



Uptown Columbus Inc.
25 West 10th Street
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Columbus, GA 31901
Phone 706.596.0111
www.alwaysuptown.com

July 22, 2021

City Manager Isaiah Hugley
City of Columbus
P.O. Box 1340
Columbus, GA 31902

Re: Release of Funds for River Maintenance Projects

Dear Mr. Hugley:

With the restoration of the Chattahoochee River and subsequent introduction of Whitewater rafting and ziplining activities in 2013, the City of Columbus and Uptown Columbus Inc., began a successful partnership to grow the outdoor recreational assets for the community and help spur tourism. After recent inspections, staff identified some repair and maintenance issues that need to be addressed to keep these river assets operating well, improve water quality and enhance public safety. With this in mind, Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC, is seeking a Memorandum of Understanding with the City and the release of up to \$233,919 to fund various improvements.

Since the inception of the rafting and ziplining activities, Uptown Columbus Inc. and Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC, have been remitting payments into a City-controlled Whitewater account based on revenues generated by the users. The intent of this account was to help pay for repairs and maintenance when needed. As the account has now accumulated over \$275,000, Uptown and Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC, hope to tap into some of the funds for several projects.

Working with the local professionals, volunteers, the original whitewater course designer and other vendors, Uptown has identified the following repair and maintenance items:

Board of Directors

Scott Allen
Brad Clements
Helena Coates
Norman Easterbrook
Alayne Garnache
G. William Handal
Tom Helton
Pace Halter
Scott Holmes
Wayne Joiner
Mark Jones
Tom Jones
Wes Kelley
Chalet Kossey
Larry Laska
Derek Mann
Jerald Mitchell
Steve Morse
Ernie Smallman
Hayley Tillery
Robert Watkins
Jerry Watts
Chris Woodruff

Ex Officio Members

Peter Bowden
Leah Braxton
Lisa Goodwin

Staff

Ed Wolverton, President & CEO
Tracey Green, Mkt./Comm. Director
Katie Watson, Events Director
Brenda Claridy, Executive Asst.

Alarm System

- Battery replacement
- New UV control panel
- New battery chargers
- Move radio antenna and computer to central location
- Transducer update

Water Features

- Waveshaper vault examine/cleaning
- Waveshaper hose replacement/box relocation
- Forebay sand removal
- Construction road repair
- Reset CutBait's Alabama block

To help identify and plan these projects, Uptown has already funded some of the work. After reimbursement for these expenses, the remaining funds would be used to contract for additional improvements along with a small management fee and a contingency for any unanticipated issues.

If approved, the Memorandum of Understanding would be for an amount up to \$233,919. Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC, would provide documentation to City staff detailing expenses in order to draw funds for each project.

By working collaboratively, the City of Columbus, Uptown Columbus Inc., and Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC, have transformed the river into an outdoor recreational mecca that attracts thousands of local and out of town visitors to the center city each year. Because of this success, Columbus is now on the international stage with its recent selection as the host city for three Olympic-caliber, international freestyle kayaking competitions in 2022 and in 2023.

To continue this momentum, we must make sure that our river assets remain in good repair and working order. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding is designed to accomplish this goal. If you need additional information about this request or the proposed projects, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Edwin J. Wolverton
President, Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC
Uptown Columbus, Inc.

cc: Pace Halter, Uptown Columbus Inc. Chair
Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager