

Article I. Name

The name of the organization shall be “The Land Bank Authority of Columbus, Georgia”¹ herein referred to as the “Land Bank”.

Article II. Public Authority

The Land Bank is a public body corporate and politic authorized by and operating pursuant to the Georgia Land Bank Act and the Columbus Consolidated Government (hereinafter CCG) Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XIII.

Article III. Purpose, Vision, and Mission

- A. *Purpose.* The Land Bank was established in 1992 for the purposes of developing and promoting for the public good and general welfare by returning land which is in a non revenue-generating, non tax-producing status to an effective utilization status in order to provide housing, new industry, and jobs for the citizens of the city.
- B. *Vision.* Lots of Good Use
- C. *Mission.* To return property to good use with partners.

Article IV. Board

- A. *Composition.* The Land Bank shall be governed by a board of seven (7) members. Four (4) members shall be appointed by the Columbus Council. Three (3) members shall be nominated and approved by the Land Bank and confirmed by Columbus Council.
- B. *Appointment.* Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
- C. *Term.* Board members serve for four (4) years and without compensation. Service is limited to two (2) consecutive terms.
- D. *Removal.* Board members who are inactive or fail to uphold the standards set forth in the bylaws or other Land Bank governing documents may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining board members. The vacancy shall be in effect as of the first day of the next calendar month.

¹ Columbus Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XIII

Article V. Meetings

- A. *Meetings.* By December 31st of each year, the board shall submit an approved annual calendar of regular meetings to the Clerk of Council. The chairperson may convene special meetings provided they meet state and local laws regarding open meetings.
- B. *Quorum.* A quorum shall be a simple majority of the entire board membership, and no action of the board shall be taken in the absence of a quorum. All actions of the board must be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the board present and voting.²
- C. *Attendance.* Solving complex real estate and community development problems in an open meeting setting requires active, timely, and reliable decision making. Attendance at board meetings is critical. Two absences from regularly scheduled meetings between January 1st and December 31st shall constitute inactivity.

Article VI. Officers

- A. *Election.* At the first meeting of each calendar year, the board shall elect officers in accordance with state law³. Annually, the board shall elect, among themselves, a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and treasurer.
- B. *Chairperson.* The Chairperson is responsible for leading the Land Bank, facilitating effective meetings, and signing Land Bank contracts.
- C. *Vice Chairperson.* The Vice Chairperson is responsible for assuming the Chairperson's role when needed.
- D. *Staff.* The Columbus Consolidated Government charges the Real Estate Specialist with oversight of the Land Bank to include duties generally associated with Secretary and Treasurer. The Real Estate Specialist shall maintain an excellent working relationship with all board members and strategically advance the Land Bank.

Article VII. By-Laws

- A. *Amendment.* The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a simple majority vote of the board.
- B. *Procedure.* A proposed amendment to the by-laws must be presented as part of the agenda at the preceding regular meeting.

² Official Code of Georgia Annotated 48-4-100

³ Official Code of Georgia Annotated 48-4-100