

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Monday, November 1, 2021**  
**5:00 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting the Regular Session.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Chris Smith  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER**

At 5:00 P.M. Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Monday, November 1, 2021 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order.

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

At 5:01 P.M., Commissioner Coleman made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) Attorney-Client privilege and (4) Economic Development, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #2: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

No official action was taken.

**RECESS CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 6:30 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to recess Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #3 and #4: INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Lavern Coleman. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Buddy Byrd.

**Agenda Item #5: BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:**

A. October 18, 2021 Regular Session

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the Board Minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #6: APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 01, 2021 AGENDA and TAX REFUNDS and RELEASES:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to add on Agenda Item #22 – Redistricting, to be discussed tomorrow morning, November 2, 2021 at 9 A.M., seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

| Name  | Acct#    | Date      | Amt. Released | Prop. Value | Year | Bill# | Prop. # | User Fee | Late List | District | Discount | Total   |
|---|----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|------|-------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Stover, April<br>4021 James B White Hwy N<br>Whiteville, NC 28472 | 09-10102 | 11/1/2021 | \$0.00        | \$0.00      | 2021 | 27    | 015846  | \$50.00  | \$0.00    | \$0.00   | \$0.00   | \$50.00 |

Refund portion paid on trash can that never was sent out.

|  |          |           |        |        |      |       |       |          |        |        |        |          |
|--|----------|-----------|--------|--------|------|-------|-------|----------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| Walters, Lisa Coleman<br>8517 Sidney Cherry Grove Rd<br>Tabor City, NC 28463 | 16-05946 | 11/1/2021 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | 2021 | 99874 | 99141 | \$200.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Refund user fee. Double wide moved in 2019 and can picked up.                |          |           |        |        |      |       |       |          |        |        |        |          |

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the agenda, tax refunds and releases, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:**

No comments were made.

**Agenda Item #8: PRESENTATION – PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING the 50TH ANNIVERSARY of the NORTH CAROLINA YAM FESTIVAL:**

**Note: This proclamation was adopted and approved at the October 18, 2021 Board Meeting. It was presented to the recipient at the November 1, 2021 Board Meeting.**

**WHEREAS**, festivals are a period of celebration in which friends, family and community come together to share their culture, heritage, and history through music, dance, and food; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Tabor City, being recognized as the “Yam Capitol of the World” since the mid-1930s, initiated an annual festival in 1948 to pay homage to the sweet potato and the agricultural history of Tabor City and its residents; **and**

**WHEREAS**, this festival, known as the North Carolina Yam Festival, was held consecutively from 1948 to 1961, and then resurrected in 1985 with the help of grant allocations provided by the state, takes place annually on the fourth Saturday in October; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Yam Festival is one of the largest festivals in the state, generating an enormous amount of community pride for residents, and welcoming visitors from all over with true southern hospitality; **and**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Tabor City hosts multiple events throughout the week leading up to the Festival, including fan favorites like the Sweet Potato Cook-Off, the Sweet Potato Pageant, the Sweet Potato Auction, the Yam Gathering, and the Taste of Tabor; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the North Carolina Yam Festival is celebrating 50 cumulative festival years in the Town of Tabor City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, We, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, wish to celebrate the North Carolina Yam Festival for its resiliency, dedication and service to Columbus County and its residents.

Adopted this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| /s/ RICKY BULLARD, Chairman     | /s/ JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman |
| /s/ CHRIS SMITH                 | /s/ GILES E. BYRD                   |
| /s/ LAVERN COLEMAN              | /s/ BRENT WATTS                     |
| /s/ CHARLES T. MCDOWELL         | /s/ EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager   |
| /s/ BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney | /s/ LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk   |

**Agenda Item #9: PROCLAMATION – HONORING VETERANS DAY:**

**WHEREAS**, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918, an armistice was called between the Allied nations and Germany, effectively putting an end to “The Great War”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, President Wilson proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words, “To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”; **and**

**WHEREAS**, in order to expand the significance of that commemoration, and in order that a grateful nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation, the Congress, by an act approved June 1, 1954, changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Columbus County takes pride in the men and women of our armed forces who demonstrate courage, leadership and commitment in service to our community and country; **and**

**WHEREAS**, we recognize and respect the sacrifices made by the more than thirty-six hundred County veterans who contribute to the social, economic and political successes of our County daily through active participation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, We the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, pay homage to the veterans of Columbus County for their loyalty, patriotism, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Adopted this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2021.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

/s/ **RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

/s/ **CHRIS SMITH**

/s/ **LAVERN COLEMAN**

/s/ **CHARLES T. MCDOWELL**

/s/ **BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney**

/s/ **LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

/s/ **JEROME MCMILLIAN, Vice Chairman**

/s/ **GILES E. BYRD**

/s/ **BRENT WATTS**

/s/ **EDWIN H. MADDEN, Jr., Manager**

/s/ **AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #10: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:**

District Attorney John David addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the county's office relocation plan.

**District Attorney John David** stated the following:

-I wanted my name added to the agenda tonight to say thank you.

-I know that doesn't happen often but I think it's important to acknowledge when you do something good for the county.

-You provided us with office space that we have so desperately needed.

-Columbus County has always been a county of great need.

-We have more pending murder cases here than Brunswick and Bladen counties combined.

-So we have the need here but we haven't always had the space.

-I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to each one of you for your wisdom and foresight in choosing to invest in our justice system.

-A lot of communities around the country are defunding the police but instead you've decided that public safety is a primary responsibility of government and we need to invest in our future.

-I also want to thank your County Manager, Mr. Eddie Madden for his vision and for swapping office spaces with us.

-So tonight, I just want to say thank you and offer you my partnership in the future, I know big decisions need to be made in our justice system in the years to come with respect to resources for our Sheriff's Office, the historic courthouse, and so to the extent that I can offer you any insight or guidance as to what that road should look like, I want you to know that I'm available for those conversations.

-My office is busy with multiple cases and we're currently able to do it from a classy new building so for that I want to say thank you.

**Agenda Item #11: PLANNING – APPROVAL of CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:**

Gary Lanier, Planning Director, requested Board approval and adoption.

**Columbus County Board of Commissioners**

## Consistency Statement

11-01-2021

On September 20, 2021 at 6:30 P.M., a Public Hearing was held to consider text amendments to both the Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance and to the Columbus County Subdivision Ordinance. One text amendment change was proposed for each ordinance. A text amendment change to the Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance was proposed to add Major Subdivisions with more than 10 lots to the list of regulated land uses requiring a Special Use Permit. A text amendment change to the Columbus County Subdivision Ordinance was proposed to increase the minimum lot size for subdivisions of land made in an area where no public water or sewer service is available from 30,000 square feet to one acre or 43,560 square feet. The first reading of the proposed text amendments was held during the regular meeting of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners held on September 7, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. The date and time for the Public Hearing was established at the same time.

After the September 20, 2021 Public Hearing on the two text amendments, and upon entering into their regularly scheduled meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners approved the two text amendments following their second reading. The Columbus County Board of Commissioners approve of the following statements:

- I. That the Columbus County Board of Commissioners finds that the addition of Subdivisions with ten (10) or more lots to the List of Regulated Uses Requiring a Special Use Permit within the Columbus County Land Use Regulation Ordinance **would be consistent** with the Columbus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the following reasons:
  - a) The construction of a major subdivision containing 10 or more lots is a significant investment within the county and deserves special consideration
  - b) That the construction of a major subdivision of 10 or more lots will significantly affect the community where it is to be located
  - c) That the Special Use Permit process provides for a thorough review of the project being proposed
  - d) That it is in the interests of both the Developer and local landowners to fully understand the effects of the proposed development upon the general area where it is to be located
  - e) That the Special Use Permit process allows for an open sharing of facts and the opportunity for questions to be answered for the citizens of the County with respect to the proposed project.
- II. That the Columbus County Board of Commissioners finds that increasing the minimum lot size from 30,000 square feet to one acre or 43,560 square feet **would be consistent** with the Columbus County Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the following reasons:
  - a) That the protection of water resources for the use of citizens both now and into the future is an important consideration when considering land development
  - b) That the development of land which lacks access to public water or sewer service can impact sensitive natural areas such as floodplains, wetlands, sub-surface aquifers, and other natural and cultural assets
  - c) That the protection of land areas that are devoted to agriculture and characterized by low density residential development is important to the citizens of the County
  - d) That the increase of the minimum lot size from 30,000 square feet to one acre or 43,560 square feet will ultimately benefit the County as it continues to grow in population.

**THEREFORE, THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FINDS THAT THE TEXT AMENDMENT ADDING MAJOR SUBDIVISIONS OF 10 OR MORE LOTS TO THE LIST OF REGULATED USES IN THE COLUMBUS COUNTY LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE AND THE TEXT AMENDMENT CHANGING THE MINIMUM LOT SIZE FROM 30,000 SQUARE FEET TO 43,560 SQUARE FEET, OR ONE ACRE, ARE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, REASONABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH THE COLUMBUS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, AND ARE BOTH HEARBY APPROVED.**

**ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.**

**/s/ RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**

**/s/ BOYD WORLEY, Board Attorney**

**/s/ AMANDA B. PRINCE, Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**

### **MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the consistency statement, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #12: PLANNING – APPROVAL of TEXT AMENDMENTS to the COUNTY’S SUBDIVISION AND LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE:**

Gary Lanier, Planning Director, requested Board approval and adoption.

# Columbus County

## ADMINISTRATION

TELEPHONE  
910-640-6630



TELEFAX  
910-640-1654

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**TO AMEND THE LAND USE REGULATION ORDINANCE OF COLUMBUS COUNTY, NC, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 1 ; ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 10, PART 2, ARTICLE 8, SECTION 2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD SUBDIVISIONS WITH MORE THAN 10 LOTS TO THE LIST OF REGULATED USES REQUIRING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT .**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners wishes to amend the Land Use Regulation Ordinance of the County and the Code of Ordinances to provide that prior to subdivision approval, subdivisions where more than 10 lots are created, are a type of land use that necessitates special use permit approval based on specified standards to insure that this type of land use, while essential and beneficial to the county, will be appropriate and not entirely incompatible with other uses in the area proposed for development. Those standards include that the use is in harmony with other land uses in the area and that the property values of adjacent properties are not substantially reduced; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners further determines that adjacent landowners should be given notice of this type of land use and an opportunity to be heard by presenting evidence at a quasi-judicial hearing; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners, in a separate motion, reviewed the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and determined that the amendment is consistent with the plan and reasonable; and,

**THEREFORE**, Article IV, Section 1, of the Land Use Regulation Ordinance is hereby amended to add the following to Section 1, as follows:

"

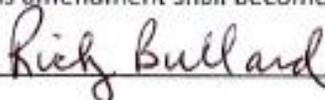
"Subdivisions where more than 10 lots are created.

**AND THEREFORE**, Article 8, Section 2, of the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Part 2, is hereby amended to add the following:

"

"Subdivisions where more than 10 lots are created.

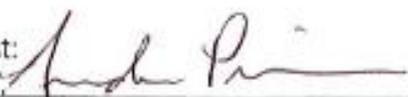
This amendment shall become effective upon adoption. Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2021.



Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners



Boyd Worley, Columbus County Attorney

Attest: 

Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

111 WASHINGTON STREET • WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28472

## Columbus County

## ADMINISTRATION

TELEPHONE  
910-640-6630



TELEFAX  
910-640-1654

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

TO AMEND THE COLUMBUS COUNTY SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 404.26) ALSO, KNOWN AS CHAPTER 10, PART 3, ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4, B. 1) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM LOT SIZE FROM 30,000 SQUARE FEET TO 43,560 SQUARE FEET, OR 1 ACRE, FOR NEW LOTS WITH NO PUBLIC WATER OR PUBLIC SEWER

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners wishes to amend the Columbus County Subdivision Ordinance and the Code of Ordinances to protect the presence of sensitive natural areas such as floodplains, wetlands, and other natural and cultural assets from development which would damage these resources or diminish their integrity; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners also wishes to amend the Columbus County Subdivision Ordinance and the Code of Ordinances to protect land areas that are devoted to agriculture and characterized by low-density residential development and, as such, preservation of the rural character of these lands, as well as the protection of valuable farmlands, and environmental and cultural resources, is deemed to be in the best interest of the County and its citizens; and,

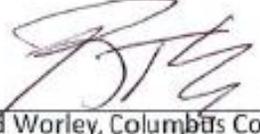
WHEREAS, the Columbus County Board of Commissioners, in a separate motion, has considered the following amendment and determined that the amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and reasonable; and

THEREFORE, Article IV, Section 404.2(a) of the Columbus County Subdivision Ordinance is hereby amended to increase the minimum lot size of new lots that have no public water or public sewer, from 30,000 square feet to 43,560 square feet, or 1 acre.

AND THEREFORE, Article 4, Section 4, B. 1), of the Columbus County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to increase the minimum lot size of new lots that have no public water or public sewer, from 30,000 square feet to 43,560 square feet, or 1 acre.

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption. Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2021.

  
Ricky Bullard, Chairman  
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

  
Boyd Worley, Columbus County Attorney

Attest:  
  
Amanda B. Prince, Staff Attorney/Deputy Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING  
111 WASHINGTON STREET • WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28472

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the text amendments, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #13: FINANCE – APPROVAL of FIRST CITIZENS BANK & TRUST COMPANY RESOLUTION FORM:**

Jay Leatherman, Finance Director, requested Board approval.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AUTHORIZATION  
OF  
Columbus County**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the Chairman of the above-named governmental entity, which entity is duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina /United States of America.

Resolved that the officers listed below are Authorized Representatives of the entity with the authority to execute all appropriate documents for the Custody account established with the First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company.

| <u>NAME</u>             | <u>TITLE</u>            | <u>SIGNATURE</u>   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>William Clark</u>    | <u>County Manager</u>   | <u>[Signature]</u> |
| <u>Bobbie Faircloth</u> | <u>Finance Director</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> |
| _____                   | _____                   | _____              |
| _____                   | _____                   | _____              |

I further certify that this authorization has neither been rescinded nor modified.

Signature: [Signature]  
 Print: P. Edwin Russ  
 Title: Chairman

(SEAL)

NBMA\N\778590\1  
 Revised 8/2010

INGV101 201008

**CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION  
 OF**

**Columbus County**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am a representative of the above-named governmental entity, which entity is duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of NC; that the following is a true copy of the Resolution duly adopted by the above-named governmental entity effective the 1st day of November, 2021.

**RESOLVED**, that the officers listed below are authorized Representatives of the above-named governmental entity with the authority to conduct all Trust Business on behalf of the entity with First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company.

| <u>Name</u>             | <u>Title</u>          | <u>Signature</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <u>Edwin Madden Jr.</u> | <u>County Manager</u> | _____            |

|                       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| <u>Jay Leatherman</u> | <u>Finance Director</u> | _____ |
| _____                 | _____                   | _____ |
| _____                 | _____                   | _____ |

I further certify that this Resolution has neither been rescinded nor modified.

Witness my hand and seal of this 1st day of November, 2021.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #14: FINANCE – APPROVAL of BB&T (TRUIST) CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING BORROWER REPRESENTATIVES and OFFICIAL CUSTODIAN:**

Jay Leatherman, Finance Director, requested Board approval.

**EXHIBIT D - FORM OF CERTIFICATE DESIGNATING BORROWER REPRESENTATIVES AND OFFICIAL CUSTODIAN**

In accordance with the terms of the Financing Agreement dated April 17, 2020 (the "Contract") between Columbus County, North Carolina (the "Borrower") and Truist Bank ("Lender"), the Borrower designates the persons listed below as Borrower Representatives authorized to sign requisitions to withdraw funds from the Project Fund account (as such terms are defined in the Contract).

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Printed Name:              | Signature: |
| <u>Ricky Bullard</u>       | _____      |
| <u>Edwin H. Madden Jr.</u> | _____      |
| <u>Jay Leatherman</u>      | _____      |
| _____                      | _____      |

The Borrower designates the person listed below an Official Custodian for the purposes of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The person listed below is an officer, employee or agent of the Borrower who has plenary authority, including control, over funds owned by the Borrower. Control of public funds includes possession of, as well as the authority to establish, accounts in an insured depository institution and to make deposits, withdrawals and disbursements. The Official Custodian on the account is considered the insured depositor.

|                       |            |                                      |                |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Printed Name:         | Signature: | Last 4 Numbers of SSN <sup>1</sup> : | Date of Birth: |
| <u>Jay Leatherman</u> | _____      | _____                                | _____          |

Upon written notification to Truist, the Borrower may update (a) Borrower Representatives to sign requisitions, or (b) the Official Custodian.

Columbus County, North Carolina

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name:  
Title:



**Explanation of Increase or Decrease:**

USE DONATED FUNDS TOWARDS PURCHASE OF NEW DOG KENNELS

Version 1.0

Budget Amendment.xls

Created:12/15/04

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item # 16: ADMINISTRATION – KATE B. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST GRANT No. 2022-004-COLUMBUS REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM:**

Ms. Lauren Cole requested Board approval.

**Kate B. Reynolds  
Charitable Trust  
Investing in Impact**

128 Reynolda Village  
Winston Salem, NC 27006  
336-397-5500  
www.kbr.org

October 22, 2021

Ms. Gail Edwards  
Columbus County  
111 Washington Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472-3323

RE: Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust (“Trust”) Grant No. **2022-004**

Dear Ms. Edwards:

On behalf of the Trust, it is my pleasure to inform you that a grant to your organization has been approved as described in the enclosed Grant Agreement.

To accept the grant, please read the enclosed Agreement carefully, have it signed by the appropriate authorized representative of your organization, and return the complete agreement signed to my attention no later than **November 5, 2021**. Please keep a copy of the signed Grant Agreement, cover letter, and attached materials for your files.

We may mention your grant award in press releases and newsletter articles, as well as include it in the ‘Recent Grants’ section on the Trust website.

We are looking forward to participating in this important program and wish your organization much success.

Best regards,

*Madison Allen*

Madison Allen  
Senior Program Officer  
336-397-5500; madison@kbr.org

On behalf of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

*Enclosures:*

Grant Agreement (with final budget and Grant Application attached)  
News Release Guidelines for Grantees

**Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust  
Grant Agreement with Columbus County  
Grant No. 2022-004**

This Grant Agreement (“Agreement”) made by and between Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as trustee of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust (“Trust”) and Columbus County (“Organization”) outlines the terms and conditions governing the Organization’s use of the Grant.

This Grant is identified as Grant No. 2022-004. Please use this identifier in all communications pertaining to the Grant.

- Purpose.** The Grant is being distributed to the Organization only for the following purposes:  
Programmatic funds to support asset mapping, strategic planning, and the creation of a broad-based opioid task force in Columbus County.

It is agreed that the Grant (together with any income from the investment of Grant funds) will be used only for grant purposes described above, as specified further in the final budget and Grant Application attached as Exhibit A to this Agreement. To the extent there is a conflict among them, the following order of priority indicates which document controls: (i) this Agreement, (ii) then the attached final budget, (iii) then the attached Grant Application. Any modification to this Agreement or of the funded program requires the written approval of the trustee, which the trustee in its discretion may or may not provide.

- Amount of Grant.** A grant to the Organization in the amount of \$285,914 has been approved (“Grant”). No more than \$25,992 of this total can be used for indirect expenses, leaving \$259,922 to be applied to the above specific charitable purpose.
- Payment Schedule.** The Grant will be disbursed over a period of 36 months, provided the Organization is in compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement at the time of payment. The trustee may in its sole and absolute discretion modify the timing or the amount of any payment and will notify the Organization in writing of any changes.

| AMOUNT    | PAYABLE AFTER | CONTINGENT UPON  |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| \$109,914 | 10/1/2021     | Return of signed Grant Agreement and notice that the organization is ready for funds |
| \$88,000  | 10/1/2022     | Receipt of acceptable report and notice that the organization is ready for funds     |
| \$88,000  | 10/1/2023     | Receipt of acceptable report and notice that the organization is ready for funds     |

- Required Reports; Trust Contact.** Electronic reports using the Trust online web portal will be submitted to the Trust as requested by the trustee. Expenditure reports signed by an appropriate authorized representative of the Organization must be provided as an attachment

to the electronic report. The trustee may require annual certified public accounting audits for the duration of the Grant period or other additional documents to verify statements in any report. All items required to be sent to the trustee per this Agreement should be submitted electronically via the web portal. **If you have any questions, please contact:**

Debra Hall, Grants Manager, at [debra@kbr.org](mailto:debra@kbr.org) or 336-397-5513

Web Portal Link: <https://www.grantrequest.com/Login.aspx?sid=1009>

5. **Trust Contact.** Except as noted in Paragraph 4 above, the Organization's official contact for matters relating to this grant is:
 

Madison Allen, Senior Program Officer  
 Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust  
 336-397-5500; 800-485-9080  
[madison@kbr.org](mailto:madison@kbr.org)
6. **Record Maintenance, Inspection & Retention.** The Organization must maintain records of receipts and expenditures and make its books and records available to the trustee for inspection at reasonable times. The trustee may monitor and conduct an evaluation of operations relating to the Grant, which may include a site visit by the trustee.
7. **Prohibited Activities.** So that the Trust may comply with applicable law, including the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code"), it is understood that the Grant will not be used for any of the following purposes:
  - A. To carry on propaganda, or otherwise to attempt to influence any legislation (within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(1) of the Code);
  - B. To influence the outcome of any specific public election or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive (within the meaning of Section 4945(d)(2) of the Code);
  - C. To make grants to individuals for travel, study or other similar purposes (such as scholarships, fellowships, or grants for research), unless such grants satisfy the requirements of Section 4945(g) of the Code;
  - D. To make any grant to any other organization (other than to public charities or exempt operating foundations) which does not comply with the requirements of Section 4945(d)(4) of the Code; or
  - E. To undertake any activity for any purpose other than the charitable purposes specified in Section 170(c)(2)(B) of the Code.
8. **Return of Unused Funds.** Any portion of the Grant (including any income earned on invested Grant funds) that is unexpended at the completion of the project or September 30, 2029 (whichever occurs first) must be promptly returned to the Trust, unless the Organization receives express notice to the contrary from the Trust.

9. **Tax-Exempt Status.** The Grant is contingent upon the Organization maintaining its public charity status described in Section 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(1), (2) or (3) of the Code. It is understood that the Organization will promptly notify the trustee if:
  - A. The IRS changes the Organization's tax-exempt status;
  - B. There is an issue pending before any office of the IRS that could result in any changes to the Organization's tax-exempt status;
  - C. The Organization intends to engage in a substantial and material organizational change (including any proposed termination of the Organization during the Grant period) that could impact the Organization's tax-exempt status.
10. **No Assignment or Delegation.** The Organization may not transfer or otherwise assign its rights or delegate any of its obligations under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the trustee.
11. **Other Required Notifications.** The Organization must promptly notify the trustee if the Organization will be unable to expend any portion of the Grant or if any portion of the Grant is used for a purpose inconsistent with this Agreement.
12. **Publicity.** If the Organization wishes to publicize the Grant, the Organization will incorporate information contained in the attached "News Release Guidelines for Grantees" into any such publicity. The Organization agrees to send a draft of any such press release or other publicity that materially deviates from such Guidelines to the trustee for review and approval before publication. The Organization may send any publicity that follows such Guidelines for review as well if desired.
13. **Right to Modify or Revoke.** The trustee, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to discontinue, modify or withhold any distributions or require a total or partial refund of the Grant if:
  - A. The Organization has not complied with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. This includes, but is not limited to, compliance with the requirement that the trustee timely receive any written reports and that the written reports contain the necessary information.
  - B. If such action is necessary to protect the purpose and objectives of the Grant or the charitable purposes of the Trust; or
  - C. If such action is necessary as required by law.
14. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

The party signing below on behalf of the Organization represents that such party has the power to bind the Organization and upon request will provide a corporate resolution or other similar documentation evidencing that the signer has the ability to enter into agreements and bind the organization such signer represents.
15. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto and supersedes any and all prior oral and written agreements and understandings. If a court of competent jurisdiction holds any provision of this Agreement invalid, void, or unenforceable,

the remaining provisions nevertheless shall continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way.

16. **Execution.** By executing this grant agreement, the Organization agrees to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. *Failure to abide by the terms and conditions of this Agreement may cause distribution delays or cause the Grant to be terminated, resulting in forfeiture of any remaining distributions, in the discretion of the trustee.*

**SIGNED:**

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee  
of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

By: Audrey Johnson

Date: 10-12-21

Printed Name: Audrey Johnson

Title: Trustee Representative

**SIGNED:**

Columbus County

*Check one:*

We are ready to receive and use the funds for the purpose granted.

We will request the funds in writing when we are ready to receive and use them for the purpose granted.

By: Eddie Madden

Date: 11-1-21

Printed Name: Eddie Madden

Title: County Manager

# Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

## Common Application Questions

Request ID: 2022-004

Organization: Columbus Regional Healthcare System  
 Project: Decreasing Substance Misuse and Overdose Deaths - Columbus Regional Healthcare System  
 Requested Amount: 259,922

### Your Mission

Tell us about your organization. What is your mission? What are you trying to accomplish overall? (This is likely more than can be achieved with a single grant) Columbus Regional Healthcare System (CRHS) was founded in 1935 and is one of only ten remaining county-owned hospitals in North Carolina. Our mission is to provide compassionate care, advance healing and inspire hope for our patients and their loved ones. The health and hope of our Columbus County community is under siege from substance misuse and the resulting overdose deaths among our most vulnerable populations.

We believe that effective integration of prevention, treatment, and recovery services across the whole community is key to addressing substance misuse and its consequences, representing the most promising way to improve access to resources and effectiveness of treatment. CRHS wants to act as a catalyst, bringing together a coalition of our many diverse communities, stakeholders, and subject experts to develop a comprehensive strategic plan, identifying needs and resources in order to implement a robust prevention and treatment system.

### Measuring Progress

Please briefly describe what you are attempting to accomplish with grant funding. How will you measure progress towards this goal? (Please restate the goal listed in the funding opportunity.)

The overarching goal of this project is to reduce rates of substance misuse and overdose deaths of all Columbus County citizens with a specific focus on vulnerable populations including Medicaid and uninsured populations.

Initial activities will include the completion of a thorough needs assessment including both quantitative and qualitative input. Through the assessment process, membership for a community coalition will be determined and a group established. The outcomes and analysis from the assessment will inform the strategic plan that the community coalition will develop.

Using the assessment data and community input, goals and objectives will be developed and utilized over the life of the grant to measure progress. These will include long-term goals to measure impact on prevention participation and a reduction in overdose deaths, ED visits and hospitalizations.

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# Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

## Common Application Questions

Request ID: 2022-004

### Working Toward Your Goal

Briefly describe the work for which you seek funds. This should be a summary of how you will work toward your goal.

Columbus County has not had a formal coalition or task force to address substance use and like so many counties, we find ourselves working in silos – not knowing what resources are available, where specific areas of need are and how to move forward to affect change. The work described below starts at baseline; addressing the basics and building on each step.

#### Year 1:

ACT Associates will conduct a county-wide needs assessment providing current data, and analysis. They will also conduct focus groups and stakeholder interviews to provide community perspectives and input into the project. We will convene a diverse and multidisciplinary community coalition including representation from minority/tribal communities, the faith community, local government officials, Trillium Health Resources (Behavioral Health Medicaid Managed Care Organization [MCO]), existing SUD treatment providers, law enforcement including officers, jail personnel, DA and Court representatives, TASC, parole and probation officers, medical services including hospital ER personnel, county emergency medical services, and Goshen Medical Center (county FQHCs). Also included will be those in recovery, any existing support/recovery groups, families, and the general public.

ACT Associates will help us learn how to function as a coalition, and a part-time program coordinator will be hired to organize meetings, follow-up with program and strategic planning activities and provide other clerical functions for the coalition.

Continuing to work with ACT, we will develop a strategic plan using the Recovery-Oriented System of Care model to assess needs, and resources. We will use this comprehensive plan of action for opioid prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery efforts moving forward. Goals and objectives will be identified, committees formed, and minutes prepared. We will include in our planning, the anticipated North Carolina Opioid Settlement and how these funds can be used to develop immediate access to treatment and services in Columbus County.

#### Year 2:

The coalition will begin implementing the strategic plan, including monitoring the status of the North Carolina Opioid Settlement funds, initiate community engagement/prevention programs such as drug take-backs, engage law enforcement to provide CIT/MHFA trainings, and begin working with schools and faith groups. ACT Associates will provide support and technical assistance including introducing and connecting coalition members and stakeholders to State and Regional resources and identifying and initiating other grant funding opportunities. Status of work on the strategic plan will be fully assessed every six months to determine progress, needs for adjusting or changing objectives/approaches and documenting successes.

#### Year 3:

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# Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

## Common Application Questions

Request ID: 2022-004

Continue to implement the strategic plan as noted in year 2, work with ACT Associates to move forward independently, review strategic plan, update data, make connections with other regional coalitions, identify, and initiate additional funding opportunities.

### Addressing Challenges

What challenges do you think you will face in working toward your goal, and how will you address these problems? Obstacles could include laws or policies, the political environment, difficulty hiring in rural areas, or similar barriers.

Data reflects that the number of prescriptions written for opioids is high in Columbus County. Addressing this with local medical providers could initiate push-back, but our goal will be to provide education and linkages between professionals to offer options and support for change.

We recognize that recovery in a rural community can be more difficult given the stigma and relative lack of anonymity experienced by those with substance use disorders (SUDs). One goal will be to begin developing a supportive environment for recovery by providing community education programs on the realities of addiction and reinforcing the understanding that individuals with SUDs can recover and lead productive lives. In addition, looking at treatment location alternatives such as primary care integration may also help.

Possibly the biggest challenge will be the chronic shortages of some SUD treatment services. We understand that some rural residents may have limited access to some services and even when available, they frequently must travel farther to access care and typically have less choice when selecting services and providers. After reviewing the results of the needs assessment, a focus of the strategic plan will be to identify and address these areas using novel approaches such as integration of services and the possibility of tele-treatment options. Columbus County has transitioned into the Trillium Health Resources catchment area and the Coalition will work closely with the LME/MCO through Medicaid Reform to develop and support needed services.

### Addressing Disparities

Data show that in North Carolina, African Americans, Latinos, American Indians, and those living in poverty often suffer the worst health and education outcomes. We also know that the people most impacted by poor outcomes are not always included in creating solutions to these problems. How will your work address these disparities in outcomes and decision making?

The population of Columbus County is very diverse including 33.0% African Americans, and 3.5% American Indian, the majority of which represent the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. The Waccamaw Siouan Indians are one of eight state-recognized Native American tribes in North Carolina. In addition, it is estimated that 6.2% of the population identify as Hispanic.

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# Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

## Common Application Questions

Request ID: 2022-004

The U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program reports that while 13.6% of the population in North Carolina live in poverty, 22.3% of adults and children in Columbus County are living below the official poverty level.

Each of these individuals are citizens of Columbus County and will be represented both in the needs assessment and at the table to work on this project. Purposeful attention will be paid to hold focus groups with these groups, taking care to make them easily accessible and to encourage their participation.

The risks of substance abuse, its consequences, and the processes for treatment and recovery also differ by gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and other factors. There will be times when a one-size-fits-all approach will not work, and we will call on and rely on our coalition members with lived experience to help us identify strategies and opportunities that will improve the outcomes for all. When working as a community coalition, we will continuously ask the question: Will this action benefit all of our citizens?

We are committed to fostering inclusion across gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and income.

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Columbus County and Columbus Regional Healthcare System has received a three year grant (Contract 2022-004) from the Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust to address decreasing substance misuse and overdose deaths. The total amount of funding is \$259,922.00. The grant was submitted by Columbus County on behalf of CRHS after consultation with staff from KBR and representatives from community public and other non-profit parties in July and the award was announced through the attached letter on October 22, 2021.

Columbus Regional Hospital representatives Stephanie Miller and Lauren worked with Addiction Training Consultants (ACT), of Chapel Hill and KBR Charitable Trust staff to design a proposal that would position our County to distribute Opioid Settlement funds through an approved plan. Columbus County agreed to be the fiscal agent for the grant while Columbus Regional Healthcare System staff will collaborate with ACT to implement the programmatic requirements of the proposal including evaluation and monitoring of outcomes.

During the three year cycle ACT will complete the following :

- Year One: ACT Associates will conduct a county-wide assessment proving current data, an analysis. A diverse and multidisciplinary community coalition will be convened and ACT will help the County learn how to function as a coalition. The planning cycle will anticipate the North Carolina Settlement and how these funds can be used to develop immediate access to treatment and services in Columbus County.
- Year Two: the coalition will begin implementing the strategic plan, including monitoring the status of the North Carolina Opioid Settlement funds initiate community engagement prevention programs and begin working with community groups. ACT will connect coalition members and stakeholders to State and Regional resources and initiate other grant funding activities. Status reports will be fully assessed every six months.
- Year Three: continue to implement strategic plan as noted in Year 2, work with ACT to review strategic plan, update data, make connections with other regional coalitions, identify and initiate additional funding opportunities.

Columbus County will be the fiscal agent for the grant and will accept approved activity invoices from ACT, request funds from the Trust to cover expenditures and cut checks for payment. A program coordinator will be provided by CRHS to assist with organizing meetings, follow-up with program and strategic planning activities and agreed upon clerical functions for the coalition. Award letter and approved budget is included as attachments

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**MOTION:**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the grant, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item # 17: ADMINISTRATION – EMERGENCY SERVICES STUDY COMMITTEE MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:**

Neil Emory, with the NCACC, requested the addition of two members to the Emergency Services Study Committee, Columbus County Manager Mr. Eddie Madden and Whiteville City Manager Mr. Darren Currie.

**EMS Study Committee  
Approved by the Board of Commissioners  
October 18, 2021**

**EMS Study Committee**

Chris Smith, County Commissioner  
Randy Guyton, Chadbourn Rescue Chief/Rescue Chief's Association Chairman  
Dr. Peter Chambers, Columbus County Medical Director  
Terry Vineziano, Columbus Regional Healthcare System Vice-President  
Sylvia Cox, Southeastern Community College, Executive Vice-President  
Steve Camlin, Acme Delco Rescue Chief  
Shannon Strickland, Whiteville Rescue Chief  
Darren Norris-Tabor City Emergency Services Chief  
Stefan Jacobs, Buckhead Rescue Chief

**Ex-Officio Members**

Eddie Madden, County Manager  
Nick West, Assistant County Manager  
Kay Stephens, Emergency Services Director

**Gail Edwards**


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**From:** Neil A. Emory <neil.emory@ncacc.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** Gail Edwards  
**Cc:** 'Mr. Madden'  
**Subject:** RE: [External] [\*External Email\*]EMS Study Committee 10182021

Eddie and Gail,

Thank you for providing the EMS Study Committee membership list. It appears to be a great group. However, I would like to suggest that the Board consider adding the county manager and one municipal manager to the committee as full members. These additions will reinforce to the community that county leadership is committed to the process and recognizes the importance of municipal input. Thanks.

Neil

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**From:** Gail Edwards <gedwards@columbusco.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:11 PM  
**To:** Neil A. Emory <neil.emory@ncacc.org>  
**Cc:** 'Mr. Madden' <emadden@columbusco.org>; 'Gail Edwards' <gedwards@columbusco.org>  
**Subject:** [\*External Email\*]EMS Study Committee 10182021

**\*\*\* EXTERNAL EMAIL \*\*\* DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe!**

Good afternoon Neil:

I hope you are doing well. Attached you will find the list of folks approved by the commissioners at the October 18, 2021 meeting.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,

Gail

Gail E. Edwards  
Senior Advisor to the Manager  
Columbus County Administration  
111 Washington Street  
Whiteville, North Carolina 28472  
910-640-6630

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the additions, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #18: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS:**

Staff requested appointments, re-appointments or replacements to the following boards, committees and councils.

**Legend: EB = Entire Board**  
**Listed Zone # = Individual Commissioner**

|                  |                           |                  |                            |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Zone I:</b>   | <b>Jerome McMillian</b>   | <b>Zone V:</b>   | <b>Brent Watts</b>         |
| <b>Zone II:</b>  | <b>Chris Smith</b>        | <b>Zone VI:</b>  | <b>Ricky Bullard</b>       |
| <b>Zone III:</b> | <b>Giles E. Byrd, Jr.</b> | <b>Zone VII:</b> | <b>Charles T. McDowell</b> |
| <b>Zone IV:</b>  | <b>Lavern Coleman</b>     |                  |                            |

| COMMITTEE  | ZONE/EB | PERSON(S)                   | EXP. DATE  | BOARD ACTION        |
|--|---------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Columbus County Animal Control Advisory Council      | III     | Millie Freeman (attendance) | 07/17/2023 | <b>Hold</b>         |
|  | V       | Johnny Worley (attendance)  | 05/21/2022 | <b>Hold</b>         |
| Columbus County Department of Aging Advisory Council | IV      | Emory Worley (retired)      | 06/30/2022 | <b>Frances Hill</b> |
| Board of Adjustments                                 | V       | Warren Miller               | 09/30/2024 | <b>Hold</b>         |
| Juvenile Crime Prevention Council                    | V       | Chip Gore (resigned)        | 06/30/2022 | <b>Hold</b>         |

**RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V BOARD MEETING:**

At 7:02 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV, and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #19: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:**

A. October 18, 2021

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING:**

At 7:03 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #20: COMMENTS:**

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for comments. The following spoke.

**A. Board of Commissioners:**

**1. Commissioner Watts** stated the following:

- I wasn't in the military but my family was and we just can't thank and honor our veterans enough in my opinion.
- I always feel like the veterans get left behind and they do, but it's just like the song says, "All gave some, some gave all" and we need to show respect to both.

-So I just want to thank you all for what you do and for the work that you're doing on the Veterans Park.

-I think it's a great thing for this county and we appreciate all that have served.

**2. Vice Chairman McMillian** stated the following:

-I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight.

-I do have some concerns.

-We're having a lot of issues with violence and it should be a top priority concern for our county.

-When we look at who is doing the shooting, we're looking at basically kids.

-I've had parents contact me about bullying still happening in schools and this is something we have to address.

-The kids have problems in school, then it follows to ball games and then to McDonald's parking lot or wherever they congregate.

-And once they start shooting it's too late and innocent bystanders are the ones getting hit.

-It's just unacceptable to me that we're still having all of these killings.

-We, the community leaders, need to work closer with the community to figure out what's going on in our county.

-We need to start doing something to curb this violence.

-This should affect all of us, not just those families, because it's our community.

-We shouldn't be worried about jurisdictions, we should be concerned about working together and what we can do to make our community safer.

-Our kids shouldn't have to worry about violence and getting shot.

-So I would just ask that all of the elected officials take a long hard look into what's going on right here in our community.

**Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-Until we put prayer back into schools and have discipline in the homes, this is going to continue.

-That's where it has to start.

-We have children having children and they just leave their children to go do whatever they want.

-I had to stop the other day in my area and get a small child, who could barely walk, out of the middle of the highway and there were 5 or 6 people in the house but the music was turned up loud.

-The children are not getting the discipline they need.

-When I was a young man living with my parents I had an 11 o'clock curfew.

-That's not happening now, they stay out all night.

**3. Commissioner Smith** stated the following:

-I want to back up what Brent said, thank you all for what you're doing at Veterans Park and for everything you do to honor our veterans.

-We really can't say enough.

**4. Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

-There's no way you can over thank a veteran, so I want to say thank you.

-I would like to encourage everyone to attend our Veterans Day Parade Sunday in Nakina at 2 o'clock.

-I would like to encourage everyone to vote.

-I would like to ask for an updated employee phone number and address list.

-I would like to ask if we've made some movement on the request at our last meeting of requiring municipal or county water and sewer?

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-We are in the process of drafting that and it will first be put to the Planning Board and then it will come before this Board at a later date.

**5. Commissioner Coleman** stated the following:

-I can echo the good things that have been said about our veterans.

-The best way we can show them that we appreciate them is by participating in their events.

-They have a number of events coming up including the Boston Butt Sale.

**Ms. Anita Adams** stated the following:

-It will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we'll be cooking through the night and they should be ready about noontime that day.

-The Vietnam Veterans and the Disabled American Veterans are holding the event jointly.

-We will be on Madison St at the old Collier's building.

**Commissioner Coleman** stated the following:

-I want to encourage people, especially in my district, water and internet are coming.

-We had a meeting the other night about it and just as soon as the funds are available we will start working in that area.

-You are not forgotten.

**6. Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

- I would like to say to our veterans, I appreciate what you do.
- I appreciate Mr. Madden and the central office for working with District Attorney John David and for giving up your office space.
- I've heard no complaining and I commend them for that.
- We're working together and there's a lot of that going on in Columbus County, more than I've seen in years.
- Thank you Vice Chairman McMillian for having a heart and mentioning the shootings.
- It takes more than just a mom and dad to raise a child, it takes a village.
- It takes us all working together to make a change.
- Thank everyone for what you're doing.

**B. County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

- I appreciate the District Attorney's recognition but I want to point out that the decision related to office relocations and how we can address some of the concerns of the court system was really an effort, not by Eddie Madden, but by our staff.
  - We assembled a group, comprised of Stuart Carroll, Gail Edwards and several others that really helped us to determine how best to resolve these issues.
  - So, I appreciate John David's comments but I want to give credit where credit was due.
  - Some relocation of the Board of Elections will take place this week.
  - The full relocation process will take place in a couple of weeks after the completion of the election process.
  - They will be relocating to the North Campus at the former BB&T complex.
  - The relocations have been going very well and I want to commend the Maintenance and Housekeeping staffs for that.
  - We are in the process of obtaining quotes for the replacement of the roof at Guideway School and at some point in the future this Board will be presented with a full list of the options available to you along with a recommendation from Mr. Carroll as to how you should proceed.
  - I am pleased to tell you the Whiteville Chamber of Commerce has approved me to serve on their Chamber Board and I will begin serving in that capacity at the beginning of the new year as we try to strengthen our relationships and communication between agencies to better serve our community.
  - I attended the Honeybee Mural Dedication last week and that was very nice.
  - We've continued visiting the various senior centers and last week I was at the Bug Hill Senior Center and that was a very good experience.
  - I have some recent personnel decisions to announce, Mr. Jay Leatherman, who has been serving as your Interim Finance Director since March of this year, has accepted the Finance Director position on a permanent basis.
  - That went into effect on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Mrs. Virginia Taylor, who is a 19-year veteran of this organization in the Human Resources Department has announced her retirement.
  - She will retire effective this Friday and we have planned a reception for her and you all are welcomed to attend as we recognize her contribution to Columbus County over the past 19 years.
  - In the Finance Department, Mr. Dylan Bowen has been selected as the new Existing Industry in Business Retention Specialist for the county.
  - He will be working with Dr. Gary Lanier's Office and his new duties will include marketing, business recruitment and retention and assisting with the planning duties Dr. Lanier and his staff have undertaken in recent months.
  - These vacancies, including Human Resources and others, will result in a net savings to the county.
  - We talked about those a little last time, but with regard to Human Resources, that position will not be posted, we do not plan, at the present time to fill it.
  - We plan to undertake the duties of the human resource function with our existing staff.
  - The position in Finance, with the transition of Mr. Bowen, is also a net gain to the county, again saving taxpayer dollars as we realign duties in order to maximize the work that goes on and save taxpayer dollars along the way.
- Chairman Bullard** stated the following:
- I believe there was some construction started on the Sheriff's Department this past week on the East End, so good things are going on and we thank you all for what you're doing.

At 7:25 P.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) Attorney-Client privilege and (4) Economic Development, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

**Agenda Item #19: CLOSED SESSION in ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11 (A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (4) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

No official action was taken.

**ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION and resume REGULAR SESSION:**

At 8:12 P.M., Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to adjourn Closed Session and resume Regular Session, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed.

**READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:**

Chairman Bullard requested Amanda Prince, Staff Attorney, to orally read the Closed Session General Account. Ms. Prince orally stated the following: "County Commissioners discussed opioid litigation with Evan Leonard, Richard Wright, Jake Daniels and Boyd Worley. They discussed Thriving litigation with Boyd Worley and Economic Development with Gary Lanier and Eddie Madden.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Closed Session General Account, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess the meeting until 9 A.M. on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were recorded and typed by LaToya Williams.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

**COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Tuesday, November 2, 2021**  
**9:00 A.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at the Dempsey B. Herring Courthouse Annex, 112 West Smith Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, to reconvene a meeting that was recessed on November 1, 2021, for the purpose of discussing redistricting in the county.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**  
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**  
 Chris Smith  
 Giles E. Byrd  
 Lavern Coleman  
 Brent Watts  
 Charles T. McDowell

**APPOINTEES PRESENT:**

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**  
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**  
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney/Clerk to Board**  
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

**Agenda Item #22: REDISTRICTING DUE to the 2020 CENSUS:**

Craig Schauer, Attorney with Brooks Pierce, addressed the Board on redistricting in the County due to changes in population shown by the 2020 Census.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

- After hearing your concerns at our last meeting and speaking with the developer we realized that the data we presented last time was incorrect. The demographer rebuilt the model from scratch using a new data set and I think you will notice a substantial change in the numbers that is more closely aligned with deviations in the Columbus County voter registration data.
- The first concerns you had were that the deviations in population between the districts were great, so we looked to see if there were other sets of data to confirm such great deviations.
- We pulled the 2020 Columbus County voter registration data, the deviations are meaningful, however, nowhere near the 20-30% we saw in the original stats we discussed.

**Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

- If you notice, I had more people vote in the 2020 election than the Census said I had in the original numbers.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

- Yes, that is correct.
- A third piece of information I wish to share with you that we looked at came from the American Community Survey (ACS).
- Every year the Census Bureau sends out a survey to roughly 3 or 4 million Americans.
- They use this data to try and project Census data based on the survey to give governments and businesses some sense of the change between the formal census every 10 years.
- This survey consistently showed the population of Columbus County being between 55,000 and 57,000 from 2010 up to 2019.
- And yet, you get the 2020 Census and it's dropped to 50,000.
- So, that was one data point that the new information doesn't match with, however, the General Assembly put out census data for all the counties based on precincts and if you total up the General Assembly's calculations of the Census data for Columbus County based on the precincts, it matches perfectly 50,623.
- A suspicion is that, as the Commissioners discussed, people didn't fill out the 2020 Census and so what you could find is that the total population is lower across the county because they didn't complete it.
- It seems the lack of participation in the 2020 Census was uniform across all districts.
- That suggests the total population reported by the Census might be low but if the lack of participation was even throughout the county then it means the deviations, the relative sizes of the districts reported by the Census roughly, should still be pretty accurate.
- So that's my discussion of the numbers, but I would like to have a similar discussion like we had last time because you know the county and you know your district, so based on the information I've presented does this match, somewhat, what you expected or do we still have concerns based on this new information? And, I will be happy to answer any questions.

**Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

- Well, I'm still not comfortable with the new information, I still think it's incorrect.
- Maybe I've just lost my confidence, but here's one thing I can point out to you, I represent District VI, the Black registered voters in 2020 were 440. At the last meeting you said I had 2,273 Black voters, on the data you present

today, it shows I have 1,266. I still think that data is incorrect. I think you have maybe twice as many as I have. I always pay attention to my voters and I've never had that many Black voters. I wish I had more, but I just don't think that's accurate.

**Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

-It's a shame we didn't have better participation with the Census.

-It seems to be uniform throughout the counties, it deviates some from district to district, town to town, community to community, but the sad thing is, is that it wasn't completed and that will cost us federal money.

-And, I would love for people to really think about that and to let people know that if you don't fill out the Census, then you don't exist in the government's eyes, so therefore, any monies that you would receive within this county are forfeit.

-So, in essence, we are depriving ourselves of federal funding that we deserve.

**Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-You know, one thing I haven't heard is the effect the pandemic had on all of this.

-The Census takers were cautious about going up to different places, different houses, and they weren't going inside and doing a thorough check because of the pandemic, and I don't blame them I would have been cautious also.

**Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

-I attended a workshop in 2018 where they talked about transitioning the Census from hard copies to completely online, and there was some discussion from rural representatives on the lack of internet access in our areas.

**Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-And, let's not forget our senior population who don't have access to internet or don't know how to use a computer if they do have access.

**Commissioner Bullard** stated the following:

-And, then there are just some people who won't fill out the Census no matter what, because in their mind, they don't see anything to gain by completing it.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-Thank you Mr. Schauer for coming back this morning and I want to thank you and your team for realizing there were some potential incongruities in the data based off population trends and for reprogramming that data.

-You mentioned the ACS as the interim barometer between censuses, and I think the Board's concerns are, they want to make sure that whatever the numbers are, we get it right.

-Can you speak to the Board on the reliability of using ACS data, or any other alternative measure, other than Census data, for the basis of determining redistricting, where the courts accept it.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-On Friday, when we were working under the assumption that the Census data was incorrect, we researched what alternatives the Board could use.

-The short answer is there's really no reliable alternative.

-The vast majority of governments throughout the country, when they redraw districts, do so based on the Census data.

-There was an option of using the ACS to the extent possible and the option of trying to purchase commercial data, for example, credit card companies and all types of data companies collect data, and those were recognized as potential options.

-We were only able to find one instance where any government body used alternative data and they used the ACS, and it was the state of Illinois, they used the ACS because it had a redistrict just prior to the 2020 census and the courts in Illinois struck down the new maps as unreliable.

-So, the only time we're aware of a government body trying to use data other than the Census, in that instance, the courts said that the data was not reliable.

-So it seems the only reliable option, the only option that the courts will uphold, is using the Census data.

**Commissioner Smith** stated the following:

-Has this been compared to the data from our Board of Elections?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-Yes, so if you look at the bottom left, that's your voter registration information.

-It's not a perfect proxy but it does show deviations roughly in the range of 8% above, 8% below more similar to what the Census is showing.

**Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

-If this Board were to support leaving the districts the way they are, because we're still uncomfortable with the data and a change this close to an election because it would confuse all the voters, not knowing whose district they're in or who to vote for and it would probably confuse some of us getting use to a new district, could that be possible? If we were to support a motion to leave the districts as they are, since we're still uncertain as to whether or not the numbers are reliable?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-That is possible.

-The risk in doing so, would be a citizen in Columbus County, looking at the Census data and saying, 'I think it is reliable and it shows that some districts are too large and some districts are too small and therefore leaving the districts in place violates the Equal Protection clause', and then that citizen bringing a lawsuit.

-Then it would really be up to a court to review the data and say whether or not it was reliable.

-My one concern is that throughout the country for decades the Census has been kind of the gold standard that courts look to, the one time someone used something else, they rejected it and said no you need to use the Census.

**Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

-The one thing that concerns me is the fact Commissioner Byrd pointed out, that COVID had a big impact on a lot of things and I think it impacted this Census data and I would say that would be a good arguing point on our behalf.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-It is; I would say the 2020 Census has been a very unusual Census.

-As I said, the data typically comes out in March and they didn't even have it ready until August and by that point it wasn't presented as a well-packaged data set, and that was caused by COVID and other complications as they changed the way they do this.

-So, this Census process has raised a lot of questions.

-Ultimately though, it does seem that the courts consistently rely on Census data and that there is a risk that courts could disagree with using a different set of data.

**Commissioner Smith** stated the following:

-Here is a red flag to me.

-The 2020 Census data, under the voting age population, we have 40,316. Down below that, you have information from our Board of Elections, and it shows we have over five thousand people who are eligible to vote that aren't registered to vote.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-I don't know what the average rate of registration is, but I do think it's pretty rare to have perfect voter registration in any county but I would say that 90% is relatively high, but you're right that does appear to be a meaningful difference.

**Commissioner Smith** stated the following:

-Especially considering how divided this country is, that just seems strange to me.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-That's true. There was record voter turnout in 2016 and continues to be given the polarization of the country.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-There is a consent decree that exists in our county based off of federal litigation and the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

-Based off the data you received November 1 and looking at the Voting Rights Act, it appears to be the sentiment of the Board that leaving it in place until we can confirm the data at a later time, as it applies to the VRA, as it applies to ensuring we have minority districts within the county, where do we stand with the data that we have? Are we in compliance with the consent decree based off the data that you see right now?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-Assuming the data before you is correct, we are not in compliance with the Equal Protection Clause because some districts are too large and some districts are too small, in particular, District VI is too large and District I is too small.

-Should we redraw maps we would try to increase the minority population in District III to see if it could be brought closer to 50 percent, which is where it was back in 2010.

-It's not clear that it's a Voting Rights Act violation because you actually have to be able to increase the population based on the Black communities in the area but we would at least try to do so because they were almost able to achieve a majority back in 2010.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-So, as the data stands right now, District I is a majority minority district and District III is close to being a majority minority district.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-Correct, District III would be considered an Influence District because the minority population is sufficient enough to have a meaningful influence on an election but it does not rise to a majority status.

**Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:

-District III has been the closest district to meeting the threshold for all the requirements you've stated today, so why would you want to change it?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-Well, you wouldn't have to necessarily change anything with District III.

-The focus would be on District I and District VI, because one is too small and one is too large.

-What would likely happen is as you adjust those districts you might have to move populations in and out of other districts to help rebalance those other two.

-We would want to maintain District I as a majority minority district.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-My understanding with the VRA and federal consent decree is we have to ensure compliance by having at least one minority district and right now, as the numbers exist we have that in District I.

-So effectively, right now, the numbers as they exist as of November 1, 2021, we are at least in compliance with that aspect of the VRA and federal consent decree?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-You can't draw that conclusion necessarily.

-The obligation is to draw a Black majority district if possible.

-What we don't know, is if you can make changes to District III, that would increase the Black voting age population to above 50 percent.

-We won't know that until you actually attempt to redraw.

-So, let's say you leave the district in place, someone could sue not only under the Equal Protection Clause for the deviation but they could also say there is a deviation in the Voting Rights Act because we believe it is possible to increase the Black voting age population in District III above 50 percent and you didn't try to do so.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-My understanding is there is an appeal's process to the Census data.

-My understanding is that, that appeals process has not yet begun or hasn't opened up for us to be able to do so.

-So we believe the window for that opens in January, for the data that has been submitted, specifically for Columbus County, if the Board, having consternation with the numbers submitted, consider taking action prior to November 17<sup>th</sup> and then potentially filing an appeal stating we have some inaccurate data, how would that impact, having a decision made now versus the opportunity to appeal the process to ensure we have reliable data later?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-So, the decision to make today is whether you believe the data is accurate or inaccurate.

-If you say the data is accurate, it would seem inconsistent to then appeal it later.

-However, if the Board were to say, we're not confident in this data based on our knowledge of the county, the Board could pass a simple resolution stating 'we don't find reliable evidence to show substantial inequality, which would otherwise require us to redistrict' and then the Board could file an appeal in January, and ask the Census to recheck the numbers in the hopes that it would reissue more accurate data the Commissioners could believe more correctly reflect the population.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-Are we able to use the ACS estimates in that appeal to the Census Bureau?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-I couldn't find detailed information from the ACS that contained a breakdown of the districts in the county data anywhere, but since Illinois used it in their case before the court, that makes me believe that somewhere, a breakdown of the data exists.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-It would seem to me, that if this data is correct, then District I will be deemed a minority district at 53.4% of the population being Black.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-If the Board were to determine that the 2020 Census data is accurate, it would actually trigger an obligation to redraw districts because of the deviations in the districts.

-We have the Equal Protection Clause and the Voting Rights Act.

-The VRA focuses on the race of the voting age population.

-The Equal Protection Clause focuses on the deviation.

-If the Board were to say this data is accurate, then District I and District VI would violate the Equal Protection Clause because it is outside of the 5% deviation allowed and would require the Board to redistrict.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-Based on the information you've presented; do you feel confident that we are complying with the VRA?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-Based on the information presented in all three tables, it appears that you are complying with the VRA.

-District I appears to consistently be above 50% in the Black voting age population.

-District III seems to historically hover around 50% so the fact that it is a little below suggests that, that is very reasonable and maybe it can't be brought above 50%, then that would be in compliance with the VRA as well.

-The reason I pause is, concluding that the percentage of Black voters in the district is accurate, it's contingent upon the assumption that the districts are equally sized.

-It's difficult to draw a conclusion that the voting age populations are accurate and reliable without first confirming that the districts are of equal size.

-However, given the consistency of these three things, it would seem that you are in compliance with the VRA particularly with District I and possibly with District III, but I can't say that with any confidence if we don't know for certain that the districts are properly balanced.

**Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

-So, it seems like we can maintain our "2" minority districts with the numbers that you presented today and satisfy the question of the variation between Districts I and VI.

-It seems to be a very complicated situation once you start moving lines.

-So, we either decline these numbers and say we want to keep our districts the way they are, or we run the risk of skewing the numbers of multiple districts to satisfy the deficiencies in two districts.

-We may have to skew other districts to satisfy the inequities in those two districts.

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-From a legal perspective, when you redistrict you have two obligations.

-The one person, one vote obligation, which is the deviations between the total populations and then the VRA.

-Based on the 3 sets of data it seems that you are in compliance with the VRA.

-The deviation is where the question rises.

-The 2020 data suggests that you do need to rebalance in order to adjust the total populations because one district is too large and one district is too small.

-The only information we have on that is the Census data, so if you were to determine the Census data is inaccurate, then you could say that you don't need to rebalance because the data is inaccurate.

**Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

-My only concern is, with the local environment that we find ourselves in today, are we opening ourselves up for a possible suit as a result of that?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-Redistricting has become more and more litigious over the years and it is often litigated if someone has the slightest problem.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-My concern is the Census data comes out in early spring of a given year.

-Now we've received the data in mid-fall of this year and the Board is expected to make a decision by November 17<sup>th</sup> that's going to impact the county for the next decade.

-We've had two sets of data that has given the Board some consternation and I think the Board wants to get it right.

-I think they want to verify the data that's been given to them to ensure accuracy because making a short-sighted decision now could certainly impact to the detriment of the citizens of the county.

-We've been given effectively a 10-day window to make that decision and I don't know how fair that is to the Board or to the county.

**County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

-From your experience, if you were to weigh which of the two categories would be tested or challenged, which would it be, the VRA or the disparity between voting districts?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-VRA litigation is more common.

-If you were to redraw because you determine that there are imbalances that need to be corrected in the total population, there is a hierarchy.

-the Equal Protection Clause is in the Constitution and then the VRA follows that.

-The law allows that as you go through the process of redistricting to comply with the Equal Protection Clause it might result in population shifts among the Black voters that would make a VRA district impossible.

-So, by rebalancing you are not necessarily inviting a VRA violation because the VRA takes into account there is a preceding obligation to rebalance.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-If a lawsuit is filed, what steps could this Board take to say we aren't making a final determination yet as to whether substantial inequality exists or doesn't exist, we are simply awaiting more information.

-How does that impact any potential litigation?

**Attorney Craig Schauer** stated the following:

-So if the Board were to say we're not adjusting the districts because we don't have confidence that they are imbalanced.

-The risk would be someone looking at the Census data and saying we think this data is accurate and you need to rebalance the total populations.

**Board Attorney Boyd Worley** stated the following:

-Is the data official yet or are we still dealing with preliminary data?

Attorney Craig Schauer stated the following:

-My understanding is that the data is still preliminary.

Board Attorney Boyd Worley stated the following:

-So, we're going to engage in an official act based on preliminary data?

Attorney Craig Schauer stated the following:

-Yes, but I will say the entire nation is engaging in that act based on what's considered preliminary data.

Chairman Bullard stated the following:

-Thank you Mr. Schauer, we appreciate your attendance in helping to explain this.

# Census Data Presented on October 28

Indications of Inaccuracy

October 28 - 2020 Census Data

| District     | Total Population |           | Voting Age Population |               |         |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|
|              | Population       | Deviation | Total                 | Black         | % Black |
| DISTRICT 1   | 8,896            | 23.0%     | 7,003                 | 2,589         | 37.0%   |
| DISTRICT 2   | 6,368            | -11.9%    | 5,191                 | 1,364         | 26.3%   |
| DISTRICT 3   | 7,373            | 1.9%      | 5,824                 | 1,186         | 20.4%   |
| DISTRICT 4   | 8,009            | 10.7%     | 6,250                 | 1,837         | 29.4%   |
| DISTRICT 5   | 6,564            | -9.2%     | 5,189                 | 1,415         | 27.3%   |
| DISTRICT 6   | 8,773            | 21.3%     | 7,194                 | 2,273         | 31.6%   |
| DISTRICT 7   | 4,640            | -35.8%    | 3,665                 | 828           | 22.6%   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>50,623</b>    |           | <b>40,316</b>         | <b>11,492</b> |         |

| District     | 2020 Columbus Co. Voting Registration |       |         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|
|              | Total                                 | Black | % Black |
| DISTRICT 1   | 5,205                                 | 2,951 | 57%     |
| DISTRICT 2   | 5,208                                 | 1,455 | 28%     |
| DISTRICT 3   | 5,244                                 | 2,653 | 51%     |
| DISTRICT 4   | 5,518                                 | 738   | 13%     |
| DISTRICT 5   | 4,953                                 | 1,473 | 30%     |
| DISTRICT 6   | 4,670                                 | 440   | 9%      |
| DISTRICT 7   | 4,904                                 | 526   | 11%     |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>35,702</b>                         |       |         |

| District     | 2010 Census Data |           |         |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|---------|
|              | Total Population | Deviation | % Black |
| DISTRICT 1   | 8,094            | 1.3%      | 57.1%   |
| DISTRICT 2   | 8,167            | 2.2%      | 27.2%   |
| DISTRICT 3   | 7,936            | -0.7%     | 49.6%   |
| DISTRICT 4   | 8,140            | 1.9%      | 13.8%   |
| DISTRICT 5   | 7,920            | -0.9%     | 30.5%   |
| DISTRICT 6   | 7,618            | -4.7%     | 8.3%    |
| DISTRICT 7   | 8,055            | 0.8%      | 10.7%   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>55,930</b>    |           |         |

# Census Data Presented on November 1

Indications of Accuracy

## November 1 - 2020 Census Data

| District     | Total Population |           | Voting Age Population |               |         |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------|---------|
|              | Population       | Deviation | Total                 | Black         | % Black |
| DISTRICT 1   | 6,683            | -7.6%     | 5,262                 | 2,812         | 53.4%   |
| DISTRICT 2   | 7,225            | -0.1%     | 5,771                 | 1,568         | 27.2%   |
| DISTRICT 3   | 7,020            | -2.9%     | 5,492                 | 2,558         | 46.6%   |
| DISTRICT 4   | 7,408            | 2.4%      | 5,911                 | 849           | 14.4%   |
| DISTRICT 5   | 6,865            | -5.1%     | 5,322                 | 1,521         | 28.6%   |
| DISTRICT 6   | 8,102            | 12.0%     | 6,572                 | 1,266         | 19.3%   |
| DISTRICT 7   | 7,320            | 1.2%      | 5,986                 | 918           | 15.3%   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>50,623</b>    |           | <b>40,316</b>         | <b>11,492</b> |         |

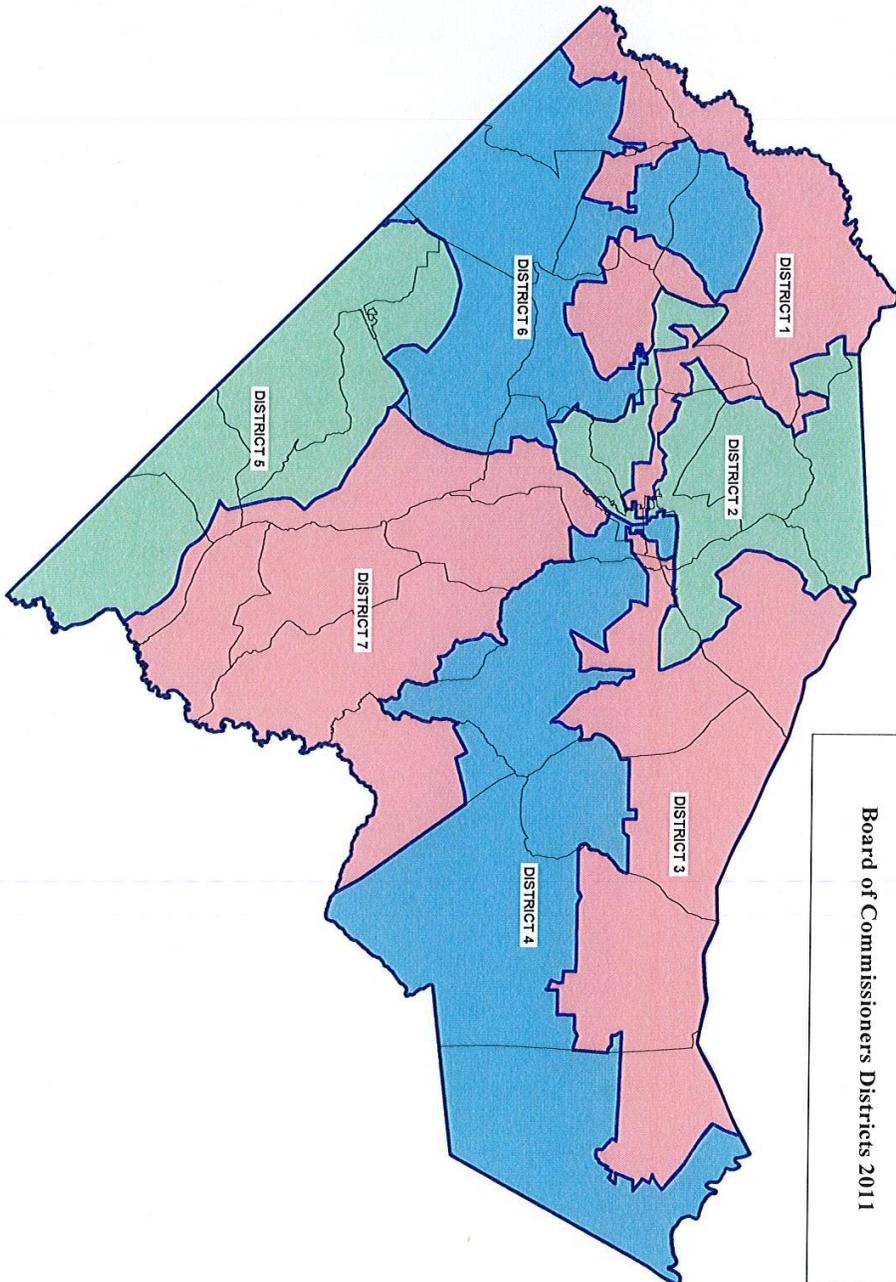
## 2010 Census Data

| District     | 2020 Columbus Co. Voting Registration |           |       |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
|              | Total                                 | Deviation | Black |
| DISTRICT 1   | 5,205                                 | 2.1%      | 2,951 |
| DISTRICT 2   | 5,208                                 | 2.1%      | 1,455 |
| DISTRICT 3   | 5,244                                 | 2.8%      | 2,653 |
| DISTRICT 4   | 5,518                                 | 8.2%      | 738   |
| DISTRICT 5   | 4,953                                 | -2.9%     | 1,473 |
| DISTRICT 6   | 4,670                                 | -8.4%     | 440   |
| DISTRICT 7   | 4,904                                 | -3.8%     | 526   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>35,702</b>                         |           |       |

| District     | Total Population |           |               | Voting Age Population |         |  |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|---------|--|
|              | Population       | Deviation | Total         | Black                 | % Black |  |
| DISTRICT 1   | 8,094            | 1.3%      | 6,179         | 3,526                 | 57.1%   |  |
| DISTRICT 2   | 8,167            | 2.2%      | 6,208         | 1,690                 | 27.2%   |  |
| DISTRICT 3   | 7,936            | -0.7%     | 5,994         | 2,971                 | 49.6%   |  |
| DISTRICT 4   | 8,140            | 1.9%      | 6,320         | 873                   | 13.8%   |  |
| DISTRICT 5   | 7,920            | -0.9%     | 5,944         | 1,810                 | 30.5%   |  |
| DISTRICT 6   | 7,618            | -4.7%     | 5,726         | 474                   | 8.3%    |  |
| DISTRICT 7   | 8,055            | 0.8%      | 6,028         | 642                   | 10.7%   |  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>55,930</b>    |           | <b>42,399</b> | <b>11,986</b>         |         |  |

# Current District Map

Boundaries of Current Districts



Board of Commissioners Districts 2011

**Agenda Item #23: ADJOURNMENT:**

At 10:00 A.M., Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Byrd. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were typed by LaToya Williams.

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**LATOYA WILLIAMS, Deputy Clerk**

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**RICKY BULLARD, Chairman**