


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><u>Response:</u> Please see the attached response from the fire department.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <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> <p>Mr. Begly –</p> <p>The Finance Director has provided some information for us to review as it pertains to the Medicare/Medicaid clearinghouse and potential IGT payments. Once my EMS Chief returns from vacation, I will sit down with him to review the information and follow-up with her on any questions we may have. As I understand it, we will need to create an account with the GA</p>	

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			<p>Department of Community Health’s accounting firm to facilitate the uploading of documents and completion of forms associated with this program. At this point, I believe we can only upload data twice a year (January/July).</p> <p>Once the submittal is reviewed by the accounting firm and approved, they will indicate the amount of the IGT that we will need to post and what we can expect in terms of matching federal funds return. The following <u>example</u> (only) is provided based on the FFY21 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage of 73.23% [67.03% + 6.2% PHE] for GA and total payment \$100 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCG transfers \$26.77 to DCH (state share). Transferred funds must be eligible for federal matching funds under 42 CFR §§433.50 thru 433.67. • DCH pays \$100 to CCG that includes \$73.23 in federal matching funds <p>Thus, I do not believe we will have a better understanding of how much we will need to contribute in order to get the federal funds <u>until the 1st (calendar) quarter of 2024</u>. Once that information is available, we will certainly pass it along. Any payments will likely require Council approval and have to meet the federal guidelines for timely submittal.</p> <p>The program currently in use by the State of GA is a ‘fee for service’ model. As this process moves forward, I believe we need to evaluate the</p>	

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			<p>implementation of a 'managed care' model which can be far more lucrative for the City. Moreover, I continue to strongly advocate for the evaluation of an enterprise fund to capture and divert some these funds to help offset costs for EMS service. If we are poised to receive funds <i>above and beyond</i> what we have traditionally received for EMS services, I would love to see those funds re-invested into the very program that has been identified as the highest priority by our internal, external and community stakeholders (CFEMS Strategic Plan, pp.17-18). Additionally, as the determination is made relative to funding for indigent care, I am hopeful there will be an avenue to explore off-setting some EMS care costs as the first provider of care for many of these individuals. I realize that is a discussion for another forum; but I think it would help alleviate pressure on the general fund moving forward.</p> <p>I have attached a data sheet that discusses the proposed supplemental payment program for your review. There are many fire agencies around the country recognizing millions of dollars in additional revenue with similar programs. I am hopeful we can begin to recognize this revenue stream with this program. I will follow-up with additional information once we have a better understanding of the program costs. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions you may have. Thank you kindly!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Supplemental_Payment_Programs_Data_</p> </div> <p>Salvatore J. Scarpa</p>	

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			Fire-EMS Chief <u>Columbus Fire & EMS</u> 510 10 th Street Columbus, GA 31901 (706) 653-3500	
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
3	8/8/2023	Tyson Begly	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u> 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> 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>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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Item #	Date of Request	Requested by:	Proposed Work Session Item and/or Referral	Assigned Depart.
			<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>	
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</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> <p>Update (Date)</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett

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			<p>Mayor</p> <p>Hi everyone,</p> <p>Let me know if we need to meet in person, but I want to make sure we chase down the cost to issue in-person citations to out of state owners. I just want to focus on the cost of issuing a citation to a single property owner.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Tyson</p>	
5	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>	<p>Lisa Goodwin Drale Short Reather Hollowell</p>

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6	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
7	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
8	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>	Pam Hodge Angelica Alexander Drale Short

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			The matter is still under review. A response will be provided soon.	
9	9/12/23	Glenn Davis	<p data-bbox="625 524 888 557"><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p data-bbox="625 581 1535 654">Would like to see a cost-benefit analysis on the integrated waste fees for automation.</p> <p data-bbox="625 743 793 776"><u>Response:</u></p> <p data-bbox="625 800 1556 833">The matter is still under review. A response will be provided soon.</p>	<p data-bbox="1608 524 1833 557">Pam Hodge</p> <p data-bbox="1608 557 1885 589">Angelica Alexander</p> <p data-bbox="1608 589 1843 621">Lisa Goodwin</p> <p data-bbox="1608 621 1833 654">Drale Short</p>
10	9/12/23	Bruce Huff	<p data-bbox="625 930 930 963"><u>Community Meeting</u></p> <p data-bbox="625 987 1535 1092">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 data-bbox="625 1190 793 1222"><u>Response:</u></p> <p data-bbox="625 1247 1556 1320">I have spoken with Councilor Huff and waiting for him to provide a date for the meeting.</p>	Lisa Goodwin

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Item #	Date of Request	Requested by:	Proposed Work Session Item and/or Referral	Assigned Depart.
11	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>Working with the MCSD to determine which schools have walk zones in order to set priorities.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman
12	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>COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The striping along Edgewood was not school related, it was due to the wide pavement section that had minimal delineation and was done for traffic calming. We have recently upgraded faded crosswalks at Blackmon rd/Brown ave/Celia(Empire). We will continue to do so as the budget allows.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman

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13	9/26/2023 10/10/2023	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>Would like an status update on signage on Old guard Way.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>We have added a school zone on old guard as part of the new radar ordinance we have been working on since school bell times changed. It has been a challenge since we are consolidating times with clustered schools that had different streets referenced. This document should be finalized for council approval in the coming weeks.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman

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14	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 style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>We currently do not have an on-call sidewalk contractor (Committee meeting being scheduled). We have upgraded several with our past on-call and with assistance from P.W. We will continue to do so as the budget allows.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman
15	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>Public Works is working to get meetings scheduled with HOA's, Community Organizations, Churches and other groups to educate the public on the new initiatives with waste collection.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short

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16	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 style="font-size: 2em; color: red; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>A meeting was held on Wednesday, October 11th in the Community Reinvestment Department Conference Room. Present were Councilor Huff, LBA chairman Lance Hemmings, CRD LBA Liaison Natalie Bouyett, and CRD Assistant Director Kim Mitchell. During the meeting Councilor Huff wanted to know the Landbank’s capacity to impact communities in advance of commercial acquisition to solidify an intensive community impact through the creation of vibrant spaces that would surround the commercial activity. The LBA discussed its processes of acquisition and its strategic direction of targeted infill development through it’s newly established Opportunity Zones. In addition, discussion was held around all of the opportunities The Community Reinvestment Department has developed through programming and relationships respective to Federal funding sources that could impact targeted revitalization. To close the discussion, Councilor Huff was invited to share information around the “Invest In Columbus” workshop thatCRD and the LBA are hosting on November 1st, at the Columbus Public Library from</p>	Pam Hodge Rob Scott

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			2-4PM. He committed to sharing the registration link to his constituency.	
17	9/26/2023	Walker Garrett	<p><u>Integrated Waste</u></p> <p>Requests that the Council receive a cost proposal for additional cans by the end of the year</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short
18	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

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19	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> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Drale Short
20	9/26/2023	Judy Thomas	<p><u>Sheriff's Building</u></p> <p>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>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett

COMPLETED

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			<p><u>Response:</u> Presentation was delayed from Oct. 10th to Oct. 24th for council's consideration.</p>	
21	10/10/2023	Joanne Cogle	<p><u>Rigdon Park</u> Requests that we purchase a gate at Rigdon Park similar to the gate that we installed at Carver Park.</p> <p><u>Response:</u> Staff have reached back out to Smith Metal Works to send us a current quote to do the same gate as Carver Park. We were told it would take a couple of days to get the pricing to be able to move forward.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder
22	10/27/2023	Toyia Tucker	<p><u>Street Paving</u> Citizens have been inquiring about repaving Cameo Street for quite some time now. Can we please provide an update on this matter.</p>	Pam Hodge Donna Newman

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			<p>I think it will be helpful to see the street ratings for the entire city. I'm sure the information will be helpful for each councilor. Thank you for your help with this matter. Have a great day.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>Presentation of street evaluations will occur on 10/31 at the Council meeting. Cameo Street is rated higher than the streets that are currently being paved. It also does not have a high volume of traffic due to it being a residential street with limited number of houses.</p>	
23	10/10/2023	Joanne Cogle	<p><u>Riverwalk 14th Street Bathrooms</u></p> <p>Why haven't we opened the 14th bathrooms, given the ICF World Championships are being held not too far from them?</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETED</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>Uptown Columbus provided additional porta toilets closer to the event to provide ease of access for those attending the event.</p>	Lisa Goodwin Holli Browder

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24	10/10/2023	Glenn Davis	<p><u>Judicial Building</u></p> <p>Would like to set up time with staff to ask questions about the Judicial Center that he would like addressed.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett
25	10/10/2023	Glenn Davis	<p><u>Judicial Building</u></p> <p>Would like to look at expenditures currently and expenditures for expansions. He wants to look at the financial impact of the building and the financial impact of the construction.</p> <p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>The matter is still under review. A response is expected soon.</p>	Pam Hodge Ryan Pruett