

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR  
MOMENTUM  
IS STRONG!

COLUMBUS  
CONSOLIDATED  
GOVERNMENT



# Letter from the Mayor



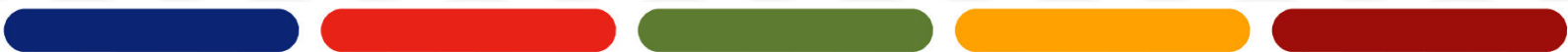
**Berry "Skip" Henderson**  
Mayor

We are delighted to present this report which serves to highlight that the employees of the Columbus Consolidated Government and their fellow citizens who they serve are second to none. Although 2021 was a uniquely difficult year, the Columbus Consolidated Government's 3,325 employees all worked to provide citizens with the dedicated service Columbus residents expect and deserve. Though sometimes it took innovation and creativity, our staff's commitment to our community ensured that Columbus is making it through the pandemic and will emerge stronger than before.

The keyword for 2021 was "collaboration." Last year, the CCG teamed up with City Council, staff, private organizations, and individuals to realize many of the accomplishments detailed in the following pages.

The 2020 census also confirmed that Columbus is the second largest city in the state of Georgia. As the largest city outside of Atlanta, we commit to continue our efforts to provide an amazing quality of life for all our residents, businesses, and visitors.

So, while we eagerly look forward to our plans for 2022, this report will detail some of the many other tasks and projects your City government has undertaken over the past year to continue to make Columbus, Georgia, one of the best places to live, work, and play. Looking back over the past year, I am extremely proud of what our community has accomplished. The future, however, is what truly excites me.



# Greetings from the City Manager

## The Columbus Momentum – Strong in Finances, Operations, and forward Progress!

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Columbus Consolidated Government/CCG. I am excited to report that even though we are operating in a pandemic, the Columbus momentum remains strong!

The CCG Team has been creative and innovative in the delivery of city services during the pandemic. We have faced a severe shortage of personnel. However, we are in a better position financially than we have been in my 37 years with the CCG and my 17 years as city manager. Let me share a few facts that demonstrate that our momentum remains strong!

The CCG has a strong, healthy financial profile, as follows:

- Our Bond Rating as of December 2021 is Aa2 with Moody and AA+ with Standard and Poors
- Our administrative policy for fund balance requires we maintain 90 days. Government Finance Officers Association recommend no less than 60 days. We currently have 117.91 days in fund balance/reserve (\$62 million cash, after setting aside \$10.5 million for Pay plan implementation scheduled for January 2023; \$2.5 million for General Government Capital Equipment; \$3.5 million for Public Safety Capital Equipment; \$5.2 million remaining Cares Act Reserves in General Fund; \$3 million for jail design, and \$1.6 million remaining Cares Act Reserves in OLOST Fund)
- CCG's sales tax collection is up \$7.1 million at \$45.2 million; Tag Ad Valorem Tax up \$7.3 Million; Occupation Taxes up \$1.4 million; Property Taxes up \$960,000.00; Insurance Premium up \$800,000.00; Recording Intangibles up \$730,000.00
- The CCG has not had a millage increase on citizens since 2008. In fact, the CCG has decreased the millage rate for citizens over the last 5 years
- The CCG Pension fund has increased by approximately \$162 million in an 18-month period, going from \$466 million to \$628 million as of October 2021 (the CCG is 94% funded in General Government Pension and 88% funded in Public Safety Pension)
- The CCG has 10 active transportation projects citywide at a value of nearly \$300 million dollars
- The CCG received \$39 million of the \$79 million ARP/ America Rescue Plan Allocation and has committed ARP funding to modernizing the waste collection process by purchasing automated trucks and carts that will not require the use of inmate labor, purchasing ambulances, funding summer youth programs and youth development programs, and awarding small business and non-profit grants and more
- Columbus citizens recently approved a \$400 million Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax to fund a new Judicial Center, Public Safety projects, Parks and Recreation projects, Golf Course Club House, Civic Center Improvements, Trade Center Improvements, Public Works Improvement and equipment, other projects, and necessary equipment



**Isaiah Hugley**  
City Manager

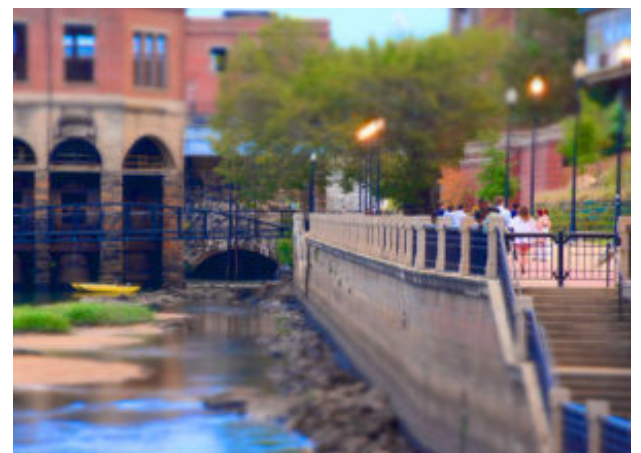
- Our Public Private Partnerships remain strong
- Hotels are being constructed, Condos, Apartments, roads are being resurfaced, and we are witnessing new restaurants open throughout Columbus
- More than 1.2 million people visited Columbus last year
- Conventions and Events have come back strong to include sporting events
- Uptown is thriving, Midtown thriving, the Panhandle is thriving, and we are investing heavily in South Columbus Infrastructure. (We are currently investing \$234,250,000 in South Columbus Infrastructure; East Columbus \$21,800,000; MidTown \$52,845,000; Uptown \$15,750,000; North Columbus \$96,050,000; and Panhandle \$1,350,000)
- In the 2020 Census, Columbus earned its rightful place as the second largest city in Georgia (Population 206,922)
- In 2021, Wallet Hub has ranked Columbus, Georgia as the 28th best run cities in America in naming the top 150 Best Run Cities in America
- Mauldin and Jenkins CPA recently reported at city council meeting that the CCG's recent external audit is an unmodified/clean audit while informing city council and the public that the CCG "dotted all of the Is and crossed all of the Ts on all federal programs, and management is on top of the game"

I hope you enjoy this annual report. It is my honor to serve as city manager of Columbus, Georgia!

Sincerely,  
**Isaiah**

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# Legislative Leadership



Councilman  
*Jerry "Pops" Barnes*  
District 1



Councilman  
*Glenn Davis*  
District 2



Councilman  
*Bruce Huff*  
District 3



Councilwoman  
*Toyia Tucker*  
District 4



Councilwoman  
*Charmaine Crabb*  
District 5



Mayor Pro-Tem  
*Gary Allen*  
District 6



Councilwoman  
*Evelyn "Mimi" Woodson*  
District 7



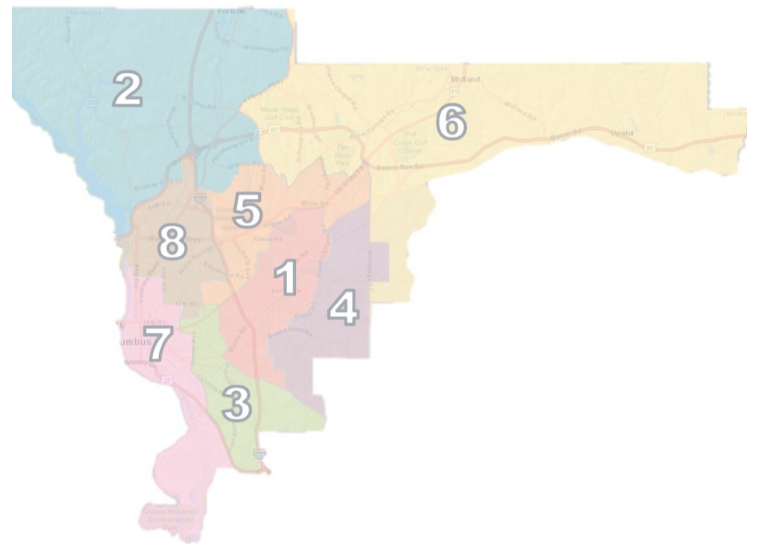
Councilman  
*Walker Garrett*  
District 8



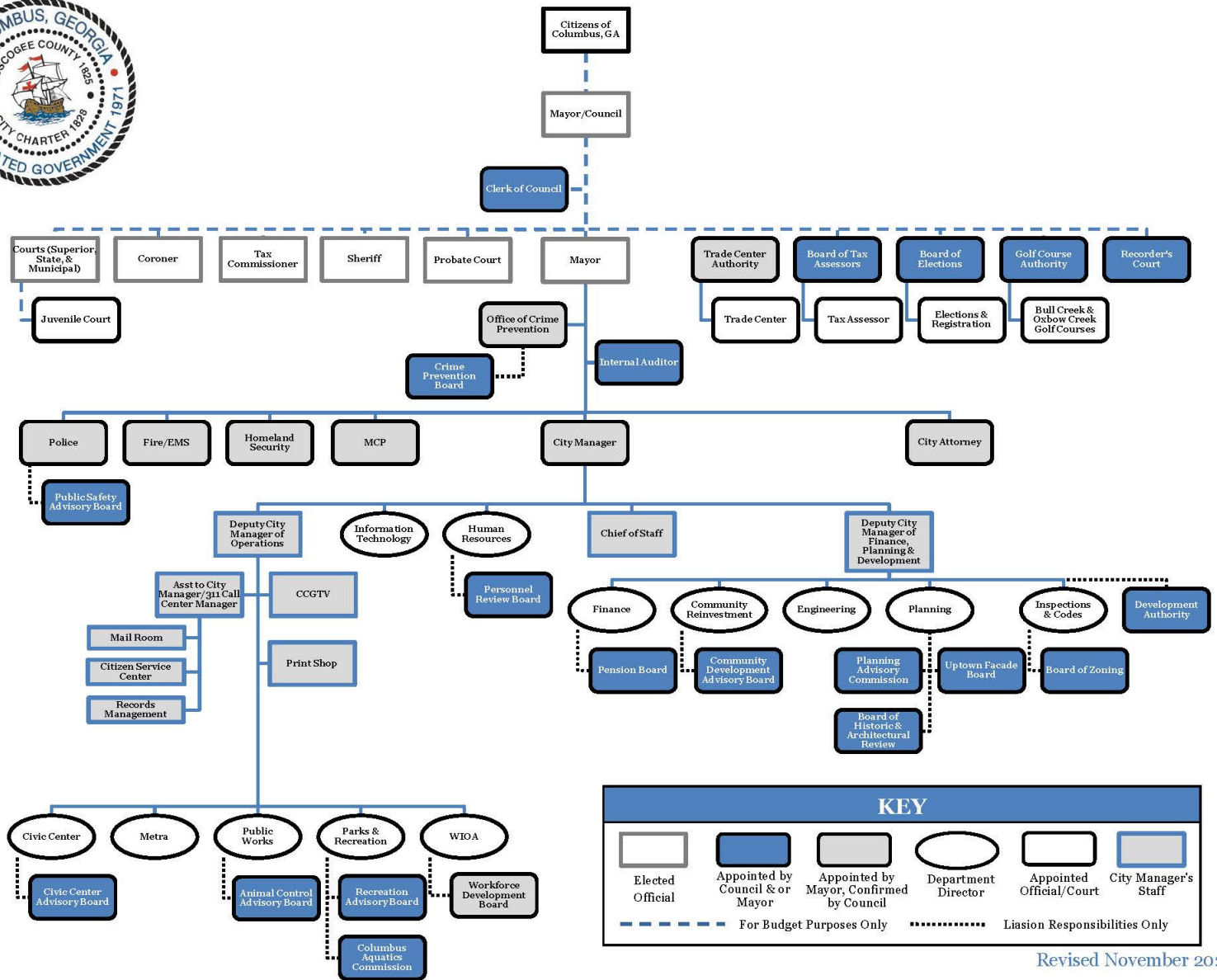
Councilwoman  
*Judy Thomas*  
District 9  
(At-Large)



Councilman  
*John House*  
District 10  
(At-Large)



# Columbus Consolidated Government Organizational Chart



Revised November 2021



# City Officers

Mayor

Skip Henderson



Contact number: 706-225-4712

City Manager  
Isaiah Hugley



Contact number: 706-653-4029

City Attorney  
Clifton Fay



Contact number: 706-653-4025



Fire & EMS Chief  
Sal Scarpa



Contact number: 706-653-3500

Police Chief  
Freddie Blackmon



Contact number: 706-653-3100

Muscogee County  
Prison Warden  
Herbert Walker



Contact number: 706-641-5800

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# Public Safety

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**Mayor/Public Safety  
Director**



Contact number: 706-225-4712

**Fire & EMS Chief**

**Sal Scarpa**



Contact number: 706-653-3500

**Police Chief**

**Freddie Blackmon**



Contact number: 706-653-3100

**Muscogee County  
Prison Warden**

**Herbert Walker**



Contact number: 706-641-5800



## Mission Statement

The Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services is dedicated to the protection of life, property, and the environment by providing professional and courteous services of exceptional quality in the areas of fire prevention, fire safety education, fire suppression, advanced life support, basic life support, hazardous materials response, homeland security/emergency management, fire/cause and origin determination, investigation, and rescue at an acceptable cost to the community.

# Columbus Fire & EMS



## Chief / EMA Director Sal Scarpa



Top row L to R: Division Chief of Community Risk Reduction **John Shull**, Deputy Chief of Training **Daniel Macon**, Assistant Chief **Tim Smith**, Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction **Ricky Shores**, Deputy Chief of Resource Management **Mike Higgins**, Deputy Director of Emergency Management **Chance Corbett**

Bottom Row L to R: Deputy Chief of Health and Safety **Marie Harrell**, Chief **Sal Scarpa**, Deputy Chief of Operations **Daniel Hord**

## Community Risk Reduction



# 14,006

citizens reached for fire safety



# 1,185

initial inspections performed



# 119

fire investigations performed



# 42,982

completed emergency responses

- 893 - Fire
- 36,175 - Rescue / EMS
- 5,914 - Miscellaneous



## Training Division

- 36 new recruits trained to FF1, FF2, HAZMAT OPS and AEMT, and released to operations
- 22 up and coming personnel trained to NPQ Fire Instructor 1
- Trained and certified 10 new paramedics
- Stations 9 and 11 (24) trained to Rope Technician level
- 8 new trained HAZMAT Technicians
- Implemented new in house broadcast training system (BrightSign)
- Implemented new fitness standards and test (Firefighter Combat Challenge)



## Health and Safety

- Installation of extractors and drying cabinets at 10 of 14 stations, training, and logistics. Personnel will be able to wash contaminated gear and minimize their exposure to dangerous carcinogens
- Completed 1,582 NFPA compliant physicals for 100% of field operations personnel
- Established robust gross decontamination procedures at fire operations to reduce exposure of personnel to the dangerous byproducts of combustion



# Columbus Police Department



**Chief**  
Freddie Blackmon



**Assistant Chief**  
Joyce Dent-Fitzpatrick



**Assistant Chief**  
Debra Kennedy



**Deputy Chief**  
Clyde Dent



**Deputy Chief**  
Lance Deaton



**Deputy Chief**  
Roderick Graham



**Deputy Chief**  
Ronnie Hastings



**Deputy Chief**  
Wanna Barker-Wright



**Chief of Staff**  
Katina Williams



## Patrol Services

273,976 service police calls answered  
45,910 individual incident reports completed  
8,033 accident reports completed  
44,039 traffic citations issued



### Tag Reader Traffic Unit

- 9,619 citations issued
- 2,936 arrests made
- 32 stolen vehicles recovered
- 20 stolen firearms recovered



### Motor Squad

- 27 speeding details completed
- 7 DUI details completed
- 9,179 citations issued



### Bike Patrol Unit

The Bike Patrol Unit was reactivated and staffed with a Sergeant and two Corporals. This unit works in the local parks as well as the Riverwalk and Fall Line Trace to provide a visible presence for citizens in these areas.



### Downtown Liaison

The Patrol Division assigned a Corporal to work in the downtown area to form a relationship with merchants and residents. This Corporal also works with the homeless community, and local representatives that serve the homeless to solve issues that arise from that group.



## The Bureau of Investigative Services



### Homicide

As of September 25th, 2021, **35 suspects** have been arrested for murders and homicides committed this year. In two other murder cases, warrants have been issued. Our unit has scanned over 1,000 old homicide case files with the use of a newly purchased high capacity /high speed document scanner.



### Sex Crimes

**6** arrests and several Facebook warrants were executed in a local sex trafficking ring, where a victim of child molestation was rescued.



### Crime Scene Investigations Unit

- 1,849 calls answered
- 57,970 photos made
- 946 legible latent prints lifted
- 267 print identifications made
- 23 murder/questionable death scenes processed
- 50 vehicles in the Crime Scene Investigations Bay process



### Property Crime Unit

- \$389,017 worth of stolen property recovered



# Muscogee County Prison



Herbert Walker, III  
Warden

Muscogee County Correctional Institution (MCCI) is a medium/minimum security institution that houses **528** adult males



MCCI began its first welding certification class in conjunction with Columbus Technical College. There were **9** inmates that successfully completed the welding certification course and graduated as the inaugural class



There are **24** MCP inmates per month eligible to receive MFC motivation for change courses, and an additional **15** eligible for re-entry skills building classes.

In 2021 there were **3** inmates that successfully received their General Education Development (GED) certificate, and there are currently another **10** that have begun the process



Muscogee County Correctional Institution employs **119** full time employees, **99** of which as designated to protective services, **20** employees are Supervisory, Administrative and Counseling staff



**52**  
inmates completed self-help counseling groups to include motivation for change, thinking for change, and morale recognition therapy

**75**  
inmates completed the on-the-job training program, which specifically outlines skills for job assignments both inside and outside of the facility

**172**  
staff completed service training and firearms recertification with no POST deficiencies noted



# Mayor's Appointed Commissions

## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON RE-ENTRY

### FY21 Accomplishments

- Collaboration with the Multifaith Initiative to End Mass Incarceration - Georgia Region Strategy Team
- Collaboration with United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley as a primary resource for returning citizens
- Participation in the GAINS Center's Engaging Clients for Successful Reentry Community of Practice (GAINS CoP)
- Campaign preparation to extend the acceptance of "Ban the Box" through education and community outreach

## COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CULTURAL LIAISON ENCOUNTERS



### FY21 Accomplishments

- Received art from Kiryū, Japan in July 2020 as part of the art exchange
- Worked with CCGTV to produce three public service announcements promoting the 2020 census to our local international community in English, Spanish, and Japanese



## MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

### FY21 Accomplishments:

- Collaborated with the Columbus Fire Dept. to place ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) smoke alarms in the homes of deaf citizens
- Created a community resource list that was started during the pandemic and updated on a regular basis.
- Community Resource list was uploaded on the website and had information for utility assistance, food distribution, and other resources to help people in the community. When the information was received in a flyer format these were posted on social media to keep people informed.



## THE MAYOR'S HEALTH COMMISSION



### FY21 Accomplishments

- Formation of large Columbus Coalition partnership to fulfill the mission of "shaping a healthier Columbus."
- Mobile Market, Mobile Health Clinic, and Mobile Recreational Vehicles are owned and currently operational, or soon to be
- Establishment of City Fund to receive donated monies and ensure fiscal responsibility

# Office of the City Manager

**Lisa Goodwin**



**Deputy City Manager for Current Operations**

Email: lgoodwin@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-225-3108

**Pam Hodge**



**Deputy City Manager of Finance, Planning & Development**

Email: phodge@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-225-4022

**Isaiah Hugley**



**City Manager**

Email: ihugley@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4029

**Reather Hollowell**



**Human Resources Director**

Email: rhollowell@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4059

**Forrest Toelle**



**Information Technology Director**

Email: ftoelle@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4045



**We do amazing.**

**Teasha Johnson**



**Assistant to City Manager/  
311 Citizens Service Center Manager**

Email: teashajohnson@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-225-2115

**Crystal Farley**



**City Manager's Office  
Chief of Staff**

Email: cfarley@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4029

**Zoe' Hightower**



**Administrative Assistant**

Email: hightower.zoe@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4029

# City Manager's Millennial Roundtable

## CMMR



**CMMR**  
CITY MANAGER'S MILLENNIAL  
ROUNDTABLE

The City Manager's Millennials Roundtable (CMMR) Program is designed to provide a lens for millennial professionals within the Columbus Consolidated Government (CCG) that will allow them to see the "Big Picture", influence current and future CCG operations/policies, deal with challenges, create solutions, look for opportunities, and be our future leaders.

**Aveana Jackson**



**CMMR President**

Email: [jackson.aveana@columbusga.org](mailto:jackson.aveana@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-3808

**Isaiah Hugley**



**City Manager**

Email: [ihugley@columbusga.org](mailto:ihugley@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-653-4029

**Jeremy Ackles**



**CMMR Vice President**

Email: [ackles.jeremy@columbusga.org](mailto:ackles.jeremy@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-4843

**Monique Jackson**



**Immediate Past Governor /  
Assembly Ambassador**

Email: [jackson.monique@columbusga.org](mailto:jackson.monique@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-4581

**Robert Sheridan**



**CMMR Parliamentarian**

Email: [sheridan.robert@columbusga.org](mailto:sheridan.robert@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-4603

**Mariah Jackson**



**CMMR Secretary**

Email: [jackson.mariah@columbusga.org](mailto:jackson.mariah@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-3641





# Human Resources

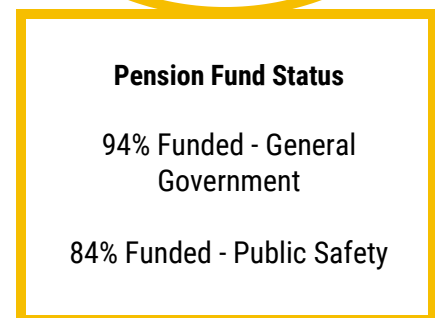


## Public Safety Critical Vacancies

Position Title	Department	# of Positions	# of Vacancies	How long Vacant
Police	Police Department	444	130	Continuous since 2007
Sheriff Deputy and Corrections Officer	Sheriff's Office	337	70	Continuous since 2007
Corrections Officers	Muscogee County Prison	114	17	Continuous Since 2018

## General Government Critical Vacancies

Position Title	Department	#of Positions	#of Vacancies	How long Vacant
Bus Operator (CDL)	Metra Transit	50	22	Continuous since 2017
Multiple Positions	Parks and Recreation	328	176	Continuous Since 2020
Waste Equipment Operator ( CDL)	Public Works	117	25	Continuous Since 2014
Fleet Maint. Tech I, II, III	Public Works	28	10	Continuous since 2017
Equipment Operators	Public Works	71	13	Continuous Since 2020
Engineer- Traffic Engineer- Project Engineer- Inspector Engineer- Traffic Tech	Engineering	11	4	Continuous Since 2020
GIS Coordinator & Program Dev. Coord	Information Technology	2	2	January 2022



This year, Columbus launched new resource kiosks that serve as one-stop community information centers for all citizens. Categories of information include housing, transportation, employment, and legal matters. There are 14 resource kiosks at the following locations:

- Human Resources
- Gallops Senior Center
- The City Services Center (CSC)
- Metra Transit
- Shirley B. Winston Rec Center
- Northside Rec Center
- Psalmound Road Rec Center
- Fox Senior Center
- Edgewood Senior Center
- Fluellen Rec Center
- 29th Street Rec Center
- Carver Park Rec Center
- Frank Chester Rec Center

For more information on the City Resource Center kiosks, visit [www.columbusga.gov/kiosk](http://www.columbusga.gov/kiosk)

**CCG**  
**Current**  
**Operations**  
**Departments**

**Robert Landers**



**Civic Center Director**

Email: [landers.robert@columbusga.org](mailto:landers.robert@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-653-4482

**Rosa Evans**



**METRA Director**

Email: [rosaevans@columbusga.org](mailto:rosaevans@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-4581

**Michael King**



**CCG TV Manager**

Email: [mking@columbusga.org](mailto:mking@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-3298

**Lisa Goodwin**



**Deputy City Manager  
for Current Operations**

Email: [lgoodwin@columbusga.org](mailto:lgoodwin@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-3108

**Howard Pendleton**



**WIOA Director**

Email: [hpendleton@columbusga.org](mailto:hpendleton@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-653-4539

**Drale Short**



**Public Works Director**

Email: [dshort@columbusga.org](mailto:dshort@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-4776



We do amazing.

**Teasha Johnson**



**Assistant to City Manager/  
311 Citizens Service Center  
Manager**

Email: [teashajohnson@columbusga.org](mailto:teashajohnson@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-653-4029

**Holli Browder**



**Parks and Recreation  
Director**

Email: [hbrowder@columbusga.org](mailto:hbrowder@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-4658

**Altemese Wilson**



**Administrative Assistant**

Email: [awilson@columbusga.org](mailto:awilson@columbusga.org)  
Phone: 706-225-3108



# 311 CITIZENS SERVICE CENTER

## REPORT A PROBLEM



### FY 2021 Work Order Report

Calls Presented	164,464
Calls Handled	126,013
Service Requests	71,066
Emails/Web/App	14,036
Facility Reservations	258

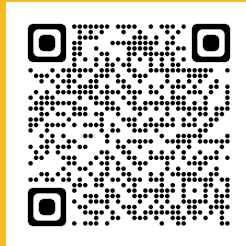


Our Quality Control Team produced over **7,042** work orders in FY21

Citizens Service Center  
3111 Citizens Way  
Columbus, GA 31906

### CivicReady Notification!

Missing Out On Important Information?  
Sign Up Now By Dialing  
3-1-1  
Or  
Scan The QR Code Below!



Teasha Johnson  
311 Citizen Services Center Manager

### FY 2021 Top Service Requests

Missed Pick-up Household Garbage	14,264 (* .48%)
Bulk Waste	6,417 (* .22%)
Recycling - Missed Pick-up	3,551 (* .12%)
New 65 Gallon Cart Request	5,482
Cutting/Mowing Right of Way	3,854
Street Sweepers	2,814
Weeds	2,110
Litter Removal	1,814
Reminder	1,544
Other	2,143

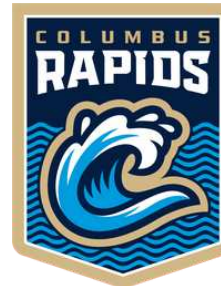
*\*percentages out of 56,000 households serviced in a month.*

Tel: 706-653-4000

Email: [citizenservicescenter@columbusga.org](mailto:citizenservicescenter@columbusga.org)  
[www.columbusga.org/311citizenservices](http://www.columbusga.org/311citizenservices)

# Columbus Civic Center

The center of it all.



**112,027**  
Civic Center and Ice Rink Visitors

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**  
The Civic Center transitioned toward being an essential building for the city, making upgrades and building improvements to put in place safeguards for our team and guests

**PROGRESS**  
New events opened up opportunities to work with new partners, including community organizations and city leadership

**THE PAST YEAR**  
The Civic Center worked outside the box in developing the first ever self produced events, working diligently to be a safe gathering location for the community

**3,000**  
Average Attendance / Event



**SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY**

Our aim is for the civic center to be a beacon for the community, by providing a world class atmosphere, creating, and producing new events while being the pillar for local gatherings.

**E-GAMING ECO SYSTEM**  
Partnership with our IT department to build infrastructure to allow of local E-Gaming community to continue education and develop a platform and exposure to this ever growing industry.

**Commitment to Local Organization**  
New opportunity to work with our youth in exposure on the ice as well as operations. Partnering with our local council and the RiverDragons in promoting a new sport and an opportunity to build new community relations.

**COMMITMENT TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
High school athletic showcase bridging the local talent in Columbus to potentially new opportunities. Increase awareness of mentoring opportunities by utilizing a sporting event to drive community connections



**121**  
Major Events in FY21

21ST CENTURY MARKETING & BRANDING STRATEGY

SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

WORLD CLASS EXPERIENCE

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

**280,000**  
Avg. Monthly Social Media Engagements

**500+**  
Daily Website Visitors

# METRA

Transit System

METRA Transit System is approaching its 100th anniversary in 2023, with focus on the future, with new technology, new buses, and new innovations in service.



**7 new paratransit buses** were purchased for **\$1 million**, all federally funded through the CARES Act.



**604,529 passenger trips** were provided in FY21. Prior to COVID, METRA averaged 1.3 million passenger trips annually



**10 new fixed route buses**

- **8 buses** 100% federally funded through CARES Act totaling **\$3.8 million**.
- **1 bus** 100% TSPOLST state funded totaling **\$419,000**.
- **1 bus** 80% federal funded - **\$355,000**, 20% locally funded - **\$84,000**



**8 new park and ride signs locations:** Frank Chester Recreation, River Center Garage, Front Ave. Garage and bay Ave. Garage as well as the 9th Street service.



## Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic Demand Response Service.

METRA will implement Demand Response Service to the new Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic at Mobley Rd and River Rd in the spring of 2022. Customers may schedule trips 1 to 7 days in advance for \$2.50 each way, Mon - Fri.

## Integrated Transit System (ITS) Project.

METRA implemented a new Integrated Transit System (ITS) on its buses to provide customers real-time fixed route bus tracking, a trip planner that shows how to get from one point to another using METRA's routes, and public Wi-Fi on all buses. The system also comes with a custom smartphone app called "METRAMobile." This app gives customers access to these features while they are on the go.



**Vision:** To build a seamless Workforce Development System that will provide a supply of skilled workers, thereby increasing the area's competitiveness in the global economy.

**152 active participants**

**64 new participants** enrolled between the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth Programs.

Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act

Job Training is a federally-funded workforce development agency. Over a million dollars from the State of Georgia to provide job training and related services from the **Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA)** to unemployed or underemployed individuals in our area. During FY21, we spent our funds on provider contracts, direct services, and administration.



Expenditures	Total Amount
Provider Contract for Adult Services	\$251,837.88
Provider Contract for Dislocated Worker Services	\$216,608.10
Provider Contract for Youth Services	\$429,773.50
Direct Services	
Individual Training Accounts	\$107,326.59
Supportive Services	\$3,340.00

Program	Number of Participants	Percentage of Program Population
Adult	58	38%
Dislocated Worker	56	37%
Youth	38	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>100%</b>



Parks and Recreation completed renovations for the Tillis Recreation Center and Tillis Park, using Community Development Block Grant funding in the amount of **\$476,032.34**.



The South Commons Softball Complex hosted over **436** adult softball & **18** adult baseball teams. Over **39,692** people visited the complex for special events in 2021.



Parks & Recreation completed the replacement of 6 community playgrounds using Community Reinvestment Development Block Grant funding in the amount of **\$555,128.65**.

**6,872**  
active youth in organized sports

 **1,274** football participants

 **2,390** baseball participants

 **3,208** soccer participants



**1,796**  
active adults in organized sports

 **1,464** softball participants

 **275** kickball participants

 **57** ultimate frisbee participants



Bull Creek and Oxbow Creek experienced record use of courses and practice facilities in FY21, with revenues at an all time high. **Bull Creek memberships rose to a total of 363**, comprised mainly of Columbus senior citizens and military personnel.

**3 Public Golf Courses**

serve the citizens of Columbus GA. Bull Creek, Oxbow and Godwin Creek.

Oxbow Creek is home to a **9** hole course

Bull Creek is home to two **18** hole courses

Total dollars raised for local charities at CCG golf facilities: **\$5,851,300**

Godwin Creek is home to a **9** hole course

Over **69,000** rounds of golf were played at CCG facilities in FY21





**Drale Short, Director**



**Animal Care & Control Division**

**3,315** adoptions and transfer to rescues during FY21, resulting in **\$52,276.00** in revenue



**Landfill Tonnage**

-  Yard Waste **27,095.43**
-  Bulk Waste **9,809.1**
-  Household Garbage **79,836.68**
-  Construction & Demolition **7,887.34**

**Revenue- \$704,550.6**

Public Works has cut & cleaned more than **1,922,995** pipes and ditches, and maintained more than **896,107 sq. ft.** of detention/retention ponds.



- **3,921** Pothole repairs made
- **242** cave-ins repaired
- Approximately **1,000 feet** of corrupted drainage pipes replaced



The Solid Waste and Recycling Collections Division implemented five projects, including the delivery of **4,303 65-gallon recycling bins** to Columbus households, with plans to purchase an **additional 2,000 carts**. A **\$454,017,132** rebate for recycling was received in FY21.



The Solid Waste and Recycling Division also held its second annual Household Hazard Waste Day, where residents turned in over **65,000 pounds of hazardous waste**.



Public Works has been working to improve its practices, procedures, and efficient service to the citizens of Columbus. One of these practices and procedures that will help to ensure efficiency and consistency is the introduction and implementation of automation in the integrated waste process. This automation will allow the department to redirect manpower into areas that are lacking due to workforce challenges.

**Columbus, GA is Automating Waste Collections!**  
**Coming 2022!** **LET'S GET ROLLING**



**Household Garbage and Yard Waste Automated Collections**  
Call 311 for more information



Household Garbage Yard Waste  
Columbus Automated Recycling in May 2021

**SERVICE : 56,500 RESIDENTS  
STOPS PER YEAR: 11,752,000**



The Urban Forestry Division planted nearly **800 trees** in FY21.



- **2,225** tree prunings,
- **505** tree removals,
- **69** contracted tree removals.



## Finance, Planning & Development

**Angelica Alexander**



**Finance Director**

Email: aalexander@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-225-4087

**Pam Hodge**



**Deputy City Manager of  
Finance, Planning &  
Development**

Email: phodge@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-225-4022

**Donna Newman**



**Engineering Director**

Email: dneuman@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4441

**Emily Laskowski**



**Administrative Assistant**

Email: laskowski.emily@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-225-4022

**Ryan Pruett**



**Inspections and Codes  
Director**

Email: rpruett@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-653-4126

**Robert Scott**

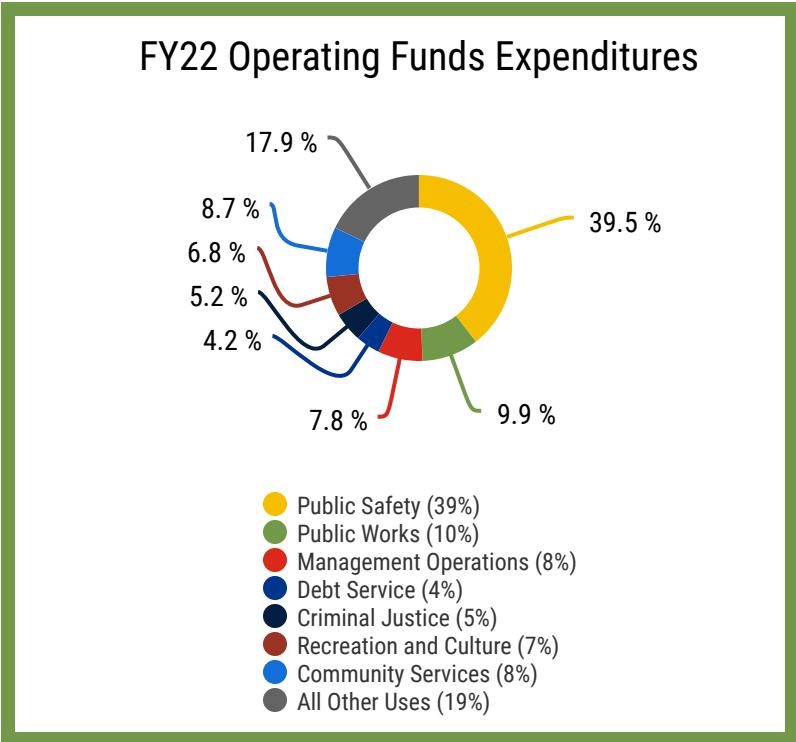


**Community Reinvestment  
Director**

Email: scott.robert@columbusga.org  
Phone: 706-255-3918



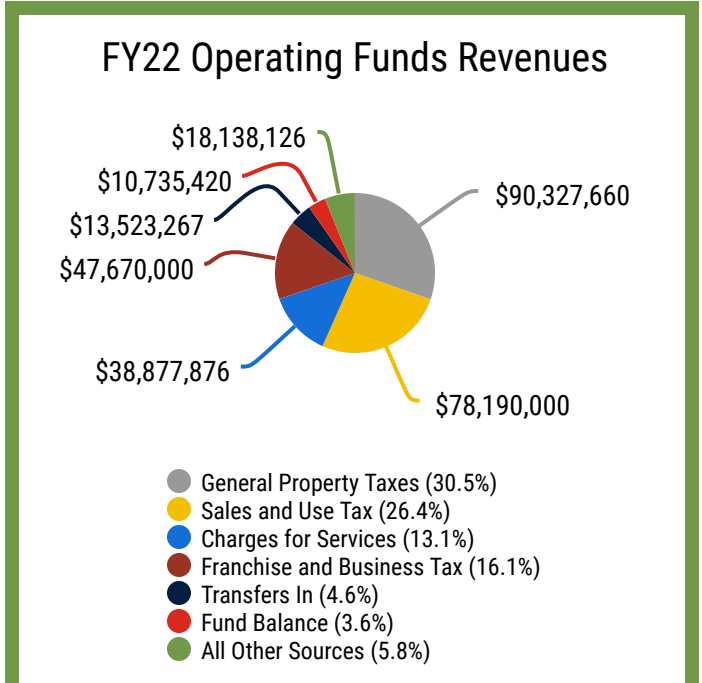
**It is the mission of the Finance Department to maintain the Consolidated Government's financial stability through sound financial and management practices. We are committed to the highest standards of accountability, accuracy, timeliness, professionalism and innovation in providing financial services to our internal and external customers.**



### 2020 Licensed Year

-  **6,869**  
Occupation Tax Business Licenses
-  **433**  
Alcoholic Beverage Licenses
-  **587**  
Insurance Licenses

FY22 Operating Funds	\$296,552,993
General Fund	\$164,490,530
Paving, Stormwater, & Integrated Waste	\$36,791,883
E911, The Medical Center, & Econ Development	\$21,539,051
Debt Service	\$11,928,758
Transportation	\$10,727,588
Civic Center & Trade Center	\$7,067,730
Golf Course	\$2,026,850
Other	\$41,980,603





Our mission is to make community investments that activate the human, social, and economic potential of Columbus.



**Robert Scott**  
Director

**11 households** at risk of homelessness have received rental assistance totaling **\$156,948.90**. The Community Reinvestment Department designated **\$100,000** for this activity



**\$150,000** was designated for minor home repairs. A total of **\$122,289.50** has been provided to the Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity to conduct minor home repairs on **12 homes**.



**5 households** have received bridge loan gap financing totaling **\$97,800**, and **10 individuals** have received down payment assistance totaling **\$98,880**. A total of **\$250,000** in HOME funds were designated for these activities.

The Community Reinvestment Department has modified **6 homes** at a cost of **\$48,333** for accessible home repairs usable by homeowners with disabilities.

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







# Columbus Plans!

Georgia

Columbus Planning Department



## INSPECTIONS & CODE

A DEPARTMENT OF COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT


- Tax Allocation Districts**
- Fort Benning Technology Park
  - 6th Avenue/Liberty District
  - Uptown
  - 2nd Avenue/City Village
  - Midtown East
  - Midtown West
  - Midland Commons
  - South Columbus River District

Uptown has the most activity with **three** active applications for TAD funding totaling **\$55 million** in infrastructure improvements over the next 5 years.

**South Columbus River Redevelopment Tax Allocation District** – A new Tax Allocation District (TAD) was established through the assistance of the Planning Department in South Columbus. The area is situated between Victory Drive and the Chattahoochee River, and is bordered by Clay Drive to the north and the Oakland Park subdivision to the south. The site consists of 212 acres and has been proposed for the development of retail, hotels, multi-family, and single-family housing

Columbus is the **2nd largest city in Georgia** with a total population of **206,922**, and a total **75,879 Households**

**40** Re-zonings were completed in Fy21




### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

Stormwater	Totals
Plans Reviewed	373
Permits Issued	293
HVPS Inspections	92
Industrial Inspections	36
PSWMF Inspections	65
Site Inspections	2,107
Total Citations Issued	11

**Construction**



Issued **2,940** permits for construction - **300** for single family residences, and completed **12,195** inspections on projects.

Industrial / Commercial Construction  
**\$66,248,000**

Other Residential Construction  
**\$76,389,986**

Single Family Construction  
**\$85,863,050**

Other Construction  
**\$52,402,550**

### Code Enforcement



Investigated and Closed over **4,100** code cases

Completed **11,853** inspections on code cases





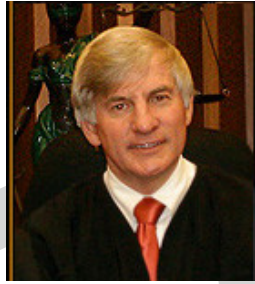
# Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit



## Superior Court Judges



Honorable Judge Gil McBride



Honorable Judge Bobby G. Peters



Honorable Judge Arthur L. Smith III



Honorable Judge William C. Rumer  
(Retired)



Honorable Judge Ron Mullins



Honorable Judge Benjamin A. Land



Honorable Judge Maureen Gottfried

## State Court Judges



Honorable Judge Andy Prather



Honorable Judge Benjamin Richardson

## Recorders Court Judge



Honorable Judge Julius Hunter

## Probate Court Judge



Honorable Marc E. D'Antonio

## Municipal/Magistrate Court Judge



Honorable Judge Steven D. Smith



# Muscogee County Sheriff's Office



**Sheriff**  
Greg Countryman



**Chief Deputy**  
Larry Parker



**Lt. Colonel**  
John Darr



**Major**  
Curtis Lockette



**Major**  
Larry Mitchell



**Major**  
Steve Sikes



**Director of Community  
Affairs**  
John Wade

It is the mission of the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office to provide quality law enforcement, jail, court security, civil services, and community outreach to the citizens and visitors of Muscogee County, Georgia. We are dedicated to those who have bestowed their trust in us to serve and protect their quality of life to the best of our ability. The Muscogee County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to this mission and to the people we serve to ensure that Muscogee County is a safe place to live, work and visit.



The MCSO improved community partnerships through participation in various community-wide initiatives and events. A partnership with METRA provided an omnipresence for safer transportation experiences, and We also collaborated with our local, federal, and state law enforcement counterparts to increase awareness and gain insight on surrounding areas.



## Department Operations

The Muscogee County Sheriff's Department combined with the office and duties of the former Muscogee County Marshal's Office. Since then, the department has proposed and received City Council approval to hire the first Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) within the Muscogee County Jail to address Mental Health issues at the Muscogee County Jail. The Muscogee County Sheriff's Office is the first in Georgia to have as a part of its Administration a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

The department also appointed the first Director of Community Affairs to act as the Public Information Officer (PIO), coordinate community outreach, establish, and maintain diplomatic relations and partnerships, as well as address any, and all concerns regarding the MCSO from a non-sworn perspective.

A Director of Religious Affairs was also obtained to oversee jail ministry and help with religious needs of the inmates within the Muscogee County Jail.



The MCSO also boosted internal affairs with the reinstatement of the following within the Muscogee County Jail:

- G.E.D. Program
- Fatherhood Dorm
- Senior (Older Adults) Dorm
- Faith Based Dorms (Men/Women)
- Assistant Chaplains on the floors for inmate and staff support

A Mental Health Jail Pilot Program was implemented to reduce the recidivism rate, and a Gang Intelligence Unit within our Investigative Bureau was created to collect and disseminate gang-related intelligence.

# Clerk of Superior & State Courts

## Odyssey - New Case Management System



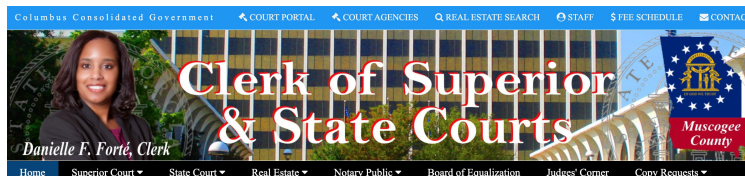
On September 21, 2020, the Office of Superior and State Courts activated Odyssey, our new case management system. This system encompasses all court administration functionality from e-filing to disposition and allows us to process case files more efficiently.

The Odyssey Financial Manager is another component that gives our office complete control and visibility to all court financial transactions. This seamless integration of the Odyssey product suite streamlines the flow of data between applications and eliminates redundant data entry and reduces human error.



## Odyssey Portal

On September 28, 2020, the Official of Clerk of Superior and State Courts provided online access to our justice partners with real-time web access to essential cases, calendar and party information from any PC, table or mobile phone.



On December 18, 2020, our office provided citizens with the convenience to easily pay fines and fees online.



## Mandatory UCC eFiling

On August 1, 2021, the Muscogee County Superior Court Clerk's Office announces mandatory electric filing of Uniform Commercial Code (UCC\_ documents. This new process will provide citizens with 24/7 access to file UCC documents and assist our Deputy Clerks with filing these forms more efficiently.



**275**  
Soil and  
Water Test

4-H delivered hands-on virtual lessons on agriculture, 4-H history, and healthy lifestyles to over 500 youth and their families,.

**400**  
Consultations

Our Parents as Teachers Program served 57 families included eight families graduating last September, sixteen newly enrolled families and thirteen Hispanic families.

**7,500**  
educational  
programs  
and contact  
hours

GLOW  
Glow standing for the following: G-Gaining L-Lavish Loveable O-Outlook W-Wisely, restore confidence, and awareness.



100 youth participated in Relationship Smarts Plus program





# Columbus Convention & Trade Center



- 
**\$907,247**  
Operational Revenue
- 
**\$33,413**  
Meals Prepared
- 
**127,940**  
People visited
- 
**642** Event Days



Over **170 attendees** visited the Easter Bunny at the "Cookies with the Easter Bunny" event.

The Trade Center has generated over **\$20,000 each month** in revenue from Church of the Highlands events.



The second annual, sold-out "Princess for a Day" event fundraiser was created to help support Easterseals of West Georgia.



The "Breakfast with Santa" event fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network raised a total of **\$3,924.22**.



More than **100** local businesses took part in a one-day Local Mini Market event where over **1,400 people attended**, and over **\$9,000** in revenue was received.



RiverWalk  
\$10 million



Follow Me Trail  
\$3.5 million



US 27 / Custer  
\$20 million



METRA  
\$22.4 million



Buena Vista Spiderweb  
\$40 million



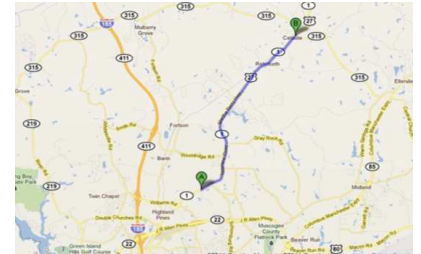
I-85/Buena Vista Rd Interchange  
\$47.7 million



Cusseta Interchange  
\$58 million



SR 219  
\$17.7 million



SR1 / US 27 Widening  
\$40 million

2012 TSPLOST Discretionary Funds  
Received FY14-FY21 = \$22.475 million  
\* = partial funding

2012 TSPLOST Discretionary Funds  
\* = partial funding

Project	Allocation
Resurfacing (Approximately 27 miles )	\$6.755 million
Boxwood Blvd. Bridge Replacement	\$1.26 million
Benning Drive Bridge	\$1.4 million
Claradon Bridge	\$700,000
Morris Road Bridge	\$1,500,000
Warm Springs Road Culvert*	\$867,000
Victory Drive Improvements	\$409,000
Traffic Calming	\$500,000
Double Churches Park Parking	\$244,000
Psalmond Road Signal*	\$144,000

Project	Allocation
River Road / J.R. Allen Signal	\$110,000
Victory Drive / 10th Ave. Signal	\$40,000
Reese Road Bridge*	\$1.68 million
Dragonfly Trail Matching Funds	\$1.998 million
Sidewalks	\$500,000
Infantry Road and Trail Match	\$300,000
Mott's Green Match	\$200,000
Guardrails	\$400,000
<b>Total TSPLOST Discretionary Funds Allocated</b>	<b>\$19,007,000</b>

**Public Safety – Vehicles & Equipment/Facilities Renovations**  
**\$44,000,000**



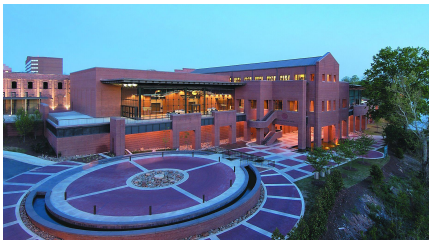
Public Safety Projects will include acquisition and upgraded Police, Fire & Emergency Medical Service, and Sheriff's Office vehicles and equipment and restoration of 3 Fire Stations, replacement of 1 Fire Station, and renovations of the Public Safety Building and other public safety vehicles, equipment, & facility renovations.

**Judicial Center (Concept Only)**  
**\$200,000,000**



Judicial Facilities will be constructed to provide approximately 310,000 square feet of space for Superior, State, Juvenile, Municipal/Magistrate, and Probate Courts as well as all court related space for Judges and Clerks of each court, Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Accountability Courts, and other court related functions at an estimated cost of \$188,000,000. This also includes a 500 – 600 space parking facility at an estimated cost of \$12,000,000.

**Trade Center**  
**\$5,000,000**



Columbus Ironworks Convention & Trade Center Project will include improvements to the parking facility to provide approximately 500 spaces.

**Parks & Recreation**  
**\$48,000,000**



Parks & Recreation Projects include the renovation/replacement of 3 swimming pools with pools and/or splash pads, improvements to the following parks: Flat Rock, Carver, Benning, Lakebottom, Theo McGee, Cooper Creek (includes Pickleball Courts), Woodruff Farm Soccer Complex; Mini Splash Pads at South Commons/Civic Center, Carver Park, Liberty District, City Service Center, and 2 additional locations to be determined; and other enhancements to existing parks to include restrooms, pavilions, facilities, and other opportunities.

**Civic Center**  
**\$5,000,000**



Columbus Civic Center Project will include the following improvements: roof replacement, sound system replacement, LED display system, video scoreboard and other improvements.

**Bull Creek/Oxbow Creek Golf**  
**\$5,000,000**



Golf Facilities Projects will include the replacement of the Bull Creek Golf Course Clubhouse and bridge, renovations of the Oxbow Creek Golf Course and replacement of the bridge.

**Transportation**  
**\$25,000,000**



Transportation Projects will include road resurfacing, traffic signal installation, widening roads/streets, and expand and/or replace existing trail and sidewalk network.

**Stormwater**  
**\$20,000,000**



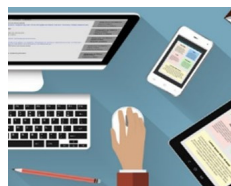
Stormwater Projects will consist of infrastructure improvements to surface water drainage for roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, etc. that have been damaged/have created damage or are subject to localized flooding by rehabilitation, replacement, or installation of new systems.

**Heavy Equipment/Vehicles**  
**\$14,000,000**



Heavy Equipment/Vehicles Projects will include acquisition and upgraded vehicles to include but not limited to Tractors, Trailers, Dump Trucks, Asphalt Trucks, Mowers, Bucket Trucks, Service Vehicles, Passenger Vans, etc

**IT**  
**\$5,000,000**



Technology Enhancements will include personal computers, servers, software, and other technology enhancements..

**Economic Development**  
**\$9,000,000**



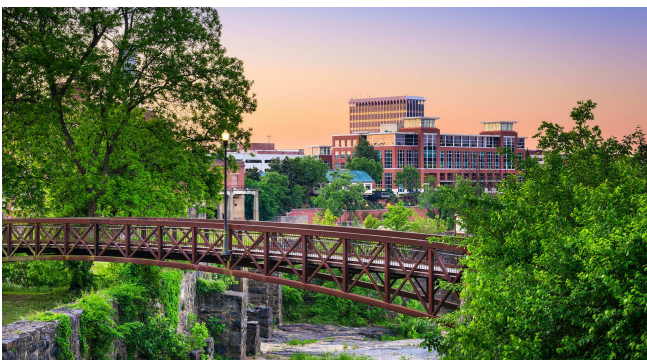
Economic Development will include acquisition, site preparation and infrastructure for the Muscogee Technology Park and other locations for new and expanding industries to supply jobs for Columbus citizens, and targeting a South Columbus Redevelopment initiative.



# 2021 American Rescue Plan Projects

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed into law on March 11, 2021. It was \$1.9 trillion for economic relief from the devastating economic and health effects of the pandemic. Funding was provided directly to states and local government. The amount allocated to the City of Columbus/Muscogee County was \$78,482,038. The initial allocation is 50% or \$39,241,019. This amount includes the city allocation of \$20,228,102.50 received on June 7, 2021 and the county allocation of \$19,012,916.50 received on June 14, 2021. The balance will be distributed in 12 months. T all full-time employees that meet the criteria of ARP Premium Pay will receive up to \$3000, and those full-time employees that do not meet the criteria for ARP Premium Pay will receive up to \$1,500.

- ▶ Automation of Garbage Collection to include Garbage Trucks and Carts - **\$19,530,030**
- ▶ Revenue Recovery - **\$3,559,470.84**
- ▶ Small Business Grants - **\$3,000,000**
- ▶ Ambulances - **\$2,1000,000**
- ▶ Community Safeguard Programs to include Cure Violence, Summer Youth and Youth Development Programs, and Cameras - **\$1,000,000**
- ▶ Broadband/Cyber Security Upgrades Phase 1 - **\$3,000,000**
- ▶ Premium pay for Public Safety and Other Essential Employees - **\$5,000,000**
- ▶ Storm water Infrastructure = **\$0** (Delay to Phase 2)
- ▶ Economic/Tourism Grants = **\$850,000**
- ▶ Grants = **\$1,000,000**
- ▶ Administration (includes a temporary position for up to 3 years) = **\$201,518.16**





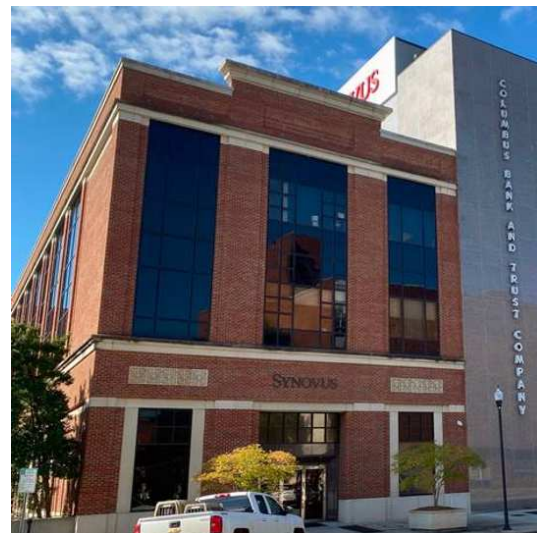
# Acquisition of Synovus Bank Building

The Columbus Council unanimously approved a nearly \$50 million deal to buy and renovate downtown properties currently owned by Synovus, to transform it for government operations.



## Synovus Timeline:

Test fits and determining department locations underway  
Bond Closing – February 22, 2022  
Real Estate Closing – February 23, 2022  
Equipment Purchases to begin – February 2022  
Design Completion by SLAM/Barnes Gibson Partners – June 2022  
Renovation of Uptown Center and the Bradley Building by Gilbane/Freeman & Associates –  
August 2022 – March 2023  
Relocation of Government Center Offices – March 2023  
Renovation of Main Office – August 2024 – March 2024  
Relocation of Offices – March 2025



Purchase Price: \$25 million

Closing Date: No later than March 1, 2022

Synovus to vacate Uptown Center, Bradley and Jordan Buildings no later than July 31, 2022

Synovus to vacate Main Office no later than July 31, 2024

Lease Agreement: \$500,000

Net Purchase Price: \$24,500,000



# CCG Departments Summary



We do amazing.

## City Manager's Office

- Awarded over \$1M in the SVOG Grant provided by the Small Business Administration
- Spent \$178,499.47 to rehabilitate the Tillis Recreation Center
- Spent \$118,232.57 for new playground equipment in six parks located in low-income census tracts. These parks include Rose Hill Park, Anderson Village Park, Ewart Park, Tillis Playground and J. Fluellen Park
- Hosted the largest vaccination site in the State of Georgia in coordination with Georgia Emergency Management and West Center Georgia Health Department. Assisted with over 20,000 vaccinations
- Columbus landfills received "Exceeded Standards" ratings from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division
- Deployed over 500 laptops and setups to allow for remote work
- Assisted Community Reinvestment Department to spend \$73,452 to remove slum and blight through the demolition of three dilapidated buildings
- \$150,000 was designated for minor home repairs. A total of \$122,289.50 has been provided to the Columbus Area Habitat for Humanity to conduct minor home repairs on 12 homes

## Information Technology

In addition to running an "around-the-clock shop" while aiding and supporting existing systems, Information Technology is in year 5 of the original 5-Year Strategic Plan and is working on a new 5-Year Strategic Plan that will go into effect January 1, 2022. This plan includes many initiatives, highlighted in part by the accomplishments listed below:

1. Rewire all low voltage at the Muscogee County Jail
2. Rewire low voltage in the basement of the Public Safety Building
3. Multiple Security Updates
4. Deployed over 500 laptops and setups to allow for remote work
5. Outfitted five courtrooms with the capability to live stream courts to viewing rooms to resume Jury trials
6. Assisted the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit in conducting Zoom hearings
7. Assisted all eligible employees in setting up all technology needed for remote work
8. Deployed and supported public WiFi to over 21 locations
9. Deployed and supported new Call Recording system for 311 and Tag Office to include preserving legacy data
10. Upgraded to a new Syslog server to allow for more network visibility
11. Began migrating old technology fax lines to a cloud-based solution
12. Court Management System Go-Live (Odyssey, Brazos eCitations, Probate Eagle, Softcode/CivilServe)
13. Brazos eCitation Pilot Program for CPD completed
14. Began expanding Brazos eCitation implementation for both CPD and Sheriff
15. Mainframe decommissioned, including physical removal
16. Business License EnerGov upgrade completed
17. Automated Victim Notification for Jail complete
18. Began expansion of Automated Victim Notification to Courts
19. Implemented NEOGOV electronic employee onboarding
20. Realigned the staffing level and organizational structure of the Information Technology Department

## Planning Department

- 2020 Census – The Planning Department led the efforts for the city in preparation for the 2020 Census. Team members from the department participated in census rallies, special public meetings while establishing a census Complete Count Committee. The COVID pandemic made this particular census was difficult. However, our efforts paid off by providing a more accurate count of our citizens, which will help identify the needs of our citizens over the next 10 years.
- Renewal As A PlanFirst Community – This is a recognition that is awarded to Georgia communities by recognizing the hard work of successful comprehensive plan implementation and our commitment to identifying opportunities and setting the goals for our community.

## Finance Department

- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 (FY21 Budget).
- Exceeded Investment Index every quarter for Fiscal Year 2021.
- Unqualified ("clean") opinion from our external auditors for more than 30 years.
- Very strong bond ratings: Moody's "Aa2" and Standard & Poor's "AA+"

## Inspection & Codes

### Building Inspection and Permitting

- Issued 2,940 permits for construction; including permits for over 300 new single family residences.
- Total valuation of permitted work in FY21 was \$341,418,271.65 a 23% increase over FY20
- Completed 12,195 inspections on projects

### Code Enforcement

- Completed 11,853 inspections on Code Cases
- Investigated and Closed over 4,100 code cases

# Summary Continued:

## Columbus Civic Center

### Community Engagement

- Spearheaded the MLK day Celebration for the city, created and produced an online virtual experience with guest speaker Andrew Young.
- Successfully executed all graduations for Muscogee County Schools and Columbus State University through Covid-19 safeguards.

### Sports

- Columbus RiverDragons won the 2020-2021 FPHL Championship! The RiverDragons were the only arena in the country to host weekend back-to-back games for both our home and away teams within the FPHL League.
- Announced the first indoor professional Women's Indoor Soccer Team the Columbus Rapids. The Rapids will also have a Men's team with 12 upcoming regular season games with double headers each night starting December 30th.

### Revenue

- Negotiated the building's first corporate community partnership with AmBetter, an annual contribution to help support community programs.
- Successfully procured new pouring rights annual partnership with Pepsi to become the exclusive beverage provider for the Columbus Civic Center.

### Events

- Initiated our first self-promoted events Artist Showcase, Cinco De Mayo, Summer Showdown EGaming Series and an upcoming outdoor concert.
- 1st Annual Chattahoochee Valley Motorcycle Rally, created promoted first motorcycle rally at the Civic Center, with competitions, food and vendors saw over 3,000 attendees.
- Hosted and produced both City Council Meeting as well as state and judicial court.

### Infrastructure

- Construction is in progress for new custom marquee as well as LED ribbon boards.
- Fiberoptic wireless upgrades in progress to begin 4th quarter.
- Total retrofit of facility for Covid-19 safeguards and upgrades including automatic dispensers, handwashing stations, plexiglass at concession stands, magnetometers and bike rack systems



## Columbus Georgia Convention and Trade Center

- Despite the overall negative effects of COVID-19 on the Trade Center's Revenue, there were still increases of around 6% in electrical usage revenue, 8 percent in ticket sales, and 13% in space rental revenue.
- The Trade Center was honored to be a voting site during the 2020 General Election. Thousands of citizens were able to vote comfortably and safely within social distancing and other COVID-19 related guidelines in effect, and the overwhelming majority were able to do so with much shorter than normal voting lines and wait times.
- In total, the Trade Center added (3) Signature Events in FY21 and used the profits to help raise funds to support or raise awareness for different charitable organizations. Our Signature Events increase the Trade Center's community outreach footprint and help strengthen organizational connections and relationships.
- The Columbus Ballet was able to conduct their filming of the Nutcracker with beautiful and extremely talented dancers at the Trade Center. Their film was shared on Fox 54 WXTX in December 2020.
- Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus (YOGC) was not able to practice in their normal location due to the pandemic and a need for more space in order to social distance. The Trade Center was able to partner with them and become their temporary home for weekly practices so students could maintain social distancing requirements and continue improving their talents. YOGC also hosted a wonderful free holiday concert outside the Trade Center for all to enjoy.
- Chef Christopher Walters and Mr. Willie Jones did an amazing job conducting our virtual cooking and etiquette class with the Jack and Jill organizations. There were many aspiring young chefs who had a blast creating fabulous and fun dishes.
- Due to the pandemic, our largest-attended conference, Georgia Thespians, was forced to cancel their FY21 in-person event. However, Executive Director Hayley Tillery found a way to support their event by coordinating their temporary transition to a virtual alternative experience. The vendor who ultimately created the virtual experience for this client was so appreciative of Hayley's coordination efforts and support that they issued a \$3,400 check to the Trade Center as a "thank you."



# Summary Continued:

## Parks & Recreation Department

- Introduced a new social media program, “One Thing to Do” that gave the community activities and opportunities for things to do and learn virtually during the closures due to Covid-19. From April 13, 2020, until March 12, 2021, the department produced and shared 240 videos of opportunities for the community.
- Hosted countless drive-thru events, programs, and virtual opportunities for people of all ages in addition to our “One Thing to Do” programs to give the community safe and healthy alternatives during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Began a mask-making campaign using community volunteers to sew masks for first responders and front-line workers who needed masks for work each day. Made and distributed over 800 masks throughout the community to those in need when no masks were available.
- Partnered to host the Spooktacular Drive-Thru, a Halloween Drive-thru alternative to Trick-or-Treating, and saw over 800 cars attend and over 2000 children participate.
- Hosted a large collaborative Easter Egg Extravaganza Drive-Thru event and had over 150 children to attend.
- Holli Browder, Director of Parks and Recreation elected as National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) as President 2021-2022.
- Holli Browder, Director of Parks and Recreation selected as the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) Distinguished Professional of the Year
- Columbus Parks and Recreation Department was selected as the National Association of County Parks and Recreation Officials (NACPRO) Removing Barriers Award winner for its Extra-Ordinary News Show.
- Tim Marshall was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Shedrick Dixon Educational Foundation
- Acquired a new Sunbelt League baseball team that will be housed at historic Golden Park-Columbus Chatt-a-Hoots. Team set league attendance records in its first season and finished second in the league in its first season.



## Muscogee County Sheriff's Office

- 2020 Historical planning transition and acquisition for two elected offices.
- Combining the office and the duties of the former Muscogee County Marshal's Office with the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office.
- Submission of a sound financial plan for the remainder of the budget cycle.
- The development and distribution of new Muscogee County Sheriff's Office policy and procedures.
- Appointed a Public Information Officer and Alternate.
- Hiring of the first Communications Supervisor to supervise and provide updated training for dispatchers.
- Established a Recruiting Unit to address our staffing shortages.
- Enhanced community partnership through participation in various community wide initiatives and events.
- Enhanced community outreach through public speaking, community engagement, social media, and informational pamphlets.
- Development of staff recognition strategies to show appreciation of hard work, boost morale, and staff retention.
- Increased the sex offender investigative unit from 1 deputy to 5 deputies to monitor over 700 sex offenders within Muscogee County to keep.
- Enhanced collaboration with our federal, state, and local law enforcement counterparts.
- Created a Gang Intelligence Unit within our Investigative Bureau.
- A mandated/increased proactive law enforcement posture within the Muscogee County.
- Completed infrastructure improvement/needs assessments for the Muscogee County Jail.
- Technology acquisition and deployment to improve efficiency, safety, and service to the public:
- Additional camera installations at the Muscogee County Jail for safety of staff and inmates
- Tech Friends - Technology that transcribes letters sent to prisoners and provides prisoner access to the transcribed letter through electronic kiosks located throughout the jail. This technology promotes staff and inmate safety by stemming the flow of contraband into the jail.
- Chirps – Text communication technology that gives the ability to inmates at the Muscogee County Jail the ability to pay for increased communication services to communicate with friends and loved ones. All communications are monitored.



# Summary Continued:



## CPD summary

### Crime Prevention Unit Accomplishments:

The Crime Prevention Unit is responsible for education, information, and various community service programs as well as presentations for the proactive purpose of preventing and reducing opportunities for criminal behavior to all citizens.

- The Crime Prevention Unit is part of the Human Trafficking Task Force.
- The Crime Prevention Unit continued to build relationships in the community by partnering with Amerigroup and gave out over one hundred car seats to the youth in the area
- The Crime Prevention Unit conducted an ESS Basic Training Course for the Project Lifesaver Program where 15 Columbus Police Officers received their certification.

### HOMICIDE DIVISION:

- Cleared (2) cold case murders
- Cleared (28) murders
- Seized (1,634) grams (3.6 pounds) of marijuana (street value \$16,340)
- Seized (24) grams of mushrooms street value of \$360
- Seized (9) firearms use by suspects in commission of crimes

### ROBBERY/ASSAULT DIVISION:

- Cleared (128) rape cases (includes child molestations)
- Cleared (35) robbery/armed robberies
- Cleared (93) aggravated assaults

### PROPERTY CRIMES DIVISION:

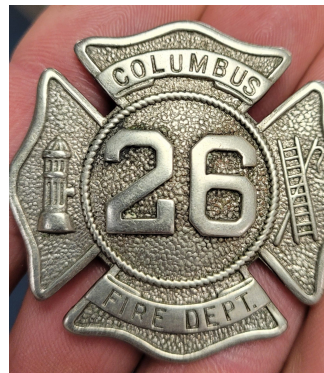
- Cleared (274) burglaries
- Cleared (150) felony thefts
- Cleared (221) financial related crimes
- Recovered stolen property valued at \$2,082,956
- Located/returned 282 missing adults
- Located/returned 431 missing children

### CRIME SCENE DIVISION:

- Responded to (4,004) calls
- Photographed (123,713) items of evidentiary value in crime scenes
- Located / lifted (1,732) legible latent prints and identified (627) persons from those
- Processed (131) vehicles from crime scenes
- Produced (51) 3D images of crime scenes (indoor and outdoor)

### SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION:

- Arrested 915 suspects for criminal violations
- Cleared 132 arrest warrants
- Seized 40 firearms involved in crimes
- Seized 13,739 grams of marijuana
- Seized 1,160 grams of methamphetamines
- Seized 68.7 grams of heroin
- Seized 681 vials of THC oil
- Seized 209 ecstasy tablets
- Seized 280 grams of cocaine
- Cumulative value of seized illegal drugs: \$385,752
- Seized \$109,574 in U.S. currency related to illegal drug trade
- Seized (24) vehicles related to illegal drug trade (total value \$58,810)



## FIRE / EMS

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Installation of extractors and drying cabinets at 10 of 14 station, training, and logistics. Personnel will be able to wash contaminated gear and greatly minimize their exposure to dangerous carcinogens. Completed NFPA 1582 compliant physicals for 100% of field operations personnel.

Established robust Gross Decontamination procedures at fire operations to reduce exposure of personnel to the dangerous byproducts of combustion.

### RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Ordered two ambulances (delivery in November 2021), one engine (delivery March 2022) and one ladder truck (delivery July 2022) Received inventory management control scanning program (medical supplies, uniforms, expendable supplies etc.) New additional Logistics Captains position (Apparatus Coordinator July 2021)

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Coordinated the COVID-19 mass vaccination sites across the city as well as coordinated for the city for GEMA's mass vaccination site which was in place for 13 weeks.

Purchased a mass vaccination equipment trailer/equipment for up pop-up vaccination clinics.

Led and continue to lead the Mayor's COVID-19 Vaccination Planning update meetings.

Participated in public forums and appeared on local television and radio broadcasts promoting vaccination for COVID-19.

Completed an inspection of the incident command vehicle and coordinated having the vehicle repaired so that it is more reliable. Began and continue to work on a full renovation of the emergency operations center. The completion of the audio/visual portion is expected in FY22.

Conducted numerous emergency preparedness and active shooter response training presentations to businesses/partners in the city. Created a severe weather briefing that is now distributed to all CCG email accounts when severe weather with the possibility of damage is forecast for the city of Columbus.

Co-chair preparation for a full-scale exercise with the MCSD to be held in January 2022 (FY22).

Upgraded all computers in the emergency management suite.

Attended all EMAG Region 4 meetings and began training requirements for Basic CEM (GA).

## Public Works Cont.

### SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS DIVISION

Delivered 4,303, 65-gallon recycling carts to Columbus households this year. Implemented fully Automated Recycling Collections with the purchase of eight automated side arm trucks.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Held Household Hazardous Waste Day on October 2, 2021. This is the second year the event has been held at the Recycling Center on Pine Grove Way. Last year, 265 Muscogee County residents participated. Those residents turned in nearly 67,000 pounds of hazardous waste during the 2020 event, keeping those materials out of the Columbus landfill, or from being illegally dumped.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Planned Household Garbage and Yard Waste automated collections. Provide each Muscogee County resident with one 96-gallon cart for household garbage. Provide one 96-gallon cart for yard waste upon request from citizen. Replace household and yard waste trucks with automated side arm trucks, eliminating the issues associated with inmate labor.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Purchased and implemented eight (8) automated side load recycling trucks to automate recycling collections. Trained 16 drivers to operate the automated

### EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Focused the resources of the Integrated Waste Fund divisions by the Recycling Outreach and Education committee and Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission on the recycling programs. Promoted contamination reduction, waste materials division like composting, and bulk waste reduction through events. Focused on Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

### URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Division Tree plantings consisted of 795 tree plantings. Starting in February ending in April

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Forestry Division continues to respond to emergency 911 tree fallen calls in completion of clearing roadways, June & July of 2021 thunderstorms impacted areas with fallen trees and debris in roadways consisting of 20 plus calls in June & 40 plus calls in July of 2021, Crews worked continuously to clear debris from roadways.

### CEMETERY DIVISION

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Worked in conjunction with the Columbus 4th Masonic District and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia to honor Past Grand Master William E. Terry by participating in the Broken Column ceremony. The Broken Column is given to a Grand Master that died while serving in office.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Revitalized 6th Street (1828) Cemetery for Blacks. All of the historical signage along the walking path had become unreadable. Through research we were able to find original text of signs. Signs have been reprinted and area ready for installation.

### RECYCLE CENTER

Work Item/ Accomplishment:  
The Recycling Center sorted and bailed 12,000 tons (24,000,000 pounds) of material in FY 21 that would have been disposed of at our landfills.



### ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL DIVISION

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
The CCG Animal Care & Control Division has achieved no animal euthanized for space for another year. This is an incredible accomplishment that took great effort to achieve.

### WASTE DISPOSAL DIVISION

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
The three Columbus Landfills received "Exceeded Standards" ratings from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division which was completed on April 22nd, 2021.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Customer Drop Off Area (Convenience Center) construction was started August 2021 saving the department tens of thousands in construction cost.

### DRIVER'S TRAINING DIVISION

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Despite COVID-19 related Issues January – September 2021, 797 City Employee Drivers were trained including Initial, Refresher's and Remedial Classes. Classroom was redesigned to allow for proper social distancing and student safety.








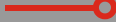
Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Additional classes were held for CPR, DOT Flagger and Emergency Vehicle Operator training. Totaling 143 individuals.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
CDL Testing completed 22 initial tests and 19 retests for Public Works, METRA, and Columbus Water Works.

Work Item/Accomplishment:  
Working with IT on getting a new Drivers Training Registration Program and database, allowing the move away from the outdated Lotus Notes program.



# CCG Website Usage

	Usage		161,564
	New Users		160,194
	Sessions		324,730
	Pageviews		550,282

# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTION



Download our **Columbus311** app in Google Play & App Store

Like us on Facebook @ **Columbus Consolidated Government**

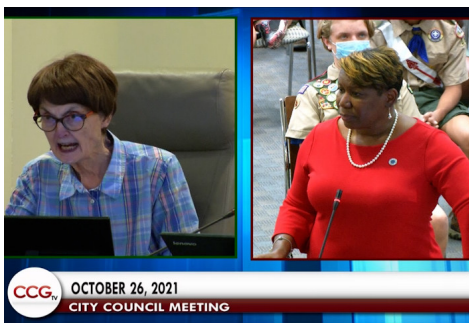


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Columbus Consolidated Government is the city's official Facebook page and includes information related to the City of Columbus events, businesses, residents, organizations, and emergency announcements. It is our goal to engage with citizens with hopes of better understanding the needs of our community.



Visit our website at [www.columbusga.gov](http://www.columbusga.gov)



# COLUMBUS

GEORGIA



We do amazing.



This annual report was published by The Office of the City Manager.  
We welcome your feedback! For more information, contact Crystal Farley  
[cfarley@columbusga.org](mailto:cfarley@columbusga.org)



**The Annual Report will be published to the Columbus Consolidated Government's Official Website and Social Media pages. We will also send a digital copied to all local media and Community Partners.**

