

About Teresa

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson was elected as the 69th Mayor of Columbus, Georgia on November 30, 2010 with 68% of the vote. On January 3, 2011, she was sworn in as the city's first female mayor. On May 20, 2014 she was re-elected to a second term with 63% of the vote, making her the first Mayor since the city's consolidation in 1971 to win re-election in a contested race. She has three times been named to Georgia Trend's 100 Most Influential Georgians, and she holds a National Security Secret Clearance with the Department of Defense.

Since taking office, Mayor Tomlinson has collaborated with Council and stakeholders to reform the City's pension plan, saving taxpayers \$27 million over 15 years, while protecting the retirement benefits of Columbus' hardworking employees. She reformed the city's employee healthcare system saving taxpayers \$4.5 million annually, saving 120 employee jobs and instituting an employee Health and Wellness Clinic to lessen future city healthcare costs.

Mayor Tomlinson's Save A Pet program at the Animal Care and Control Center has lowered the city's animal euthanasia rate from 80% in 2010 to 29.5% in 2014. She obtained some \$300,000 in transportation grant monies to conduct a Columbus to Atlanta high-speed passenger rail feasibility study, which showed the rail line would be profitable in its first year. And, successfully led an effort, approved by Muscogee County voters, to allow Redevelopment Districts for the purpose of revitalizing in-town blighted and under-utilized areas.

In 2015, after the startling announcement of the potential closure of her undergraduate alma mater, Sweet Briar College in Virginia, Mayor Tomlinson joined with thousands of alumnae across the nation to raise \$28.5 million in 110 days and convert over \$12 million of that to cash in 70 days in order to fulfill the terms of a court approved settlement, which saved the college and kept the doors open, where it thrives today. She was a primary witness in the court case that was successful before the Virginia Supreme Court and was involved in discussions with the Virginia Attorney General's Office regarding the saving of the college. Mayor Tomlinson delivered the 2015 Commencement Speech, thought to be the College's last; but, instead, the speech became an endorsement for liberal arts education, an indictment of the failed leadership of the past and a rallying point for the

effort to save the college. Mayor Tomlinson is currently the Chairwomen of the Board of Directors of Sweet Briar College.

Mayor Teresa Tomlinson moved to Columbus in 1994 from Atlanta and married Wade H. (Trip) Tomlinson, who was raised in Columbus. For 16 years she practiced with the law firm of Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison and Norwood, LLC, where she specialized in complex litigation and was the firm's first female partner. She served from 2006-2010 as Executive Director of MidTown, Inc., a non-profit community renewal organization. Mayor Tomlinson is a 1983 graduate of Chamblee High School in Atlanta, Georgia (where she was inducted into the Chamblee High School Hall of Fame in 2015), a 1987 graduate of Sweet Briar College, in Virginia (where she was a 2011 Distinguished Alumnae), and a 1991 graduate of Emory University School of Law, in Atlanta.

Abbreviated Biography to be used for Introductions -

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