Government Finance Officers Association
203 N. LaSalle Street - Suite 2700
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone (312) 977-9700 Fax (312) 977-4806

June 29, 2016

Teresa Wilson
City Manager
City of Columbia
PO Box 147
Columbia SC 29202-0147

Dear Ms. Wilson:

We are pleased to notify you that your comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended **June 30, 2015** qualifies for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management

An award for the Certificate of Achievement has been mailed to:

Jeff Palen
Chief Financial Officer

We hope that you will arrange for a formal presentation of the Certificate and Award of Financial Reporting Achievement, and that appropriate publicity will be given to this notable achievement. A sample news release is enclosed to assist with this effort. In addition, details of recent recipients of the Certificate of Achievement and other information about Certificate Program results are available in the "Awards Program" area of our website, www.gfoa.org.

We hope that your example will encourage other government officials in their efforts to achieve and maintain an appropriate standard of excellence in financial reporting.

Sincerely,
Government Finance Officers Association

Stephen J. Gauthier

Stephen J. Gauthier, Director

Technical Services Center

SJG/ds

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06/29/2016

NEWS RELEASE

For Information contact:
Stephen Gauthier (312) 977-9700

(Chicago)--The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to **City of Columbia** by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to the individual(s), department or agency designated by the government as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning CAFR. This has been presented to:

Finance Department, City of Columbia

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago, IL, and Washington, D.C.