



MEDIA ADVISORY

Public and Media Relations Department

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

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

We Are Columbia

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

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

City Council Agenda | Tuesday, February 6, 2018

On Tuesday, February 6, 2018, the Columbia City Council will meet at 2:00 p.m. for Executive Session and at 6:00 p.m. for a City Council Meeting at City Hall, 1737 Main St. on the 3rd floor (City Council Chambers).

Please see the attached Agenda document for the following meeting:

City Council

Work Session & Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:00 PM
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

[Download PDF Agenda](#) | [View Web Agenda](#)

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 1, 2018

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Fur-Ever Yours Pet Adoption Special

WHAT: The Columbia and Lexington Animal Services will be holding a Fur-Ever Yours pet adoption special for \$14 on February 12 – 17. The adoption fee includes 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: Monday, February 12 – Saturday, February 17, 2018

COST: \$14 per pet

Note: All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Columbia Animal Services at 127 Humane Lane, our Facebook page or Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

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

Thursday, February 1, 2018

Contact: Leigh DeForth at 803-545-4864 or ldeforth@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Public Life Public Space Survey

The City of Columbia is seeking volunteers on March 22 and March 24 to help conduct our third annual Public Space Public Life Survey throughout downtown Columbia. Tracking how we use our public space can be a fascinating experience, and provides valuable data to City planners and parties interested in promoting a more walkable, bikable, and livable downtown. Surveyors will count pedestrians and cyclists at one location for four hours; training for the counts is brief, and is provided by City staff.

Public space is what connects the people and places in our cities and neighborhoods together. A high quality public realm that supports vibrant public life is critical to making downtown and nearby neighborhoods inviting places to live, work and play. The Central Carolina Community Foundation and the City of Columbia are partnering to lead an ethnographic architectural analysis of selected public spaces. The analysis, which includes the study of people in their natural environments, will be conducted using a Public Space Public Life Survey format developed during the 2015 Gehl Studio study of Columbia's downtown. The survey will help us better understand who uses the area's public spaces – streets and sidewalks included – and how they use them. A greater understanding of people's behavior, as well as new data, will help to influence people-oriented planning and policy that inspires creative, people-first designs in Columbia's public spaces.

WHAT: City of Columbia Public Space Public Life Survey

WHEN: Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

WHERE: Select locations in downtown Columbia

WHO: Open to the public

To sign up, visit <http://gate.columbiasc.gov/PublicLife> . If you have questions regarding the Public Space Public Life Survey, contact Planning and Development Services Department at 803-545-3222. For information on the City's Public Space Public Life Action Plan, visit http://www.columbiasc.gov/depts/planning-preservation/docs/columbia_pspl_final_spreads.pdf.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

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

Veranda at North Main Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. will host a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of new apartment units on Monday, Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m.

The *Veranda at North Main* will be comprised of fifty-eight (58) apartments. Five of the units will be ADA compliant and two of the units for sense-impaired. The needs of a senior population will be considered in the design of the Veranda North Main, which will be rich in amenities.

WHAT: Veranda at North Main Groundbreaking Ceremony

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia City Council members, City staff, and Community leaders

WHERE: 3730 North Main St., Columbia, SC 29203

WHEN: Monday, Feb. 19, 2018, at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, please call the Columbia Empowerment Zone Inc. at (803) 255-8129.

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**Please see the attached flyer.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

Contact: Chanique Belton, Office of the City Manager 803-545-3546

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.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Seeking one (1) Applicant from the Hospitality industry; one (1) Applicant from the Lodging industry; one (1) Applicant who are considered At-Large businesspersons. The purpose of this committee is to review applications submitted for Accommodations Tax funding and make recommendations to Columbia City Council. Applicant must reside/work within City Limits. Term – 2 years.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Seeking two (2) 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. Applicant must reside/work within City Limits. Term – 2 years.

Board of Zoning Adjustments & Appeals- Form Based Codes

Seeking three (3) Applicants. Applicants should be from the real estate and or landscape architect industry.

The purpose of the board of zoning appeals—form based codes is to hear requests for variances and decide appeals when it is alleged that there is error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the zoning administrator or the consolidated review committee. Applicant must reside/work within City Limits.

Term – 3 years.

Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority (The COMET)

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

The purpose of this board is to promote transportation opportunities for all citizens within the service area which consists of Richland County and limited service into Lexington County. This is done by providing transportation services and encouraging the cooperation and coordination of existing transportation providers. Applicant must reside within the City limits. Term – 3 years.

Columbia Museum Of Art

Seeking two (2) Applicants for Appointment. The Columbia Museum of Art Commission manages the investments and the maintenance, preservation and exhibition of its art collection. Applicant must reside within the city limits. Term – 5 years.

Hospitality Tax Advisory Committee

Seeking two (2) Applicants from the restaurant industry and two (2) at-large Applicants.

The purpose of this committee is to review applications for hospitality funding and make recommendations to Council for the disbursement of those funds. Applicant must reside/work within City Limits. Term – 2 years.

Planning Commission

Seeking one (1) Appointment. 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. The Commission also advises City Council on annexations, zoning changes and approves subdivision plats/large development plans. Applicant must reside within the city limit. Term – 3 years.

Transportation Penny Advisory Committee

Seeking one (1) Applicant.

The mission of the Transportation Penny Advisory 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. Applicant must reside within the city limits. Term – 5 years.

Deadline –Applications are due no later than February 5, 2018 at 5pm.

For applications and more information contact Chanique Belton at (803) 545-3546 or send a request to cjbelton@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.

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Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

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

City Community Development to Host Homebuyer Workshop

The City of Columbia Community Development Department will host a Homebuyer Workshop on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018, at Earlewood Park, located at 1111 Parkside Dr., from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Homebuyer Workshop is a 4 hour session. During the workshop participants will gain knowledge about the home buying process, and how to develop the skills needed to tackle money management, barriers to credit and getting a mortgage loan.

A certificate will be given to each participant for completing the 4 hour session and a drawing will be held for a participant to win a Walmart gift card. Light refreshments will be served.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Registration is required. To register, please visit <http://gate.columbiasc.gov/hbw2018/> or contact Community Development at 803-545-3373.

###

**Please see attached flyer*



PRESS RELEASE

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We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

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

City Hosts Fourth Quarter Speak Out Conversation

The City's Community Development Department hosts quarterly conversations entitled "Speak Out! A Conversation on Fair Housing." The quarterly conversations address different issues regarding Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity.

On Thursday, February 1, the City's Community Development Department held their fourth quarterly conversation on fair housing at the Woodforest National Bank Office, located on North Main St. in the North Main Plaza. The conversation focused on Poor Credit History Preventing Homeownership Opportunities within the City of Columbia. Industry professionals and community activists aimed to address best practices and innovative techniques in educating the public on their equal opportunity.

Community Development Administrator Dollie Bristow began the conversation with an introduction of the Community Development staff and allowed every citizen around the table to introduce themselves. Approximately 25 concerned citizens and industry professionals participated in the conversation and discussed Poor Credit History Preventing Homeownership Opportunities within the City of Columbia. Citizens' questions were answered and brilliant ideas/suggestions were included throughout the conversation.

"The Community Development Department is committed to affirmatively furthering Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity throughout the City of Columbia. We appreciate citizens and community stakeholders joining our quarterly "Speak Out" conversations to discuss relevant issues and address the needs of the people that we serve," said Community Development Director Gloria Saeed.

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**[Please see attached photo.](#)*

News Release



American
Red Cross



We Are Columbia

Feb. 1, 2018

Media Contact: Maya Franklin, 980-257-5035, @SCRedCrossBlood redcrossblood.org

Eligible donors urged to join lifesaving team this winter

Help save lives at the Columbia Lifesavers 'Hoop it Up' Blood Drive on Feb. 2

Community members are invited to join the American Red Cross, City of Columbia and Mayor Steve Benjamin at the 8th annual 'Hoop It Up' Blood Drive. Donors are encouraged to roll up their sleeves at the blood drive on **Friday, Feb. 2 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln St.**

This blood drive comes as the Red Cross faces a winter blood shortage. Winter storms this month have forced many blood drives to cancel causing thousands of blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. Blood donations are urgently needed now so patients can continue to receive the lifesaving treatments they need. Right now, blood products are being distributed to hospitals as fast as they are coming in.

Blood is needed every day for patients with many serious medical conditions. Accident and burn victims, heart surgery patients, organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease may need blood products.

"We will always prioritize the health and wellness of our citizens," said Mayor Benjamin. "I encourage everyone to come out on Feb. 2 and give the gift of life by donating blood in the annual 'Hoop it Up' blood drive. Your donation will make a difference."

All presenting donors will receive an American Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code **famouslyhot**.

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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*[*Please see attached flyer](#)*



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We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018

CONTACT: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Planning Commission Meeting and Agenda | Monday, Feb. 5

On Monday, February 5, 2018, the Planning Commission will meet at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201 on the 3rd floor in Council Chambers beginning at 5:15 p.m.

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

###

**Please see attached agenda.*



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We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 2, 2017

Contact: Public and Media Relations at 545-3020

Columbia Goes Red for National Heart Health Month

On Friday, February 2, 2018, the City of Columbia had a heart to heart with the public, about heart disease. In honor of National Heart Health month, Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine hosted the Go Red Columbia Press Conference in recognition of National Wear Red Day. Citizens, heart disease survivors, and representatives from the American Heart Association gathered to honor and support the woman affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. Both men and women who were in attendance wore red and participated in the community photography session.

"This cause is always so rewarding because through our efforts we are raising awareness about a prevalent disease that impacts the health of women in our city. By educating our community, we empower citizens with information that can have a positive impact on their heart health and overall wellness," Devine stated.

Councilwoman Devine also announced that the 2018 Midlands Heart Walk will be held on March 24th at the Colonial Life Arena. She also encouraged those in attendance to register for the walk as well as an expo where you can learn more about decreasing your chances of heart disease. Devine will be forming a City of Columbia team and all are welcome to walk with the

citywide team. For more information, contact the City's Public and Media Relations Department at 803-545-3020 or visit the website at Columbiasc.net.

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*Attachments – see photos attached, including the Go Red Columbia community photo.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018

Contact: Public and Media Relations at pio@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3020

Quiet Zone Committee Meeting Public Notice | Monday, Feb. 5, 2018

The Quiet Zone Committee meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. in the Mayor's conference room at 1737 Main St.

For more information, please contact Public and Media Relations at 803-545-3020.

###

Attachment



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 5, 2018

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Fur-Ever Yours Pet Adoption Special

WHAT: The Columbia and Lexington Animal Services will be holding a Fur-Ever Yours pet adoption special for \$14 on February 12 – 17. The adoption fee includes 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: Monday, February 12 – Saturday, February 17, 2018

COST: \$14 per pet

Note: All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Columbia Animal Services at 127 Humane Lane, our Facebook page or Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

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

Monday, Feb. 5, 2018

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

Public Safety Committee Agenda | Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018, the Public Safety Committee will meet at 10 a.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main St. on the 3rd floor (City Council Chambers).

Please see the attached Agenda document for the following meeting:

Public Safety Committee

Council Committee

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:00 AM

1737 Main Street - 3rd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

[Download PDF Agenda](#) | [View Web Agenda](#)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 5 2018

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

City's Pet of the Week: Lucille! (ID# A242944)

Meet Animal Services' new Pet of the Week, Lucille. Lucille is a 2-year-old, brown tabby. Lucille is a VERY sweet girl who likes to sit in your lap and cuddle. This loving "furbaby" has already been spayed, micro-chipped, and is currently ready to meet her "forever" family.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit 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 Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

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*[*Please see attached flyer](#)*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 5, 2018

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

City of Columbia Mentor Protégé College Classes

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities, in conjunction with the Minority Business Development Agency, will be conducting the City of Columbia Mentor Protégé College beginning Feb. 6, 2018, through March 6, 2018. All classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 8 p.m., at Earlewood Park Community Center, 1113 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

The Mentor Protégé College is an excellent opportunity for Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) participants and potential participants to expand their knowledge of the program and network with other companies. This will provide a better understanding of how your company can increase the effectiveness of your MPP team as you continue to develop your skills and gain experience in construction and/or professional services and provide industry specific training required for project success.

For more information, contact Teowonna Clifton at 803.743.1126, or tcclifton@columbiamdbcenter.com.

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*[*Please see the attached flyer.](#)*



PRESS RELEASE

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We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb 5, 2018

Contact: Skip Hudson at 803-545-0100

Design/Development Review Commission Meeting and Agenda | Thursday, Feb. 8

On Thursday, February 8th the Design/Development Review Commission meeting will be held at 4:00 PM at City Hall, 1737 Main Street, 3rd floor, Council Chambers. This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can be **Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, or otherwise, please contact Planning Division at 803-545-3222.**

###

**Please see attached agenda.*



PRESS RELEASE

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We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Harper, Office of the Mayor ljharper@columbiasc.net
803-908-2603

Mayor Benjamin welcomes new Mayor's Fellows for spring semester

COLUMBIA, S.C. (February 6, 2018) – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin welcomes 10 students for the spring semester of the Mayor's Fellows program. The program provides both undergraduate and graduate-level students the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of how a high-energy local government operates. The fellowship caters to students seeking course credit or to those simply wishing to gain public service experience.

The Mayor's Fellows assist with research in various areas and provide aid to the Mayor's staff. To date, the Mayor's Fellows program has had more than 250 students participate.

This spring's fellows are:

Bianca Budhai (Charlotte, North Carolina) is a senior at the University of South Carolina where she is majoring in political science and minoring in business administration. Upon graduating in May, she plans to go to law school with the ultimate career goal of practicing law on the corporate or civil level. Through this program, she hopes to improve her professional skills, learn more about the inner workings of a local governmental office and see how this

office interacts with the community that she has called home for the past three and a half years.

Deondra Hemphill (Spartanburg, South Carolina) is a senior at the University of South Carolina where she is majoring in political science. Deondra loves to travel and spend time with family and friends. Upon graduating next December, she plans on working toward a career in public administration or becoming involved in city management. Her long-term goal is to be an urban planner. Through this program, Deondra hopes to learn more about the day-to-day work of city government and how it pertains to public administration.

Will Lewis (Charleston, South Carolina) is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina, studying both political science and Islamic world studies. Upon graduating, he plans to attend law school with the intent to practice law for the majority of his career unless the opportunity arises to engage in aid work in the Middle East and North Africa. Through this program, Will hopes to gain a new perspective of the nuances of city government and a greater understanding of the dedication required to be a civil servant. When not at the office, Will spends time being a young life leader at Hammond High School, attempting to read theological texts and training for triathlons.

Keyeria Manuel (Neptune, New Jersey) is a senior at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina majoring in criminal justice. After graduating from Benedict College, she plans to attend law school at Temple University. Manuel's career objective is to become a family court attorney. Through this internship, she hopes to network with people and learn different strategies for interacting with others. Manuel also wants to learn how to find and apply solutions to effectively and efficiently complete different tasks.

DeAndrea Martin (Hopkins, South Carolina) is a senior at the University of South Carolina where she studies political science. Since high school, Martin has been interested in government and the role it plays in education. After graduation, Martin will serve as an AmeriCorps member volunteering her services at a public school. In the future, Martin hopes to obtain a graduate degree in education policy and one day influence the South Carolina educational system for the betterment of its citizens. Through the Mayor's Fellows program, she will gain a hands-on experience of the inner workings of local government.

Aidan McGreevy (Lusby, Maryland) is a junior at the University of South Carolina. She is pursuing a dual degree in public relations and political science with cognates in history and English. After graduating, she plans to attend graduate school for political policy and speechwriting. Her ultimate career goal is to work in the communications and speechwriting department of the White House. As a Fellow, McGreevy hopes to gain a better understanding of the relationship between government officials and their advisors as well as gain insight into the daily routine of local government.

Megan Mellerson (Manning, South Carolina) is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina studying public relations. She is a member of the public relations team for the Garnet and Black campus magazine. Megan loves to write, travel and learn. Her passions lead her to many different pathways, and she is grateful to experience every new opportunity that presents itself. As long as she can help others and work toward the betterment of the people, she is all in. As a Mayor's Fellow, she is extremely excited to broaden her skillset and gain hands-on experience with how the City of Columbia functions.

Jade Morton (Knoxville, Tennessee) is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina where she is dual majoring in political science and business economics. During the fall and spring semesters, Jade works as a University Ambassador at the Visitor's Center, where she conducts

tours for prospective students. Jade also serves on Student Government at USC as a senator for the College of Arts and Sciences. Upon graduation, Jade plans to attend law school and someday work in the field of human advocacy. Through the Mayor's Fellows program, Jade hopes to assist policy staff with research, sharpen her professional skills and learn more about the amazing community here in the City of Columbia.

Miranda Richardson (Sumter, South Carolina) is a senior at the University of South Carolina. She is majoring in political science with a double minor in journalism and women and gender studies. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school or law school to further her education. One day, she hopes to become a political consultant as well as an advocate for women's rights. As a Mayor's Fellow, Miranda hopes to enhance her communication skills. She would also like to learn how to prepare and maintain community projects that will ultimately better her community and develop personal growth.

La'Darise Williams (Petticoat Junction, South Carolina) is a senior at the University of South Carolina studying political science. During La'Darise's free time, he enjoys exercising, eating and spending time with his family. Upon graduating, La'Darise looks to further his education by obtaining a master's degree in public administration. He looks forward to one day being involved in municipal government, becoming an entrepreneur, running a successful campaign and eventually working his way to Capitol Hill. As a fellow, La'Darise hopes to heighten his networking skills and gain experience on how city departments collaborate with one another.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Contact: Chanique Belton at cjbelton@columbiasc.net or 803-545-3546

At-Large Open House | February 14

WHAT: February At-Large Open House

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

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

WHEN: Wednesday, February 14, 2018
5 – 6:30 p.m.

Time Slots are 15 minutes.

An appointment must be scheduled to attend. Call (803) 545-3546 for information or scheduling purposes.

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018

Contact: Leigh DeForth at 803-545-4864 or ldeforth@columbiasc.net

Cultural Planning Input Survey for *Amplify: A Cultural Plan for the Columbia*

The City of Columbia Planning & Development Services Department invites the public to participate in a cultural planning input survey which will help guide the planning process for *Amplify: A Cultural Plan for the Columbia Area*. This planning process represents a partnership between One Columbia and the City of Columbia in order to update the Cultural Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The survey is available online at <https://amplifycolumbia.com/tell-us-what-you-think/> - please take the opportunity to provide your input before March 31, 2018.

Amplify is the name given to a 12-18 month planning process and as the name implies, the planning process will highlight existing arts, cultural and heritage resources of Columbia and recommend ways to strengthen these valuable assets in our community. *Amplify* is being managed by One Columbia for Arts and History in tandem with the City of Columbia Planning Department's Comprehensive Plan. This parallel process will discover opportunities for alignment between arts and other civic priorities.

More information about *Amplify* can be found on the website: <http://amplifycolumbia.com>

WHAT: Cultural Planning Input Survey for *Amplify: A Cultural Plan for the Columbia*

WHEN: Now through March 31, 2018

WHERE: <https://amplifycolumbia.com/tell-us-what-you-think/>

WHO: Open to the public

For more information on the planning process, visit <http://amplifycolumbia.com> or contact the Planning and Development Services Department at 803-545-3222 or One Columbia at 803-254-5008.

###

**Please see the attachment.*



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

Columbia Animal Services Closed Feb. 24 Due to Technology Maintenance

The Columbia Animal Shelter will be closed on Saturday, February 24. The shelter is having upgrades done to their computer and phone systems. Due to this project, there will be no access to phones or computers which will impact all operations.

If you have an emergency you can call the City's Customer Care Center at 803-545-3300.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018

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

Office of Business Opportunities to host Legal Seminar

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host a free legal seminar for small business owners on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 1301 Gervais St., Suite 1100 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Small Business owners need to know that compliance is not an option, it's a requirement. Having internal controls and appropriate financial reporting, savings and withholdings, business formation, succession planning, maintenance, sale of interests, protection and more is paramount. This free legal seminar will provide tools needed to be a successful small business owner. The seminar is intended for new and existing small businesses. Business owners will have the opportunity to speak to attorneys to help understand your business and ownership responsibilities.

For additional information, please contact Angelo McBride at aamcbride@columbiasc.net, 803.545.3960.

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**Please see attached flyer.*



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 08, 2018

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda | Tuesday, February 13

The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at City Hall (Council Chambers), 1737 Main Street, 3rd Floor. This agenda, past agendas, and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found here

<http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes>

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**Please see attached agenda.*



PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

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

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, February 9, 2018

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

Wilson speaks at North Columbia Business Association Breakfast Roundtable

On Thursday, February 8, 2018, City Manager Teresa Wilson spoke about ways of improving, new and upcoming developments in North Columbia to an audience of business owners, city employees and citizens at Earlewood Park Community Center. Councilman Sam Davis gave opening remarks prior to City Manager Wilson, discussing economic growth in North Columbia.

The North Columbia Business Association is the central governing body over the business district of North Columbia. While undergoing exciting changes, the NCBA is creating a new brand for the North Columbia area as one united community known as NOMA, debuting early 2018.

Wilson says, "I love to do this, because honestly, it is my opportunity to dialogue with the community. I know that the surge of development that we're seeing in this area is purposeful. We try to make sure the projects we push are aligned with the Envision Columbia goals."



PRESS RELEASE

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Friday, February 09, 2018

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

Office of Business Opportunities Call for Presenters for 6th Annual Small Business Week

The Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) is pleased to issue a Call for Presenters for the 6th Annual Small Business Week Conference to be held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

OBO uses several economic development tools to provide creative business opportunities to address many of the obstacles that face small businesses in the City of Columbia. OBO has three divisions that are designed to help meet the needs of small, minority, and women-owned businesses, in the City of Columbia: (1) Commercial Lending; (2) Technical Assistance, Education and Advocacy; and (3) Contractor and Supplier Diversity.

As part of OBO's continuing efforts to promote the exchange of information and resources among small businesses, we sponsor the annual Small Business Week Conference, which is designed to recognize the successes of local small businesses, provide businesses with management tools to be successful and networking opportunities. The Conference includes keynote presentations, breakout sessions, networking and exhibitors.

Call for Presenters: In crafting your presentation proposal, note that we are looking for presentations that will build the capacity of small, minority and women-owned businesses.

The deadline is Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 5 p.m. Please complete the [form](#) online, print, scan and email to obo@columbiasc.net, or US Mail to the Office of Business Opportunities, 1225 Lady Street, 1st Floor, Attn: OBO, Columbia, SC 29201.

For more information, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950.

###



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

City's Pet of the Week: Mac! (ID# A243494)

Meet Animal Services' new Pet of the Week, Mac. Mac is a 1-year-old, lab mix. Mac is crate trained, housebroken and knows basic commands. Mac does not seem to mind cats and has done very well with other dogs at the shelter. He is a great dog! This loving "furbaby" has already been neutered, micro-chipped, and is currently ready to meet her "forever" family.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit 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 Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

*[*Please see attached flyer](#)*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 12, 2018

Contact: Grants Administration at 803-545-3048

The City of Columbia is now accepting applications for Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Grants for the 2019 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019.)

All applications are due by 12 p.m. on the dates listed below. Please visit our website at www.columbiasc.net/grants/offered for guidelines, applications and more information.

Accommodations Tax Grants (Due March 16, 2018, by 12 p.m.) provide financial support to non-profit organizations and their projects/events whose mission is to attract tourists by promoting overnight accommodations in the City of Columbia. To be eligible, your organization must be a nonprofit with documentation from the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office, with activities in the City of Columbia. It is the intent of this committee to fund the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau and Capital City Lake Murray for fiscal year 2018-2019.

Hospitality Tax Grants (Due March 30, 2018, by 12 p.m.) provide financial support to non-profit organizations and their projects/events whose mission is to attract tourists by promoting dining in the City of Columbia. To be eligible, your organization must be a nonprofit with documentation from the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office, with activities in the City of Columbia.

Hospitality Tax Grant Workshop!....The City of Columbia will offer a training workshop to organizations completing the electronic ZoomGrants application. Specific dates will be

available soon on our City of Columbia Website. Please visit Columbiasc.net website for further information.

There is no funding available for Community Promotions Grants at this time.

###

Happy Valentine's Day
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 at 9:27 a.m.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018
Contact: Missy Gentry at (803) 545-0211

Bull Street Commission | Monday, February 19, 2018

The Bull Street Commission will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 19 at the plaza in front of Spirit Communications Park for bus pickup. The agenda has been attached for your reference.

Should you have questions regarding items on this agenda, please contact Missy Gentry at (803) 545-0211.

###

****Please see attached agenda***



Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018

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

Office of Business Opportunities to host Small Business Workshop
"5 Ways to Find & Keep the RIGHT Employees"

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities will host a small business workshop on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. suite located at 1509 Lady St. from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The workshop will focus on Small Business owners and how to find high-level talent for your business. Often times business owners waste so much time and money in recruiting, interviewing, hiring and paying the wrong employees. Most business owners are great with their product or service, great with their clients and even great in their business. The job market is constantly changing and business owners may not understand the average job-seeker. The Willis HR Advisory Group is an HR Consulting firm that partners with professionals and business owners to find high-level talent. The presenter will review 5 ways to immediately improve the hiring process and understand methods of retaining talented team members.

For additional information, please contact Angelo McBride at aamcbride@columbiasc.net, 803.545.3960.

###

****Please see attached flyer.***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Feb. 16, 2018

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

Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting | Tuesday, Feb. 20

On Tuesday, February 20, 2018, the Environment and Infrastructure Committee will conduct a meeting at 10 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 1737 Main st.

Please see the attached Agenda document for the following meeting:

Environment and Infrastructure Committee
Council Committee
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 10:00 AM
1737 Main Street - 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

[Download PDF Agenda](#) | [View Web Agenda](#)

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018

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

City Council Agenda | Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, the Columbia City Council will meet at 2 p.m. for Executive Session and at 6:00 p.m. for a City Council Meeting at City Hall, 1737 Main St. on the 3rd floor (City Council Chambers).

Please see the attached Agenda document for the following meeting:

City Council
Work Session & Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 2:00 PM
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

[Download PDF Agenda](#) | [View Web Agenda](#)

###



We Are Columbia

PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-7387

City's Pet of the Week: Beauty! (ID# A242528)

Meet Animal Services' new Pet of the Week, Beauty. Beauty is a 1-year-old, pit bull terrier mix. Beauty is a loveable girl but she is FULL of energy and needs an owner with an active lifestyle to keep her energy balanced. She has done well with other dogs at the shelter and is very toy motivated! This loving "furbaby" has already been spayed, micro-chipped, and is currently ready to meet her "forever" family.

Visit other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit 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 Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

MEDIA ADVISORY

Public and Media Relations Department

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018

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

Public Safety Committee Agenda | Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018

On Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, the Public Safety Committee will meet at 11 a.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main St. on the 3rd floor (City Council Chambers).

Please see the attached Agenda document for the following meeting:

Public Safety Committee

Council Committee

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 11:00 AM

1737 Main Street - 3rd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018

Contact: Yusef Robb, Accelerator for America, 323-384-1789

ACCELERATOR FOR AMERICA TO MEET IN COLUMBIA, SC FEB. 20 & 21

*National Non-Profit Comprises Mayors, Business Leaders, Experts and Philanthropy
Focus is Creating Jobs By Replicating Successful Local Initiatives City-by-City*

EDS: Visit <https://acceleratorforamerica.com/> for background, bios, media clips

The second meeting of Accelerator for America's Advisory Council will take place in Columbia, SC on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Wednesday, Feb. 21. It will be hosted by Columbia's Mayor, Steve Benjamin, who is an Accelerator Advisory Council Member and the incoming President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The Chair of the Accelerator Advisory Council is Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. Interviews are available and a press conference and photo opportunity of the meeting in progress will be available on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 21.

"Americans need help as they confront rising healthcare premiums, debt and a changing economy, but we can't count on Washington to get anything done. Mayors don't debate -- we act, and in partnership with business and non-profit leaders, we are taking the lead and creating jobs in our neighborhoods, all across the nation. The Accelerator is a unique and critical resource for us to connect and help each other make a difference in people's lives, city by city, community by community. Together, our local successes can show our nation the path forward to greater prosperity and a better quality of life," Mayor Garcetti said.

"We're excited to serve as host for the Accelerator for America in Columbia, South Carolina," said Mayor Benjamin. "This gathering of my fellow Mayors and a truly remarkable collection of private sector and NGO leaders will spark ideas about how to make life better in our city and will prove to be valuable in our work on the national level as I prepare to assume the presidency of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. I look forward to introducing Accelerator for America to all of the growth and positive change taking place in Columbia."

With Washington broken, local innovators in city halls, non-profits and businesses across America are taking it upon themselves to improve people's lives. Accelerator for America provides strategic support to replicate successful local initiatives in other communities, with a singular focus on initiatives that connect people with fulfilling work. It is not a think tank -- it is a "do tank."

The Accelerator is currently connecting with local governments across the country to help them succeed in generating local infrastructure revenues. An example is Los Angeles County's

Measure M, which was approved in November 2016 and generates \$120 billion and 465,000 career jobs. On that same election day, which also elected Donald Trump to the White House, local governments nationwide approved \$230 billion in local infrastructure improvements. The Accelerator launched its infrastructure initiative at its inaugural meeting in South Bend, IN in November: https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/national-innovation-group-launching-in-south-bend/article_c90a387a-b4f6-5207-95db-18dd557bc2d9.html

"Mayoral leadership is more critical now than ever, and the Accelerator creates an action-oriented forum to connect mayors with some of America's best and brightest from across the private and public sectors. This group should be commended for creating solutions that will help Americans realize better opportunities. Fulfilling jobs that give people dignity and opportunity are essential to the future of our economy and society," said Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, President of The Rockefeller Foundation, who will attend the meeting.

The Accelerator for America Advisory Council:

- Eric Garcetti (Chair), Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
- Megan Barry, Mayor of Nashville, TN
- Steve Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC
- Angela Glover Blackwell, CEO, PolicyLink
- Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, IN
- James T. Callahan, General President, International Union of Operating Engineers
- Cheryl Dorsey, President, Echoing Green
- Michael Dubin, Founder & CEO, Dollar Shave Club
- Cyrus Habib, Lt. Governor, Washington
- Bruce Katz, Brookings Institution (until March 1)
- Gregory A. Kelly, President and CEO, WSP USA
- Michael Lynton, Chairman of the Board, Snap Inc.
- Doug McCarron, General President, United Brotherhood of Carpenters
- Swati Mylavarapu, CEO, Incite.org
- Chamath Palihapitiya, Founder & CEO, Social Capital LP
- Steve Robinson, CEO, Reimagine
- Rob Slimp, President and CEO of HNTB
- Anna Valencia, City Clerk of Chicago
- Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, OH

Also attending and making presentations at the meeting are:

- Mayor John Cranley, City of Cincinnati, OH
- Steve Leeper, CEO of 3CDC (Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation)
- Penny Pritzker – Former Secretary of Commerce and founder and Chairman of PSP Partners
- Dr. Rajiv Shah, President of The Rockefeller Foundation
- Fred Yang, Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group



PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 19, 2018

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

Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. held Groundbreaking Ceremony for Veranda at North Main

The Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. held a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of new apartment units on Monday, Feb. 19, 2018, next door to the North Main Plaza.

"I want to thank the members of this Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. board," said Congressman James E. Clyburn. "We're here today to witness the growth of the North Columbia area. Many of you may recall that the empowerment zones were born out of legislation back in 1993. It was President Clinton's first budget, this concept had been floating around a lot of years."

"There have been a number of people who has helped us get to this point," said Councilman Sam Davis. "We wanted to make sure the final project would be something that's consistent with the long range discussions, plans and vision for this corridor."

"Others have recognized City staff and the City Manager may mention her staff as well, but there's so much support for the City's staff and that's not by accident it is because we as a city family know how important this project is to the entire City of Columbia and that is why we all support it," said Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine.

"Everybody should remember the Empowerment Zone in Columbia was one of the most successful in the country, it took a lot of fight to get it started, but we feel empowered now for the work that has been done. While the City's economy is blossoming Mayor Benjamin, City Council and myself have remained concerned that we do not want to price out people in our City. We want to ensure you that we have a compromising commitment to making sure that growth is accompanied by inclusion for everyone," said City Manager Teresa Wilson.

The *Veranda at North Main* will be comprised of fifty-eight (58) apartments. Five of the units will be ADA compliant and two of the units for sense-impaired (deaf and/or blind residents). The needs of a senior population will be considered in the design of the Veranda at North Main, which will be rich in amenities. The Veranda at North Main will use resource efficient design and building materials, careful construction waste management and recycling, and energy efficient systems to lower the environmental impact of construction and to reduce the resource consumption by residents.

Project Description:

- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Project
- Three (3) Story Elevator Building
- 12 Affordable Apartments at 50% of Area Medium Income
- 40 Affordable Apartments at 60% of Area Medium Income
- 6 Market Rate Apartments
- Many services on site or walking distance

Development Amenities:

- On-site laundry facilities
- Game/recreation room
- Fully-equipped computer center
- Fully-equipped fitness center

Unit Amenities:

- Units will be fully accessible
- Units will have grab bars installed in the bathrooms
- The showers feature low-flow shower-heads with adjustable height
- Units will have emergency call systems and be pre-wired for security
- Energy-Star refrigerators
- Dish-washers, in-sink disposals, ceiling fans, and washer/dryer hookups in every unit
- Stoves will have front controls and powder based fire suppression canisters

For more information, please call the Columbia Empowerment Zone Inc. at (803) 255-8129.

###

**Please see the attached photos.*

IMG_2577: Felicia Meloney, Director of Columbia Empowerment Zone, INC.
IMG_2599: Congressman James E. Clyburn
IMG_2636: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine
IMG_2655: Councilman Sam Davis
IMG_2687: City Manager Teresa Wilson
IMG_2765: Group photo



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
CONTACT: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Planning Commission Meeting and Agenda | Thursday, Feb. 22

On Thursday, February 22, 2018, the Planning Commission will meet for a work session at City Hall, 1136 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201 in the 2nd floor conference room at noon.

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

###

**Please see attached agenda.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018

Contact: Façade Improvement Program: Gerry Lynn Hall, 803-545-3381 or glhall@columbiasc.net

Commercial Loans: Bret Whiting, 803.545.3952 or bawhiting@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities to Announce Launch of Commercial Retention & Redevelopment Program

WHAT: Press Conference
WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, City Council members, City Officials and City staff
WHERE: Columbia Water, 4011 West Beltline Blvd., Columbia, SC
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.

City of Columbia's, Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), announces it will reveal the Commercial Retention & Redevelopment Program (CRR) Monday, Feb. 26, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., at Columbia Water, 4011 West Beltline Blvd.

OBO will utilize their highly successful Façade Improvement Program for exterior building improvements and Commercial Loan programs for inventory, equipment, or physical property improvements as a redevelopment tool for the revitalization effort in the Eau Claire Redevelopment Area that includes the Booker Washington Heights Redevelopment Area of Farrow Road & West Beltline.

Façade Improvement Program: (FARROW ROAD (Colonial Drive – West Beltline) & WEST BELTLINE (Bailey St - Brookland Ave.)): The CRR is a two-year, forgivable loan opportunity with funding limits up to \$15,000 for exterior commercial building improvements in this specific target area. The project cost is split so that the applicant pays ONLY 20%; the remaining 80% is paid by the City. Retail/Commercial property owners and/or their tenants are eligible to apply. Forgivable grants are also available for improvements costing less than \$2,000.

Forgivable Commercial loans (Farrow Road & West Beltline Target Areas same as Façade Improvement Program): Candidates applying for a façade improvement project are also eligible to apply for a forgivable commercial loan up to \$10,000 for interior/ exterior improvements, or other general business needs.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018

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

Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda | Wednesday, Feb. 28

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee (CRLF) meeting will be held at the Office of Business Opportunities – First Floor Conference Room, 1225 Lady St. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018 at 10 a.m. Should you have questions regarding items on the attached agenda, please contact the Office of Business Opportunities at (803) 545-3950.

###

**[Please see attached agenda](#)*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018

Contact: Lauren Harper, Office of the Mayor ljharper@columbiasc.net or 803-908-2603

Mayor Benjamin to launch #ColumbiaWeighsIn challenge on March 1

Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin will officially launch the #ColumbiaWeighsIn challenge on March 1.

"We are excited to embark on a three-month health and wellness journey that will not only change the width of our waistbands but will also change the lives of the people of Columbia," said Mayor Benjamin. "Weight loss is more than just shedding a few pounds – it's about taking better care of the one body you were given and seeing how diet, exercise and healthy thinking can impact the other areas of your life."

Those interested in participating in the challenge can sign up on the website at columbiaweighsin.org.

Throughout the three months, there will be "weigh ins" where participants will report their current total weight loss.

At the end of the three months, the City will host Columbia Weighs In Day to calculate the total amount of weight the city lost collectively.

For more information, contact Lauren Harper at ljharper@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Feb. 23, 2018

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

Office of Business Opportunities held Small Business Workshop
"5 Ways to Find & Keep the RIGHT Employees"

The City of Columbia Office of Business Opportunities held a small business workshop on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Columbia Empowerment Zone, Inc. suite. The workshop focused on small business owners finding and retaining high-level talented employees. Jada Willis, Chief HR Business Partner of the Willis HR Advisory Group was the guest speaker. The Willis HR Advisory Group is a HR Consulting firm that partners with professionals and business owners to find high-level talent. Jada Willis reviewed 5 ways to immediately improve the hiring process and understanding methods of retaining talented team members.

The 5 ways to find & keep the right employees are:

1. Develop Recruiting Game Plan
2. Know What You Want
3. Be Creative In Your Job Posting
4. Interviewing Olympics
5. Do Your Due Diligence

###

**Please see attached photos.*

IMG_2421: Jada Willis, Chief HR Business Partner

IMG_2425: Attendees



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Feb. 26, 2018

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

Join The City of Columbia's Team for the Midlands Heart Walk

WHAT: The public is invited to participate in the **Midlands Heart Walk** to help and support the women affected by heart disease, the number 1 killer of women. This year's Heart Walk will be held on Saturday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m. Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine has started a team listed as, City of Columbia Roster. Join our team as we encourage awareness of this issue and take action to help save lives. Both men, women and dogs are encouraged to participate in the walk. You can join our team by registering [here](#).

WHERE: Colonial Life Arena, 801 Lincoln St, Columbia, SC 29201

WHO: The public is encouraged to join our team

WHEN: Saturday March 24, 2018. The Expo starts at 8 a.m. The walk begins at 9 a.m.

More Information: Visit http://www2.heart.org/site/TR/HeartWalk/MAA-MidAtlanticAffiliate?fr_id=3033&pg=entry or Contact the Public Relations and Media Department at 803-545-3020

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**Please see attachment*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 26, 2018

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

City Manager Teresa Wilson Speaks at Fort Jackson

On Friday, February 23, 2018, City Manager Teresa Wilson spoke to a large audience of approximately 400 people at a Black History Month event at Fort Jackson. Wilson highlighted accomplishments about several African Americans throughout history who have served our country as well as the contributions they made. Prior to Wilson's speech, entertainment was provided by Mr. Harrison Jenkins and Orisirisi African Folklore.

Wilson said, "I just want to take the time to honor all of our men and women who serve our country so dutifully every day. I am honored and humbled to be a part of the experience."

Black History Month, also known as National African American History Month, is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their extraordinary contributions to our great nation. Friday's celebration honored, "African Americans in Times of War," by paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of African Americans during wartime from the Revolutionary War to the present.

The theme for 2018, as provided by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), is "African Americans in Times of War."

This year's theme commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and highlights the service and sacrifice of African Americans during wartime from the Revolutionary War to present.

Major General Pete Johnson also said, "We are celebrating the great heritage of African Americans in support of our defense. We are the United States Army and we are so proud of everything that African Americans have meant to who we are in our common framework of supporting and defending the constitution of the United States.

###

**Please see attached photos.*

IMG 2353: City Manager Teresa Wilson

IMG 2373: Major General Pete Johnson and City Manager Teresa Wilson

IMG 2407: City Manager Teresa Wilson



We Are Columbia

PRESS RELEASE

Public and Media Relations Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 26, 2018

Contact: Façade Improvement Program: Gerry Lynn Hall, 803-545-3381 or glhall@columbiasc.net

Commercial Loans: Bret Whiting, 803.545.3952 or bawhiting@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities Launched the Commercial Retention & Redevelopment Program

City of Columbia's, Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), launched the Commercial Retention & Redevelopment Program (CRR) on Monday, February 26, 2018, at Columbia Water, 4011 West Beltline Blvd.

OBO will utilize their highly successful Façade Improvement Program for exterior building improvements and Commercial Loan programs for inventory, equipment, or physical property improvements as a redevelopment tool for the revitalization effort in the Eau Claire Redevelopment Area that includes the Booker Washington Heights Redevelopment Area of Farrow Road & West Beltline.

"I'm thankful along with the Columbia City Council members for allowing us to come together and making this project happen for our residents," said Mayor Steve Benjamin. "I'm also thankful for our staff for making sure this remained at the top of the priority list as we expect this project to be opened to the public later this year."

Councilman Howard E. Duvall, Jr. said, *"Everyone deserves good water & sewer and as we stand in our new Columbia Water building that reflects the pride that we have in our water & sewer systems, but we also deserve good police and fire services, streets and parks, small and large businesses. Several more projects are in the creating and planning process and we look forward to hearing about in near future."*

"I want to provide you with information about the Office of Business Opportunities," said Melissa Lindler. "We have three different divisions in our office we provide financial assistance, education, technical assistance and advocacy for all small businesses. We also have a division that only focuses on contractors supplier diversity. It has been a great opportunity for me to see all of the great work that's going on in the City of Columbia."

Façade Improvement Program: (FARROW ROAD (Colonial Drive – West Beltline) & WEST BELTLINE (Bailey St - Brookland Ave.)): The CRR is a two-year, forgivable loan opportunity with funding limits up to \$15,000 for exterior commercial building improvements in this specific target area. The project cost is split so that the applicant pays ONLY 20%; the remaining 80% is paid by the City. Retail/Commercial property owners

and/or their tenants are eligible to apply. Forgivable grants are also available for improvements costing less than \$2,000.

Forgivable Commercial loans (Farrow Road & West Beltline Target Areas same as Façade Improvement Program): Candidates applying for a façade improvement project are also eligible to apply for a forgivable commercial loan up to \$10,000 for interior/ exterior improvements, or other general business needs.

All interested business owners can apply for the Commercial Retention & Redevelopment Program at www.columbiasc.net/obo or contact the City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities at 803.545.3950.

###

**Please see attached photos.*

IMG_2874: Mayor Steve Benjamin

IMG_2897: Councilman Howard E. Duvall, Jr.

IMG_2913: Melissa Lindler, Director of Office of Business Opportunities

City Manager's Spotlight | February 2018

To download the City Manager's Spotlight for February 2018, click on the attached PDF. You can also view this month's Issue and past issues online at <http://columbiasc.gov/city-manager/reports>.



Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Loan Committee Agenda | Friday, March 2

The Loan Committee Meeting will be held Friday, March 2, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. at 1225 Lady Street, Suite 102. The agenda is attached for your review.

###

**Please see attached agenda.*

