of the 8 th District, 27.14 sq. ft. 0.001 Acres, adjacent to Manchester Expressway, 2) from the Baynes Family LLC, being in that portion of Land Lot 48, 8 th District, 290.88 Sq. Feet 0.007 Acres adjacent to Manchester Expressway, and 609.22 Sq. Feet 0.014 Acres Adjacent to Armour Road southwest property line.
INITIATED BY:	Department of Engineering

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept two Easement Deeds for Sidewalks: 1) from the Columbus Airport Commission, being in that portion of Land Lot 48 of the 8th District, 27.14 sq. ft. 0.001 Acres, adjacent to Manchester Expressway, 2) from the Baynes Family LLC, being in that portion of Land Lot 48, 8th District, 290.88 Sq. Feet 0.007 Acres adjacent to Manchester Expressway, and 609.22 Sq. Feet 0.014 Acres Adjacent to Armour Road southwest property line.

Background: Section 7.10.1 of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) requires sidewalks be installed in all residential, commercial and industrial developments. Sidewalks are typically constructed on the City right-of-way as development occurs. The Chick-fil-A development, 2730 Manchester Expressway, at the intersection of Manchester Expressway and Armour Road was required to construct a public sidewalk along both sides of this development in accordance with the UDO. The construction of required decel lane along Manchester Expressway and ingress and egress along Armour Road placed the new sidewalk off public right-of-way.

Analysis: The Owners desire to deed Easements of a portion of this property to the City as Sidewalk and Maintenance Easement to provide continuity for the pedestrian sidewalk. This will also allow the City to maintain the new sidewalk as it does the remaining sidewalk, which is constructed on the right-of-way.

Financial Considerations: No City funds are involved until maintenance is required.

Legal Considerations: In accordance with Section 18-3 of the Columbus Code, all dedicated right-of-way and easements must be accepted by the Council.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to accept two Easement Deeds for Sidewalks: 1) from the Columbus Airport Commission, being in that portion of Land Lot 48 of the 8th District, 27.14 sq. ft. 0.001 Acres, adjacent to Manchester Expressway, 2) from the Baynes Family LLC, being in that portion of Land Lot 48, 8th District, 290.88 Sq. Feet 0.007 Acres adjacent to Manchester Expressway, and 609.22 Sq. Feet 0.014 Acres Adjacent to Armour Road southwest property line.

Item #1.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF EASEMENT DEEDS TO PART OF LAND LOT 48, 8TH DISTRICT 27.14 SQ FEET 0.001 ACRES AND 290.88 SQ FEET 0.007 ACRES ALONG MANCHESTER EXPRESSWAY AND 609.22 SQ FEET 0.014 ACRES ALONG ARMOUR ROAD, CHICK-FIL-A DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCORPORATING THE SIDWALK INTO THE STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY, ON BEHALF OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA.

WHEREAS, Chick-fil-A Development at, 2730 Manchester Expressway constructed commercial driveways, decel lanes and sidewalks in accordance with the UDO; and,

Item #1.

WHEREAS, the installation of the decel lane caused the sidewalk along Manchester Expressway to encroach into private property of Chick-fil-A at 2730 Manchester Expressway; and,

WHEREAS, the installation of the ingress and egress along Armour Road placed the new sidewalk off public right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Airport Commission desires to deed an easement 27.14 sq feet 0.001 acres along Manchester Expressway to the City for the purpose of incorporating the sidewalk into the street right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, the Baynes Family LLC desires to deed an easement of 290.88 sq feet, 0.007 acres along Manchester Expressway and 609.22 sq feet, 0.014 acres along Armour Road to the City for the purpose of incorporating the sidewalk into the street right-of-way; and,

WHEREAS, the Engineering Department has inspected the sidewalk and recommends acceptance of same.

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

That certain Easement deeds dated November 11th, 2025, conveying the easement to Columbus, Georgia Part of Land Lot 848 of the 8th District 27.14 sq feet 0.001 acres along Manchester Expressway and 290.88 sq feet, 0.007 acres along Manchester Expressway and 609.22 sq feet, 0.014 acres along Armour Road be and the same is hereby accepted. Council for the City is hereby authorized to have said Easement Deeds recorded in the Deed Records in the Office of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia. A copy of the deed is hereto attached and by this reference made a part of this resolution.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the _____ day of _____ 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Anker voting _____.
- 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 Tucker voting _____.

After recording return to:
William C. Pound
Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, P.C.
P.O. Box 1199
Columbus, GA 31904

EASEMENT

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF MUSCOGEE

THIS EASEMENT, hereinafter "Easement", made this 11th day of November, 2025, by and between BAYNES FAMILY, LLC, a Georgia limited liability company ("Grantor"), and COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, a consolidated city-county government ("Grantee"; Grantee and Grantor are from time to time referred to herein each as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor is the owner of certain real property located in Land Lot 48 of the 8th District, Muscogee County, Georgia, being more particularly shown on a plat entitled "Replat of Lot CFA1 (PB 166, PG 92)", which map or plat was prepared by MSP & Associates Land Surveying, Inc., are dated August 19, 2024, and is attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A", hereinafter "Grantor's Property";

WHEREAS, Grantee is the owner of certain real properties being those portions of Manchester Expressway and Armour Road, all as shown on the plans attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and on Exhibit "D" attached hereto and incorporated herein (collectively, the "Plan"), which roadways abut and are adjacent to Grantor's Property, hereinafter "Grantee 's Property";

WHEREAS, Grantee is desirous of securing perpetual and non-exclusive easements (the "Sidewalk Easements") from Grantor for the maintenance and pedestrian use of a pre-existing sidewalks (the "Sidewalks") located partially on portions of Grantee's Property and portions of Grantor's Property (the "Sidewalk Easement Areas"), as more particularly shown in part on the Plans, and as is more particularly described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and made a part hereof and as shown and described on Exhibit "D" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, the execution of this Easement by the Parties, the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, for and in consideration of good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged by the Parties, Grantor and Grantee agree as follows:

1. SIDEWALK EASEMENT.

A. Grant of Permanent Easements by Grantor for the Benefit of the Grantee. Grantor hereby grants, bargains and conveys to the Grantee, for the benefit of the Grantee, the Grantee's Property, the Grantee's invitees, employees, contractors, subcontractors, agents and to the general public (the "Benefitted Parties"), subject, however, to such ordinances, rules and regulations regarding the public use of the Sidewalk Easements as the Grantee or political subdivision or other regulatory authority designated by the Grantee may from time to time impose or prescribe, a perpetual and non-exclusive easement on, over, under and across the Sidewalk Easement Areas solely for the following, and no other purposes:

- i. pedestrian right-of-way, access and passage; and
- ii. maintaining, repairing, replacing, or removing the Sidewalk as may be necessary or desirable in the Grantee's discretion.

B. Maintenance Obligations. Grantee shall be solely responsible for performing, at its sole cost and expense, and shall have the sole right to perform, the maintenance, repair and replacement of and to the Sidewalks located within the Sidewalk Easement Areas pursuant to its easement rights granted hereunder. When notified by the Grantor or a member of the general public that a potentially hazardous condition exists, Grantee shall be responsible for repairing or cleaning up such condition(s).

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

A. Timely Fashion. Grantee shall exercise due diligence in causing the maintenance, repair or replacement of the Sidewalks, doing so in a timely fashion, all in accordance herewith.

B. Successors and Assigns. The terms "Grantor" and "Grantee" as used herein shall be deemed to mean their respective successors and assigns, whomsoever.

C. Binding Effect. This Easement and the easement, rights, privileges, duties, and obligations granted and imposed herein shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of

the owners of Grantor's Property and Grantee's Property described herein and their respective successors, grantees, assigns, and successors-in-title, whomsoever. All of such easements, rights, privileges, duties, and obligations shall be appurtenant to and shall run with the Grantor's Property and the Grantee's Property described herein, as applicable. Any conveyance of Grantor's Property or Grantee's Property described herein, or portions thereof, shall also convey the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations contained in this Easement, regardless whether or not specific mention is made to this Easement and regardless of whether or not a specific conveyance is made of, or subject to, the easement, rights, privileges, duties, and obligations herein.

D. Independent Covenants. Each and every covenant and agreement contained herein shall be for any and all purposes hereof construed as separate and independent and the breach of any covenant by any party hereto shall not release or discharge such party from its or their obligations hereunder. In the event an owner shall convey, transfer, assign, or otherwise dispose of all or a portion of their respective right, title and interest in any property described herein, such party shall thereupon be released and discharged from any and all further liabilities and obligations for the breach of any covenant or agreement herein (except those covenants and agreements or the performance thereof accruing prior to such conveyance, transfer, assignment, or other disposition) to the extent of such disposition, and, except as is herein expressly provided, such liabilities and obligations thereafter accruing shall be binding upon the successor-in-title to such party.

E. Third Parties. This Easement is made for the exclusive benefit of the parties hereto, and of their respective successors and assigns, whomsoever, and not for any third party. Nothing in this Easement, express or implied, is intended to confer upon any person, other than the parties hereto, or their respective successors and assigns, whomsoever, any rights or remedies under or by virtue of this Easement other than the public's right to use the same for pedestrian access and passage.

F. Governing Law. This Easement shall be construed and interpreted under the laws of the State of Georgia.

G. Non-Waiver. The failure of any party to exercise any rights given hereunder or to insist upon strict compliance with any term, condition or covenant specified herein, shall not constitute a waiver of either party's right to exercise such right, or to demand strict compliance with any such term, condition or covenant under this Easement thereafter.

H. General Conditions and Restrictions With Respect to Use of the Sidewalk Easement.

i. To the extent permitted by law, and as limited to only acts of gross negligence and willful misconduct, the Grantee shall be fully liable for any and all claims, damages, losses, and liabilities, of whatsoever kind and nature, to person and/or property caused by the exercise of, or the failure to exercise, the rights granted by the Grantor to the Grantee hereunder, excluding, however, damages, losses and liabilities caused by the negligence of Grantor or Grantor's employees, agents, independent contractors, invitees, guests, or successors-in-title.

ii. The Grantee shall work together with Grantor to coordinate all matters with respect to the maintenance, repair, and replacement of such Sidewalks, as well as any necessary access of ingress, egress and regress thereto and therefrom, all of which matters shall be accomplished by the Grantee pursuant hereto in the most unobtrusive manner practicable to avoid blocking any points of ingress or egress to the Grantor Parcel or parking spaces within the Grantor Parcel.

iii. The Grantee will exercise reasonable care in carrying out the rights granted by Grantor hereunder. Any damage to the Sidewalk Easement Areas or to the Grantor's Property caused by the Grantee, or by any agents thereof, in its use of the Sidewalk Easement Areas, or in exercising its rights granted hereunder, shall be promptly repaired into its previous or better condition by the Grantee, at its sole cost and expense.

I. Entire Easement. This Easement, the preamble hereof, and all exhibits attached to and made a part hereof, (all of which shall be deemed incorporated in this Easement and made a part hereof) contains the entire understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and there are no representations, nor promises, oral or otherwise, which have been made on the part of either or both parties hereto, except as are expressly set forth herein, or made a part hereof, or superseded by virtue hereof.

J. Covenants. Each of the parties hereto do hereby agree and declare that all of the provisions contained herein and all of the rights, easements and obligations respectively granted or reserved hereunder are and shall constitute covenants running with the fee simple estate of Grantee in and to Grantor's Property.

K. Counterparts. This Easement may be executed in any number of identical counterparts. If so fully executed, each such counterpart is to be deemed an original for all purposes hereof, and all such counterparts shall, collectively, constitute one and the same Easement. In making proof of the grant of the easements and rights hereunder, it shall not be necessary to produce or account for more than one such counterpart, nor for an original signed copy thereof.

L. Purpose. The purpose of this Easement is to grant to Grantee useable easements and rights appurtenant, and this Easement shall be construed to accomplish such purpose.

M. Time is of the Essence. Time is of the essence of this Easement.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank; Signatures Follow on Next Page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and their seals on the day and year above first written.

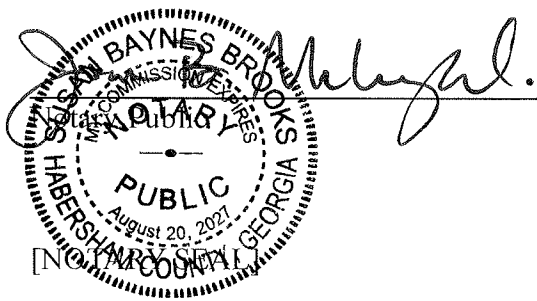
Signed, sealed and delivered this 11th day of November, 2025 in the present of:

GRANTOR:

[Signature]
Witness

BAYNES FAMILY LLC, a Georgia limited liability company

By: [Signature]
Name: Myron Baynes
Title: Managing Member



[COMPANY SEAL]

Signed, sealed and delivered this _____ day of _____, 2025 in the present of:

GRANTEE:

Witness

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, a consolidated city-county government

Notary Public

By: _____
Name: _____
Its: _____

Attest: _____
Name: _____
Its: _____

[NOTARY SEAL]

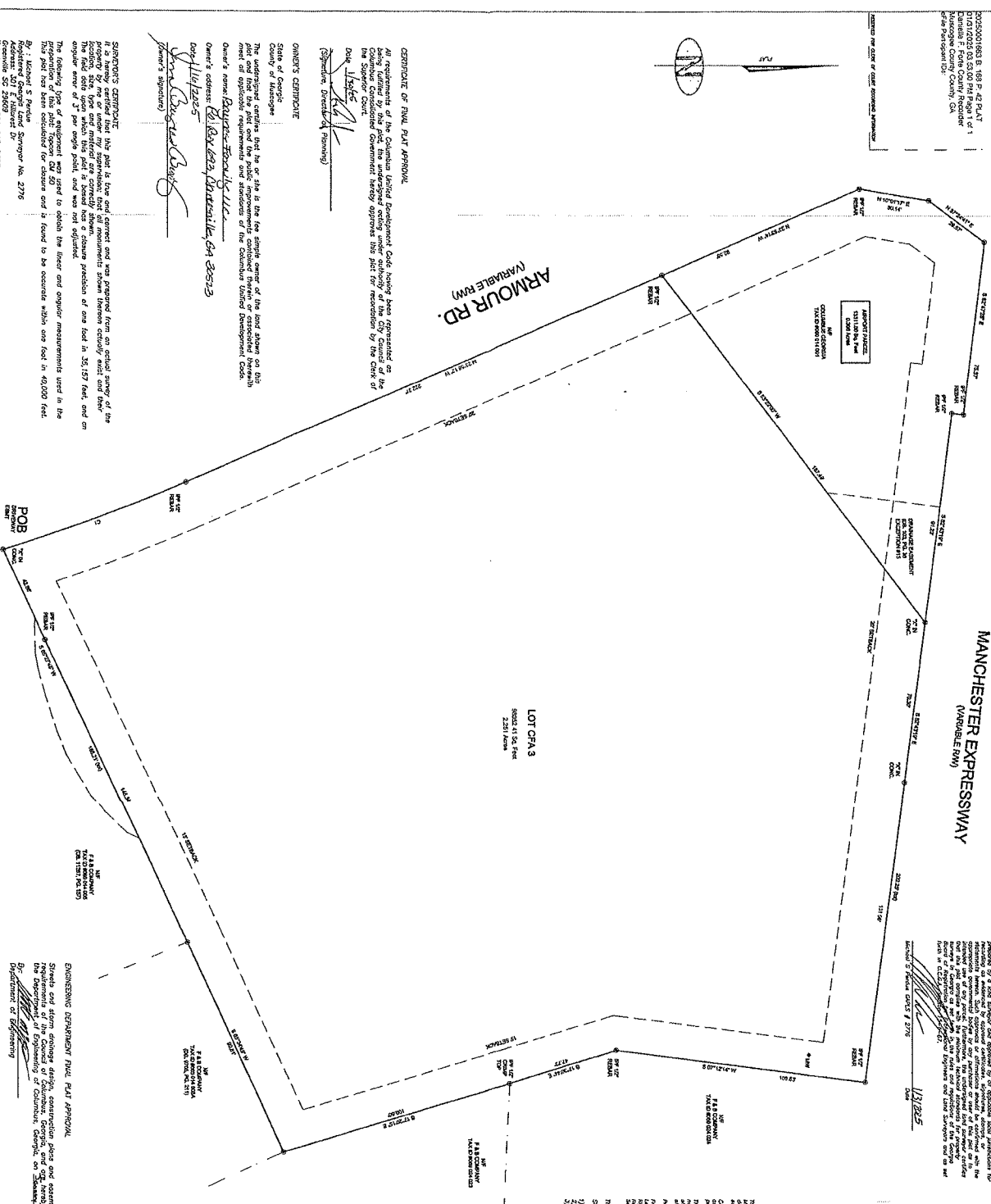
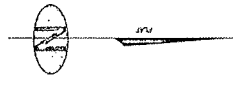
[SEAL OF CITY]

EXHIBIT "A"
Depiction of Grantor's Property

[See attached]

Item #1.

20250001893 B. 189 P. 42 PLAT
 01/17/2025 03:53:00 PM Page 1 of 1
 Muscogee County, Georgia
 Public Participation ID:

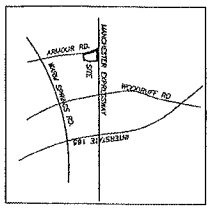


MANCHESTER EXPRESSWAY
(MOBILE R/W)

ARMOUR RD.
(MOBILE R/W)

LOT CFA 3
500.45 SQ. FT.
2301 SQ. FT.

As required by subsection (c) of Article XXVIII, Section 16-6-47, this plat has been prepared by a registered professional land surveyor, and the surveying work was done in accordance with the Georgia Surveying Act, Chapter 16-6, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The surveying work was done in accordance with the Georgia Surveying Act, Chapter 16-6, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The surveying work was done in accordance with the Georgia Surveying Act, Chapter 16-6, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.



VICINITY MAP

GENERAL NOTES

The property shown on this plat is a portion of a larger tract of land shown on Plat 1893-B, 189 P. 42, dated 01/17/2025, and is shown in accordance with the Georgia Surveying Act, Chapter 16-6, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The surveying work was done in accordance with the Georgia Surveying Act, Chapter 16-6, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

The property shown on this plat is a portion of a larger tract of land shown on Plat 1893-B, 189 P. 42, dated 01/17/2025, and is shown in accordance with the Georgia Surveying Act, Chapter 16-6, of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

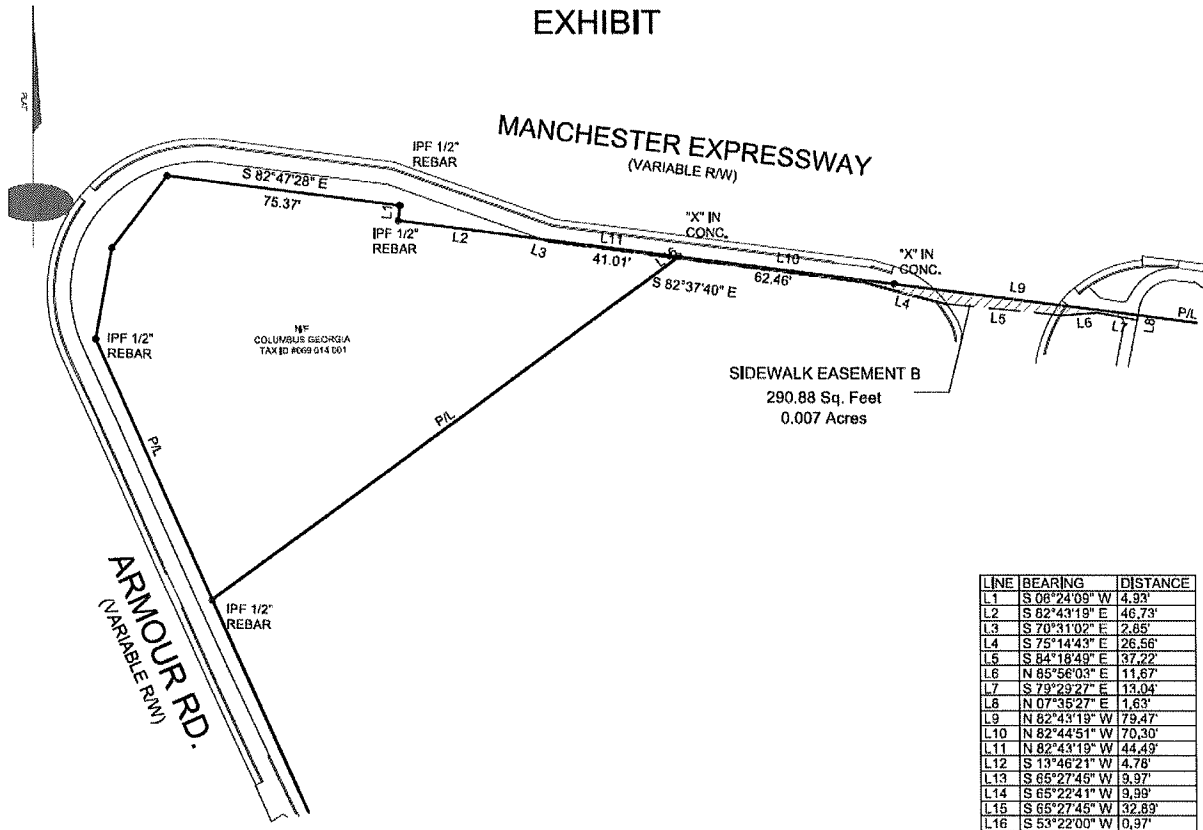
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EXHIBIT "B"

Plan

EXHIBIT



LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	S 09°24'09" W	4.93'
L2	S 82°43'19" E	46.73'
L3	S 70°31'02" E	2.85'
L4	S 75°14'43" E	26.56'
L5	S 84°18'49" E	37.22'
L6	N 85°56'03" E	11.67'
L7	S 79°29'27" E	13.04'
L8	N 07°35'27" E	1.63'
L9	N 82°43'19" W	79.47'
L10	N 82°44'51" W	70.30'
L11	N 82°43'19" W	44.49'
L12	S 13°46'21" W	4.78'
L13	S 65°27'45" W	9.97'
L14	S 65°22'41" W	9.99'
L15	S 65°27'45" W	32.89'
L16	S 53°22'00" W	0.97'

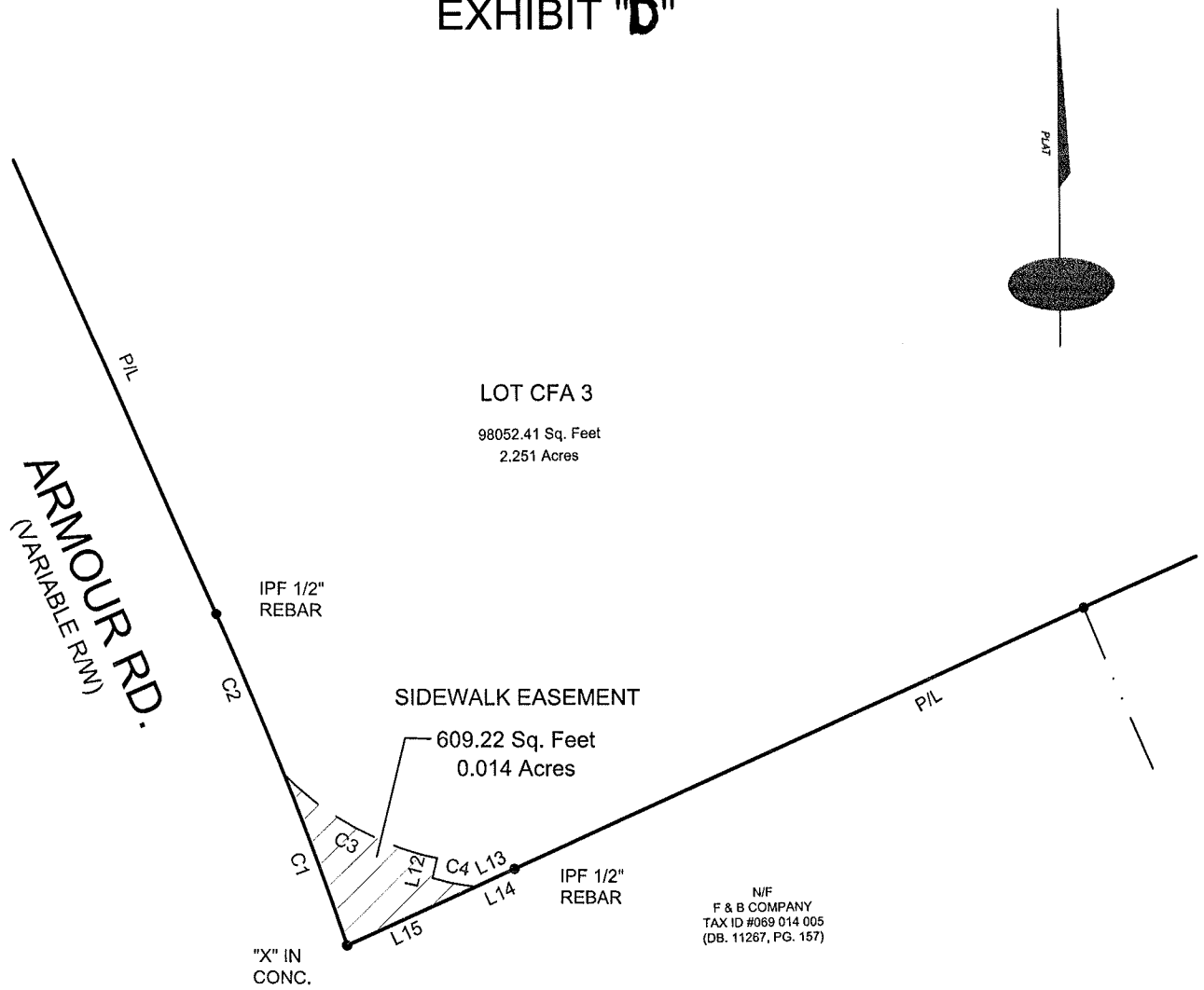
EXHIBIT "C"
Description of Sidewalk Easement

All that easement lying and being in Land Lot 48, 8th District, Muscogee County, state of Georgia and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the southern right-of-way of Manchester Expressway (Variable R/W) and the eastern right-of-way of Armour Rd. (Variable R/W); thence with said right-of-way of Manchester Expressway the following calls: S 82°47'28" E a distance of 75.37' to a 1/2" rebar found; thence S 06°24'09" W a distance of 4.93' to a 1/2" rebar found; thence S 82°43'19" E a distance of 46.73'; thence leaving said right-of-way S 70°31'02" E a distance of 2.85'; thence S 82°37'40" E a distance of 41.01' to the True Point of Beginning; thence S 82°37'40" E a distance of 62.46'; thence S 75°14'43" E a distance of 26.56'; thence S 84°18'49" E a distance of 37.22'; thence N 85°56'03" E a distance of 11.67'; thence S 79°29'27" E a distance of 13.04'; thence N 07°35'27" E a distance of 1.63' to the southern right-of-way of Manchester Expressway (Variable R/W); thence with said right-of-way the following calls: N 82°41'58" W a distance of 79.46' to a "x" in conc. found; thence N 82°44'51" W a distance of 70.30' to a "x" in conc. found; thence is S 53°22'00" W a distance of 0.97' to The True Point of Beginning.

Said Easement having an area of 290.88 square feet, 0.007 acres

SIDEWALK EASEMENT EXHIBIT "D"



N/F
F & B COMPANY
TAX ID #069 014 005
(DB. 11267, PG. 157)

CURVE	RADIUS	ARC LENGTH	CHORD LENGTH	CHORD BEARING	DELTA ANGLE	TANGENT
C1	737.41'	42.46'	42.46'	N 19°29'21" W	3°17'57"	21.24'
C2	737.41'	37.06'	37.05'	N 22°34'43" W	2°52'46"	18.53'
C3	69.02'	40.80'	40.21'	S 60°44'33" E	33°52'24"	21.02'
C4	56.47'	8.76'	8.75'	S 79°11'03" E	8°53'13"	4.39'

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	S 06°24'09" W	4.93'
L2	S 82°43'19" E	46.73'
L3	S 70°31'02" E	2.85'
L4	S 75°14'43" E	26.56'
L5	S 84°18'49" E	37.22'
L6	N 85°56'03" E	11.67'
L7	S 79°29'27" E	13.04'
L8	N 07°35'27" E	1.63'
L9	N 82°43'19" W	79.47'
L10	N 82°44'51" W	70.30'
L11	N 82°43'19" W	44.49'
L12	S 13°46'21" W	4.78'
L13	S 65°27'45" W	9.97'
L14	S 65°22'41" W	9.99'
L15	S 65°27'45" W	32.89'

CONSENT AND JOINDER

The undersigned being the owner of a leasehold interest in the Grantor's Property pursuant to that certain Ground Lease dated February 29, 2016 by and between Grantor and undersigned, as amended, as evidenced by that certain Declaration of Easements and Restrictions and Short Form Lease dated March 2, 2017 and recorded March 3, 2017 in Deed Book 12046, Page 216 of the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia, and as amended by that certain First Amendment to Declaration and Short Form Lease dated August 6, 2024 and recorded August 8, 2024 in Deed Book 14481, Page 259 of the aforesaid records, hereby consents to the foregoing Easement to which this consent and joinder is attached, solely for the purpose of subordinating the interest of the undersigned thereto and joining in the conveyance of the sidewalk easement therein.

Executed under seal this 7 day of October, 2025.

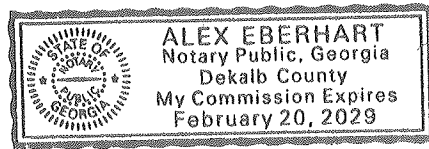
Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of: CHICK-FIL-A, INC., a Georgia corporation

[Signature]
Unofficial Witness

By: [Signature]
Name: John Mattioli
Title: Jr. Director, Restaurant Development

[Signature]
Notary Public

[Notarial Seal]



After recording return to:

EASEMENT

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF MUSCOGEE

THIS EASEMENT, hereinafter "Easement", made this _____ day of _____, 2025, by and between COLUMBUS AIRPORT COMMISSION, a body corporate and politic created and existing pursuant to a 1968 Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Georgia ("Grantor"), and COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, a consolidated city-county government ("Grantee"; Grantee and Grantor are from time to time referred to herein each as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Grantor is the owner of that certain 0.3066 acre tract of real property located in Land Lot 48 of the 8th District, Muscogee County, Georgia, containing parcel identification number 069 014 001, being more particularly shown on the survey plat attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit "A", hereinafter "Grantor's Property";

WHEREAS, Grantee is the owner of certain real properties being those portions of Manchester Expressway and Armour Road, all as shown on the plan attached hereto as Exhibit "B" attached hereto and incorporated herein (the "Plan"), which roadways abut and are adjacent to Grantor's Property, hereinafter "Grantee 's Property";

WHEREAS, Grantee is desirous of securing a perpetual and non-exclusive easement (the "Sidewalk Easement") from Grantor for the maintenance and pedestrian use of a pre-existing sidewalk (the "Sidewalk") located partially on portions of Grantee's Property and portions of Grantor's Property (the "Sidewalk Easement Area"), as more particularly shown on the Plan, and all as is more particularly described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, the execution of this Easement by the Parties, the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, for and in consideration of good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged by the Parties, Grantor and Grantee agree as follows:

1. SIDEWALK EASEMENT.

A. Grant of Permanent Easements by Grantor for the Benefit of the Grantee. Grantor hereby grants, bargains and conveys to the Grantee, for the benefit of the Grantee, the Grantee's Property, the Grantee's invitees, employees, contractors, subcontractors, agents and to the general public (the "Benefitted Parties"), subject, however, to such ordinances, rules and regulations regarding the public use of the Sidewalk Easement as the Grantee or political subdivision or other regulatory authority designated by the Grantee may from time to time impose or prescribe, a perpetual and non-exclusive easement on, over, under and across the Sidewalk Easement Area solely for the following, and no other purposes:

- i. pedestrian right-of-way, access and passage; and
- ii. maintaining, repairing, replacing, or removing the Sidewalk as may be necessary or desirable in the Grantee's discretion.

B. Maintenance Obligations. Grantee shall be solely responsible for performing, at its sole cost and expense, and shall have the sole right to perform, the maintenance, repair and replacement of and to the Sidewalk located within the Sidewalk Easement Area pursuant to its easement rights granted hereunder. When notified by the Grantor or a member of the general public that a potentially hazardous condition exists, Grantee shall be responsible for repairing or cleaning up such condition(s).

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.

A. Timely Fashion. Grantee shall exercise due diligence in causing the maintenance, repair or replacement of the Sidewalk, doing so in a timely fashion, all in accordance herewith.

B. Successors and Assigns. The terms "Grantor" and "Grantee" as used herein shall be deemed to mean their respective successors and assigns, whomsoever.

C. Binding Effect. This Easement and the easement, rights, privileges, duties, and obligations granted and imposed herein shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of

the owners of Grantor's Property and Grantee's Property described herein and their respective successors, grantees, assigns, and successors-in-title, whomsoever. All of such easements, rights, privileges, duties, and obligations shall be appurtenant to and shall run with the Grantor's Property and the Grantee's Property described herein, as applicable. Any conveyance of Grantor's Property or Grantee's Property described herein, or portions thereof, shall also convey the rights, privileges, duties, and obligations contained in this Easement, regardless whether or not specific mention is made to this Easement and regardless of whether or not a specific conveyance is made of, or subject to, the easement, rights, privileges, duties, and obligations herein.

D. Independent Covenants. Each and every covenant and agreement contained herein shall be for any and all purposes hereof construed as separate and independent and the breach of any covenant by any party hereto shall not release or discharge such party from its or their obligations hereunder. In the event an owner shall convey, transfer, assign, or otherwise dispose of all or a portion of their respective right, title and interest in any property described herein, such party shall thereupon be released and discharged from any and all further liabilities and obligations for the breach of any covenant or agreement herein (except those covenants and agreements or the performance thereof accruing prior to such conveyance, transfer, assignment, or other disposition) to the extent of such disposition, and, except as is herein expressly provided, such liabilities and obligations thereafter accruing shall be binding upon the successor-in-title to such party.

E. Third Parties. This Easement is made for the exclusive benefit of the parties hereto, and of their respective successors and assigns, whomsoever, and not for any third party. Nothing in this Easement, express or implied, is intended to confer upon any person, other than the parties hereto, or their respective successors and assigns, whomsoever, any rights or remedies under or by virtue of this Easement other than the public's right to use the same for pedestrian access and passage.

F. Governing Law. This Easement shall be construed and interpreted under the laws of the State of Georgia.

G. Non-Waiver. The failure of any party to exercise any rights given hereunder or to insist upon strict compliance with any term, condition or covenant specified herein, shall not constitute a waiver of either party's right to exercise such right, or to demand strict compliance with any such term, condition or covenant under this Easement thereafter.

H. General Conditions and Restrictions With Respect to Use of the Sidewalk Easement.

i. To the extent permitted by law, and as limited to only acts of gross negligence and willful misconduct, the Grantee shall be fully liable for any and all claims, damages, losses, and liabilities, of whatsoever kind and nature, to person and/or property caused by the exercise of, or the failure to exercise, the rights granted by the Grantor to the Grantee hereunder, excluding, however, damages, losses and liabilities caused by the negligence of Grantor or Grantor's employees, agents, independent contractors, invitees, guests, or successors-in-title.

ii. The Grantee shall work together with Grantor to coordinate all matters with respect to the maintenance, repair, and replacement of such Sidewalk, as well as any necessary access of ingress, egress and regress thereto and therefrom, all of which matters shall be accomplished by the Grantee pursuant hereto in the most unobtrusive manner practicable to avoid blocking any points of ingress or egress to the Grantor Parcel or parking spaces within the Grantor Parcel.

iii. The Grantee will exercise reasonable care in carrying out the rights granted by Grantor hereunder. Any damage to the Sidewalk Easement Area or to the Grantor's Property caused by the Grantee, or by any agents thereof, in its use of the Sidewalk Easement Area, or in exercising its rights granted hereunder, shall be promptly repaired into its previous or better condition by the Grantee, at its sole cost and expense.

I. Entire Easement. This Easement, the preamble hereof, and all exhibits attached to and made a part hereof, (all of which shall be deemed incorporated in this Easement and made a part hereof) contains the entire understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter hereof, and there are no representations, nor promises, oral or otherwise, which have been made on the part of either or both parties hereto, except as are expressly set forth herein, or made a part hereof, or superseded by virtue hereof.

J. Covenants. Each of the parties hereto do hereby agree and declare that all of the provisions contained herein and all of the rights, easements and obligations respectively granted or reserved hereunder are and shall constitute covenants running with the fee simple estate of Grantee in and to Grantor's Property.

K. Counterparts. This Easement may be executed in any number of identical counterparts. If so fully executed, each such counterpart is to be deemed an original for all purposes hereof, and all such counterparts shall, collectively, constitute one and the same Easement. In making proof of the grant of the easements and rights hereunder, it shall not be necessary to produce or account for more than one such counterpart, nor for an original signed copy thereof.

L. Purpose. The purpose of this Easement is to grant to Grantee useable easements and rights appurtenant, and this Easement shall be construed to accomplish such purpose.

M. Time is of the Essence. Time is of the essence of this Easement.

[Remainder of Page Intentionally Left Blank; Signatures Follow on Next Page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and their seals on the day and year above first written.

Signed, sealed and delivered this 10th day of November, 2025 in the present of:

[Signature]
Witness

GRANTOR:

COLUMBUS AIRPORT COMMISSION

By: James W. Barker
Name: J.W. B.
Title: Commission Chair

Brandy Sherrie Brown
Notary Public



Attest: Amber Clark
Name: Amber Clark
Its: Assistant Secretary

[SEAL OF COMMISSION]

Signed, sealed and delivered this _____ day of _____, 2025 in the present of:

Witness

GRANTEE:

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, a consolidated city-county government

By: _____
Name: _____
Its: _____

Notary Public

Attest: _____
Name: _____
Its: _____

[NOTARY SEAL]

[SEAL OF CITY]

CONSENT AND JOINDER

The undersigned being the owner of a leasehold interest in the Grantor's Property pursuant to that certain Use and Lease Agreement Columbus Airport dated June 23, 2016 by and between Grantor and HRP Manchester-Armour, LLC, and evidenced by that certain Memorandum of Lease dated June 23, 2016 and recorded June 29, 2016 in Deed Book 11849, Page 290 of the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Muscogee County, Georgia, as assigned to the undersigned by that certain Assignment and Assumption of Lease dated March 2, 2017 and recorded March 3, 2017 in Deed Book 12046, Page 228 of the aforesaid records, hereby consents to the foregoing Easement to which this consent and joinder is attached, solely for the purpose of subordinating the interest of the undersigned thereto and joining in the conveyance of the sidewalk easement therein.

Executed under seal this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of: CHICK-FIL-A, INC., a Georgia corporation

Unofficial Witness

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Notary Public

[Notarial Seal]

EXHIBIT "A"
Depiction of Grantor's Property

[See attached]

EXHIBIT "B"

Plan

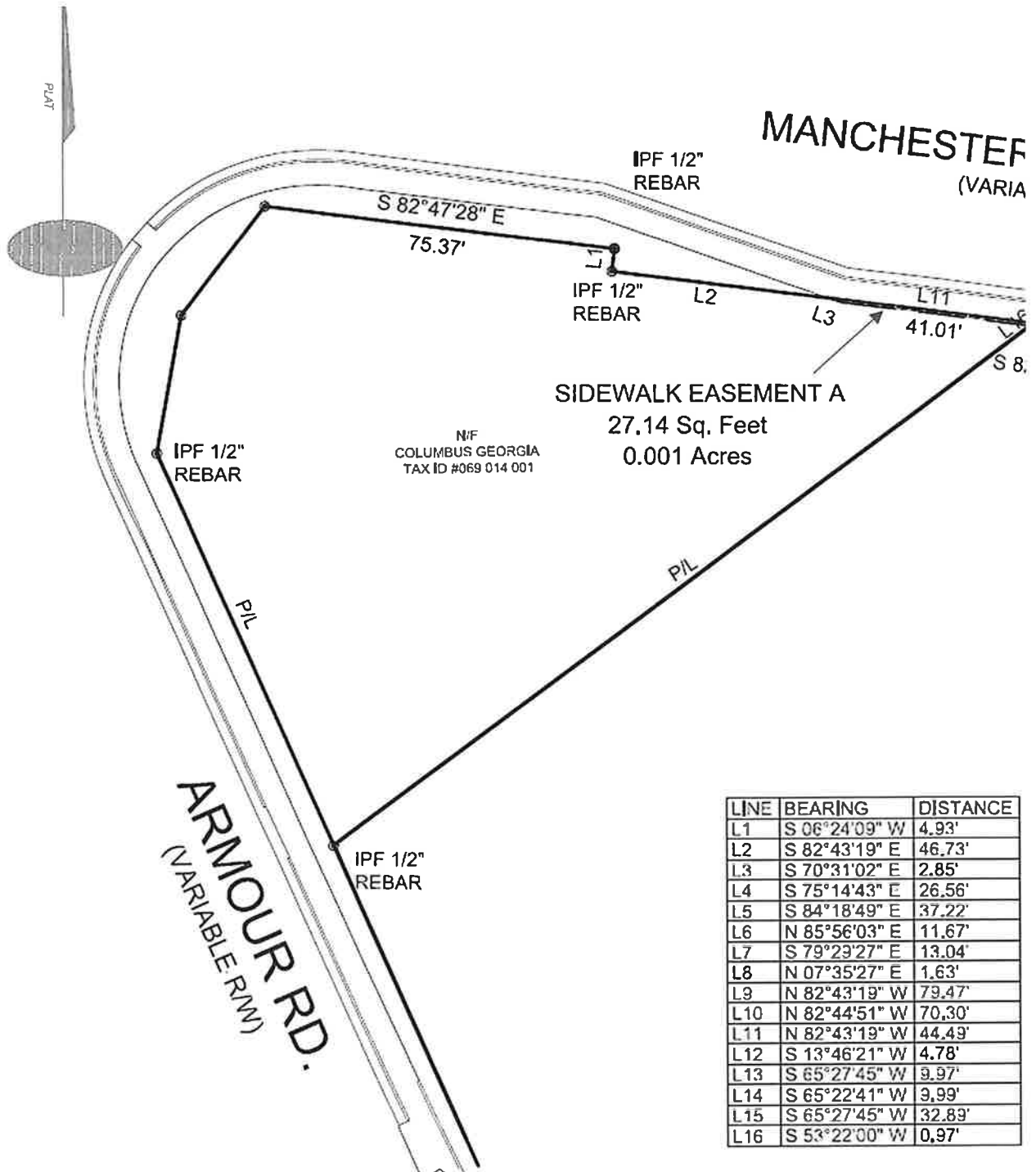


EXHIBIT "C"
Description of Sidewalk Easement

All that easement lying and being in Land Lot 48, 8th District, Muscogee County, state of Georgia and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the southern right-of-way of Manchester Expressway (Variable R/W) and the eastern right-of-way of Armour Rd. (Variable R/W); thence with said right-of-way of Manchester Expressway the following calls: S 82°47'28" E a distance of 75.37' to a 1/2" rebar found; thence S 06°24'09" W a distance of 4.93' to a 1/2" rebar found; thence S 82°43'19" E a distance of 46.73' to the True Point of Beginning; thence leaving said right-of-way S 70°31'02" E a distance of 2.85'; thence S 82°37'40" E a distance of 41.01'; thence S 53°22'00" W a distance of 0.97' to the southern right-of-way of Manchester Expressway (Variable R/W); thence with said right-of-way N 82°43'19" W a distance of 44.49' to The True Point of Beginning.

Said Easement having an area of 27.14 square feet, 0.001 acres

File Attachments for Item:

2. Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Program

Approval is requested for the to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program that provides lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations, in the amount of \$40,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

Item #2.

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Program
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested for the to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program that provides lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations, in the amount of \$40,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.
INITIATED BY:	Muscogee County Sheriff's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested for the to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program that provides lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations, in the amount of \$40,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

Background: The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program funds will be used for enhancing community safety through new tools, including AEDs, rescue equipment, and educational resources.

Analysis: These funds are available through the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program.

Financial Considerations: There is no local match requirement.

Legal Considerations: The Muscogee County Sheriff's Office is eligible to apply for, receive, and expend these funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, and will be obligated to the conditions of the grant award.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested for the to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program that provides lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations, in the amount of \$40,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND ANY AWARDED FUNDS AS PER THE GRANT GUIDELINES AND CITY REGULATIONS, IF AWARDED, A GRANT OF \$40,000, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, THE FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION GRANT, AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT AWARDED. FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED FOR ENHANCING COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGH NEW TOOLS, INCLUDING AEDS, RESCUE EQUIPMENT, AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

WHEREAS, the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office has been authorized by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation program to apply for \$40,000 of grant monies; and,

WHEREAS, funding is from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant program; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be utilized for enhancing community safety through new tools, including AEDs, rescue equipment, and educational resources; and,

WHEREAS, funding will provide lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations; and,

WHEREAS, no matching funds are required for this grant project.

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

That the Mayor or their designee is authorized to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation grant, in the amount of \$40,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount awarded.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Item #2.

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

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

A. Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for Public Safety Building Renovations
– RFP No. 26-0016

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for Public Safety Building Renovations – RFP No. 26-0016
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of a negotiated contract with Freeman & Associates (Columbus, GA) for Construction Manager as General Contractor Services for Public Safety Building Renovations to construct renovations to the existing Public Safety Building located at 510 10th Street. The estimated construction budget for this project is \$4,500,000. The recommended contractor’s cost proposal is within the amount budgeted.

The renovations will consist of mechanical, electrical, plumbing system upgrades, interior alterations, interior finish upgrades, and exterior shell maintenance and replacement. The selected vendor will be responsible for providing preconstruction services to assist the City and the design team with review and selection of the final scope of work to accommodate the funds available. Following finalization of the scope of work, the vendor will serve as the GC to construct the improvements.

RFP Advertisement and Receipt of Proposals:

RFP specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry and DemandStar on October 9, 2025. This RFP has been advertised, opened and evaluated. Fourteen (14) proposals were received by the due date of November 21, 2025, from the following vendors:

Freeman & Associates (Columbus, GA)

- Batson-Cook Construction (West Point, GA)
- Ben B. Gordy Construction Co., Inc. (Columbus, GA)
- Benning Construction Company (Atlanta, GA)
- Elite Building Group, LLC (Newton, AL)
- Garrard Construction Group (Duluth, GA)
- Graddy Construction, Inc. (Columbus, GA)
- Headley Construction Corporation (Newnan, GA)
- Pound-Clark Contractors, LLC (Columbus, GA)
- Prime Contractors, Inc. (Powder Springs, GA)
- River City Contracting (Fortson, GA)
- Sheridan Construction (Macon, GA)
- Southtree Commercial Construction, LLC (Peachtree City, GA)
- Thayer-Bray Construction, LLC (Columbus, GA)

The following events took place after receipt of proposals:

DESCRIPTION	DATE	AGENDA/ACTION
Pre-Evaluation Meeting	12/03/25	The Purchasing Manager advised evaluation committee members of the RFP rules and process, and the project manager provided an overview.
1 st Evaluation Meeting	12/17/25	The Evaluation Committee discussed each submission and determined clarifications were not required.
Evaluation Forms Sent	12/17/25	Evaluation forms were forwarded to the voting committee members.
Evaluation Forms Returned	01/30/26	The last set of evaluation forms were completed and returned to Purchasing for compilation of results.
Cost Proposal Ranking Requested	02/09/26	Due to perceived discrepancies regarding which cost proposals were highest vs. lowest, and for the Committee to better understand the cost proposals, a spreadsheet comparing the proposals was requested from the Inspections and Code Director.
Cost Proposal Ranking Received	02/19/26	Cost proposal spreadsheet received.
Evaluation Results	03/09/26	Several attempts were made to assemble the Committee for discussion. However, schedules were not able to be coordinated. Therefore, the evaluation results were forwarded to the committee via email for review. Voters were asked to confirm their statements.
Confirmation from Voters	03/10/26	All voters responded with their confirmation.
Request for Vote	03/17/26	A final set of evaluation results was forwarded to the Committee and a vote was requested.
Award Recommendation	03/18/26	The evaluation committee unanimously recommended award to Freeman & Associates, the highest-ranking vendor.

Evaluation Committee:

The proposals were reviewed by members of the Evaluation Committee, which consisted of two voting members from the Columbus Police Department, one voting member from the Facilities Maintenance Department, and two voting members from the Inspections & Code Department.

Serving as an alternate voter was one representative from the Public Works Department.

Serving as a non-voting advisor was one representative from the Columbus Police Department.

Award Recommendation:

The voting Committee members recommend award to Freeman & Associates (Columbus, GA) for the following reasons:

- **Freeman & Associates – Identified strengths of proposal:**
 - Working relationship with the City on numerous projects. Local company with local subcontractors. Very detailed timeline listed for this project.
 - Qualifications/Experience. Project timeframe. Personnel. Work history. DBE participation.
 - Freeman has done a lot of work on City projects for CCG. They have experience and typically meet all of the require

- **Qualifications/Experience:**

- Freeman & Associates is a locally based contractor headquartered in Columbus.
- The firm has over 60 years of combined construction experience.
- Freeman & Associates has a long-standing history of providing construction manager/general contractor services for complex public-sector projects.

- Below are the last three projects for which Freeman & Associates has provided similar work.

- Muscogee County Sheriff's Office October 2023 – September 2024
1000 5th Avenue, Columbus, GA
This \$17 million project transformed the former TYSY building into the new headquarters for the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office. Work included full interior renovations, space reconfiguration, and modernization of all major MEP systems. The facility received upgraded safety and security technology to meet public safety operational standards. Completed alongside broader county public safety improvements, the project delivers a modern, efficient, and secure home for the Sheriff's Office.
- Columbus City Hall August 2022 – June 2023
1144 Broadway, Columbus, GA
This adaptive-reuse project transformed an existing 162,200 SF uptown facility into a modern City Hall, complete with full interior renovations, upgraded MEP systems, advanced technology, and improved accessibility. The work included a fully integrated Police Precinct, a new 5,700 SF training facility, a building-wide generator installation, and refurbishment of the five-story parking deck – all delivered in a phased construction to maintain uninterrupted City operations.
- Opelika Police Department August 2018 – January 2020
501 South 10th Street, Opelika, AL
The main facility consists of a 38,000 SF new, two story, Police Department and Municipal Court that houses Municipal Court Room, holding cells, office space, a police dispatch center, training room, evidence storage, file storage, and supply storage. The second facility is a 550 SF new, single story, K-9 Dog Kennel that consists of six indoor/outdoor kennels with a door dividing the indoor space from the outside space.

The City's Procurement Ordinance Article 3-110 (Competitive Sealed Proposals for the procurement of Equipment, Supplies and Professional Services) governs the RFP Process. During the RFP process, there is no formal opening due to the possibility of negotiated components of the proposal. In the event City Council does not approve the recommended offeror, no proposal responses or any negotiated components are made public until after the award of the contract. Therefore, the evaluation results and cost information has been submitted to the City Manager in a separate memo for informational purposes.

Funds are budgeted in the FY26 Budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund – 2021 SPLOST – 21 SPLOST Public Safety – Engineering/Architect Services - Public Safety Building Renovation; 0567-696-3111-STPS-6338-54156-20260.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH FREEMAN & ASSOCIATES (COLUMBUS, GA) TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AS GENERAL CONTRACTOR SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING RENOVATION TO CONSTRUCT RENOVATIONS TO THE EXISTING PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING LOCATED AT 510 10TH STREET. THE ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT IS \$4,500,000.00. THE RECOMMENDED CONTRACTOR’S COST PROPOSAL IS WITHIN THE AMOUNT BUDGETED.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 26-0016) and fourteen (14) proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by Freeman & Associates met all proposal requirements and was evaluated most responsive to the RFP.

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

That the Mayor and or his designee is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Freeman & Associates (Columbus, GA) for Construction Manager as General Contractor services for Public Safety Building Renovations to construct renovations to the existing Public Safety building located at 510 10th Street. The recommended contractor’s cost proposal is within the amount budgeted. Funds are budgeted in the FY26 budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund – 2021 SPLOST – 21 SPLOST Public Safety – Engineering/Architect Services - Public Safety Building Renovation; 0567-696-3111-STPS-6338-54156-20260.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

B. Provision and Installation of Lighting Upgrade for Cooper Creek Tennis Center – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Provision and Installation of Lighting Upgrade for Cooper Creek Tennis Center – Sourcewell Cooperative Contract Purchase
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the provision and installation of lighting upgrade for Cooper Creek Tennis Center from Musco Sports Lighting LLC (Oskaloosa, IA) in the amount of \$489,840.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #041123-MSL.

The vendor will upgrade and replace the aged lighting at the Cooper Creek Tennis Center. The upgrade is needed due to the current insufficient lighting for match and tournament play.

The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) #041123, initiated by Sourcewell, whereby Musco Sports Lighting, LLC was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Sports Lighting Solutions with Related Technology, Equipment, and Services. The contract, which commenced June 23, 2023, is good through June 16, 2027. 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, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public entities located in the United States and Canada. The RFP process utilized by Sourcewell meets the requirements of the City’s Procurement Ordinance; additionally, The City’s Procurement Ordinance, Article 9-101, authorizes the use of cooperative purchasing.

Funding is available in the FY26 Budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund – 2021 SPLOST – 21 SPLOST Parks and Recreation – Professional Services – Cooper Creek Park Improvements; 0567 – 696 – 3110 – STPR – 6311 – 54010 – 20250.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROVISION AND INSTALLATION OF LIGHTING UPGRADE FOR COOPER CREEK TENNIS CENTER FROM MUSCO SPORTS LIGHTING LLC (OSKALOOSA, IA) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$489,840.00. THE PURCHASE WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATIVE PURCHASE VIA SOURCEWELL CONTRACT #041123-MSL.

WHEREAS, the vendor will upgrade and replace the aged lighting at the Cooper Creek Tennis Center. The upgrade is needed due to the current insufficient lighting for match and tournament play; and,

WHEREAS, the purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Request for Proposal (RFP) #041123, initiated by Sourcewell, whereby Musco Sports Lighting, LLC was one of the successful vendors contracted to provide Sports Lighting Solutions with Related Technology, Equipment, and Services. The contract, which commenced June 23, 2023, is good through June 16, 2027. 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, nonprofit, tribal government, and other public entities located in the United States and Canada. The RFP process utilized by Sourcewell meets the requirements of the City’s Procurement Ordinance; additionally, 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 Mayor and or his designee is hereby authorized to purchase the provision and installation of lighting upgrade for Cooper Creek Tennis Center from Musco Sports Lighting LLC (Oskaloosa, IA) in the amount of \$489,840.00. The purchase will be accomplished by Cooperative Purchase via Sourcewell Contract #041123-MSL. Funding is available in the FY26 Budget: 2021 Sales Tax Project Fund – 2021 SPLOST – 21 SPLOST Parks and Recreation – Professional Services – Cooper Creek Park Improvements; 0567 – 696 – 3110 – STPR – 6311 – 54010 – 20250.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Anker voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____

Councilor Huff voting _____
Councilor Tucker voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

C. Memorandum of Agreement for Mental Health Services for Muscogee County Prison

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Memorandum of Agreement for Mental Health Services for Muscogee County Prison
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the Memorandum of Agreement with New Horizons Community Service Board d/b/a New Horizons Behavioral Health (Columbus, GA), for inmate mental health services for the Muscogee County Prison. New Horizons Behavioral Health will provide five telephone consultations and contract administration in the amount of \$250.00 per month. Provider services will be \$150.00 per hour; clinician services will be \$100.00 per hour; psychologist services will be \$100.00 per hour; and additional consultations beyond the five monthly telephone consultations will be \$50.00 per call.

Muscogee County Prison has had a successful relationship with New Horizons Behavioral Health via the previous agreement. Consequently, the Warden and New Horizons Behavioral Health have agreed to enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement, which will be in effect for a twelve-month period through March 1, 2027, and automatically renew annually for three (3) additional twelve-month periods, unless either party gives thirty (30) days' notice of cancellation prior to such annual renewal date.

New Horizons Behavioral Health will provide the following services:

- Bi-monthly (every 8 weeks) visits to the Muscogee County Prison. Visits may be conducted during evenings and weekends.
- Telephone consultation with nursing staff at Muscogee County Prison.
- Suicide Assessment and Suicide Watch: Muscogee County Prison inmates on suicide watch will receive daily reassessment visits from the Mental Health Professional.
- Psychiatric Services
- Medication Management
- 24-hour Crisis Intervention
- Referral and information for Muscogee County Prison inmates receiving mental health services prior to release.

Funding is available each fiscal year for this ongoing expense: General Fund – MCP – Warden – Consulting; 0101 – 420 – 1000 – MCCI – 6315.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH NEW HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD D/B/A NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (COLUMBUS, GA), FOR INMATE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY PRISON. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WILL PROVIDE FIVE TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00 PER MONTH. PROVIDER SERVICES WILL BE \$150.00 PER HOUR; CLINICIAN SERVICES WILL BE \$100.00 PER HOUR; PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES WILL BE \$100.00 PER HOUR; AND ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS BEYOND THE FIVE MONTHLY TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS WILL BE \$50.00 PER CALL.

WHEREAS, Muscogee County Prison has had a successful relationship with New Horizons Behavioral Health via the previous agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Warden and New Horizons Behavioral Health have agreed to enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement, which will be in effect for a twelve-month period through March 1, 2027, and automatically renew annually for three (3) additional twelve-month periods, unless either party gives thirty (30) days' notice of cancellation prior to such annual renewal date; and,

WHEREAS, New Horizons Behavioral Health will provide the following services:

- Bi-monthly (every 8 weeks) visits to the Muscogee County Prison. Visits may be conducted during evenings and weekends.
- Telephone consultation with nursing staff at Muscogee County Prison.
- Suicide Assessment and Suicide Watch: Muscogee County Prison inmates on suicide watch will receive daily reassessment visits from the Mental Health Professional.
- Psychiatric Services
- Medication Management
- 24-hour Crisis Intervention
- Referral and information for Muscogee County Prison inmates receiving mental health services prior to release.

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

That the Mayor and or his designee is hereby authorized to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with New Horizons Community Service Board d/b/a New Horizons Behavioral Health (Columbus, GA), for inmate mental health services for the Muscogee County Prison. New Horizons Behavioral Health will provide five telephone consultations and contract administration in the amount of \$250.00 per month. Provider services will be \$150.00 per hour; clinician services will be \$100.00 per hour; psychologist services will be \$100.00 per hour; and additional consultations beyond the five monthly telephone consultations will be \$50.00 per call. Funding is available each fiscal year for this ongoing expense: General Fund – MCP – Warden – Consulting; 0101 – 420 – 1000 – MCCI –

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

D. Retrofit/Upgrade of Bomb Squad Robot for EMA/Homeland Security

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Retrofit/Upgrade of Bomb Squad Robot for EMA/Homeland Security
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the purchase of retrofit/upgrade services for the bomb squad robot from Pareton/Remotec, Inc., (Clinton, TN) in the amount of \$112,523.00.

The bomb robot (Remotec 2455 F6A) was originally purchased in 2003, per Resolution #554-03. The unit was upgraded in 2014, per Resolution #298-14. The robot allows the bomb technicians to remain at a safe distance, and in a safe location, when handling potentially hazardous items and/or situations.

Currently, the robot is not working and requires a complete retrofit of new parts and operating system. The retrofit will take the robot to an F6+ style, and the work can only be performed by the manufacturer, Remotec. Consequently, the vendor is deemed the only known source to perform the retrofit services, per the Procurement Ordinance, article 3-114.

The robot will be delivered to the manufacturer, and the retrofit services will take approximately 3-4 months.

Funds are available in the FY26 Budget: Multi-Gov't Project Fund – Homeland Security – GEMA Bomb Robot Upgrade & Repairs – Capital Expend – Over \$5,000; 0216 – 450 – 3931 – BRBT – 7761.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF RETROFIT/UPGRADE SERVICES FOR THE BOMB SQUAD ROBOT FROM PARETON/REMOTEC, INC., (CLINTON, TN) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$112,523.00.

WHEREAS, the bomb robot (Remotec 2455 F6A) was originally purchased in 2003, per Resolution #554-03. The unit was upgraded in 2014, per Resolution #298-14. The robot allows the bomb technicians to remain at a safe distance, and in a safe location, when handling potentially hazardous items and/or situations; and,

WHEREAS, currently, the robot is not working and requires a complete retrofit of new parts and operating system. The retrofit will take the robot to an F6+ style, and the work can only be performed by the manufacturer, Remotec. Consequently, the vendor is deemed the only known source to perform the retrofit services, per the Procurement Ordinance, article 3-114; and,

WHEREAS, the robot will be delivered to the manufacturer, and the retrofit services will take approximately 3-4 months.

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

That the Mayor and or his designee is hereby authorized to purchase retrofit/upgrade services for the bomb squad robot from Pareton/Remotec, Inc., (Clinton, TN) in the amount of \$112,523.00. Funds are available in the FY26 Budget: Multi-Gov't Project Fund – Homeland Security – GEMA Bomb Robot Upgrade & Repairs – Capital Expend – Over \$5,000; 0216 – 450 – 3931 – BRBT – 7761.

_____ Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

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

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

File Attachments for Item:

A. Parks & Recreation Update - Holli Browder, Director Parks & Recreation



Parks and Recreation Projects Update

HOLLI BROWDER, AFO, CPRP
DIRECTOR

April 14, 2026

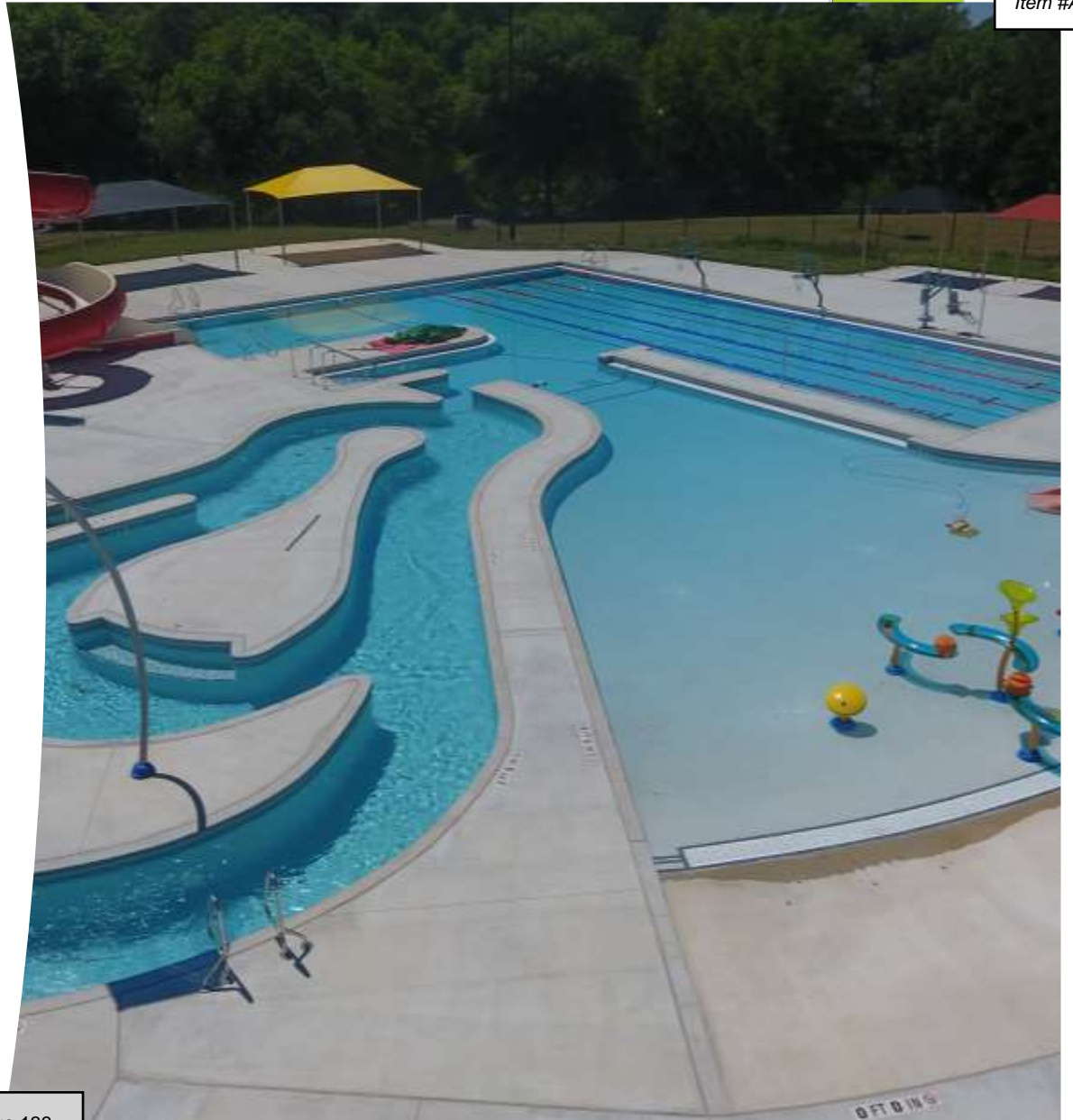
Psalmomd Road Pool

➤ **COMPLETED**



Rigdon Park Pool

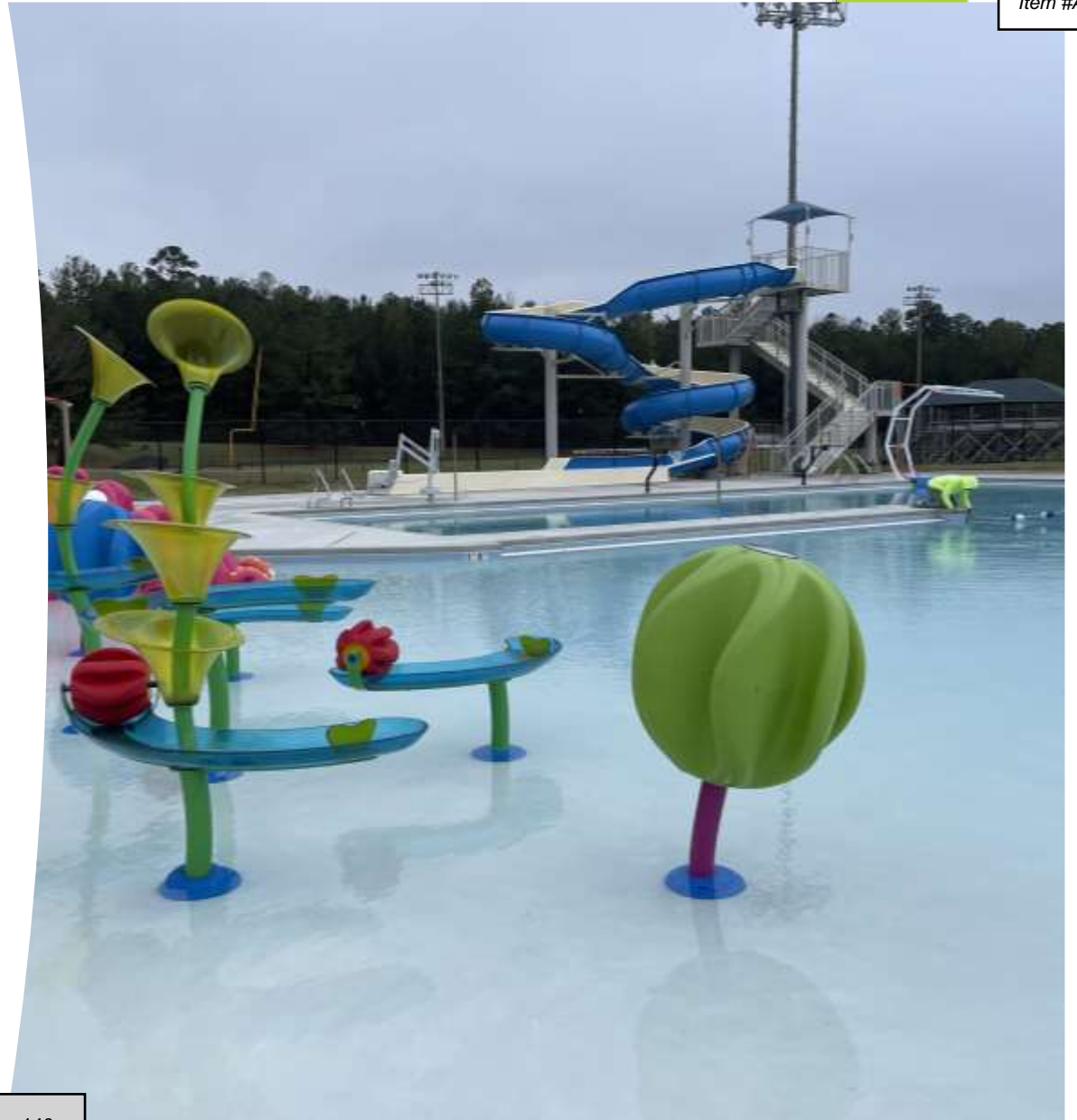
➤ **COMPLETED**



Item #A.

Shirley Winston Park Pool

➤ **COMPLETED**



Item #A.

Carver Park Splash Pad

➤ **COMPLETED**



Item #A.

City Services Splash Pad

➤ **COMPLETED**



Item #A.

Boxwood Playground

➤ **COMPLETED**



Charlie Hill Playground

➤ **COMPLETED**

Item #A.



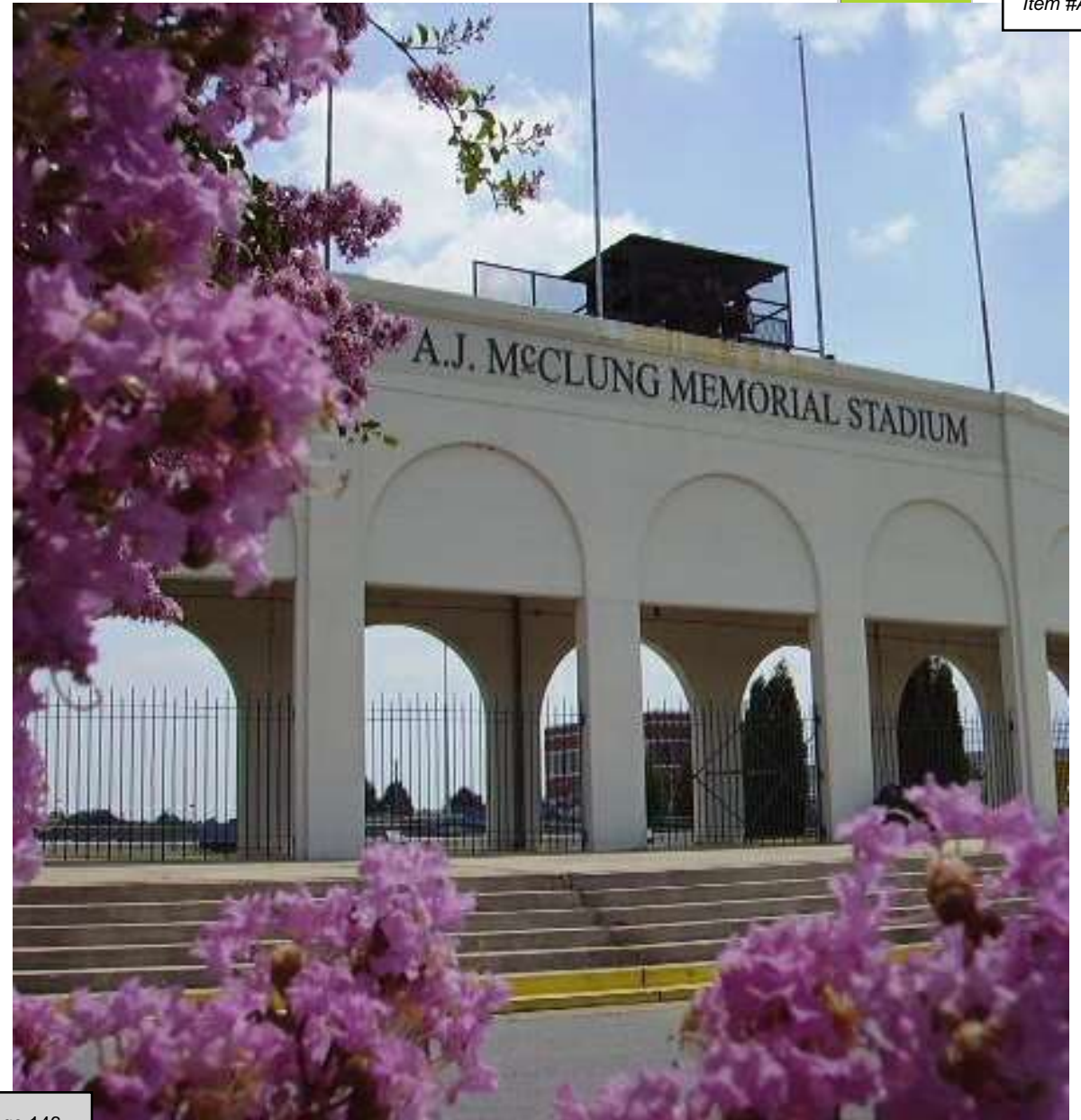
Lakebottom Playground

➤ **COMPLETED**



AJ MCCIung Stadium Lighting

➤ **COMPLETED**

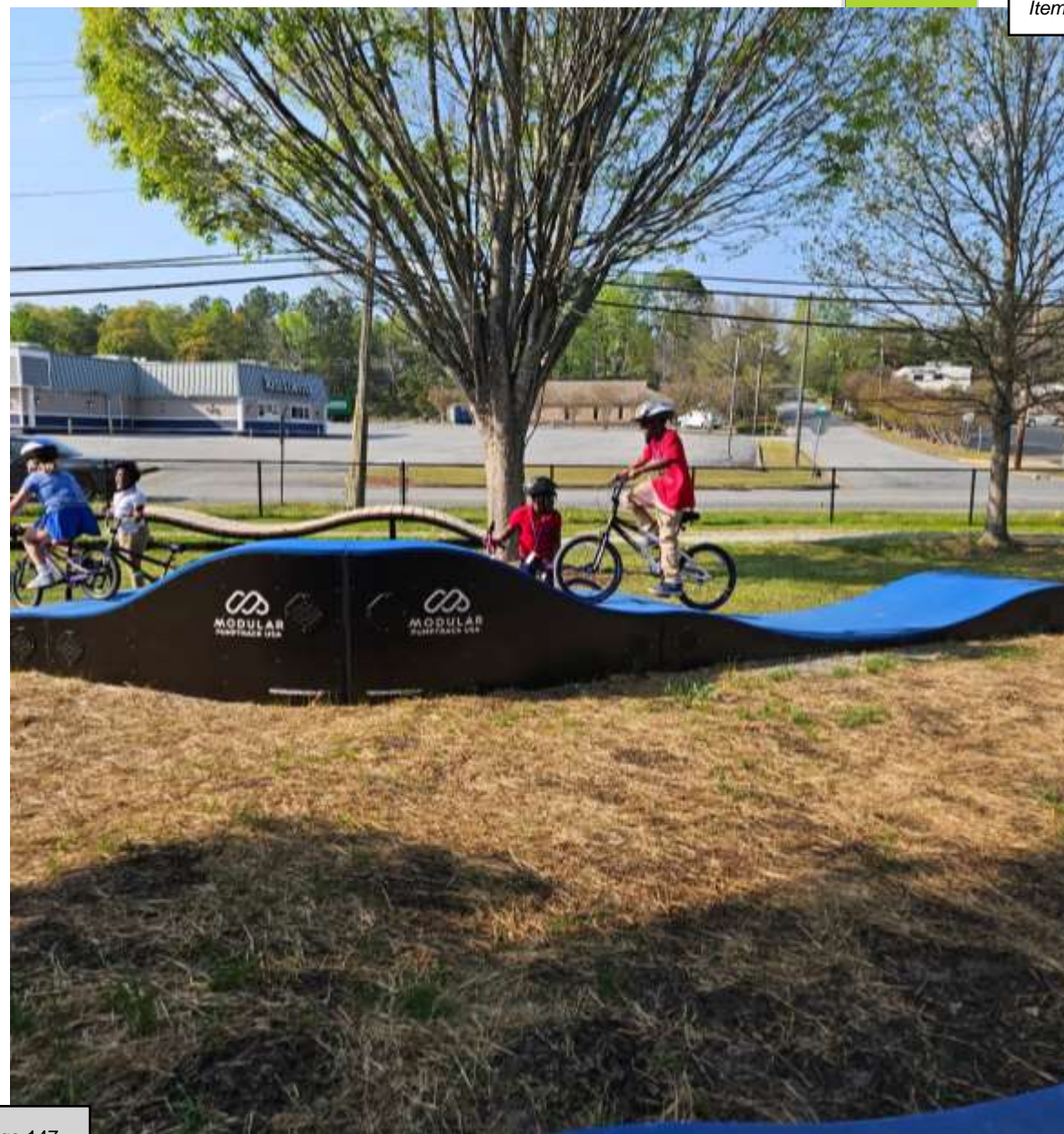


Item #A.

DINGLEWOOD BIKE PUMP PARK

➤ **COMPLETED**

Item #A.



ADDITIONAL SPLASH PADS

- BRITT DAVID SPLASH PAD
 - **IN FINAL DESIGN/PERMITTING**

- COMER SPLASH PAD
 - **IN DESIGN/PERMITTING**

HEATH PARK SHIRLEY WINSTON PARK JOHN RIGDON PARK PLAYGROUNDS

➤ **DESIGNS COMPLETE
DOCUMENTS BEING
PROCESSED IN FINANCE**



FLATROCK PLAYGROUND

- DESIGN COMPLETE
DOCUMENTS BEING
PROCESSED IN FINANCE



Item #A.

DOUBLE CHURCHES INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

➤ IN DESIGN PROCESS



Item #A.

COOPER CREEK TENNIS LED LIGHTS

➤ **ON 4/14 PURCHASING
AGENDA**



Item #A.

COOPER CREEK PICKLEBALL

➤ Finalizing Permits



Item #A.

BIBB CITY SOCCER FIELD RENOVATIONS

➤ Finalizing Contractor Documentation



FY24 Project Update

Project	Funding	Status
Lakebottom Football Field Renovation	\$ 50,000.00	Completed resod and resurfacing Fall 2025
Resurfacing Tennis Courts	\$ 275,000.00	Benning Park complete. Identifying vendor for Double Churches. Lakebottom to be completed with Park renovation.
Lights at Bibb Soccer	\$ 650,000.00	Combined in Bibb Soccer Project
Replace Restrooms and Pavillions at Cooper Creek	\$ 1,000,000.00	To be done with SPLOST Renovation
Replace Restrooms at Flatrock	\$ 350,000.00	To be done with SPLOST Renovation
Replace Restroom and Pavillion Charlie Hill Park	\$ 275,000.00	Vendor and Design chosen finalizing project
Replace Restroom at Pop Austin	\$ 175,000.00	Vendor and Design chosen finalizing project
Replace Restroom at Lake Oliver Marina	\$ 175,000.00	Vendor and Design chosen finalizing project
Replace Restroom at Rosehill Park	\$ 175,000.00	Vendor and Design chosen finalizing project
Replace Restroom at Tillis Park	\$ 175,000.00	Vendor and Design chosen finalizing project
Replace Playground at Flatrock Park	\$ 350,000.00	Design Final Processing in Finance
	\$ 3,650,000.00	

Additional Projects - Continued

IN PROCESS OF SELECTING A PROJECT
MANAGER FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- THEO MCGEE PARK RENOVATIONS
- BENNING PARK RENOVATIONS
- LAKEBOTTOM PARK RENOVATIONS



Questions

File Attachments for Item:

EnterTextHere

DATE: April 14, 2026

Item #

TO: Mayor and Councilors

FROM: Finance Department

SUBJECT: Advertised Bids/RFPs/RFQs

April 15, 2026

1. Tire Leasing Services for METRA (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0034

Scope of Bid

Provide tire leasing services for Columbus Consolidated Government Department of Transportation/METRA Transit System on an “as needed” basis.

Contract term shall be for three (3) years with no renewal options.

April 29, 2026

1. Gallops Senior Center and Pop Austin Recreation Center Roofing Project – RFB No. 26-0033

Scope of Bid

Provide all labor, equipment, and materials to complete the specified work at Gallops Senior Center and Pop Austin Recreation Center, in full compliance with the project manual.

This RFB will be awarded in total to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Therefore, vendors must bid on both roof projects in order to be considered for award.

May 6, 2026

1. Northstar Drive at Kennedy Street Roundabout – RFB No. 26-0038

Scope of Bid

This project consists of constructing a new roundabout at the intersection of Northstar Drive and Kennedy Street in Columbus, GA. The project site is located approximately 0.15 miles from Mary A. Buckner Academy (Elementary School). Summer break begins on May 22, 2026, and ends August 2, 2026. Although some work may be performed outside of these dates, significant interruptions to school traffic should be minimized.

File Attachments for Item:

1. Resignation: Correspondence received from Avianca C. Dowdell, resigning from her seat on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC).

Dear Clerk of Council,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission Board, effective April 7, 2026.

It has been a true honor to serve as a commissioner and support the mission of Keep Columbus Beautiful. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the organization's efforts to enhance beautification, protect the environment, and engage our community in meaningful ways. This decision was not made lightly, but I understand the need to maintain clear separation between board service and staff roles. I remain deeply committed to the work and mission of KCBC and look forward to continuing to support the organization in my current staff capacity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I am appreciative of the experience, relationships, and insight gained.

Best,

Avianca C. Dowdell

File Attachments for Item:

2. Travel Authorization Request: Approval is requested for Councilor Toyia Tucker to attend the 2026 ACCG Annual Conference, scheduled for April 23-26, 2026.



**COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED
GOVERNMENT**

P.O. Box 1340
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340

Item #2.

**TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST
CITY COUNCILOR**

Name of Traveler / Registrant	Councilor Toyia Tucker
Month of Travel	04/22/2026 – 04/26/2026
Sponsored Organization and Conference / Training	<u>2026 ACCG Annual Conference</u> Savannah, GA
Estimated Cost	Registration - \$0 (Covered by ACCG) Hotel - \$1,723.20 TOTAL ESTIMATED COST- \$1,723.20
<u>Conference/Travel Budget</u>	
Education/Training (0101-100-1000-CNCL-6601)	FY26 Beginning Balance - \$5,000 FY26 Current Balance (Approximate) - \$3,710
Travel, Schools & Conferences (0101-100-1000-CNCL-6641)	FY26 Beginning Balance - \$10,000 FY26 Current Balance (Approximate) - \$5,649
<u>Fiscal Year Travel Expenses</u>	Councilor’s FY26 Travel Allowance - \$3,500 Councilor’s FY26 Travel Expenses - \$4,645.96 Scholarship Reimbursement - \$1,913.16 Councilor’s FY26 Travel Allowance Available (Approximate) - \$767.20
Additional Information	Potential Reimbursement of Travel Expenses: - 2026 NACo Scholarship - \$836.00 FY26 Travel Allowance (Upon reimbursement approval & receipt) - \$1,603.20 Projected FY26 Travel Allowance Ending Balance – (\$120)

In accordance with the **Travel Policy and Procedures of the Columbus Consolidated Government, dated September 16, 2013**, which states:

“City Councilors should submit their travel requests to the Clerk of Council. The Clerk of Council will list a request to approve travel on his/her agenda for a vote at a regular City Council meeting. All travel requests must conform to the requirements, terms and conditions of this Policy.”

Pursuant to **Resolution No. 205-25**, this request shall be applied to the **\$3,500 annual travel allowance** designated for each Councilor for approved travel and training outside the city limits of Columbus, Georgia.

Lindsey G. McLemore
Clerk of Council
Council of Columbus, Georgia

Date

File Attachments for Item:

3. Minutes of the following boards:

Board of Historic and Architectural Review 12-11-23

Board of Historic and Architectural Review 07-08-24, 10-15-24

Board of Historic and Architectural Review 09-08-25, 10-14-25

Board of Tax Assessors #10-26, 11-26, 12-26

Board of Water Commissioners 02-09-26

Development Authority of Columbus 02-12-26, 02-24-26

New Horizon Behavioral Health 01-13-20, 04-13-20, 05-11-20, 06-08-20, 07-13-20, 11-09-20,
12-14-20

New Horizon Behavioral Health 01-09-23, 02-13-23, 03-13-23, 05-08-23, 06-12-23, 08-14-23,
09-11-23, 10-09-23, 12-11-23

New Horizon Behavioral Health 09-09-24, 10-14-24, 12-09-24

BOARD OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

MINUTES

Citizen Services Center | Council Chambers
3111 Citizens Way Columbus, GA
December 11, 2023 | 3:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND STAFF REPORT

Emily Flourney moves to approve the Minutes. Libby Smiths seconds. All are in favor. Alex Griggs moves to approve the Staff Report. Fran Carpenter seconds. All are in favor.

III. NEW CASES:

1. **2005 13th Street:** Lindsey Fortin, applicant, seeks approval for a wood fence (constructed to replace the previous aluminum fence). The applicant also intends to complete the conversion of the current screened in porch into a mud room. The applicant intends to replace the screen door with a steel door. Please see the application for further details. #11-23-002250

Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud (report concludes the proposed changes will have an adverse effect on the home). The applicant explains they have had security issues with the home in its former condition, thus is why they altered the aluminum fence into a wooden fence. The applicant plans to stain the wooden fence to match the home. The Board discusses with Allison Slocum where an appropriate place for the fence would be on the applicant's property. The board concludes that the fence must not obstruct the view of any historically significant portions of the homes, as the standing wooden fence does. Allison Slocum suggests pushing the fence back behind the screened in porch. Mollie Smith explains the Guidelines forbid historic homes to have more than a four-foot fence in the front yard and screened in porches cannot be filled in or obscured. Considering that the work proposed in the application was completed prior to the application's filing and does not meet Guideline requirements, the Board sought to make recommendations for changes that could be discussed in a future meeting. The Board has decided that it cannot make recommendations, because the application did not have the required site plan for the property. Emily Flourney moves to table the case until a site plan and images of the fencing can be submitted to the Board. Alex Griggs seconds. All are in Favor.

- 2. **700 Front Avenue:** Historic Columbus, applicant, intends to relocate 685 Front Ave to North West corner of the Heritage Park Site. # 01-24-000025
Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. Justin Krieg explains to the Board, the crawlspace will closely match the crawlspaces on the existing homes in the historic district. The applicant assures the Board that no additions will be made to this house. The applicant explains they are removing the brick dogleg to prevent obstruction of the historic facade. Emily Flourney moves to approve as submitted. Libby Smith seconds. All are in favor.

- 3. **1020 Peachtree Drive:** Caylin Edley, applicant, intends to construct a sign bearing the names of the two current applicant facing Peachtree Drive and Wynnton Road. # 01-24-000024
Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. The applicant explains the sign will be an L – shape and will be 3 ft high off the ground and 5 feet wide (a total of 15ft in area). The applicant tells the board the sign will not be illuminated. Emily Flourney moves to approve as submitted. Alex Griggs seconds. All are in favor.

- 4. **113 7th Street:** Robert Haven, applicant, intends to build an addition to the rear of the existing structure. #11-22-001999
Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. The applicant explains he has returned to the board because the Planning Department told him he needs fire retardant windows at 5 ft - so he moved the wall to 6ft. Alex moves to approve as submitted. Libby seconds. All are in favor.

IV. OLD CASES

None Addressed.


V. NEW BUSINESS

None Addressed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT



 SECRETARY



 CHAIR

BOARD OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
AGENDA

CCG Annex | 1st Floor Conference Room
420 10th Street Columbus, GA
July 8 2024 | 3:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND STAFF REPORT


III. NEW CASES:

1. **615 2nd Ave:** Donald Franklin, applicant, intends pave a parking pad in the front of the home and to extend the existing fence on the North side of the home.
2. **2906 10th Ave:** Steven Cotton, applicant, seeks approval to change existing columns with square column.
3. **726 3rd Ave:** Farhad Alifarhani, applicant, intends to construct a carport addition.

IV. OLD CASES

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT



SECRETARY



CHAIR

BOARD OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
AGENDA

CCG Annex | 1st Floor Conference Room
420 10th Street Columbus, GA
October 15 2024 | 3:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH QUORUM

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND STAFF REPORT

III. NEW CASES:


1. **1258 Cedar Avenue:** Midtown Towers, applicant, requests approval for painting the exterior of unexposed brick, refacing cinderblock wall, and installing signage and awning.
2. **1602 Summit Drive:** Julie Straus, applicant, seeks approval to enclose existing Porte Cochere and construct a two-car garage addition with storage and addition atop the current terrace. Please see plans.

IV. OLD CASES

1. **24 5th Street:** Pam Smith, applicant, is returning with requested materials for a tabled case.

V. NEW BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT



SECRETARY



CHAIR

BOARD OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
MINUTES

CCG Annex | First Floor Conference Room
420 10th Street Columbus, GA
September 8, 2025 | 3:30 PM

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: 3:35 PM**
PRESENT: Mike Johnson, Shea Spencer, Kyle Pelleteir, Mollie Smith, Emily Flournoy, Allen Cline, John Sheftall, and Toney Johnson (3:37)

II. **MINUTES & STAFF REPORT:**

August 2025 Minutes

Emily Flournoy moves to approve as submitted. Mike Johnson seconds. All are in favor.

September 2025 Staff Report

Emily Flournoy moves to approve as submitted. Shea Spencer seconds. All are in favor.

III. **NEW CASES:**

1. **2301 19th Ave.** Donald Bowles, applicant, intends to construct a bathroom addition.

Mollie Smith reads the Staff Report aloud. Applicant confirms will use hardy board for the siding. Emily Flournoy moves to approve as submitted with clarification that cement fiber board should be smooth, not with simulated wood grain, as recommended in the Staff Report. Toney Johnson seconds. All are in favor.

2. **644 Broadway.** Jennifer Gurrola, applicant, intends to construct a two car garage addition and pool.

Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. Applicant confirms that the garage doors will be metal, the garage gutters will be aluminum, and the windows will be double hung sash. Allen Cline moves to approve as submitted. Tony Johnson seconds. All are in favor.

Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. Toney Johnson moves to approve as submitted. Kyle Pelletier seconds. All are in favor.

IV. DISCUSSION:

Mike Johnson moves to adopt the Park Service Guidelines and Criteria for Solar Panels (attached) as part of the guidelines used by BHAR. Allen Cline seconds. All are in favor, except Shea Spencer.

V. ADJOURNMENT: 4:52 PM

APPROVED

Chair:  _____

Secretary:  _____

BOARD OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
MINUTES

CCG Annex | First Floor Conference Room
420 10th Street Columbus, GA
October 14, 2025 | 3:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER: 3:42 P.M.

II. ESTABLISH QUORUM: John Sheftall, Mollie Smith, Allen Cline, Z Lawrence, Kyle Pelleteir, & Emily Flournoy

III. MINUTES & STAFF REPORT:

October Staff Report: John Sheftall moves to approve as submitted. Allen Clin seconds. All are in favor.

September Minutes: John Sheftall moves to approve as submitted. Z Lawrence seconds. All are in favor.

IV. NEW CASES:


1. **638 Broadway:** Doug Mote, applicant, seeks approval to install iron railing on front steps.
Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. After discussion as to why the railing will be attached to columns, Allen Cline moves to approve as submitted. Kyle Pelletier seconds. All are in favor.
2. **2901 Peabody Ave:** Paula Mayes, applicant, seeks approval to remove porch awning and replace existing railing with wood railing on accessory structure behind the house.
Allison Slocum reads the Staff Report aloud. Allison Slocum discusses residency options for the building and comments that the railing does not look sturdy. Allen Cline says the porch is in rough shape. The Board discussed the possibility of keeping the roof/awning and columns - not only for sake of the building's character, but also to lower maintenance issues on the wood porch in the future and to prevent slip and fall hazards. Guideline 5.9.7 speaks to need to preserve the porch. The applicant says the railing on the accessory building's porch is same as the railing on front of the house.

John Sheftall moves to approve the replacement of all accessory structure railings in the same locations and configurations, using black metal with straight spindles, and to deny any additional changes, including removal of the roof/awning and columns. Emily Flournoy seconds. All are in favor.

V. ADJOURNMENT: 4:13 PM



SECRETARY



CHAIR



Columbus, Georgia, Board of Tax Assessors

Item #3.

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

Kathy Jones
Assessor

Clay Hood
Assessor

Doug Jefcoat
Assessor

Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Vice Chairman

Chief Appraiser
Suzanne Widenhouse

MINUTES #10-26

Chairman Jayne Govar calls the Columbus, Georgia Board of Assessors' meeting to order on Wednesday, March 11th, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT ARE:

Chairman Jayne Govar
Vice Chairman Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Assessor Kathy Jones
Assessor Doug Jefcoat
Assessor Clay Hood
Chief Appraiser/Secretary Suzanne Widenhouse
Recording Secretary Katrina Culpepper

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Assessor Jones motions to accept the agenda with noted change. Vice Chairman Lanitra Sandifer Hicks seconds and the motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Assessor Jefcoat motions to accept minutes as presented. Assessor Jones seconds and the motion carries.

At 9:03, Personal Property Manager Stacy Pollard presents to the Board:

- BOE Results - placed into record.
- Motor Vehicle Appeal - Signed & Approved.

At 9:07, Deputy Chief Appraiser Glen Thomason presents for Administrative Division to the Board:

- Homestead Removals - # 081 010 002; 179 009 022; 133 007 007 - Signed & Approved.
- Homesteads - # 087 026 041 - Signed & Approved.

At 9:09, Real Property Manager Jeff Milam presents to the Board:

- BOE Results - placed into record.
- Waiver & Releases - #084 031 002; 039 016 002; 032 040 021; 031 023 005; 028 022 012; 028 022 011 - Signed by Chairman Govar
- Settlement Conference Results - #184 001 001 - Signed by Chairman Govar.

At 9:20, Deputy Chief Appraiser Glen Thomason presents for Chief Appraiser to the Board:

- Legislative Update - discussion only.

Assessor Hood motions to adjourn the meeting. Assessor Jones seconds and the motion carries. At 9:31, Chairman Jayne Govar adjourns the meeting without any objections.


Suzanne Widenhouse
Chief Appraiser/Secretary

APPROVED: 


J. GOVAR
CHAIRMAN


K. JONES
ASSESSOR


D. JEFFCOAT
ASSESSOR


C. HOOD
ASSESSOR


L. SANDIFER HICKS
VICE CHAIRMAN

MIN# 11 - 26 MAR 25 2026



Columbus, Georgia, Board of Tax Assessors

Item #3.

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Columbus, GA 31906

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Columbus, GA 31902

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Fax (706) 225-3800

Board Members

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Chairman

Kathy Jones
Assessor

Clay Hood
Assessor

Doug Jefcoat
Assessor

Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Vice Chairman

Chief Appraiser
Suzanne Widenhouse

MINUTES #11-26

Chairman Jayne Govar calls the Columbus, Georgia Board of Assessors' meeting to order on Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT ARE:

Chairman Jayne Govar
Vice Chairman Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Assessor Kathy Jones
Assessor Doug Jefcoat
Assessor Clay Hood
Chief Appraiser/Secretary Suzanne Widenhouse
Recording Secretary Katrina Culpepper

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Assessor Jones motions to accept the agenda. Assessor Hood seconds and the motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Assessor Hood motions to accept minutes as presented. Assessor Jefcoat seconds and the motion carries.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Chief Appraiser Widenhouse refreshes board members regarding Cols Botanical Gardens going before council concerning tax exemption denial.
- Chief Appraiser Widenhouse informs Board that taxpayer Justin Lange has requested appearance before Board at next meeting on March 25th.
- Mr. Justin Lange is present to observe board meeting today.

At 9:07, Personal Property Manager Stacy Pollard presents to the Board:

- E&O - Signed & Approved.
- No Change Audit Results - placed into record.

At 9:12, Administrative Manager Mary Hale presents to the Board:

- Homestead - # 071 001 047 - signed as Denial.
- Homestead Removal Requests - # 089 024 057; 191 001 020; 109 006 027; 099 009 029; 184 017 005 - Signed & Approved.

At 9:18, Real Property Manager Jeff Milam presents to the Board:

- BOE Results - placed into record.
- Waiver & Release - #019 025 006 - Signed by Chairman Govar.

At 9:23, Deputy Chief Appraiser Glen Thomason presents to the Board:

- Non-Disclosure Request - Signed & Approved.

At 9:24, Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse presents to the Board:

- Legislative Update - discussion only.

At 9:37, Assessor Jones motions to enter into Executive Session. Assessor Jefcoat seconds and the motion carries. At 9:48, Assessor Hood motions to exit Executive session. Assessor Jefcoat seconds and the motion carries. Parcel # 101 001 089 Assessor Jefcoat motions to reject settlement offer. Vice Chairman Lanitra Sandifer Hicks seconds and the motion carries.

Assessor Jones motions to adjourn the meeting. Assessor Jefcoat seconds and the motion carries.

At 9:49, Chairman Jayne Govar adjourns the meeting without any objections.

Suzanne Widenhouse
Chief Appraiser/Secretary

APPROVED _____

MIN# 12-26 APR 01 2026

J. GOVAR
CHAIRMAN

K. JONES
ASSESSOR

D. JEFCOAT
ASSESSOR

C. HOOD
ASSESSOR

L. SANDIFER HICKS
VICE CHAIRMAN



Columbus, Georgia, Board of Tax Assessors

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Item #3.

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Clay Hood
Assessor

Doug Jefcoat
Assessor

Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Vice Chairman

Chief Appraiser
Suzanne Widenhouse

MINUTES #12-26

Chairman Jayne Govar calls the Columbus, Georgia Board of Assessors' meeting to order on Wednesday, March 25th, 2026 at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT ARE:

Chairman Jayne Govar
Vice Chairman Lanitra Sandifer Hicks
Assessor Kathy Jones
Assessor Doug Jefcoat
Assessor Clay Hood
Chief Appraiser/Secretary Suzanne Widenhouse
Recording Secretary Katrina Culpepper
Board Attorney Greg Ellington

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Vice Chairman Lanitra Sandifer Hicks motions to accept the agenda. Assessor Hood seconds and the motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Assessor Jefcoat motions to accept the minutes as presented. Assessor Hood seconds and the motion carries.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Chief Appraiser Widenhouse informs the board that taxpayer Ken Harris filed paperwork to appear before the Board on April 8th.
- Chief Appraiser Widenhouse discusses the outcome of Columbus Botanical Gardens going before council last night.
- As of 9:28 a.m., Taxpayer Justin Lange no show for scheduled attendance before board.

At 9:28, Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse presents to the Board:

- Bond Agreement - Assessor Hood recused himself. Assessor Jones motions to accept the agreement with noted change. Assessor Jefcoat seconds and the motion carries. Atty. Greg Ellington left the meeting @ 9:35.

At 9:35, Personal Property Manager Stacy Pollard & Appraiser Chris Wheat presents to the Board:

- Audit Results - Signed & Approved.

At 9:43, Chief Appraiser Widenhouse presents for Administrative Division to the Board:

- Homestead Removal Request - # 103 005 005 - Signed & Approved.
- Homestead retroactive VA - # 132 013 010 - Signed & Approved.

At 9:48, Real Property Manager Jeff Milam presents to the Board:

- BOE Results - placed into record.

At 9:52, Deputy Chief Appraiser Glen Thomason presents to the Board:

- Map Splits - # 073 024 076, 077 & 077H; 172 001 014, 006 & 006A; 180 007 001 & 005; 502 to 507 - Signed & Approved. Chief Appraiser Widenhouse asks Mapper Carol Toole to double-check figures and bring parcel 172 001 006 back next week.
- Non-Disclosure Requests - Signed by Chairman Govar.

At 10:05, Chief Appraiser Suzanne Widenhouse presents to the Board:

- Settlement Conference Results - discussion only.
- Legislative Update - discussion only.

Assessor Hood motions to adjourn the meeting. Assessor Jefcoat seconds and the motion carries.

At 10:17, Chairman Jayne Govar adjourns the meeting without any objections.

Suzanne Widenhouse
Chief Appraiser/Secretary

APPROVED:

J. GOVAR
CHAIRMAN

K. JONES
ASSESSOR

D. JEFCOAT
ASSESSOR

ABSENT

C. HOOD
ASSESSOR

L. SANDIFER HICKS
VICE CHAIRMAN

Columbus Water Works



*Serving our Community
Protecting the Environment*

February 9, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners of Columbus, Georgia, was held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at our Main Office, Chattahoochee Room. Chairman Nick Smith took the roll call, and the following Commissioners were present:

Nick Smith, Chairman
Jennifer Upshaw, Vice Chair
Brooks Yancey
Oz Roberts
Mayor Skip Henderson

Receipt of the Minutes from the regular meeting on January 12, 2026, was presented to the Board. A motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried.

Aric Jackson recognized the following promotions for the month of January: Wayne Wilkins, promoted to Field Services Technician II, and Justin Bryan, promoted to Field Services Technician I.

Vickie Clark presented the Financial Report for January 2026, including Ft Benning, to the Board. A motion was made by Brooks Yancey and seconded by Oz Roberts to approve the Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Vickie Clark reviewed Series 2026 Revenue Bond and the refinancing of Series 2014A & 2016 Bonds. She explained the need to fund the Capital Improvement Program, and staff recommended proceeding with the 2026 Bond Issuance. A Resolution was presented to the board to move forward with the bond issuance. A motion to move forward was made by Mayor Henderson and seconded by Oz Roberts. Motion carried.

February 9, 2026

To: Mr. Nick Smith, Chairman
Mrs. Jennifer Upshaw, Vice Chairman
Mr. Oz Roberts
Mr. Brooks Yancey
Mayor Skip Henderson

From: Jeremy Cummings

Re: Series 2026 Revenue Bond Issue & Combined Refinancing of Series 2014A & 2016 Bonds

Based on the current market conditions, a current refunding of the callable portion of the Series 2014A & 2016 Bonds, totaling \$37,705,000, is estimated to produce significant savings for Columbus Water Works. This refunding opportunity of the Bonds can be undertaken in concert with the planned financing of the Capital Improvements Program which should further enhance cost savings and efficiencies.

The refunding transaction is currently estimated to provide \$4,549,133 cash flow savings and net present value savings of \$3,958,560 representing a savings of 10.50% of the refunded amount. This savings opportunity has arisen due to lower interest rates (a 2.65% refinancing rate) and timing is of the essence to secure these savings.

In addition to the refunding transaction of the Series 2014A & 2016 Bonds, the markets are favorable to undertake financing of the proposed \$110 million Capital Improvement Program. Based on the current market conditions, the proposed 30-year new money bonds associated with the capital program will have an average financing rate of approximately 4.00%.

Staff request Board approval to proceed with bond refinancing and funding of the \$110 million Capital Improvement Program with assistance from the City Attorney and City Council approval.

**RESOLUTION OF THE
COLUMBUS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Columbus, Georgia (the “**Issuer**”) is a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, duly created and validly existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Georgia and owns a water and sewerage system (the “**System**”) in Columbus, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Issuer plans to issue not to exceed \$140,000,000 in original aggregate principal amount of its Columbus, Georgia Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2026 (the “**Series 2026 Bonds**”); and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners (the “**Board**”) has been charged with the supervision and control of the building, construction, operation and management of the System; and

WHEREAS, based upon market conditions and other factors relevant to the sound and prudent operation and management of the System, the Issuer from time to time provides for the issuance of (i) revenue bonds for the purposes of financing or refinancing certain additions, extensions, and improvements to the System and (ii) revenue refunding bonds in order to achieve certain policies and objectives including, without limitation, the realization of present value savings; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined, based upon such market conditions and other factors, that it is now in the best interests of the Issuer to pursue the issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the aggregate principal amount of the revenue bonds issued for the purposes of (a) financing or refinancing certain additions, extensions, and improvements to the System (the “**2026 Project**”), (b) refunding a portion of the outstanding Columbus, Georgia Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2014A (the “**Series 2014A Bonds**”), issued in the original aggregate principal amount of \$32,995,000, (c) refunding a portion of the outstanding Columbus, Georgia Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2016 (the “**Series 2016 Bonds**”), issued in the original aggregate principal amount of \$57,855,000, and (d) paying all or a portion of the costs of issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds, shall not exceed \$140,000,000 in aggregate principal amount, the proceeds of which may include original issue premium in addition to such principal amount.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, as follows:

Section 1. Authority for Resolution. This resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, including, but not limited to, the Revenue Bond Law of the State of Georgia (Ga. Code Ann. Section 36-82-60, et seq.), as amended (the “**Act**”).

Section 2. Findings. It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared by the Board of Water Commissioners that:

(a) after evaluating market conditions and taking into account other factors relevant to the sound and prudent operation and management of the System, including particularly the ability of the Issuer to achieve certain policies and objectives including, without limitation, (i) making additions, extensions, and improvements to the System, and (ii) the realization of present value savings of not less than 3% by refunding a portion of the Series 2014A Bonds and the Series 2016 Bonds, it is now in the best interests of the Issuer to issue the Series 2026 Bonds, which shall benefit the Issuer and the citizens of Columbus, Georgia served by the System, and will otherwise further the public purposes intended to be served by the Act; and

(b) based on the evaluation of market conditions described above and the advice of Terminus Municipal Advisors, LLC the Board of Water Commissioners finds that the conditions exist for the sale of the Series 2026 Bonds through a negotiated sale, and that the use of a negotiated sale will provide flexibility in timing and structuring and is reasonably expected to result in more favorable pricing and the achievement of the Issuer's financing objectives.

Section 3. Authorization to Proceed with Issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds. The Board directs the appropriate employees, agents, representatives and advisors of Columbus Water Works to take such actions as deemed necessary and appropriate to provide for the (a) financing or refinancing of the 2026 Project, (b) refunding a portion of the outstanding Series 2014A Bonds, (c) refunding a portion of the outstanding Series 2016 Bonds, and (d) paying all or a portion of the costs of issuance of such revenue bonds through the issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds; provided, however, that the aggregate principal amount of the Series 2026 Bonds issued for such purposes shall not exceed \$140,000,000, the proceeds of which may include original issue premium in addition to such principal amount.

Section 4. Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures. The Board hereby declares its official intent, pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 promulgated under the Code, to be reimbursed from proceeds of the Series 2026 Bonds for capital expenditures to be paid or incurred prior to the issuance thereof for capital costs relating to the 2026 Project and the purposes contemplated hereby.

Section 5. Acknowledgment of Receipt of MSRB G-17 Letter. The Board acknowledges receipt from Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated of the MSRB G-17 letter dated January 29, 2026.

Section 6. Designation of Bond Counsel. Subject to approval by the Issuer, the Board hereby designates Butler Snow LLP, Atlanta and Macon, Georgia, as bond counsel for the Bonds.

Section 7. Compliance with Issuer's Debt Policy. In accordance with the Issuer's Debt Management Policy, the Board desires to engage Terminus Municipal Advisors, LLC as the financial advisor to the Board to provide objective advice and analysis on the marketing, pricing, and sale of the Series 2026 Bonds, and such engagement is hereby approved. The Board shall pay the fees of the financial advisor from the proceeds of the issuance of the Bonds.

Section 8. General Authority. From and after the adoption of this resolution, the proper officers, members, agents, and employees of Columbus Water Works are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to do all such acts and things, including, but not limited to executing and

delivering all documents, instruments, or certificates, as may be necessary or convenient to carry out and comply with the provisions of this resolution.

Section 9. Actions Approved and Confirmed. All acts and doings of the officers, members, agents and employees of Columbus Water Works which are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this resolution and matters approved herein are hereby in all respects approved and confirmed.

Section 10. Formal Request for Issuer Action. The Board hereby authorizes and directs its agents, representatives, and employees to provide a certified copy of this resolution to the Issuer and to request that the Council of Columbus, Georgia adopt a resolution authorizing the appropriate employees, agents, representatives and advisors of Columbus Water Works to take such actions as deemed necessary and appropriate to provide for the issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds and contemplated hereby.

Section 11. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and upon the approval of the actions of Columbus Water Works authorized herein.

9th APPROVED BY THE COLUMBUS BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS this day of February, 2026

Chair

Vice Chair

Member

Member

Member

ATTEST:

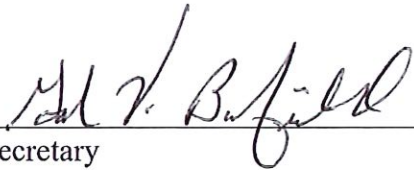
Secretary



SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Secretary of the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners does hereby certify that the foregoing pages of typewritten matter constitute a true and correct copy of a resolution which was duly adopted on February 9, 2026, in a meeting duly called and assembled, which meeting was open to the public and at which a quorum was present and acting throughout, that notice of such meeting was duly given in accordance with Georgia law, and that the original of such resolution appears of record in the minute book of the Columbus Board of Water Commissioners which is in my custody and control, and that the same has not been modified, amended, repealed or rescinded as of the date hereof

Given under my hand and the seal this 9th day of February, 2026,


Secretary

(SEAL)



Jason Jay presented the following project to the Board for their approval. This program is a part of the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program. The program consists of: The rehabilitation of approximately 5,900 linear feet of 8-inch, 10-inch, 24-inch, and 36-inch sewer lines using Cured-In-Place Pipe method. Also includes the rehabilitation of approximately 100 manholes and one manhole replacement. On January 27, 2026, two bids were publicly opened and read as follows:

- Inliner Solution, LLC - \$1,284,927.50
- Insituform Technologies - \$1,872,357.00

The engineer's estimate was \$2,061,730.00. Inliner Solutions, LLC was recognized as the low responsive, responsible bidder at the bid price of \$1,284,927.50. After the bid opening, Inliner Solutions, LLC discovered a major oversight that did not include appropriate pricing for temporary bypass pumping. Based on this error, Inliner Solutions, LLC requested to withdraw its bid from consideration. The engineer reviewed Inliner Solutions, LLC bid and clearly saw the oversight. The engineer has reviewed and tabulated the bid and recommends awarding the contract to the next low responsive, responsible bidder to Insituform Technologies, at the bid price of \$1,872,357.00 (Funded via 2016 Bond, Columbus R&E, and Fort Benning R&R).

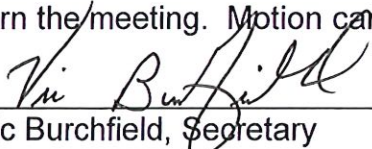
Staff requests Board approval to award the Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Program to Insituform Technologies at the bid price of \$1,872,357.00. A motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts. Motion carried.

Savonne Monell presented an overview of the CWW 2025 United Way Campaign. The campaign kicked off in late September 2025 at the Columbus Civic Center. The campaign goal was \$105,000.00. Several fundraising activities were held throughout the campaign. These included a hotdog sale, a fishing tournament, a chili cook-off, an employee-only raffle, and a retiree luncheon. The 2025 campaign was led by Eric Toney in our Engineering department. The total amount raised for the 2025 United Way Campaign was \$115,301.44, exceeding the goal. The 2026 Campaign Chair was announced. Hayden Collins, in our MMD department, has accepted this role.

The following Departmental Reports for January 2026 were provided to the Board as information only:

- Customer Service Report
- Meter Maintenance/Water Accountability Report
- Engineering Report
- Field Services Report
- Information Services Report
- Environmental Services Report
- Strategic Planning, Communications, Community Outreach Report
- Employee Services Report
- Water Resource Operations/Managed Maintenance Report

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jennifer Upshaw and seconded by Oz Roberts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.



Vic Burchfield, Secretary

**Development Authority of Columbus, GA
118 W. 11th Street, Suite 102
Columbus, GA 31901
February 12, 2026– 8:30 AM**

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selvin Hollingsworth Charles Ray Sheffield
Will White Doug Jenkins
Audrey Tillman
Geniece Granville

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rob McKenna (Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, PC), Missy Kendrick (DACGA), Michelle Phillips (DACGA), Andy Hilmes (DACGA), Andy Camp (Georgia Power)

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Selvin Hollingsworth called the meeting to order, and a quorum was present.

Minutes

Mr. Hollingsworth presented the minutes from the meeting on January 8, 2026. Ms. Audrey Tillman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Mr. Will White seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Charles Ray Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Doug Jenkins and Ms. Geniece Granville all voted in favor.

Finance Report

January 2026 – Mr. White presented the financial report for January 2026 with Total Assets and Equity of \$23,064,217.92 and Net Income of \$158,506.66. Mr. White made a motion to approve the financial report and Mr. Jenkins seconded. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

Economic Development Report

Ms. Missy Kenrick introduced Andy Camp with Georgia Power as our new regional partner.

MTP Clearing/Grading Update

Ms. Kendrick updated the board about the clearing and grading of MTP sites 12, 13 & 19. She advised the design work should be ready for next month's meeting.

Project Golden – South Commons Planning

Ms. Kendrick updated the board on the RFQ process for Project Golden. The RFQ review will close on February 17th. The undisclosed review committee will present the top 3. Mr. White made mention of Ms. Kendrick speaking to an acquaintance of his that could provide an RFQ. Ms. Kendrick advised him the RFQ process closed and she can not add anyone that did not follow the RFQ process.

Strategic Planning – December 12, 2025

Ms. Kendrick thanked the Board members who attended this year's Strategic Planning session. She advised the final strategic plan will be shared in the coming weeks.

Leadership Presentation at GP Experience Center

Ms. Kendrick reminded the board that Choose Columbus has been invited to the Georgia Power Experience Center to do a presentation on Columbus. The visit is scheduled for March 5, 2026, and the board members were again invited to attend.

Office Build Out

Ms. Kendrick received an updated quote regarding the build-out of the Development Authority's office space. She noted that additional details will be shared with the Executive Committee. She asked the board for permission to allow the Executive Committee to make decisions on the build-out on behalf of the board. There was no opposition.

Prospect Trip to Las Vegas – Shot Show

Ms. Kendrick informed the board that she and Mr. Hollingsworth attended the Shot Show in Vegas. She provided an overview of the manufacturers that they were able to meet. Among them were Realtree and H&K, both of whom are established manufacturers in Columbus.

Bond Admin Fee Structure

Ms. Kendrick asked the board to consider an increase in the amount the Development Authority charges for the bond administration fee. The board asked for the decision to be tabled for a future date so they could have time to review the increased amounts. Ms. Granville made a motion to table the issue until the next meeting. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

Economic Outlook

Ms. Kendrick expressed her appreciation to UGA and CSU for their participation in the Economic Outlook and stated that the response from community members was very positive.

Pratt & Whitney /RTX Ribbon Cutting – February 24th -1:30 PM

Ms. Kendrick reminded the board about the ribbon cutting ceremony at Pratt & Whitney. She invited the board members and reminded them to RSVP to ensure the proper documentation was received for security clearance in time for attendance.

Project Activity

Ms. Kendrick advised the board that project activity has been slow. She expressed no concern. Andy Camp with Georgia Power advised that the state has seen the same activity level.

Workforce Development/Military Affairs**A&P (Airframe & Power Plant Maintainer) Update**

Mr. Andy Hilmes updated the Board on the A&P (Airframe and Power Plant) Maintenance School. \$897,000.00 Congressional Direct Spending request to purchase tools & equipment for Phase I of Airframe and Power Plant Maintenance program was funded with passage of federal budget on February 3, 2026. He advised that it is unlikely that the funds will be on hand until early Fall. Columbus Technical College will likely push back start of instruction until Fall 2027 due to long lead time to getting equipment in hand. Mr. Hilmes advised that the next steps will be to continue fundraising the \$600k for salaries (years 1&2) for Phase I and to work on state funding for Phase II, \$27.8M.

Fort Benning Restructure

Mr. Hilmes shared with the board that Ft. Benning will have industry day on February 25th at Ironworks. He stated that it will be hosted by the local chapter of the Association of the United States Army. MG Tulley will provide remarks at the event. Mr. Hilmes noted that there is significant interest in this year's event due to MG Tulley's designation as the Portfolio Acquisition Executive for ground maneuver programs – over 400 attendees signed up as of last week. Mr. Hilmes invited the board members to attend, free of charge.

EVTOL

Mr. Hilmes spoke about the electrical Vertical Takeoff & Lift (eVTOL). Mr. Hilmes shared that eVTOL are aircraft with distributed electrically driven propulsors which are only connected electrically to energy sources.

Ms. Kendrick suggested that the agenda be amended to move the discussion of Project Ruby before Executive session and to add Legal Actions. Ms. Granville made a motion to approve amended agenda. Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

City Update

Ms. Pam Hodge noted the FY 2027 Budget planning is underway. Ms. Hodge added there is a Bill proposed to eliminate property taxes. She also noted that there has been a reduction in crime statistics.

Legal Actions

Hilton Garden Inn Bond Termination

Mr. Rob McKenna presented Hilton Garden Inn bond for termination. Mr. White made a motion to approve the termination of the bonds. Ms. Tillman seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

Board Member Reappointment

Ms. Kendrick noted that Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Gower have expressed willingness to continue serving on the board, and that the Development Authority of Columbus, Georgia has requested their reappointment by the city council. The council will vote in April on the appointments.

Project Ruby

Ms. Kendrick announced that Project Ruby would be locating to Columbus with a capital investment of \$5.18 B, 195 jobs with average wages of \$80K - \$100,000K.

Executive Session

Ms. Tillman made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Mr. Sheffield seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. Granville seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins, and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

Ms. Granville made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Mr. White, Ms. Tillman, Mr. Jenkins, and Ms. Granville all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Missy Kendrick
President/CEO

**Development Authority of Columbus, GA
118 W. 11th Street, Suite 102
Columbus, GA 31901
February 24, 2026– 8:30 AM**

Minutes – Special Called Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Selvin Hollingsworth Will White
Charles Ray Sheffield Doug Jenkins
Laura Gower Geniece Granville

OTHERS PRESENT:
Rob McKenna (Page, Scrantom, Sprouse, Tucker & Ford, PC), Missy Kendrick (DACGA), Michelle Phillips (DACGA), Christy Bozeman (GDEcD)

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Selvin Hollingsworth called the meeting to order, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Inducement Resolution – Project Titan

Mr. Hollingsworth asked for a motion to approve an Inducement Resolution for Project Titan. Mr. Doug Jenkins made a motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Will White seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Charles Ray Sheffield, Ms. Laura Gower, Mr. Jenkins, and Mr. White all voted in favor.

Ms. Geniece Granville arrived.

Bond Admin Fee Structure Approval

Ms. Kendrick presented a bond fee structure and asked the board to approve the increase of the bond fees. Mr. Sheffield made a motion to approve the new structure. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Hollingsworth, Mr. Sheffield, Ms. Gower, Mr. Jenkins, Ms. Granville and Mr. White all voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Missy Kendrick
President/CEO



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

*Administration
P.O. Box 5328
2100 Comer Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906*

*(706) 596-5588
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NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 13, 2020 Board Room – 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Nancy Schroeder,
Edwina Turner, Sherrell Terry, April Hughes, Karen Johnson,
LaVerne Chaffin, and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, Ed Harbison, and Linda McElroy

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Randall Newberry, Susan Gallagher, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Mack Moye, Stewart County Manager, and Harris County Probate Judge, Thomas Lakes.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of December 9, 2019 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Sherrell Terry to approve the minutes of December 9, 2019 meeting, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: December has not been closed out, but for the month of November there was a deficit of (\$4,163) with a year-to-date surplus of \$1,158. November is always a short month with 3 weekday holidays in the month which reduces revenue generation. There are only 19 working days in November compared to an average of 21 working days. We actually budget for a deficit in November due to the short month. We are running slightly behind budget year-to-date, with no unusual items. Days Cash on Hand at the end of December was 6.2 days. Andrea added that changes with the vendor that processes Developmental Disability authorizations have resulted in state-wide delays of collecting DD funds. State budget cuts have had an impact on additional slots we were allotted for Mental Health Supported Employment that had not been filled and we anticipate deeper cuts next year. Winter months are always slower months and with two providers leaving recently, our billing is impacted, but provider services continue and we hope to add telemedicine before the end of January.

*Serving Residents of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties
For 24-Hour Emergency Services Call (706) 323-0174 or Toll Free (800) 241-3659*

STRATEGIC PLAN: With goals of demonstrating superior treatment services, financial viability, and improving community awareness, the FY20 plan was presented for Board review with progress reported since July in several areas. Board members were asked to review the document, and provide feedback with updates on the plan presented in future meetings.

BOARD MEMBER TRAINING – CSB 101: HISTORY OF NEW HORIZONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: The GACSB Annual Educational Exchange has a Board Member track that provides useful information on Board practices, principles, and governance. Andrea encouraged Board members to attend the exchange, held in the fall, and participate in the trainings. She presented copies of our Mission and Vision statements and emphasized the need to make sure these are front and center, clearly articulated to the public, and are the basis for organizational decisions. A brief history of the agency was presented beginning in the 60's when we were known as the Columbus Area Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Program. The early 70's saw expansion of substance abuse treatment with detoxification and 28-day programs being added along with travel to the rural counties for services. Day treatment programs were added in the 80's, including programs for the elderly, and some enhancement of services for developmentally disabled individuals. The 90's brought additional funding and expansion of children's services and, at the same time, challenges with reducing utilization of state hospital beds. Then came House Bill 100, a measure reforming the delivery of services that created Community Service Boards and Regional Boards. The Bill embraced the principles of consumer participation, consumer choice, competition, and privatization. In 2006, House Bill 1223 was enacted. It addressed problems of board membership size, and concerns raised about the operations of Community Service Boards. Services were moved from the Department of Human Resources to the newly created Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) in 2009. More oversight and including elected officials in the makeup of the Board came as a result of issues with Gateway CSB. In 2014, New Horizons Community Service Board changed its name to New Horizons Behavioral Health.

PRESENTATION: PEER ALLIANCE IN RECOVERY (P.A.I.R.) Denise Wade McLeod reported on one of several projects developed and implemented by New Horizons' staff through DBHDD's Recovery Focused Transformation Initiative. The Peer Alliance in Recovery (P.A.I.R.) project follows the principles of recovery-oriented mental health practices that ensures services are delivered in a way that supports the recovery of individuals. These principles include: uniqueness of the individual, real choices, attitudes and rights, dignity and respect, partnership and communication and evaluating recovery. P.A.I.R. is a one-on-one peer mentoring program for all pathways for the community we serve that builds supportive relationships in order to save lives and build bridges for long-term recovery. Mentors and mentees establish their own contract of expectations for the P.A.I.R. relationship (length of relationship, values, boundaries, meeting time, etc). Opportunities for additional support include educational training such as Mental Health First Aid for mentors and networking opportunities for a future as a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) or Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialist (CARES). Denise indicated that through this program, we are learning that anything that provides additional support to the individuals we serve is beneficial to aid in long-term recovery. Photos from New Horizons' presentation of P.A.I.R. and other Recovery Focused Transformation Initiatives at the Behavioral Health Symposium held at Callaway Gardens in October were shown during the presentation.

APEX – SOUTHERN COUNTIES: Clinical Director, Denise Wade McLeod, reported the vision of the Georgia APEX Program is easy access to high-quality care that serves children where they are. To accomplish this, our mission is leading accountable, effective, and sustainable school-based programming to support the behavioral health needs of Georgia's children and families. Program goals include increasing access to mental health services for children and youth, providing early detection of child and adolescent mental health needs, and strengthening coordination between community-based mental health providers and local schools. Research indicates that school mental health services are essential to creating and sustaining safe schools, mentally healthy children are more successful in school and life, and school-based mental health services support the mission and purpose of schools: learning. Our time line for APEX in the Southern Counties was to have the MOUs reviewed and signed by the schools and New Horizons (completed), and to interview and hire 3 new counselors and have them complete required training by January 20, 2020 (delayed due to lack of applicants, one counselor hired, will start 1/16/2020). If challenges with hiring continue, Plan B is to hire counselors from Muscogee County and allow/compensate for time/travel to the southern county schools.

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING PLANS FOR 2020: Susan Gallagher presented "Welcome 2020, a New Year of Challenges and Success." Development plans and goals include: Promote Integrated Healthcare, Continue to Grow Advisory Board Membership, Submit up to 3 Federal Grant Applications, and Expand and Promote Recovery Month Activities (5th Annual Run4Recovery, Recovery Month Luncheon, and Recovery in the Park). Marketing Plans and Goals for 2020 are: Develop Constant Contact ListServ and start Quarterly Newsletter by March 2020, Partner with Columbus Chamber of Commerce around free QPR trainings to local business, organizations, and faith communities, and continue to segment email groups for targeted information. Community Relations Plans and Goals outlined monthly events focused on Behavioral and Integrated Health, HIV testing, Back to School events and continued Conversations of Courage around suicide awareness and prevention through trainings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Quitman County Board member, Linda McElroy, is unable to attend Board meetings for the next few months due to medical reasons. She may be facing surgery soon followed by recovery time. Board members signed a card and expressed good wishes for her recovery.

Andrea reported on a meeting she and Susan attended last Friday at the Bradley Center with the DBHDD Commissioner and her team, Regional Office staff, WCGRH staff, St. Francis, Bradley Center, and Pastoral Institute staff, and the Mercer University President and his team. Discussion focused on: 1) A request for funding to relocate geriatric-psychiatric beds from the Bradley Center to St. Francis to provide improved physical healthcare needs and utilizing those beds to expand the number of crisis beds, and 2) Implementation of a partnership with the Bradley Center, WCGRH, and New Horizons with the Mercer University program of Graduate Medical Education Psychiatric Residents. The Commissioner's responses referenced the recent budget cuts at DBHDD with more expected next year and no plans to expand services. No definite decisions were reached, but the Board will be updated on any future developments.

Andrea proudly announced that New Horizons received a three-year CARF accreditation based on our survey last fall. She extended thanks to staff, program directors, and Board members who were instrumental in the success of the survey.

Mr. Ranieri introduced Judge Lakes, Harris County Probate Judge since 2016, a guest at today's meeting. Board members introduced themselves along with the county they represent. Andrea gave a brief overview of services and the areas we serve. Mr. Lakes expressed interest in learning more about the agency and the services we provide.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Moye emphasized that New Horizons, with an annual budget of \$25 million dollars, is not a small agency.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

Administration
P.O. Box 5328
2100 Comer Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906

(706) 596-5588
FAX (706) 596-5589

**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

April 13, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,
Sherrell Terry, April Hughes, Karen Johnson,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, LaVerne Chaffin, and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today’s meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY’S MEETING: No guests were on the teleconference call.

*** SECRETARY’S MINUTES (Approval of February 10, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

COVID-19 PREVENTION RESPONSE & FINANCIAL REPORT: Andrea acknowledged and thanked all Board Members who were able to join in on the call. She stated that while the past weeks have been a time of great stress and uncertainty, the work of New Horizons is critical to our most vulnerable population and we are making every effort to provide services within the guidelines to our individuals during this time. The NH team has been amazing in dealing with all the changes for our individuals, our staff, and the economic impact of Covid-19.

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For Our New Normal, Andrea reported the following:

Program Changes by Service Type

MH and AD Case Management Programs - Continue to be provided face to face on a limited basis, but mostly via telephone.

MH and AD Day Programs - Closed to individuals, staff continues to work at centers, but make billable calls to individuals. Services were previously 4-5 hours per day, but are now 30-60 minutes if the individuals opt to participate daily. This has drastically reduced revenue at these programs.

MH and AD Outpatient Clinics - All clinics remain open for individuals to come in, however, we are offering telephonic /video chat appointments. Intakes and appointments for hospital discharges are still available.

MH and AD Clubhouse - All Clubhouses and Peer Support Centers are closed to individuals. Staff continues to remain connected with their individuals via phone calls, social media events, YouTube channels, and virtual 12 step meetings. One clubhouse is offering a virtual cooking class for children.

MH and AD Residential Services - All residential programs continue to operate using social distancing such as in room meals and spacing of furniture around the periphery of the rooms to encourage the 6 ft. distancing.

Administrative Departments - Administrative departments have been scaled down and several work from home. All agency meetings are conducted via teleconferencing or video chat platforms. Many staff now have access to their virtual desk tops, email, and video conferencing capabilities. Interoffice mail is now limited to one time per week.

DD Service Centers are completely closed, with only 2 staff remaining and weekly calls to check on individuals, no billing is available at this time.

SEP - Group work such as recycling and the Mead program are completely closed, staff from the service centers call weekly to check on individuals. SEP individuals that work in the community continue if their job site remains open. Job coaches work face to face or call employers to offer support.

CLS - Offered on a limited basis if the individuals still wants the service.

CAI - Has been dramatically reduced due to stay at home orders.

Residential Services - DD residential services continue in our group homes. Activities and outings are not allowed at this time.

Positive New Initiatives:

Our IT Department has worked tirelessly to make new forms of communication available in this new world. In a matter of days they have:

- Provided staff with several tools to communicate with individuals to include access and training of staff on several video chat platforms including Zoom, Just Meeting, Doxy.me, and this UberCall phone conferencing line.
- Set up an army of staff to instantly be able to work from home using their own computers and worked to ensure that all platforms meet the HIPPA standards for privacy.
- Assisted all staff that are working from home to forward their email and office phones to their cell phones so that no communication is lost.

New Horizons Pharmacy is now delivering medications to our group homes and to individuals who are able to pay by credit card.

Pandemic Support Team-Special Ops - We have solicited staff to be available to support residential services in the event of staff not being able to come to work.

Covid Resource and Education Team - This team of case managers is calling all NHBH individuals to check on them, and to provide education, resources, and support as it relates to Covid-19 symptoms and prevention strategies. Staff is also working to educate individuals on assistance available through the CARES act, such as eviction prevention and health services.

Unscheduled Check-Ins by Medical Team - Our physicians are calling individuals to provide support, medication assistance, and psychiatric assessments. These are unscheduled checks-ins via telephone to make sure all individuals are doing as well as they can and do not escalate into a crisis situation.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Valerie presented the following financial information:

- Surplus of \$5,049 through February 2020 compared to a budget of \$18,720. There were no unusual items in the revenue and expense activity.
- Days Cash on Hand at the end of March were 5.69, up from February of 4.75. The Days Cash on Hand going into April COVID-19 operations would only cover a portion of a pay period.
- The two main sources of revenue are Medicaid and GIA. With Medicaid making up 57% and GIA 43%.

DBHDD Current Financial Assistance Efforts – DBHDD has issued 3 contract amendments

- Amendment to cover all MH & AD contracts that reimburse based on program activity. DBHDD provided schedules that indicated what New Horizons average monthly revenue has been this fiscal year for each contract. At month end, when we submit invoices, if the reimbursement will be less than the average, we can apply a COVID-19 adjustment to the invoice that will bring the invoice up to the average monthly amount.

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- Amendment to cover DD GIA revenue that reimburses based on program activity. DBHDD provided schedules that indicated what New Horizons average monthly revenue has been this fiscal year for each contract. At month end, when we submit invoices, if the reimbursement will be less than the average, we can apply a COVID-19 adjustment to the invoice that will bring the invoice up to the average monthly amount.
- Amendment to cover GIA FFS reimbursement. DBHDD calculated what New Horizons average monthly GIA FFS reimbursement has been for the months July 2019 through January 2020. Starting with April, we will receive that amount each month regardless of how much we bill. We will also be able to continue to bill and collect on any activity prior to April 1 that we have not been reimbursed for yet.

DBHDD Pending Financial Assistance Efforts

- DBHDD submitted an Appendix K, which has been approved, which will allow for some of the currently closed DD Services to be conducted via telephone or video chat and receive Medicaid reimbursement. This was just approved on Friday and we are reviewing and analyzing the document to determine our plan of action. There will be a webinar on Wednesday to review Appendix K and provide answers to questions.
- Appendix K will also allow Medicaid DD Retainer Payments. DD Community Residential Alternative, Community Living Support Services, Supported Employment Services, Prevocational Services and Community Access services will be authorized for retainer payments in the event that the provider is not serving the member under other comparable services or using differential staff such as family caregivers to provide service.
- State Health Benefits Plan forgiveness. The State Association (GACSB) has submitted a request to have the State Health Benefit Plan insurance expense to be forgiven for the months of April & May. This represents approximately \$150,000 a month for New Horizons

Financial Solvency Efforts: Andrea reported on the following measures taken:

- Delaying Rent Payment – Landlords were informed rent payments would be delayed.
- Holding payments to creditors – Some checks to creditors are being held.
- Furlough of staff- Approximately 128 employees are on furlough.
- SBA Loans – New Horizons is checking to see if we qualify for these loans/funds.
- CARES Act - Most do not apply to us because of our Quasi State Status.
- Billing for Covid Support Services –A large number of staff are providing these services.

HR-Furlough Strategy by impacted programs and seniority:

Andrea reported our Human Resources Department filed for unemployment on behalf of many of our impacted staff and some have already begun receiving payments.

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Safety Officer Report: - Andrea presented data on individuals exposed, staff exposed, positive cases, and the breakdown for our counties related to Covid-19. One individual who tested positive was referred to a DPH isolation site in Forsyth, GA. DPH screening and testing sites have been set up in our counties and the DPH Isolation Referral Program has two locations available for Georgia residents. Challenges have been met in getting needed Personal Protection Equipment for staff, but we have searched diligently to locate them. Screening of staff and individuals entering work sites will continue as long as needed for safety concerns. Staff will continue to work from home to follow stay at home orders, and enhanced sanitizing efforts are being enforced.

Going Forward – Andrea reported that New Horizons continues to focus on safety, support, and resources for our individuals. We are maximizing all billing opportunities, working to keep morale up with our team members while keeping Covid prevention activities at the forefront and not getting relaxed, finding ways to save money on expenses, practicing self-care, and continuing furlough until the shelter in place order is lifted while recognizing the positive elements of this new normal.

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING PLANS: Susan presented the following updates:

Website:

- Landing Page updated with COVID-19 protocols.
- Services Pages updated with COVID information.
- News Stories feature Operating Hours, Pharmacy Delivery Service and Mental Health Resources & Crisis Lines.
- Site was recently updated to feature I/DD services on the Home Page. All home page photos updated.
- Calendar Updated.
- Constant Contact Sign-up Form added.

Facebook/Twitter:

- Posting regularly to Facebook & Twitter(4 x daily each site, less on weekends).
- Featuring information on National and State Crisis and Help Lines.
- Re-tweeting posts by NAMI, Mental Health America, Mental Health Georgia, etc.
- Including our website and phone number in most re-tweets.
- Created a New Horizons Employee Facebook Group to share information and support.
- #InThisTogether, #TeamNewHorizons, #MentalHealthMatters.

Constant Contact:

- “From Our CEO” Letter
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Continue to develop e-mail listserv

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Local Media and Press Releases:

- Working with Image By Design to develop a Mental Health Awareness Video Campaign.
- Regular Press Releases to all local media outlets – especially on Mental Health during COVID.
- WLTZ and WTVM have run stories about New Horizons on the evening news.

Community Outreach:

- All Community Outreach Events - Health Fairs, Resource Fairs, Job Fairs, etc. have been cancelled for the near future.
- DBHDD Mental Health Awareness Trainings suspended.
- Artistic Ability Project suspended.
- Children’s Mental Health Symposium postponed until Friday, September 4th, 2020.
- Run 4 Recovery is scheduled for September 12, 2020.
- Persons Serving Older Adults is organizing a Care-A-Van to ‘visit’ area nursing homes. NHBH will include information on our services, good Mental Health, Crisis and Access Line, and Emotional Support Line.

Funding Opportunities:

- Registering ALL NHBH sites in order to apply for FCC Telehealth funding.
- SAMHSA announced a Workforce Support grant for Substance Use Disorder programs. Only 8 awards in the nation. Application due June 1, 2020. Working on getting required Letters of Commitment.
- Dept. of Community Supervision asked NHBH to provide a price quote for Substance Abuse Aftercare Services.
- Pending notice from DBHDD re: Zero Suicide Prevention Contract. (3) CSBs were selected to participate if DBHDD receives SAMHSA funds.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Andrea asked Board members to share how they and their families are doing during this unusual, challenging time. Each member gave a personal account of their situation and the impact on their families and community. They also expressed thanks and appreciation for the great job New Horizons’ leadership team and staff are doing to adjust and adapt to this ever changing environment and to continue to offer services and support for the individuals we serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea reported LaVerne Chaffin lost her father last week and extended condolences to her and her family.

Ben Pitts recently resigned as DD Coordinator. JoAnn Mosley is serving as Interim Director.

Joseph Williams expressed concerns about the Detention Center in Stewart County with a number of Covid-19 cases.

David Ranieri thanked Andrea and all New Horizons staff for all their efforts in keeping staff and individuals safe while continuing to provide services as much as possible during these challenging times and asked if there was anything the Board could do to assist. Andrea responded that we are very grateful and appreciative of the support and prayers offered by the Board and encouraged them to reach out if they have questions or needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:50 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

May 11, 2020

Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,
Sherrell Terry, Damon Hoyte, Karen Johnson,
and LaVerne Chaffin

Members Excused: April Hughes, Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, Linda McElroy,
and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today's meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: No guests were on the teleconference call.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of April 13, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the minutes of April 13, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

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TRANSPORTATION FUNDING REQUEST MEETING WITH DBHDD: Andrea reported, “For several years we have been talking to the department about our perceived inequities between our agency and other CSBs that receive funding to provide transportation for their GIA individuals. We have also been in robust conversations with our advocacy group, the GA Association of CSBs, regarding our financial concerns. Fortunately, Robyn, with the Association, was able to set up the meeting with DBHDD senior financial leadership. We met with Robert Dorr, Director, Division of. Accountability and. Compliance, Jeff Minor, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer, Mary Price, CFO for DBHDD, Robyn Garrett, Executive Director at the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards, Valerie, and myself.” Andrea indicated that each year New Horizons provides transportation for all of our individuals and the only funding we receive is for our Medicaid individuals. The entire transportation department loses approximately 700K dollars each year. Our agency also invests 370K of our own money to provide transportation to the GIA individuals. DBHDD funds GIA transportation for other CSBs by funneling money to the State of Georgia Coordinated Transportation System. After a lengthy conversation, the department acknowledged that we should have some money allocated for our GIA trips through the Coordinated Transportation System. They committed to looking into the system to see what happened to the money that should have been allocated to us. Valerie did a really good job of presenting the budget information, as well as our efforts to secure other funding related to Covid-19, to assist the agency. They requested that we look through each of our contracts to see if, perhaps, a line item had been omitted for GIA transportation funding and, after a review, we later confirmed that there was not any line item for GIA transportation. They committed to reviewing the transportation dollars that were given to Coordinated Transportation to see if any, or a portion, could be allocated to New Horizons. Board members were excited to hear this meeting took place and eagerly await the outcome.

GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED CUTS: On May 1st the Governor announced dramatic plans to slice the state’s budget 14% from the base of the FY20 original budget. That means an approximate 10% cut to the FY21 DBHDD budget since we have already sustained a 4% cut in FY20.

From the State of Georgia Memorandum:

“As you know, we have a strict constitutional mandate to create and adopt a balanced budget for our state.

“Due to the rapidly changing revenue picture for FY 2021, at this time we are asking every state agency to prepare for an FY 2021 budget that includes a 14% reduction from their FY 2020 original base.

“While the Great Recession of 2008 was considered to be a ‘once in a lifetime’ event, our current situation will certainly overshadow it. That is why this request is being made to ALL areas of the state budget with no exceptions.”

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Andrea reminded the Board that late last year, during board meeting, we discussed the need to look at each program's economic viability in terms of it being able to cover its own expenses and also, if it positively contributes to our agency's overhead. Specifically, we had several discussions surrounding our financially burdensome Shelter Plus Care program. In light of the governor's pending cuts, we need to take a very hard look at programs and services that are not currently viable. We know that any cuts ultimately result in a loss of services, however, if we do not redefine our service lines in accordance with business practices, we, as the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, will not survive.

Most economists indicate that we are headed for a recession that will be on the heels of an already economically depleted nation. Locally, several businesses will not be able to reopen, and stimulus checks, and unemployment compensation for employees will be depleted. So, for our agency, it will be virtually impossible for us to weather the current loss of revenue from program closures, and to then face a cut in our revenue streams for FY21 that starts in July.

Andrea continued, "Valerie and I are analyzing each program and will be prepared to make recommendations regarding specific programs and service lines that may be subject to discontinuation for the new fiscal year. Of course, we will present our plans for your consideration and approval prior to the new fiscal year." Board members asked if proposed cuts of programs, services, and staff would be presented in the June Board meeting and Andrea assured them a plan would be presented at that time. All State departments/agencies are asked to make these cuts, including Family Connection.

COVID-19 RESPONSE:

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie presented the following financial information:

- We are still closing out the month of April and will have April revenue & expense results at the next board meeting. For the month of March, we incurred a deficit of (\$14,195) and have a year-to-date deficit of (\$9,146). The deficit is due to reducing services on March 23 due to COVID-19. Medicaid revenue and GIA FFS revenue for March was reduced by approximately \$40,000.
- Days Cash on Hand at the end of April were 2.81 days. April Medicaid collections were down approximately \$230,000 from March Medicaid collections, which is due to reduced services for the entire month of April.

DBHDD Current Financial Assistance Efforts – DBHDD has issued 3 contract amendments

- Amendment to cover all MH & AD contracts that reimburse based on program activity. At month end when we submit invoices, if the reimbursement is less than the historical monthly average, we can apply a COVID-19 adjustment to the invoice that will bring the invoice up to the average monthly amount. **Result: We were able to apply the COVID-19 adjustments to the March & April invoices and revenue from these DBHDD contracts has not been impacted by COVID-19.**

- Amendment to cover DD GIA revenue that reimburses based on program activity. At month end, when we submit invoices, if the reimbursement will be less than the historical monthly average, we can apply a COVID-19 adjustment to the invoice that will bring the invoice up to the average monthly amount. **Result: We were able to apply the COVID-19 adjustments to the March & April invoices and revenue from these DBHDD contracts has not been impacted by COVID-19.**
- Amendment to cover GIA FFS reimbursement. DBHDD calculated what New Horizons average monthly GIA FFS reimbursement has been for the months July 2019 through January 2020. Starting with April, we will receive that amount each month regardless of how much we bill. We will also be able to continue to bill and collect on any activity prior to April 1 that we have not been reimbursed for yet. **Result: April GIA FFS collections have not been impacted by COVID-19**

DBHDD Pending Financial Assistance Efforts

- DBHDD submitted an Appendix K, which has been approved, which will allow for some of the currently closed DD Services to be conducted via telephone or video chat and receive Medicaid reimbursement. **Results: We have been able to provide some of these services, although it does not allow us to bill at the pre-COVID levels. We are down about \$21,000 per month for these services.**
- Appendix K will also allow Medicaid DD Retainer Payments. DD Community Residential Alternative, Community Living Support Services, Supported Employment Services, Prevocational Services and Community Access services will be authorized for retainer payments in the event that the provider is not serving the member under other comparable services or using differential staff such as family caregivers to provide the service. **Result: We have been able to bill for retainer payments for March and April. We will realize the positive cash impact of this in May.**
- State Health Benefits Plan forgiveness. The State Association (GACSB) has submitted a request to have the State Health Benefit Plan insurance expense to be forgiven for the months of April & May. This represents approximately \$150,000 a month for New Horizons. **Result: We have not been told no on this yet, but it does not look like it will happen.**

Grants/Funding requests we have worked on:

- GEMA COVID-19 Public Assistance Grant.
- USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program.
- Georgia Healthcare Foundation – Unrestricted operating support up to a maximum of \$15,000.
- National Council COVID-19 Relief Fund - **Have received \$1,000, 5 used laptops and free access to COVID-19 and Mental Wellness resources.**
- HHS CARES Act Provider Relief Funding - **Have received \$7,136.**
- United Way and the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley – Requested \$20,000 for the Covid Resource and Support Team.
- Payroll Protection Program.

PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW: Most of the staff we discussed last month remain on furlough. We have returned a few team members to assist with billing for the DD retainer payments and for some of the DBHDD funded contracts.

We are making plans for soft openings of some programs as we can while following safety guidelines. REACH Day Program has opened, with a small percentage of their traditional census, to test the social distancing and safety protocols put in place to see how our individuals would react. One of the largest hurdles is that a lot of people do not want to wear masks as it is uncomfortable.

Our Clinical Director is working with each program to develop site specific plans for either continuing limited services or to reopen at some point in the future.

The Outpatient Clinics and Residential services remain open. We have transitioned most of the outpatient appointments to telephonic or virtual platforms which have been well-accepted by our individuals.

The Children's SKY Clubhouse will open at the end of May for a limited summer program. We will take as many as we can safely house in the facility.

Case Management programs continue to work virtually or face to face, but are using pre-visit screening procedures.

Jail services continue on a limited scope in terms of doing assessments and med checks, however, groups have been suspended.

We are strategically looking at every program to establish safe opening plans and timelines in accordance with the GADPH and CDC guidelines. As of now, we are postponing opening large group programs in small facilities due to the inability to social distance.

Board members inquired about the morale of employees during this time. Andrea responded that overall it is good. Many of the employees on furlough are actually making more due to the stimulus checks and extra unemployment benefits. Some of the staff who continue working have flexible schedules of coming to the office on certain days and working at home on others. Our employees have really responded well to the changes and work hard to ensure New Horizons continues to operate as smoothly as possible. Nurse's Week celebrations last week were extra special honoring our front line staff who have gone above and beyond to help our individuals.

Programmatic Positive Elements: Last month we shared with you two new initiatives that were implemented to provide support to our individuals during this frightening pandemic. We are receiving very positive feedback regarding our Covid Resource and Education Team, as well as our Unscheduled Check-ins by the Medical Team. As you recall, the Covid Resource and Education Team of case managers is calling all NHBH individuals to check on them, and to provide education, resources, and support as it relates to Covid-19 symptoms and prevention strategies. Staff is also working to educate individuals on assistance available through the CARES act, such as eviction prevention and health services. Also, the Unscheduled Check-ins done by our Medical Team physicians who are calling individuals to provide support, medication assistance, and psychiatric assessments. These are unscheduled checks-ins via telephone to make sure all individuals are ok and do not escalate into a crisis situation.

NHBH Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2020

Covid Agency Numbers Update:

As of today, the COVID-19 numbers are:

- 3 Known individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus
- 7 Known staff exposed to the COVID-19 virus
- 6 Known individuals with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19

Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	371	12
Harris	66	1
Talbot	27	1
Chattahoochee	12	0
Stewart	31	0
Randolph	168	21
Clay	27	3
Quitman	6	1

DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING PLANS: Susan presented the following updates:

Today is Day 60 of the National Covid Emergency.

- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is also National Drug Court Month.
- National Prevention Week is May 10-16. DBHDD Office of Behavioral Health Prevention and Federal Grants is hosting a week of virtual events each day at noon:
 - Monday: Preventing Prescription and Opioid Drug Misuse
 - Tuesday: Preventing Underage Drinking and Alcohol Misuse
 - Wednesday: Preventing Illicit Drug Use & Marijuana Use
 - Thursday: Clearing the Air – All About e-Cigarettes and Vaping
 - Friday: Suicide Risk Factor and Covid-19
- As part of NEXUS, New Horizons Behavioral Health has become more involved with the Substance Abuse Prevention Project of Morehouse School of Medicine. Will do remote presentation at their May 12th meeting on signs and symptoms of anxiety and depression.
- The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley hosts a daily COVID update. Presented information on the DBHDD Emotional Support Line last week. Sharing information on the Friday webinar related to Suicide Risk Factors and Covid-19 this week.
- The DBHDD Mental Health Awareness Trainings are scheduled to resume in August pending local approval for group meetings & trainings for groups over 10. Our next training is QPR – 2 sessions – on September 22.
- The April 28 Facebook post about the National Guard visiting our Cuthbert Service Center was the most popular post in April with 1,470 people reached and 175 engagements (shared, liked, etc.). The April 17 post on Self-Care for Anxiety reached 816 people with 62 engagements. The April 6 post on the DBHDD Emotional Support line reached 449 people with 10 engagements and the April 5th post on Direct Support Workers reached 349 people with 49 engagements. Our April 13 post on the Census reached 328 people with 19 engagements.

Funding and other Initiatives in Progress:

- MAT response to DBHDD
- USDA Rural Utilities Services Grant
- FCC Covid Funding
- GEMA/FEMA Covid Funding
- Community Foundation Funding/National Council

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members shared how they and their families are handling these very challenging times with children out of school/at home, graduation, birthday, and wedding plans in limbo, elderly parents needing assistance, adjusting to working from home, running a political campaign, and preparing for retirement, all while sheltering at home. They expressed amazement and appreciation of New Horizons’ response to these challenges and the great job leadership and staff are doing to adjust and adapt while continuing to provide support and services for the individuals we serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Senator Ed Harbison lost his mother this past week. Flowers were sent and all are asked to remember his family in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Susan and Andrea will present tomorrow at the City Council meeting (via Zoom) regarding the new public health crisis, due to the fear, anxiety, and depression, that one in five persons experiences, that has now increased exponentially due to the pandemic.

Board Reappointments – Approved - (terms continue to 2023):

- Nancy Schroeder – Muscogee County
- Edwina Turner – Stewart County
- Linda McElroy – Quitman County

Pending: Sherrell Terry – Talbot County (reappointment not yet received)

Sandra Gill – term expires June 2020 – appointed by Board as optional member –

Mrs. Gill is interested in continuing to serve – Board vote needed in May or June meeting.

Thank you to all Board Members for their service and dedication to New Horizons and those we serve.

Mr. Ranieri thanked Board members and New Horizons staff for continuing to serve our most vulnerable population and encouraged everyone to keep up the great work being done. He expressed sympathy to Senator Harbison and his family, congratulations to Ms. Chaffin on her retirement, and best wishes to Ms. Terry on her campaign for Probate/Magistrate Judge in Talbot County.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:45 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 8, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, and April Hughes

Members Excused: Sherrell Terry, Damon Hoyte, Karen Johnson,
Linda McElroy, LaVerne Chaffin, and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today's meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Mack Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 11, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported we are still closing out the month of May and will present May revenue & expense results at the next board meeting. For the month of April, we incurred a surplus of \$48,308 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$61,823. Revenues are below budget due to a reduction of services related to COVID, but expenses (personnel, supplies, food) are also down due to reduction of services. Normally, the last quarter of the fiscal year is our strongest performance period, but the current COVID pandemic has impacted this. We have been able to manage our expenses and, even though we didn't meet budgeted surplus, we were able to operate in a surplus for April. That brings us to a year-to-date surplus of \$39,162, compared to a budget surplus of \$99,583.

Days Cash on Hand at the end of May increased to 3.43 days as compared to 2.81 days in April. Medicaid collections were down, but we were also able to keep expenses down resulting in a slight increase of days Cash on Hand.

OVERVIEW OF DBHDD CUTS: On May 1st, Governor Kemp announced that each state department would need to prepare and present a 14% budget cut with no exceptions. On May 26th, we received the proposed budget from DBHDD with the 14% cuts that we have been using to develop our strategy of cuts. On June 3rd, Governor Kemp announced that, in the coming weeks, he will send the updated revenue estimates to both Appropriations Chairs, England and Tillery and, after seeing reassuring signs of fiscal resiliency in our state, he has asked the Office of Planning and Budget to send a letter to the House and Senate Budget Offices to plan for an estimated reduction for FY21 of 11% v/s 14% previously requested.

On June 12th the Human Development & Public Health Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee will meet to review the proposed budgets to include that of:

- Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Department of Human Services
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Department of Veterans Service
- Department of Public Health
- Sexual Offender Review Board
- Office of the Child Advocate
- DHS -Division of Child and Family Services
- Council on Aging
- Family Connection
- Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission
- Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

June 15th is the date for the 2020 Legislative Session to reconvene and the new State of Georgia fiscal year begins July 1. We don't know exactly what the new cuts will be, but we are grateful that they will be reduced. DBHDD has proposed substantial cuts of their own departments to include 24 days of furlough, reduction of administrative travel, and elimination of a number of field office positions as well as hospital positions. CSBs across the State will be impacted by the cuts, but smaller providers, so far, have not been affected.

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The cuts that impact us are categorized into four (4) sections to include:

- Adult Addictive Diseases
- Adult Developmental Disabilities
- Adult Mental Health
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health

NHBH PROPOSED PROGRAMMATIC & SERVICE CHANGES: The proposed cuts and changes will fall into either of two categories that may be subject to change when the new DBHDD budget is revealed sometime after June 15th. As stated earlier, in previous board meetings, all cuts will be painful. Andrea indicated, “However, I am of the mindset that our posture in the community is to be the safety net and that our focus should be on the most vulnerable and underserved populations. Given that we cannot be all things to all people, it is my desire and vision to right size this organization so that we can provide excellent services to those who are most in need. I have tasked Valerie, our CFO, with developing a budget that would allow us to achieve a positive margin of at least one day Cash on Hand each month. As an organization, we need to have reserves that would allow for regular raises for our team members, and capital improvements in the near future such as facility and vehicle upgrades, and an upgraded medical record to name just a few. Our clients and team members deserve programming and services that are able to keep pace with the rapidly changing landscape, lest we fall behind and become the provider of last resort. In my vision, the changes are necessary, but I can assure you that we are making every effort to ensure that those who will be adversely impacted will be linked with any available resources to assist the.” DBHDD proposed mandated cuts (by varying amounts) include: APEX, Autism, Case Management, DD Service Centers, Georgia Housing Voucher, HUM, and ICM, with closures of Recovery Support Centers and C & A Clubhouses. New Horizons’ recommendation is to close our Therapeutic Foster Care program and transition it to DFCS with no disruption to the children or parents. With salaries being our largest expense, staffing cuts are expected in Administration and in programs that are closing, although staff could move to other programs if positions are available. If telehealth/telemedicine services continue, those would be more heavily utilized. All of this could change after June 15th when we know more about the State’s cuts. Andrea assured Board members that any cuts, closures, and impacts in their counties will not be taken lightly. Mrs. Turner asked that any updates on the Apex Program in Stewart and other southern counties be shared as it becomes available.

NHBH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES STATUS: Denise reported that we are working to open our programs for delivery of face to face (F2F) services. There is a growing need for our services and it is important that we be available to provide these much needed services. While telephone/telehealth has been extremely helpful, and we hope it continues, F2F is also important. One example of this is an individual who sits outside of our Midtown Recovery building waiting for the day it will open again. News reports tell of increasing numbers of overdose-related deaths and, in our local recovery community, some individuals in long-term recovery have relapsed. Our services are more critical now than ever before. There are obviously challenges with opening programs.

Here is a brief update on the status of many of our programs:

- Residential Sites – Continue to operate (AD, DD and MH).
- MSU / Clinic – Continues to operate for both F2F and telephone/telehealth visits.
- REACH Program – Now operating F2F on a limited basis.
- SKY Clubhouse – Now F2F operating on a limited basis.
- PCC – Now operating F2F on a limited basis.
- Connection ARSC – Now operating F2F on a limited basis.
- Midtown Program – Scheduled for soft-opening, limited basis, on Tuesday, June 9.
- Case Management – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- ICM – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- MHC Program – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- Apex Programs – Continue to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- MH SE – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- EMERGE – Continues to operate – primarily remotely for now.
- DD Service Centers – Continue to be impacted by the Shelter in Place order – looking at a soft opening July 1.
- DD SEP – Continue to be impacted by the Shelter in Place order – looking at a soft opening July 1.

In those programs where we provide F2F services we follow CDC guidance around screening, cleaning & disinfecting, social distancing, masks, and group sizes. Our programs are impacted by the limitations on the number of individuals who can be safely transported on the same van at the same time and by the number of individuals who can safely be in the same group room at the same time (social distancing). Our programs are also impacted by the number of individuals who are comfortable returning to services. Some report being eager to return, and others are more reluctant. We are finding our way and, in some ways, blazing a trail in the “new normal”.

Covid Agency Numbers Update:

As of today, the COVID-19 numbers for New Horizons are:

Known # individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus: 6 (3 new exposures since last report to Board)

Known # staff exposed to the COVID-19 virus: 9 (2 new exposures since last report to Board)

Known # individuals with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: 5 (3 new cases since last report to Board)

Known # staff with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: 6 (2 new positive cases since last report to Board)

Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	868	22
Harris	143	6
Talbot	43	2
Chattahoochee	180	0
Stewart	58	1
Randolph	187	20
Clay	49	2
Quitman	14	1

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DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING PLANS: Susan presented the following updates for Development, Marketing, and Community Relations:

DEVELOPMENT:

Covid Funding

- Healthcare Georgia Foundation awarded \$15,000 for PPE/Telehealth.
- Covid Community Fund awarded \$3,000 for PPE/Telehealth.
- GEMA Covid Funding Application in process. Reimburse for eligible expenses related to Covid.
- FCC Covid funding application in progress.
- Enterline Foundation for I/DD services. Updating application process for current cycle.

Other Funding:

- USDA Rural Utilities Services due July 13.
- DBHDD MAT application.
- DBHDD Georgia APEX application.
- SAMHSA HIV Navigators program Application submitted December 2019. Awards not announced yet.

MARKETING:

- SKY Clubhouse was featured on all (3) networks as a Summer Program for children with ADHD/Behavioral Health needs.
- Featured May 17 on Davis Broadcasting “Sunday Conversations” with Michael Soul.
- Website newsfeed featuring: Children’s Emotional Literacy; Mental Health and LGBTQ individuals, National HIV Testing Day. Updated regularly.

Facebook traffic has decreased since April. We lost 10 followers.

Top 3 Posts:

- May 7: 617 Reached 46 engagement “How to Recognize Anxiety in Yourself and Others.”
- May 7: 575 reached 106 engagement “Homeless No More in Randolph County.”
- May 22: 513 reached 23 engagement “SKY Clubhouse Summer Program.”
- May 7: 369 reached 64 engagement “Chamber Donates Hand Sanitizer.”

“Stop the Stigma” video has over 33,333 hits on YouTube. The video has been used across the nation and across the world in various campaigns, from Tuberculosis stigma to teen bullying. Image By Design president & CEO is working to get some local coverage on this fact and to share the video locally. There are plans to prepare a press release on the video and we have contacted members of the local Commission on Diversity with a link to the video. We hope to get more exposure to this timeless message.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

National Guard Infection Control Team sanitized both our facilities in Randolph County.

Run4Recovery is scheduled for September 12th, may change from run to walk.

Children’s Mental Health Symposium is scheduled for September 4th.

On-line Community Presentations using ZOOM.

Columbus City Council presentation on June 23 as part of the Mayor’s Agenda.

*** REAPPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER:** Sandra Gill was previously appointed as an optional Board Member and her term expires June 30, 2020. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to approve her reappointment for another three year term on the Board, Board approved. Gratitude and appreciation for Mrs. Gill’s dedicated and faithful service to the Board was expressed and shared. She responded that if there is anything she can do or assist with to please let her know.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members gave updates on how they and their families are handling these very challenging times and continue to express appreciation to New Horizons' leadership and staff for continuing to provide services and support our individuals, though it is difficult to hear news of cuts by the State.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Congratulations and best wishes to David Ranieri on his wedding this past weekend.

Sherrell Terry has been reappointed by the Talbot County Commissioners for another three year term on the Board.

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy are with Mr. Rosso, former Board Chairman, on the loss of his wife on May 19th.

We have received notification of transportation funding in the amount of \$23,000. While this amount does not come close to covering our transportation needs, it will help and lets us know our needs were recognized. We continue to pursue other transportation options for our individuals.

The Board meeting calendar for 2020 did not have a meeting scheduled for July. However, due to all the changes and updates during this pandemic, the Board was asked if they preferred to have a meeting next month. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to approve having a Board meeting on Monday July 13, 2020, Board approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Edwina Turner/Sandra Gill to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:45 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson



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NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 13, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Joseph Williams, Edwina Turner,
Nancy Schroeder, April Hughes, LaVerne Chaffin,
Sherrell Terry, Ed Harbison, and Karen Johnson

Members Excused: Sandra Gill, Damon Hoyte, and Linda McElroy

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Shannon Robertson, Kenyetta Plummer,
and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today's meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Mack Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of June 8, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to approve the minutes of June 8, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported we are still closing out the month of June and working on closing out the fiscal year and will have FY20 financial results at the next board meeting. For the month of May we incurred a surplus of \$108,078 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$57,232 which brings us to a year to date surplus of \$147,240 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$156,815. While revenues are below budget due to reduction of services due to COVID, expenses are also down due to reduction of services. We will continue to work to maintain expenses levels within reduced income capacity. Days Cash on Hand at the end of June were 5.54, an increase from May. Medicaid collections were down, but we were able to keep expenses down also. While we were able to increase days Cash on Hand by managing expenses during the reductions in revenue, remember that the DBHDD expectation is that we have 30 days Cash on Hand. The new fiscal year (FY21) began July 1 and the State budget cuts and the ongoing pandemic leave us with many unknowns regarding our financial outlook.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FY2019: The FY19 annual Financial Audit was received earlier this year and there were no audit findings. The report has not been reviewed with the Board due to requirements for teleconference meetings the past few months. Our Board Chair received a copy by mail from Baker & Associates for review. The same company will conduct our FY20 audit that is scheduled to begin August 24th and will be done on and off site. The plan is for the auditors to review the FY20 audit in a future meeting upon its completion.

DBHDD FINAL BUDGET CHANGES: Andrea reported the State cuts were reduced from 14% to 10% with elimination of mental health services to include: ADA Case Manager (\$9600), HUM (High Utilization Manager) (\$132,000), SKY Clubhouse (\$330,000), HOC (Housing Outreach Coordinator) (\$63,000), and APEX (40% salary cut) (\$101,000). IDD cuts include: High School Pilot Program for Employment (\$20,736), Family Support (State Funded) (\$123,189.73), Community Access Group (State Funded) (\$102,598), and Pre Voc Services (State Funded) (\$69,537). While some of our staff and program reductions will be based on the State Cuts, our inability to make up loss Medicaid Revenue over the past two months is forcing us to make our own internal cuts. Denise will review our very aggressive plan for those cuts which began with a number of staff separations to cut our Administrative overhead.

Our Financial Target for the cuts is \$1,750,000. This financial goal is based on the ability to save money and build reserves with minimal impact on the availability of services.

NHBH PROGRAM CONSOLIDATIONS, RELOCATIONS, & CLOSURES: SKY Clubhouse, High Utilization Management (HUM), and Housing Outreach Coordinator (HOC) are three programs/positions that have been eliminated due to State/DBHDD budget cuts. Programs consolidating or relocating include: Harris County Mental Health to the Harris-Talbot Service Center building, Harris-Talbot Service Center and IDD SEP individuals will relocate to Columbus Service Center. Stewart-Quitman Service Center individuals will consolidate with Randolph-Clay Service Center. The Stewart-Quitman Service Center building will be used for telehealth services in that area. Leases are being terminated at Midtown and REACH 1, with Midtown individuals relocating to Boxwood Place (Project Change Clubhouse building) and REACH I individuals moving into the Human Resources building on 2nd Avenue. Human Resources will move to the Administration area on Comer Avenue. Two mental health group homes will become IDD group homes and the Therapeutic Foster Care program is being transitioned to another agency. Many staff will continue to work remotely with team work hubs,

shared break rooms and conference rooms available in the main building for their use as needed. Board members asked about number of individuals being transported due to county relocations. Currently, 3 from Harris-Talbot Service Center to Columbus Service Center and 4 from Stewart-Quitman to Randolph-Clay Service Center, with 3 additional individuals transitioning in a few weeks.

STAFF SEPARATION/FURLOUGHED NUMBERS & LOCATIONS: In March, 132 staff were furloughed, 61 New Horizons staff, and 71 Health Care Staffing staff. Some employees have been able to return to work, 22 were laid off, and a few chose not to return due to health concerns or child care challenges, or made the decision to retire. Currently, we have 65 staff on furlough who, we hope, are continuing to draw unemployment benefits.

GRANT COLLABORATION WITH MSM: Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) in coordination with New Horizon Behavioral Health (NH) is applying for funds to purchase eligible telecommunications and telemedicine equipment under the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) grant to implement the Georgia Digital Framework for Health Equity, a telemedicine and telehealth education network in 9 rural counties in Georgia focusing on:

(1) Telemedicine: Treatment & Consultation at the Clinic Level, the Community Level and the School Level for behavioral health and substance abuse treatment including Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder, intervention and management; Family Medicine; chronic disease treatment and management; identification and treatment of Covid-19; and specialty referrals; and,

(2) TeleHealth: Education & Training at the Clinic Level, the Community Level and the School Level for behavioral health and substance abuse education and training including Grand Rounds and Continuing Medical Education (CME) for local health professionals; identification and management of chronic and/or emerging health issues including diabetes and Covid-19; High School Community Health Worker Competency Virtual Training; and Healthcare Career Development Tele-Shadowing.

Under the direction of Dr. Jinjie Zheng, Morehouse School of Medicine and Ms. Andrea Winston, New Horizons Behavioral Health, teams pulled all the components together to create a 100-page application. If awarded funding, New Horizons will receive telehealth equipment, hardware, & software valued at over \$100,000 for sites in our rural counties with Columbus serving as the hub. Morehouse School of Medicine is responsible for the 15% required matching funds. The application was successfully submitted by the Morehouse Team on Sunday, July 12.

COVID SURVEILLANCE REPORT:

Covid Agency Numbers Update:

As of today, July 13, the COVID-19 numbers for New Horizons are:

- Known # individuals exposed to the COVID-19 virus: **50 (44 new exposures since last report to board on 06/07/20)**
- Known # staff exposed to the COVID-19 virus: **26 (17 new exposures since last report to board)**
- Known # individuals with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: **10 (5 new cases since last report to board)**
- Known # staff with a lab confirmed positive test for the COVID-19 virus: **13 (7 new positive cases since last report to board)**

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Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	2766	56
Harris	425	12
Talbot	93	3
Chattahoochee	463	0
Stewart	215	3
Randolph	212	25
Clay	61	2
Quitman	22	1

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members provided updates on how they, their families, and communities are handling these very challenging times with all concerned about the increasing number of Covid cases in our area and nationwide. Board members continue to express appreciation to New Horizons’ leadership and staff for all their efforts in maintaining services and support to our vulnerable individuals while faced with difficult choices due to the cuts by the State.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Congratulations to Sherrell Terry who won the primary election in June for Magistrate Judge of Talbot County.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:25 p.m., Board approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:26 p.m, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter, Board Approved. Shannon Robertson instructed Board members on completion of the evaluation and returning it by mail or fax. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to adjourn the Executive Session at 4:36 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

November 9, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, April Hughes, Joseph Williams,
Ed Harbison, Edwina Turner, Nancy Schroeder,
Sandra Gill, Linda McElroy, and Sherrell Terry

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, LaVerne Chaffin, and Karen Johnson

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. Board Chair David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today's meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of September 14, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the minutes of September 14, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported New Horizons had a surplus of \$126,532 for the month of September compared to a budgeted surplus of \$29,392. During the month of September we continued to experience some reduced revenues due to reduction of services due to COVID. We continue to monitor program activity as we work in the COVID environment as some programs are limited in their ability to maintain required revenue levels in order to maintain social distancing guidelines with program attendance. We also continue to keep expenses down below budget because of the reduced program activity. Some of the measures that DBHDD put in place to maintain the grant-in-aid revenue will be ending soon. The DD retainer billing is minimal now that the time period for this is expiring and the 1/12 Grant in Aid Fee for Service for Behavioral Health services will end in December. Assuming these measures are not extended, we are predicting that the last half of the year we will operate at a little better than break even. This is also assuming that there is not such a resurgence with COVID as to cause us to need to close completely down again.

Days Cash on Hand at the end of October were 22.00 days. Revenue collections are still down, but we have been keeping expenses down also and were able to increase days cash on hand. While we were able to increase days cash on hand by managing expenses during the reductions in revenue, the DBHDD expectation is that we have 30 days cash on hand. The new fiscal year (FY21) began July 1 and, with the State budget cuts and the ongoing pandemic, it leaves us with many unknowns regarding our financial outlook so we continue to look for ways to maximize our resources and build cash reserves in order to be able to operate as we move through the new environment.

***RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM:** The CACFP federal program provides reimbursement for nutritious meals and snacks at our programs. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to continue participation in the CACFP program, Board approved.

***CLINICAL PLAN:** The FY21 plan, updated annually, was sent to Board members prior to the meeting for review. Updates to the plan included the Covid-19 impact and response on programs, services and revenue, plus information on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center initiative that DBHDD is implementing. M/S/P Sandra Gill/Joseph Williams to approve the Clinical Plan, Board approved.

CORE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING: DBHDD received an additional appropriation for Core Mental Health services as part of the SFY 2021 Adult Mental Health state program budget. When deciding how to allocate these funds, DBHDD utilized a two-part distribution methodology: 1) To provide for some level of growth across the safety-net, and 2) To begin to address the issue of historical inequity in funding across the CSB network. Each CSB was allocated an additional funding increase equal to approximately 5% of their initial SFY21 Maximum Reimbursement Limit allocation. Twelve historically “under-funded” CSBs were identified to receive the remainder of the appropriation per formula. New Horizons was not included in those twelve. In addition to the new funding, DBHDD has decided to extend Covid-19 Base (Fixed) Payments in lieu of Fee for Service reimbursement, through December 31, 2020.

GENOA PHARMACY TRANSITION UPDATE: Genoa has moved their time line up to December 4th for the pharmacy transition and our staff will help with the conversion. The pharmacy will reopen on Monday, December 7th as Genoa Pharmacy. They will be located in the same location, will employ our pharmacy staff, will purchase our inventory, and will rent the space from New Horizons. Signs and notices will be posted for our individuals and staff to notify them of the change. Prescriptions from Primary Care Physicians can also be filled at Genoa and family members and employees can utilize the new pharmacy. A Grand Opening is planned for early January.

***RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS FOR 2020-21 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS ESG HOMELESS PREVENTION, STREET OUTREACH, HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDING AND SHELTER PLUS CARE FOR HARRIS AND MUSCOGEE COUNTIES:** Requesting Board approval for participation in three Federally funded contracts: Shelter Plus Care - Harris County (Family) - \$223,752, Muscogee County - \$317,112, and ESG Hotel/Motel - \$9030, ESG Street Outreach - \$30,412, and ESG Homeless Prevention - \$34,353. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Linda McElroy to enter into Shelter Plus Care and ESG Contracts, Board approved.

DBHDD CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER INITIATIVE UPDATE: MTM Consultants have conducted several virtual meetings as part of the initial fact finding/assessment phase of the CCBHC initiative. The IT/EMR Assessment went well with only a few recommendations and the Gap Analysis has been done. The GACSB is redefining work groups to coincide with the CCBHC initiative to make the process go more smoothly. There are questions and concerns of why now for the CCBHC initiative and what the future holds for CSBs who do not meet the standards. The Governor formed a Behavioral Health Commission last year and many are wondering what impact they may have on the initiative. The planning phase begins in 2021 and updates will be provided to the Board as they develop.

STRATEGIC PLAN: The Strategic Plan was sent to Board Members prior to today's meeting for review. The plan is updated annually with progress reported quarterly on defined objectives of the Strategic Goals. Valerie highlighted several objectives including implementation of the Revenue Cycle process, preparations for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers, implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and development of systems/processes related to Covid-19 with progress noted on each.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE: Susan reported to the Board on the following:

Development/Fundraising

- Our FEMA application for \$18,000 in COVID-19 funds was sent to Legal review on September 11. As of October 25, it is still under review.
- Talbot County GA APEX Project Notice of Funding from DBHDD will be released soon. No definitive word if we are included in the funded applications.
- Implementation continues of the Opioid Response MAT-SOR Project. Contract start date is October 1 and we have currently have (3) referrals. Our target number is 50 referrals for the program year.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members shared information on how they, their families, and communities are handling the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. With new additions to families, balancing work and school from home and in-person while following social distancing and other guidelines, we continue to adapt to the many different directions our lives have taken. Getting updates from Board members and staff during this time of not being able to see each other is very meaningful for us.

A special thank you was extended to our Veterans and family members of Veterans for their service to our country as we approach Veterans Day on November 11th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A brief discussion of whether the December Board meeting should be held via teleconference or in person was held. Although everyone would love to meet in person, out of an abundance of caution, it was determined the meeting will be a teleconference.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sherrell Terry announced that she was recently elected Probate/Magistrate Judge of Talbot County and was congratulated by fellow Board members and staff. She wanted to ensure there was no conflict in her serving as both a Board member and elected Judge.

A Happy Thanksgiving was extended to all Board Members and Staff along with appreciation for the meaningful work we do.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Ed Harbison/Edwina Turner to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:32 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 14, 2020 Via Teleconference

Members Present: David Ranieri, Damon Hoyte, Joseph Williams,
LaVerne Chaffin, Edwina Turner, Nancy Schroeder,
and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: April Hughes, Ed Harbison, Sandra Gill, Sherrell Terry,
and Karen Johnson

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Valerie Bowden, Denise Wade,
Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, Cyndy Pattillo,
Ashley Mercer, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. A quorum was established at that time. Board Chair David Ranieri welcomed Board members and staff.

For safety concerns during Covid-19 pandemic, today's meeting is a teleconference call and, in accordance with the GACSB rules, will be recorded. Board members were made aware of this prior to the call and it was announced upon dialing in to the call. Molly Jones did a roll call of Board members and staff participating in the call.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Rhonda Collins, Robert Baker & Associates and Mac Moyer, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of November 9, 2020 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Damon Hoyte to approve the minutes of November 9, 2020 meeting, Board approved.

REVIEW OF NEW HORIZONS ANNUAL AUDIT – FY20: Rhonda Collins of Robert Baker and Associates, reported New Horizons Behavioral Health’s FY20 annual audit for the year ended June 30, 2020 was clean, with no findings. She commended Valerie and her staff for the awesome job they do in providing all the information needed for the audit, and for making the audit process run smoothly. Due to Covid-19, most of the audit was done electronically. The audit reflects short and long-term liabilities and statements of governmental funds. With an annual budget of 28 million, end of year cash was \$450,000, somewhat low based on our budget, but ending FY20 with a surplus was quite an accomplishment.

Valerie explained that financial audits are required every year, but the auditor must be rotated every five years. With very few CPA firms capable of auditing Community Service Boards, bids are submitted and it is often a challenge to find and adjust to a different auditor.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Valerie reported New Horizons had a surplus of \$180,358 for the month of November compared to a budgeted surplus of \$61,242. During the month of November, we continued to experience reduced revenues due to reduction of services in some programs due to COVID. We continue to monitor program activity as we work in the COVID environment as some programs are limited in their ability to maintain required revenue levels in order to maintain social distancing guidelines with program attendance. We also continue to keep expenses down below budget because of the reduced program activity. Also, the pharmaceutical expense for November was very low as purchases were down in anticipation of the transition to the Genoa Pharmacy.

Some of the measures that DBHDD put in place to maintain revenue have ended. The DD retainer billing currently has very minimal activity as we were limited in number of days we could bill for each Individual. We were allowed to bill a total of 90 days retainer billing for each Individual and we were limited in billing for the average of historical billing for each Individual. The 90 days has been exhausted for most DD Individuals, and the 1/12 GIA FFS for Behavioral Health services has been extended to March 31, 2021. We are predicting that the last half of the year we will see much lower operating margins. This is also assuming that there is not such a resurgence with COVID as to cause us to need to close completely down again.

Days Cash on Hand at the end of November were 24.00 days. Revenue collections are still down, but we have been keeping expenses down also and were able to increase days cash on hand. While we were able to increase days cash on hand by managing expenses during the reductions in revenue, the DBHDD expectation is that we have 30 days cash on hand. The new fiscal year (FY21) began July 1 and with the State budget cuts and the ongoing pandemic, it leaves us with many unknowns regarding our financial outlook so we continue to look for ways to maximize our resources and build cash reserves in order to be able to operate as we move through the new environment.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT: Program Director Ashley Mercer reported that 2/3 of people with a mental health diagnosis desire employment, yet only about 15% are employed. She added, “Our approach is to help individuals with mental illness obtain and maintain employment and we carry the belief that every person with a mental health disorder is capable of working in the community IF the right kind of job and work environment can be found.”

In spite of the spikes of unemployment during the COVID pandemic, we have been able to maintain an employment rate of approximately 40% of our individuals working during this time, all while managing their mental health symptoms that may have prevented them from being employed or staying employed in the past.

In order to be eligible for the Mental Health Supportive Employment program, the individual must express an interest in competitive employment, be unemployed or underemployed due to symptoms associated with chronic or severe mental illness, have clear goals of employment, and be willing and able to participate in these services. Individuals are referred from either the provider or other programs, such as case management or the housing programs to name a few.

Once accepted into the program, the individuals are paired with an employment specialist, who are really the nuts and bolts of the program. The employment specialist helps the individual look for jobs based on his/her interests and preferences, helps individuals who are receiving benefits such as social security, disability, or housing find work that will allow them to keep all benefits, assists with helping the individual create a resume and complete and submit job applications, helps the individual prepare for an interview, and also acts as a case manager by helping monitor that the individual is seeing the provider or attending groups or other services based on his/her treatment plan so that it is more likely that he/she will be able to obtain and maintain employment. The individual may also be referred for enrollment in Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation, which will help with things such as obtaining a bus pass, funding for clothing items needed at work, and more. Once employed, the specialist continues to work with the individual by teaching/coaching him/her on job-specific skills that help contribute to workplace success, acting as an advocate for the individual with employers, and ensuring job satisfaction. If the job does not work out, the specialist will help the individual find another job or develop a career plan.

Individuals will be discharged from the program at their request, for lack of engagement for a period of 90 days or more, or once they have met their employment goals and maintained employment for a period of at least 180 days. Currently, of the individuals in the program that are working, at least 2/3 of them have been employed for at least 90 days or more, also impressive considering some of these individuals meet ADA criteria and many meet the criteria for a SPMI (Serious and persistent mental illness).

Ashley was commended for the impressive outcomes in her program and the difference they are making in individual's lives.

***NEW HORIZONS BYLAWS:** The Bylaws were sent to Board members prior to the meeting for review. No changes or recommendations were presented. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve New Horizons Bylaws, Board approved.

***2021 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR:** The Board Meeting schedule for 2021 was sent out prior to the meeting for Board review. Meetings are scheduled monthly (2nd Monday of the month) with the exception of March, July, and October when no meeting is scheduled. No changes or recommendations were made. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the 2021 Board Meeting calendar, Board approved.

***ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2021:** Our current officers are: David Ranieri, Board Chair, Sherrell Terry, Vice Chair, and Sandra Gill, Secretary. It was recommended that our current slate of officers be re-elected for the coming year. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Damon Hoyte to (re)elect our current slate of officers for 2021, Board approved. As Ms. Terry and Ms. Gill were not in attendance, they will be informed of their re-election.

GENOA PHARMACY TRANSITION UPDATE: New Horizons Pharmacy became Genoa Pharmacy as of December 7, 2020. While there have been some growing pains, overall, the transition is going well. Upgrades to the IT system, telephones, inventory, and point of sale procedures should improve the customer’s experience. Medication delivery is no longer available, but medications can be mailed directly to individuals. E-prescribing and patient assistance programs are available and prescriptions from Primary Care Physicians can also be filled for family members and employees. A Grand Opening is planned for early January.

*** RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO GEORGIA HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANT: HARRIS COUNTY – INDIVIDUAL:** Approval to renew the Shelter Plus Care agreement for Harris County – Individual for September 2020 to August 2021 for \$73,872 is requested. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to renew the agreement, Board approved.

DBHDD CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER INITIATIVE UPDATE: Cyndy reported the assessment phase of CCBHC is moving along with the Gap Analysis and Readiness Assessment Tool completed and reviewed with MTM consultants. Overall, the consultants seemed pleased with the results as few changes were recommended. Phase 2 will be training and planning with implementation expected in 2022. DBHDD has staff participating in GACSB meetings to make the process go more smoothly. All CSBs may not be ready or capable of becoming a CCBHC. Updates will be provided to the Board as we learn more.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE: Susan reported to the Board on the following:

Development: Due to the uncertainty of the Covid pandemic, the Development Advisory Board will continue “Recovery Rocks” in 2021 with plans to bring back the Run 4 Recovery in 2022.

Marketing: #Free Your Feels is the DBHDD sponsored social media marketing tool that ties in well with the “It’s Ok to NOT Be Ok. It’s Not OK to Stay that way” messaging. This also fits in with continuing our Conversations of Courage around Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

Community/Public Relations:

- New Horizons will send a team of volunteers to help with the holiday food give-away at the Civic Center on December 21.
- CSU Center for Excellence has received a grant to find out attitudes of individuals with mental illness towards getting the annual flu vaccine. They want to partner with us to conduct polls that protect individual’s privacy while gathering the data they need.
- The Mayor’s Commission on Re-entry, an established New Horizons’ community partner, is applying for a SAMHSA grant and has asked New Horizons to provide a Letter of Commitment to the grant-funded program.

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- The Development Office will be providing QPR Gatekeeper training in the upcoming weeks to the faculty and staff of the Chattahoochee County School District via Zoom. This training is part of the DBHDD Mental Health Awareness Training Program as well as the ChattCo Apex Project.
- New Horizons was able to assist the Stewart County Family Connection with a cash donation to help meet the needs of a family over the holidays. The family of five recently moved to the community and had very limited resources.

COVID SURVEILLANCE REPORT/RAPID TESTING/VACCINE PLANS: Andrea reported Covid-19 numbers are increasing throughout the country and encouraged everyone to stay vigilant in following the CDC guidelines. She presented the following numbers for our eight county area:

Covid Numbers by County (per the GADPH):

County	Covid Positive	Covid Deaths
Muscogee	7596	195
Harris	1044	28
Talbot	217	8
Chattahoochee	2099	2
Stewart	617	17
Randolph	357	30
Clay	132	3
Quitman	59	1

Rapid Testing kits have been made available to New Horizons through the local Health Department. While we do not want to duplicate services of other agencies, the tests are primarily designated for residential programs to use should individuals develop symptoms and require an immediate test after hours or on weekends. We have been fortunate not to have any outbreaks in our programs and want to continue this trend.

A survey has been submitted exploring the possibility of New Horizons administering the vaccine to individuals and staff. If we are selected and choose to participate, it will require extensive training, developing policies and procedures, following temperature guidelines, protocols, and adverse reaction treatment, as needed. With the exciting news this week of the vaccine’s approval and roll out of Operation Warp Speed, we are considering all options. Educating our staff and individuals on the benefits of the vaccine will also be helpful.

Andrea commended New Horizons staff for their vigilance in following guidelines and taking all precautions to keep our individuals as safe as possible.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: Board members shared information on how they, their families, and communities are managing the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. Social distancing, wearing masks, and limiting social gatherings have become our new normal. Board members relating their family member’s well-being, announcing new additions to their families, and excited about their children’s college options are heartwarming and so meaningful during this time of not seeing each other face to face.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: Board members, staff, and the Stewart County community were sad to learn of the passing of long-time Board member, Lawrence Young. Mr. Young turned 100 years old in August of this year and served on our Board for over 25 years. He was an amazing man who lived a purposeful life and had a positive impact on his family, his community, and New Horizons. Several Board members shared personal stories of Mr. Young and his influence as their principal, friend, mentor, and a visionary for South Georgia who worked for changes and progress in his community. Andrea read the following resolution she composed, on behalf of the Board, honoring Mr. Young’s dedication, leadership, and faithful service that was sent to the funeral and his family, along with a floral arrangement:

RESOLUTION HONORING NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD MEMBER LAWRENCE YOUNG

WHEREAS, the members of New Horizons Behavioral Health Board of Directors were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lawrence Young, an exemplary public servant and human being; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Young served as a board member from 1995 until his passing, having served over 25 years. He received the coveted Meritorious Service award as we celebrated his 95th birthday on that most joyous occasion; and

WHEREAS, We, the colleagues of Lawrence Young, want the family to know that we gather together with them to mourn the passing of a great man, who contributed much to the community and betterment of society; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure he worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to improve his county and region, successfully realizing his vision of helping others; and worked with diligence and vigor to achieve the goals of New Horizons; and

WHEREAS, Board Member Lawrence Young was the epitome of Southern grace, wisdom, charm, and hospitality; his charm and good nature are reflected in the lives of his children, grandchildren, and the entire family; and

WHEREAS, Board Member Lawrence Young’s outgoing personality, sense of humor, infectious laugh, and spirit of true dedication to public service made him a beloved and respected figure throughout South Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Board Member Lawrence Young’s passing leaves a void that will be difficult to fill; now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE** New Horizons Board of Directors, that we honor the memory of Lawrence Young, and express our condolences to the Young family on his passing.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of New Horizons Board of Directors by,
Andrea Winston, CEO New Horizons Behavioral Health.
December 10, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were presented.

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Merry Christmas wishes and Happy New Year blessings were extended by Mr. Ranieri, Andrea, other Board members and staff along with expressions of appreciation for Christmas gifts that were sent to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Damon Hoyte to adjourn the teleconference/meeting at 4:50 p.m., Board approved.

David Ranieri
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: January 9, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Joseph Williams, April Hughes,
Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: David Ranieri, Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, Edwina Turner,
and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Desire' Elliott, Karen Cotton-Everett, Randall Newberry,
Sherry Raya, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by 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: Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of December 12, 2022 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Karen Johnson to approve the December 12, 2022 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of November with a surplus of \$315,896 and a Year to Date surplus of \$1,377,754. Medicaid Waiver Revenue was higher than budgeted for the month, but has not reached our Year to Date target. Medicaid fees increased for the month and exceed the Year to Date budget. Grant in Aid - Fee for Service has a Year to Date deficit of \$79,195. Personnel expenses continue to be lower than budgeted due to the number of open positions across the agency. Motor vehicle expenses, excluding leases, are higher than budgeted which reflects the age of the fleet. Equipment costs are \$98,256 over budget. Days Cash on Hand at the end of November was 124.43 days. We have received the draft Audited Financial Statements and the Finance Department is currently working on the Management Discussion and Analysis (MDA) letter. The draft report indicates we received an unmodified opinion, meaning the auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The auditors will

electronically submit the single audit report to the Federal Clearing House once they receive the MDA letter. Additionally, the auditors will electronically file our Tax Form 990 by the May 15th deadline. The Finance Department will be in discussion with the auditors to address the DBHDD requirement to report CCBHC activity in the audited Financial Statements.

Mr. Hoyte asked if there were any concerns with CSBs having too much Cash on Hand. Susan reported the average among CSBs is 50 days. Andrea indicated having over 120 days COH is a wonderful problem to have, but added that the transitions to CareLogic and CCBHC will definitely have a financial impact. We are meeting with a realtor for options to relocate the Clinic or possibly all the programs at 2100 Comer Avenue as more space is needed. Purchasing a building and paying it off, rather than continuing to rent, could greatly impact the agency's future financially and allow us to increase/improve our office/clinic space. Vehicle expenses are also being reviewed and a new electronic Human Resources system will be implemented soon that will improve efficiency in that department.

Our Board Chair will receive a copy of the Annual Financial Audit by mail and a member of the Audit Firm will be invited to attend a future Board meeting to discuss audit findings.

***ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:** As announced in the December Board meeting, it is time to elect officers for 2023. 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, Board Approved. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Karen Johnson to re-elect Nancy Schroeder as Vice Chair, Board Approved. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Karen Johnson to re-elect Sandra Gill as Secretary, Board Approved. Mr. Hoyte expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Board for their approval and support as Board Chair. Nancy Schroeder and Sandra Gill will be notified of their re-election as Vice Chair and Secretary respectively.

***BOARD MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2023:** The 2023 Board meeting calendar was sent to Board members prior to the meeting. With no recommendations for changes or concerns from members, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Karen Johnson to approve the 2023 Board meeting calendar, Board approved.

Andrea reminded members that Board meetings can be held virtually, in-person, or hybrid.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) UPDATE:

Karen provided the following CCBHC updates as of January 2023: The 2nd year of the CCBHC grant began December 1, 2022, 1st quarter key performance indicator data with enhanced criteria for CCBHCs was submitted, increased use of the PHQ-9 Depression Screening Tool, began using the Audit-C Alcohol Use Screening Tool, and Satisfaction Surveys were completed. In preparation for the Prospective Payment System (PPS) that will begin July 2023, the initial cost study has been completed and submitted and we are currently working to identify additional cost items, i.e. transportation, increased staffing, and additional facilities, that will adjust our rates. More information on the certification process is expected soon.

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***NEW HORIZONS BYLAWS:** The Bylaws were mailed to members prior to the meeting for review. With no revisions or additions recommended, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Karen Johnson to approve New Horizons Bylaws, Board approved.

CARELOGIC – GO LIVE REPORT: Sherry reported that the Goal of CareLogic implementation is to 1) Increase accuracy of the General Ledger, 2) Streamline Clinical Documentation, 3) Implement eMar for Developmental Disability homes and Behavioral Health group homes, 4) Streamline billing and collections, 5) Increase access to reporting and data analytics, and 6) Increase compliance and audit management. Additional CareLogic capabilities allow Electronic Health Record access via the browser with no special setup, easier training of staff with the workflow concept, electronic forms for each program, change healthcare eligibility on demand, Wiley Treatment planning, and Docusign. Advanced technologies with CareLogic include enhanced analytics, off-line access, Updax patient portal, Mobile app, eLab, quality outcomes platform, MaxMD Secure messaging, data sharing and communication, tablets in the waiting room for individuals to sign documents, and appointment reminders. A timeline for organizations (programs) going live was reviewed with the outpatient clinics last on the list. The transition to CareLogic has been a massive undertaking for the agency, our IT Department, and many staff. We look forward to full implementation to CareLogic in a few months and thank everyone who has worked so hard on this transition.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION - EMERGE L.I.G.H.T. - E.T.P. : L.I.G.H.T. (Listening, Inspiring, and Guiding Healthy Transitions) E.T.P. (Early Treatment Program) was started in 2015 by DBHDD to bring Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) services to Georgia's youth and young adults ages 16-30 in the early stages of severe mental illness. CSC is an evidence-based approach to providing team-based, integrated treatment to young people in the early stages of severe mental illness, with the goal of reducing disability and promoting long-term recovery. Services include Primary Care Coordination, Medication Management, Case Management, Supported Education and Employment, Peer Support, Family Support and Education, Psychotherapy (Individual and Group) and 24/7 Crisis Line. Other services are medication assistance and transportation to appointments/community services. Eligible individuals must live in one of the eight counties served by New Horizons, not have a Developmental Disability, have a diagnosis of psychotic-spectrum illness or mood disorder with psychotic features, and have experienced symptoms of psychotic-spectrum illness for at least one week and no more than 24 months. EMERGE program goals are to detect psychosis in the early stages, provide rapid access to coordinated team-based specialty care, and to offer a recovery-focused intervention. Intended outcomes include reduction in the direction of untreated symptoms and illness, reduction in unnecessary hospitalizations, and improved clinical, social, and academic/occupational functioning. Individuals have choices and input in their treatment planning, family members are encouraged to participate, and a more "laid back" approach is taken to enhance treatment compliance and outcomes. Program Director Desire' Elliott presented an overview of the program and provided handouts, gift bags, and brochures to Board members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea thanked Board Members who attended the CARF orientation meeting and participated in interviews with the surveyors during the November survey and proudly announced that New Horizons was awarded a three year CARF accreditation.

Andrea presented highlights of the GACSB 2023 Legislative Term Agenda focused on some appointment changes anticipated with the Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, engaging the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Community Health, and the Office of Planning, Budget, and Administration on the budget process, and advocating for Medicaid Managed Care Re-Procurement. IDD and Behavioral Health Rate Studies are also on the agenda.

DBHDD announced that Monica Johnson, the Interim Commissioner of DBHDD tendered her resignation effective December 31, 2022. Ms. Johnson accepted a high level leadership position with SAMHSA. Kevin Tanner was appointed the new Commissioner of DBHDD effective December 16, 2022.

Mr. Hoyte congratulated David Ranieri who was recently sworn in as Chief Judge of Recorder's Court.

Andrea asked Board members to keep Nancy Schroeder in their thoughts and prayers as she recovers from her recent hospitalization/rehab stay.

Mr. Hoyte made a request to visit New Horizons Behavioral Health program sites. A schedule of monthly visits will be planned.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Joseph Williams/Linda McElroy to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m., 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: February 13, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, Joseph Williams,
Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin, Sandra Gill,
and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: David Ranieri, Nancy Schroeder, April Hughes,
and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Randall Newberry, Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:32 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: Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of January 9, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/LaVerne Chaffin to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of December with a surplus of \$572,280 and a year to date surplus of \$1,475,516. Medicaid Waiver Revenue was higher for the month and is no longer in a deficit. This is attributable to the 5% I/DD increase from FY22. Medicaid fees are higher for both the monthly and year to date budgets. Grant in Aid-FFS has a year to date deficit of \$135,958 under budget. Personnel expenses continue to be lower than budgeted which is attributed to the number of positions vacant across the agency. Motor vehicle expenses, excluding leases, are higher than budgeted, reflecting the age of the fleet. Equipment costs, mainly consisting of IT equipment, is \$101,135 year to date over budget. Days Cash on Hand at the end of December was 133.69 days. We have received the final Audited Financial Statements. The final report indicated we received an unmodified opinion, meaning the auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The report will be emailed to Board members for review.

Rhonda Collins, CPA will attend the March Board Meeting to formally present the report and answer any questions. We are investigating automation of the annual budget process through our Accumatica Software and are looking for ways to enhance services to individuals in our Representative Payee Program by implementing Stable accounts.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM AND INNOVATION COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT 2022:

The Commission, appointed by the Governor, and led by Kevin Tanner, who has now been appointed DBHDD Commissioner, released their final report/recommendations for 2022. The report listed seven priorities: Addressing the workforce shortage, data collection and information sharing, building a robust crisis system, building capacity within Medicaid, expanding and improving successful community-based practices, services, and programs, and streamlining existing policies and statutes. To address the workforce shortage, recommendations included increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates, modernizing licensing practices, establishing loan forgiveness/repayment programs, increasing psychiatric residency programs, and strengthening Georgia's peer support workforce. Building data sharing capacity, establishing a uniform process for data sharing, and funding of additional crisis services to increase capacity were also included in the report along with expansion of programs for children and adolescents, coordinating practices between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems, and studying the benefits and limitations of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) model.

***EMORY UNIVERSITY COMPASS CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT:** Susan explained that the Emory COMPASS Coordinating Center offers capacity building grants up to \$25,000. These grants support activities which focus on reaching the next level in operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational growth. Funding is specifically for capacity building around HIV activities. The focus of our application will be training for two additional HIV rapid testers and marketing/communications around our new mobile unit. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the grant application, Board approved.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) UPDATE:

Denise reported on a recent CCBHC meeting with Lexicon, a marketing company, DBHDD, and Region 6 staff to discuss current challenges and opportunities provided by CCBHC funding and designation, current perceptions of persons served in the community and opportunities for growth, and the development of marketing strategies around CCBHC. CSBs are moving through the process of developing new Prospective Payment System (PPS) rates, but it is possible the State will not be ready to move to the new rates due to the process required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, State Plan Amendment. An actuary will need to approve the new rates. Denise added there is a new website, ccbhcgeorgia.org for more detailed information on CCBHC.

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS: Susan reminded Board members that in response to the Covid pandemic, New Horizons turned its service delivery model around quickly moving to telehealth services and letting go of office space. While these moves helped us survive the pandemic and decreased our overhead expenses, we are now moving to a post-pandemic world and are in need of more office space for staff and programs. Several of our buildings currently house multiple programs.

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New Horizons' Leadership met with a local realty team recently to discuss our need for office space and are hopeful they will find a suitable location for additional offices to relocate some of our departments from Comer Avenue. Our vehicle fleet, while well-maintained, is aging and, as vehicles get older, they need more maintenance and repairs. Computers have limited useful life of 3 to 5 years, and laptops even less. As we continue to expand our telehealth services, we continue to need upgrades to our wi-fi technology, data security, and the staff to meet the IT needs of an 8-county service area. To return to pre-pandemic levels, we need additional facilities, staff, laptops/computers, and vehicles. We are in the information gathering stage for facilities, determining our needs and looking at commercial inventory, assessing our vehicle fleet to establish a replacement plan, and looking at our IT needs, especially around staff growth. To grow the number of individuals served, we need to grow our infrastructure and to grow our infrastructure, we need to serve more individuals.

GIVING HEALTH PARTNERSHIP – CLAY/RANDOLPH COUNTIES: Denise reported a new partnership with Giving Health for Clay and Randolph counties. Giving Health, Inc is a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit that provides access to no cost telehealth services (medical, counseling, and discount prescription drug program) to low income, uninsured and underinsured residents in Georgia. Giving Health recently added Social Care, which includes identification of insecurities associated with the Social Determinants of Health and referrals to community services. They partner with free clinics, FQHCs, community organizations and other non-profits to remove longstanding barriers to accessing healthcare. Telehealth technology is revolutionizing the healthcare industry and it is their goal to ensure that members of communities who are struggling with access to healthcare can leverage their no-cost telehealth service. As Board Members were interested in this no cost service for their communities, we will inquire about availability in other counties and share that information.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Susan announced that Chloe Landreth has joined the New Horizons Team as the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator. Chloe, a 2022 graduate of the University of South Carolina, majored in Public Relations and most recently worked at Valley Hospitality as Marketing and Social Media Assistant. To celebrate National Recovery Month in September, the Georgia Council on Recovery and other partners are sponsoring the Mobilize Recovery across Georgia Bus Tour with 43 tour stops planned. New Horizons will host the Recovery on the River event Friday, September 8th at Woodruff Park during the Columbus tour stop. More information will follow as plans develop. It was also announced that motivational speaker, Jeff Yalden will present mental health awareness assemblies at schools in Clay, Randolph, and Stewart counties in September. Newspaper, television, radio, and billboard ads continue running and applications for funding of two federal grants will be submitted this cycle. Board Members were requested to like New Horizons on Facebook and share posts with friends, family, and community members. The official announcement of funding for a new Mobile Unit has not been received, but is expected soon.

*Serving Residents of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties
For 24-Hour Emergency Services Call (706) 323-0174 or Toll Free (800) 241-3659*

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea indicated some changes/restructuring of New Horizons' leadership will be announced in next month's Board meeting.

A Proclamation designating March as Intellectual Developmental Disability Month will be presented to New Horizons at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 28th at 5:30 pm. Board Members are invited to attend.

The Department of Transportation has made an offer on the right of way in front of our Intensive Training Residential group home to widen Veterans Parkway. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the impact of the widened road at that location.

DBHDD Commissioner Tanner made a presentation to the GACSB on 2/8/23 with the following areas of focus: Behavioral Health and Intellectual Developmental Disability rates studies to support the workforce to increase rates, Managed Care Procurement process to manage CMOs, workforce development, continue to use the Behavioral Health Reform Commission's recommendations to help guide DBHDD, and develop a seamless and more timely system for contracts.

It was recently announced that Veterans in crisis can go to any VA or non VA healthcare facility at no cost with inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

Our application was approved for Co-Responder services in Harris County. A meeting is scheduled for February 24th with law enforcement, DBHDD, and New Horizons staff to discuss next steps.

Several Board members' terms will expire during 2023: Edwina Turner, Sandra Gill, Linda McElroy, and Nancy Schroeder. Letters will be sent to the designated County Commission or City Council for reappointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m., 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 13, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, April Hughes, Joseph Williams,
David Ranieri, Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin,
and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: Edwina Turner, Nancy Schroeder, Linda McElroy,
and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Randall Newberry, Kenyetta Plummer, Cyndy Pattillo,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:31 p.m.
A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Rhonda Collins,
CPA, Baker & Associates, Albany, Georgia.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of February 13, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph
Williams/LaVerne Chaffin to approve the February 13, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of January with a
surplus of \$186,989 and a year to date surplus of \$2,137,023. Medicaid Waiver Revenue was
lower for the month which is attributed to the fact that we have recouped the 5% I/DD increase.
Medicaid Fees are lower for the month with a deficit of \$10,025 YTD against budget. Personnel
expenses continue to be lower than budgeted due to the number of positions we have vacant across
the agency. Other Operating Expenses are \$356,680 over budget. An analysis of Other Operating
expenses in February led to the creation of additional expense categories that reclass these
expenses to more accurately reflect our financial activity. Days Cash on Hand at the end of
January was 135.58. We have met with the Support Team from Acumatica, our Accounting
Software, and are moving ahead on automating the budget process. We are also looking at
speeding up the monthly bank reconciliation process by automating the check clearing process.
Our Cost Allocation Plan has been revised to include allocating costs for RAD Clinic, the
Development office, and Representative Payee Services.

This new allocation will take effect in February. We are in the process of filling an Accounting Technician position with the goal of shortening the number of days to close the monthly financial period. A SAMHSA Grant application was successfully submitted on March 10th.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW: Rhonda Collins, CPA, with Baker & Associates of Albany, Georgia attended today's meeting to discuss New Horizons' annual external audit and answer any questions. The audit report was emailed to Board members prior to today's meeting. The final audit report indicated we received an unmodified opinion, meaning the auditor concludes that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Ms. Collins reported that the audit process went very smoothly and commended staff for their cooperation in providing all information/documents requested. She explained that our audit is driven by Federal funding we receive and revenue must match expenses, the agency must follow policies, procedures, and rules that we have in place, and grant compliance is required. The audit also contained two compliance reports with no problems or issues noted, no findings, and no journal entries needed. Ms. Collins' report indicated we had a very successful audit and Board Members thanked her and New Horizons' leadership for their amazing job in completing the audit.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE CHANGES: Andrea reported that with the loss of our Chief Financial Officer in June of 2022, many staff jumped in to cover additional responsibilities and duties. To enhance our leadership and administrative structure and in preparation for CCBHC implementation, Susan Gallagher has been named the Interim CFO and Denise Wade McLeod has been appointed Chief Operating Officer. Susan has assumed many new financial responsibilities over the past few months while continuing to apply for additional grant funding. Denise has served as Clinical Director for several years and does a great job in ensuring we follow evidence-based practices and that service delivery continues to improve. These staff enhancements should ensure we become more efficient in our operations while maintaining our financial status. As CSBs are more and more data driven, Cyndy Pattillo is heading up the Performance Improvement Department in addition to her CARF survey guidance. The Clinical Director position is now posted internally. Andrea emphasized that she can now focus more on the business and strategic planning of the organization.

DBHDD CEO HIRING POLICY: For informational purposes, Board members were given a copy of the DBHDD policy related to Community Service Board Oversight of the Approval of Executive Director Selection and Compensation. The policy indicates that DBHDD will approve or disapprove the Community Service Board's governing board recommendation for selection of, and compensation for, the position of executive director. The CSB also reviews recommendations for changes to terms of compensation for the executive director and will review all of the executive director terms of compensation at least once every five years. Other policy procedures were outlined in the document.

COMPLIANCE TRENDING REPORT: Kenyetta Plummer, Compliance Officer, gave an overview of the Aggregated Trending report for FY22, a tool that assists the agency in ensuring the health and safety of individuals and staff, and identifies areas for program improvement. She reminded Board members that New Horizons 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.

She outlined the process and procedures for reporting deaths and critical incidents to DBHDD, indicating incidents are reported by category and type and subject to further analysis and that the Corporate Compliance Department is charged with oversight of all reporting to DBHDD. Lowanna Richardson maintains the reports and collects the data for the Compliance Department, identifies any trends, and prepares quarterly reports that are presented to various committees.

***PARTICIPATION IN CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM:** Susan explained that the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. REACH and Randolph/Clay Service Center are the two programs currently receiving CACFP funds. M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve New Horizons' participation in CACFP, Board approved.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported that she and Susan attended Community Service Board Day at the Capitol recently and had the opportunity to visit with legislators. Board Chair Damon Hoyte, along with several New Horizons' staff members, attended the Columbus City Council meeting to receive the Proclamation designating March as Intellectual/Developmental Disability month. Chloe and Susan participate in the FaceBook Live show with Pops Barnes every Monday morning to educate the public on health, wellness, and community resources. New Horizons continues to have billboards displayed around Columbus advertising our services and hand outs with the 988 Suicide Lifeline number and New Horizons information are being distributed in the community. Our Social Media is on the rise with FaceBook numbers increasing and a new Instagram account set up. Upcoming events include: Recovery on the River, Harris County Summer Teen Summit, and the I/DD Talent Show.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Board members were reminded there is no meeting in April.

Andrea shared an email from DBHDD that read, "I want to acknowledge, to you and your team, that your continued partnership in the work of CCBHC is noticed and appreciated. New Horizons' reports are in on time, and staff participate in the opportunities to provide input/feedback. Thank you for your leadership and commitment," from Sarepta Archila, CCBHC State Project Director.

Andrea reported that House Bill 520, legislation encompassing many of the recommendations of the 2022 report by the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, passed. This is the next step in improving behavioral health protocols, services, and workforce for children and adults in the state.

A recommendation for a potential Harris County Board representative has been made. Andrea will reach out and invite them to a future meeting.

Andrea announced that New Horizons awarded bonuses in December 2022 and February 2023 in the amount of \$500 for full-time staff and \$250 for part-time staff.

Karen Johnson inquired about respite care services for families. Andrea responded that the service must be included on the individual's Waiver that goes through Support Coordination. She suggested Ms. Johnson call her if additional information is needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m., 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 8, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, Nancy Schroeder,
Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin, Sandra Gill,
and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: April Hughes, Joseph Williams, David Ranieri,
and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Randall Newberry, Armanda Spears, Travis Stokes, Harry Tatum,
John Burdeshaw, Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:31 p.m.
A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Rob Grant, potential
Board Member candidate from Harris County. Board Members and staff introduced themselves
and Mr. Grant shared that he is Head of the Harris County Commission, a teacher, and coach who
understands the value of behavioral health services and is eager to learn more about New Horizons.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of March 13, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P LaVerne
Chaffin/Karen Johnson to approve the March 13, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of February with a
monthly surplus of \$302,709 and a year-to-date surplus of \$1,845,354. In February, we had some
areas that were below budget: Medicaid Waiver, Federal Funds, and GIA-FFS. However, we also
had some highlighted areas, Medicaid fees, Contract Revenue, and Grant in Aid, that are surpassing
budgeted expectations. On the February expenditure side, a number of areas are over budgeted
projections: Motor Vehicle Expense, Supplies, Equipment, Food Costs, Pharmaceuticals, Direct
Benefits to Clients, and Travel Expense. Other Operating has been reviewed and additional
expense categories created to limit what is considered Other Operating. In March, we continue to
be below projected revenue for Medicaid Waiver, Federal Funds, and GIA-FFS. However, we
continue to see Medicaid Fees, Contract Revenue, and Grant in Aid surpass budgeted expectations.
We have also directed administrative resources to I/DD to assist with their billing and collections.

NHBH Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2023

On the March expenditure side, we saw the same areas over budgeted that we did in February. March ended with a monthly surplus of \$334,782 and a year-to-date surplus of \$2,069,710. Days Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2023 was 147.12. We met with the Support Team from Acumatica, our Accounting Software, and have completed an automated budget process for FY24. We have budgeted at the program level and rolled those into the overall FY24 budget. Kudos to Reid Denson and Andralescia Clark for their assistance in getting us through this process. We have internally hired an Accounting Tech with the goal of shortening the number of days to close a monthly financial period. We currently have two (2) federal grants in submission: The SAMHSA Grant to Benefit Homeless Individuals and the BJA Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement and Mental Health Partnership. The SAMHSA CCBHC-PDI and CCBHC-1A grant applications are due May 22.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) IMPLEMENTATION FINANCIAL IMPACT:

As Susan has reported in previous meetings, DBHDD is moving to implement the CCBHC model via a State Plan Amendment (SPA) through the Department of Community Health. Implementation date for the PPS rate was originally announced by DBHDD as July 1, 2023. This has changed and we no longer have a firm date or an approved PPS rate. This puts us in a position of financial planning with many unknowns, i.e. When will the SPA be approved? What is the CMS approval process? When is the Go Live date? What is our CMS approved rate per triggering event? We are addressing this uncertainty by keeping a positive attitude and budgeting FY24 as if we are operating without the PPS rate and budgeting for sunseting grant funding in September and November 2023. With many unknowns in our future, maintaining our Cash on Hand reserve funds is imperative to preserving our current financial status.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) BOARD GOVERNANCE:

Andrea reminded Board members that CCBHC is a new provider type in Medicaid, designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals. In return, CCBHCs receive an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate based on their anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of these complex populations. Governance requirements to ensure consumer participation through a representative Board can be satisfied in one of three ways:

Option 1: Fifty one percent of the board is comprised of families, consumers, or people in recovery from behavioral health conditions (would require amendment to our bylaws).

Option 2: A substantial portion of the governing Board Members meet the criteria, and there are other specifically described methods for consumers, people in recovery, and family members to provide meaningful input to the Board about CCBHC policies, processes, and services.

Option 3: Other means such as an advisory Board are established to enhance the governing body’s ability to ensure that the CCBHC is responsive to the needs of its consumers, families, and communities, focusing on the full range of consumers, services provided, geographic areas covered, types of disorders, and levels of care provided.

Andrea indicated that Option 2 would be our preference, with the inclusion of New Horizons’ Peer Academy, who provide input through their participation in Staff Executive meetings, features in The Quest, and community involvement. A Peer is a person with lived experience relating to a behavioral health disorder. The Peer Academy is lead by NHBH staff to provide: Recruitment of our Peer Workforce, support in obtaining employment, support in maintaining employment, resources to maintain a recovery-oriented lifestyle and work life balance. They also schedule Peers to attend leadership meetings with the agency and ensure Peers participate in the GACSB education and advocacy meetings and conferences.

EXPRESS CLINIC: Denise reported the Express Clinic Pilot, same day access from clinician intake to provider with quick access to medications if needed, kicked off April 13th and will continue on Thursday and Friday mornings through April and May. The result: It's a Win!! As of May 5th, 21 individuals have been served in Express Clinic, and staff agree that individuals are being helped and leaving New Horizons feeling "hopeful." After action meetings, held each clinic day, ensure needed adjustments are made, with the process closely monitored and managed. Some of the challenges involved include clinician workflow and documentation, productivity concerns, and change...a different way of thinking and doing, not business as usual. In June, Express Clinic will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, with long-term plans of running Express Clinic daily, rotating providers and the care team, ensuring continuity of care, and looking at ways to reduce clinician time. While the DBHDD standard is 14 business days to see the provider after intake, a goal we were meeting, Denise thanked Ms. Winston for her vision in providing individuals with the care they need in a more efficient, more beneficial way to better meet their needs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - NEXUS, MIDTOWN/JOURNEY TO RECOVERY: Armanda Spears, Adult & Children MH/SA Coordinator, introduced herself and Program Directors, Travis Stokes, Midtown Recovery, Harry Tatum, Journey to Recovery, and Peer Recovery Coach at Connections, John Burdeshaw. Ms. Spears praised the staff of Midtown and Journey to Recovery for their dedication and the wonderful services they provide and teamwork they display. Mr. Stokes reported that Substance Abuse treatment is available at Midtown to those seeking intensive recovery support three to five days per week, as well as those seeking aftercare and less intensive treatment one to two days per week. Treatment includes recovery groups based on the 12-step model and evidence-based practices. Additional services include psycho-education regarding substances and the addiction process, group and family counseling, and random drug screens. He also reported on the Nexus program that provides interactive, age-appropriate sessions proven to promote social/emotional well-being, and critical thinking on a range of topics to high school students. He was pleased to report that Nexus training will be conducted in Chattahoochee County beginning in June and thanked Mr. Hoyte for his recommendation. Mr. Tatum reported that Journey to Recovery, a semi-independent living program in Columbus, provides help to men and women struggling with addiction in a supportive living environment. Residents are assisted with achieving sobriety and employment. Crisis beds are available for persons just entering treatment and transitional housing beds for persons needing to continue their aftercare in a safe and structured environment. This program also offers housing for women transitioning from treatment to aftercare as part of the Women's Treatment and Recovery Services Program. John Burdeshaw shared his life experiences of incarceration, homelessness, overdoses, and suicidal ideation, seeking help from four different rehabilitation facilities, to completing Journey to Recovery and becoming a role model, leader, and Recovery Coach at New Horizons' Connections program for three years with a strong desire to help others.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe showed highlights from the H.E.R.O. tour of our southern counties with Susan, Gloria, and our Morehouse School of Medicine partners. Columbus City Council presented a proclamation to New Horizons for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. Several staff were on hand to receive the proclamation. Community outreach events are ongoing with pictures of recent events in Talbot, Harris, and Muscogee counties. Chloe provided a look at the new furnishings in the waiting areas of the main building giving them a more inviting, comfortable feel. Social media contacts are on the rise and upcoming community events were announced. The 2022 Annual Report, was presented to Board Members outlining the counties served, mission and vision, revenue, individuals served and services offered in

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea reported that several staff attended the National Council on Behavioral Health conference in Los Angeles last week.

Karen Cotton-Everett has been selected as the new Clinical Director effective June 1, 2023.

Information/emails concerning the ongoing opioid case/settlement continue to be received and the settlement may be finalized soon.

Several Board Members have been reappointed recently for three year terms: Nancy Schroeder and Sandra Gill, Muscogee County, Linda McElroy, Quitman County, and Edwina Turner, Stewart County. We so appreciate our Board Members' faithful dedication to New Horizons Behavioral Health and continued service to our Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m., 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: June 12, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, Joseph Williams,
Nancy Schroeder, Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin,
April Hughes, and Sandra Gill

Members Excused: David Ranieri, Linda McElroy, and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Karen Cotton-Everett,
Randall Newberry, Andralescia Clark, Reid Denson,
Cheryl Williams, Teresa Reese, Cyndy Pattillo,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:35 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: No guests were in attendance at today's meeting.

CEO REMARKS: Andrea expressed gratitude and appreciation to her New Horizons family, both staff and Board members, for their kind words, prayers, texts, visits, flowers, food, and the outpouring of love and support during her mother's illness, hospice stay, and transition. She shared that being able to focus on and spend time with her mother and family during those difficult, yet precious days, while knowing that everything at New Horizons was being handled in her absence, was the most valuable gift she could have received.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of May 8, 2023, minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the May 8, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that, in April, New Horizons continued trending below budget in Medicaid Waiver, Federal Funds, County Funds, Medicare Fees, and GIA – FFS. However, we continued trending positively in Medicaid Fees, Contract Revenue; and Grant in Aid. County Participation Agreements were recently processed and included an invoice for any past due County funds.

Regarding April expenditures, some areas continue to trend higher than budgeted: Motor Vehicle Expense, Supplies, Equipment, Food Costs, Pharmaceuticals, Direct Benefits to Clients, and Travel Expense. Salary and Benefits are much lower than budgeted as they were budgeted as if all vacant positions were filled. We continue to analyze expenditures to ensure they are recorded correctly as historical information drives the budget process. “Other Operating” continues to be a challenge. We ended April with a monthly surplus of \$231,078 and a YTD surplus of \$3,005,592.

Susan indicated the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used by DBHDD to assess Community Care contain standards to ensure our financial and administrative stability. KPI weight (in points) is scored in four categories: Days of Cash on Hand, Current Ratio, Days of Unreserved Assets to Total Expenses, and Long-Term Debt to Net Assets.

New Horizons Quarterly Financial KPI Scores

	Required	New Horizons	KPI Points
Days Cash On Hand	30 Days	147 days	40
Current Ratio	1:1	18:1	40
Days of Unreserved Net Assets	60 Days	141 days	2.5
Long Term Debt to Net Assets	2.5:1	Not Applicable	10

The Finance Department reports quarterly through an on-line portal and provides a copy of the Balance Sheet, Income Statements, Liquidity Statement, and Board Minutes. A copy of our annual External Audit is also provided to Kenneth Ward, Director, and to the Office of Internal Audit and Risk Management.

Work will soon begin on the FY23 external audit. We have started communicating with the Auditors around GASB 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements, to ensure we are in compliance with the standards.

We currently have (3) federal grants in submission: the SAMHSA Grant to Benefit Homeless Individuals, the SAMHSA CCBHC-PDI Grant, and the BJA Connect and Protect: Law Enforcement and Mental Health Partnership.

We are awaiting contracts from DBHDD for the Harris County Co-Responder Program (\$89,750) and the DBHDD SABG American Rescue Plan Funding (\$300,000).

*** NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FY24 ANNUAL BUDGET:** The FY2024 Recommended Budget is balanced with \$21,074,240 in revenues and expenses. This amount is a decrease from our FY23 adopted budget primarily attributable to the sunset of CCBHC, CMHC, and NEXUS funding awards. Susan introduced Andralescia Clark, Budget Analyst, and Reid Denson, Financial Analyst, who have worked extensively on the FY24 budget and developed, for the first time, an FY24 budget book listing budgets for each program.

The FY24 budget is listed below:

*Serving Residents of Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart and Talbot Counties
For 24-Hour Emergency Services Call (706) 323-0174 or Toll Free (800) 241-3659*

Recommended Budget FY24		
Revenues		
County Funds		158,500
Medicaid Waiver		3,970,407
Medicaid Outpatient		3,387,854
NHEAT Contributions		15,000
Medicare Fees		92,066
Insurance		8,100
Client fees		13,653
Contract Revenue		4,394,950
DD Work Activity		37,756
Other Fees		146,023
Other Local		115,030
Federal Funds		763,610
Grant-In- Aid FFS		1,833,376
Grant-In- Aid		6,137,915
Total Revenues		21,074,240
Expenses		
Salaries		9,216,862
Benefits		3,259,802
Unemployment Ins		20,655
Workers Comp		134,640
Merit Sys Assess		13,440
Rental/Utility Assistance		47,038
Insurance & Bonding		36,900
Equipment rental		79,817
Motor vehicle exp		354,504
Motor Vehicle lease		64,500
Supplies & Materials		211,828
Marketing & Advertising		122,620
Computer Software		637,500
Equipment		88,458
Food costs		169,223
Pharmaceuticals		60,985
Repairs & Maintenance		44,803
Utilities		221,914
Direct Benefits to Clients		92,705
Shelter Plus Care - Harris		331,956
DD Work Activity Salaries		97,173
Travel & Mileage Expense		140,988
Training		18,530
Building Rent		1,965,371
Legal fees		17,500
Contract labor		1,434,906
Contract - MedMas		381,425
Contract - Other		535,492
Lab Services		147,208
Telecommunications		434,860
Other		690,637
Total expenses		21,074,240

NHBH Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2023

This budget assumes service delivery will continue under the Fee-For-Service Model for revenues while continuing to build and support the CCBHC Service Model for expenditures. With this budget, we remain above our DBHDD minimum-required 30-days in our Operating Fund Reserves (Days Cash on Hand), and continue to build our financial health and service sustainability.

Andrea indicated that with the PPS rate not finalized and the sunset of our CCBHC and CMHC grant funding in the next few months, we need to plan ahead and remain fiscally responsible. Susan indicated that at the end of FY24, our goal is to have 180 Days Cash on Hand.

M/S/P Joseph Williams/Nancy Schroeder to approve New Horizons' FY24 Annual Budget, Board approved.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) FUNDING

UPDATE: A virtual financial meeting with DBHDD staff was held on Wednesday, May 17th. with DBHDD attendees Robert Dorr, Sarepta Archilla, Chavis Paulk, and Christopher Hamilton. Susan reported opening the meeting with a question/statement around budgeting for FY24 without a PPS rate and concerns around the fact we have adopted the CCBHC service delivery model, expanded staffing, expanded hours, but once the CCBHC contract ends, we have no funding mechanism to support this service delivery model. DBHDD indicated we do not have an approved PPS rate and not all triggering events have been finalized. They stated we can revisit funding needs in November and the CCBHC contract may be extended or renewed. Sarepta indicated the CCBHC contract was ARPA funding, but there could be some funds available and revisiting the contract in November could be a plan.

Robert Dorr added that there will be additional work around establishing a PPS rate and indicated there might be a downward adjustment to our proposed rates. DBHDD is compiling a set of questions around rates which should be coming out in a few weeks. He stated bridge funding will be available for a short time and Chris Hamilton agreed. He also spoke of the 'wild card' – 3rd party diligence on the rate study. DBHDD has contracted with Deloitte to work on establishing PPS rates. They are experienced with PPS in other states and familiar with Georgia programs. Sarepta indicated we have been spending our contract down, which is a good thing.

NEW HORIZONS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART: An updated Organizational Chart was presented for review outlining the new structure and hierarchy of New Horizons since adding the Chief Operating Officer (COO) position, responsible for the day-to-day Clinical operations. Denise Wade McLeod was appointed COO and Karen Cotton-Everett is the new Clinical Director. The visual representation shows how different roles and departments relate to each other and who various departments fall under.

INDIVIDUAL SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS: Cyndy presented data from recent satisfaction surveys in I/DD and Mental Health Adult and Child/Adolescent programs. In comparing I/DD survey results to other CBSs in Georgia, New Horizons scored higher in each category - Life Satisfaction, Choices and Self-Determination, Personal Relationships, Respect, Rights, and Dignity, Satisfaction with Services, and Safety - except one, Social Inclusion and Community Participation. Covid restrictions over the past few years undoubtedly had a negative impact on this category.

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NHBH Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2023

Adult Mental Health survey results compared New Horizons scores to 17 CSBs in Georgia and the United States (for 2021). Overall, scores were comparable with a slight gap noted in Participation in Treatment Planning and Quality and Appropriateness of Services. Satisfaction with Services produced our highest score. Child and Adolescent Mental Health results were compared to 13 Georgia CSBs and the United States (for 2021). New Horizons ranked higher in every category with Access to Services, Participation in Treatment Planning, Cultural Sensitivity of Providers, and Improved Social Connectedness the top four and Positive about Outcome of Services reflecting the lowest number. Parents complete the Child and Adolescent surveys. Plans are to increase survey participation next year and, for Mental Health surveys, tablets will be available.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – R.E.A.C.H.: Cheryl Williams, Mental Health Day Services/Residential Coordinator, introduced Teresa Reese, Certified Peer Specialist (CPS), at R.E.A.C.H., an Adult Community-Based Mental Health Recovery and Resiliency Services program. Teresa embodies what New Horizons is all about. She has been in recovery for 24 years and employed as a CPS at R.E.A.C.H. since 2014. R.E.A.C.H. (Recovery, Empowerment, Acceptance, Choice, Hope) provides Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services for Adults with mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders in a way that recognizes the individuality of learning types. Everyone has different levels of needs and styles of learning that work best for them. The R.E.A.C.H. Program utilizes various and unique teaching methods to meet the individuals learning style and needs in four core areas: Living, Learning, Social, and Work. R.E.A.C.H. focuses on understanding your diagnosis, medications, symptom management and more; whole health and wellness - mental/physical/emotional care; independent and everyday living skills; community integration and vocational/job readiness; and, social interaction, communication, and coping skills. Teresa’s lived experience is an invaluable asset to New Horizons’ Staff Executive Committee (SEC), the R.E.A.C.H. team, and has an undeniable impact on the individuals we serve.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on recent community events she has attended along with other New Horizons staff. These included a Career and Resource Fair, DFCS Self-Care Event, Harris County Teen Summit, and the Columbus LBGTQ+ Pride Festival. Upcoming events are the Talbot County Open House, Juneteenth Resource Fair, and the Harris County Back to School Rush. Instagram, Constant Contact, and Facebook followers are increasing and new promotional items are on the way. Recovery on the River is September 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Woodruff Park. Staff and Board members are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Hoyte announced the Chattahoochee County Back to School event will be held July 30th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea informed the Board of a meeting, attended by New Horizons staff, in Harris County recently with a group of Harris County community leaders and Region 6 staff airing frustration over what they feel is a lack of mental health services in their area. Their concerns were heard and efforts to increase services/staff are being made. There has also been discussion of adding Accountability Courts, Assisted Outpatient Treatment, and Co-Responder services for Harris County. Finding the balance of meeting their needs with meeting the numbers to sustain a full-time office there will be challenging. Harris County residents can receive services in Muscogee County at our main location and access telehealth services.

Andrea asked Board Members to remember Nancy Schroeder's family in their prayers as they deal with serious health concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sandra Gill thanked staff for a very informative, well-presented meeting today. Members agreed it was a good meeting with much information shared.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Joseph Williams/Sandra Gill to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 p.m., 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: August 14, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, Joseph Williams,
David Ranieri, Nancy Schroeder, Karen Johnson,
LaVerne Chaffin, and April Hughes

Members Excused: Sandra Gill, Linda McElroy, and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Randall Newberry, Cyndy Pattillo, Karen Cotton-Everett,
Dr. Pamela Shaw, Gloria Mott, Tara Malone, Chloe Landreth,
and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Mac Moye, Stewart County Manager and Terry Edwards, potential Board Member candidate from Harris County. Ms. Winston introduced Ms. Edwards, a former New Horizons employee, who is currently the Executive Director of Family Connection in Harris County.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of June 12, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve the June 12, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of May with a monthly surplus of \$281,271 and a YTD surplus of \$3,286,863. We continued to trend below budget in Medicaid Waivers, Federal Funds, County Funds, Medicare Funds, and GIA-FFS. However, we continued trending positively in Medicaid Fees, Contract Revenue, and Grant in Aid. One negative number listed in Other Local Actual for May was an accounting entry to close a program. May expenditures in some areas continued to trend higher than budgeted. These included motor vehicle expense, supplies, equipment, food costs, pharmaceuticals, direct benefits to clients, and travel expense. Salary and benefits are much lower than budgeted, however, unemployment insurance was higher due to the change from Healthcare Staffing to payroll. We continue to analyze expenditures to ensure they are recorded correctly as actual historical information drives the budget process.

June ended with a monthly surplus of \$1,145,688 and a YTD surplus of \$4,432,551. Revenue receivables recorded in June and the large Tax Credit were the biggest contributing factors to this large monthly surplus. Contract revenue was much higher than budgeted due to an increase in the number of AP Contracts and diligence of the finance staff. The Employee Retention Tax Credit, a one time payment, due to the American Recovery Plan Act, was secured through a Consulting Firm contract. Expenditures over budget were the same as those listed in May with the addition of legal fees and other operating. Under budget expenses included salaries and benefits, building rent, utilities, motor vehicle leases, telecommunications, and contract expenses.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used by DBHDD to assess Community Care are assessed in the following areas: Safe, accessible, efficient, effective (positive clinical outcomes), financially and administratively stable, accountable, and competent (workforce). 4th Quarter Financial KPI scores were reviewed.

YEAR END PROGRAMMATIC ANALYSIS: A graph indicating Programs with a Loss for FY23, level of financial risk, and whether they are required by DBHDD was presented for review. Residential programs and several I/DD programs continue to be at high financial risk. A meeting is scheduled to discuss future plans for these programs.

***RESOLUTION FOR STABLE ACCOUNT DESIGNEE:** Stable accounts are available to eligible individuals with disabilities. They allow for saving of money over the \$2,500 limit without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs, like Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). This resolution authorizes and directs Andralescia Clark, Budget Analyst, to serve as the Controlling Officer and Linda Mincey, Representative Payee Program Staff, to serve as the Primary Contact for Stable Accounts established for individuals in Payee Services. M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the resolution, Board approved.

***FY24 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** The FY24 PI Plan was sent to Board Members prior to the meeting for review. The Plan is administered by New Horizons Behavioral Health, through the Performance Improvement Committee with input from individuals, family members, and staff members. The purpose of the PI Committee is to ensure that leadership, clinical, and support employees demonstrate a continuous, consistent effort to provide quality services in a safe atmosphere respectful of the needs of individuals and families served. It is based upon the belief that attainment of the highest standards of quality can best be achieved by continuously improving performance and data-driven decision making in accordance with the agency's values. The plan outlines this purpose as well as how we seek input and feedback, our performance improvement structure, and the annual evaluation of the plan. Performance Improvement goals, that are program specific, fall in-line with CARF guidelines, and are measurable, are developed for each program annually and reported on quarterly or monthly. M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the FY24 Plan, Board approved.

FY23 STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW/FY24 STRATEGIC PLAN: The FY22/23 Strategic Plan lists objectives under the broader goals of Demonstrates superior treatment services, Financial viability, and Improving community awareness. Progress on objectives is updated quarterly by the leadership team and several program directors. Goals are broader and less measurable than the PI Goals.

With progress updates completed 6/30/23 on the FY22/23 Plan, the FY23/24 Plan has been developed and submitted to staff for input and review. Objectives can be added or deleted as needed.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT – INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE: Dr. Pamela Shaw and Gloria Mott reported on Integrated Healthcare services offered at the Reach program. Dr. Shaw came to New Horizons in 2012 and, through a SAMHSA grant, developed a partnership with Mercy Med and Dr. Grant Scarborough to add physical health services to the mental health services at Reach. Through Dr. Shaw’s extensive training and experience, once the grant ended, she continued to provide physical health services to individuals at Reach as well as others not attending Reach. She has also received training and is providing MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) to treat opiate and heroin use. Physical diagnoses treated or referred include hypertension, diabetes, asthma/COPD, weight loss, cholesterol, UTI, anemia, vision exams, and flu and covid vaccines. Referrals to cardiologists, endocrinologists, rheumatologists, dermatologists, and others for more specialized care are made as needed. Wellness and preventive measures are emphasized as are routine labs and tests. For the uninsured, referrals to Piedmont Outpatient, Mercy Med, Valley Healthcare and the Veterans Administration are given. Collaboration with our medical provider, Dr. Samraj, is a valuable part of their treatment. Andrea emphasized that Dr. Shaw is a rare commodity at New Horizons, providing both physical and mental health care. Knowing that many of our individuals do not receive the medical or preventive care they need, integrated care is a highly valued, much needed service and one we hope to expand into other programs.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, & PUBLIC RELATIONS/BACK TO SCHOOL EVENTS: Chloe presented highlights from Back to School events throughout the eight county area. 1000 school pencil pouches, full of school supplies, were distributed at the events. Recovery on the River is September 8th at Woodruff Park in downtown Columbus from 6 to 8 pm. The event will be lots of fun with inspirational Recovery speakers featured, music, face painting, games, dancing, and food trucks. Board Members and staff are encouraged to attend. Susan Gallagher and Harry Tatum participated in the Congressional Military Family Caucus on the mental health and suicide prevention panel. The Talbotton Open House event highlighting the BHFit program was well-attended. Social media contacts are on the rise, FaceBook Live continues weekly, and upcoming community events were announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We continue to keep two Board Members and their families in our thoughts and prayers due to their recent loss of loved ones: Nancy Schroeder on the loss of her daughter and Karen Johnson on the loss of her son.

Mr. Hoyte thanked Chloe for her participation and for providing school supplies at the Back to School event in Chattahoochee County.

April Hughes commended New Horizons for the services provided by the Apex Program in Chattahoochee County and the benefits to the children in their area.

Terry Edwards expressed appreciation to Chloe and New Horizons for assisting with Back to School events in Harris County.

Mr. Moye thanked Susan for her assistance in helping to secure housing for an individual in the Stewart County area.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the meeting and go into Executive Session at 4:26 p.m., Board approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Tara Malone discussed, reviewed, and had Board Members complete the annual performance evaluation of our director. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to end the Executive Session at 4:45 p.m. Board approved.

Ms. Winston requested a brief meeting following the September Board meeting to discuss recommendations and feedback from Board Member comments on her PMF.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:50, M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner 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: September 11, 2023

Members Present: Nancy Schroeder, Joseph Williams, David Ranieri,
Sandra Gill, Karen Johnson, and LaVerne Chaffin

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, Edwina Turner, April Hughes,
Linda McElroy, and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Randall Newberry, Cyndy Pattillo, Karen Cotton-Everett,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Nancy Schroeder at 3:36 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Terry Edwards, Board Member candidate from Harris County and Executive Director of Harris County Family Connection, and Cyde McQuien, owner of Image by Design and New Horizons' Development Advisory Board member.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of August 14, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the August 14, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported New Horizons closed the month of July with a monthly surplus of \$134,003. We continue to trend below budget in Medicaid Waivers, County Funds, Medicare Fees, and GIA-FFS. However, we continue to trend positively in Contract Revenue, Federal Funds, and Grant in Aid. In July, we recorded Medicaid and GIA-FFS that was a June receivable. Regarding July expenditures, salary and benefits are lower than budgeted, however, rental of equipment, direct benefits to clients, and other operating are over budgeted expenses. We continue to analyze expenditures to ensure they are recorded correctly. The mid-year budget review process will begin in October/November. July 2023 Financial KPI scores indicated Days Cash on Hand of 175.41, Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities) of 1:22, and Days of Unreserved Net Assets (Total Assets/Total Daily Expenditures) of 199.03. Days of Unreserved Net Assets has dropped slightly due to an increase in Total Daily Expenditures to \$60,118 for July.

Two Federal grants, NEXUS and CMHC, will close out the end of September. The SMART Sheet process continues to move well and has streamlined purchasing and check request processes. The accounting staff is working to control cell phone and hot spot expenses. Field work for the annual financial audit was completed by Robert Baker and Associates the week of August 21. No concerns were indicated and we anticipate another good audit.

GACSB Q4 FINANCIAL BENCHMARKS: New Horizons is one of twenty-two Community Service Boards that provide Core and Specialty services across Georgia with a mix of geographic locations in rural, suburban, and urban areas. Most CSBs cover multiple counties, although some with higher populations serve only one county. Fulton County is not part of the CSB network, but works closely with DBHDD to provide services. Financial benchmark data is provided quarterly by the Georgia Association of Community Service Boards. Of the four types of financial ratios, CSBs are scored only on Liquidity. 4th quarter KPI scores were listed and comparisons of all Georgia CSBs FY23 Days Cash on Hand, Margin %, Median Current Ratio, Median Debt Ratio, Positive/Zero or Negative margins, Median Revenue, and Median Expenses were included in the report. The data illustrates that New Horizons Behavioral Health is a thriving member in a robust network of Community Service Boards.

***FY23-24 HOTEL-MOTEL GRANT:** New Horizons has been awarded a FY23-24 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) that starts October 1, 2023 and runs through September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$2460.00. Hotel or motel vouchers may be provided where no appropriate emergency shelter is available and must have a direct connection to a program providing permanent housing placement. M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to approve the grant, Board approved.

2022-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW: The Strategic Plan was discussed briefly in the August Board meeting and emailed to Board members following the meeting. Developed annually, the plan focuses on goals related to treatment, financial viability, and community awareness. Objectives on those goals are updated quarterly to capture progress and maintain focus on the goal. Objectives may be long term, not required to be measurable, and can be revised/modified during the year. Several objectives and progress noted were reviewed.

2023-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT: The 23-24 Strategic Plan has been developed and sent to Board members for review. Goals were changed to Treatment/Access, Viability, Technology Services, and Improve Community Awareness/Decrease Stigma. Progress on objectives will be updated quarterly and revisions made if needed. Goals are broader and less measurable than Performance Improvement goals. Input from Board members is welcome.

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PRESENTATION: TELLY AWARD WINNER: Cyde McQuien, owner of Image by Design, who has created billboards, videos, print and commercial ads, t-shirts, logos, and banners for New Horizons, announced that the New Horizons commercial he created and produced, titled “Sinking,” was submitted to a national competition and won the very prestigious Telly Award. The commercial was shown during the meeting and all agreed the video sends a very powerful and impactful message. The Telly Award was presented to Board Vice Chair Nancy Schroeder, who accepted it for the agency. Cyde commended Susan Gallagher for her efforts in securing grant funds that allow us to fund the production and airing of commercials to spread the message of what we do and to help reduce stigma around behavioral health issues.

RECOVERY ON THE RIVER: Approximately 500 people attended Recovery on the River, held downtown at Woodruff Park on September 8th. With Columbus a major stop for the Mobilize Recovery Bus Tour across Georgia, New Horizons served as local host of the event. Community leaders, recovery speakers, and performers, live music, 12 vendors, 4 food trucks, and a host of sponsors made the event a huge success in educating and promoting our recovery community. Chloe did a great job with coordinating the event and volunteers were on hand to help make it run smoothly.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on awards New Horizons received including the Columbus People’s Choice bronze award for best nonprofit, a gold award for best mental health clinic, and a safety partner award from Medmasa. New Horizons staff recently participated in community events held in Clay and Randolph counties and attend various partner agency meetings regularly in our area. Facebook, Instagram, and Constant Contact numbers are increasing. Upcoming events on our schedule are a resource fair in Quitman County September 23rd and the Day Reporting Center Resource Fair October 5th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Quality Review audits are scheduled for September 25th. Carelon will audit Behavioral Health services and Qlarant audits Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities services.

Commissioner Tanner is scheduled to visit New Horizons on October 4th. Services and programs related to the justice system will be highlighted.

We appreciate Terry Edwards attendance in today’s meeting and anticipate her appointment letter from the Harris County Commissioners soon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:52, M/S/P Joseph Williams/David Ranieri to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Damon Hoyte

NHBH Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2023

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Item #3.

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

- Date of Meeting: October 9, 2023
- Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Ed Harbison, Joseph Williams, Sandra Gill, Karen Johnson, and Linda McElroy
- Members Excused: Nancy Schroeder, Edwina Turner, April Hughes, David Ranieri, and LaVerne Chaffin
- Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher, Randall Newberry, 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 3:34 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY’S MEETING: Terry Edwards, Board Member candidate from Harris County and Executive Director of Harris County Family Connection.

*** SECRETARY’S MINUTES (Approval of September 11, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to approve the September 11, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported August FY24 revenue was \$93,455 higher than revenue for August FY23. Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Fees, and GIA Fee for Service are lower than budgeted. Federal Funds and Grant in Aid are significantly higher than budgeted. Salaries and benefits are significantly higher than budget while contract expense and building rent are significantly under budget. Adjustments may be made at mid-year budget review. August ended with a \$222,951 surplus and a year-to date surplus of \$356,954. This trend should continue in September, however, we predict a reduction in the monthly surplus for October.

August Financial KPI scores indicated Days Cash on Hand of 175, Current Ratio (Current Assets/Current Liabilities) of 1:23, and Days of Unreserved Net Assets (Total Assets/Total Daily Expenditures) of 169. Days of Unreserved Net Assets has dropped slightly due to an increase in Total Daily Expenditures to \$61,498 for August. Budget Analysts are gaining experience with their programs, with each assigned 20 programs for budget oversight. We are utilizing financial data to help Program Managers better control that aspect of their operations. Human Resources and Payroll are working on implementation of DATIS, a new software program to assist with managing their systems.

Andrea indicated that DBHDD has reported there is no new funding for CCBHC and the transition will not take place until July. This gap in implementation will have a financial impact on the agency and our goal is to maintain our cash reserves and, if necessary, cut back on staff and/or expenses.

SUNSETTING OF GRANTS/NEW GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: The majority of revenue generated at New Horizons is through billable services provided by various programs. The Revenue Acquisition Department (RAD) works directly with these programs. The Finance Department identifies trends, problems, and opportunities, but does not generate revenue. Grant Acquisition is a function of the Finance Department. Grants.gov sends email notices daily of funding opportunities across all federal agencies. The application cycle varies by the awarding agency. For example, SAMHSA typically announces Notice of Funding Opportunities in February/March with applications due in April/May. The goal of the Finance Department is to apply for a minimum of two SAMHSA grants during this funding cycle. The close out process is complete for two Federal Grant Programs, NEXUS and CMHC, that ended September 29. Personnel Action Forms were submitted to move payroll information from grant funds to other programs effective October 1. We are preparing for the close out process for CCBHC and will move payroll information for personnel effective December 1. Three grants recently applied for, SAMHSA CCBHC-PDI, SAMHSA GBHI, and BJA Connect & Protect, were not awarded.

***SHELTER PLUS CARE SUPPORT SERVICES:** New Horizons has been awarded \$25,000 in funding from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to assist with the Permanent Supportive Housing Program in Harris County. This funding goes beyond the rental & utilities assistance in the PSH grant and helps with furniture, household items, damages, and other expenses necessary for the Families & Individuals in the PSH program to maintain housing stability. It is an expense-based reimbursement program. The Board is required to approve acceptance of the funding. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to approve the funding, Board approved.

***FY24 CLINICAL PLAN:** The FY24 Clinical Plan, sent to Board members prior to today's meeting, outlines the agency's purpose and scope, history, population served, organization and services structure, and treatment philosophy/planning among many topics covered. Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC), Co-Responder Program, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Pilot Program, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), and CareLogic. Services were added to last year's plan. The FY24 plan only needed minor additions/revisions. M/S/P Ed Harbison/Joseph Williams to approve the FY24 Clinical Plan, Board approved.

PRESENTATION: CRISIS DEBRIEFING TEAM: Kenyetta reported that Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISB) is a specific, seven phase, small group, supportive crisis intervention process. It is just one of the many crisis intervention techniques which are included under the umbrella of a Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program. The CISD process does not constitute any form of psychotherapy and it should never be utilized as a substitute for psychotherapy. It is simply a supportive, crisis-focused discussion of a traumatic event (frequently called a “critical incident”). The CISD was developed exclusively for small, homogeneous groups who have encountered a powerful traumatic event with the goal of reduction of distress and restoration of group cohesion and unit performance. In other words, it is a structured, group story-telling process combined with practical information to normalize group member reactions to a critical incident and facilitate their recovery. It is led by a specially trained team of 2 to 4 people depending on the size of the group and attempts to enhance resistance to stress reactions, build resiliency or the ability to “bounce back” from a traumatic experience, and facilitate both recovery from traumatic stress and a return to normal, healthy functions. It is not a stand-alone process and should be linked to education, other interventions and support services, and referrals for professional care, if necessary. There are currently 15 members on the NHBH Crisis Debriefing Team that have been activated over the past few months to assist in Disaster Response related to hurricane evacuations, tragic car accidents resulting in deaths of high school students, and a 15-year old shot outside a recreation center. The team is available to staff, students, and the community affected by these traumatic events for the days and weeks they are needed.

COMMISSIONER’S PRIORITIES: Commissioner Kevin Tanner and his team visited New Horizons October 4th in conjunction with area visits to the State Hospital, Probate Court, and Mercer School of Medicine. Andrea highlighted the Commissioner’s proposed FY25 budget request increase items including supplementing the expiring Federal 988 grant, Mobile Crisis Response Services, Region 1 BHCC, Georgia Housing Voucher Program, Jail In Reach Pilot Programs, and Now and Comp Waivers for I/DD individuals. The FY25 budget request reductions include: Funds for State Contracted Beds, one time funds for homelessness outreach, reduction on Core Funding to reflect Utilization rates, one time gap funding for Psychiatric Residential Treatment facilities, and Information Technology savings. Rate studies for Behavioral Health and I/DD are being done and may be increased. Justice involved services currently are a big focus, but co-responder funding may not continue. With so many individuals in need of services, our numbers have not returned to pre-Covid levels. The Express Clinic initiative provides faster access to services with intake, nurse, and doctor visits all on the same day. Advertising the Express model on radio and getting the information out in the community could increase our numbers.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on recent events, the Quitman County Culture and Resource Fair and the Day Reporting Center Resource Fair, she attended, as well as monthly community partner meetings. She also highlighted Commissioner Tanner’s visit and a proclamation received to honor Direct Support Professionals Appreciation Week. Facebook, Instagram, and Constant Contact numbers are on the rise. Upcoming scheduled events are a Spookfest, Stewart County Story Book Walk, Muscogee County Police Department Town Hall, Goodwill Job Fair, Red Ribbon Week October 23rd - 27th, and Veteran’s First Aid Mental Health Training in November. Projects in the works include scheduling a motivational youth speaker for our Apex schools and implementing new and former Ability Projects for our I/DD programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The GACSB Leadership Conference is October 29th – 31st at Lake Lanier. Board Members should inform us this week if interested in attending.

There is no Board Meeting in November, the next meeting is December 11th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:53, M/S/P Joseph Williams/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: December 11, 2023

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Ed Harbison, Edwina Turner,
Joseph Williams, David Ranieri, Sandra Gill,
Karen Johnson, LaVerne Chaffin, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: Nancy Schroeder and April Hughes

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Denise Wade McLeod, Susan Gallagher,
Karen Cotton-Everett, Randall Newberry,
Chloe Landreth, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:33 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER: Terry Edwards' appointment to the Board was approved by the Harris County Commission and the oath of office read at today's meeting. We welcome Terry and so appreciate her willingness to serve on our Board.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: No guests were in attendance.

*** SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of October 9, 2023 minutes):** M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to approve the October 9, 2023 minutes, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan presented September and October financial data and reported that September FY24 revenue was \$586,391 higher than August FY23. This is related to the 2nd Employee Retention Tax Credit received in September. Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Fees, and Grant in Aid funds are lower than budgeted for FY24. GIA and Federal Funds are significantly higher than budget, however, two SAMHSA grants ended effective September 30. September FY24 expenses were \$397,737 higher than September FY23. Salaries, benefits, and building rent were higher than FY23. Adjustments may be made at the mid-year budget review. September ended with a \$541,232 surplus and a year to date of \$868,981. As we are operating under the CCBHC model with no corresponding CCBHC payment rate from DBHDD, September is the last month for significant positive operating margins.

October FY24 revenue was \$92,578 more than budgeted. Medicaid fees, Federal Funds, and Grant in Aid are lower than budgeted. However, Medicaid Waiver revenue has improved and is slightly higher than budgeted. GIA continues to trend higher than budgeted. October is the first month without SAMHSA support. October FY24 expenses were \$123,928 higher than budgeted. Salaries and benefits and repairs and maintenance were higher than budget for the month. October ended with a \$31,351 deficit and year to date of \$837,631. October 2023 Financial Key Performance Indicator (KPI) scores showed Days Cash on Hand as 174.85 and total daily expenditures of \$64,615.

The draft external audit has been received and reviewed. We anticipate the final Audited Financials prior to the submission deadline to DBHDD and the Federal Government for the Single Audit Report. We continue the close out process of the Federal Grant Programs, NEXUS and CMHC, which ended September 29. Staff of Human Resources, the Development Office, Training, and the Operations Director have moved to new office space on the second floor. Accounting and Intake staff are organizing existing first floor office space. The Finance staff will meet in January to review the six month budget and make adjustments based on actual activity through December.

ENDOWMENT PRESENTATION: Susan announced that in November of 2003, the Estate of Annie Velma Klayder made a \$20,000 donation to New Horizons. The Klayder Memorial Fund, established December 1, 2003, is an endowment fund to be used for the Intellectual/Developmental Disability division. The funds were invested at Raymond James Financial Services and today the balance is \$50,640. New Horizons will open a second fund with Raymond James with \$30,000 in proceeds from the Development Advisory Board fundraising activities over the past 20 years. This will be a non-endowed, unrestricted fund. The investment goals of both funds are preservation of capital with moderate risk tolerance and a time horizon exceeding 20 years. A report on the Endowment & Development Fund performance will be presented annually at the December Board Meeting.

Board members were pleased to hear of the generosity of Mrs. Klayder and the endowment fund established for IDD services, and discussed other ways individuals and families could donate or designate funds in their estate planning to New Horizons.

***PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT/RESOLUTION FOR SHELTER PLUS CARE – HARRIS COUNTY:** New Horizons has been awarded \$287,244 funding for permanent supportive housing in Harris County. These are HUD funds that provide rental and utility assistance, but do not cover all program expenses. Program participants are required to provide 30% of their income towards rent. Board approval for acceptance of participation is required. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Edwina Turner to approve participation, Board approved.

***2024 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR:** The 2024 meeting calendar schedule was presented for review. The most notable change was no meeting scheduled for January as the date falls very soon after returning from the holidays. Other months with no meeting are April, July, and November. M/S/P Joseph Williams/Ed Harbison to approve the 2024 Board meeting calendar, Board approved.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER (CCBHC) SITE VISIT

UPDATE: The CCBHC implementation process has been a lengthy one requiring application, attestation, revision/addition of policies and procedures, and detailed cost reports. Most recently, a CCBHC team from DBHDD conducted a pre-certification site visit December 5th and 6th at New Horizons. Leadership and staff interviews, client interviews, chart review, and program tours were conducted. From feedback received, the visit went very well and Karen and the New Horizons team did a great job in making that happen. A report and any recommendations from the visit are expected by February and any unmet requirements will be addressed. As has been reported in previous meetings, the PPS rate, which continues to be delayed, is needed to complete the CCBHC certification process.

FY24 – ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS (NEXT MEETING): Andrea reminded Board members that Board Officers will be elected at the first meeting of 2024 (February) and asked members to consider their nominations prior to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LaVerne Chaffin announced that Karen Johnson is getting married January 1st, 2024. Board members and Staff congratulated Ms. Johnson and wished her much happiness.

Ms. Johnson asked if she could be informed of staff recognition and other events in our Randolph County programs that she would be interested in attending. She also inquired about a Christmas outing for some of the Service Center individuals and indicated it had not been approved this year, but had in the past. Ms. Winston responded that there may be extenuating circumstances and she would look into it and a prompt response would follow.

Terry Edwards highlighted two employees: Chloe Landreth who attends many outreach events in Harris County, providing school supplies to the children and other resources to their residents, and to Norman Davis, for his efforts in getting AA meetings started in Harris County.

Mr. Hoyte expressed gratitude for the very enjoyable site visit to the REACH program. Seeing first hand how our treatment programs operate and meeting the individuals and staff has been very educational and rewarding. Additional site visits will be scheduled.

Other Board Members expressed their appreciation for being allowed to serve on the Board, for a wonderful 2023, and to our leadership team for ensuring that New Horizons is financially stable.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:17 p.m., M/S/P Edwina Turner/Joseph Williams to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Food, fun and games, and fellowship followed.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson



A Community Mental Health / Developmental Disabilities / Addictive Diseases Program

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2100 Comer Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906*

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**NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2100 Comer Avenue – New Horizons Training Room
Columbus, GA 31906**

Date of Meeting: September 9, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, David Ranieri, Edwina Turner,
Terry Edwards, Karen Johnson Bussey, LaVerne Chaffin,
Nancy Schroeder, Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: April Hughes and Ed Harbison

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade McLeod,
Danny Davenport, Chloe Landreth, Karen Cotton-Everett,
and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Damon Hoyte at 3:35 p.m. A quorum was established at that time.

INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER: Arcola Scott, Vice Chair of the Stewart County Commission, has graciously agreed to fill the vacant Board seat of Joseph Williams,. Ms. Scott has served as a Stewart County Commissioner since 2003 and is the first woman and the first African American woman ever to be elected to the Commission. She is married, with 2 children, and is a member of Greater St. Mark AME church. Mrs. Scott read the oath of office in today's meeting and the Board appointment form will be sent to the Stewart County Commission. Board Members thanked Mrs. Scott for her willingness to serve.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Valona Baldwin, DBHDD Regional Coordinator, New Horizons staff Emily Rebeck and Tara Malone.

* **SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of August 12, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Terry Edwards/Arcola Scott to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: July is the first month of FY25, and although it is a new year, Susan indicated we continue to have some of the same struggles from FY24, specifically Medicaid Waiver and Medicaid Fees trending below budget. In addition, County fund deficits are due to Columbus Consolidated Government supplements not received in a timely manner and the Federal Funds deficit is due to contracts not being processed at DCA for grant reimbursements.

July has reversed our monthly deficit trend with a surplus of \$162,628. This is attributed to cost containing measures around Salaries/Benefits and Contract Expenses combined with the CCBHC supplement of \$1.7 million for the first six months of FY25. Some items, such as Unemployment Insurance, Merit System Assessment, Insurance and Bonding are quarterly expenses and reflect \$0 actual expenses. Legal fees are submitted by the attorney's office and they invoice quarterly as well. Executive Leadership continues to monitor programs for efficiencies as well as improving the overall collection rates for billable services. New Horizons' Financial Key Performance Indicators (KPI) scores indicated days Cash on Hand is at 175. Days Cash on Hand is a formula based on cash in the bank and average daily expenses (\$54,058.56 as of July FY25).

Susan presented a graph illustrating how other CSBs in the Georgia safety net fared in FY24. Out of 21 CSBs, 12 ended FY24 with a negative margin and 9 ended with a positive margin. The median Days Cash on Hand across the safety net was 41 days and the median Personnel Expense Ratio was 73% (New Horizons is currently at 78%). We continue to look for opportunities to improve efficiencies and eliminate redundancies while maintaining quality services and retaining high performing staff.

***SHELTER PLUS CARE GRANT AWARD:** New Horizons has been awarded up to \$344,573 in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) funding to provide housing assistance in the Balance of State Continuum of Care. Our current PSH housing is located primarily in Harris County. M/S/P Terry Edwards/David Ranieri to accept the PSH funding, Board approved. A chart indicating HUD and ESG total funding amounts of \$709,940 was shared with the Board. Cheryl Williams, Residential Coordinator, has been diligent in seeking residential housing fund grant opportunities.

EXPRESS CLINIC UPDATE: Denise indicated the goals of Express Clinic are to serve individuals with increased access to services, an improved overall patient care experience, and enhanced efficiencies. A review of where we started with Express, April of 2023, how many we have served, 423 individuals, and changes in the schedule throughout the process was shared. Our next change, beginning October 1, is to have two providers available 5 mornings a week and 1 provider two afternoons per week. Andrea added these changes will allow more individuals to get the help they need when they need it and have hope when they leave.

DBHDD REGIONAL COORDINATOR: Valona Baldwin, Regional Coordinator with the DBHDD Region 6 Field office, introduced herself and reported that, based on data gathered by Commissioner Tanner, changes in the department have been implemented to include Regional Coordinators in each Region office and two Deputy Assistant Commissioners with oversight of three regions each. Her role is to ensure Mental Health, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse services are available and accessible to our communities and address issues, problem solve, develop new programs, identify gaps, and share the DBHDD story throughout our 31 county region. Ms. Baldwin has been a long time ally and supporter of New Horizons at the Region office and we look forward to working more closely with her in her new position.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported on outreach events attended recently including the Clay County Reading School Event, Georgia Recovers Bus Tour Kickoff, and the River Valley Regional Coalition presentation. A group of I/DD individuals participated in “Home is Where the Art Is” at SafeHouse Ministries recently and plan to enjoy the benefits of this unique program on a regular basis. FaceBook, Instagram, and Constant Contact outreach numbers are on the increase and Website and Page Traffic data was reviewed. Recovery on the River plans are going well with 15 speakers, 4 food trucks, 13 vendors, 9 sponsors, Master of Ceremonies, and a conversation tent for anyone interested in talking one on one with recovery speakers to have that opportunity. The event is September 27th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Uptown Columbus. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mobile Unit is September 17th. John Burdeshaw is filming his Recovery story, to be posted on-line with Columbus CEO, and a tour of Columbus Service Center and Intellectual/Developmental Disability programs with City Council members is scheduled for October 10th.

RECOVERY PRESENTATION: Emily Rebeck, Case Manager with New Horizons’ MAT program, shared her poignant, powerful story of addiction and recovery with Board members and staff. She will be a featured speaker at Recovery on the River. Her message of recovery and hope will certainly have an impact in the lives of others faced with addiction and substance use challenges.

MOBILE UNIT SERVICES: Andrea reminded Board Members that the Mobile Unit was purchased through a DBHDD grant to provide Covid Testing. We plan to add HIV and Hep C testing and integrated healthcare services. Hygiene kits will also be distributed and information related to services and other resources will be available. With interior modifications, a beautiful paint job, signage and our logo complete, the unit is ready to roll. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mobile Unit is September 17th, but Board Members will have the opportunity for a firsthand look today following the meeting. A shared calendar has been created for team members to schedule events and a sign-up form is on our website. The first scheduled community event for the Mobile Unit will be the Tri-City Latino Festival on September 21st. The Mobile Unit will be a great asset to our service area and allow us to better serve underserved areas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Andrea announced notice has been given of using different strategies for the cost study to determine the PPS rate indicating the timeframe for implementation of the rate will, more than likely, be later than January. Whether the supplemental funding will continue past January is unknown, but meetings are scheduled to take a closer look at the cost study. An inquiry was made as to how staff are handling the changes at New Horizons. Andrea responded that many staff feel overwhelmed and morale has been low through all the recent changes. The new electronic health record has been a major factor in creating additional work, stress, and frustration, but we have made great strides to get where we are with the EHR and are seeing consistent improvements to the system. We are focusing on being more efficient and increasing productivity while giving our individuals the best care possible and have encouraged staff input in making these improvements.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments were made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:36 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/David Ranieri to go into Executive Session to discuss employee periodic evaluation, Board approved. At 4:53 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Nancy Schroeder to end the Executive Session, Board approved.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:55 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Terry Edwards to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

TOUR THE MOBILE UNIT: Board Members and staff enjoyed a tour of the new Mobile Unit.

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: October 14, 2024

Members Present: David Ranieri, April Hughes, Terry Edwards,
Ed Harbison, Karen Johnson Bussey, LaVerne Chaffin,
Sandra Gill, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Edwina Turner, and Arcola Scott

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Cyndy Pattillo, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade
McLeod, Randall Newberry, Chloe Landreth, Karen Cotton-Everett,
and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Damon Hoyte was unable to attend today's meeting. Board Member David Ranieri called the meeting to order at 3:31 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 September 9, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Terry Edwards/Ed Harbison to approve the minutes of September 9, 2024, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan indicated that August saw an improvement in Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Fees, and Grant-in-Aid Fee for Service collections as the Revenue Acquisition and IT Teams continue to work with CareLogic Support. Staff across the agency is growing more familiar with CareLogic while targeted training supports individuals and programs. August continued the positive trend of an operating surplus, however, without the CCBHC supplement from DBHDD of \$1.7 million for the first 6 months of FY25, we would be operating at a YTD deficit of approximately \$190,000. We are maintaining strict controls over Salary/Benefits with current personnel costs at 70% of total budget. This compares favorably with median personnel costs across the Safety Net of 73%. Leadership continues to look at the Total Administrative Overhead costs for the agency exploring opportunities to create efficiencies and reduce redundancies. We posted a monthly surplus of \$212,618 for August with a YTD surplus of \$375,246.

New Horizons' Financial Key Performance Indicators (KPI) scores indicated days Cash on Hand is at 158.3. Days Cash on Hand is a formula based on cash in the bank and average daily expenses (\$59,641 as of August FY25).

***EMERGENCY SERVICE GRANTS (ESG) APPROVAL:** Updates on Residential Funding from the Department of Community Affairs include the following ESG grants: Homeless Prevention - \$30,000.00, Hotel/Motel - \$9,100.00, Rapid Rehousing - \$93,870.00, and Street Outreach - \$36,140.00. M/S/P Ed Harbison/Terry Edwards to approve the grant funds, Board approved. We are expecting a contract from DCA for an additional \$100,000 for Housing Case Management expenses and have applied for a special Support Service Grant in the amount of \$101,300.00.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW/OUTCOMES - FY24: The Strategic Plan lists the following goals: Demonstrate Superior Treatment Services, Financial Viability, Technology, and Improve Community Awareness and Decrease Stigma with objectives measured quarterly. The report was emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting for review and also presented in the meeting with discussion of several goals met and some to carry forward.

STRATEGIC PLAN – FY25: The FY25 plan is nearly complete and will be presented in the December Board Meeting.

***PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) PLAN – FY25:** The PI Plan is administered by New Horizons Behavioral Health, through the Performance Improvement Committee, with input from individuals, family members, and staff members. The committee works to develop a systematic, coordinated, and continuous approach to design, assess, and improve the performance of those functions and processes determined to be most directly related to positive outcomes for individuals. Every New Horizons' program has goals that are directed by CARF standards with data typically reported monthly or quarterly. Goals and projects are selected by identifying opportunities for improvement, collecting data, analyzing the data, and making recommendations to leadership. The plan, including the goals, scope, organization, and effectiveness is reviewed annually. M/S/P Terry Edwards/LaVerne Chaffin to approve the FY 25 PI Plan, Board approved.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) GOALS/OUTCOMES – FY24: FY24 PI goals and outcomes were sent to Board Members prior to the meeting. Cyndy provided information related to the goals, outcomes, and data collection.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (PI) GOALS – FY 25: The FY25 PI goals were sent to Board Members prior to the meeting. A review of the goals was presented.

REQUEST FOR COLUMBUS SERVICE CENTER ENHANCEMENTS: Susan presented information on the Columbus Service Center building that is leased to New Horizons and owned by the Columbus Consolidated Government. Intellectual/Developmental Disability services offered at the building include: Supported Employment, Pre-Employment, Community Access – Individual, and Community Access – Group. The Facility is 40 to 50 years old, does not meet current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and is in need of repairs, enhancements, and improvements. A meeting with City officials, including the Mayor, New Horizons' staff, family members and individuals receiving services was held October 10, 2024 at the building on Buena Vista Road.

The group toured the facility and reviewed architectural renderings developed by Hecht Burdeshaw of exterior improvements. Next steps are to continue to work with Hecht Burdeshaw around ADA compliant improvements and enhancements to the interior of the building, collaborate with the Community Reinvestment Department around the history of the facilities (building next door is also leased and City owned) to include any HUD financing requirements, continue to partner with the local elected officials, particularly Councilman Bruce Huff as the facilities are in his District, and to explore opportunities to partner with the Community around fundraising and project development. Susan indicated that our vision is for the building to become a community center where people could have meetings/events, share in a community garden, and participate in yoga or other classes to enhance that area of Columbus. Updates will be provided to the Board as the project progresses.

DEVELOPMENT, MARKETING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS: Chloe reported that, unfortunately, due to inclement weather, Recovery on the River was cancelled. A proclamation, presented by the City, was presented to celebrate Recovery month and the Georgia Recovery Tour Bus stopped by New Horizons for the presentation. A Recovery Luncheon is planned for December 5th at the Trade Center featuring Recovery speakers who were scheduled for the September event, plus a luncheon. Other outreach events attended by Chloe and staff recently include the Tri-City Latino Festival, Spook Fest, and Pride Festival. FaceBook, Instagram, and Constant Contact outreach numbers indicated an increase and Website and Page Traffic data was reviewed. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mobile Unit was held September 17th. Upcoming events include a Men's Resource Fair, Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities Town Hall, and the Randolph County Crossroads Festival. Other development projects are hospital relationship building and Red Ribbon Week activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Behavioral Health Exceptional Recovery-Oriented Service Award. was presented to New Horizons at the DBHDD Symposium at Lake Lanier October 9th – 11th.

The GACSB Leadership Conference is October 27th-29th at Lake Lanier. Registrations have been sent for several Board Members and staff. Any Board Members interested in attending should let Molly know today.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:24 p.m. M/S/P April Hughes/Terry Edwards to go into Executive Session to discuss Executive Evaluation and Retirement Benefits, Board approved. At 5:05 p.m. M/S/P Ed Harbison/LaVerne Chaffin to end the Executive Session, Board approved.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:08 p.m. M/S/P LaVerne Chaffin/Terry Edwards 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: December 9, 2024

Members Present: Damon Hoyte, Nancy Schroeder, Edwina Turner,
Karen Johnson Bussey, LaVerne Chaffin, Arcola Scott,
David Ranieri, Sandra Gill, April Hughes, and Linda McElroy

Members Excused: Ed Harbison and Terry Edwards

Staff Present: Andrea Winston, Cyndy Pattillo, Susan Gallagher, Denise Wade McLeod, Danny Davenport, Chloe Landreth, Karen Cotton-Everett, and Molly Jones

CALL TO ORDER: Board Chair Damon Hoyte called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.. A quorum was established at that time.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST(S) ATTENDING TODAY'S MEETING: Jeffrey Wright, Financial Consultant.

* **SECRETARY'S MINUTES (Approval of October 14, 2024 minutes):** M/S/P Arcola Scott/David Ranieri to approve the minutes of October 14, 2024, Board approved.

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Susan reported that October saw an improvement in Medicaid Waiver, Medicaid Fees, and Grant-in-Aid Fee for Service collections as the Revenue Acquisition and IT Teams continue to work with CareLogic Support. We anticipate billable services revenue to continue to increase as the I/DD and BH rates are implemented and retro payments are received in November and December. October ended with a surplus of \$452,575 for the month and a Year to Date surplus of \$765,752. This surplus is needed to serve as a cushion with the anticipated Go-Live date of July 1, 2025 for the bundled CCBHC payment rate. We are planning for expected delays in approvals, payments, and other unforeseen issues as we transition to this new payor model that is new for us, DBHDD, and DCH. Supplemental funding from DBHDD will continue through June 30, 2025. A graph, showing Days Cash on Hand of 168.47 as of October 31, 2024, also illustrated the 11-year journey to grow our Days Cash on Hand from -2.3 Days in June of 2014 to meeting the DBHDD Key Performance Indicator of 30 Days Cash on Hand in December of 2020.

ENDOWMENT AND DEVELOPMENT FUND: Susan gave an update on the current Klayder Memorial Fund balance of \$54,004, an increase of \$3,364 from last December. She reminded the Board that in 2003 the Estate of Velma Klayder made a \$20,000 donation to New Horizons with the request to use the fund's income for the I/DD division.

STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW/OUTCOMES - FY25: The Strategic Plan is developed annually with objectives listed for the following goals: Demonstrate Superior Treatment Services, Financial Viability, Technology, and Improve Community Awareness and Decrease Stigma and measured quarterly. The plan was sent to Board Members prior to the meeting for review. Cyndy indicated objectives can be added or revised throughout the year as needed. Andrea emphasized the plan is used to drive the vision of New Horizons for the future.

***CLINICAL PLAN – FY25:** The Clinical Plan was sent to Board Members prior to the meeting for review. Karen reminded the Board that the plan is reviewed and revised annually. It lays out the Mission and Vision of New Horizons and the history and structure of the agency. The biggest changes to this year's plan are additions related to CCBHC and Express Clinic.

***2025 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR:** The 2025 Board calendar was presented for review and approval. Meetings will be held monthly, except for January, April, July, and October. M/S/P David Ranieri/Arcola Scott to approve the 2025 Board Meeting calendar, Board approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Andrea extended congratulations to Edwina Turner who was chosen as a Champion for Education by the Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Education Service Agency, and to Stewart County, who has a 93% graduation rate.

Andrea reminded Board members that the Election of Board officers for 2025 will take place at our next Board meeting in February 2025. Current officers are: Damon Hoyte, Chair, Nancy Schroeder, Vice Chair, and Sandra Gill, Secretary.

Andrea recognized Chloe Landreth for the great job she did with the Recovery Luncheon held December 5th at the Trade Center. The luncheon was held due to the cancellation of Recovery on the River in September due to inclement weather. The event featured an array of recovery speakers who shared their moving journeys to recovery and the impact on their lives and families. Several of our speakers are now employed at New Horizons and are paying it forward by helping others in their recovery. Thank you Chloe, for putting together an inspirational, meaningful event for our individuals and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No public comments were made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 3:47 p.m. M/S/P Arcola Scott/David Ranieri to go into Executive Session to discuss Executive Evaluation/Retirement Benefits, Board approved. At 4:21 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Arcola Scott to end the Executive Session, Board approved.

ADJOURNMENT: At 4:24 p.m. M/S/P Edwina Turner/Arcola Scott to adjourn the meeting, Board approved.

Holiday Food, Fun, and Fellowship were enjoyed by Board Members and Staff.

Damon Hoyte
Chairperson

File Attachments for Item:

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**Columbus Consolidated Government
Board Appointments – Action Requested**

BOARD APPOINTMENTS - ACTION REQUESTED

4. MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. PENSION FUND, EMPLOYEES’ BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Vacant
(Business Community)
Term Expires: June 30, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Mayor’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 4 Year Term Limit: n/a
Meetings: Monthly – 1st Wednesday
Women: 4 Senatorial District 15: 9
Vacancies: 1 Senatorial District 29: 2

5. NOMINATIONS – CONFIRMED BY COUNCIL:

A. AIRPORT COMMISSION:

Vacant
Term Expires: December 31, 2026
**The Airport Commission has submitted Daria Cruzen for confirmation.*

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 5 Year Term Limit: n/a
Meetings: Monthly – 4th Wednesday
Women: 1 Senatorial District 15: 3
Vacancies: 1 Senatorial District 29: 1

B. HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (BHAR):

Vacant
Columbus Homebuilders Association
Term Expires: January 31, 2028

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Vacant

Uptown Business Association

Term Expires: January 31, 2029

**Alan Udy is unable to serve currently. (Confirmed 02-10-2026)*

Waiting on Nominee
(Confirmed by Council)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 2 nd Monday	
Women:	5	Senatorial District 15: 7
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 2

6. NOMINATIONS – READY FOR CONFIRMATION:

A. DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS: Laura Gower was nominated to serve another term. New term expires: 04/30/2030 *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*

B. DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS: Doug Jenkins was nominated to serve another term. New term expires: 04/30/2030 *(Mayor Pro Tem Allen)*

7. COUNCIL DISTRICT SEAT APPOINTMENTS- ANY NOMINATIONS MAY BE CONFIRMED FOR THIS MEETING:

A. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 1 – Hickey)

Tracy Belt

Not Eligible

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 4 -Tucker)

Vacant

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

Vacant

Open for Nominations
(District 9 -Anker)

Term Expires: March 27, 2026

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year (Mayor Appts); 2 Year (Council Appts)	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Quarterly – 2nd Thursday (March, June, September & December)	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 7
Vacancies:	2	Senatorial District 29: 3

B. PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Paul T. Berry, III

Eligible

Term Expired: October 31, 2025

****Not interested in serving another term.***

Open for Nominations
(District 5 – Crabb)

Scott Taft

Not Eligible

Term Expired: October 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(District 9 – Anker)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3 rd Thursday	
Women:	3	Senatorial District 15: 4
Vacancies:	0	Senatorial District 29: 3

8. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – ANY NOMINATIONS WOULD BE LISTED FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

A. ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD:

Vacant

(Georgia Veterinary Technician)

Term Expires: October 15, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant

(Animal Rescue Shelter Representative)

Term Expires: October 15, 2026

Recommendations are submitted by a licensed animal shelter.

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Note: The Animal Control Advisory Board is currently developing recommendations for Council's consideration regarding the board's composition.

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Semiannually	
Women:	7	Senatorial District 15: 3
Vacancies:	3	Senatorial District 29: 4

B. BOARD OF HEALTH:

Yasmine Cathright

Not Eligible

Term Expires: December 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	5 Year	Term Limit: 2
Meetings:	Monthly – 4 th Wednesday	
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15: 0
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 5

C. BUILDING AUTHORITY OF COLUMBUS:

Vacant

Term Expires: March 24, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	2 Year	Term Limit: n/a
Meetings:	As needed.	
Women:	1	Senatorial District 15: 1
Vacancies:	1	Senatorial District 29: 3

D. LIBERTY THEATRE & CULTURAL ARTS CENTER ADVISORY BOARD:

Vacant

Term Expired: August 14, 2026

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Vacant

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Term Expired: August 14, 2026

Vacant (Civic Center Director Recommendation / Confirmed by Council)
Term Expired: August 14, 2027

Open for Nominations

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 4 Year Term Limit: 3
Meetings: Bimonthly – 2nd Thursday (January, March, May, July, September & November)
Women: 5 Senatorial District 15: 4
Vacancies: 4 Senatorial District 29: 4

E. NEW HORIZONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH – MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD:

Judge David Ranieri
Does not desire reappointment
Term Expired: June 30, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms: 3 Year Term Limit: n/a
Meetings: Monthly – 2nd Monday
Women: 2 Senatorial District 15: 2
Vacancies: 0 Senatorial District 29: 1

F. PERSONNEL REVIEW BOARD:

Vacant
(Alternate Member 1)
Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant
(Alternate Member 2)
Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Vacant
(Alternate Member 3)
Term expires: December 31, 2027

Open for Nominations
(Council’s Appointment)

Delano Leftwich

Not Eligible

(Alternate Member 4)

Term expired: December 31, 2025

Open for Nominations
(Council's Appointment)

Membership and Meeting Information

Terms:	3 Year	Term Limit:	2
Meetings:	Monthly – 3rd Wednesday		
Women:	4	Senatorial District 15:	2
Vacancies:	4	Senatorial District 29:	4

File Attachments for Item:

Request for refund of property taxes as submitted by Mr. Andrew Ruh, Executive Director of Columbus Botanical Garden, for property located in Columbus, Georgia in the amount of \$28,706.62. (*NOTE: Request for waiver of penalty and interest on property tax in the amount of \$7,935.60 was approved by Council on 03/24/2026. Property taxes for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 were paid in full on 03/25/2026.*)

Muscogee County Tax Commissioner



MUSCOGEE COUNTY
TAX COMMISSIONER

David A. Britt II, MBA, MPA
3111 Citizens Way
Columbus, GA 31901
taxcommissioner@columbusga.org

Motor Vehicle
Phone: (706) 653 - 4208
Fax: (706) 225 - 3772

Property Tax
Phone: (706) 653 - 4211
Fax: (706) 225 - 3773

March 18, 2026

To: Council & Clerk of Council

Re: Waiver of Tax, Penalty & Interest – Delinquent Real Property Taxes – 2023, 2024 and 2025

COLUMBUS BOTANICAL GARDENS INC.

3603 WEEMS RD, COLUMBUS GA 31909

Address	Parcel #	Year	Tax	Penalty	Interest	Balance
3605 WEEMS RD	072 016 015	2025	\$ 9,548.87	\$ 954.89	\$ 589.64	\$ 11,093.40
3605 WEEMS RD	072 016 015	2024	\$ 9,548.87	\$ 1,019.89	\$ 1,909.78	\$ 12,478.54
3605 WEEMS RD	072 016 015	2023	\$ 9,608.88	\$ 961.89	\$ 2,499.51	\$ 13,070.28
Total Due			\$ 28,706.62	\$ 2,936.67	\$ 4,998.93	\$ 36,642.22

TOTAL Requested Waiver (Penalty & Interest): \$ 7,935.60

Law: In accordance with O.C.G.A. §48-2-44 (b)(1); O.C.G.A. §48-2-40 & Ordinance Numbers 23-039 (Section 10), 24-043 & 25-037 (Section 6), taxes shall become due October 16th, October 1st and October 1st and delinquent on October 17th, October 2nd and October 2nd respectively. Taxpayers shall have the option to pay 40% on or before the October due date and 60% on or before December 2nd (3rd in 2024) without penalty. Upon failure to pay 40% by the October due date, the total shall become delinquent. Upon payment of 40% by the October due date, the remainder shall become delinquent December 2nd (3rd in 2024). Interest shall immediately begin to accrue on any delinquent tax; a penalty of 10% of the tax due shall accrue on taxes not paid on or before December 20th and Fi Fa costs will be added, all as provided by Georgia law.

Citizen Position: Requesting waiver of tax, penalty and interest. Prior Botanical Garden leadership failed to apply for tax exempt status in 2023, 2024, and 2025, causing taxes to be due. Taxes were not paid, resulting in penalties and interest. Citizen would like to apply for tax exempt status now but cannot because taxes are unpaid.

Tax Commissioner's Position: The property was not tax exempt for tax years 2023-2025. Accordingly, tax bills were mailed to the address of record. Property tax payments were not received by the due date. Therefore, penalties and interest were applied in accordance with the above laws and ordinances. Please note that OCGA §48-5-242 only applies to the waiver of penalty and/or interest. OCGA §48-5-242 does not include an allowance for the waiver of taxes. Additionally, OCGA §48-5-380 applies to refund of taxes that have been erroneously or illegally assessed or overpaid when taxes have been paid in full. (See BOA Response to Request to Waive Taxes.) Columbus Botanical Gardens' property taxes were not illegally or erroneously assessed or collected and have not been paid.

This office finds **no evidence of gross or willful neglect or disregard of the law** by this property owner. In accordance with Georgia Code §48-5-242, please forward written direction (approval, denial, or no action) on the above waiver request to the Tax Commissioner.

Sincerely,

David A Britt II, MBA, MPA
Muscogee County Tax Commissioner

BOA Response to Request to Waive Taxes

A public charity filing for a property tax exemption under O.C.G.A. § 48-5-41 must have the property in good standing, meaning all ad valorem taxes must be paid at the time of application to avoid penalties, even if an exemption is pending.

Requirements Regarding Taxes and Standing

- **Payment Requirement:** All taxes, including back taxes, must be paid at the time of application. If a tax bill is received while an exemption application is pending, the organization should pay the bill to avoid penalties. If the exemption is subsequently approved, a refund for paid taxes will be issued.
- **Active Use Requirement:** The property must be in active use for charitable purposes as of January 1 of the tax year. Under recent rulings, property under construction or renovation may not qualify for the exemption until it is fully operational for charitable use.
- **Application Deadline:** Applications for exemption must be received between January 1 and April 1 of the year for which the exemption is sought.
- **Income Restrictions:** The property cannot be used to produce private or corporate profit. Any income generated from the property must be used exclusively for the charitable institution's operation.

Essential Documentation for Filing

To establish standing, the Board of Tax Assessors requires:

- IRS 501(c)(3) Determination Letter.
- Articles of Incorporation/Charter.
- Proof of Property Ownership.
- Evidence of Use: Evidence that the property is used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

If an organization fails to pay taxes on time while waiting for an exemption ruling, they may be liable for interest and penalties. Furthermore, if a property was previously taxable and taxes were not paid, that liability does not vanish upon transfer to a new charitable owner, and could affect the new owner from being granted tax exemptions that they would otherwise be eligible for.

County governing authorities generally lack the authority to waive taxes once an exemption is denied by the Board of Assessors, as property tax exemptions are strictly governed by

state law and constitutional requirements. Once an exemption application is denied or fails, the tax is legally due, and there is no authority to waive it.

Tax Waivers:

- **Failed Application = Waiver:** If a taxpayer fails to file a timely application, or if the Board of Tax Assessors determines it to be invalid, the statute specifically states this constitutes a "waiver of the exemption" by the taxpayer.
- **Exemption Denied:** If an exemption is denied by the Board of Assessors, the taxpayer's legal recourse is to appeal to the county board of equalization, an arbitrator, or a hearing officer within 45 days, rather than seeking a waiver from the county governing authority.
- **No General Waiver Authority:** County authorities cannot simply waive taxes on a case-by-case basis if an exemption is denied. The Board of Tax Assessors oversees exemption eligibility, and once denied, the process moves to appeal, not administrative waiver.
- **Uniformity Clause Violations:** Tax exemptions or waivers granted by counties that are not authorized by the state constitution or legislature violate the uniformity requirement, which mandates that property tax assessments must be uniform. If a county taxing authority waives taxes without legal authority, they are infringing upon the state's uniform taxing scheme.

Summary

Strict Adherence to Law: Georgia courts, based on the principle of uniform taxation, require strict compliance with exemption eligibility (e.g., OCGA § 48-5-41 regarding public property/charity).

Assessment Approval: Taxable property must be assessed based on its fair market value and approved by the Revenue Commissioner; a county cannot arbitrarily waive or reduce this assessed value.

The correct process for a denied exemption is to appeal the denial through the established, legally prescribed assessment appeal process, rather than requesting a waiver.

Requesting a waiver or refund of taxes under O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 applies to situations where property taxes have been **erroneously or illegally assessed, or overpaid**, rather than cases where a taxpayer simply cannot afford to pay. Under this statute, taxes must be **paid in full** before a refund request can be filed.

Applicable Case Law

Committee for Better Government v Black et al: Timely filing of applications, no authority to change due dates

Blevins v. Dade County Board of Tax Assessors: Prohibition on Retroactive Waivers: Boards of tax assessors are tasked with valuing property rather than waiving taxes, and allowing them to retroactively "waive" or decrease assessments, without specific legal authority, can be seen as an arbitrary act that breaks uniformity

Cherokee Brick & Tile Co. v. Redwine: The exemption from taxation must be strictly construed.

Athens City Water-works Co. v. City of Athens: Taxation is the rule and exemption the exception; and, under the constitution of this state, no property except that specifically mentioned can be exempted from taxation.

Brenau Association v. Harbison: The grant of an exemption from taxation rests upon the theory that such exemption will benefit the body of the people, and not upon any idea of lessening the burdens of the individual owners of property.

Request for Waiver of Penalty and/or Interest

Return completed form to **Tax Commissioner's Office** or mail to PO BOX 1441, Columbus GA 31902

Taxpayer's Name or Business Entity & Phone Number: Columbus Botanical Garden - 248-421-8514

PROPERTY (PT) TAXES

Parcel #: 072 016 015
Address: 3605 Weem Rd

MOTOR VEHICLE (MV) TAXES

VIN / Tag #: _____
Address: _____

Reason(s) for waiver request (Please be specific):

The Columbus Botanical Garden is appealing a property tax charge related to a five-acre parcel gifted to the Garden in December 2022, which serves as an undeveloped natural buffer preserved for public benefit. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Garden would not owe property taxes on this land if not for a clerical oversight under prior leadership, who failed to submit the required nonprofit exemption following the gift. This administrative error resulted in assessed taxes, interest, and penalties for 2023, 2024, and 2025. Since January 2025, new leadership has worked to correct this issue by submitting the exemption, which was denied due to the outstanding balance. Resolving this matter would allow the Garden to continue focusing its limited resources on serving the community through environmental education, youth programs, volunteer engagement, and fresh-food donations. The Garden respectfully asks for the City's support in addressing this issue in a way that reflects our shared commitment to community benefit and stewardship of public-serving spaces.

Attachments: YES NO
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 12/11/2026

OFFICE USE ONLY
Received by & date: _____
Council appearance date: _____

Instructions for completing this request and appearance before Council. To prevent further penalty and/or interest, it is recommended that the penalty and/or interest be paid, if waiver is granted it will be refunded.

1. Complete and sign request for waiver.
2. Indicate if request will be in person or by letter. In Person By Letter
3. Return request form to Tax Commissioner's Office. Allow 10 workdays for Tax Commissioner to respond.
4. Requests are processed by Tax Commissioner's Office and forwarded to Clerk of Council for scheduling. It is important all requests be forwarded through this office. The Clerk of Council will schedule appearance before City Council, and notify the taxpayer. Clerk of Council phone number is 706-653-4013.

This request will be forwarded to the Clerk of Council for scheduling on City Council's agenda. The request for waiver will be processed in accordance with GA Code 48-5-242. Waivers are approved by City Council on a case-by-case basis.



Columbus Botanical Garden
 3603 Weems Rd
 Columbus, GA 31909
 Phone: (706) 327-8400

Item #

AP VOUCHER & REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Code Format: [Year-Dept Code-Expense Code-Area Code]

Code: 2026-100 5132 Area Code: 902

Vendor / Payee Name: Tax Commissioners office

Is this an AP Voucher or Check Request? [Check One]
 AP Check Request

PAID
 3/25/20

Date By Which Check Must Be Issued: _____

Purchase Details / Expense Breakdown

List all items separately by class and amount if for more than one class (event)

Brief Description of Item (s)	Dept	Code	Area	Amount (\$)
Parcel 072 016				
015				

Total Amount: \$28,706.62

Payment Information

Payment Type (Check one):

Check # [redacted] Cash Credit / Debit Charge

Check Mailing Info:

Recipient Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

W-9 Required? Yes No

Authorization:

Submitter Signature: G.C.

Department Head Signature: Brandon Coker

DAVID A. BRITT II

Muscogee County Tax Commissioner
 P.O. Box 1441
 COLUMBUS, GA 31902-1441
 Phone: (706) 653-4211
<https://www.columbusga.gov/taxcommis>



Parcel ID: 072 016 015
 Tax Payer: COLUMBUS BOTANICAL GARDENS II
 Description: TRACT 100-B REP TRACT 20 B-1 PT
 Location: 3605 WEEMS RD
 Account Number: [REDACTED]
 District: USD01 - URBAN DIS 1

Item #

Building Value	Land Value	State Market Value	Acres	Due Date	Payment Good Thru	Exemptions
	609,840	609,840	5	10/01/2025	12/01/2025	

Entity	State FMV	Net 40% Assessment	Exemption	Taxable Value	Millage Rate	Gross Tax	Sales Tax Rollback	HTRG Credit	Net Tax
COUNTY OPERATING	609,840	243,936		243,936	.032580	7,947.43			3,695.63
CREDITS					-.017430		- 4,251.80		
COUNTY BOND	609,840	243,936		243,936	.000920	224.42			224.42
SCHOOL OPERATING	609,840	243,936		243,936	.023075	5,628.82			5,628.82
TOTALS					.039145	13,800.67	- 4,251.80		9,548.87

Minimum Due 10/01/2025 \$3,819.55
 Balance Due 12/01/2025 \$5,729.32

If payment is made through an escrow account, please do not remit payment.

Post dated checks are NOT accepted

2025 Tax Due	\$9,548.87
Interest	\$0.00
Penalty	\$0.00
Other Fees	\$0.00
Previous Payments	\$0.00
* Back Taxes	\$19,157.75
TOTAL DUE	\$28,706.62

Muscogee County
 MAR 25 2026
TAXES PAID

2023 - \$9,608.87
 2024 - \$9,548.87
 2025 - \$9,548.87
 Total: \$28,706.62
 (Taxes Only)