



NEWS RELEASE

Danielle Harris, Public Information Manager
706-312-5511 (office) dharris@augustaga.gov

**The Wednesday Wrap-Up:
Highlights from the Augusta Commission meeting held February 7, 2023**

AUGUSTA, GA (February 8, 2023) – In this week’s Wednesday Wrap-Up of the Augusta Commission meeting held on February 7, 2023, elected officials approved a multi-million dollar grant to support Augusta, Georgia’s Lead-Based Hazard Reduction Program, and the city’s 2022 Employee of the Year was announced. View the news briefs below for more details.

Augusta Commission Approve \$3.96 Million HUD Grant To Support Augusta’s Lead-Based Hazard Reduction Program

The Augusta Commission approved the acceptance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes grant of \$3.96 million to support the administrative costs and outreach efforts related to the Augusta Housing and Community Development’s Lead-Based Hazard Reduction Program.

This program aims to identify, clean up, and educate the community on dangerous lead-related health and safety hazards in specific housing units built before 1978. The types of housing covered in the program include:

- Housing units in the Richmond County area
- Owner-occupied
- Landlord/property owners
- Single-family units
- Multi-family units

Pregnant women or individuals with children under the age of six living in one of the housing units listed above may also qualify.

Artwork To Be Donated To Augusta, Georgia

Augusta, Georgia will be the home of several artworks featured in the 2022 Augusta Sculpture Trail. The Augusta Commission agreed to allow some pieces from the exhibit to be donated to Augusta to add to the city’s public art collection. Below is a list of those pieces of art:

- *Forever Young* by Larry Schueckler
- *Maestro* by Larry Schueckler



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- *Popsicles* by CR Gray LLC
- *Unstoppable* by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva

Tropical Dream by Roger Finch was not included in the exhibit, but it is another piece of art being donated to Augusta, Georgia. The artwork is set to be ready for viewing in the coming weeks.

Augusta, Georgia's Memorandum of Understanding with Aiken-Augusta Swim League Approved

The Augusta Commission has approved the renewal of the annual Memorandum of Understanding between Augusta, Georgia and the Aiken-Augusta Swim League, which allows ASL to use the Augusta Aquatic Center in 2023 for swim practice and events.

Augusta Commission Make Appointments

The Augusta Commission has appointed eXp Realtor Stephanie Clarke to the Augusta Planning Commission representing District 2, Insight Global Network Operations Manager Don Clark has been appointed to the Augusta Aviation Commission representing District 9, and the Medical College of Georgia Foundation's Director of Outreach and Inclusion Brittany Pooser has been appointed to serve with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council.

Richmond County Sheriff's Office Receives Emergency Funding To Repair Kitchen and Laundry Equipment

The Augusta Commission approved the Richmond County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) in receiving \$486,872.90 for the emergency repair of kitchen and laundry equipment. With this equipment repaired, RCSO can properly attend to the needs of inmates and staff.

Employee Recognitions

Le'Don Sapp of the Information Technology Department has been named Augusta, Georgia's 2022 Employee of the Year, and Alex Ferrand of the Information Technology Department has been named Augusta's Employee of the Month for January 2023.

Sapp has been employed with Augusta for over five years and has held several positions in the Information Technology Department, including intern, Client Support Specialist, and his current role Desktop Administrator. Sapp is commended on his customer service, commitment, and professionalism.

Ferrand joined the Information Technology Department nearly three years ago and has become an integral part of the Department's GIS team as a GIS Analyst. Ferrand played a vital role on the GIS team that assisted the Richmond Board of Elections and the Augusta Commission



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during the redirecting process and other projects with the Richmond County Tax Assessor's Office and the collaborative effort with the Richmond County Mosquito Control.

Media interested in covering these topics should contact Public Information Manager Danielle Harris at 706-312-5511.

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