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**January
2016**



City Manager's **Spotlight**



TERESA WILSON
COLUMBIA CITY MANAGER

President Obama salutes Columbia Police Department for Task Force Implementation

WASHINGTON DC (WACH) - President Barack Obama commended the Columbia Police Department during the 84th Winter Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors in the nation's capital Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016.

President Obama applauded the efforts of the Columbia Police Department for their community based plan for task force implementation.

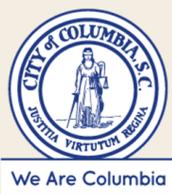
Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook were in attendance at the conference focusing on community engagement.

"I am extremely proud of the work that Chief Holbrook and the Columbia Police Department have done to implement the reforms recommended by President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing," said Mayor Benjamin.

"While at the conference, I have seen first-hand the commitment from Mayors and law enforcement to strengthen community relations," added Holbrook.

Download the [President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing](#).

Source: Matthew Stevens, WACH.com



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THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON
21ST CENTURY POLICING



CITY OF COLUMBIA'S
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
Moving from Recommendations to Action

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive



Winners of the annual Honor the Dream Food Drive, a collaborative effort between the City and Richland School District One, were announced during the City's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

More than 8,000 pounds of food were collected for Harvest Hope Food Bank. Richland School District One collected more than 5,815 pounds and the City collected 2,543 pounds.

Top winners of the food drive:

Richland One

Bradley Elementary School - 1,221 lbs

Brockman Elementary School - 984 lbs

Arden Elementary School - 453 lbs

City of Columbia

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park - 1,107 lbs

Pinehurst Park - 653 lbs

Lorick Park - 299 lbs

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Multipurpose Room Dedication in honor of Durham E. Carter

The City of Columbia announced that the multipurpose room at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park has been dedicated in honor of Mr. Durham E. Carter, an educator and community activist. The dedication was held on Monday, Jan. 18 during the City's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.



City Manager Wilson, Mayor Benjamin, City Council members, and City staff present Mr. Carter with plaque for room dedication.

Durham E. Carter

Durham E. Carter, a career counselor, educator and community activist, is a native of Columbia, South Carolina.

In 1994, then Gov. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. presented him with the State's highest award, the Order of the Palmetto. He was bestowed this honor in gratitude for his years of service to others. That same year, the City presented a proclamation for "Durham E. Carter Day."

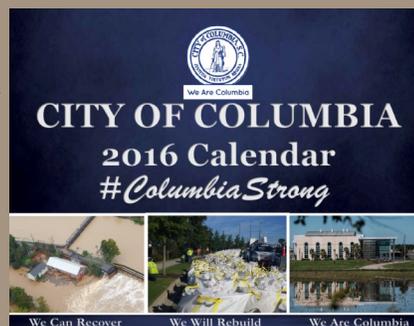
For more than 20 years, Carter served as the chair of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation.

Carter was instrumental in the renaming of Valley Park in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the installation of the "Stone of Hope."



#ColumbiaStrong 2016 Calendars

As we move into the new year, let us not remember October 2015 for the effects of the flood, but as a time when the strength of our community was a model for the world to see. Please stop by City Hall to pick up a 2016 #ColumbiaStrong calendar. The calendar was designed by the City's Public and Media Relations Department with images from the October flood.

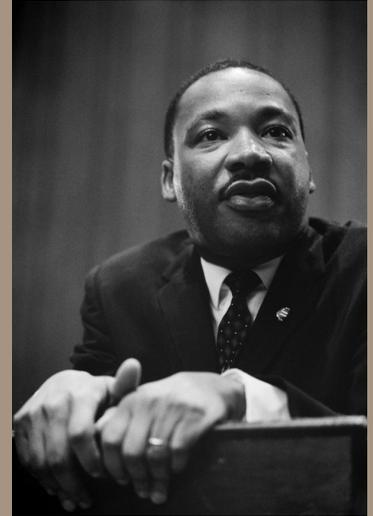


28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The City of Columbia's 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration was held on Monday, January 18, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street. University of South Carolina President Dr. Harris Pastides was this year's keynote speaker. The celebration also included performances from Logan Elementary School and Keenan High School.

A Wreath Laying Ceremony was held prior to the celebration at 3:06 p.m. at the corner of Harden and Greene streets to commemorate the historic marker honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Members of the Alpha Psi Lambda and Omicron Iota Lambda chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., led the ceremony.

During the celebration, the Dream Keeper Scholarship Award recipients were announced. The Dream Keeper Award recognizes exemplary displays of committed service to the tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The ideals of social responsibility, political empowerment, diversity, racial harmony, nonviolence, and unselfish service must have been demonstrated voluntarily by the nominee in support of his or her community and fellow citizens.



2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Dream Keeper Scholarship Winners:

- **Jonathan Cannon**, Dutch Fork High School; \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Councilman Moe Baddourah and David Day
- **Jhané Thomas**, Ridge View High School; \$500 scholarship sponsored by Alpha Psi Lambda Chapter & Omicron Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- **Justin Mitchell**, Blythewood High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Durham E. Carter, S. Allison Baker and Geoffrey Graves
- **Justin Blunt**, Dreher High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia
- **Alyssa Brunson**, Spring Valley High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Henri Baskins
- **Taylor Cunningham**, A.C. Flora High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by the Cromartie Law Firm, LLC
- **Da'Nesha Edmond**, Dreher High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by Troubleshoot A/C Heating and Refrigeration
- **Juan Pacheco**, Richland Northeast High School; \$250 scholarship sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation



A new award was announced at this year's celebration, the City Manager's Awards. City Manager Teresa Wilson established the program for elementary and middle schools. The annual award of \$200 will be awarded to two students.

Recipients of the City Manager's Awards are:

- **Kennedy Washington**, Kelly Mill Middle School; \$100
- **Tennare Jackson**, W. G. Sanders Middle School; \$100

Recipients of the Josiah Caden Jenkins Memorial Scholarships, which are sponsored by Chief Aubrey D. Jenkins in memory of his great-nephew Josiah Caden Jenkins, are:

- **Paul Streater**, Killian Elementary School; \$250
- **Journei Simmons**, Round Top Elementary School; \$100

City Launches New Banking Program and Financial Empowerment Initiatives



Mayor Benjamin, Councilwoman Devine, Community Development staff, representatives from FDIC, BB&T, South State Bank and TD Bank attended press conference.

City officials and partners joined together on January 13, 2016, for the "Bank On" Columbia and Financial Empowerment Initiatives press conference at City Hall.

"Bank On" Columbia is a new program that will provide Columbia's un-banked and under-banked citizens access to low-to-no cost checking and savings accounts.

The program aims to promote financial stability by going out to communities and neighborhoods to inform citizens about the products that partnering financial institutions are offering in addition to financial education workshops.

The Community Development department will also launch three new and improved initiatives, to include the "Start Fresh" Financial Education Workshop Series, Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program and Affordable Housing Loan Program.

For more information, please contact the Community Development Department at 803-545-3373.

New & Improved Initiatives

- "Start Fresh" Financial Education Workshop Series
- Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program
- Affordable Housing Loan Program

Public Education Forum: Utility Line Tree Trimming

The City of Columbia and SCE&G held a public education session on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at The Lourie Center to discuss upcoming tree trimming activities near utility distribution lines.

Citizens were encouraged to attend this forum to learn more about tree trimming plans for 2016.

Topics covered included:

- Purpose and Guidelines for Utility Pruning
- ANSI Standards
- Grand Trees
- Protection of Trees
- Columbia's Aging Tree Canopy

Representatives from the City of Columbia and SCE&G provided educational materials and were available to answer questions about proper pruning techniques and upcoming activities.

For more information about tree trimming, please contact the Forestry and Beautification Division at 803-545-3860.

Women's Empowerment Committee | Feature 5



On Jan. 12, City Manager Teresa Wilson participated in the Women's Empowerment Committee | Feature 5 event sponsored by the Capital City Club.

Featured 5 is an opportunity for local established executive women to share their insight and words of wisdom. The evening began with guests meeting the featured women, followed by a table discussion led by each speaker.

Feature 5 Speakers:

- Teresa Wilson, City Manager, Columbia, SC
- Elizabeth Dinndorf, President, Columbia College
- Madeleine McGee, President, South Carolina Association of Nonprofit Organizations
- Janet Scouten, Editor, Fig magazine

For more information about this event, please visit www.clubcorp.com/Clubs/Capital-City-Club-Columbia/



Six Cities Share \$445,000 in Grants To Support Childhood Obesity Prevention Programs

Partnership Invests in Promising Programs to Encourage Kids' Healthy Weight & Lifestyle

On Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016, The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) announced the winners of the 2016 Childhood Obesity Prevention Awards during the organization's 84th Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. The awards went to cities with outstanding programs that encourage healthy weight through balanced diet choices and regular physical activity.

Six U.S. cities were recognized for their mayoral-based initiatives:

- Baltimore, MD
- Columbia, SC
- Everett, MA
- Fontana, CA
- New Orleans, LA
- Plainfield, NJ

The grant program is the result of a partnership between USCM and the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABHFA), which was created and funded by America's non-alcoholic beverage industry and is a reflection of the industry's long-standing tradition of giving back to communities. This grant program is an example of another public-private partnership to support nutrition education for children, strengthen communities and empower consumers. The grant awards are divided into small, medium and large city categories, with first place and second place awards given in each category. An independent panel of judges evaluated each application based on innovation, creativity, replicability and potential impact.

To view a brief description of each winning program, visit usmayors.org.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are more than 1,200 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. For more information, visit usmayors.org, [facebook.com/usmayors](https://www.facebook.com/usmayors) and twitter.com/usmayors.

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



We Are Columbia