



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 10, 2016

Dear President Klein and Members of Council:

Today, in accordance with Section 26 of the Charter of the City of Columbus, I am proud to present my first budget as Mayor of Columbus, a final and balanced proposal that reflects the priorities of my administration.

important tool to enhance public safety and promote more positive interactions between police and the community. The 2017 budget allocates funding for the implementation of body-worn cameras, including personnel.

In February 2016, I outlined the goals for my administration in my State of the City address. This budget represents fulfillment of these priorities while preserving our resources and keeping our city financially sound in times of increasing fiscal challenges.



We believe all of our residents deserve to live in neighborhoods that are diverse, safe, vibrant, and prosperous. In 2016, I created the Department of Neighborhoods to carry out the development and revitalization of all neighborhoods within Columbus. The 2017 budget allocates a full year of funding for this department, which will be located at the Point of Pride Building in Linden, as well as develops strategic measurable plans for the department to accomplish.

The 2017 budget allocates \$576.9 million to support the Department of Public Safety. These funds will be used for new classes of police and fire to maintain the number of uniformed officers and firefighters in our neighborhoods protecting our residents. Funds will be dispersed for the purchase of conducted electrical weapons (or tasers) and for additional community mediation resources. The budget includes additional funding for naxolone (or Narcan) supplies for our first responders as they continue to fight the heroin crisis.

In addition, my administration will rebrand the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office and create the Office of Diversity and Inclusion with the mandate of reducing disparity in employment. The 2017 budget includes \$1.5 million for the efforts of bringing diversity to recruitment in city offices and minority participation in contracts. The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will also commission a disparity study and will hold a

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conference to share solutions for reducing disparity in employment.

The Columbus Women's Commission was announced in February to advance the economic well-being of women in Columbus. In December, the Commission will be seated. The 2017 budget includes \$300,000 to provide financial support for the administration of the Commission which will focus on pay equity, health and nutrition, housing and safety, and workforce development and education.

Funds are provided to maintain our commitment to uplift the city's most vulnerable residents who rely on essential community services to meet their basic needs. We maintain funding in this budget for initiatives including CelebrateOne, which is committed to cutting infant mortality by 40% and racial disparity in half by 2020. As education of our youngest residents is important to our future, monies are also

available for pre-K and after-school programming.

Our collective commitment to the city's long-term fiscal health has again resulted in the maintenance of our triple-A bond rating. The City of Columbus is one of the few cities of its size to receive a stable fiscal outlook and the highest rating from all three rating agencies. Because of our fiscal integrity, this year we are able to make a deposit of \$2.2 million into the Rainy Day Fund, and the city is on track of reaching our goal of \$75 million by year-end 2018.

I have proposed a 2017 General Operating Fund budget that is balanced, maintains our commitment to safety, diversity, and neighborhood development, and continues our commitment to fiscal responsibility. It is a budget that recognizes the changing fiscal landscape and puts our dollars to their best use to ensure that Columbus remains on its track to be America's Opportunity City.