



Agenda Item Report

Meeting Type: Committee of the Whole & Council

Meeting Date: July 15, 2025

Item Title: Mission and Vision Statements of the City of Columbus and the City of Columbus Values

Submitted By: Matt Amundson, City Administrator

Detailed Description of Subject Matter:

As part of the June 24th Retreat, the Council and staff worked on draft mission and vision statements as well as our values. The following pages are synopsis of this work prepared by Innovative Public Advisors who facilitated the retreat.

List all Supporting Documentation Attached:

n/a

Action Requested of Council:

Consider and take action on adopting the Mission, Vision and Values of the City of Columbus.

Exploring Mission: Purpose of the City of Columbus

As part of the retreat, participants engaged in an individual exercise to begin articulating the mission of the City of Columbus, defining its core purpose and responsibilities. After reflecting independently, participants shared their thoughts, revealing both personal perspectives and collective values about why the City exists and whom it serves.

The responses consistently underscored several shared themes:

- **Safety and Protection:** Many participants emphasized the City's fundamental role in ensuring public safety, through services like police and fire protection, and creating a secure environment for residents, visitors, and businesses.
- **Quality of Life:** There was strong focus on enhancing the quality of life for all who live and work in Columbus. Participants mentioned providing services, amenities, and recreational opportunities that make the City a comfortable, enjoyable, and vibrant place to call home.
- **Community and Belonging:** Several responses highlighted the City's mission to foster a sense of community and belonging, working to create a welcoming atmosphere where citizens feel connected, valued, and supported.
- **Service and Stewardship:** Many described the City's purpose as serving the public with integrity, fairness, and fiscal responsibility, ensuring the needs of individuals, families, and businesses are met both today and into the future.
- **Future Orientation and Growth:** Participants conveyed a vision of Columbus as future-oriented, striving for growth, environmental sustainability, and continuous improvement to ensure prosperity for generations to come.

Together, these reflections describe a City dedicated to safety, community well-being, service excellence, and a thriving future. They provide a solid foundation for developing a shared mission statement that aligns with the City's values and aspirations.

Draft City Mission Statement:

The City of Columbus serves its community by ensuring safety, delivering quality services, and fostering a vibrant, connected, and forward-looking place to live and work.

Draft Vision Statement:

Columbus strives to be a vibrant city that blends historic charm with innovation and sustainable growth. We aim to provide exceptional services, welcoming neighborhoods, and opportunities for all, while maintaining the small-town spirit that defines our community.

Exploring Values: Guiding Principles for the City of Columbus

During the retreat, participants shared their ideas about the values that guide the City's policies, initiatives, and everyday work. Their reflections revealed a strong collective vision for Columbus' future—one rooted in trust, transparency, and community pride—while embracing growth and modernization.

Several key themes emerged:

- **Trust and Transparency:** Participants expressed a desire for Columbus to be a trusted and open government that communicates intentionally with residents and acts with integrity.
- **Balanced Growth and Small-town Character:** There was broad commitment to pursuing thoughtful growth—expanding housing, parks, infrastructure, and amenities—while preserving Columbus' small-town feel and historic character.
- **Safety and Livability:** Ensuring the comfort, safety, and overall livability of the community was emphasized, highlighting the importance of well-maintained infrastructure, modern facilities, and responsive services.
- **Modernization with Respect for Heritage:** Participants envisioned a city that embraces modern technology and infrastructure improvements, while still honoring its rich history and community identity.
- **Community Collaboration:** A strong sense of community pride and collaboration resonated throughout the discussion, with many emphasizing working together to create a city where all residents feel connected and supported.
- **Quality of Life and Vibrancy:** Leaders expressed a vision of Columbus as a place offering excellent amenities, vibrant neighborhoods, exceptional parks and open spaces, and economic opportunities that enhance the quality of life for both residents and businesses.

Draft Values Statement:

The City of Columbus values trust, communication, and community collaboration. We are committed to fostering thoughtful growth that preserves our small-town character, ensuring safety and livability for all, embracing modernization while honoring our heritage, and enhancing quality of life through vibrant neighborhoods, strong infrastructure, and economic opportunity.



City of Columbus Core Values

Integrity

We act with honesty, fairness, and strong ethical principles in all decisions and actions, ensuring public trust and respect for the City's work.

Respect

We treat all individuals with dignity, kindness, and professionalism, valuing diverse perspectives and creating an inclusive, welcoming environment.

Collaboration

We work together across departments, roles, and levels of the organization, leveraging collective strengths to achieve shared goals.

Economic Development

We pursue thoughtful, sustainable development that supports new opportunities for residents, businesses, and the community, while planning for a vibrant and prosperous future.

Trust and Accountability

We value openness and clarity in communication, take responsibility for our actions, deliver on commitments, and foster confidence between City leadership and the community.

Relationships

We believe in working together with residents, businesses, and external partners to build a connected, supportive, and thriving community.

Safety and Livability

We prioritize a safe environment and high-quality services, ensuring Columbus remains a secure, comfortable, and enjoyable place to live and work.

Community Development

We seek thoughtful growth and new opportunities while preserving Columbus' close-knit character and historic charm, maintaining what makes our community special.

History and Progress

We embrace modernization and innovation while honoring and protecting the City's rich history and cultural identity.

Quality of Life

We strive to provide excellent amenities, vibrant neighborhoods, and services that enrich daily life and foster a supportive, family-friendly environment for all residents.