

City of Tuscaloosa

A Report to Our Citizens Fiscal Year 2016

“Our standard of excellence: to be the most innovative and effectively managed city in the United States”

- Mayor Walt Maddox



Denny Chimes



River Walk



Tannehill State Park

City of Tuscaloosa

The City of Tuscaloosa is the county seat of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, located along the Black Warrior River in west central Alabama. Tuscaloosa was incorporated as a town on December 13, 1819 and Tuscaloosa also served as Alabama’s capital city from the years 1826 to 1846. The site of the capitol is now an archaeological site, preserved in Capital Park. Tuscaloosa has been traditionally known as the “Druid City” because of the numerous water oaks planted along the downtown streets since the 1840’s.

The City of Tuscaloosa has a Mayor and seven council seat form of government. The Mayor and council members are elected to four -year terms. The Mayor is the chief executive and administrative officer of the City. The Mayor’s duties include day to day operations of the City’s departments, preparing an operation budget with approval by the city council and acting as the ambassador to the City. The City council acts as the legislative body of the city and is powered by state law to consider policy and enact laws, and make appointments to City boards.

The City of Tuscaloosa has many manufacturing industries such as GAF Materials Corporation, Hunt Refining Co., Mercedes Benz, JVC America, and Nucor Steel. Health care and education serve as the cornerstones of Tuscaloosa’s service sector which include: University of Alabama Medical Center, DCH Regional Medical Center, the William D, Partlow Development Center and the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center.

Higher education is the bedrock of Tuscaloosa’s economy. Tuscaloosa is the home of Shelton State Community one of the largest community colleges in Alabama, Stillman College is a historically African American liberal arts college, and the University of Alabama, the largest University in the state of Alabama. The Tuscaloosa City Board of Education is composed of eight members that are elected by districts. The City of Tuscaloosa has 13 elementary schools, 6 middle schools and 3 high schools and 2 speciality schools for vocational and technology studies.

The City of Tuscaloosa has many museums, performing arts organizations, and parks. Most of the museums are in the downtown area, such as the Children’s Hands on Museum and the Murphy African American Museum, also the Alabama Museum of National History, and the Paul W. Bryant Museum located on the University of Alabama campus. The Bama Theatre is the home of the Tuscaloosa Children’s Theatre Company and the Tuscaloosa Community Dancers. The City of Tuscaloosa operates several parks and activity centers within the city, such as McAbee Activity Center, McDonald Hughes Community Center and Palmore Park.

Demographic Information	Fiscal Year 2016	Fiscal Year 2015
Population	105,0494	105,494
Per Capita Personal Income	\$36,016.00	\$34,999.00
Unemployment Rate	5.50%	5.40%
Number of City Employees	1,261	1,365



Foster Auditorium & Malone Hood Plaza



Tuscaloosa City Board of Education



Children's Hands on Museum



AL Museum of Natural History

Accomplishments

In 2016, The Tuscaloosa Amphitheater an outdoor venue that seats 7,470 people, hosted 12 concerts ranging from artists such as Jill Scott, 98 Degrees, Darius Rucker, and Rascal Flatts.

The City of Tuscaloosa is continuing its revitalization after the tornado in April of 2011. Federal block grants have helped the City to fund the Alberta Parkway, University Place/ Forest Lake City Walk project and the 10th Avenue Corridor. There are also initiatives to bring technology to low income areas.

The Alberta area was hit the hardest by the tornado in 2011. The City focused on public investment of this area. The area will have a new fire station, police precinct, a school of performing arts and the Gateway and Discovery Center in Alberta.

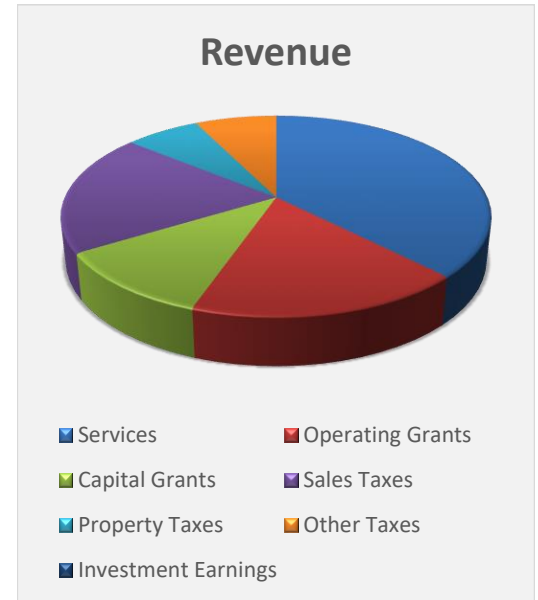
In May of 2016 Mayor Walt Maddox proposed to the Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission to oversee three large projects, to, accelerate the construction of projects while reducing the costs. These include improvements to McFarland Boulevard, an extension to McWright Ferry Road, and improvements to Jack Warner Parkway and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

The Gateway Innovation and Discovery Center in the Alberta Area opened in June of 2016. The center has a **discovery wall** with an interactive touch screen, a **children's exploration area** for science math and art, **training rooms** for corporate meetings lectures and seminars and **work lounges** for freelance workers and entrepreneurs who need work space.

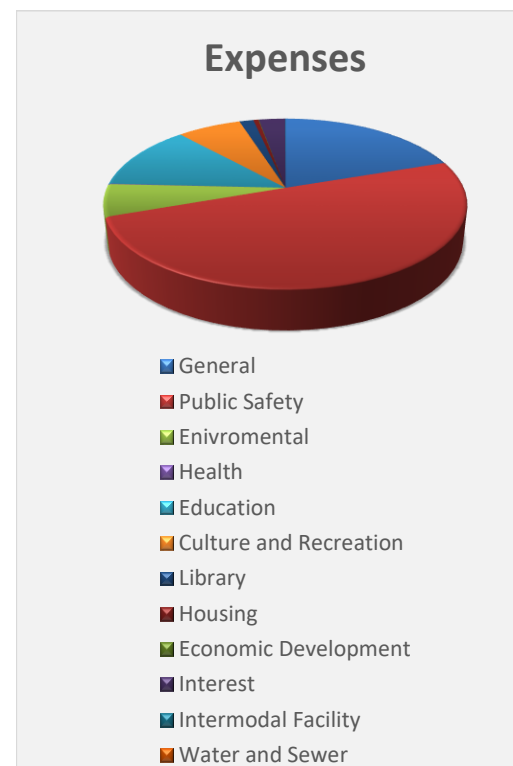
City of Tuscaloosa	2016	2015	Percentage
Performance Measures	Actual	Actual	Of Change
<u>Fire Protection</u>			
Number of Stations	11	11	0
Number of Employees	246	251	-2%
<u>Police Protection</u>			
Number of Stations	4	4	0
Number of Employees	284	362	-22%
<u>Public School System</u>			
Number of Schools	24	24	0
Number of Teachers	864	857	1%
<u>Recreation</u>			
Number of Parks	40	36	10%
Number of Playgrounds	36	34	6%
Area of Parks (acres)	2,438	1,749	28%
<u>Tax Revenues by Source</u>			
Sales Tax	\$37,296,511.00	\$36,098,135.00	3%
Property Tax	\$13,734,770.00	\$14,870,292.00	-8%
Lodging Tax	\$6,166,876.00	\$5,807,997.00	6%

City of Tuscaloosa Statement of Net Position

Revenue by Source	2016	2015
<u>Program Revenues:</u>		
Charges for Services	\$76,957,856.00	\$76,218,517.00
Operating Grants and Contributions	\$36,308,970.00	\$36,588,756.00
Capital Grants and Contributions	\$22,392,824.00	\$21,385,560.00
<u>General Revenues:</u>		
Sales and Use Tax	\$40,242,761.00	\$39,425,922.00
Property Taxes	\$13,734,770.00	\$14,870,292.00
Other Taxes	\$15,044,859.00	\$14,389,215.00
Investment Earnings	\$659,721.00	\$973,944.00
Gain (loss) on disposal of Capital Asset	\$0.00	\$1,100,000.00
Other	\$0.00	\$73,019.00
Total Revenues	\$205,341,61.00	\$205,025,225.00



Expenses	2016	2015
General Government	\$25,351,520.00	\$26,507,912.00
Public Safety	\$63,829,331.00	\$59,259,696.00
Streets and Highways	\$28,156,089.00	\$22,831,277.00
Environmental Services	\$7,831,430.00	\$7,397,239.00
Health	\$130,000.00	\$130,000.00
Education	\$15,908,779.00	\$14,803,495.00
Culture and Recreation	\$8,731,518.00	\$8,918,758.00
Library	\$1,919,273.00	\$1,919,273.00
Housing	\$686,792.00	\$552,019.00
Economic Development	\$67,066.00	179,859.00
Interest	\$3,587,862.00	\$4,244,615.00
Intermodal Facility	\$70,255.00	\$57,234.00
Water and Sewer	\$38,807,501.00	\$37,477,339.00
Total Expenses	\$195,077,416.00	\$184,278,716.00



The financial records for the City of Tuscaloosa have been reviewed by Jamison Money Farmer P.C.



Bryant Denny Stadium



Mercedes Benz Plant



Stillman College

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Mayor Walt Maddox

City Council

- Phyllis Wade Odom District 1
- Raevan Howard District 2
- Cynthia Lee Almond District 3
- Matthew Calderone District 4
- Kip Tyner District 5
- Edwin Pugh District 6
- Sonya McKinstry District 7



Mercedes- Benz- In 2017 Daimler will invest \$1 billion to build a new battery plant, electric vehicles and expand its logistics activities for supply of worldwide markets. Construction is expected to be completed in mid- 2017 and production of the facility should begin in December of 2019. There will be an addition of 1.4 million square feet of body shop space to accommodate the demand for Mercedes' sport utility vehicles. This expansion is expected to create 300 new jobs.

Alberta Revitalization- The City of Tuscaloosa will reopen the Small Business Revitalization Loan Program to provide incentives to businesses located in the recovery area of the 2011 tornadoes, whether the business is new or existing. Applicants can apply for the loans for the amount up to \$50,000.00 in the Alberta Area and in the 10th Avenue Area. The application process will be entered in as a loan but will act as a grant as long the recipient remains compliant with the terms of the Revitalization Loan Program. A new park and fountain will also break ground in 2017 in the Alberta Area.

Tuscaloosa County Road Improvement Commission- Over the next ten years the sales taxes will give the opportunity to have \$200 million worth of infrastructure projects completed that will solve long standing issues from a transportation standpoint.

Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service- Tuscaloosa Fire and Rescue Service will partner with the University of Alabama's University Medical Center to develop **ACTION (Appropriate Care and Treatment In our, Neighborhoods.)** The program will respond to the less critical needs of the community and reduce costly hospital emergency room transports and care. There will be nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers, and behavioral health providers in response vehicles to treat 911 callers, medical needs at the scene.

Tuscaloosa Urban Development Department- This department will hold meetings to help identify and examine specific planning and design elements, and encourage reinvestment and promote neighborhood stabilization. The feedback may assist the city in obtaining funding to accelerate economic opportunities in West Tuscaloosa.

Tuscaloosa Forward- This is an ongoing project with input from the citizens of Tuscaloosa on how to rebuild and create a community that is healthy, safe, accessible, connected and sustainable for everyone. The vision elements for this project are to build thriving neighborhoods, improve the health of the residents through community design and providing healthy food, provide accessibility to home business and public places to allow residents to move freely between neighborhoods, to build durable homes and buildings, connect the neighborhoods to strengthen bonds and relationships between neighbors, promote areas of distinct character, and create neighborhoods that are a model of economic prosperity, cultural richness, and environmental stewardship.