



Black and white postcard of North High Street in 1913, published by the Novelty Shop. The postcard features the Atlas Building on the right.

CITY COUNCIL

Department Description

Columbus City Council is the legislative authority and chief policy-making arm of city government, empowered by City Charter to exercise control over city expenditures. Citizens elect the seven-member council at-large to four-year terms of office. Council's primary responsibilities include: adopting the annual operating and capital budgets, authorizing certain contracts, and enacting amendments to the Columbus City Code. In addition to its fiscal control and regulatory authority, City Council establishes land use policy through its zoning powers.

The Council works closely with the administrative (executive) branch of city government in the formation of policy impacting public finance, safety, economic development, and the delivery of core city services. City Council also

Department Mission

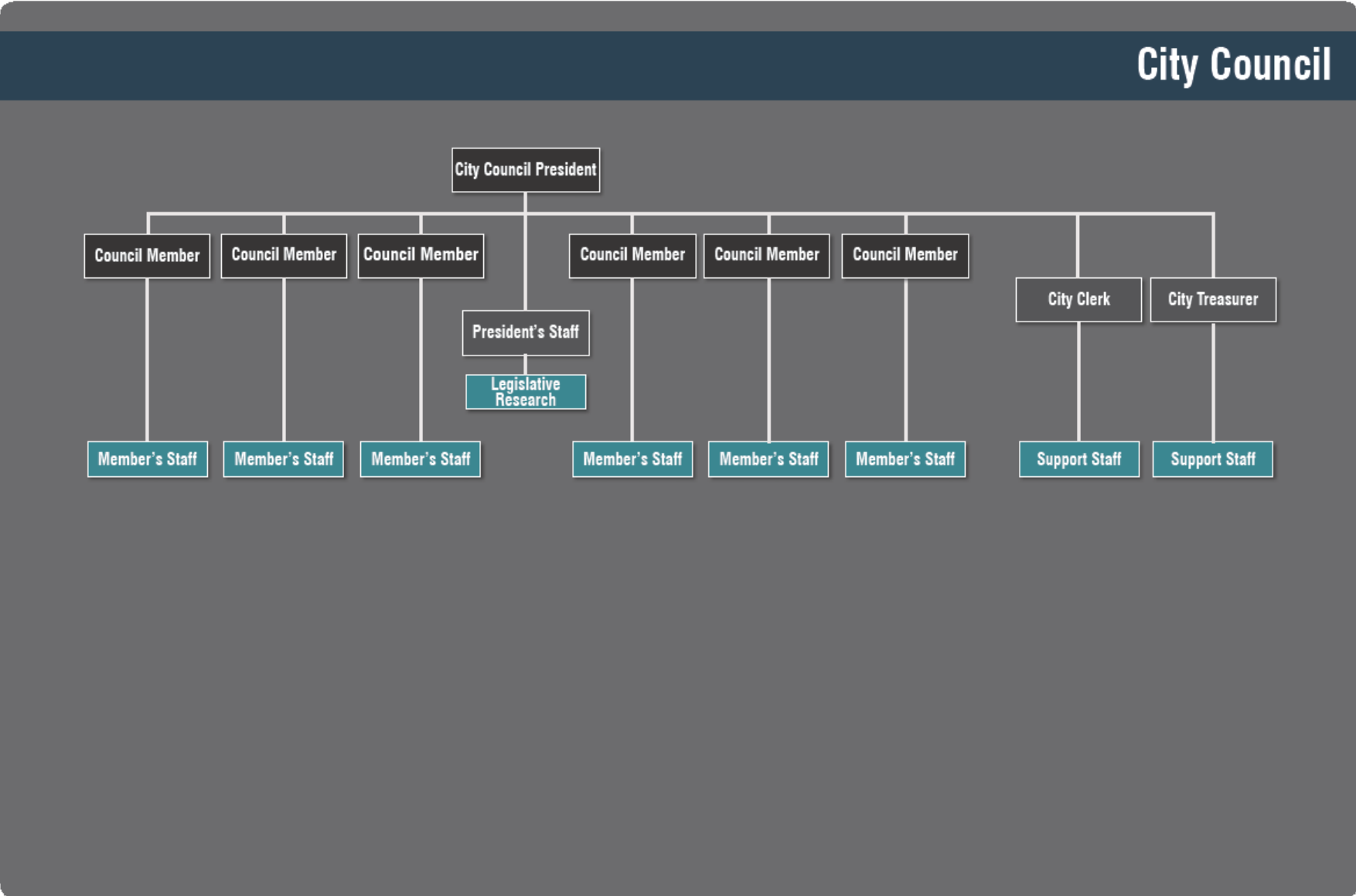
To provide high quality, responsive service to the residents of Columbus, and to demonstrate the utmost respect for the citizens and for each other in a workplace that highly values teamwork, personal integrity, and competence. City Council's overriding goal is to always do what is best for the citizens of the City of Columbus.

initiates and facilitates on-going cooperative efforts with other government entities, the business community, and other institutions to improve the overall high quality of life for Columbus residents.

Legislative aides, legislative assistants, and the Legislative Research Office (LRO) provide City Council members information and guidance on public policy decisions impacting public safety, budgetary, economic development, and community matters.

Council appoints the City Clerk, who maintains the journal of City Council activity, codifying city ordinances in accordance with established guidelines. Council also appoints the City Treasurer, whose duties include the investment of all city funds.





Strategic Priorities For 2016

Columbus City Council's 2016 strategic priorities will focus on four areas: serving the needs of all Columbus residents and maintaining public safety as the city's top priority; economic development and job creation efforts through effective partnerships; prudent financial oversight and the maintenance of the city's fiscal health; and keeping commitments to Columbus residents associated with the passage of the 2009 income tax increase. In pursuit of these priorities, Columbus City Council will:

Continue to work with the administration and the respective collective bargaining units to ensure proper staffing levels within the Divisions of Police and Fire, including appropriations for new police and fire classes necessary to maintain the safety of Columbus neighborhoods.

Continue to fund supplemental neighborhood safety strategies, including Community Crime Patrol, and invest sufficient capital and non-general fund dollars in the facilities, vehicles, tools, and technology necessary to maintain public safety.

Continue to work with the administration and strategic partners like the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Columbus 2020, to promote economic development and employment opportunities throughout Columbus, and incentivize job creation and continued investment in downtown as the commercial and employment center of the region.

Continue to work with the administration to stabilize neighborhoods through increased investment in infrastructure improvements, the elimination of vacant and abandoned buildings, the development of affordable housing, and the implementation of strategies that promote private investment in underserved communities.

Continue to partner with the Community Shelter Board, the Columbus Neighborhood Health Centers, and other human services providers to deliver basic human services, emergency housing, and healthcare to low-income families and others within the community.

Continue efforts to promote Columbus as a destination for travel and tourism, and to retain Columbus-based talent, through continued investment in Experience Columbus and the Greater Columbus Arts Council, financial and technical support for entrepreneurial startups, targeted investments designed to bring idle properties back into production, and initiatives to support small and minority business development.

Continue to work with the administration to expand the city's environmental agenda, including improvements to city vehicles and facilities, and the promotion of green strategies and incentives that encourage responsible, sustainable development.

Continue to identify and implement policies and practices to make government more effective, efficient, and accessible, including the adoption of new technologies that increase residents' access to public information.

Engage in proactive communication with the public at large and seek input from area commissions, civic organizations, and community groups.

Continue progress toward the goals outlined in the Reform and Efficiency plan, which was designed to strengthen the city's long-term fiscal outlook, including the implementation of cost-savings strategies and the growth of the balance of the Economic Stabilization Fund, or "rainy day" fund, to \$75 million by the end of 2018. Council will also work with the City Auditor to continue the sound fiscal policies that have maintained Columbus' triple-A bond rating.

2016 BUDGET NOTES

The budget for City Council includes continuation of the annual maintenance of the automated legislation system and codifying services for the City Clerk's office.

Department Financial Summary by Area of Expense						
Fund		2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Budget	2015 Projected	2016 Proposed
General Fund						
City Council						
	Personnel	\$ 3,047,873	\$ 3,051,100	\$ 3,556,852	\$ 3,357,179	\$ 3,577,789
	Materials & Supplies	39,113	15,249	22,500	20,500	28,500
	Services	87,364	107,977	135,102	117,370	154,796
	General Fund Subtotal	3,174,350	3,174,326	3,714,454	3,495,049	3,761,085
	Department Total	\$ 3,174,350	\$ 3,174,326	\$ 3,714,454	\$ 3,495,049	\$ 3,761,085

Department Personnel Summary						
Fund	FT/PT	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Authorized	2016 Authorized	
General Fund						
	FT	34	35	38	40	
	Total	34	35	38	40	

Operating Budget by Program		
Program	2016 Proposed	2016 FTEs
Administration	\$ 3,761,085	40
Department Total	\$ 3,761,085	40

The program above and the program description on the following page represent those that will be used in the city's new accounting system which will go live January 1, 2016. As such, no history of financial or personnel data by program is included in this document for prior years.



2016 PROGRAM GUIDE

ADMINISTRATION

To approve all appropriations and laws for Columbus, and to provide a public forum for the discussion of issues by the citizenry.