Columbus, Georgia
Georgia's First Consolidated Government
P. O. Box 1340, Columbus, Georgia 31902-1340

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Columbus, GA Department of Public Works Achieves American Public Works Association Accreditation for the 3rd Time

[Columbus, Georgia] – The Columbus Consolidated Government Department of Public Works has recently received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the 3rd time. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes that the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA's *Public Works Management Practices Manual*.

Open to all governmental agencies with responsibilities for public works functions, initial accreditation from APWA is for a four-year period, during which time semi-annual updates will be required to demonstrate continuing compliance. After that time, there is a re-accreditation process which builds on the original accreditation, encouraging continuous improvement and compliance with newly identified practices.

The purpose of accreditation is to promote excellence in the operation and management of a public works agency, its programs and employees. Accreditation is designed to assist the agency in continuous improvement of operations and management, and in providing a valid and objective evaluation of agency programs as a service to the public and the profession.

"Reaccreditation of the Columbus Consolidated Government's Department of Public Works is a testament to the department's continued commitment to excellence, accountability, and the highest standards of public service. This achievement reflects our employees' dedication and professionalism as they work every day to provide essential services that keep our community safe, clean, and moving forward. Maintaining accreditation requires a commitment to continuous improvement, operational efficiency, and responsible stewardship of public resources. We are proud of the Public Works team for their hard work and dedication to serving the citizens of Columbus," says City Manager Tyson Begly.

APWA's accreditation process includes five major steps:

- **Self-Assessment**: Using the *Public Works Management Practices Manual*, an internal review of an agency's practices combined with a comparison of the recommended practices contained in the manual;
- **Application**: Once the decision has been made to commit to the Accreditation Program, the agency submits a formal application;
- **Improvement**: After the agency has completed the self-assessment and identified areas needing improvement, the agency will work to bring all practices into an acceptable level of compliance with the recommended practices;
- **Evaluation**: Following the completion of the improvement phase, the agency will request a site visit. The site visit will consist of a review and evaluation of the agency to determine the level of compliance with all applicable practices.

- **Accreditation**: The Accreditation Council will review the site visit results and recommendation from the team, voting to award or deny accreditation.

Formally awarded the prestigious accreditation by APWA's Accreditation Council for the third time, the Columbus Consolidated Government Department of Public Works first earned this recognition in 2018. In addition to the Columbus Consolidated Government Department of Public Works, there are five other accredited agencies in Georgia, including the cities of Atlanta, Covington, Marietta, and Dekalb county.

For more information about APWA Accreditation, please contact APWA Associate Director of Credentialing, Jeanette Klamm, at jklamm@apwa.org, or (816)595-5295.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.org) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 30,000 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, has an office in Washington, DC, and 62 chapters in North America.

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