



COMMISSION PRIORITIES MIDYEAR REPORT

20

24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission Priorities outline the top ten priorities set by the Board of Commissioners for the calendar year 2024. This report serves as a midyear update on the ten priority action items and five continuous improvement initiatives. Both the Board of Commissioners and the City Manager's Office are actively engaged in addressing each of these priority items.



BEAUTIFICATION AND WAYFINDING



Having a beautiful community with a variety of signage that welcomes visitors and generates pride in neighborhoods.

Key Accomplishments

This marks a new initiative for 2024, with the team currently coordinating efforts around the community signage depicted below. The City has allocated funding in the current fiscal year to initiate the process of updating community signage.

SIGNAGE TYPE

UPDATE

Entrance Signage

- Ongoing partnership with the Civic Beautification Board

Neighborhood Signage

- Planning determining the approach for a neighborhood signage plan that includes location, sign designs, materials, maintenance and implementation.
- Considering starting with street sign caps for southside neighborhoods

Highway Signage

- Researched highway signage in other communities and discussing a path forward
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DOWNTOWN



Concentrated effort to support, enhance, and improve our thriving downtown community.

Key Accomplishments

BUILD Grant Riverfront Development

- Secured \$3.5 million in funding from the state
- Successfully completed the archaeological survey work
- Project placed out to bid in June 2024 with bids opened July 16, 2024 and under review.

City Block Project

- City dissolved partnership with Weyland Ventures
- Parking area near Broadway under evaluation for an accelerated upgrade

Downtown Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District

- \$18 million of investment in the downtown TIF District

Beautification

- Upcoming installation of new benches and trash receptacles
- Increased focus on landscaping during the spring and summer months
- Efforts to establish a distinct ambience through fall-themed decorations



HOUSING



Continued investment in the improvement of our housing stock to help grow our community.

Key Accomplishments

- \$52,000 in the southside residential incentive leveraged \$256,000 in private investment
- Demolished buildings on the Katterjohn Site. Environmental analysis underway. A request for proposals for the site is being created.
- 64 participants at the Incremental Development Workshop in March.
- Continued partnership with the Paducah Alliance of Neighbors. Completed the first new build using southside residential incentives.
- Awarded 3 properties from surplus property for single family residential homes.



MINORITY INCLUSION



Lead by example through the adoption of city-wide and departmental inclusion strategies.

Key Accomplishments

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) maintains an active presence within the community, convening regularly to engage in various initiatives.

Noteworthy activities include:

- hosted a successful Fair Housing Luncheon, which attracted over 150 attendees
- actively participated in local events such as the Paducah PRIDE fest, Juneteenth Celebrations and 8th of August

Diversity Specialist completed a certificate program in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Cornell University. The position also delivered impactful presentations at the Paducah Board of Realtors, Paducah Public Schools and at the City's training for Boards and Commissions.



OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES



Use existing and new data to achieve process improvements and operational efficiencies

Key Accomplishments

- Added a permitting liaison to the FY25 budget
- Fire Prevention met with contractors, engineers, architects and other communities to gather feedback and implement improvements to permitting and field inspections.

CULTURAL ASSETS



Collaborate with community partners to support and invest in the historical and cultural resources unique to Paducah.

Key Accomplishments

- City & Hotel Metropolitan received \$1.34m in funding from the Mellon Foundation with City support of \$750,000 over 3 years (depending upon available resources). Costewardship agreement draft underway.
 - Pledge of \$500,000 to the Columbia. The funds are contingent on the group raising \$1 million by June 30, 2026
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QUALITY OF LIFE



Focused effort on City services and projects that improve the community.

Key Accomplishments

What Makes Paducah Special?

- Created and distributed 'What Makes Paducah Special' survey
- Received 78 responses.
- Next step is to create campaign based upon feedback highlighting responses from the survey.



SOUTHSIDE



Targeted empowerment, engagement, and beautification of Southside neighborhoods and the business community.

Key Accomplishments

This is an ongoing high priority for the Board of Commissioners. The City continues to make progress on upgrading amenities and infrastructure on the southside and is refocusing its housing efforts.

ACTIVITY

UPDATE

Southside Amenities

- Partnership with Paducah Power to add street lights to the Walter Jetton median. Installing lighted tinsel holiday decorations

Community Gardens

- Completed a driving tour to select lots.
- Next step is to develop strategies outlining how to develop each site, discussing their challenges and finding partners.

City Incentives

- \$52,000 in the southside residential incentive leveraged \$256,000 in private investment
 - \$73,000 in the southside business incentive leveraged \$480,000 in private investment
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STORMWATER



Further investigate the implementation of a stormwater master plan.

Key Accomplishments

The City is focusing on the 24th street basin and a \$1.2 million street improvement project:

- The detention basin has been shaped, the concrete flumes, headwall, and cast iron flap gate have been installed, and initial seeding has occurred.
- The next identified stormwater abatement project is the S. 24th Street Improvement Project. The project includes a waterline relocation, sidewalk, curb, gutter, stormwater conveyance system installation, and roadway rehabilitation.



TRAILS & BIKELANES



Having a walkable and bikeable community through the expansion of trails and bike lanes.

Key Accomplishments

The planning process for the Southside Greenway Trail Extension is currently in progress in collaboration with the National Parks Service (NPS) .

Following the completion of the initial phase of public engagement by the Steering Committee and NPS, efforts are now focused on incorporating the feedback received into the development of the proposed route.



128

**Public Meeting
Participants**

444

**Survey
Responses**

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS

PRIORITY

UPDATE



911

- Successful County partnership establishing governance and a 911 parcel fee
- \$10m radio capital upgrade project in progress



City Facilities

- \$700,000 planned for facilities projects in FY25
- Budgeted funds for future land acquisitions



Mental Health Awareness

- Implemented a comprehensive community marketing initiative to promote mental health awareness. A few highlights are:
 - Launched a second mental health awareness PATS bus wrap.
 - Honored with the WellMind Champion award from Emerald Therapy Center.
 - Produced and shared eight social media posts during May, reaching an audience exceeding 23,000 individuals.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS

PRIORITY

UPDATE



Paducah Sports Park

- Established a successful partnership with the City, County, and Sports Tourism Commission.
- Successfully completed the bidding process and conducted a groundbreaking ceremony.
- Anticipated opening date set for Fall 2025.



Revenue Equity

- Successfully collected around \$600,000 in outstanding property taxes
 - Executed payroll compliance audits spanning various sectors including salons, barbershops, real estate, and unregistered 1099 employees
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