

GOAL 1: Increase Public Safety and Our Collective Sense of Security

The City of Savannah will strive to enable Savannahians to live, work, and play in safe neighborhoods and have a strong sense of community safety through key investments in effective public safety initiatives.

- I. Drive Down Violent Crime, End Preventable Deaths, and Improve Community Safety.**
 1. End gun violence by partnering with community organizations to engage in targeted outreach, enacting common sense policies and ordinances, enforcing gun safety laws, and focusing on confiscating illegal firearms from the streets.
 2. End preventable deaths from fires through data-driven expansion of public education initiatives, expanding household fire safety programs, and enforcing fire safety rules and regulations.
 3. End preventable deaths from traffic ~~accidents-crashes~~ by improving transportation infrastructure, enhancing traffic management, strengthening law enforcement, and expanding public education through the implementation of the Vision Zero initiative, which aims to protect human lives.
 4. Foster safe behaviors in young people by supporting programs and services to help them reach their full potential, such as mentorship, job training, violence prevention programs, and other supportive services.
 5. Collaborate with federal agencies and local prosecutors to prioritize successful prosecution of all violent offenders.
- II. Build stronger community partnerships and improve transparency.**
 1. Strengthen community policing by enhancing initiatives such as the Community Specialist Program to increase police presence to focus on enforcing ordinance violations and quality of life issues.
 2. Develop interactive online public engagement tools to display public safety trends, policies, and safety data to encourage citizen feedback and engagement.
 3. Improve public communication during emergencies as well as routine public safety interactions.
 4. Collaborate with local nonprofits, schools, and businesses to strengthen the network of support and resources that address community safety and engagement needs.
 5. Ensure public safety policies, such as those related to use of force, community policing, mental health crisis response, and fire safety are reviewed and updated regularly with our community to ensure best practices and improved outcomes.
- III. Provide public safety personnel with necessary tools, resources, and training to effectively meet modern challenges and enhance community protection.**
 1. Expand the public safety technology program by enhancing the real-time safety center and leveraging advanced data analytics.
 2. Modernizing public safety facilities and upgrade safety equipment and fleet apparatus.

3. Expand wellness and resilience programs to better support the mental and physical health of public safety personnel.
4. Increase and diversify training and certification opportunities, including specialized programs.

IV. Develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive strategy to recruit, retain, and develop a diverse and highly qualified public safety workforce.

1. Update staffing and hiring processes, strategically recruit diverse candidates, refine onboarding procedures, and implement comprehensive career development and succession planning.
2. Use proven recruitment strategies to attract and keep young people in public safety careers and create programs that help develop local talent through community partnerships.
3. Continue enhancing rewards and incentive programs.

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GOAL 2: Invest in Equitable Community Development & Resiliency

The City of Savannah is dedicated to building strong neighborhoods, protecting housing, and promoting the well-being of all residents while celebrating our unique and diverse cultures and supporting individuals, families, and communities.

I. Expand access to housing affordability and availability, address homelessness.

1. Implement programs and partner with organizations to build, retain, and improve affordable and workforce housing options for individuals and families.¹
2. Update housing policies and ordinances to remove barriers and offer incentives that encourage the development of affordable housing.²
3. Work with local partners to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring by developing an effective crisis response system, improve connections to permanent housing and services, and continually addressing public health and safety issues that are present in areas where homelessness persists.³

II. Implement initiatives that build resilience, improve health, and foster stronger community connections and civic responsibility.

1. Promote and advocate for better access to health resources and provide programs that promote active lifestyles and address physical and mental health needs.
2. Invest in world-class, community-based recreation resources and programming that is available and accessible for all Savannahians.
3. Develop training and resources that empower neighborhood associations and build the capacity of residents, community organizations, and local nonprofits to effectively address community needs.
4. Promote civic engagement and volunteerism through improved citizen board and commission training, onboarding and support, and expand informal opportunities to participate in local service and governance.
5. Outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities to educate, inform and engage individuals on issues and opportunities to improve quality of life.

III. Celebrate Savannah's unique and diverse cultures by promoting the arts and celebrating our diverse communities.

1. Identify and protect Savannah's diverse local history and culturally significant assets, including the renovation and restoration of the Savannah Civic Center⁴ to a world class facility that serves the entire community.
2. Implement projects that support local arts, creative works, and innovative reuse of materials.

¹ See ["Housing Savannah Action Plan"](#)

² See also ["Federal 5-Year Housing and Community Development Plan"](#)

³ See Also ["Savannah-Chatham ICH 5-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness"](#)

⁴ See [upcoming Civic Legacy Plan](#)

3. Host programs and events that expand access and attract diverse audiences to learn, share and celebrate art, local cultures and history.
4. Develop and implement a Public Art Master Plan.

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GOAL 3: Expand Economic Access, Opportunity & Vitality for All

The City of Savannah is dedicated to expanding economic security for all residents by ensuring everyone has fair access to economic opportunities. We strive to grow our local economy by supporting local businesses and entrepreneurs and spearheading programs, policies, and actions that create and protect good-paying jobs and make it easier to do business in the City of Savannah.

- I. **Enhance financial security for low-wealth households by improving access to jobs, resources, and economic opportunities.**
 1. Invest in meaningful workforce development programs that train and place Savannahians in high-demand, high-paying jobs with clear career pathways.
 2. Support programs that empower residents to build long-term wealth through homeownership, savings, and investments by leveraging grants and partnerships.
 3. Collaborate with partners and local businesses to foster economic opportunity by implementing effective economic development incentive programs, streamlining permit and license processes, and building needed infrastructure to support local economic growth.
- II. **Support local, small, and minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.**
 1. Establish and support business incubators and strengthen partnerships to expand opportunities for certified DBE and small businesses.
 2. Expand business training and offer incentives to encourage small business growth, bringing more jobs to the community.
 3. Partner with local neighborhoods to invest and incentivize local business growth along historic and emerging neighborhood commercial corridors.
 4. Meaningfully prioritize certified DBE and local business in City procurement processes.
- III. **Promote sustainable and equitable development by leveraging community assets and historic preservation.**
 1. Advance strategic community-based initiatives that enhance public spaces, improve neighborhood corridors, and boost local quality of life through sustainable development.⁵
 2. Implement incentives that spur investment in underinvested areas and prevent forced displacement and the negative impacts of gentrification.⁶
 3. Use place-based planning and land-use policies, like neighborhood and small area plans, to drive redevelopment efforts that prioritize equity, sustainability, and the preservation of historic neighborhoods.

⁵ See Congress of New Urbanism reports on Southside Suburban Retrofit Report and Eastside Savannah Legacy Report, ~~as well as draft canal district plan~~

⁶ See "Gentrification Task Force Report 2004"

IV. **Expand access to public transit and mobility options.**

1. Partner with local organizations to inform residents about available public transit options.
2. Support infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, bike paths, and pedestrian crossings to provide safe and convenient access to public transit stops.
3. Work with Federal, State, Regional and Local Partners to provide maximum access to transportation options for low-income residents.
4. Promote the development of housing and commercial spaces near transit hubs.

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GOAL 4: Develop World Class Livable Environment & Infrastructure

The City of Savannah will make equitable investments in our infrastructure and built environment to create strong, resilient communities, support a thriving economy, and protect our environment.

- I. **Build better, stronger infrastructure to handle the needs of a growing community and changing climate.**
 1. Develop a comprehensive stormwater master plan to guide the design and construction of infrastructure that reduces flooding and mitigates the impacts of 100-year storm events, hurricanes, heatwaves, and other extreme weather conditions.
 2. Invest in advanced infrastructure for all City systems, using technology to monitor their condition in real time.
 3. Maintain full compliance with regulatory requirements and best practices by integrating environmental, public health, and safety standards into infrastructure planning, operations, and maintenance.
 4. Update building standards to support safe, resilient, and sustainable construction practices by incorporating industry standards, best practices, green design principles, and environmental sustainability.
 5. Maximize the lifespan of our infrastructure by implementing comprehensive asset management and proactive preventative maintenance programs.

- II. **Create and maintain world class public spaces that are safer, more accessible and welcoming for all.**
 1. Deliver consistent, high-quality maintenance services in all neighborhoods to uphold equity, preserve community assets, and enhance quality of life citywide.
 2. Enhance the City's transportation system through appropriate traffic management and traffic calming strategies to increase safety and reduce crashes, while improving connections across neighborhoods.⁷
 3. Prioritize street and sidewalk maintenance throughout the City.
 4. Use urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments, to improve quality of life and public safety, including installing better lighting, advanced security systems, and emergency stations.
 5. Upgrade and modernize public spaces to meet current and future community needs, and prioritize street, trail, and sidewalk maintenance throughout the City.

⁷ See Vision Zero Strategic Plan

III. **Be a leader in establishing environmentally healthy policies and equitable land use plans that protect our natural and cultural resources.**

1. Engage the community in the planning and design of all public spaces and comprehensive zoning and land use plans.
2. Continue and potentially expand the 100% Savannah Clean Energy plan and sustainability programs.⁸
3. Support community-led efforts such as tree planting, habitat restoration, and clean-up events, while strengthening community engagement and education campaigns and programs to raise awareness about environmental issues.
4. Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to take a leadership role in regional planning initiatives.
5. Strengthen and expand existing initiatives to preserve historic sites, restore historic buildings, and further promote Savannah's cultural history.
6. Support the use of recycled, locally sourced materials in construction, and encourage practices that reduce waste, save energy, and protect the environment.

⁸ See 100% Savannah Plan

GOAL 5: Improve Quality of Life by Raising Municipal Service Standards

The City of Savannah is committed to improving the quality of life for residents by raising the standard of upkeep and maintenance of public spaces and rights-of-way, and by providing high-quality residential services that promote healthy, vibrant and peaceful neighborhoods.

I. Improve neighborhood quality and livability.

1. Strengthen enforcement of quality-of-life codes and effectively enforce City Ordinances that protect the use of public spaces for the enjoyment of all.
2. Prioritize initiatives for reducing blight, removing graffiti, and supporting beautification programs such as Keep Savannah Beautiful.
3. Monitor and assess neighborhood conditions, addressing issues like litter, speeding and noise on a regular basis.
4. Continue collaborating with residents and organizations to promote neighborhood cleanliness through education and active engagement.
5. Conduct tri-annual reviews of quality-of-life codes and standards.
6. Balance resident and neighborhood needs, the preservation of our rich culture and heritage and maintain our place as a vibrant global visitor destination through a collaborative approach, data driven strategies and comprehensive communications.

II. Keep public spaces and infrastructure safe, clean, and well-maintained.

1. Equip staff with appropriate training and tools to enhance upkeep, address issues, and to maximize customer service quality.
2. Strengthen standards for maintaining public spaces to ensure facility accessibility, functionality, useability and quality for citizens and visitors.
3. Leverage new technology to streamline and improve processes to maximize maintenance efficiencies and minimize cost.

III. Deliver exceptional and personalized customer service efficiently and equitably.

1. Enhance efforts to provide timely updates on schedules for routine municipal services—like trash collection, recycling pickups, and street cleaning.
2. Enhance and expand the City's 311 system to serve as a centralized platform for capturing, integrating, and tracking service requests from all sources; use this data to monitor service levels, identify changing service demand trends, and engage and educate the community on City services and responsiveness.
3. Use tools and surveys to measure customer satisfaction and establish a "push" notification to inform residents about things that may impact their service schedule.
4. Establish a customer service program that trains employees and holds them accountable.

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GOAL 6: Always Be a High-Performing Government

The City of Savannah will provide exceptional municipal services that are responsive, inclusive⁹, and innovative. We will partner with citizens and businesses in the development of solutions for the community, practice sound fiscal management and do all things with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

- I. **Ensure every dollar of public funds is spent wisely, transparently, and to the maximum benefit of our community.**
 1. Exercise prudent and long-term focused fiscal practices that keep property tax rates as low as possible, maintain reserves, sustain a high credit rating, and diversifies revenue streams.¹⁰
 2. Transparently align budget resources with the City's key priorities.¹¹
 3. Save money to the taxpayer by implementing operational efficiencies, eliminating redundancy and waste, and optimizing partnerships to leverage shared services.
- II. **Use the latest technology to make city services fast, easy and accurate.**
 1. Enhance utility billing processes, implement user-friendly payment options and upgrade to digital records.
 2. Implement a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System.
 3. Launch data and performance management initiatives to monitor performance through open portal dashboards and trend analysis.
- III. **Build a talented ~~and engaged team~~ workforce of great public servants committed to providing exceptional services to residents.**
 1. Maintain a disciplined employee performance review process that builds professional strengths and holds team members accountable for expected job performance.
 2. Integrate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion principles in hiring and promotion processes.¹²
 3. Refine and advance a comprehensive compensation strategy.
 4. Offer training and professional growth opportunities to employees.
 5. Celebrate employee achievements and improve internal communication.
 6. Implement a citywide succession plan and Workspace Master Plan.

⁹ See REAL Taskforce Recommendations

¹⁰ See Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

¹¹ See Annual Financial Plan

¹² See upcoming Equity ~~Strategic~~ Implementation Framework Plan