



April 1, 2022

Ms. Pam Hodge, Deputy City Manager
City of Columbus
P.O. Box 1340
Columbus, GA 31902

Uptown Columbus Inc.
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Re: Release of Funds for River Maintenance Projects – Request for Additional Funding

Dear Ms. Hodge:

At their meeting on September 28, 2021, the Mayor and City Council authorized the release of money from the City's River Maintenance fund so Uptown could make several safety repairs and other improvements. The purpose of this correspondence is to provide an update about the work completed so far and to request an allocation of up to an additional \$80,000 on a reimbursement basis for additional improvements.

The City Council originally allocated up to \$233,919 in reimbursements for this project. The following is an overview of each item:

Alarm System

- Battery replacement - COMPLETE
- New UV control panel - COMPLETE
- New battery chargers - COMPLETE
- Move radio antenna and computer to new location - COMPLETE
- Transducer update – IN PROGRESS

Water Features

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

To date, the City of Columbus has reimbursed \$95,579.97 to Uptown for the completed projects. The remaining balance from the original allocation is \$138,339.13. Uptown is seeking an additional allocation of up to \$80,000 for two reasons.

First, we are hoping to use a portion of the new allocation for a change order. The original plan was to lay new hoses that would connect from the WaveShaper mechanical system on the riverbed to a new access box mounted on the wall of the Powerhouse. After the new hoses were installed, we realized a potential enhancement that would improve the project.

The hoses connect to a hydraulic pump that can change the position of WaveShaper's shutters/veins along the riverbed. This pump is stored at a nearby parking garage and must be hauled in via a trailer anytime we want to adjust the settings of the shutters.

The change order would allow us to move the pump to a non-public area of the Powerhouse. Instead of connecting at the island, we would run hoses up the side of a structural column to the pump's new location. This would allow us to change the WaverShaper settings at any time and keep the pump out of the flood plain. This project would also include engineering costs, constructing and installing a box to protect the pump from the weather and connecting the device to electrical service.

The second reason for the additional allocation is due to price increases for repairs to CutBait. The contractor provided the original quote for the work over one year ago. Due to price escalations for equipment and labor, the contractor provided an updated quote that is about 20% more than the original budget.

If approved by City Council, funds from the remaining balance and the new allocation would continue to be made on a reimbursement basis only. Uptown would provide invoices to City staff detailing all expenses with each payment request.

Uptown Columbus, Inc, and Uptown Whitewater Management, LLC, appreciate our partnership with the City of Columbus to support the community's river attractions. This additional allocation will allow us to continue to improve our outdoor recreational assets and bring more residents and out-of-town visitors to the City. If you need additional information about this request or the remaining 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