



**Fall Edition
2015**

Tuscaloosa City Hall
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Mrs. Cynthia Lee Almond
District 3

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Finance Committee
Chairperson

Public Safety Committee
Vice Chairperson

Litigation/Insurance Committee
Member

Public Projects Committee
Alternate Member

Council Schedule

Weekly Committee Meetings

Pre-Council	1:30 p.m.
Public Projects	2:30 p.m.
Council	6:00 p.m.

Alternating Weekly Meetings

Administration/Policy Committee
1st & 3rd Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.

Properties Committee
1st Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.

Finance Committee
2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee
4th Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.

Community Development Committee
3rd Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.

Litigation/Insurance Committee
5th Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.

Councilor Cynthia Lee Almond



District 3

Greetings District 3:

I want to update you on happenings in District 3 and the City of Tuscaloosa. Your city council district continues to grow. We are blessed with beautiful new neighborhoods as well as older, established neighborhoods that have some of the most desirable homes in the city. We have schools whose students excel in the classroom and in their many sports programs. The 35406 zip code is listed as one of the most affluent areas in the state, according to *The Washington Post*. The City of Tuscaloosa shows signs of prosperity and growth as well, particularly in the downtown area.

Allow me to update you on a few matters in our district:

Rice Mine Road Improvements

I believe I mention this topic in almost every newsletter. With the growth of neighborhoods across the dam as well as north of New Watermelon/Ol' Colony Road, we continue to experience slow and congested traffic during the peak morning rush hour. The City of Tuscaloosa has invested over \$1 million this past year to make improvements to this stretch of road in hopes of moving traffic more quickly during this peak time. Hopefully by now you have noticed the additional right turn lane at the corner by the new MapCo as well as the second left turn lane onto Bryant Bridge.



Our traffic engineers continue to work with our traffic signals to optimize traffic flow. Please bear with us as we work to finalize this project. I hope it will help!

Transforming Tuscaloosa County Legislation

During this past legislative session, Tuscaloosa County was able to pass legislation which amended the county sales tax distribution to create a new Road Improvement Authority for our county. In years past, cities and counties relied on federal earmarks to make large infrastructure improvements that were unaffordable by the local jurisdictions or state. In recent years, for better or worse, these earmarks have ceased, leaving many large scale road projects unfunded for the foreseeable future. Your local legislative delegation, working in conjunction with city and county leaders, were able to pass legislation known as Transforming Tuscaloosa County, which will help to provide much-needed funding for local schools and local transportation infrastructure projects without raising taxes.

The legislation combines the temporary one-cent sales tax and the existing two-cent county-wide sales tax to establish a stable three-cent county-wide sales tax. With the one-cent temporary sales tax created by the Tuscaloosa County Commission set to expire on June 1, 2016, this legislation creates a permanent three cent county-wide sales tax that funds education, transportation, local government services and local healthcare without raising existing taxes. The proposed legislation puts in place the funding mechanism to complete more than \$225 million in highway improvements and expansions in the next five to 10 years across the Tuscaloosa community.

A list of agreed upon first projects as identified in the legislation includes upgrades to McFarland Boulevard as well as the construction of the McWright's Ferry Road extension which will cross North River and connect into an interchange at the end of Bryant Bridge. Both of these projects will have significant impact to District 3 and hopefully will improve our traffic flow.

Councilor Cynthia Lee Almond



District 3

Hotels, Hotels, and More

You probably have read by now that we will have two new hotels in our district. The first to be approved was a Residence Inn by Marriott which will be built next to Church of the Highlands, currently being constructed across from Woodridge. The second hotel, the Regent Club Hotel, will be the only 5 star hotel in Tuscaloosa and will be built next to Cypress Inn for its guests.

The Regent Club Hotel is expected to offer ferry service to and from Alabama home football games for its guests. All projects which are currently being built along the Black Warrior River have been required (all have done so willingly) to reserve space for the Riverwalk to be built in the future. We currently do not have a funding plan for future Riverwalk phases, but we are working on some ideas!



In addition to hotels on the north side of the river, Tuscaloosa expects to have a new hotel on the south side of the river soon as well. Hotel Indigo is slated to be built on the old Chevrolet property site. There are currently 37 Indigo Hotels in the U.S. Each has its own unique style which showcases qualities that are found locally. The Hotel Indigo in Tuscaloosa will have a theme connected to the river along which it sits.

Sokol Park Improvements

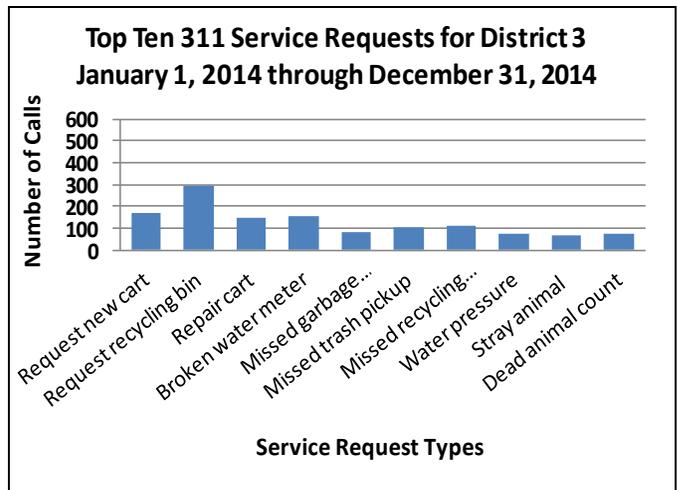
We continue to upgrade our parks. In District 3, we are fortunate to have Sokol Park in the middle of the district. This is one of Tuscaloosa's largest parks and offers a variety of

amenities. The city and county recently have funded additions and upgrades to the soccer and football fields in Sokol, added new playground equipment, enhanced and maintained the Will May Dog Park (wildly popular!), and added much needed parking to the north side of the park.



Tuscaloosa 311

I want to continue to encourage you to use our 311 service. You may remember that we implemented this service during my first term in office. I am pleased to report that the service has been well-received and grown over the years. During the 2014 calendar year, the Tuscaloosa 311 office entered 26,109 service requests. For District 3 alone, the office entered 2,496 service requests. The chart below shows the top ten most common topics and requests from District 3.



In closing, please know that I continue to be honored to serve our district and this city as a whole. I hope you know by now that I will gladly answer your telephone calls, emails, or texts. My cell phone number remains the same: (205) 393-5663, as does my email:

cynthiaalmond@bellsouth.net.

Please contact me with any questions, complaints, comments, or suggestions.