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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Innovating Green Mobility: 2025 Smart City Summit & Expo in Taiwan Presentation by Mayor Bernard Wagner Kaohsiung, Taiwan

March 21, 2025

Warm greetings from Belize City! It is an honor to participate in the Kaohsiung Smart City Summit & Expo, representing a city dedicated to sustainable and progressive urban mobility. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers for this opportunity to exchange ideas, share experiences, and collaborate on the future of green transportation.

In Belize City, we understand that transformation starts with a vision. Our journey toward electric mobility has been inspired by the successes of cities around the globe—places where innovation harmonizes with sustainability.

As Mayor, I was determined that we would not fall behind. Belize City deserves cleaner air, quieter streets, and a modern transit system that serves all citizens. This vision led us to introduce electric buses through a pioneering public-private partnership, with support from our national government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), alongside grant funding from the European Union

One of the greatest lessons we've learned is that meaningful change is not achieved in isolation. Our transition to electric buses is as a result of strong partnerships—between international agencies, government ministries, private stakeholders, and, most importantly, the Belizean people. Together with our partners, we designed a system that is practical, scalable, and community-centered.

The UNDP played a critical role in our procurement process, ensuring our buses met high efficiency and accessibility standards. Our fleet consists of 8.7-meter buses, seating 22 passengers, including designated spaces for wheelchairs and room for 20 additional standing riders. Equipped with surveillance cameras for enhanced security, USB charging ports for passenger convenience and onboard WiFi for improved connectivity, these buses have 290 kilometers per charge, making them ideal for urban transit and providing consistent and reliable service.

Data has been our greatest ally in optimizing routes and enhancing services. We strategically placed our electric bus routes along heavily traversed corridors, linking residents in need of affordable transit with the city's key business and education districts. We've also implemented real-time fleet tracking capabilities, all made possible through GeoTab via the 501 Transit App, allowing riders to plan their journeys with ease.

This reliability has transformed the commuting experience – residents can now wait comfortably at home until their bus is just minutes away, which has been a game changer. Feedback from passengers highlights the significance of these innovations. Riders appreciate not only the environmental benefits, but also the reliability, safety, and overall improvement in their commuting experience. In a recent eRide Social Impact Survey, 85% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the service, while 90% supported expanding the fleet. Most notably, our ridership has reached a remarkable 109,362 passengers—a testament to the growing trust and demand for this service. Our mandate is clear: we need more electric buses and expanded routes!

Since launching our pilot project in July 2024, our two electric buses have collectively traveled over 52,800 kilometers, reducing 79 metric tons of CO₂ emissions. To put this into perspective, a typical diesel bus emits 1.0 to 1.5 kg of CO₂ per kilometer—so this transition represents a tangible, measurable environmental benefit. This achievement not only marks success for Belize City but represents a scalable green initiative for the entire country.

Beyond emissions reduction, the social impact has been profound. Our ridership is composed of 70% women, many of whom rely on public transportation for work, education, and family responsibilities. Special fares for students and senior citizens have made our service more inclusive, and accessibility features ensure that individuals with disabilities can travel with dignity and ease.

HIS WORSHIP

MAYOR BERNARD WAGNER

FINANCE, BUDGETING, HUMAN RESOURCES, STAFF DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING,
PUBLIC RELATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS, ANTI-CORRUPTION

To ensure the reliability and longevity of our electric bus fleet, we have integrated local expertise into a robust maintenance model, with servicing every 30,000 kilometers and comprehensive annual multi-point checks. By harnessing local talent, we minimize repair downtime, foster technical capacity for EV servicing in Belize, and develop a local supply chain for parts and services. This approach not only supports the fleet sustainability but also strengthens the local economy and prepares Belize for a greener future.

Financially, our model is centered on sustainability. Revenue trends indicate consistent and growing ridership, and we are actively working toward a cashless ticketing system—set to launch next month—to improve efficiency and security.

Additionally, our public-private partnership approach has laid the foundation for future fleet expansion and service diversification.

Our roadmap includes:

1. **Expanding the Fleet:** We are in discussions to introduce more electric buses, and a small eTaxi fleet integrated with a rideshare app.
2. **Charging Infrastructure Growth:** In partnership with Belize Electricity Limited and private investors, we are working to install fast-charging stations across key locations.
3. **Data-Driven Optimization:** We will continue leveraging GeoTab analytics and transaction data to refine operations, improve bus stop placements, and enhance customer engagement.

While the road to green mobility has not been without its challenges, each hurdle has been a learning opportunity. For those embarking on similar ventures, here are a few key takeaways we hope will be beneficial:

1. **Public Trust is Essential** – Transparent communication and community engagement are crucial. Educating the public on the benefits of electric transit garnered strong support, with 90% of our residents now supporting further investment in electric buses.
2. **Technology is a Game-Changer** – Real-time data has revolutionized our ability to monitor routes, predict maintenance needs, and enhance the passenger experience. Smart solutions like the 501 Transit App empower users and improve operational efficiency.
3. **Policy Support Fuels Progress** – Our government's willingness to explore tax incentives, reduce import duties on EVs, and invest in charging infrastructure has significantly accelerated our momentum.
4. **Collaboration is Everything** – We have benefited immensely from the knowledge and experiences shared by other cities. Today, as we stand before you, we hope to reciprocate by making our data, insights, and strategies available to any city looking to embark on a similar journey.

As we look to the future, one thing is clear: Sustainable urban mobility is not just a necessity—it is an opportunity. It is an opportunity to create healthier cities, more resilient economies, and improved lives for our citizens. It is a challenge we cannot afford to ignore, but one we should embrace with optimism.

In Belize City, we are proud of the progress we have made, but we are even more excited about what lies ahead. We welcome deeper collaboration with Kaohsiung and other global partners to share data, exchange best practices, and create a cleaner, smarter transportation future for all.

Thank you once again for this platform. We look forward to learning from you, working with you, and driving forward—together—toward a more sustainable world.



Building Stronger Leaders for a Stronger Belize City!

At the Belize City Council, we believe that strong leadership is the key to driving meaningful change in our community. That's why our management team participated in an insightful, capacity-building workshop focused on enhancing leadership skills, fostering collaboration for a more efficient, effective, and future-ready Council!

The session equipped our team with the essential tools and strategies to lead with impact and navigate future challenges with confidence. Mayor Bernard Wagner addressed the team, reinforcing the importance of continuous learning and professional growth in ensuring the highest standard of service to our residents.

City Administrator Mr. Albert Vaughan and the entire management team were in attendance, and at the conclusion of this empowering session, each participant received a certificate for their dedication to personal and professional development.

This workshop has set the stage for a brighter, stronger future, where our team is more prepared than ever to serve our community with excellence, unity, and innovation!



Bringing Local Government to the Classroom!

The Belize City Council was honored to engage with the bright minds at St. Mary's Anglican Primary School for an interactive session on the role of local government!

Students got an inside look at how the Mayor and Councillors are elected and the many ways the Council works to serve our community daily. From city planning to public services, they discovered how local government shapes their everyday lives!

We remain committed to educating residents of all ages about governance and civic responsibility. A huge thank you to the management, staff, and students of St. Mary's Anglican Primary School for welcoming us into their learning space. The future of Belize is in great hands!



HE Ambassador Dr. Candice Pitts visits City Hall!

Mayor Bernard Wagner and Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller were honored to welcome HE Ambassador Dr. Candice Pitts to City Hall!

Ambassador Pitts, who proudly served alongside Mayor Wagner as a Belize City Councillor from 2018-2021, reflected on the past while engaging in meaningful discussions about the incredible progress made since then.

As we celebrate #WomensMonth, we recognize and applaud strong, trailblazing women like Ambassador Pitts who continue to break barriers and lead with impact.



Hon. Devin Daly visits City Hall

Mayor Bernard Wagner welcomed a familiar face to City Hall - newly elected Minister of State and Collet Area Representative, Hon. Devin Daly!

Before stepping onto the national stage, Minister Daly served as Programs Manager at the Belize City Council, working closely with Mayor Wagner on youth, sports, and community development initiatives. Now, both reunite in a forward-looking discussion focused on collaboration and progress for the people of Belize City.

Mayor Wagner congratulated Hon. Daly on his appointment and wished him every success as he takes on this new national role.

The synergy continues— from community roots to national reach!



Child Stimulation Month Parade 2025

Mayor Bernard Wagner, along with Council Members Eluide Miller, Evan Thompson, and Edmund Kwan, proudly kicked off Child Stimulation Month 2025 by participating in the annual Ceremony and Parade under the theme 'Small Steps, Big Skills, Unlocking Early Potential.' This event highlights the crucial role of early childhood education in shaping the future of our youth.



The Belize City Council played a key role in ensuring the parade ran smoothly by providing Enforcement Officers to manage traffic, our Sanitation Team to keep the streets clean, and employees who volunteered as marshals to maintain order and ensure the safety of all participants.

As we celebrate this special month, let's remember the value of investing in our children. Every small step they take unlocks big skills and endless potential. Our children are not just the future—they are the heart of it.

Together, we can unlock their full potential and create a brighter tomorrow for all!

Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller joins Inaugural Lego League Competition as Secret Judge

Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, upon invitation from Belize's National FIRST LEGO League Challenge 2025, served as a 'SECRET JUDGE' at the inaugural competition held over the weekend, with schools from across the country participating.

Deputy Miller had the opportunity to witness firsthand the incredible talent, creativity, and innovation on display from all the participants. The competition was filled with impressive teamwork and ingenious designs, truly showcasing the remarkable potential of our young minds.

A huge thank you to all the participants for your dedication and hard work! Your inspiring display of creativity and problem-solving not only amazed us but also reminded us of the immense power young minds have to shape the future!

Congratulations to all the winners:

1st Place
BHS's Team Atlantians

2nd Place
Muffles College Bobcats

3rd Place
BES's Team Titanic Techs



Highlights: National Heroes and Benefactors Day 2025

Mayor Bernard Wagner, Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, and Councillor Stephanie Hamilton proudly represented the Belize City Council at the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony in commemoration of National Heroes and Benefactors Day 2025 in Belize City.



Strengthening Municipal Collaboration: Belize City Council Supports Belmopan's GIS Development

We had the pleasure of hosting GIS Officer, Mr. Shamir Jacobs, from the Belmopan City Council as part of a municipal knowledge-sharing initiative!

During his three-day visit, Mr. Jacobs engaged with our GIS Specialist, Mr. Vasni Pech, gaining valuable insights into how we currently utilize and plan to expand GIS technology to enhance city management, service delivery, and urban planning. He also observed best practices and explored how GIS is streamlining operations to improve public service efficiency.

This collaboration is a significant step toward advancing municipal innovation and efficiency. By sharing expertise and strengthening inter-city partnerships, we are laying the foundation for smarter, more sustainable communities.

A special thank you to Mayor Pablo Cawich and the Belmopan City Council for initiating this partnership. We look forward to continued collaboration in shaping the future of urban development!





Congratulations!

DEPUTY ELUIDE MILLER

YOUR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO THE COUNCIL AND
OUR CITY IS APPRECIATED AND RECOGNIZED.

VOTED IN BY THE COUNCIL, ELUIDE MILLER HAS BEEN **ELECTED DEPUTY MAYOR!**

2025 - 2026

Belize City Council joins in Celebrating Rt. Hon. Said Musa @81!

Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, Councillor Evan Thompson, and City Administrator Albert Vaughan had the privilege of joining Hon. Francis Fonseca, Hon. Henry Charles Usher, and Hon. Kareem Musa to celebrate the 81st birthday of Former Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Said Musa.

In celebration of this milestone, his son, visual artist Yasser Musa, and the Imagination Factri team launched the Said Musa Archival Project, featuring a limited edition print and eBook titled "Noh Wach Mi Wach Yuself." The first phase of this important project focuses on digitizing significant articles, photos, videos, and audio materials that capture the life and achievements of Belize's third Prime Minister.

Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council extend heartfelt birthday wishes to Rt. Hon. Said Musa, expressing gratitude for his pivotal contributions to the development of our nation. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations. Here's to many more years!



Deputy Mayors Countrywide Attend Board of Survey Training

Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller, along with Deputy Mayors from city and town councils countrywide, attended a Board of Survey Training Session organized by the Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour, and Local Government.

The training aimed to enhance financial oversight, asset management, and auditing procedures, promoting greater accountability and efficiency in municipal governance as we approach the new fiscal year.



28th Belikin La Ruta Maya River Challenge

Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council proudly congratulate all the paddlers who participated in the 28th Belikin La Ruta Maya River Challenge concluding right here in Belize City!

Your determination, resilience, and exceptional teamwork have truly embodied the spirit of this legendary race. You represent the heart and soul of this event, and your efforts are an inspiration to us all.

A special congratulations to the top 3 finishers:

1st Place: Slim and Trim like Guava Limb

2nd Place: Memory Layne

3rd Place: Lucas Oil

To all participants, we commend your outstanding efforts, and we can't wait to see what next year's challenge will bring!



Belikin La Ruta Maya After Bash 2025

The Belize City Council, in collaboration with LOVE FM, hosted the Belikin La Ruta Maya After Bash 2025 at the Civic Center in Belize City! The atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as everyone celebrated the conclusion of the 28th Belikin La Ruta Maya River Challenge, enjoying a variety of local food, drinks, music, and our FREE Kids Zone, courtesy the Belize City Council.

This event served as a fantastic opportunity to drive local economic development, providing a platform for our talented vendors to showcase their products and services. A huge thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the day with us, and a special shout-out to our vendors for always being a key part of Belize City Council events!



THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH INCLUSION IN GOVERNANCE IN BELIZE

Regarding the topic, “the importance of youth inclusion in governance” cannot be overstated. Young people make up a significant portion of Belize’s population, and they must be well prepared to take on leadership roles, as they represent the future of our beloved country Belize. Many of the young people bring fresh perspectives and innovations that many of the older generation might not grasp. We, as young people, strongly desire significant opportunities to voice our opinions and concerns when it comes to democracy and the future of our country. We, the future of Belize, are deeply affected by the choices our leaders make and the policies that have been set. By allowing youths to participate more directly in the decision-making process, leadership is cultivated in preparation for the next generation. Democracy, like education, cannot be developed overnight; it takes time and grows as each generation learns.

In the same way, studies and reports have found that countries that have less youth participation in governance and few youth upliftment programs have more young people adopting fundamental beliefs and ideologies. Conversely, young people are sometimes stereotyped as instigators of violence or “troublemakers”. However, they are often the driving force behind social movements and key advocates for positive changes within their communities and the country of Belize as a whole, pushing for a future grounded in opportunity.

There are many ways young people can and have contributed to building a stronger community. Youths are increasingly involved in creating peaceful and inclusive environments, taking charge to improve their environments and create a better Belize. Additionally, methods to build a stronger community include promoting social cohesion. Meaning to strengthen the relationship among all members of the community. In a community with strong social cohesion, the members feel more connected with each other, sharing common goals and working together to create a safe inclusive community where everyone is respected no matter who they are.

Also, another means is to advocate for youth inclusion. That means pushing for rules and more programs. To advocate effectively, youths can start off by raising awareness about issues that directly affect them such as access to education, job opportunities and affordable housing. In fact, young people can also advocate for policies that provide services like training and resources for young people to engage in democracy. On the other hand, young people can empower their peers to be involved and participate in issues that affect their community. Secondly, encouraging their peers to use technology wisely and being able to recognize cyberbullying or inappropriate behavior shown online. For example, many young people use “Chat Gpt” for the benefit of their community; some young people use it to get ideas on what to advocate for, or how to advocate. That goes to show proper use of technology. In summary, youth inclusion within our government is important as the choices made today will affect us and future generations to come.

2ND ESSAYIST OF THE
MAYOR FOR A DAY ESSAY COMPETITION



ELISSA SALAM
SAINT CATHERINE ACADEMY

Belize City at the 2025 Smart City Summit & Expo in Kaohsiung!

Upon invitation from the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in Belize and our Sister City Kaohsiung, Mayor Bernard Wagner and his Belize City delegation proudly participated in the 2025 Smart City Summit & Expo—a premier global gathering where city leaders, technology pioneers, and urban planners collaborate to drive cutting-edge advancements in smart city solutions and sustainable development.

Mayor Wagner took the stage in a high-impact panel discussion under the theme, “Smart City Cross Borders: Fostering Interoperable Smart Cities for Global Cooperation.” Representing Belize City alongside distinguished speakers from Poland, the United States, and Taiwan, he shared insights on how Belize City is embracing smart technology to enhance urban management, mobility, and service delivery through strong international partnerships.

This platform allowed us to not only showcase our progress in leveraging technology for citywide improvements but also learn from other global leaders, gaining valuable knowledge to drive our own Smart City expansion.



Strengthening Sister City Ties in Kaohsiung!

While in Taiwan for the 2025 Smart City Summit & Expo, Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council delegation had the honor of visiting our friends at the Kaohsiung City Government Administration Center.

Deputy Mayor Charles Lin and his team warmly welcomed our delegation as both cities reaffirmed their 20-year strong partnership. Mayor Wagner and Deputy Mayor Lin discussed new opportunities for collaboration that will continue to drive innovation, cultural exchange, and urban development for both Belize City and Kaohsiung City.

As a symbol of our shared friendship, both leaders exchanged tokens of appreciation, further solidifying the deep ties between our two cities.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Deputy Mayor Lin and the Kaohsiung City Government for their gracious hospitality and for hosting us during this meaningful visit. We look forward to strengthening this special bond and working together toward a brighter, smarter future!



116,119

eBUS PASSENGERS

July 2024 – March 2025

COMING SOON

eRide Taxi Service

Experience top-notch transportation service with just a tap!

Stay Tuned!



POWERED BY



Innovating Green Mobility: Belize City on the Global Stage!

On Day 2, Mayor Bernard Wagner participated in his second panel discussion at the 2025 Smart City Summit & Expo in Taiwan, this time under the powerful theme “Innovating Green Mobility.”

Representing Belize City and the wider region, Mayor Wagner highlighted the transformative journey of our eMobility Pilot Project, launched under the broader initiative “Towards Low Carbon Transport: Piloting E-Mobility within Belize’s Public Transport System,” in collaboration with our project partners.

The project has already made significant strides in:

- Introducing electric buses to reduce emissions and noise pollution
- Improving reliability and accessibility with live GPS tracking via the 501 Transit App
- Reaching over 100,000 riders since its launch in July 2024
- Empowering women and students, who make up a large share of our ridership
- Cutting over 79 metric tons of CO₂ emissions, proving the potential for real environmental change

From concept to implementation, Belize City is proving that small cities can lead big transformations when we embrace innovation, equity, and sustainability.

We’re proud to share our story on the international stage and continue building partnerships to power the future of clean, smart transportation in Belize and beyond!



Smart Moves in Kaohsiung!

While in Taiwan for the 2025 Smart City Summit & Expo, Mayor Bernard Wagner and the Belize City Council delegation had the exciting opportunity to visit the Intelligent Transportation Center of Kaohsiung City – a hub of cutting-edge mobility innovation!

From smart parking systems to AI-powered traffic management and multi-modal transport integration, the team explored how Kaohsiung is using technology to make transportation more efficient, safe, and sustainable for its residents.

This knowledge exchange was timely and valuable as we continue to strengthen Belize City’s own smart mobility journey, including our growing eMobility Pilot Project and future plans for traffic and transport transformation.

We’re energized by the possibilities and grateful for the opportunity to learn from one of our sister cities leading the way in smart urban transport!



Independence Primary Tours City Hall: A Step Towards Empowering Future Leaders!

Big smiles and bright ideas lit up City Hall as we welcomed the enthusiastic students of Independence Primary School from the Stann Creek District! These eager young minds had the opportunity to learn about the role and functions of the Belize City Council while exploring various departments.



As a Council, we are dedicated to bridging the gap between youth and governance through educational initiatives like these. These tours not only provide a deeper understanding of how local government works but also inspire the next generation to actively engage in shaping the future.

A huge thank you to Independence Primary School for joining us and showing such great interest in the work we do. We hope this exciting visit not only provided a glimpse behind the scenes but also sparked their passion to become future changemakers in their communities.

Together, let's continue inspiring and empowering our youth to take an active role in building a brighter future!

World Down Syndrome Day!

Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller and the Belize City Council celebrate the remarkable abilities and valuable contributions of individuals with down syndrome. We stand united in promoting inclusion, respect, and equal opportunities for all.

Let's continue building a community where everyone is empowered to shine.



GETTING TO KNOW

Deputy Mayor

ELUIDE MILLER

What sparked your passion for public service, and what keeps that fire burning today?

Public service has always been deeply meaningful to me because I've experienced firsthand the impact of opportunity and hard work. My father dedicated 37 years as a public officer, and as a first-generation college graduate, I navigated the challenges of relocating every two to three years due to his role. Through it all, I worked tirelessly and seized every opportunity to grow. Since the age of 19, I've dedicated myself to serving others, starting as President of the Student Government at the University of Belize. What motivates me every day is the love of our people—seeing real change in our communities fuels my commitment to this work.

What's the most rewarding part of working for the Council, and how does it make you feel?

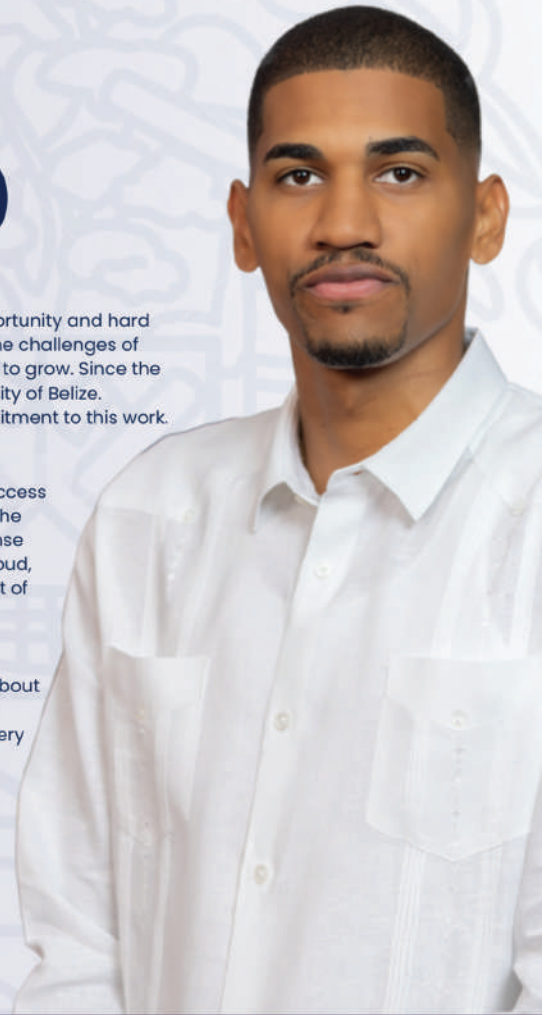
The most rewarding part of my work is seeing its impact firsthand—whether it's helping a young entrepreneur access resources or improving infrastructure. Knowing that our efforts change lives is an indescribable feeling. I joined the Belize City Council as an intern in late 2018, and I've been here ever since. Why? Because I discovered the immense fulfillment that comes from contributing to the Council's work and making a real difference. It makes me feel proud, humbled, and deeply motivated to keep serving. Belize City is full of resilient, hardworking people, and being part of the effort to improve their daily lives is an absolute honor.

What's one piece of advice you've received that you still live by today?

"To lead, you must first learn to serve." This advice has guided me throughout my journey. True leadership isn't about titles or positions—it's about understanding the needs of the people you serve and always being willing to listen, learn, and act in their best interest. That is the mindset I carry as Deputy Mayor and will continue to uphold in every role I take on. I know I was asked for just one but here's another. Don't rush—everything unfolds in its own time. Rushing may lead astray, but patience paves the way to the best outcome.

If you had one wish for the city, what would it be, and how do you hope to see that wish come true?

My biggest wish for Belize City is for every resident to feel a sense of ownership and pride in their community—where we all actively contribute to making it cleaner, safer, and more progressive. To have every resident feel and know that this is OUR HOME. To see this come true, we need greater civic engagement. That's why our Council constantly pushes for programs that empower young people, support local businesses, and create safe spaces for the arts and culture. When people feel heard and valued, they take pride in their city, and that leads to positive change at every level.



Belize City Council Joins in Honoring the Legacy of the Late Aurelio Martinez

On behalf of the Belize City Council, Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller and Councillor Malcolm Nunez attended the Memorial Service and Tribute for the late Aurelio Martinez, organized by the National Institute of Culture and History at the Bliss Institute for Performing Arts.

As a city, we recognize and celebrate the immeasurable impact of Mr. Aurelio Martinez on our culture through his music. Though he may not have been born a Belizean, he proudly embraced our nation as his own. His music, spirit, and dedication left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape.

Aurelio's contributions will continue to inspire and resonate deeply within our community, ensuring that his influence lives on for generations to come.



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars change the world."
- Harriet Tubman

#ACCELERATEACTION

AMBER SHEPHERD
Building Inspector



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you're very courageous, be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble."
- Serena Williams

#ACCELERATEACTION

REANIE GONZALEZ
Clerical Assistant



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"If man can, we can, too! As women lets come together, build each other and have the highest level of pride within ourselves."
- Anonymous

#ACCELERATEACTION

AUDREY CRAWFORD
Sr. Enforcement Officer



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."
- Louisa May Alcott

#ACCELERATEACTION

LA'NITA MURILLO
Customer Care Officer



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Each time a woman stands up for herself she stands up for all women."
- Maya Angelou

#ACCELERATEACTION

NINF A RAMOS
Sanitation Supervisor



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Challenges are a gift that forces us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand."
- Oprah Winfrey

#ACCELERATEACTION

GERMAINE THOMPSON
Executive Secretary



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"I am a strong woman. Everything life has thrown at me, I have faced on my own. I have cried myself to sleep, poked myself up, and wiped away my own tears. I have grown from the very things that were meant to break me. With each passing day I grow stronger, and for that, I thank God."
- Anonymous

#ACCELERATEACTION

DESIREE HERBERT
Janitor



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Everything is within your power, and your power is within you!"
- Janice Trachtman

#ACCELERATEACTION

MURIEL LONGSWORTH
Sr. Enforcement Officer



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"You may not control all the events that happen to you but you can decide not to be reduced by them."
- Maya Angelou

#ACCELERATEACTION

STEPHANIE LAMB
Sanitation Inspector



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Success isn't about how your life looks to others. It's about how it feels to you."
- Michelle Obama

#ACCELERATEACTION

MELANIE TRAPP
Sanitation Inspector



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Life is about finding yourself, embracing your strengths and weaknesses, and being true to who you are."
- Oprah Winfrey

#ACCELERATEACTION

ALISHA DOMINGO
eTransit Supervisor



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION

"Women should be celebrated every day but a month dedicated to female empowerment is extremely special. It doesn't just honor the iconic women who have changed history but encourages new generations to dream big and know that anything is possible."
- Molly McCook

#ACCELERATEACTION

CHANTEL SYMMS
Park Ranger



MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"Don't compare yourself to others. Be like the sun and moon and shine when it's your time."
- Shannon L. Alder

#ACCELERATEACTION

SHAKIRA LAMB
Documentation Officer

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"The only person with whom you have to compare yourself is you in the past."
- Sigmund Freud

#ACCELERATEACTION

DEMI PEYREFITTE
Administrative Assistant

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"Every woman is a force of nature, capable of creating ripples that turn into waves of change."
- Anonymous

#ACCELERATEACTION

KARINA VILLANUEVA
Accounts Payable

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"A woman who struggles makes her unbeatable to the world. Her resilience and commitment empowers her to keep confronting the world which makes her unstoppable."
- Anonymous

#ACCELERATEACTION

KEARA VELASQUEZ
Cashier/Documentation Officer

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."
- Michelle Obama

#ACCELERATEACTION

JAZMIN DRURY
Public Relations Coordinator

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"When you get into a tight place, and everything goes against you, till it seems as if you couldn't hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for there just the place and time that the tide will turn."
- Harriet Beecher Stowe

#ACCELERATEACTION

LETICIA VASQUEZ
Payroll Officer

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"The empowerment of women is the key to unlocking the potential of a nation."
- Michelle Obama

#ACCELERATEACTION

KIFELY AVILEZ
Prosecutor

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"Learn to embrace your own unique beauty, celebrate your unique gifts with confidence. Your imperfections are actually a gift."
- Kerry Washington

#ACCELERATEACTION

KEIRA MUNNINGS
Student Hub Officer

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"We are not defined by our size, but by the magnitude of our vision and the depth of our commitment."
- Mia Mottley

#ACCELERATEACTION

KELSIE CASTELLANO
Administrative Assistant

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated."
- Maya Angelou

#ACCELERATEACTION

MARIANNE VASQUEZ
Internal Auditor

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"No matter how plain a woman may be, if truth and honesty are written across her face, she will be beautiful."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

#ACCELERATEACTION

KYRAN GARBUTT
Documentation Officer

MARCH 2025

WOMEN IN ACTION



"If you're always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."
- Maya Angelou

#ACCELERATEACTION

SHANICE LAMBHEY
Human Resources Officer

Enforcement Department: Safety Starts Young!

As a part of the Belize City Council's Enforcement Education Awareness Initiative, our Enforcement Officers visited James Garbutt Preschool, Belize Elementary School, and Central Christian Preschool to educate the students about road safety. Through fun and interactive activities, the children learned basic but important lessons like how to look both ways before crossing the street, the meaning of traffic signs, and how to stay safe as pedestrians.

Teaching road safety at an early age builds awareness and responsibility, helping children grow into cautious pedestrians and future drivers. This initiative is a step towards creating a safer community!

A big thank you to the preschools for welcoming our Enforcement Officers and making this experience so memorable! Let's continue to work together to ensure safety becomes second nature to our children.



Councillor Kaya Cattouse Inspires Students at Career Day

Councillor Kaya Cattouse was honored to participate in Queen Square Anglican Primary School's Career Day, where she had the opportunity to speak to the students about women in leadership. In her presentation, she highlighted how women have excelled in leadership roles across various fields, such as politics, sports, business, and more.

Addressing both Standard 2 and Standard 4 students, Councillor Cattouse encouraged them to dream big, break barriers, and consider the exciting career opportunities that lie ahead. She emphasized the importance of following their passions, staying focused, and choosing a path that aligns with their unique interests and strengths.



Belize City Council Partners in Donation to Stella Maris School

Mayor Bernard Wagner, Councillor Evan Thompson, and Councillor Malcolm Nunez were honored to participate in the Handover Ceremony at Stella Maris School, hosted by the Belize City Sub Umbra Floreo Lions Club.

As part of this meaningful initiative, the Belize City Council proudly contributed to the donation of essential care packages, which were officially handed over to the school. These packages included tennis shoes, personal care items, uniforms and casual clothing, stationery, educational supplies, and other necessities based on a needs assessment conducted by the school.

These donations play a vital role in supporting the well-being of students and ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive both academically and personally.

This effort not only underscores the importance of community collaboration but also reaffirms our commitment to creating inclusive opportunities for all children—especially those with diverse abilities—to access and enjoy their right to quality education.

Special thanks to our partners—the Lions Club Belize for leading this initiative, and fellow contributors UNICEF and the Social Security Board. Most of all, heartfelt gratitude to the students, teachers, and staff of Stella Maris School for their continued strength and dedication.

Together, we are building a more inclusive future for the children of Belize!



Belize City Council Continues Celebrating Child Stimulation Month with Belize Elementary School

As Child Stimulation Month comes to a close, the Belize City Council remains actively engaged in supporting and nurturing the development of our youngest citizens. Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller was invited by Belize Elementary School to interact with the preschoolers, where he had the opportunity to read the classic story "Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears."

Reading is a powerful tool for stimulating children's minds, fostering creativity, and enhancing their language development. During this activity, the students were engaged in an interactive coloring session and enjoyed treats courtesy the Belize City Council.

Through these moments of engagement, we create lasting memories and inspire a generation that values education, imagination, and creativity. Together, we continue to prioritize the well-being and growth of our community's children, laying the foundation for a brighter tomorrow.



SANITATION STATS

THIS MARCH OUR SANITATION
TEAM CLEARED

10,500

BAGS OF GARBAGE

2,100 TONNAGE

FROM OUR CITY STREETS

Belize City Council Enhances Pedestrian Safety

The Belize City Council has commenced the repainting of pedestrian crossings across the city—an important step in supporting safer streets for students, residents, and all pedestrians, particularly in high-traffic areas and school zones.

By increasing the visibility of these crossings, we're taking a proactive approach to prevent accidents and ensure safer travel for everyone, whether walking to school, work, or simply navigating the city.

To minimize inconvenience to commuters, the repainting work was carried out during the night, ensuring the least disruption to daily routines and maintaining smooth traffic flow during the day.

This initiative is part of the Council's continued efforts to support safer and more accessible public spaces for all who live, work, and visit Belize City.



Belize City Council at the 2025 Annual Review Session

The Belize City Council was proud to join our sister municipalities at the Annual Review Session, hosted by the Department of Local Government.

This important gathering brought together Mayors, City and Town Administrators, Revenue Managers, Finance Directors, and Accountants from across the country to reflect on our collective financial performance, share best practices, and engage in forward-thinking dialogue on the future of local governance in Belize.



A meaningful moment in the session was the introduction of the newly appointed Minister of Local Government, Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., who reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to transparency, good governance, and stronger municipal systems.

Key highlights for Belize City emerging from this session included the following milestones from our performance over the past year:

1. Consistency in transparency – leading in the regular submission and public posting of Council meeting minutes
2. Innovation in urban management – pioneering the use of Geographic Information System (GIS) to support smarter city planning and service delivery
3. Prudent financial stewardship – maintaining the lowest emolument-to-revenue ratio
4. Enhanced communication – standing out for developing and publishing a monthly newsletter, strengthening engagement with both residents and development partners

Deputy Mayor Eluide Miller delivered the closing address on behalf of the Belize City Council, reaffirming our commitment to accountability, innovation, and collaboration as we continue building a more inclusive and resilient Belize City.

We thank the Department of Local Government for creating this space to connect, learn, and grow together.

Mayor Wagner, Deputy Mayor Miller, and Councillors Welcome Belize Elementary Students

Twenty-nine bright and eager Infant 2 students from Belize Elementary School had the remarkable opportunity to tour City Hall, and engage with our council members. This immersive experience provided them with invaluable insight into the inner workings of local government, allowing them to explore the various departments within the Council, understand the responsibilities of our city leaders, and learn about the initiatives driving community development.



From stepping into the lobby of City Hall to gaining firsthand knowledge of the decision-making processes that shape Belize City, these young minds witnessed how leadership and governance converge to foster positive change.

During this visit, the students also took the opportunity to hand over letters of gratitude to Mayor Wagner and the Council team as a heartfelt gesture that underscored their appreciation for the dedication and hard work invested in improving their city.

Thank you to Belize Elementary School for reaching out and expressing such enthusiasm and keen interest in the work we do at the Council. We were honored to share our vision with these future leaders and hope the visit offered a meaningful and inspiring learning experience.

APRIL 2025

UPCOMING STAFF Birthdays

Eloy Armstrong
Stephen Bain
Dennisha Banks
Jason Barrera
Alguin Beck
Stephen Betancourt
Jenelle Broaster
Vanessa Clarke
Krista Courtenay
Arlrick Flores
Shayraven Foreman
Winston Gabourel

Shawon Mariano
Ella Gentle
Raymond Gongora III
Mauricio Gonzalez
Elton Gordon
Kevin Hamilton
Melissa Hamilton
Dale Henderson
David Henkis
Desiree Herbert
Florence Horne
Kaisha Jones
Roberto Lalin

Linsford Mckenzie Jr.
Phillip Neal
Sherelene Neal
Kenia Peters
Ian Reneau
Sovania Requena
Natasha Rodriguez
Kianna Sanchez
Schroleen Sankey
Nyoka Savery
Ardeth Steven
Leticia Vasquez

Happy Birthday! Wishing you a great day and a successful year ahead.
Thank you for your hard work and contributions to the team.

FROM: MAYOR BERNARD WAGNER AND THE BELIZE CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 2025

WORK ANNIVERSARY

27 YEARS
Denise Middleton

26 YEARS
Peter Castillo

25 YEARS
Ramon Menjivar

25 YEARS
Sean Pitter

23 YEARS
Ean Whyte

17 YEARS
Tanisha Arnold

17 YEARS
Ralton Moody

17 YEARS
Ninfa Ramos

16 YEARS
Chevette Staine

14 YEARS
Desiree Herbert

11 YEARS
Duke Wright

10 YEARS
Alisha Domingo

7 YEARS
Dejean Thompson

7 YEARS
Landeshia Myvette

7 YEARS
Loraine Thurton

7 YEARS
Edgar Flowers

7 YEARS
Burnel Jones

4 YEARS
Shakira Lamb

4 YEARS
Kelsie Castellanos

2 YEARS
Kirstcel Smith

1 YEAR
Albert Vaughan

1 YEAR
Kevin Hamilton

Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your contributions are truly valued and appreciated.
Here's to many more successful years together!

FROM: MAYOR BERNARD WAGNER AND THE BELIZE CITY COUNCIL