

## City of Columbia Press Releases

Jan. 1- 31, 2016

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 4, 2015

Contact: Lucinda Statler at 803-545-0229

**Design/Development Review Commission Sub-Committee Meeting | Jan. 6, 2016**

The Design/Development Review Commission (D/DRC) sub-committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 1136 Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 3 p.m. Should you have questions, please contact Lucinda Statler at 803-545-0229.

The sub-committee will discuss the design for Buildings Two and Three, part of the Phase 3 development of the Canalside property (TMS# 09005-03-04, 06, 17). This meeting is open for the public to attend, but is not a public hearing. This is a working meeting; no action will be taken by the Commission.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 4, 2016

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

**(Also released Jan. 7, 11)**

**January 2016 At-Large Open House**

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine and Councilman Howard Duvall, Jr.

**WHAT:** January 2016 At-Large Open House

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 5-8:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall, 1737 Main Street

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 803-545-3061.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 4, 2016

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

**Design/Development Review Commission Draft Agenda | January 14**

Please see the attached draft agenda for the January 14<sup>th</sup> Design/Development Review Commission meeting. This draft agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/ddrc/agendas-minutes>.

Please contact the Planning Division at 803-545-3222 for questions regarding items on this draft agenda.

###

*Draft Agendas: The Planning and Development Services Department distributes draft agendas in order to provide earlier notice of upcoming agenda items. Draft agendas include items that we have received by the application deadline, but the final agenda has not yet been set. Final agendas will be sent and posted on the website prior to the meeting date. Unlike final agendas, draft agendas do not contain a consent agenda - if you plan on attending a meeting based upon an item currently on the agenda, it is critical that you check the final agenda before you attend.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 4, 2016

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

**Board of Zoning Appeals Draft Agenda | January 12**

Please see the attached draft agenda for the January 12<sup>th</sup> Board of Zoning Appeals meeting. Please contact the Zoning Division at 803-545-3333 for questions regarding items on this draft agenda.

This draft agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: [www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes](http://www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes).

###

*Draft Agendas: The Planning and Development Services Department distributes draft agendas in order to provide earlier notice of upcoming agenda items. Draft agendas include items that we have received by the application deadline, but the final agenda has not yet been set. Final agendas will be sent and posted on the website prior to the meeting date. Unlike final agendas, draft agendas do not contain a consent agenda - if you plan on attending a meeting based upon an item currently on the agenda, it is critical that you check the final agenda before you attend.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, January 4, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

**City Accepting Nominations for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarships**

*Nominations must be postmarked by January 4, 2016*

The City of Columbia is accepting nominations for the 2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream Keeper Scholarship Awards.

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 be demonstrated voluntarily by the nominee in support of his or her community and fellow citizens.

The nominee **must** be age 18 or younger and enrolled in school with a minimum 2.0 grade point average.

Winners will be announced at the City of Columbia's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 18, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street. Nominees must attend the celebration.

Applications are available [online](#) for download or at any community center.

Applications must be returned in person or by mail to the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. **Applications must be postmarked by Monday, January 4, 2016.**

For more information, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net), or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

###

*\*Please see the attached flyer*

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
**DREAM KEEPER  
SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Dream Keeper Award recognizes exemplary displays of committed service to the tenets of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Nominees must**  
Voluntarily demonstrate the ideals of:

- Social responsibility
- Political empowerment
- Diversity
- Racial harmony
- Nonviolence
- Unselfish service

Be 18 years old or younger  
Be currently enrolled in school with a minimum 2.0 GPA

### Apply Now

Applications are available online at [ColumbiaSC.net](http://ColumbiaSC.net) or at any community center. Winners will be announced at the City of Columbia's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on **Monday, January 18, 2016.**

Return applications in person or by mail to

City of Columbia  
Parks and Recreation Department  
1111 Parkside Drive  
Columbia, SC 29203

Applications must be postmarked by **Monday, January 4, 2016**



For more information, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net), or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

Parks and Recreation Department • 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 • 803-545-3100 • [www.ColumbiaSC.net](http://www.ColumbiaSC.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, Jan. 4, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

**FEMA Disaster Assistance | Registration Ends Jan. 4, 2016**

**Flood survivors in need of FEMA disaster assistance have until midnight on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016 to apply. A 30 day extension was granted for the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Individual Assistance registration period. To register for assistance, please call 1-800-621-FEMA, visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or email [FEMA-ContactUs@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-ContactUs@fema.dhs.gov). Renters are eligible if they resided in a disaster area prior to the event.**

**Disaster assistance applicants who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. Those who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call 800-621-FEMA (3362). The toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.**

A Disaster Recovery Center is a readily accessible facility where applicants may go for information about FEMA or other disaster assistance programs. Please visit one of the following FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers for assistance:

**Main Library** - 1431 Assembly St, Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: (803) 799-9084

Hours of Operation:

Mon: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

**South East Library** - 7421 Garners Ferry Rd, Columbia, SC 29209

Phone: (803) 776-0855

Hours of Operation:

Monday: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

**Irmo Library** - 6251 St Andrews Road, Columbia, SC

Phone: (803) 353-8584

Hours of Operation:

Mon: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Blaney Fire Department** - 1200 Rose Street, Elgin, SC

Phone: (803) 353-8584

Hours of Operation:

Mon: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Temple of Faith Church** - 2850 Congaree Rd, Gadsden, SC

Phone: (803) 353-8584

Hours of Operation:

Mon: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov).

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, January 4, 2015

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

**Multi Use Entertainment Venue / Noise and Lighting Study | Open Forum ~ Jan.**

**6**

**WHAT:** The Multi Use Entertainment Venue / Noise and Lighting Study will be presented to Columbia City Council during the January 5, 2016 meeting. An open forum with consultants from the project will be held for Community members from the surrounding neighborhoods to provide an opportunity to discuss specific questions regarding the studies.

**WHO:** City staff, Wrightson, Johnson, Haddon & Williams, Inc. and Musco Sports Lighting, LLC consultants and Community members.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** City Hall, Mayor’s Conference Room, 1737 Main Street

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, January 4, 2015

Contact: City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**City Council Updated Agendas for January 5, 2016**

Please review the attached updated agendas for the Columbia City Council meeting being held Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street.

###



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL - 1737 MAIN STREET  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

Prior to entering the meeting please turn all electronic communication devices to the silent, vibrate or off position. All presenters are asked to speak directly into the microphone for recording purposes.

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Council Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION** – Chaplain Byron Powers, Columbia Police Department

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

**APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. Mayor Pro-Tempore

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Council is asked to approve the **Consent Agenda Items 1a** through **12**.

**CONSIDERATION OF BIDS and AGREEMENTS**

- 1a. Council is asked to approve the Purchase of an Asphalt Compactor and Trailer, as requested by the Street Division. Award to Hills Machinery, using the National Joint Powers Alliance Contract and the SC State Contract in the amount of \$59,023.65. This vendor is located in Columbia, SC. *Funding Source: Streets Water & Sewer Repair-Autos, Trucks, Heavy Equipment Capital, 5513202-658500 – Note: The original budgeted amount for this purchase is \$60,000.00.*

**FOR**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 5, 2015

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

**Multi Use Entertainment Venue / Noise and Lighting Study Open Forum  
Cancelled**

The Multi Use Entertainment Venue / Noise and Lighting Study Open Forum scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2016 has been cancelled.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at (803)-776-PETS

**(Also released Jan. 11, 19)**

**New Year! New Beginning! Pet Adoption Special**

**WHAT:** The Columbia and Lexington Animal Services will be holding a New Year! New Beginning! pet adoption special for the month of January. Whether you're adopting a new pet or reclaiming a lost pet, the fee is only \$40. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

**WHERE:** Columbia Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC and Lexington Animal Services, 321 Ball Park Rd, Lexington, SC

**WHEN:** Friday, January 1 – Sunday, January 31, 2016

**Cost:** \$40 per pet

For more information about the adoption specials please call Columbia Animal Services (803)776-7387 or Lexington Animal Services (803) 785-8149.

###

*\*Please see attached flyer.*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, January 5, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

**(Also released Jan. 15, 22, 29)**

**SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015-2016**

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

**Distribution Line Tree Trimming:**

Central Rosewood Neighborhood

Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association

South Kilbourne Neighborhood Association

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit [www.sceg.com/treetrimming](http://www.sceg.com/treetrimming).

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email [SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com](mailto:SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com).

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

**Related Links:**

**[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)**

**VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 6, 2015

Contact: City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**City Council Retreat Agenda**

The Columbia City Council will conduct a retreat during January 7-9, 2016. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
CITY COUNCIL RETREAT AGENDA  
JANUARY 7-9, 2016  
SALUDA SHOALS RIVER CENTER  
5605 BUSH RIVER ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SC 29212

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The Columbia City Council will conduct a Governance Retreat on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 8, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., and Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Saluda Shoals Park River Center, 5605 Bush River Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29212.

**SESSION PURPOSE**

To enable the Columbia City Council to more sharply focus its long term direction, set near-term priorities, and create roles and operating guidelines that will enhance effectiveness among Council Members and staff

**SESSION GOALS**

1. Increase the understanding and appreciation of fellow Council Members in order to enhance the ability of the Council to provide effective governance for the City
2. Enhance Council’s long term policy direction for the City through a clear vision that includes target areas and comprehensive desired future states
3. Identify near-term priorities to achieve each desired future state in order to enable staff members to create a Work Plan
4. Clarify roles and develop a set of operating guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of working relationships among Council Members and the Council and staff members
5. Identify a specific plan to communicate Council’s long and short-term policy direction to stakeholders and to further efforts through a staff work plan
6. Identify next steps to provide clear accountability

**Thursday, January 7, 2016**

- 4:00 Session Convenes / Welcome
- 4:00 to 4:10 Overview of Purpose / Goals / Agenda / Roles

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 6, 2015

Contact: Lucinda Statler at 803-545-0229

**Design/Development Review Commission Sub-Committee Meeting | Jan. 6, 2016**

The Design/Development Review Commission (D/DRC) sub-committee will hold a meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 1136 Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 3 p.m. Should you have questions, please contact Lucinda Statler at 803-545-0229.

The sub-committee will discuss the design for Buildings Two and Three, part of the Phase 3 development of the Canalside property (TMS# 09005-03-04, 06, 17). This meeting is open for the public to attend, but is not a public hearing. This is a working meeting; no action will be taken by the Commission.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Contact: Sara Hollar at (803) 545-3860

**(Also released Jan. 11, 14)**

**City to Hold Public Education Forum on Utility Line Tree Trimming**

The City of Columbia and SCE&G will hold a public education session on Thursday, January 14, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at The Lourie Center (formerly Capital Senior Center) located at 1650 Park Circle, to discuss upcoming tree trimming activities near utility distribution lines.

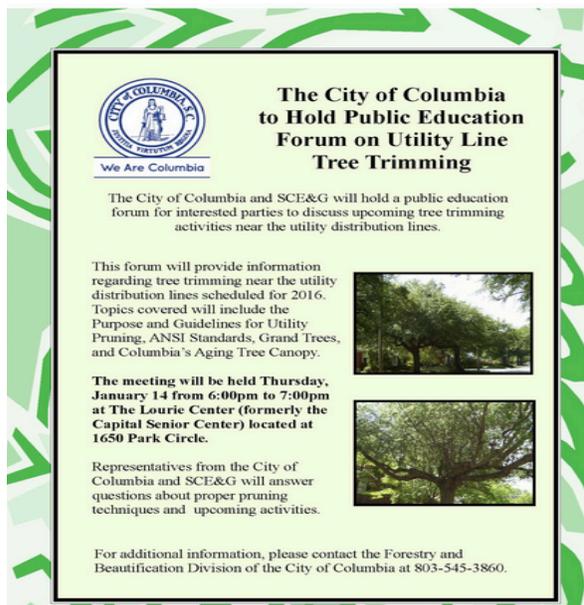
Citizens are encouraged to attend this information session to learn more about tree trimming that will be completed in 2016.

Topics covered will include:

- 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 will provide educational materials and be available to answer any questions about proper pruning techniques and upcoming activities.

For additional information, please contact the Forestry and Beautification Division of the City of Columbia at 803-545-3860.



###

*\* Please see attached flyer.*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

**(Also released Jan. 11, 12, 13, 15)**

### **City Launches New Banking Program and Financial Empowerment Initiatives**

Community Development is partnering up with BB&T, South State Bank and TD Bank to introduce “Bank On” Columbia. “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 the “Start Fresh” Financial Education Workshop Series.

The Start Fresh! Workshop Series aid those with no checking account or negative banking histories get a second chance account and move towards financial independence by helping them to understand the importance of banking, budgeting, saving, building credit and homeownership.

Along with “Bank On” Columbia and the Start Fresh! Workshop Series, the Community Development department is offering Individual Development Accounts (IDA). The IDA program offers savings accounts with the option of going to school, capitalizing a small business and purchasing a home to individuals with limited means by supplementing an IDA participant’s savings deposits at a three to one savings match. To participate in the IDA program, applicants must have an income below 200% of the federal poverty limit with a net worth below \$10,000. Successful participants will be eligible for up to a \$3000 match.

The Community Development department is also introducing the new and improved Affordable Housing Loan Program. The AHLP is a program created to provide homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households and offers a low down payment of \$500. The City will finance the remaining purchase price at three percent with NO private mortgage insurance. This is the first year that the program will be offered citywide, for a LIMITED time while funds are available.

A press conference to kick-off “Bank On” Columbia and the financial empowerment initiatives will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street.

For more information, please contact Community Development at (803) 545-3373.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 7, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations Department at (803) 545-3020

**(Also released on Jan. 11)**

**City to Kick-Off “Bank On” Columbia and Financial Empowerment Initiatives**

**WHAT:** Community Development will hold a press conference to kick-off “Bank On” Columbia and financial empowerment initiatives.

“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 be launching three new and improved initiatives, to include the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program, “Start Fresh” Financial Education Workshop Series and Affordable Housing Loan Program.

**WHO:** Community Development, FDIC representatives, Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Manager Teresa Wilson, City Council members, BB&T, South State Bank and TD Bank

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 13 at 9 a.m.

**WHERE:** City Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street

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

###

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, Jan. 8, 2016

Contact: Elena Temple 202-286-1100 | [etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:etemple@usmayors.org)

Sara Durr 202-215-1811 | [sara@durrcommunications.com](mailto:sara@durrcommunications.com)

### **The Nation's Mayors to Bring Urban Agenda to Iowa**

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors will bring their urban agenda – [The 2016 Compact for a Better America: A Call to Action](#) – to Des Moines, Iowa for The Brown & Black Presidential Forum on Monday, January 11, 2016. The [Compact](#) calls on the Presidential candidates and Congress to INVEST in and PROTECT America's cities and metro areas ([www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)).

Under the leadership of USCM President Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, a bipartisan group of mayors from cities large and small will attend the Brown & Black Presidential Forum to stress to Presidential Candidates how important city/metropolitan issues are to the country and a growing number of Americans.

With more than 85% of people in the United States living in our nation's cities and metro areas, mayors clearly understand how urban issues impact everyday Americans and are calling on candidates to focus on these issues. Mayors are convinced that despite their geographic location, cities large and small across over the country are plagued by the same challenges including access to healthcare, job creation, affordable housing, immigration, crime and illegal guns, failing public schools and climate protection.

Billed as the oldest Forum addressing minority issues, The Iowa Brown & Black Presidential Forum is an element of Urban Dreams' non-partisan Project V.O.T.E. (Voting Opportunities Through Education). It is the nation's only presidential forum in which all candidates have the opportunity to answer essential concerns of African-Americans and Latinos. The non-partisan event began in 1984 and has figured prominently in the Iowa caucuses. It is recognized as the oldest continuous minority forum for presidential candidates in America and one of the longest-running presidential forums in the nation. For questions related to the Brown & Black Forum, please contact Brienne Pins: [Brienne@CashmereAgency.com](mailto:Brienne@CashmereAgency.com)

“The issues of Des Moines and of cities around Iowa are the same issues that face mayors around the country each and every day. We support The Brown & Black Forum in its mission to present to the next President of the United States the challenges and opportunities before us and we believe it is critical that mayors participate,” said Tom Cochran, USCM CEO & Executive Director.

**WHO:** Baltimore, MD Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, USCM President

Columbia, SC Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, USCM Trustee

Des Moines, IA Mayor Frank Cownie, USCM Trustee

Santa Fe, NM Mayor Javier Gonzales, USCM Member

Tom Cochran, USCM CEO & Executive Director

**WHAT:** Press Conference – Mayors will react to candidates and speak to urban issues impacting America’s cities and attend the Brown & Black Forum.

**WHEN:** Monday, January 11, 2016 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. CST (Prior to Brown & Black Forum)

**WHERE:** Drake University | Turner Jazz Center (directly behind the Sheslow Auditorium) | 2507 University Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311

###

*About The United States Conference of Mayors -- The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are nearly 1,400 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/usmayors](https://www.facebook.com/usmayors), or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/usmayors](https://twitter.com/usmayors).*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: January 8, 2016

CONTACT: Connie Bailey, Office of the City Council at 803-545-4268

**(Also released on Jan. 14)**

**Advertisement of Vacancy on the Planning Commission**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

The purpose of this board is to develop and maintain a continuing planning program which will benefit City of Columbia residents; to provide a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and address local development issues and opportunities; to foster, develop and review policies, plans and priorities in order to insure orderly growth, development, conservation and preservation; to furnish technical assistance to city government and its agents; and to review and coordinate federal, state and local programs that have an impact on the city. The Commission also advises City Council on annexations, zoning changes and approves subdivision plats/large development plans.

The term of office is three (3) years with the possibility of one (1) reappointment for a total of six (6) years of service.

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

**Deadline – Applications are due by February 1, 2016, 5 p.m.**

For more information, please contact Connie Bailey at 803-545-4268 or send an email to [cfbailey@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfbailey@columbiasc.net). Visit [ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions](http://ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions) to download an application.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 8, 2016

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

**Design/Development Review Commission Agenda**

The Design/Development Review Commission will hold a meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/ddrc/agendas-minutes>

Should you have questions, please contact the Planning Division at 803-545-3222.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 8, 2016

Contact: [Zoning Division](#) at 803-545-3333

**Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda for Tuesday, December 8**

The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 12, at City Hall (City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor), 1737 Main Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: [www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes](http://www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes).

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact Zoning Division at 803-545-3333.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: January 11, 2016

CONTACT: Chanique Belton, Office of the Mayor at 803-545-3075

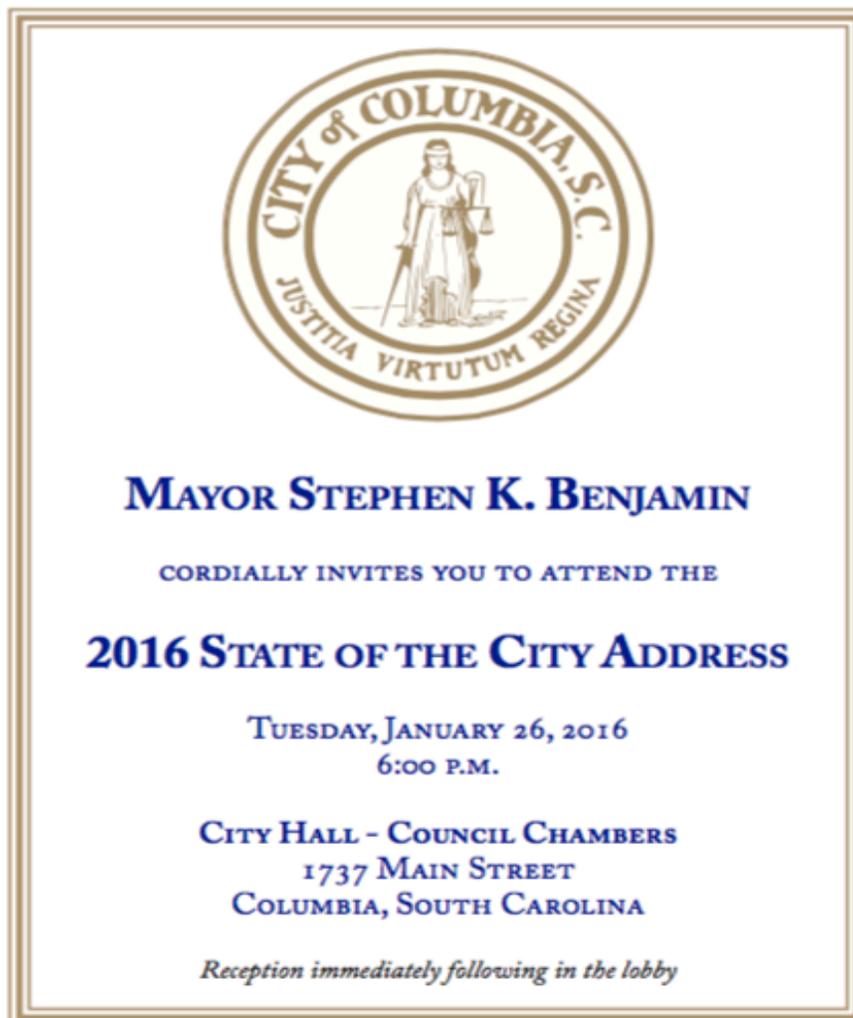
**(Also released on Jan. 22, 25)**

**2016 State of the City Address with Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin**

Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin will present the 2016 State of the City Address at City Hall, 1737 Main St., on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. A reception will be held in the Gallery at City Hall immediately following the ceremony.

###

*\*Invitation attached*



Monday, January 11, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

**City's Pet of the Week: Meet Zuri! (ID# A221751)**

Zuri is a two year old white domestic short-haired mix cat. He is a cat that is full of adventure. Zuri is a very unpredictable cat. Some days he likes to relax, while other days he enjoys playing. He has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://www.columbiasc.net/animal-services) or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

*\*Please see attached flyer*

The flyer features a blue header with the Columbia Animal Shelter logo and contact information: Phone: 803-776-PETS (7387), Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and address 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209. The main title is 'Pet of the Week!' in large blue letters, followed by 'MEET ZURI! (ID# A221751)'. A central photo shows Zuri, a white cat, with a text box describing him as a two-year-old white domestic short-haired mix cat who is adventurous and unpredictable. Below this, there are two smaller photos of Zuri in different poses. The flyer concludes with adoption information and a footer for the City of Columbia's Public and Media Relations Department.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 11, 2015

Contact: City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**Administrative Policy Committee Meeting | Jan. 12**

Members of the Columbia City Council will conduct an Administrative Policy Committee Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 3 p.m. The meeting agenda is attached for your reference.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Contact: Solid Waste Division at 803-545-3800

**(Also released on Jan. 15)**

**City Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | Jan. 18, 2016**

The City of Columbia offices will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2016 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There are no schedule changes for garbage and recyclables collection.

###

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

### **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration**

The City of Columbia's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will be held on Monday, January 18, 2016, at 4 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street.

The City of Columbia and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation announced that University of South Carolina President Dr. Harris Pastides will be the keynote speaker. Pastides has served as the university's president since August 2008.

The celebration will also include performances from Logan Elementary School and Keenan High School.

The celebration will also include a Wreath Laying Ceremony to commemorate the historic marker honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at 3:06 p.m. at the corner of Harden and Greene streets. Members of the Alpha Psi Lambda and Omicron Iota Lambda chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will lead the ceremony.

Parking will be available at the SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services garage located at 1221 Gregg Street (corner of Lee and Santee streets). The City's Parks and Recreation Department will provide transportation to the park from the garage beginning at 1:30 p.m.

On Saturday, January 16, 2016, the Omicron Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Bridging the Gap With Alpha, Inc. will hold the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. 5K Run/Walk and Kid's Run at 8:30 a.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park located at 2300 Greene Street.

Registration fees for the 5K Run/Walk will vary. The fee for the Kid's Run is \$10 (includes T-shirt and medal).

Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in all age groups.

Proceeds from the race will benefit the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation and The Alpha Academy.

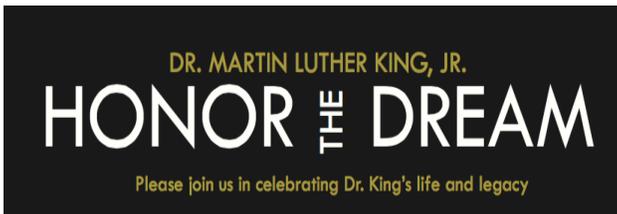
To register, visit [www.strictlyrunning.com](http://www.strictlyrunning.com). Applications are also available by calling 803-799-4786.

For more information about the race, contact Willie L. Odom at 803-254-8070 or [kolonel@bellsouth.net](mailto:kolonel@bellsouth.net) or visit [www.mlkcolumbiasc.com](http://www.mlkcolumbiasc.com).

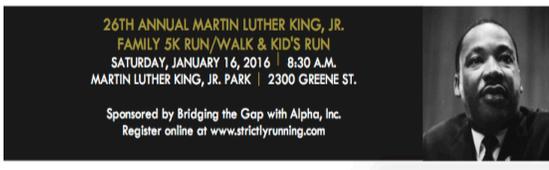
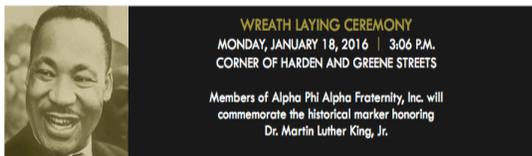
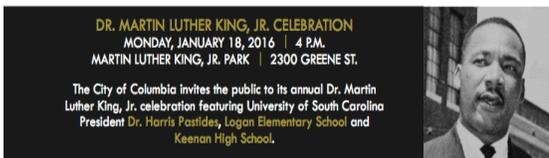
For more information about the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, contact Shireese M. Bell at 803-545-3100 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net), or visit [www.columbiasc.net](http://www.columbiasc.net).

###

*\*Please see the attached flyer and bio for USC President Dr. Harris Pastides*



Harris Pastides



Harris Pastides began his presidency at the University of South Carolina on Aug. 1, 2008. Just a few months later, the Great Recession began. Strong in the face of adversity, Pastides promised to accelerate USC's momentum as a world-class university. He has kept that promise. Today, serving in his eighth year, USC is experiencing remarkable growth and positive change.

USC Columbia's freshman classes have grown continuously while posting the highest average SAT scores in university history. USC's Honors College has been named the No. 1 public honors college in the nation, and the Palmetto State's only Carnegie top-tier university is also home to top programs in areas such as undergraduate international business; public health; engineering; and hospitality, retail and sport management. In addition, Carolina's Promise, USC's historic capital campaign successfully exceeded the \$1 billion goal by \$43 million through gifts and pledges from 136,850 generous donors.

An unwavering advocate for a superior student experience, President Pastides encourages engagement beyond the classroom through leadership, service learning, international experience, internships and undergraduate research. Innovative programs like Palmetto College, On Your Time Graduation, Gamecock Gateway and Gamecock Guarantee are successfully providing greater access, flexibility and affordability to South Carolinians seeking a higher education degree. To date, 68,507 degrees have been awarded systemwide during Pastides' presidency. He often says, "Nothing makes me prouder than the students we enroll and those that we graduate."

In January 2015, during a time of great reform and transformation, Pastides was selected to serve as the chairman of the NCAA's Division I Board of Directors. He also serves on many local and state boards including the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950

**(Also released on Jan. 19)**

**Now Accepting Applications for Small Business Training Course**

The City of Columbia’s Office of Business Opportunities is now accepting applications for the NxLevel Micro Entrepreneurs course. This training course focuses on teaching “self-sufficiency through self-employment.” Participants will learn how to choose a business idea, develop a marketing plan, explore financing options, develop a customer service philosophy, as well as other relevant entrepreneurial skills.

The cost of the NxLevel Micro Entrepreneurs course is \$350.00 but the City will pay \$200.00 of the cost and participants will be responsible for \$150 for registration and books.

The course will begin on January 21 and last through April 15. Classes will be held every Thursday from 6-9 PM at Earlewood Park Banquet Room, 1113 Parkside Dr.

For more information, please contact Angelo McBride at (803) 545-3960. To register, click [here](#).

###

*\*Please see attached flyer.*

**OBO**  
Office of  
Business  
Opportunities

The Office of Business Opportunities presents

January 21- April 15, 2016

**Nx**  
LEVEL

**Micro Entrepreneur  
Training Program**

**CALLING ALL  
SMALL BUSINESS  
OWNERS!**

Learn how to choose a business idea, develop a marketing plan, explore financing options, develop a customer service philosophy & more! The cost is \$350 but the City will pay \$200.00 of the cost and participants will be responsible for \$150 for registration and books.

Class will meet on  
Thursdays from 6-9  
PM at the Earlewood  
Community Center,  
1113 Parkside Dr.

For more information, please contact Angelo McBride at (803) 545-3960. To register, click here .

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 15, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

### **All City Parking Garages Will be Open to the Public at No Charge for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

The City's Parking Services Department operates eight garages in the Main Street and Vista areas. The gates for the four gated garages (Lady, Sumter, Lincoln and Park) will be open. The four garages not gated (Arsenal Hill, Taylor, Washington and Cannon) will also be available. Meters in ungated garages will not be enforced. All spaces in those garages are open to the public.

The eight garages are:

- Lady Street Garage - corner of Assembly and Lady with entrances on Lady between Assembly and Main and on Assembly between Gervais and Lady
- Washington Street Garage – midblock on Washington Street between Assembly and Main
- Sumter Street Garage – corner of Hampton and Sumter with entrances on Sumter between Hampton and Washington and via the driveway behind the Marriott Hotel on Hampton between Sumter and Main
- Taylor Street garage – corner of Taylor and Assembly with entrance on Taylor between Main and Assembly and on Assembly between Taylor and Blanding
- Cannon Garage at the corner of Sumter and Taylor with the entrance on Taylor between Sumter and Main
- Lincoln Garage at the corner of Washington and Lincoln with entrances on Washington between Gadsden and Washington and on Lincoln between Washington and Lady.
- Park Street Garage at the corner of Park and Pendleton with entrances on Park Street between Senate and Pendleton and on Pendleton between Park and Lincoln

· Arsenal Hill Garage midblock on Lincoln Street between Laurel and Richland with the entrance on Lincoln

In addition, on street parking meters will not be enforced Monday, January 18, 2016.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

**City's Pet of the Week: Meet Brantley! (ID# A220124)**

Brantley is a two year old brown and white Labrador Retriever Mix. He is a dog that loves to have fun. Brantley loves to play, give kisses, and snuggle. He needs a quiet home without small children. Brantley has been neutered and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://www.columbiasc.net/animal-services) or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

*\*Please see attached flyer*

**City of Columbia's**  
**PET OF THE WEEK**

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All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane or go to [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website. For more information call the Columbia Animal Shelter at 803-776-

Phone: 803-776-PETS (7387)  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

**Community Development to Hold Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop Series**

The City’s Community Development department will hold three FREE financial education workshops. During the workshops participants will learn the importance of banking, budgeting, saving, building credit, homeownership and life skills.

The workshops will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and February 6<sup>th</sup> at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive Columbia, SC 29203, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Gift cards will be awarded to participants upon completion and lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, please call (803) 545-0280 or email [RPKing@columbiasc.net](mailto:RPKing@columbiasc.net).

###

*\*Please see attached flyer.*

City of Columbia's Community Development presents

# Start Fresh!

## Financial Education Workshop

**3 FREE Workshops from 10 AM to 3 PM**  
*Gift cards will be awarded upon completion!*

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & February 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Location: Earlewood Park Community Center  
 1113 Parkside Drive  
 Columbia, SC 29203

*\*Lunch will be provided*

- Banking
- Budgeting
- Saving
- Building your Credit
- Homeownership
- Life Skills

Sponsored By:

For more information or to **Register Today**  
 Call 803-545-0280  
 or email [RPKing@columbiasc.net](mailto:RPKing@columbiasc.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 19, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**City Council Agendas for January 19, 2016**

Please see attached updated agendas for the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

###



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
WORK SESSION AGENDA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016  
CITY HALL – 1737 MAIN STREET  
2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

---

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

**ROLL CALL**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

2:00 – 2:15

1. [September 2015 Financial Report](#) – Ms. Jan Alonso, Finance Director

**CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION**

2:15 – 2:45

2. [Sanitary Sewer Overview: Pre and Post Flood Conditions and Impacts to Crane Creek](#) – Mr. Joey Jaco, Director of the Utilities and Engineering Department

2:45 – 4:30

3. Hospitality Tax Fund
  - [Overview of Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Hospitality Tax Budget](#)
  - [Hospitality Tax Study](#) – *Dr. David A. Cárdenas, Assistant Professor and Research Associate for the University of South Carolina School of Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management*
  - [Proposed Hospitality Tax Bond Structure](#)
  - [Yellow Shirts Program](#)
  - Columbia Classical Ballet
  - [Devine Street Merchants Association](#)
  - [Columbia Open Studios 2016](#)
  - [North Columbia Business Association](#)
  - [Columbia Museum of Art](#)

4:30 – 4:50

4. City Council Chambers

4:50 – 5:00

5. Tour of Impacted Flood Areas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

**NOMA Dog Park Closed for Repairs**

The NOMA Dog Park located at Earlewood Park is temporarily closed for repairs, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

The park's fencing is being repaired after it was damaged during the October 2015 Flood.

The project is expected to be completed by Friday, January 29.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: January 20, 2016

CONTACT: Connie Bailey, Office of the City Council at 803-545-4268

**Advertisement of Vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for two (2) vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The purpose of the Board is to hear applications for variances to the development standards of the Zoning Ordinance, for special exceptions, and for administrative appeals where a person claims that the Zoning Administrator has erred in the enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance. In making a decision about an application, Board members apply criteria outlined within the Zoning Ordinance. The Board does not act as a recommending body to City Council; instead appeals of decisions of the Board are heard in Circuit Court. Term - 3 years.

**Deadline – Applications are due by February 1, 2016 at 5 p.m.**

For more information, please contact Connie Bailey at 803-545-4268 or send an email to [cfbailey@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfbailey@columbiasc.net). Visit [ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions](http://ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions) to download an application.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: January 21, 2016

CONTACT: Connie Bailey, Office of the City Council at 803-545-4268

**Advertisement of Vacancies on Various Boards and Commissions**

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill several vacancies on the following boards and commissions.

**Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

*Seeking several Applicants.*

The purpose of BPAC is to advise the Mayor and City Council Members, the City of Columbia transportation planning staff; community organizations; and partners on bicycling and pedestrian issues facing the city; to work toward development of bicycle/pedestrian master plan; to represent community and constituent interests in transportation planning decisions; and to provide feedback to staff on projects relating to walking and bicycling. Current appointees need to re-apply for consideration. Term – 2 years.

**Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission**

*Seeking one (1) Applicant. Applicant must be a Developer/Realtor. Must be city resident.*

The mission of the Columbia Tree & Appearance Commission is to protect, enhance and promote the City of Columbia’s natural resources and visual beauty. The purpose of the commission is to oversee the development and implementation of the beautification plan. Term – 3 years.

**Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee**

*Seeking four (4) restaurant industry Applicants for appointment/re-appointment and three (3) at-large Applicants for appointment/re-appointment.*

The purpose of this committee is to review applications for hospitality funding and make recommendations to Council for the disbursement of those funds. Term – 2 years.

**Parks and Recreation Foundation**

*Seeking four (4) Applicants. Must be city resident.*

Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation enhances the leisure service opportunities in the City of Columbia by improving the scope and quality of educational and human development programs. It encourages, recruits, receives, and administers gifts, devises, and donations by deed, will or otherwise, for the advancement of the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. Term – 3 years.

**Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals**

*Seeking seven (7) Applicants who are qualified by experience and training (i.e. architect, contractor, engineer, property manager) to pass on matters pertaining to property maintenance.*

The purpose of the Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals is to hear appeals of notices or decisions issued under the International Property Maintenance Code. Term – 3 years.

**Transportation Penny Advisory Committee**

*Seeking one (1) Applicant for Re-Appointment/Appointment. Must be city resident.*

The mission of the Transportation Penny Oversight Committee will be to review, comment on, and provide recommendations on the Transportation Penny to Richland County Council. They will meet on a quarterly basis and may call special meetings as needed. Term – five (5) years.

**Deadline – Applications are due by February 8, 2016 at 5 p.m.**

For more information, please contact Connie Bailey at 803-545-4268 or send an email to [cfbailey@columbiasc.net](mailto:cfbailey@columbiasc.net). Visit [ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions](http://ColumbiaSC.net/boards-commissions) to download an application.

###

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 21, 2016

Contact: Elena Temple 202-286-1100 | [etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:etemple@usmayors.org)

Sara Durr 202-215-1811 | [sara@durrcommunications.com](mailto:sara@durrcommunications.com)

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

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

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today 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.

“The American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America is proud to partner with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to support efforts to reduce and prevent childhood obesity nationwide,” said Susan Neely, president of the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABFHA) Board of Directors and president and CEO of the American Beverage Association. “The winning programs showcase the creativity and innovation of America's mayors as well as their dedication to the health and wellness of their communities. This partnership exemplifies how working together can help drive meaningful results, while having a real impact in America's hometowns.”

“Mayors are at the forefront of addressing the most significant issues in our communities – and no issue is more important than the health and welfare of our children,” said Tom Cochran, USCM CEO and executive director. “From a public health, economic and community viability perspective, we've got to do everything we can to make sure our kids understand how to eat healthy and stay active.”

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 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.

A brief description of each winning program appears below.

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. Find us at [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org), on [facebook.com/usmayors](https://www.facebook.com/usmayors), or follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/usmayors](https://twitter.com/usmayors).

The American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America (ABHFA) seeks to make a significant contribution to the health of local communities, by providing grants to support charitable programs at community organizations that work to advance both the physical health of their local citizens and the environmental health of their communities. For more information on ABHFA, please visit the foundation's website at [www.beveragefoundation.org](http://www.beveragefoundation.org).

## **LARGE CITY**

### **1st Place (\$150,000): New Orleans, La., Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu**

Fit NOLA, the mayor's initiative to reduce obesity and promote healthy lifestyles, is a partnership of more than 200 businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools and community members, with the goal of making New Orleans one of America's top ten

fittest cities by 2018, the city’s 300th anniversary. The award will specifically support the Fit NOLA Schools component, which aims to improve physical activity and access to healthy foods for children and youth who attend the city’s public schools. Specifically, the Fit NOLA Schools “grading” program will offer schools four benchmarked fitness designation levels – Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The award also will support micro-grants to Fit NOLA-designated schools and will serve as an additional incentive for schools to participate in the program to help them achieve higher fitness designation levels.

**2nd Place (\$25,000): Baltimore, Md., Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**

Baltimore’s initiative, Learning Journeys: Enhanced Farm and Nutrition Education, aims to more fully incorporate the school district-owned and -run Great Kids Farm into curricula, and thereby enhance schools’ capacity to address childhood obesity through farm and cooking education while increasing vegetable consumption among the student population. Key components of the project include expanding the “Learning Journey” farm visit program to all seventh grade students and further developing the relationships between Great Kids Farm and high school students enrolled in the district’s culinary program for vegetable growing, harvesting and processing for school cafeterias.

**MEDIUM CITY**

**1st Place (\$120,000): Fontana, Calif., Mayor Acquanetta Warren**

Healthy Kids for a Healthy Fontana aims to directly benefit the 4,100 elementary and middle school children currently attending the city’s after-school programs by increasing the likelihood that families will purchase and eat fresh fruits and vegetables and also providing more opportunities for physical activity. Key program elements include “Healthy Iron Chef Fontana” competitions where students will compete in healthy cooking competitions preparing food from local farmers’ markets, reaching an estimated 3,000 families; “Healthy Fontana on Wheels,” a branded cargo van that will give children an opportunity to use unique and one-of-a-kind fitness equipment while exposing them to the concept that physical activity can be exciting; and “Mayor Warren Walks the Talk” where Mayor Acquanetta Warren will expand her current “Walk with the Mayor” program by making bi-monthly visits to after-school program sites, participating in walk-and-talk sessions with children and encouraging them and their families to increase their exercise regimen and eat more healthy fruits and vegetables.

**2nd Place (\$25,000): Columbia, S.C., Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin**

Project GNF (Gardening, Nutrition & Fitness) is an expansion of the Mayor's Youth Sports Initiative and aims to make gardening, nutrition and fitness fun components of the existing program. The GNF Club will be introduced in recreation centers located in the 29203 and 29204 zip codes of Columbia where significant health and economic disparities have been identified. The city's existing educational garden program will be redesigned to increase the size of each garden plot and to increase the level of youth and community involvement. A local university partner will develop a curriculum to teach youth the science and math of growing fruits and vegetables.

**SMALL CITY**

**1st Place (\$100,000): Everett, Mass., Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr.**

Heathy Me is a multi-pronged initiative targeting Everett children and teenagers aged 8-14, though the effects/impacts are expected to reach entire families. A key element of this initiative includes partnering with the Malden YMCA's Youth Enrichment Center, which currently offers after-school activities for kids ages 10-19, to increase healthy programming for a target population. The city and Malden YMCA will plan, execute and evaluate a comprehensive program for Everett students in second through ninth grades. These activities will directly reach more than 500 students and will indirectly impact thousands of their peers, siblings and parents. Grant funding will support program operating costs.

**2nd Place (\$25,000): Plainfield, N.J., Mayor Adrian O. Mapp**

Color Me Healthy is an evidence-based physical activity and nutrition program developed to reach limited resource children aged 4-5. The program teaches children that healthy food and physical activity are fun by using color, music and exploration of the senses. Color Me Healthy has been extensively evaluated. An intervention study conducted in 2012 demonstrated that children who received the Color Me Healthy curriculum significantly increased their consumption of fruit snacks (by approximately 20.8 percent) and vegetable snacks (by approximately 33.1 percent) between baseline assessment and completion of the three-month program. The proposed program will serve approximately 2,300 students and families enrolled in preschool and kindergarten programs.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 22, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore, City Clerk at 803-545-3045

**City Council Committee Agenda for January 25, 2016**

Please be advised that the Members of City Council will conduct an Arts and Historic Preservation Committee Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., City Hall, 1737 Main Street. The meeting agenda is attached.

###

**CITY OF COLUMBIA  
ARTS AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA  
JANUARY 25, 2016 – 2:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
1737 MAIN STREET**



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Members of City Council will conduct an Arts and Historic Preservation Committee Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room located at 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina. The Committee members are: The Honorable Moe Baddourah (Chair), The Honorable Leona K. Plough and The Honorable Ed McDowell, Jr. Committee recommendations to the Columbia City Council, if any, will be made only by the committee members. There will be no official City Council action or votes taken at the committee meeting.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**

1. One Columbia Update, Mr. Lee Snelgrove, Executive Director of One Columbia
2. Hospitality Tax Study

**ADJOURNMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 22, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at (803) 545-3020

**City’s Financial Education Workshop Postponed to a Later Date**

Due to inclement weather, the Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop that was scheduled for Saturday, January 23, has been postponed. The Start Fresh! Financial Education Workshop dates have been moved to the following days:

- January 30, 2016
- February 6, 2016
- February 13, 2016

For more information, please call Community Development at (803) 545-3373.

###

City of Columbia's Community Development presents

# Start Fresh!

## Financial Education Workshop

**3 FREE Workshops from 10 AM to 3 PM**

*Gift cards will be awarded upon completion!*

January 30th, February 6th & 13th

Location: Earlewood Park Community Center  
1113 Parkside Drive  
Columbia, SC 29203

*\*Lunch will be provided*

Sponsored By:

- Banking
- Budgeting
- Saving
- Building your Credit
- Homeownership
- Life Skills

For more information or to **Register Today**  
Call 803-545-0280  
or email RPKing@columbiasc.net

Logos for BB&T, South State Bank, TD Bank, and other sponsors are visible at the bottom.

*\*Please see attached flyer.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 25, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020

**(Also released Jan. 28)**

**Noise and Lighting Presentation | Multi-Use Entertainment Venue**

The Noise and Lighting Studies for the Multi-Use Entertainment Venue are complete. In an effort to provide the surrounding neighborhoods an opportunity to understand the results and hear from the consultants, the City of Columbia invites property owners and/or residents of the Booker Washington Heights, Cottontown, Earlwood, Elmwood and Robert Mills neighborhoods to attend a meeting on Feb 1, 2016 at 5:30p.m. at the Earlwood Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive. This meeting is open to the general public. The consultants will be presenting the studies to City Council during the regular session meeting at 6:00 p.m. on February 2, 2016.

The studies are attached for your review. The consultants will be discussing the analysis and results of the studies during the upcoming meeting.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, January 25, 2016

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

**City's Pet of the Week: Meet Cleo! (ID# A203623)**

Cleo is a one year and eight month old brown shorthaired Tabby Mix cat. She's looking for an owner that will give her a lot of attention. Cleo is very energetic and loves to play. She is extremely loving. Cleo has been spayed and is also micro-chipped.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit [www.columbiasc.net/animal-services](http://www.columbiasc.net/animal-services) or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com). Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

*\*Please see attached flyer*

The flyer features a blue header with the text "City of Columbia's" and "PET OF THE WEEK" in white. Below the header, there are two photographs of Cleo: a larger one on the left showing her lying down, and a smaller circular one on the right showing her sitting. To the right of the circular photo is a text block describing Cleo. At the bottom, there is a blue paw print logo, the text "Meet Cleo! (ID# A203623)", and contact information for the Columbia Animal Shelter, including the phone number 803-776-PETS (7387) and hours of operation: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The footer of the flyer reads "City of Columbia | Public and Media Relations Department".

**City of Columbia's**  
**PET OF THE WEEK**

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Phone: 803-776-PETS (7387)  
Hours of Operation:  
Monday-Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
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City of Columbia | Public and Media Relations Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, January 25, 2016

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020

**National Wear Red Day | February 5, 2016**

**WHAT:** The public is invited to recognize National Wear Red Day to help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. The Go Red For Women movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives. A press conference and community photography session will be held and both men and women are encouraged to wear red. A special announcement will be made regarding the 2016 Go Red Columbia Fashion Show.

**WHO:** Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, City of Columbia officials, American Heart Association representatives and leaders from local businesses, neighborhoods and civic organizations

**WHERE:** City Council Chambers, 1737 Main Street

**WHEN:** Friday, February 5, 2016 at 12 p.m.

For more information, please visit [columbiasc.net](http://columbiasc.net) or contact the Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

###

*\*Please see attached flyer.*



Celebrate **National Wear Red Day** to help honor and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. The **Go Red For Women** movement encourages awareness of this issue and action to help save lives.

This movement challenges women to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce personal risk. It also gives them the tools they need to lead a heart healthy life.



Columbia City Councilwoman  
Tameika Isaac Devine

Please join us for our **2016 Wear Red Day Event** on **February 5, 2016 at 12 p.m.** at **City Hall, Council Chambers**, located at 1737 Main Street.

A press conference and community photography session will be held, and we invite you to wear red attire (both men and women are welcome).

We will also make a special announcement regarding the 2nd Annual Go Red Fashion Show.

RSVP to [pio@columbiasc.net](mailto:pio@columbiasc.net)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 29, 2016

Contact: Zoning Division at (803) 545-3333

**Planning Commission Meeting Agenda for February 1, 2016**

The planning commission will conduct a meeting at 5:15pm on Monday, February 1, 2016. The agenda is attached.

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact Zoning Division at 803-545-3333. This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here: [www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas](http://www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas).

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**CITY OF COLUMBIA PLANNING COMMISSION**

**February 1, 2016**

**Regular Session 5:15 P.M.**

**City Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201**

**RICHARD COHN • GENE DINKINS, JR. • KENDORA FOSTER • APRIL JAMES • JOSHUA MCDUFFIE  
BRIAN STERN • DALE STIGAMIER • JOHN TAYLOR • CRAIG WAITES**

**PRIOR TO ENTERING COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PLEASE TURN ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (CELL PHONES, PAGERS, ETC.) TO THE SILENT, VIBRATE, OR OFF POSITION.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Approve [January 4, 2016 Minutes](#)

**Annexation, Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment,  
& Zoning Map Amendment**

2. [3603 Broad River Road](#), TMS#06110-04-05; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification AC-2 (Community Activity Corridor), and zone the property C-3 (General Commercial District). The property is currently classified as Mixed Use Corridor/Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned GC (General Commercial) in Richland County.
3. [3805 Barwick Street](#), TMS#13805-03-34; request recommendation concerning application to annex, assign land use classification UCR-1 (Urban Core Residential Small Lot), and zone the property RS-3 (Single-Family Residential District). The property is currently classified as Mixed Use Corridor/Mixed Residential (High Density) and zoned RS-HD (Residential-High Density) in Richland County.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 29, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

**Karamu Statewide Black History Parade and Festival**

**WHAT:** Celebrate Black History Month at the Karamu Statewide Black History Parade and Festival, which begins with a parade at the intersection of Harden and Gervais streets. National recording artist Angie Stone will be this year’s grand marshal. The event continues at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park with the Black History Festival featuring gospel recording artist Joshua Rogers, contemporary history makers, live entertainment and more.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 6

**WHERE: Karamu Statewide Black History Parade**

Noon

Corner of Harden and Gervais streets (The parade will travel south on Harden Street and end at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.)

**Karamu Black History Festival**

1:15 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street

The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



*\*Please see the attached flyer*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 29, 2016

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or [smbell@columbiasc.net](mailto:smbell@columbiasc.net)

**NOMA Dog Park Reopens**

The NOMA Dog Park located at Earlewood Park is now open after repairs were made to the park's fencing, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced.

The park's fencing was damaged during the October 2015 Flood.

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