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**April
2016**



City Manager's Spotlight



TERESA WILSON
COLUMBIA CITY MANAGER

Columbia Fire Department Achieves Maximum ISO Rating Possible

On April 25, 2016, Columbia Fire Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins along with City of Columbia and Richland County officials announced the results of the recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) ratings. The City of Columbia has received a Class 1 and Richland County has received a Class 2. The City of Columbia's previous rating was a PPC Class 2 and Richland County had a split rating of a PPC Class 4/9.

Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins stated, "This is a tremendous achievement for the Columbia Fire Department as well as the City of Columbia and Richland County. I commend the members of my staff that devoted countless hours of preparation that went into getting ready for the inspection and I would also like to thank the City of Columbia's Water Division and Columbia-Richland Communications for their partnerships through this process."

Many insurance companies use ISO as one factor of many that go into determining fire protection ratings to further determine homeowner and business insurance premiums. The PPC classification ranges from 1, denoting superior fire protection, to 10, which indicates almost no fire protection is available. The Insurance Services Office has been evaluating and assigning ratings to fire departments since 1971.

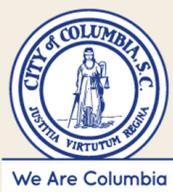
ISO currently rates over 48,600 fire-protection areas within the United States of which 601 are in South Carolina. The City of Columbia's new ISO PPC Class 1 rating establishes it with an elite group of less than 1% nationally achieving this rating. Furthermore the Columbia Fire Department is now one of only 14 fire-protection areas in South Carolina to currently have a Class 1 rating. This is the City of Columbia's first Class 1 rating in the Columbia Fire Department's 113 year history. Richland County's Class 2 is for properties within five road miles of a fire station.

Richland County has obtained its highest rating by advancing to a Class 2 from a Class 4, after its last inspection in 2006. This Class 2 rating places Richland County in the top 2% nationally and is one of only 73 of the 601 fire-protection areas in the State to reach this significant accomplishment.

The process of determining a fire protection rating includes a comprehensive evaluation of four major components. These components are:

- Communications
- Water Supply
- Fire Service
- Community Risk (also known as prevention/education/code enforcement)

To view the press conference, visit the City's [YouTube page](#).



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City Recognizes 2016 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



“CRC Celebrates National Accreditation Status”

In 1991, the United States Congress designated the second full week of April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This week is designated to recognize and honor the Nation’s “first” first responders -- public safety telecommunicators -- for their contributions to the safety and security of residents in the United States. Every day, the citizens of Richland County and the City of Columbia depend on the skill, expertise, and commitment of the men and women who answer their 911 calls. On April 2, 2016, Columbia-Richland received its fourth award of Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The CALEA Accreditation Award is for three years and the agency is required to maintain continuous compliance during the award period.



Mayor Benjamin, CRC 9-1-1 Director Kimberly Gathers and staff

On April 5, 2016 the Mayor and City Council proclaimed April 10 – April 16 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and CRC Telecommunicators were honored during an internal ceremony.

In addition, Telecommunicators were featured on the homepage of the City of Columbia website and in the Know Your City public education campaign.

During the week of appreciation the citizens of Richland County and the City of Columbia were also encouraged to recognize Columbia-Richland 911 Communications via social media and thank the Telecommunicators for their skills, expertise, and commitment that are provided for our community.

For more information, please visit the Columbia-Richland 9-1-1 Communications website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/911>.

CRC 9-1-1 Core Values

EFFICIENCY

CRC personnel reflect their commitment to efficiency by consistently demonstrating competency in their performance, and skillfulness in avoiding wasted time and effort. CRC personnel realize that 9-1-1 operational efficiency saves lives.

PROFESSIONALISM

CRC 9-1-1 personnel reflect their commitment to professionalism by being punctual, courteous, prepared, and by following proper training and operational standards in every call for service they process.

COURTESY & RESPECT

CRC personnel reflect their commitment to courtesy and respect by performing their duties in a courteous, helpful, respectful, and considerate manner. CRC personnel realize that providing prompt, courteous, and respectful 9-1-1 service saves lives.

SENSE OF URGENCY

CRC 9-1-1 personnel reflect their commitment to sense of urgency by providing professional, courteous, and prompt response to all calls for service. CRC 9-1-1 personnel realize the importance of "Dispatching the Call" to save lives.

City Manager Teresa Wilson Recognized as a Recipient of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award

City Manager Teresa Wilson was recognized at the 18th Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Wilson was selected as an honoree because of her tireless efforts and dedicated public service during the historic October 2015 flood. The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award Banquet was hosted by the Indian Waters Council, Boy Scouts of America.

"It is an honor to be a recipient of the Whitney M. Young Jr. award. I am proud to serve my community and I commend the commitment to service that the Boy Scouts of America demonstrate every day. I have never been more proud than when the Boy Scouts joined other organizations and volunteered to support those in need during the flood in 2015. Our entire community displayed a high level of resilience during a historic crisis."

~City Manager Teresa Wilson

The Whitney M. Young, Jr Service Award is given to recognize outstanding service by an adult individual or organization in the development of Scouting for youth. This award also salutes "unsung heroes", these people who might not otherwise receive recognition for their exceptional service to America's youth. Selection as a recipient of this most prestigious honor is based on the nominee's contribution as an advocate seeking to improve at-risk conditions affecting America's youth and communities.

For more information, visit www.indianwaters.org or call 803-750-9868.

City Manager Teresa Wilson and Community Development Director Deborah Christie Honored at CCN Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction

On Thursday, April 28 City Manager Teresa Wilson and Community Development Director, Deborah Christie were honored and presented the Friend of the CCN Award. The two outstanding women were nominated by the President and Vice President of the executive committee and given the award on behalf of the CCN Board of Directors. The theme for the night was, "Standing Strong."

The Friend of the CCN award is presented to those who have made significant contributions to help or make the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods better in the past year. Deborah Livingston was recognized for her continuous involvement in the community through the Community Development department. The Community Development Department was also there to accept the award on her behalf. Throughout the banquet, the City Manager was recognized for her upstanding dedication to the community during the October floods.



"It means so much to me, and I really receive the honor that's been given by the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods as a friend to the CCN on behalf of all City staff," said City Manager Teresa Wilson. "We've had a challenging year and it's really shown the resilience of our community. So, to have the neighborhood leaders and the collaboration of neighborhoods recognize our work as a city is very meaningful."

Mayor Benjamin, City Councilmembers, fire and police chiefs were also in attendance and commended both of the honorees on their accomplishments.

For more information, please contact the Community Development Department <http://www.columbiasc.gov/community-development>.

City Recognizes Storm Drain Marking Month



City of Columbia
drain marker



Richland County
drain marker

The City of Columbia and Richland County kicked off Storm Drain Marking Month on April 6 at 10 a.m. at the corner of Holt and Laurie Streets in the Rosewood neighborhood. City and County stormwater staff discussed the importance of keeping trash, lawn debris, and other pollutants out of our storm drains. A marking demonstration was conducted before heading out to mark the surrounding area.

During Storm Drain Marking Month, both the City and the County sent out neighborhood volunteers to place markers on storm drains as part of the month-long campaign.

Water that flows into storm drains does not get treated or cleaned. Any pollutants that go into a storm drain flow directly into our waterways. These stormwater pollutants negatively affect water quality for people, fish, and animals.

Therefore, storm drain markers are used as visual reminders for City and County residents that storm drains lead directly to local waterways. The City of Columbia and Richland County use weatherproof medallions with the image of a fish and water, along with "No Dumping/Drains to River" stamped in large letters.

For more information or to volunteer to mark storm drains in your neighborhood, visit www.MyRiverStartsHere.org.



City Held First Minority Business Opportunity Conference



On Wednesday, April 6, the City held its first Minority Business Opportunity Conference (MinorityBOC) at the Agape Conference Center. The purpose of the MinorityBOC, hosted by the City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), was to provide minority businesses the opportunity to learn about City efforts to grow the number of companies from which City departments make routine and emergency purchases. Participants heard from city leaders, learned about the City's procurement procedures & special programs, and met with City department staff that make purchasing decisions.

"It's really important for local minority businesses to be able to meet with folks from the City of Columbia to establish relationships with different City departments who buy different things," said Office of Business Opportunities Commercial Loan Officer, Paul Featheringill. "As we learned today, the City does over 200 million dollars of purchases every year, so there is really a huge opportunity for businesses to get in and take advantage of some of them."

During the MinorityBOC, 15 City departments met with over 75 local minority business owners in matchmaking sessions. These owners were able to learn what each City department needed and then discuss products and/or services they are able to provide. Utilities & Engineering, Public Works, Information Technology, and Public Relations were some of the departments in attendance.

The services that local businesses offered varied greatly and some of those categories were janitorial services, advertising/marketing, construction, printing, environmental testing, landscaping, consulting, training, and catering. Participants were also given resource guides and other helpful information on available programs/resources that are accessible to them through the Office of Business Opportunities.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950 or visit www.ColumbiaSC.net/obo.

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Imagine Mill Districts Workshops



On April 27 and 28, The City of Columbia Planning and Development Services Department invited the public to help establish a community vision for the future development of the Whaley, Olympia, and Granby neighborhoods – The Capital City Mill District. In June, during the next session of Imagine Workshops, the Project Team will present initial findings and there will be opportunities for additional citizen review and input.

For more information, contact the Planning and Development Services Department at 803-545-3222.



National Youth Violence Prevention Week 2016



In recognition of National Youth Violence Prevention Week, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Police Department partnered to host a series of youth violence prevention activities from April 3-8, 2016.

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is held annually in order to raise awareness and educate students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public about effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence. Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine initiated the City's involvement with National Youth Violence Prevention Week approximately a decade ago.

Various planned activities demonstrated the positive role young people can have in making their schools and communities safer. All events were free and open to the public. Youth, adults, parents, mentors and youth leaders were encouraged to attend.

Praise Fest for Peace

Local choirs, praise dance/mime ministries and more performed.

Youth Violence Prevention Expo

Agencies and organizations were on hand to provide information on a variety of programs, resources, activities and events that will assist youth in making better life choices.

Know Your Rights

Officers with the Columbia Police Department provided useful tips on interacting with the police and understanding your rights.

Operation R.I.S.K. (Rescuing Inner City Students and Kids)

A proactive, educational and reality-based youth program that is designed to help deter youths ages 11-16 from criminal behavior or association.

The Aftermath of Youth Violence – Panel of Experts

A panel discussion was held for youth and adults to ask questions about the effects that youth violence has had on their lives and families.

Hoops for Peace – Columbia Police Department

The Columbia Police Department teamed up with area youth for an evening of basketball fun.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

About Teresa Wilson

Teresa Wilson is the City Manager for the City of Columbia, SC. For more details on the City Manager, visit ColumbiaSC.net/City-Manager. For more information about the City of Columbia, visit ColumbiaSC.net.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

All my best,

Teresa Wilson

