



*Leo S. Lutz, Mayor  
Michael Beury, Council President*

*Robert L. Pfannebecker, Solicitor  
Samuel Sulkosky, Manager*

Dear Friend,

The Borough of Columbia, like many communities across the country is faced with a limited tax base, an increasing demand for services and considerable increases in operational costs. In order to hold the line on taxes, we must cut costs and reach out to community partners. Your continued support of our community, especially at this critical time, would be greatly appreciated.

The Borough depends on revenue generated from the real estate tax. In order to meet the ever-escalating costs of public safety, personnel costs, fuel, street cleaning, snow removal, paving, curb repair and neighborhood cleanup, we have two choices. We can raise revenue by increasing taxes and other fees, or we can cut services. These services are vital to public health, safety and economic well-being of our citizens and neighborhoods.

Currently more than 15% of the property value in Columbia is tax-exempt. Your organization is one of the reasons why people love visiting, working and living in Columbia. We recognize the value of your organization, and we commend you on your commitment to our community and our residents.

You can have a positive impact on the continued delivery of quality services by making a "Fair Share" contribution to our community. Below we have listed your total assessed value and the amount you would pay in borough taxes, if taxable. On behalf of the more than 10,000 residents of Columbia, I respectfully ask you to consider donating a portion of what would be the tax level paid if you were not a tax exempt organization.

**Property:                      Total Assess. Value: \$                      Borough Tax: \$**

Columbia Borough's revitalization effort is showing! In 2014 Columbia Borough earned recognition by the Smithsonian Magazine as a top U.S. town for visitors, being named as one of "The 20 Best Small Towns to Visit in 2014" The Rt 441 alternate truck route will be complete by the end of 2015. This project has been in the works since 1995! "The Turkey Hill Experience" attracts thousands of visitors to the Borough and has exceeded their expectations. Our River Park facilities with its new docks and ramps for boats and kayaks along with the Columbia Crossings Building that opened in 2015 is attracting many more visitors. Once the alternate truck route is complete the trail will be opened to Marietta. The Borough added two new parking lots to accommodate the increase in visitors to the Borough. Rotary Park has had new playground equipment and a new basketball court installed. The Veterans Memorial Bridge Historical Lighting Project was completed in the fall of 2014 and has been selected to receive the Ralph Modjeski Award for Excellence in Transportation Design, Preservation and Archeology at the 2015 Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Awards. New lighting, trees and cameras were installed for our downtown streets. All of these projects have been accomplished through several grants by DCED, DEP, DCNR, PA Fish and Boat and Lancaster County. People near and far continue to invest in Columbia's future.

We would be happy to meet with the leadership of your organization to share information and answer questions. Feel free to call me at 684-2467, ext. 7313. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Georgianna Schreck  
Finance Manager