

**Statement issued by City Manager Teresa Wilson included in
2015 Road to Recovery Annual Flood Report**

Although the historical flood of 2015 took a tremendous toll on our city, we persevered. It was a devastating time in Columbia's history, but it was also a time that demonstrated to the world that we are a community that is resilient and ready to come together to help those in need. The road to recovery has been challenging, but our city and our community has stepped up and met the challenges. We are focused on helping our citizens who continue to need assistance, while also working to restore the city's infrastructure.

As we move forward, it will require a continuation of teamwork among our staff and our stakeholders. We are determined to restore our neighborhoods, our businesses and our city facilities. Our community, by working together, has been made stronger. I have always known that strength was something that Columbia has prided itself on, but this past year has made that more apparent than ever.

I am not only proud to be a citizen of Columbia, but I am fortunate to be the city manager for a municipality that thrives on overcoming when faced with adversity. The outpouring of human kindness was unmatched as neighbors and even strangers extended their hands in friendship to help anyone who needed assistance. I am also in awe of the countless hours worked by our city employees to ensure both the safety and quality of care for our citizens. This show of dedication began immediately during the flood and has continued even now as we focus on our recovery. The road to recovery continues, but we will do it together.

We will rebuild. We will recover. We are Columbia and we are Columbia Strong.