

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Council
AGENDA SUBJECT:	PlanFirst Redesignation
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs regarding the 2021-2024 PlanFirst Redesignation for the Columbus Consolidated Government.
INITIATED BY:	Planning Department

Recommendation: Approval is requested to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs regarding the 2021-2024 PlanFirst Redesignation for the Columbus Consolidated Government.

Background: The Columbus Consolidated Government received its first PlanFirst designation in 2016 and earned redesignation in 2019. PlanFirst is DCA’s program to recognize and reward communities that clearly demonstrate an established pattern of successfully implementing their Local Comprehensive Plan. Any size community is encouraged to apply, provided it has a history of public involvement with development of the plan, active engagement in plan implementation, and proven progress with achieving the community’s stated vision or goals.

Analysis: This designation will benefit our current Comprehensive Plan and provide positive publicity for planning in Columbus.

Financial Considerations: There are no financial considerations.

Legal Considerations: There are no legal considerations.

Recommendation: Authorize a resolution to approve the City to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs regarding the 2021-2024 PlanFirst Redesignation.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REGARDING THE 2021-2024 PLANFIRST REDESIGNATION.

WHEREAS, the Columbus Planning Department has been re-designated as a Georgia Department of Community Affairs PlanFirst Community for 2021-2024; and

WHEREAS, this renewal application was prepared according to the standards and procedures for PlanFirst as established by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Columbus Consolidated Government does hereby accept the 2021-2024 PlanFirst designation from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into an appropriate Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the day of _____, 2021 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor House voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.
Councilor Woodson voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

PLANFIRST PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between

**Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the
Columbus Consolidated Government**

This Memorandum of Agreement is made and entered into effective January 1, 2022, by and between the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and **Columbus Consolidated Government**. Both Parties agree to enter into this cooperative arrangement to maintain **Columbus Consolidated Government** designation as a PlanFirst Community for a three (3) year period, ending December 31, 2024.

I. Benefits and Activities

The following lists each of the benefits associated with the PlanFirst designation. The Parties intend to explore opportunities under each benefit.

- A. Three years of tools and support provided by DCA to help meet plan implementation goals;
- B. State-wide recognition for plan implementation successes;
 - Listed on the DCA's website
 - Listed on all PlanFirst outreach fliers
 - Listed on all PlanFirst presentations
 - Provided one plaque for the community to display
- C. Access to Georgia Environmental Financing Authority (GEFA) state loans at an interest rate that is reduced by 50 basis points, or ½ percent;
- D. HUD CDBG non-entitlement local governments are eligible to apply for State CDBG funding every year;
- E. 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Employment Incentive Program;
- F. 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Redevelopment Fund Program;
- G. 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund Program;
- H. Free attendance at any Community Planning Institute event for up to 2 community representatives.
- I. 100 basis point reduction, or 1%, for loans through the Downtown Development Revolving Loan Fund Program;
- J. Free attendance at any Community Planning Institute event for up to 2 community representatives.

II. PlanFirst Community Responsibilities

The **Columbus Consolidated Government** agrees to carry out the following responsibilities in order to remain in good standing and thereby retain its PlanFirst Community designation:

- A. Continue to strive for planning excellence in all areas of comprehensive plan development and implementation;
- B. Participate in the PlanFirst program by supporting a staff member's participation as a PlanFirst Reviewer, for application review as well as on-site visits to applicant;
- C. When called upon, to participate as a presenter at a Community Planning Institute event;
- D. Submit a minimum of one plan implementation success story annually to the DCA Planning Success Stories and Best Practices web page at: <https://dca.ga.gov/local-government-assistance/planning/local-planning/local-planning-success-stories-best-practices>
- E. Maintain eligibility as a qualified local government (QLG) by having an approved Comprehensive Plan and Service Delivery Strategy and must be current on all required reporting to DCA. In the event of loss of QLG by a PlanFirst community, the incentives awarded by designation will be suspended until QLG is restored.
- F. Promulgate the comprehensive plan and foster local access to the plan by making it generally available through the community's website.

III. Amendments

This Memorandum of Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Parties. An amendment can be added to this agreement if it is presented in writing and signed by both Parties.

IV. Name and PlanFirst Community Identification Items

DCA agrees to allow the use of the PlanFirst program identification items by the **Columbus Consolidated Government** on/for any PlanFirst program activities, grant applications and related activities. The **Columbus Consolidated Government** acknowledges receipt of the PlanFirst program items and any additional products and agrees to use these items only for activities related to or affected by the PlanFirst program.

IV. Term and Termination

The Agreement is effective as dated above and shall expire December 31, 2024. DCA has the authority to terminate this agreement if the **Columbus Consolidated Government** does not continue to maintain compliance with program requirements. The Selected Community will receive a written notice that their designation has been thus removed and GEFA will be notified to return any affected loan percentage rates back to the current normal interest rate. In this eventuality, the community agrees to discontinue using any PlanFirst plaques displayed in their community.

V. Affirmation and Signatures

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this instrument by the duly authorized persons from both parties and agree to enter into this cooperative arrangement.

Georgia Department of Community Affairs:

Christopher Nunn, Commissioner

Date

Columbus Consolidated Government:

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

Date