

# operation: city clean

Empower, Engage, Elevate



## **Overview**

The City of Augusta is committed to enhancing the quality of life for its residents by maintaining a clean, safe, and visually appealing environment. To further this mission, the Office of the Mayor, in collaboration with the City of Augusta judicial system, Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Marshall's Office, and city departments, proposes a new initiative to direct community service orders toward litter removal and city beautification projects. This initiative will not only improve the appearance of our city but also engage residents in positive, productive efforts to enhance their surroundings.

## **Background**

Littering and environmental neglect remain pressing issues within our city, affecting public health, the local economy, and the overall well-being of our community. While the city has established ongoing programs for litter removal, there is a need to amplify these efforts to address the growing concern. Community service programs already exist as a tool for rehabilitation and positive engagement for those sentenced to service hours. Leveraging these programs to focus on litter removal and beautification aligns with the goals of both community restoration and environmental stewardship.

## **Objective**

The primary goal of this initiative is to direct individuals serving probationary court-ordered community service and/or other court hours to contribute meaningfully to the cleanup and beautification of Augusta. The specific objectives are:

- **Improve Public Spaces:** Clean up litter from public streets, parks, and recreational areas, ensuring that public spaces remain welcoming and safe for residents and visitors.
- **Enhance Community Engagement:** Provide offenders with the opportunity to give back to the community by directly contributing to the city's upkeep, fostering a sense of responsibility and civic pride.
- **Foster Partnerships Between City Departments:** Collaborate between various city departments, including Central Services, Parks and Recreation, and the local judiciary, to ensure the smooth execution of community service projects.
- **Raise Awareness and Promote Responsibility:** Through visible efforts of community service, this initiative will promote a broader public awareness of littering, waste management, and the importance of city beautification.

## **Strategy**

### **Collaboration with the Judicial System:**

- Collaboration with local courts, the solicitor's office and the office of probation to identify individuals who are sentenced to community service and match them with litter removal or beautification projects.
- Court officers will coordinate appropriate and meaningful work that benefits the city and aligns with the community service orders.

### **Designated Areas for Service**

Engineering, and the Marshal's Office will designate areas throughout the city in need of cleaning and beautification, such as streets, parks, vacant lots, and high-traffic areas. These areas will be prioritized based on need, safety, and public visibility. Special emphasis will be placed on areas that have a high impact on the community's image and those near schools, community centers, or tourist attractions.

### **Tracking and Reporting**

A centralized tracking system will be implemented to monitor the progress and completion of service hours. This will allow for accountability and ensure that the individuals fulfill their court-ordered obligations.

Community service hours must be completed consecutively on Saturday. Hours worked through the program will be counted at a 2:1 ratio, meaning 1 hour of work will count as 2 hours of community service. For example, 4 hours of work will be credited as 8 hours of service.

### **Public Awareness and Support**

A public awareness campaign will highlight the success of the initiative, showcasing the positive contributions made by individuals completing their community service hours. The campaign will emphasize the importance of maintaining a clean city, reducing littering, and encouraging residents to participate in local clean-up efforts.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Cleaner, More Beautiful Public Spaces- Immediate improvements to the cleanliness and aesthetic appeal of Augusta's public areas.
- Community Engagement: Increased public participation in the upkeep and beautification of city spaces, building a greater sense of pride in Augusta's appearance.
- Successful Rehabilitation of Offenders: Empowering individuals who are serving community service hours to actively contribute to the improvement of their community, creating a more positive outlook for reintegration.

- **Stronger Collaboration:** Increased cooperation among the Mayor's Office, The Sheriff's Office, Marshal's Office judicial system, and city departments in tackling environmental and civic challenges.

### **Resources**

- **Personnel:** The Richmond County Sherriff's Office and the Marshal's Office will oversee and manage community service projects, ensuring proper coordination, enforcement, and safety.
- **Supplies:** Engineering and Central Services will conduct an inventory of supplies among city departments for necessary materials, (trash bags) litter removal tools, and safety equipment.
- **Vehicles:** needed for transport, litter removal, and disposal.

### **Conclusion**

This initiative represents a collaborative, innovative approach to addressing the challenges of litter and city beautification in Augusta. By harnessing the power of community service, we can make tangible improvements to our city while fostering civic engagement and responsibility. The cooperation of the judicial system, city departments, and the public will be essential to ensuring the success of this project. We believe that this initiative will create lasting change, improving both the physical environment of Augusta and the sense of community pride among its residents.