



Getting crafty  
on the road:  
Try these  
projects during  
your next family  
vacation.

**In today's paper**

**SPORTS:** New  
Central High  
School football  
coach hired. **1B**

VOLUME 157, No. 5  
**LEDGER-ENQUIRER.COM**

[FACEBOOK.COM/COLUMBUSLEDGERENQUIRER](http://FACEBOOK.COM/COLUMBUSLEDGERENQUIRER)  
[TWITTER.COM/LEDGERENQUIRER](http://TWITTER.COM/LEDGERENQUIRER)

SUNDAY JANUARY 18 2026

**\$5.99**

# Ledger-Enquirer

## Columbus mayor names nominee for human resources director

BY BRITTANY MCGEE  
[bmcgee@ledger-enquirer.com](mailto:bmcgee@ledger-enquirer.com)

Columbus Mayor Skip Henderson announced Tuesday the candidate he has nominated to be the new human resources director for the Columbus Consolidated Government.

Ola Terrell, who has been the human resources director for Americus since 2023, is the applicant Henderson will recommend the Columbus Council



approve during its

Jan. 27.

If approved, Terrell would succeed Reather Hollowell, who retired at the end of 2025.

“Terrell is a seasoned human resources executive with more than 18 years of progressive leadership experience in local government and the public sector,” the news release says. “She brings extensive

expertise in strategic workforce planning, employee and labor relations, organizational development, policy administration, compliance and benefits administration.”

She also has worked as the chief human resources officer at Albany State University, human resources director for the City of Germantown, Tennessee, and human resources director for the Ware County, Georgia, Board of Commissioners, according to the release.



This is the First Avenue entrance to City Hall in Columbus, pictured July 14, 2025.

Terrell has a master’s degree in public administration and is a Senior Certified Professional (PSHRA-SCP).

“She is a certified crisis coor-

dinator and active member of numerous professional organizations,” the news release says.

**SEE NOMINEE, 4A**



Columbus Council meets Dec. 9, 2025.

## Why Columbus police won FBI agency of the year award

BY KELBY HUTCHISON  
[khutchison@ledger-enquirer.com](mailto:khutchison@ledger-enquirer.com)

The Columbus Police Department was named the recipient of the Georgia Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates’ Phyllis Goodwin Agency of the Year Award on Tuesday in Savannah, according to a news release from CPD.

“The award recognizes a law enforcement agency that demonstrates strong leadership, progress, and commitment to professional excellence,” the news release says.

CPD said it was selected due to their recent work in reducing crime, increasing staff, leadership development and modernization. In less than two years, the department reached full staffing, improved officer pay and boosted morale, CPD said.

The news release says CPD also made major investments in technology, which include Columbus’ first Real Time Crime Center, expanded camera and license plate reader programs, upgraded body-worn and in-car cameras, drone capabilities and modernized records and dispatch systems.

The results include Part I crimes dropping more than 30% over the past two years, violent crime dropping 29% in the most recent year and case clearance rates exceeding national averages, according to the news release.

“This award belongs to our officers, professional staff, and their families,” Chief Stoney Mathis said in the news release. “They showed up, stayed focused, and kept doing the job the right way, even when it wasn’t easy.”

BY BRITTANY MCGEE  
[bmcgee@ledger-enquirer.com](mailto:bmcgee@ledger-enquirer.com)

After three votes, the Columbus Council denied a controversial rezoning request for a

proposed development off Veterans Parkway after residents spoke against the plan during a December meeting.

David Erickson, president of Tiger Creek Development, applied to rezone 21.7 acres at

8828 Veterans Parkway and 4885 Charleston Way to allow single-family and multifamily residential homes on the property. The area is zoned for only single-family homes.

Tiger Creek Development’s

plan is to add 93 new homes, including 78 townhomes, Erickson told the Ledger-Enquirer.

The Columbus Planning Advisory Commission recommended

**SEE PARKWAY PLAN, 4A**

## Columbus area legislator outspoken on 2 controversial issues

BY MARK RICE  
[mrice@ledger-enquirer.com](mailto:mrice@ledger-enquirer.com)

A state legislator from the Columbus area has been outspoken about two controversial issues making news during the

first week of the 2026 Georgia General Assembly in Atlanta:

- Whether Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger should be forced to comply with the Trump administration’s demand for voter information.
- Whether U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents should be allowed to wear masks while making arrests in Georgia.

### ICE MASKS AND IDENTIFICATION BILL IN GEORGIA

Democratic lawmakers announced Tuesday legislation to change how immigration is enforced in Georgia. Senate Bill 389 calls for ICE agents to wear proper identification and to remove their masks while making arrests in the state.

“As far as wearing of tactical gear, whether it be a mask, a

**SEE LEGISLATOR, 5A**



We’re dedicated to delivering the journalism you rely on. Discover the stories that matter to you inside. Subscribers, explore more stories and features like puzzles and games at [ledger-enquirer.com/edition](http://ledger-enquirer.com/edition).

FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE QUESTIONS, CALL US AT: **888-323-1222** OR REACH US ONLINE AT: [ledger-enquirer.com/customer-service](http://ledger-enquirer.com/customer-service)

