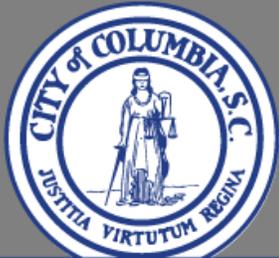




TERESA WILSON
CITY MANAGER



We Are Columbia

MAY 2015

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City Manager's Spotlight



The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City of Columbia in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations. The City Manager's Spotlight on May 2015 reflects on the Budget Public Hearing and Open House, Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day, Parking Services Department's Online Payment System, Columbia Police Department's Internal Affairs Report, #LoveColumbia Social Media Photo Challenge and more.

CITY'S PARKING SERVICES DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH T2 SYSTEMS TO OFFER ONLINE PAYMENTS

The City of Columbia Parking Services Department is working with T2 Systems and South Carolina Interactive to develop a real time payment system which offers those receiving citations to pay them online within minutes of receiving them.

Parking Services has installed new software and wireless citation writing devices to make payments easier for members of the public receiving citations.

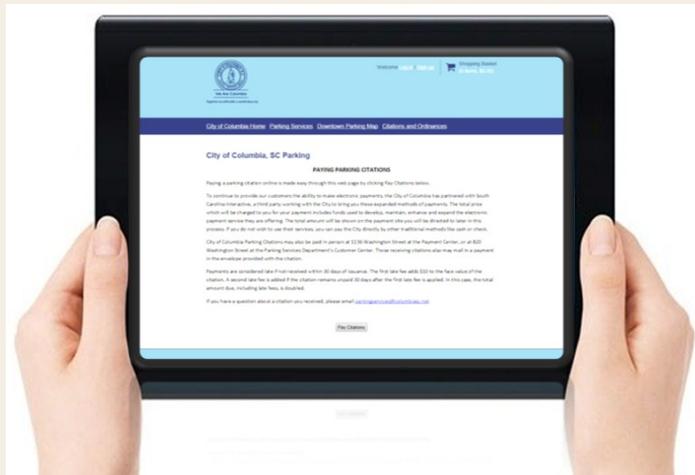
Customers may visit www.columbiasc.net/parking for a link to the payment site or go directly to <https://columbiasc.t2hosted.com> to make payments. To pay a citation, the license tag of the vehicle and an unpaid citation number will be needed.

"This is a program we have been working on for some time," said City Parking Services Director John David Spade. "We spent a lot of time working on a solution which is highly secure and which allows someone to pay a citation online within minutes of receiving one."

When an enforcement monitor issues a citation, that data is transmitted wirelessly to T2 Systems, the cloud-based service provider used by the City. That citation may be paid at any time after it is written. Payments can be made online, by mail, or in person at 1136 Washington St. or 820 Washington St.

Additional enhancements for parking customers are scheduled to roll out in the coming months. By the end of June, Spade expects the pay by cell service offered by Passport Parking to be up and running. This will allow parkers to pay for metered parking spaces by phone or by using Passport's phone app.

For inquiries about the parking programs, please contact the Parking Services Customer Center at 803-545-4015.



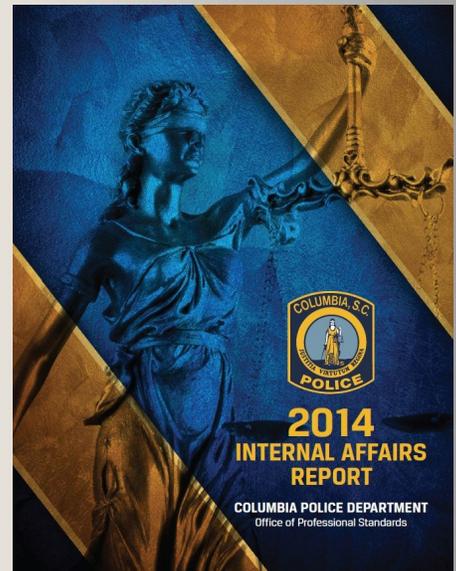
COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT RELEASES INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

On May 20, 2015, Columbia Police Chief William “Skip” Holbrook released the department’s 2014 Internal Affairs Report.

The CPD 2014 Internal Affairs Report includes details about the following topics:

- Internal Affairs Unit Report – At-A-Glance
- Summary of Findings
- The Internal Affairs Structure and Process
- 2014 Complaints and Dispositions
- Use of Force and Officer Involved Shootings
- Vehicle Pursuits and Collisions

Please visit www.columbiapd.net for additional information about the Columbia Police Department.



For more details, [download the Internal Affairs Report.](#)

OWNING A FRANCHISE: AN ALTERNATIVE WAY TO START A SMALL BUSINESS



The Office of Business Opportunities, in conjunction with the International Franchise Association (IFA), hosted an all-day franchising seminar on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at Earlewood Community Building. Nearly 40 people attended to learn the ins and outs of owning and managing a franchise, including Mayor Steve Benjamin.

“Franchising is a great way to create new opportunities throughout our community,” said Mayor Benjamin. “This seminar was about helping give our citizens the tools to leverage that opportunity and build new, successful small businesses in every corner of Columbia.”

Other special guests included Miriam L. Brewer, CFE, senior director of education and diversity, IFA; Cathy Petkash, franchise specialist,

FranNet; and a panel of pros from local franchising chains.

Chris Smith, owner of 14 Moe’s across the Carolinas, revealed that you do not have to have a lot of money or experience when buying into a franchise. Smith and his partner split the costs when they opened their first Moe’s and have grown exponentially since then.

“My ultimate goal is to own 50 franchises by the time I’m 50 years old,” said Chris Smith.

Additionally, Marble Slab franchise owner, Geri D. Fields, spoke of the importance of location when opening a franchise.

“Look to open franchises in an area you have connections,” said Geri D. Fields.

Attendees also received information about the value of a franchising coach and a franchising guide that breaks down the requirements and cost for each franchise listed.

“Small businesses are what make America great! Franchising is a way to own one without reinventing the wheel,” said Geri D. Fields.

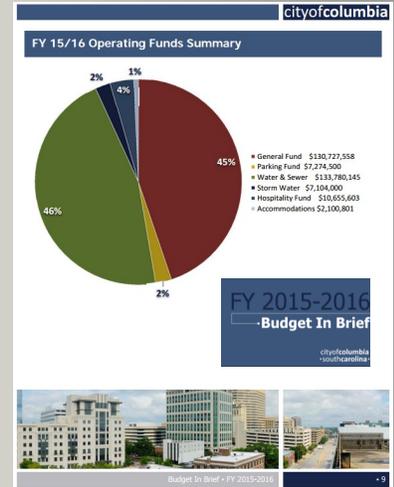
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND OPEN HOUSE

A Budget Public Hearing and Open House was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Several City of Columbia departments provided displays with information regarding their services and operations. A Budget in Brief document was also made available to the public.

"We are excited to continue making strides in FY 2015/2016 and committed to strengthening core services and sustaining the quality of life our residents and businesses have come to enjoy. I am dedicated to overseeing and engaging in efficient, effective service delivery and conservative budgeting practices."

~City Manager Teresa Wilson

To view the Budget In Brief, visit www.columbiasc.net/depts/budget-office.



LET'S MOVE! COLUMBIA #GIMMEFIVE FAMILY FITNESS DAY PHOTO GALLERY



The City of Columbia celebrated the 5th birthday of Let's Move! Columbia on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. Guests enjoyed a fun and active day featuring games, a health fair, cooking demos and more.

40 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITIES AND TRANSFORMING LIVES

The Community Development Department (CDD) commemorated 40 years of service to the Midlands with events during the month of May.

In conjunction with the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods, the CDD held a banquet to celebrate their 40th anniversary. More than 400 people attended, which included Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson and Congressman James E. Clyburn, who served as the keynote speaker.

"I must salute Terry Bott, the first Community Development Director," said Deborah Livingston, director of the Community Development Department. "Because of his leadership, we are sustainable today."

Initially, the CDD's purpose was to rehabilitate housing and clear slums, while preserving the residential heritage of the city. Four decades later, it has done that and a lot more. The CDD has used more than \$200 million to leverage well over \$1 billion in investments throughout the city. This includes residential and business loans, funding for parks and comprehensive training programs for Columbia citizens.

The CDD also held a public screening of their documentary "40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives" at the Nickelodeon Theatre. The documentary showed the transformation of Columbia over the last 40 years and included perspectives from loan recipients, former CDD staff members and Columbia City Council.

"I am honored to be able to come to work every day with a dedicated team. It is our plan to continue to 'Build Communities and Transform Lives'," said Deborah Livingston.



City Manager Wilson and Congressman Jim Clyburn

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK CONFERENCE DRAWS LARGE CROWD AND LOCAL CELEBRITIES



The Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) held its third annual small business week conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Nearly 200 people attended, including Columbia City Council members, City Manager Teresa Wilson, small business owners and local celebrities. The theme of the conference was innovation.

OBO's small business week conference is designed to provide insight and resources to current and potential small business owners, while providing the opportunity to network with their peers. Attendees were also able to hear from National InnovateHER finalist, Gabby Goodwin, and Oprah Winfrey Network's 2 Fat 2 Fly.

Additionally, Mayor Steve Benjamin and William Kirkland from University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement spoke at the conference. OBO also highlighted their Quarterly Business Spotlight Honoree, Alala, LLC, who shared their story with attendees.

For more information about the Office of Business Opportunities, please call 803-545-3950.



CITY OF COLUMBIA'S SOCIAL MEDIA PHOTO CHALLENGE



The City of Columbia's social media photo challenge, #LoveColumbia, accepted submissions from May 1 - 31, 2015. #LoveColumbia invited the citizens of Columbia to submit photos of what they love about the City. The purpose of this initiative is to increase community engagement, expand public knowledge of the City's social media sites, and increase the use of technology to interact with citizens.

The #LoveColumbia photo challenge was open to local residents and photos were taken within the City of Columbia limits. The photos displayed images of landscapes, structures, buildings, historical monuments, etc. that represented citizens' love for Columbia. The hashtag, "#LoveColumbia," was included on

all submissions to be considered for entry.

To participate, citizens submitted photos or voted for their favorites by visiting the following social media sites:

[Facebook \(CityofColumbia\)](#)

[Instagram \(WeAreColumbia\)](#)

[Twitter \(@CityofColumbia\)](#)

The public will be able to vote on their favorite photos from June 1 - 7, 2015. The top three users with the most votes on each site will be entered into the second round, and a panel of invested members of the City's art community will select the winning photo for each site. The winners will be announced June 2015.

The winning photos will be featured in the City of Columbia's Annual Report to the Community, with a bio and photo of each winner.

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,

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