



OFFICE OF MEGAN N. KILGORE,  
CITY AUDITOR

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## **Auditor Kilgore unveils the Transparency Portal for Sunshine Week**

*City Auditor says this latest modernization effort will streamline the public records request process and make local government more transparent.*

COLUMBUS — In recognition of [Sunshine Week](#), **City Auditor Megan N. Kilgore** today unveiled the [Transparency Portal](#), an interactive website that makes public records more organized and accessible to the public. The Portal provides open access for exploring expenditures, revenue, purchase orders, and payments. Its interactive presentations and downloadable datasets offer citizens the opportunity to analyze information independently and gain insights into the City's finances.

“Public records belong to the people, not the government,” **Auditor Kilgore** said. “The Transparency Portal allows the people to access their records on their time.”

Content on the Transparency Portal is continuously updated. No personal identification information such as social security or tax identification numbers are published online pursuant to public records laws.

“We’re constantly seeking ways to better serve the people of Columbus and to increase trust with our constituents,” **Auditor Kilgore** said. “The Transparency Portal is just one more way we are modernizing the City Auditor’s Office and breaking down barriers between local government and the public we serve. The Portal allows us to bring additional visibility, openness, and accountability to local government by giving citizens powerful real-time data insights at their fingertips and at their convenience.”

Additionally, the Auditor’s Office has worked with City Council and others to streamline and centralize the public records request process for the City of Columbus. The Office utilizes the platform [NextRequest](#) for records request intake, management and tracking. A public records request can still be made in person, by phone, by letter, or by email, however, the NextRequest platform is the preferred method to submit a request.

“Transparency is critical to good governance and we take our job as records custodians very seriously,” **Auditor Kilgore** said. “By streamlining, centralizing

and automating much of the process, it lessens the burden on staff to acknowledge and respond to requests manually and drastically improves our response time. Pairing the NextRequest platform with the information proactively provided on the Transparency Portal to some of our most common requests is what citizens expect and deserve from their government in 2024.”

In yet another effort to improve transparency, the City Auditor’s Office also publishes the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report \(ACFR\)](#) that details a full-breakdown of the City’s finances each year in addition to the corresponding abbreviated the [Popular Annual Financial Report \(PAFR\)](#). The City is currently underway on the production of the 2023 ACFR and PAFR and has historically published their ACFR faster than any other large city in the Country. It is anticipated that both publications will be posted at the links above by early April.