



City of Columbia Press Releases

April 1-29, 2014

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 01, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at 2 p.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey @ 422-3057 or Carrie Cuthbertson @ 843-546-5102 (Georgetown County Sheriff's Office)

City Manager Teresa Wilson has Issued a Statement Regarding the Arrest of a Former Employee

Wayne Gregory a former city employee was arrested today by the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office. A copy of the release from the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office is attached for information purposes.

While employed with the City Of Columbia, Wayne Gregory served as the Economic Development Director. Mr. Gregory started working for the City of Columbia on September 3, 2013 and was terminated today, April 1, 2014.

Please see a statement below that was issued today, April 1, 2014, by Teresa Wilson, the City of Columbia's City Manager.

STATEMENT FROM CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON

I was notified earlier today, by Acting Police Chief Melron Kelly, of a situation involving an employee, Wayne Gregory. Acting Chief Kelly informed me that he had received a call from SLED officials regarding the pending arrest of Mr. Gregory. I then notified appropriate City officials to make them aware of the situation. As the City Manager, I want to emphasize that

we are ready to comply completely with SLED officials and any other law enforcement officials in any way necessary.

Although we are concerned about this situation, we are moving forward to ensure that the operations of the Economic Development Department continue to function in an efficient manner. Mr. Gregory was terminated today. He was previously serving as the Economic Development Director.

As of today, Ryan Coleman will be the Acting Economic Development Director and will serve in that role until further notice. Mr. Coleman serves as the City of Columbia's Development and Business Manager in the Economic Development Department. Mr. Coleman has been employed with the City of Columbia since 2006 and has held previous positions in the Office of Business Opportunities as the Small Business Liaison and in the Economic Development Department as a Business Liaison.

We will also work together, as a team, to ensure that this incident will not impact the continuation of service provision and we remain focused on the important economic development initiatives within our city.

As it relates to the investigation and arrest of Mr. Gregory, I was not contacted by SLED officials, or any other law enforcement agency, at any time during Mr. Gregory's tenure with the City of Columbia. Mr. Gregory was arrested today for allegations regarding his conduct while employed with Georgetown County. Based on the allegations, I have directed my staff to conduct a full internal review of all Economic Development operations conducted during Mr. Gregory's employment with the City of Columbia.

I have been advised to defer all questions regarding the arrest of Mr. Gregory and the investigation to appropriate law enforcement officials in Georgetown County. For further information, please contact Carrie Cuthbertson at 843-546-5102. Ms. Cuthbertson is the Public Information Officer for the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office.

City Manager Teresa Wilson

END OF STATEMENT

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Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Columbia hosts Midlands Conference of Regional Leaders quarterly meeting

Columbia, SC. – Regional goal setting, economic development and civility will be among the topics of discussion as regional leaders from across the Midlands come together for their quarterly meeting hosted by Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin on Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

The meeting will be held at First Citizens Café (1210 Main Street) and will begin promptly at 11 a.m.

Organized by Mayor Benjamin at the beginning of his first term in an effort to foster a new spirit of regional partnership and collaboration, the Midlands Conference of Regional Leaders includes mayors from across the Midlands and as far away as Sumter and Camden as well as the Chairs of Richland and Lexington County Councils.

WHAT: Midlands Conference of Regional Leaders Quarterly Meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, April 2
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: First Citizens Café

1210 Main Street

Columbia, SC

All meetings are public. Any media wishing to attend should contact Michael Wukela at mcwukela@columbiasc.net or 803-413-5052.

Meeting agenda attached

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 02, 2014

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

April Showers Bring Adoption Specials to Columbia Animal Services

During the month of April, any day that it rains adoption fees are half off for all cats and dogs that are one year or older.

This special is valid through Wednesday, April 30. For those who are looking to adopt and do not stop by the shelter on a rainy day, promotional code "rain check" can be used for additional discount offers.

All animals are spay/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed. Canines are tested for heartworms and felines are tested for feline leukemia/aids.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

For more information or to view adoptable pets, please visit www.petfinder.com.

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*Please see attached flier.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 02, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia 11th Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week Begins Sunday

The City of Columbia will host the 11th annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW) beginning Sunday, April 6, 2014 with the Candlelight Vigil for Peace in Finlay Park at 5 p.m. This event is a memorial calling for an end to the violence in our city.

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

"Youth violence is a national epidemic and we must start working on a local level to change this tragic cycle. Our young people are either committing crimes or are the victims of crimes and these incidents must stop. The time is now and we must work together as a community to make positive changes and save our youth," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

The various planned activities will demonstrate the positive role young people can have in making their schools and communities safer. All events are free and open to the public.

On Monday, April 7, the Violence Prevention Fair will be held at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1113 Parkside Dr., at 6 p.m. The youth panel will be held on Wednesday, April 9, the "Man in the Mirror" Youth Panel will be held at City Hall, located at 1737 Main St., starting at 6 p.m. To close out the week, various park centers will stay open until 10 p.m. for Game On! Night.

In conjunction with the NYVPW activities, the City will be announcing various initiatives during the month of April that will focus on youth empowerment and youth development programs.

The Public Relations, Marketing & Media Department will also be working to form a Youth Empowerment Network and will be compiling contact information and resources that are available in the community for parents and youth. All youth advocates and those involved with youth organizations should send contact information to Sugi Brown at subrown@columbiasc.net or call 803-545-3020.

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

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*Media Note: Please see attached fliers.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 02, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

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Columbia, SC

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Meeting agenda attached

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Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3020

SPECIAL EVENTS TO BE HELD FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA'S NEW CHIEF OF POLICE

WHAT: Citizens are cordially invited to attend the City of Columbia's Community Reception and Official Swearing-in Ceremony for the new Chief of Police.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council, City Manager Teresa Wilson, City staff, Police Chief Search Committee and Community Stakeholders Panel, law enforcement officials, and Columbia's citizens

COMMUNITY RECEPTION FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA'S CHIEF OF POLICE

WHEN: April 10, 2014

5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Coble Plaza

211 Gervais Street

(Located behind EdVenture Museum)

OFFICIAL SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR THE CITY OF COLUMBIA'S CHIEF OF POLICE

WHEN: April 11, 2014

11 a.m.

WHERE: City Hall, Chambers

1737 Main Street

*Parking for the official swearing in ceremony will be available at the Cannon Garage, located at 1227 Taylor Street.

Shuttle service will be provided to City Hall starting at 9:30 a.m. on April 11, 2014. Transportation will be provided back to Cannon Garage at the close of the ceremony.

Media note: For media representatives requiring special arrangements for parking or other technical needs, please call Leshia Utsey at 545-3020 or 422-3057.

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For Immediate Release

April 2, 2014

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 | cfLucius@columbiasc.net

Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia Boards & Commissions

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on a variety of boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions that currently have vacancies. I strongly urge interested persons to apply.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Seeking one (1) District 1 Applicant.

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.

Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes

Seeking five (5) Applicants.

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes. *Applicants being sought must meet the following criteria: an architect, a landscape or urban planner, an attorney, and an individual involved in real estate.*

The purpose of the Board of Zoning Appeals Form Based Codes is to hear and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made the zoning administrator or the Consolidated Review Committee in the enforcement of the code when the property is governed by a form based code. Term – 3 years.

Columbia Housing Authority

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

Responsible for the oversight of the Housing Authority and its Executive Director. Term – 5 years.

Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism

Seeking one (1) Applicant involved in the lodging industry.

The mission of the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism includes: directing and managing the activities and mission of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Columbia Regional Sports Council and the Columbia Regional Visitors Center; and overseeing the development and operation of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center under a long-term management agreement for the benefit of the Governmental Entities: City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County. Term – 3 years.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

Seeking two (2) Applicants.

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 for Appointment/Re-Appointment 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.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than April 30, 2014, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <https://columbiasc.gov/boards-commissions> to download an application

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia Launches First Youth Empowerment Initiative

The City of Columbia will celebrate Youth Empowerment Month this April as part of their initiative to bring together more resources for the community's youth.

The initiative includes the creation of the Youth Empowerment Network, a cohesive resource available to youth and families that gives them access to events, activities and organizations within the community. The network will include a calendar of events for April that lists safe and fun activities for youth of all ages to enjoy. The city would like to continue this initiative through the summer months.

"Youth Empowerment Month and the Youth Empowerment Network are two new initiatives that are launching in April in order to develop a more cohesive focus on youth programs and organizations in our community," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. "Parents are always looking for positive outlets for their children and the needs are increasing. We want to start building a network that will provide resources and information for parents, guardians and youth on a year-round basis."

The Youth Empowerment Network will also include a database of youth organization contacts, youth advocacy group contacts and more. The network will provide updates to these youth groups about programs and other initiatives in Columbia. The groups will also be able to share information about their public events through the network.

Attached is the Youth Empowerment Month Calendar of Events for April.

For more information about the Youth Empowerment Month calendar or to submit information, please contact Morgan Cretella at mocretella@columbiasc.net.

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Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin's statement on amended Venue License Agreement

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin released the following statement today regarding the amended Venue License Agreement between the City of Columbia and Hardball Capital:

"I'm proud of this agreement not only because it will create jobs and grow our city, but because it represents the true spirit of compromise.

"We've sought and received public input from across Columbia, we've included recommendations from all sides of the discussion and we've studied and patiently debated the merits as a community over several months--even delaying a final vote for over a month.

"Now it's time to move forward."

Amendments to the Venue License Agreement include:

- Clarifying that Hardball Capital will pay the city up to \$516,000 per year (\$9 million in debt obligation over the term of the agreement) until Columbia Common realizes \$60 million in taxable development. (Pg. 6)
- Requiring Hardball Capital to cover all utilities costs including during City events. (Pg. 29)

- Adding two additional members of the Advisory Board. *(Pg. 36)*
 - One member to be appointed by the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods
 - One member to be appointed by the Naming Rights Partner
- Clarifying that City funds will not be used for routine maintenance. *(throughout document)*
- Requiring Hardball Capital to cover fire marshal costs at venue events. *(Pg. 18)*
- Clarifying that the City will not have a suite but will have access to best available seats. *(Pg. 25)*

To view the amended Venue License Agreement, visit <http://columbiasc.net/news/040220142021-multi-use-entertainment-venue-license-agreement>.

For additional information, please contact Michael Wukela at mcwukela@columbiasc.net or 803-413-5052.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 04, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

Access Columbia Being Held Tomorrow to Help Improve Financial Stability of Columbia's Residents

Access Columbia, a free financial literacy expo, will be held tomorrow, Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Late registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

"Hundreds of families across the Midlands live on the financial edge, just one unexpected setback from a major financial crisis. For low-income families already struggling to meet basic needs, such occurrences can trigger a devastating chain of events that leads to unemployment, homelessness and family instability. The City can help families and neighborhoods become more economically secure by developing strategies to address their financial needs," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

According to the U.S. Census' American Community Survey, South Carolina has more residents living in poverty than in 2000.

The U.S. Census Bureau goes on to report that the number of people living below poverty in Columbia is 23.4 percent. That is compared to the state of South Carolina rate of 17.6 percent and the national rate of 14.9 percent.

"Access Columbia is our effort to empower the community at-large with the financial information they need to build a better quality of life. Everyone needs basic financial tools in order to plan for major life decisions such as building a good credit history and buying a home. We want to provide this financial seminar to help families build a strong foundation for future generations," Devine stated.

Calvin H. Elam, CEO and Senior Financial Consultant of Elam Financial Group, is this year's keynote speaker. Elam will be addressing the participants at 9:30 a.m. and will also be doing a book signing.

There will be an informational fair with vendors ranging from banks, financial institutions and more. Limited daycare services will be available for children ages 2-5 years old.

Participants can take up to two of the following classes:

- Give Credit ... When Credit is Due
- Creating Cash on a Budget (offered in Spanish)
- Why It's Best to Invest
- Cash 4 College
- Teenagers and Money
- Climbing the Money Tree
- The Search for Fair Housing

For more information, please call Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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*Media Note: Please see attached flier.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 03, 2014

Contact: Jacqueline Williams at 545-3100

Midlands Farm Tour Makes Stop at City Community Garden

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's NOMA Community Garden will be soon be getting some special visitors. The community garden will be included in the second statewide Midlands Farm Tour happening this Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, 2014 from 1-5 p.m. on both days.

The self-guided tour, presented by Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, includes a total of eleven stops in Richland, Lexington and Kershaw counties, taps into the Midland's growing passion for local food and farming. NOMA Community Garden is the only garden stop chosen for this tour. With 50 plots on site, NOMA is the largest among City's community gardens. Visitors on the tour can expect to see a wonderful array of colored vegetables and ornamental flowers all grown by local gardeners.

City of Columbia's Community Garden program is host to a total of twenty sites across the city and the program is entering its fourth season. Through this Let's Move program, local residents are given the opportunity to become involved with gardening, promoting community involvement and a healthier, more active lifestyle.

Avid gardeners in the Midlands have an opportunity to get involved with the tour. Carolina Farm is looking for volunteers for the tour to handle the vital task of staffing sign-in tables at each participating farm on the tour, registering farm visitors and making sure everyone has a great time. By working one afternoon of the tour, volunteers get an inside look at the farm of their choice, and a free Farm Tour t-shirt and tour admission for the other day of the tour.

For more information on the tour, to volunteer or to purchase tickets, visit www.carolinafarmstewards.org or call Parks and Recreation at (803) 545-3100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 4, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media, 803-545-3020

Planning Commission Agenda for April 7, 2014

Attached to this email is the agenda for the Monday, April 7th Planning Commission meeting. It can also be downloaded from our website here: <http://columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas>.

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

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Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, April 05, 2014

Contact: Samantha Yager at 803-545-3016

Access Columbia Being Held Today to Help Improve Financial Stability of Columbia's Residents

WHAT: Access Columbia, a free financial literacy expo, will be held today, Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Late registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. There will be an informational fair with vendors ranging from banks, financial institutions and more. Limited daycare services will be available for children ages 2-5 years old.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine, Community Development staff, Calvin H. Elam and community members.

WHERE: Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln St.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: Today, Saturday, April 5, 2014
Late registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Program begins at 9 a.m.
Keynote speaker at 9:30 a.m.

"Hundreds of families across the Midlands live on the financial edge, just one unexpected setback from a major financial crisis. For low-income families already struggling to meet basic needs, such occurrences can trigger a devastating chain of events that leads to unemployment, homelessness and family instability. The City can help families and neighborhoods become more economically secure by developing strategies to address their financial needs," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, April 06, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia 11th Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week Begins Today

WHAT: On Sunday, April 6, the Candlelight Vigil for Peace will be held in Finlay Park at 5 p.m. This event is a memorial calling for an end to the violence in our city. Attendees will hear from the victims and the families that have been affected by youth violence.

WHO: Parks and Recreation staff, community members, non-violence advocates, youth and victims.

WHERE: Finlay Park
930 Laurel St.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: **Today**, Sunday, April 6, 2014 at 5 p.m.

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

Youth Violence Prevention Week activities continue on Monday, April 7, 2014 with the Violence Prevention Fair at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1113 Parkside Dr., from 6-8 p.m. There will be dozens of agencies and organizations will provide information on a range of programs, resources, activities and events that are available to our youth.

For more information on Youth Violence Prevention Week activities, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

Media Note: Please see attached fliers.



We Are Columbia

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BUILD COLUMBIA

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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The Blueprint for a World Class City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 7, 2014

Contact: Gloria Saeed at 803-545-3768

Columbia Housing Development Corporation to Hold Ground Breaking Ceremony for New Homes in Lyon Street Community

WHAT: The Columbia Housing Development Corporation will host a ground breaking ceremony for the Lyon Street Redevelopment project, which will consist of six new single-family homes.

WHO: Elected City officials, Columbia Housing Development Corporation board of directors and staff, community leaders and members.

WHERE: Vacant lot
2533 Washington St.
Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Thursday, April 10, 2014 at noon

Over the past 30 years, Columbia Housing Development Corporation has been committed to helping improve the quality of life for city of Columbia citizens.

For more information, please contact the Columbia Housing Development Corporation at 803-545-3767.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 7, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia to Host Violence Prevention Fair Tonight for National Youth Violence Prevention Week

WHAT: On Monday, April 7, the Violence Prevention Fair will be held at the Earlewood Park Community Center, located at 1113 Parkside Dr., from 6-8 p.m. There will be dozens of agencies and organizations will provide information on a range of programs, resources, activities and events that are available to Columbia's youth.

WHO: Parks and Recreation staff, community organizations, non-violence advocates and community members.

WHERE: Earlewood Park Community Center
1113 Parkside Dr.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: **Today**, Monday, April 7, 2014 6-8 p.m.

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

Youth Violence Prevention Week activities continue on Wednesday, April 9, the "Man in the Mirror" Youth Panel will be held at City Hal, located at 1737 Main St., starting at 6 p.m. The panel will include the Insiders from D.J.J., a special group of juveniles who travel throughout the state promoting community awareness of the prevalence and consequences of juvenile crime, and members of the R.I.S.K. program of the Columbia Police Department.

For more information on Youth Violence Prevention Week activities, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

Media Note: Please see attached fliers.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 07, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Please review the attached agendas for the Council meeting on Tuesday, April 8 and the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee meeting on Thursday, April 10.

Please note that the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee will meet on Thursday, April 10 at 9 a.m., City Hall, 1737 Main St.

###



Media Advisory

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her April Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 07, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Please review the attached revised agenda.

Please note that the Arts and Historic Preservation Committee has been canceled for Thursday, April 10.

###



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her April Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 08, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

An update agenda is attached for your review. Please note that Item #3 has been revised.

###



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 08, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia to Host Youth Panel Tomorrow for National Youth Violence Prevention Week

WHAT: On Wednesday, April 9, the "Man in the Mirror" Youth Panel will be held at City Hall at 6 p.m. The panel will include the Insiders from D.J.J., a special group of juveniles who travel throughout the state promoting community awareness of the prevalence and consequences of juvenile crime, and members of the R.I.S.K. program of the Columbia Police Department. Citizens are encouraged to come with questions for the panel.

WHO: The Insiders, R.I.S.K. members, Parks and Recreation staff, community leaders, non-violence advocates and community members.

WHERE: City Hall, Council Chambers
1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Youth Violence Prevention Week activities continue on Friday, April 11, with "Game On!" night. City Community Centers will operate on extended hours of play for Columbia's youth to engage in positive activities. The following parks will close at 10 p.m.:

- Greenview Park- 6700 David St.
- Hyatt Park- 950 Jackson Ave.
- Martin Luther King Park- 2300 Greene St.
- Lorick Park- 1600 Lorick Ave.
- Pinehurst Park- 2300 Pinehurst Rd.
- Woodland Park- 6500 Olde Knight Parkway

Youth Violence Prevention Week is held in order to raise awareness and educate students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence.

For more information on Youth Violence Prevention Week activities, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

Media Note: Please see attached flier.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2014

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her April Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main St.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

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



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BUILD COLUMBIA

The Blueprint for a World-Class City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 09, 2014

Contact: Gloria Saeed at 803-545-3768

**Columbia Housing Development Corporation to Hold Ground Breaking Ceremony
for New Homes in Lyon Street Community**

WHAT: The Columbia Housing Development Corporation will host a ground breaking ceremony for the Lyon Street Redevelopment project, which will consist of six new single-family homes.

WHO: Elected City officials, Columbia Housing Development Corporation board of directors and staff, community leaders and members.

WHERE: Vacant lot
2533 Washington St.
Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: **Tomorrow**, Thursday, April 10, 2014 at noon

Over the past 30 years, Columbia Housing Development Corporation has been committed to helping improve the quality of life for city of Columbia citizens.

For more information, please contact the Columbia Housing Development Corporation at 803-545-3767.

###



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 09, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia to Host Youth Panel Tonight for National Youth Violence Prevention Week

WHAT: Tonight, the "Man in the Mirror" Youth Panel will be held at City Hall at 6 p.m. The panel will include the Insiders from D.J.J., a special group of juveniles who travel throughout the state promoting community awareness of the prevalence and consequences of juvenile crime, and members of the R.I.S.K. program of the Columbia Police Department. Citizens are encouraged to come with questions for the panel.

WHO: The Insiders, R.I.S.K. members, Parks and Recreation staff, community leaders, non-violence advocates and community members.

WHERE: City Hall, Council Chambers
1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: **Tonight**, Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Youth Violence Prevention Week activities continue on Friday, April 11, with "Game On!" night. City Community Centers will operate on extended hours of play for Columbia's youth to engage in positive activities. The following parks will close at 10 p.m.:

- Greenview Park- 6700 David St.
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Youth Violence Prevention Week is held in order to raise awareness and educate students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence.

For more information on Youth Violence Prevention Week activities, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

Media Note: Please see attached flier.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 09, 2014

Contact: Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3117

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Kid's Day Fitness Festival

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Kid's Day Fitness Festival at Finlay Park.

The festival kicks off with the One Mile Fun Run/Walk at 8 a.m. Children registered for the race will be eligible to enter to win a new bike. Registration forms can be found online at <http://www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation>. Registration is \$10 per person. For more information on the run, please contact Joan Sorensen at 803-545-3100 or email jmsorensen@columbiasc.net.

The Kid's Day Fitness Festival is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival will have fitness challenges for the whole family, creative gardening demonstrations, health screenings and more. There will also be fun rides, a petting zoo, face painting, karaoke and other entertainment. The Kid's Day Fitness Festival is free and open to the public.

This event would not be possible without the support of the following community sponsors: First Choice, Healthy Connections, Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicaid, Health Connections Medicaid, Bi-Lo, Natty Kids and South Carolina Community Bank.

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

###

*Media Note: Please see attached fliers.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2014

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin issues statement on Chief Justice's remarks

Columbia, SC. – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin today issued the following statement today following S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal's remarks in her annual State of the Judiciary Address highlighting the need to provide judges up-to-date criminal background information:

"Chief Justice Toal's remarks today made it absolutely clear that repeat violent offenders pose a significant challenge to South Carolina's criminal justice system and a very real threat to our communities.

"Far too many of our families have been victimized by these dangerous career criminals and that's why I and leaders from across the state have repeatedly voiced our citizens' concerns and asked the Legislature to make comprehensive bond reform a priority.

"Passing Senate Bill S. 19 was a step in the right direction but, like Chief Justice Toal, we believe there is more to be done."

###



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BUILDCOLUMBIA

The Blueprint for a World-Class City

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Contact: Gloria Saeed at 803-545-3768

**Columbia Housing Development Corporation to Hold Ground Breaking Ceremony
for New Homes in Lyon Street Community**

WHAT: The Columbia Housing Development Corporation will host a ground breaking ceremony for the Lyon Street Redevelopment project, which will consist of six new single-family homes.

WHO: Elected City officials, Columbia Housing Development Corporation board of directors and staff, community leaders and members.

WHERE: Vacant lot
2533 Washington St.
Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: **Today,** Thursday, April 10, 2014 at noon

Over the past 30 years, Columbia Housing Development Corporation has been committed to helping improve the quality of life for city of Columbia citizens.

For more information, please contact the Columbia Housing Development Corporation at 803-545-3767.

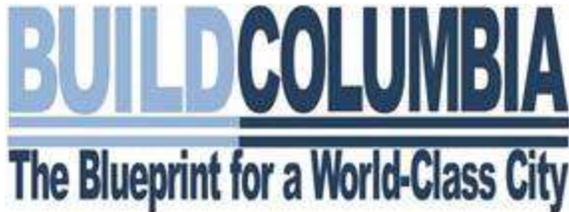
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 10, 2014

Contact: Gloria Saeed at 803-545-3768

Columbia Housing Development Corporation Development Breaks Ground for New Homes in Lyon Street Community

Today the Columbia Housing Development Corporation and its Board of Directors celebrated the ground breaking of Lyon Street Redevelopment, its newest homeownership project near Gervais St.

"This is a great project not only for the Lyon Street community, but also for the City of Columbia. When there is an opportunity to build new homes and provide quality housing for potential homeowners, it is beneficial for both our city and our citizens. I want to commend staff for continuing to find new ways to strengthen our neighborhoods through homeownership," City Manager Teresa Wilson stated.

The Lyon Street Redevelopment will consist of six new single-family homes. The first two houses will be constructed at 2521 Washington St. and 2533 Washington St. Four additional houses will be constructed at 1302 McDuffie St., 1312-14 McDuffie St., 1318 McDuffie St. and 1320-22 McDuffie St. The two-story floor plan, priced at \$123,000, will have 1,475 sq. ft. and comprise three bedrooms and two and one-half baths. The single-story floor plan, priced at \$118,000, will have 1,375 sq. ft. with three bedrooms and two full baths. There will be six elevations to choose from on the single-story home, and some homes will include detached single-car garages.

These homes are needed to provide working class families and individuals with workforce housing, whose incomes are at or below 80 percent of the HUD area median income. Contracts written and closed no later than September 30, 2014 may be eligible for \$10,000 in G.A.P. down payment assistance and other low interest rates through the City of Columbia's loan program and their partner banks.

All homes will meet ENERGY STAR Version 3 Certification to provide lower energy consumption cost for homeowners. Other specifications include: appliance packages to include washer and dryer; over the range microwave; tankless water heater; kitchen backsplash and cultured marble bathroom counter tops; crown molding in master bedroom

and great room; smooth ceilings. The exterior will consist of hardi-board, architectural shingles; privacy fenced backyard and front yard irrigation with centipede sod.

"This groundbreaking marks a milestone in our efforts to revitalize our neighborhood," said Marvin Heller, Lyon Street Community Association president. "We are pleased and look forward to additional homes that will appeal to new homeowners of various incomes and ages.

The residents in the Lyon Street Community are ready for change. The Lyon Street Redevelopment is located one mile northeast of downtown Columbia, and young professionals and empty nesters who are looking to downsize will find the location convenient to entertainment districts, sports venues, hospitals and public transportation routes.



Press Release

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The City of Columbia Community Development Department is providing \$564,779 in federal HOME dollars to finance this project.

###

About the Columbia Housing Development Corporation

Over the past 30 years, Columbia Housing Development Corporation has been committed to helping improve the quality of life for city of Columbia citizens. Vision: Equal access to affordable living in quality housing in safe and thriving neighborhoods where people want to live.



We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 09, 2014

Contact: Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3117

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Kid's Day Fitness Festival Tomorrow

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host its annual Kid's Day Fitness Festival at Finlay Park.

The festival kicks off with the One Mile Fun Run/Walk at 8 a.m. Children registered for the race will be eligible to enter to win a new bike. Registration forms can be found online at <http://www.columbiasc.net/parks-recreation>. Registration is \$10 per person. For more information on the run, please contact Joan Sorensen at 803-545-3100 or email jmsorensen@columbiasc.net.

The Kid's Day Fitness Festival is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival will have fitness challenges for the whole family, creative gardening demonstrations, health screenings and more. There will also be fun rides, a petting zoo, face painting, karaoke and other entertainment. The Kid's Day Fitness Festival is free and open to the public.

This event would not be possible without the support of the following community sponsors: First Choice, Healthy Connections, Blue Cross Blue Shield Medicaid, Health Connections Medicaid, Bi-Lo, Natty Kids and South Carolina Community Bank.

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

###

*Media Note: Please see attached fliers.



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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 14, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.

###



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 15, 2014

Contact: Kim Mitchell, 545-3117

Mayor Benjamin, City of Columbia to host Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin and family will host the annual City of Columbia, Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt. Free fun for the whole family! "Eggs"ercises, Easter Egg and Prize Hunt, and refreshments for the kids!

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

WHERE: Finlay Park (Main Stage), 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Friday, April 18, 2014

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

For more information, please call 803-545-3117 or email Kcmitchell@columbiasc.net

###

***See attached flyer!**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

April Showers Bring Adoption Specials to Columbia Animal Services

During the month of April, any day that it rains adoption fees are half off for all cats and dogs that are one year or older.

This special is valid through Wednesday, April 30. For those who are looking to adopt and do not stop by the shelter on a rainy day, promotional code "rain check" can be used for additional discount offers.

All animals are spay/neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed. Canines are tested for heartworms and felines are tested for feline leukemia/aids.

The Columbia Animal Shelter is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shelter is located at 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, SC 29209 and can be reached by calling 803-776-7387.

For more information or to view adoptable pets, please visit www.petfinder.com.

###

*Please see attached flier.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

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

The Façade Improvement Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at 10 a.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

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

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 10 a.m. Please review the attached agenda.

###



We Are Columbia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia to Host Press Conference to Discuss Youth Sports Initiative

WHAT: The Youth Sports Initiative is a city-wide program designed to be meaningful and fun, most at little or no cost. The program presents opportunities for youth to learn something new, refine their skills or just meet new people.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, elected City officials, Parks and Recreation staff, players and community members.

WHERE: Hyatt Park baseball field
950 Jackson Ave.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: Monday, April 21, 2014 at 4 p.m.

For more information on the City's Youth Sports Initiative, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

City Offices to Close in Observance of Good Friday

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2014 in observance of Good Friday.

All garbage and recycle routes will remain on schedule.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

City Offices to Close in Observance of Good Friday

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2014 in observance of Good Friday.

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###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 21, 2014

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media at 803-545-3020

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WHAT: The Youth Sports Initiative is a city-wide program designed to be meaningful and fun, most at little or no cost. The program presents opportunities for youth to learn something new, refine their skills or just meet new people.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, elected City officials, Parks and Recreation staff, players and community members.

WHERE: Hyatt Park baseball field
950 Jackson Ave.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: **Today**, Monday, April 21, 2014 at 4 p.m.

For more information on the City's Youth Sports Initiative, please call Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 21, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-0345

Agendas for the following meetings are attached:

- **Budget Workshop at 11 a.m.**
- **Work Session at 2 p.m.**
- **Council Meeting/Public Hearing at 6 p.m.**

No committee meetings are scheduled for next week.

###



We Are Columbia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Contact: Randy Davis at 545-3100

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Opening Ceremony for Youth Baseball and Softball Season

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host an opening ceremony for the Spring 2014 Youth Baseball and Softball season. There will be a parade of teams, games and more.

WHO: City of Columbia leaders and staff, youth players, volunteer coaches and community members.

WHERE: Hyatt Park
950 Jackson Ave.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: Friday, April 25, 2014 at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, there will be jamboree celebrations at the following parks beginning at 10 a.m.:

- Lorick Park- 1600 Lorick Ave.
- Pinehurst Park- 2300 Pinehurst Rd.
- Valencia Park- 710 S. Kilbourne Rd.
- Greenview Park- 2700 David St.
- Martin Luther King Park- 2300 Greene St.

For more information on the City's Youth Sports Program, please contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey 803-422-3057

“Paycheck to Paycheck” Columbia Premiere: Financial Status of Women Forum Series

WHAT: Presenting the documentary: “Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life of Katrina Gilbert.” This film is about the unequal status women face in 2014, which highlights the recent Shriver Report: A Women’s Nation Pushes Back from the Brink about the inequality for women.

*This event is **FREE and Open** to the public.

*Following the viewing of the documentary, there will be a Q&A session with two (2) local subject matter experts:

WHO: Hosted by Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

Subject Matter Experts:

Dr. Linda Salane, Interim Director for the Cooperative Ministries and CEO of WNN Consulting and Executive Coaching

Karen R. Jenkins, President & CEO KRJ Consulting, LLC and Financial Empowerment Consultant

WHERE: Richland Library Main Branch
1431 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Thursday, May 15, 2014, 6 p.m.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Contact: Brenda Oliver at 545-3093

City of Columbia Art Center Seeking Volunteers for Creative Journey Program

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Art Center is currently seeking volunteers to help with Creative Journey, a program designed to provide art resources to local military members.

Artists that are skilled in working with various forms of art are also needed to help guide the participants through activities that assist in providing enjoyment.

Orientation will be held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at Edisto Discovery Park, located at 1914 Wiley St., from 6-7:30 p.m. Orientation is required for all artists and volunteers. Orientation will be conducted by representatives from Fort Jackson.

For more information on Creative Journey or volunteering, please contact Brenda Oliver at blo Oliver@columbiasc.net or call 803-545-3093.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 25, 2014

Contact: Randy Davis at 545-3100

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Opening Ceremony for Youth Baseball and Softball Season

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host an opening ceremony for the Spring 2014 Youth Baseball and Softball season. There will be a parade of teams, games and more.

WHO: City of Columbia leaders and staff, youth players, volunteer coaches and community members.

WHERE: Hyatt Park
950 Jackson Ave.
Columbia, SC

WHEN: Friday, April 25, 2014 at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, April 26, 2014, there will be jamboree celebrations beginning at 10 a.m. at the following parks:

- Lorick Park- 1600 Lorick Ave.
- Pinehurst Park- 2300 Pinehurst Rd.
- Valencia Park- 710 S. Kilbourne Rd.
- Greenview Park- 2700 David St.
- Martin Luther King Park- 2300 Greene St.

For more information on the City's Youth Sports Program, please contact Parks and Recreation at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 25, 2014

Contact: Tina Herbert at 803-545-3950

City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities to Host Second Annual Small Business Week Conference

Registration Now Open

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host its second annual Small Business Week Conference on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, located at 1101 Lincoln St.

Dr. Louis B. Lynn, president of ENVIRO Ag Science, is this year's keynote speaker. Dr. Lynn established ENVIRO Ag Science, Inc. in 1985, which has become the largest African-American owned landscape firm in South Carolina. Other construction projects on his résumé include the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, the University of South Carolina Colonial Center and BMW Manufacturing.

The topics for this year's conference include:

- Ways to Secure a Contract with the City of Columbia
- Free and Low Cost Technology Resources
- Business Creation and Sustainability for Women-Owned Businesses
- Benefits of Membership with the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Registration can be found online at Eventbrite.com or at www.columbiasc.net/obo. Tickets are \$25 and those interested in sponsorships should contact Tonya Porter-Deberry at tpdeberry@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3950.

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

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***Media Note: Please see attached flier.**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 28, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

Please review the attached agendas for the following meetings. Please note that all meetings will be held at City Hall, 1737 Main St.

- **Budget Workshop at 9 a.m.**
- **Work Session at 2 p.m.**
- **Council Meeting at 6 p.m.**

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 28, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

The Columbia City Council Budget Workshop / Work Session will begin at **1 p.m.** on Tuesday, April 29, 2014, instead of 9 a.m.

The amended agenda is attached for your reference. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 28, 2014

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

The Community Development Loan Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 30, 2014 at 9 a.m. at 1225 Lady St. Please review the attached agenda.

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Contact: Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3045

City Council will conduct a Budget Workshop/Work Session at 1 p.m. and a Council Meeting at 6 p.m.

Please review the attached agendas.

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Media Advisory

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Contact: Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3383

City of Columbia Community Development to Host Annual OMG of Homeownership Workshop

WHAT: The City of Columbia Community Development Department will host its annual OMG of Homeownership Workshop on Saturday, June 21, 2014. The workshop is designed for first time buyers, long term owners and DIYers. There will be classes on credit, home buying, gardening, maintenance and more. Online registration will become available in the coming weeks.

WHO: All those interested in the benefits of homeownership and those interested in home improvements.

WHERE: Midlands Technical College, Northeast Campus
151 Powell Rd.
Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: Saturday, June 21, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, please call Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Contact: Leshia Utsey at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia Continues Success of First Youth Empowerment Initiative

Due to the level of community interest, the City of Columbia has announced that the Youth Empowerment Network Initiative will continue into the summer months in order to expand the network and help share information with youth, parents, guardians and youth advocates. The City launched the first Youth Empowerment Initiative in April to bring together more resources for the community's youth.

The initiative included the creation of the Youth Empowerment Network, a cohesive resource available to youth and families that gives them access to events, activities and organizations within the community. The network includes a calendar of events for the spring and summer months that lists safe and fun activities for youth of all ages to enjoy.

"Due to the positive responses we have received, we want to keep the momentum going and extend the Youth Empowerment Network Initiative into the summer," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine commented. "Summer is a time when parents are desperately seeking positive activities for their kids, and we want them to know that the City of Columbia is here to help."

The Youth Empowerment Network also includes a database of youth organization contacts, youth advocacy group contacts and more. The network will provide updates to these youth groups about programs and other initiatives in Columbia. The groups will also be able to share information about their public events through the network.

For more information about the Youth Empowerment Network calendar, to submit information or to be added to the Youth Empowerment Network please contact Public Relations at pio@columbiasc.net.

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*YEN flyer and calendar attached.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Contact: Kim Mitchell at 803-545-3100

Mayor Steve Benjamin and City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! "End of School Bash!"

In lieu of Mayor's Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt

WHAT: In lieu of the annual Mayor's Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt, which was canceled due to rain, the Let's Move! "End of School Bash" will be held at the end May. This free event will feature a community cookout, scavenger hunt, line dancing, face painting, exhibitors, prizes, games, music and more. There will also be a "Meet, Greet and Play" with former Gamecock football and NFL players.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, First Lady DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace, City staff, community members and youth.

WHERE: Drew Wellness Center Greenway
2101 Walker Solomon Way
Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 31, 2014 from 2-5 p.m.

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

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