

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Commissioners Mobile App Now Available on iTunes, Google Play
Features Adoptable Dog Search, County Agency Directory

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners have released a free Mobile App for iPhone and Android devices that gives residents enhanced access to county government agencies from their smart phones.

According to a report from Nielsen, smart phone use was at 50% last year and is expected to reach 70% this year. The commissioners hope to utilize this trend and make public services more accessible and engaging to residents, and to improve county-resident communication.

"I know many folks are like me and don't go anywhere without their smart phone, and have dozens of apps downloaded," said County Commissioner John O'Grady, Board President. "This app gives residents access to Franklin County government at their fingertips and while on the go."

The app features a county agency directory that allows a resident to enter a keyword to help identify the correct agency to contact for services. Once the agency is selected, the app provides the phone number, address and hours of operation for the office. The app also utilizes a smart phone's mapping function to give users directions to the appropriate county office.

"As one of the nation's leading counties, Franklin County is launching an app that assists our citizens," said Commissioner Paula Brooks. "With technology improvement, we hope to manage tax dollars better and make government work more efficiently for everyone."

Perhaps the most unique aspect of the app is its adoptable dog search, featuring dogs available for adoption from the Franklin County Dog Shelter & Adoption Center. Residents can scroll through thumbnail pictures of the dogs available at the shelter, and upon clicking on a dog can receive a description of the dog, including its gender, breed, age, size, and activity level. One can even email dog pictures and descriptions to themselves or a friend.

Other functions of the app include: Board of Commissioners news and job postings; code violation, illegal dumping, stray dog and water pollution reporting that utilizes a smart phone's camera and GPS information; and business service information, including open bid opportunities and surplus auction items.

"This app allows for our residents to connect with real job openings and real bid opportunities in real time," said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. "It also allows one-touch calling or emailing to a real person in each commissioner's office, putting direct access to constituent services literally at your fingertip."

Last year, Franklin County selected locally based mobile software development company eProximiti, whose clientele includes OhioHealth, Nationwide Children's Hospital and the City of Columbus, to create the mobile app. Franklin County paid \$21,550 for the creation, design and maintenance of the app.

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners Mobile App is now available FREE to iPhone users via the [Apple iTunes Store](#), and to Android users via the [Google Play Store](#).

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