

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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GULFPORT CONNECT Launches and is now available to download! *Our City's Smart Phone App That Improves Citizen Engagement*

GULFPORT, MS – The City of Gulfport is pleased to announce the completion of a 6-month long project to develop a new smart phone app, GULFPORT CONNECT, via a partnership between a tech company CitySourced and the City of Gulfport. The GULFPORT CONNECT app allows residents to easily report issues pertaining to City Code, City Concerns, City Parks, City Sewer, City Streets, City Traffic, City Water and Waste Pro. These service requests (including a photo & your GPS location) are easily and automatically routed to the appropriate department for a systemized and prioritized resolution with a touch of a button.

"GULFPORT CONNECT is the newest app that links our citizens to the city and gives them the power to connect instantly with city services. The new GULFPORT CONNECT app will allow residents to follow the progress of their requests as well. It's city government, in real time, right in the palm of your hand," said Mayor Billy Hewes.

The app is available through various platforms and locations. Most users will find GULFPORT CONNECT in the Apple App Store and Google Play, but we also have made the app available through our city website at: www.gulfport-ms.gov/gptconnect.shtml. Some of the great features the app houses include the ability to pay your water bill as well as the ability to view garbage & recycle pickup days, and keep up with coast social events. Lastly, the "Report It" button is where citizens have the power to submit requests for potholes, water & sewer leaks, drainage issues, and broken park equipment as well as some code violations.

"As a 15-year employee of the City of Gulfport, I understand the importance of being accountable and being able to quickly respond to our citizen concerns before they escalate into larger problems" says Ryan Merrill, Assistant Director of Public Works. "The more quickly we can respond to our citizens, the better service we can provide. Residents can continue to use our 311 Call Center to report non-emergency issues as well."

The app was built by CitySourced, a Los Angeles based company that represents the forefront of the open government movement by leveraging the latest technologies to take the friction out of civic engagement in ways that optimize government resources. In addition, CitySourced has been recognized with awards from IBM Smart Camp, AlwaysOn, TechCruch50, and others for innovations in service to the public sector.

"We are thrilled to be a supporter of Download Day to help drive product adoption and educate constituents on how easy it is to help make their city a better place to live," said Jason Kiesel, Founder and Chief Architect of CitySourced. "We developed CitySourced in order to streamline, prevent, and help predict the occurrences of urban blights and improve quality of life and public safety using mobile technology."

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About CitySourced

CitySourced is a real time mobile civic engagement platform. CitySourced provides a simple, and intuitive platform empowering residents to identify civic issues (public safety, quality of life, & environmental issues) and report them to city hall for quick resolution; an opportunity for government to use technology to save time and money plus improve accountability to those they govern; and a positive, collaborative platform for real action. A picture tells a thousand words and CitySourced makes it a snap!