



RISE TOGETHER - JAN. 23, 2024

SPOTLIGHT ON DE&I

MANAGING THE DEPARTMENT'S REPUTATION

Each month, we will highlight a policy to make sure you have all of the information you need to know about working for the department.

Media coverage is a great way to promote the department's programs and services, and most reporters are fair and do their due diligence. Unfortunately, due to quick deadlines and not having a thorough understanding of our department, reporters can sometimes get things wrong.

The Media Relations Policy is designed to help the department manage its reputation through the media. It also helps staff focus on the role for which they were hired by assigning media relations responsibility to the Community Relations team, which is trained in working with the media.

A few highlights of the policy include:

1. Only the designated Department Spokesperson should respond to the media on behalf of the department, including sending information proactively as well as responding to media inquiries. The Department Spokesperson is the Community Relations Chief or their designee.
2. If a reporter contacts you, politely let the reporter know you will connect them with the Department Spokesperson. Reach out to Community Relations as quickly as possible.
3. If you have an event or program that you think would be of interest to the media, reach out to the Community Relations team. They will talk through your request with you, and determine if the media would have interest. Please do not reach out to a reporter if you know them; the Community Relations team will make the initial outreach.

The Media Relations Policy goes into more detail about how to respond when a reporter calls and how to leverage the Community Relations team to promote events. [Read the Media Relations Policy - it's located within the policy manual on the intranet.](#)

English 

If you have any questions or receive a media request, please reach out to Dominique Shank, Community Relations Chief, at 614-512-0049.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

2024 BUDGET PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Last week, the department's 2024 budget was presented to City Council. Our 2024 total budget is \$74,135,000. Here's a snapshot of our proposed budget:

Area	2023 Budget	2024 Request	Increase	% of Budget
Personnel	\$48,375,460	\$52,939,941	9%	72%
Materials & Supplies	\$3,103,306	\$3,607,858	16%	5%
Services	\$13,410,631	\$15,259,739	14%	21%
Other	\$2,168,750	\$2,144,750	-1%	3%
Transfers	—	\$182,489	—	—
Grand Total	\$67,058,147	\$74,134,777	11%	—

The next step in the budget process is for City Council to approve it. They can approve it as proposed, or they can make changes and approve it. We expect it to be approved in the coming weeks.

[Learn more about the budget process and see the details of the department's budget.](#)

VOTE FOR US IN BEST OF COLUMBUS WEDDINGS

Congratulations to our Rental Services team! Three of our wedding rental venues were nominated for six categories in the Best of Columbus Weddings' annual readers' poll, which recognizes the top wedding vendors in Columbus.

The following venues were nominated:

- **North Bank Park Pavilion:** Ceremony: Indoor; Reception: Industrial/urban; Reception: Contemporary/modern
- **Columbus Park of Roses:** Ceremony: Outdoor; Reception: Garden/greenhouse
- **Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center:** Reception: Museum/gallery

Support our Rental Services team, and vote today! [You can vote once through Monday, Feb. 12.](#)

2024 PAYROLL CALENDAR

Make sure you know when we're off for a holiday, when to enter time off requests and when to review your pay stubs - [download the 2024 Payroll Calendar today!](#)

2/5/2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	1	2



There are no events on this day.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

MERRI EDWARDS

She/Her/Hers

**Section**

Care Coordination Assistant for the Senior Options Program-COAAA

Length of Employment

10 years

What's your favorite aspect of Columbus Recreation and Parks?

Working with the awesome people at COAAA.

What's your favorite project that you have worked on?

I really don't have a favorite. I enjoy the challenge of all projects that are assigned to me.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Mint chocolate chip

What is your favorite book or movie?

The Notebook

What is one piece of advice you have?

Enjoy the privilege you have servicing our community. I know it can be tough dealing with some of the people we serve. We don't know what they are going through the day we talk or visit with them. Just listen-sometimes that is all they need.

Nominate A Coworker for the Staff Spotlight

[Fill out this form to nominate a coworker.](#) They will be notified that they were nominated in order to answer spotlight questions.

ARCHIVE