


Columbus Consolidated Government ~ Council Referrals

Item #	Date of Request	Requested by:	Proposed Work Session Item and/or Referral	Assigned Depart.
1	8/8/2023	Tyson Begly	<p><u>Fire and EMS</u> I had two follow-upsg from slide 7 of the Fire EMS PowerPoint in the last meeting: https://mccmeetingspublic.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/columga-meet-9989af2150264ee3a984571dda5c6614/ITEM-Attachment-001-97400da668ce4bf79d68029ba871e2ef.pdf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Numbers on the Medicare/Medicaid clearing house, to know how much to put in and the additional level of coverage received. <p>Numbers of how much a private billing service would cost, and the amount of money it would save, and the potential impact to our accounts receivable</p> <p>COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response</u> Please see the attached response from the fire department.</p> <p> CFEMS Memo on Referral - Begly Aug</p> <p>Fire/EMS Department is in the process of developing an RFP to privatize ambulance billing. Private billing services costs will be determined once the RFP process is complete.</p> <p>As of FY23, 9,668 ambulance claims were processed and billed. The billed breakdown for claims processed is as follows:</p>	Sal Scarpa Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander

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			<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Medicare</td> <td style="text-align: right;">18.92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medicaid</td> <td style="text-align: right;">17.90%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">23.46%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-Pay</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35.99%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Write off</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.73%</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">The claims paid breakdown is as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Medicare</td> <td style="text-align: right;">53.86%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medicaid</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20.71%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">19.91%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-Pay</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5.52%</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Update</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><i>“As 75% of all claims go through Medicare or Medicaid, CCG should consider contributing to the Medicare/Medicaid clearing house which</i></p>	Medicare	18.92%	Medicaid	17.90%	Primary	23.46%	Self-Pay	35.99%	Write off	3.73%	Medicare	53.86%	Medicaid	20.71%	Primary	19.91%	Self-Pay	5.52%	
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			<p><i>would then provide an additional level of coverage for our submitted claims.”</i></p> <p>The Fire-EMS Department does <i>not</i> do EMS billing. That is managed in the Finance Department. However, I can provide the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year, the City is asked if they wish to participate in the Georgia Ground Ambulance UPL (upper payment limit) Supplemental Payment Program. As noted in the attached, the purpose of the supplemental payment is to provide additional Medicaid reimbursement to ensure access to ambulance services for Medicaid enrollees. The supplemental payment is in addition to the claim payment a provider receives when submitting FFS (fee for service) claims for ambulance services. The program was recently approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The program has been effective for services provided on and after January 1, 2020. Participation in the program is voluntary and requires the city to provide information to Myers & Stauffer LC (certified public accountants) each year as the program administrator in the form of a survey instrument. • Twice a year, the City would provide an intergovernmental transfer (IGT) to the state of Georgia based on the results of the survey data. Subsequently, the Georgia Department of Community Health will make a Medicaid payment to the City that includes both the transferred funds and the matching federal funds. 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since its inception, the City has elected not to participate in the program (thus foregoing those dollars). The challenge, as I understand it, is that in order for the city to know how much money it needs to 'put up' in order to get the extra funds, the data survey must be completed annually. That <i>has to</i> be done in the Finance Department as Fire-EMS is not privy to the information requested. The dollar amount that would be required is not static and is dependent on Medicare/Medicaid billing for the year. Additionally, supplemental funding is only available when Medicare/Medicaid is the primary payor (and not the secondary). Thus, because of the ambiguity surrounding the funding component and the requisite work required to complete the survey instrument, <i>I believe</i> the City has been reluctant to commit to the program. As such, at this time, I do not think we know how much the contribution would be for our submitted claims. Finance would need to complete the survey instrument annually to be able to provide that information. • Notwithstanding this, the Fire-EMS Department has maintained that participation in the program would enhance revenue for the city and would help offset costs associated with the EMS program. In 2022, the Fire-EMS department engaged the Public Consulting Group (PCG) to evaluate potential revenues associated with implementation of a Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program (quite similar to what the State of Georgia is offering). Based on the data we were able to provide, the PCG estimated we would receive a little over \$2.5 million annually. Those estimates were based off of FY21 data and the utilization of <u>6</u> CFEMS ambulances. As noted in the Fire Based EMS Report, that number could be <i>significantly</i> higher as Fire-EMS assumes more ambulance control in the City. As a result, this component is a strong recommendation for implementation in 	

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			<p>conjunction with an enterprise fund to offset costs associated with managing EMS services in the community – which was ranked at <u>the number #1 concern</u> of residents in the department’s community based strategic planning initiative.</p> <p>To be clear, the Fire-EMS Department currently has nothing to do with EMS billing/collections other than to provide the patient care reports that allow for billing/collections services relative to EMS. We work hand-in-hand with Finance to provide the information they require (as outline in the auditor’s report). However, all billing/collection functions are currently managed within that department. Please let me know if there is additional information I can provide or answer any questions. Thank you!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>GA Ambulance UPL Cover Letter.pdf</p> </div>	
2	8/8/2023	Toyia Tucker	<p><u>Crime Prevention Grants</u> Request a breakdown and definition of the cost of personnel.</p> <p><u>Response:</u> This matter is currently under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Seth Brown

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3	8/8/2023	Tyson Begly	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>How will we account for holidays where we will have large pick-ups, such as Christmas? Also, suggest a financial analysis of fees and why they will increase.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>Residents will be able to obtain additional carts once approved by Council. Off Site Recycling trailers are available for our resident to use whenever they have excess cardboard, paper, etc. Financial Analysis on rates based on privatization or internal services is being done by our consultant. An RFP to advertise is being formulated to incorporate various options:</p> <p>Option A: Yard Waste Collection Only</p> <p>Option B: Household Waste Collection Only</p> <p>Option C: Recycling Collection Only</p> <p>Option D: Household and Recycling Waste Only</p> <p>Option E: Bulk Waste Only</p> <p>Option F: All Collection Services (Household, Recycling, Yard Waste and Bulk Waste)</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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4	8/29/23	Tyson Begly	<p><u>Inspections & Code</u></p> <p>Is there a possibility to hire a third party to issue in-person citations to out-of-state parcel owners?</p> <p>Response: COMPLETED</p> <p>State law does allow citations to be mailed to out-of-state owners. However, if the owner fails to appear in court the only option is for the city to abate the nuisance. In my opinion, the cost to hire a third party far outweighs any benefit that would come from it</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett
5	8/29/23	Joanne Cogle	<p><u>Inspections & Code</u></p> <p>Requesting information on how to track Code Enforcement Cases.</p> <p>Response: COMPLETED</p> <p>A map showing recent code enforcement activities is being developed by Inspections and Code staff for distribution to Council and the citizens. Map will be searchable by Council district.</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett
6	8/29/23	Toyia Tucker	<p><u>Code Enforcement</u></p> <p>Requests a monthly report on Code Enforcement Issues</p> <p>Response: COMPLETED</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett

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			A map showing recent code enforcement activities is being developed by Inspections and Code staff for distribution to the Council and the citizens. The map will be searchable by Council district.	
7	8/29/23	Judy Thomas	<p><u>Park Facilities Update Facilities Personnel</u></p> <p>Would like a program to pull trade graduates in from Columbus Tech and Jordan.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short Reather Hollowell
8	8/29/23	Toyia Tucker	<p><u>Parks and Recreation Update</u></p> <p>Requests that we see if Ft Moore is willing to donate exercise equipment to our rec centers since we are in need of updated equipment</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>We have reached out to Ft. Moore on two separate occasions, and they have not responded as of 9-20-23.</p>	Isaiah Hugley Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder

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9	8/29/23	Charmaine Crabb	<p><u>Parks and Recreation Update</u></p> <p>Requests that a day of work or weekend of work be coordinated for citizens in Heath Park</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>Councilor Crabb sent Holli an email on 9-18-23 stating that she had reached out to the homeowners association and would get back with us. As of 9-20-23, we have not heard back from Councilor Crabb.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder
10	9/12/23	Tyson Begly	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>Requests a true financial analysis for the transition of leaving Amwaste</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response will be provided soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander Drale Short
11	9/12/23	Glenn Davis	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>Would like to see a cost-benefit analysis on the integrated waste fees for automation.</p>	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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			<p><u>Response:</u> The matter is still under review. A response will be provided soon.</p>	
12	9/12/23	Judy Thomas	<p><u>Judicial Building</u> Requests that the Council Receives updates on the Judicial Center Regularly</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response:</u> Updates on the project will be provided to Council on a regular basis.</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett
13	9/12/23	Bruce Huff	<p><u>Community Meeting</u> Would like to have a follow-up community meeting with staff and the people in his district from the meeting that took place before COVID at M.L. Harris United Methodist Church</p> <p><u>Response:</u> Will work with the Councilor to set a date for this community meeting.</p>	Lisa Goodwin

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14	9/26/2023	Toyia Tucker	<p><u>Sidewalk in School Zones</u></p> <p>Requests that we look into ensuring that proper sidewalk coverage is in all school zones to provide for a safe walkway for children coming and going to and from school.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman
15	9/26/2023	Charmaine Crabb	<p><u>Restriping</u></p> <p>Would like to look into restriping areas around the school like we did near Clubview to provide a temporary fix until sidewalks can be put in.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman

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16	9/26/2023	Glenn Davis	<p><u>Signage in School Zones</u></p> <p>Would like to look into adding more signage to regulate traffic in school zones around Northside High School</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman
17	9/26/2023	Glenn Davis	<p><u>Handicap Sidewalks</u></p> <p>Would like to add a referral to look into some of the craftsmanship of the handicapped sidewalks at stop lights (back side of concrete and leveling out topography)</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman

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18	9/26/2023	Bruce Huff	<p><u>Integrated Waste Community Meetings</u></p> <p>Would like to have several community meetings to educate citizens on new Integrated Waste Protocols.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short
19	9/26/2023	Bruce Huff	<p><u>Land Bank Authority</u></p> <p>Requests a meeting with the Land Bank Authority and Staff</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Rob Scott
20	9/26/2023	Walker Garrett	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>Requests that the Council receive an cost proposal for additional cans by the end of the year</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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21	9/26/2023	Tyson Begly	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>Requests to see revenue by Customer type (apartment types, schools, etc.)</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short
22	9/26/2023	Glenn Davis	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>Requests the following information:</p> <p>1. What is the total operational cost of the recycling center? 2. The annual Cost of what we have to do on maintenance, excluding heavy equipment (EPD maintenance of landfill). 3. What is the total cost to mitigate the closure of portions of the landfill?</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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			<p><u>Response:</u> The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	
23	9/26/2023		<p><u>Sheriff's Building</u> We would like to ensure the third courtroom for the Recorders court is added to the Sheriff's Admin building plans if we can.</p> <p><u>Response:</u> The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett