



April 25, 2023

Lena J. Bonner  
Clerk of Commission  
Augusta-Richmond County Commission  
535 Telfair Street, Suite 220  
Augusta, GA 30901

Re: Augusta Pride Security Funding  
June 23-24, 2023 | Augusta Pride 2023

Madam Clerk,

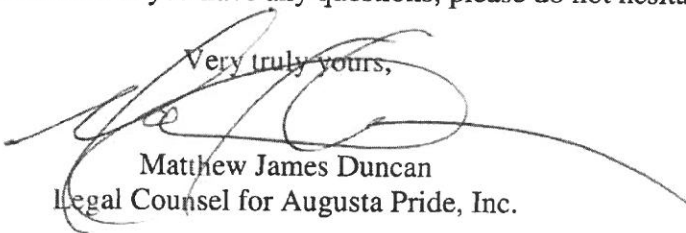
On behalf of Augusta Pride, Inc., please consider this a request to place an item on the agenda for the Augusta-Richmond County Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd. The agenda item is to request funding from the Commission to cover security costs for two events: Beats on Broad, scheduled for June 23, 2023, and the Augusta Pride Festival, scheduled for June 24, 2023.

Augusta Pride is set to host its 13th annual festival this June. Since its first festival in 2009, the event has grown to become the third largest held at the Augusta Common and has a large economic impact. Augusta Pride also has an excellent relationship with the Richmond County Sheriff's Office and has had no major law enforcement incidents over its 13 year history. Augusta Pride is requesting assistance for security costs due to the current climate of unprecedented security threats faced by the LGBTQ+ community, particularly the transgender community. The total cost of security for these two events for Augusta Pride in 2022 was \$8,160.00. I believe this is a reasonable estimate for the cost of security in 2023.

The Augusta Pride Festival is an event that promotes inclusivity, celebrates diversity, and brings the broader community together. By assisting Augusta pride with its security costs, the Commission will send a strong message of support for Augusta's LGBTQ+ residents and guests.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
Matthew James Duncan  
Legal Counsel for Augusta Pride, Inc.