



CITY OF COLUMBIA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Skot Garrick, Office of the Mayor

Skot.garrick@columbiasc.gov

(803) 318-0024

**City of Columbia Begins Peace of Mind Initiative Providing COVID-19  
First Responders, Medical Professionals & Front Line City Staff  
Safe Rest Spaces in Participating Local Hotels**

*City of Columbia & Columbia Police Foundation have partnered with several local hotels, who have provided rooms at greatly reduced rates so COVID-19 responders will have safe rest spaces if they cannot immediately return to their homes.*

(COLUMBIA) The City of Columbia has partnered with several local hotels to launch the **Peace of Mind** initiative, beginning on Friday, May 8. Through this partnership, local hotels have designated safe and comfortable rooms to provide first responders, medical professionals and front line city staff who work in challenging environments that might allow for exposure to the Coronavirus, temporary resting places away from their homes, thereby keeping their families safe and giving them peace of mind.

Funds for the **Peace of Mind** program have been raised through private donations to pay for the reduced room costs, and will be facilitated through the Columbia Police Foundation, the fiscal agent for the program. Donations are still being accepted for this program.

"The work of a law enforcement officer can be emotionally and physically challenging on an average day. The recent pandemic adds stress components to our first responders," said Columbia Police Chief W. H. "Skip" Holbrook. "We are grateful for the opportunity for Columbia Police officers to have a respite especially when they want to quarantine to keep their families safe."

Stephen K. Benjamin

1737 MAIN STREET · P.O. BOX 147 · COLUMBIA, SC 29217 · PHONE: (803) 545-3075 · FAX: (803)733-8633



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“Our first responders, medical professionals, and frontline employees are heroes every day,” said Sam Johnson, who serves as Peace of Mind program chair, and is an advisor with Nexsen Pruet and NP Strategy. “This pandemic has required them to answer an even higher call. And, the best way we can say thank you is by supporting them.”

“Midlands area health professionals and first responders continue to serve at the forefront in the battle to contain and halt the COVID-19 virus,” said Mayor Steve Benjamin. “We cannot overstate the incredible service these brave and dedicated men and women provide to keep the public safe from the spread of the disease every day. Having a secure and safe place to rest at the end of their shifts will be an incredible recuperative resource for these courageous public servants.”

The City of Columbia’s City Council has been active in supporting the **Peace of Mind** program. Current City Council members are:

Edward H. McDowell, Jr – Mayor Pro Tem  
Sam Davis  
Tameika Isaac Devine  
Howard E. Duvall, Jr  
Daniel J. Rickenmann  
Will Brennan

Current participating hotels:

- Aloft — Lady St
- Holiday Inn - Washington St
- Lexington Wingate Inn - I-20 & 378
- Hampton Inn & Suites - Gervais St
- Home 2 Suites - Gervais St
- Hilton Garden Inn - Gervais St
- Fairfield Inn Harbison Northwest
- SpringHill Suites Downtown/Vista

The City of Columbia and Columbia Police Foundation continue to accept donations for funding the rooms provided through the **Peace of Mind** program.



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## To Contribute:

1. Visit [www.ColumbiaPDFoundation.org](http://www.ColumbiaPDFoundation.org) , click DONATE, then choose the PayPal option, or
2. Mail a check to:  
**Columbia Police Foundation**  
Ronda Wilson-Tyler C/O Tim Goldman  
1 Justice Square  
Columbia, SC 29201

## Foundation Contact:

Tim Goldman - President  
Columbia Police Foundation  
[TGoldman@ColumbiaPDFoundation.org](mailto:TGoldman@ColumbiaPDFoundation.org)  
803-546-0116

## Contributors to the “Peace of Mind” program so far include:

- Mayor Steve Benjamin
- Hamilton Capitol Center LLC
- Malkiel Svei
- Pinny Borenstein
- Sam & Ashley Johnson
- Al & Cindy Saad
- Will Batson
- Stan Harpe
- First Citizens Bank
- Chernoff Newman
- The Columbia Fireflies
- Senator Richard Harpootlian
- Representative Seth Rose
- Brookwood, Incorporate