



*With a focus on neighborhoods and communities, each major section of the budget document will highlight some of the city's distinguished neighborhoods.*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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### **The 2017 Budget Document**

The 2017 budget is organized to provide the reader with user-friendly, yet detailed information on city resource allocation and service delivery. The document is divided into the primary sections outlined below:

#### **Mayor's Goals**

The Mayor's goals section discusses the city's major goals for the upcoming year. Included are specific programs and strategies that will contribute toward the achievement of those goals in 2017 and beyond.

#### **Budget Process**

The budget process section is intended to provide readers a concise description of the budget cycle from formation through implementation and review, including the legal and policy requirements involved.

#### **General Fund Summary**

The general fund summary section provides detailed information on general fund revenues, expenditures, and personnel levels. A copy of the City Auditor's official general fund revenue estimate is included in this section.

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### **All Funds Summary**

Detailed budget and historical expenditure and personnel information are included in this section.

### **Community Profile**

The community profile section presents a brief overview of the City of Columbus and the services it provides, as well as information on Columbus area employment and economic development activities.

### **Financial Overview**

The financial overview section discusses the financial environment of the city, both from an internal and external perspective. The section provides an overview of financial issues facing the city in 2017 and beyond. A ten-year pro forma operating statement for the general fund is presented in this section.

### **Financial Policies**

This section presents the city's financial policies. These policies were developed to ensure that the city's financial resources are managed in a responsible manner and that decisions are made in a disciplined way.

### **Accounting and Organizational Structure**

This section provides information on the city's accounting structure and organizational hierarchy.

### **Department Summaries**

This section is comprised of subsections of each department, including the department description and mission, strategic priorities for 2017, and 2017 budget notes. Budget summary tables are presented, listing departmental financial and personnel data, including information by program. Those departments under the purview of the Mayor with direct public service provision also present a sampling of performance measures in their respective subsections.

### **Community Development Block Grant**

This section contains an operating summary of the community development block grant (CDBG) funds. Because CDBG funds are appropriated in several departments, 2017 projected expenditure levels by department, division, and object of expense category are highlighted here.

### **Special Revenue, Internal Service, and Enterprise Funds**

Cash balance summaries for each fund are included in these three sections, along with descriptions of revenue sources to each fund and ten-year pro forma projections as applicable.

### **Capital Improvements Program**

This section describes the city's six-year capital plan and provides an analysis of the special income tax fund, which funds a significant portion of the capital plan.

### **Glossary**

Terms and acronyms used throughout the document are defined in this section.

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