



Odie Donald, II MBA  
Administrator

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Augusta Commission approves framework for the Augusta Rescue Plan**

**AUGUSTA, GA (Aug. 19, 2021)** – On Thursday, Aug. 19, the Augusta Commission approved a framework on how the City of Augusta will spend its allotted \$82 million in American Rescue Plan funds.

With the funding, the City will launch the Augusta Recovery Plan to support the areas including but not limited to:

- A public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic to address its economic effects, including households and small businesses.
- Provide public safety pay and premium pay to employees who are assisting in the mitigation of the public health emergency response.
- Make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

“Augusta leaders have continuously stressed the importance of leveraging these once in a generation resources provided through the American Rescue Plan Act to assist our residents and local businesses in a way that will be felt for years to come,” said City Administrator Odie Donald, II. “The first step in that effort is ensuring that residents feel and are safe. Today’s investments in our front-line employees and public safety heroes, as well as incentivizing much needed shots in arms jump starts those efforts and clears a path to implement a variety of sustainable measures that will mitigate the pandemic and address the urgent needs of Augustans now and for years to come.”

As part of the public health response, city leaders allocated \$1.5 million to initiate a Covid-19 vaccination incentive program. The program includes providing a \$100 incentive to Richmond County residents who are fully vaccinated through a city-authorized clinic.

"The health, safety and welfare of our residents remain our top priority, and we know the vaccine is the best option we have now to protect ourselves from Covid-19 and the Delta variant," said Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr. "As we keep a close watch on the rates of Covid-19 cases in our area, it's our hope this incentive program will encourage residents to get vaccinated to ensure our city is protected from this deadly virus, while also providing opportunities to grow Augusta through the comprehensive spending plan."

The incentive program will be available to Richmond County residents who become fully vaccinated. City leaders hope the incentive will help the City reach its goal of having at least 10,000 residents fully vaccinated through city specific initiatives.



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The incentive program is part of the City's *Vax Up, Augusta!* Campaign to ensure the Covid-19 vaccine access is fair and provide residents with the latest information about the vaccine. The goal of this comprehensive campaign is to share details on the effectiveness of the vaccine, establish pop-up Covid-19 vaccine clinics throughout the Augusta area, and debunk myths about the vaccine with credible information.

Journalists interested in covering the Augusta Recovery Plan should contact Public Information Manager Danielle Harris at 706-564-3460 or email [dharris@augustaga.gov](mailto:dharris@augustaga.gov).

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