

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	2023 Legislative Agenda
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested of the resolution for the 2023 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.
INITIATED BY:	Isaiah, Hugley, City Manager

Recommendation: Approval is requested of the resolution for the 2023 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.

Background: Each year elected and appointed officials of the Columbus Consolidated Government develop a list of issues important to the citizens of Columbus that requires action by the Local Legislative Delegation. Once approved, a meeting will be held with the Delegation to explain the rationale behind these issues and to solicit their support. The Hometown Connection and Legislative Agenda meeting will be held on October 19, 2022.

Analysis: Staff, elected and appointed officials were asked to present issues they felt were important to the operation of city government. Research and justification for these issues were presented to the City Manager and a list was prepared for presentation to the Mayor/Council.

Financial Considerations: The City is expected to receive additional revenues if many of the issues are passed by the Georgia General Assembly.

Recommendations/Actions: Approve those resolution, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.

I. HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation introduce an amendment to said statewide legislation to allow cities and counties to enact localized anti-displacement policies for properties in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) economically depressed zones as defined by general law of the General Assembly. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker*)

Explanation:

O.C.G.A. Section 44-7-19 prohibits city and county governments from enacting, maintaining, or enforcing “any ordinance or resolution which would regulate in any way the amount of rent to be charged for privately owned, single-family or multiple-unit residential rental property.” Rising rents compound the overall financial insecurity of many households. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a cost-burdened household as one that spends more than 30 percent of its income on housing costs. The onslaught of pandemic-related job losses, rising health care costs, and increased cost of necessities due to inflation and supply chain issues likely worsened the outlook for many renters. The pain of rising rents and the associated financial insecurity disproportionately affects single parents, individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with multiple or intersecting identities. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic fallout succeeded in shining a harsh light on the ongoing housing crisis.

II. SHORT TERM RENTALS:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the local legislative delegation support the GMA policy position on short-term rentals. The CCG supports local control of the regulation of short-term rentals as necessary for quality of life, public safety, and a competitive lodging marketplace. This Council urges the local delegation to support maintaining local control of units used as short-term rentals, subject to all applicable state laws and ordinances. (*Request of Councilor Evelyn Mimi Woodson and Toyia Tucker*)

Explanation:

The current Georgia Municipal Association policy provides as follows: Short-term or vacation rentals are popular in certain areas of the state, which often creates commercial competition inside residential neighborhoods. Lodging facilitator legislation passed in 2021 helps to level the playing field between short-term rental providers and more traditional hoteliers and bed and breakfast owners. Current state law requires short term rental operators to remit the appropriate state and local taxes on their transactions. Aside from taxation, municipal governments have a vested interested in balancing the community impact of short-term rentals. Parking, noise, and party houses can be recurring issues with short-term rental properties in unregulated environments. Operating lodging businesses in residential settings defeats the purpose behind residential designations, unless properly governed with clear guidelines from the local government.

III. MAYOR/MAYOR PRO TEM COMPENSATION:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce a local Act setting the salary of the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia at 70% of the salary of the City Manager; and setting the salary of the Mayor Pro-Tem at 35% of the salary of the Mayor; to be effective in January, 2027; and to repeal any conflicting provisions of the Columbus Charter. (*Request of City Manager Isaiah Hugley*)

Explanation:

The Consolidated Government Pay Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Columbus Council for public safety and general government employees. the current pay study from Evergreen consultants did not make a specific recommendation for the salary of the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem. This Council deems it appropriate to request that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce a local Act to set the salary of the Mayor of Columbus at 70% of the salary of the City Manager and the salary of the Mayor Pro-Tem at 35% of the Mayor, to be effective in January, 2027.

IV. MUSICAL PRODUCTION STATE SALES TAX CREDIT:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to expand certain state sales tax credits for production companies producing music or musical theatre productions to make it more feasible for production companies to take advantage of these credits in Georgia. (*Request of Mayor Pro Tem Gary Allen*)

Explanation:

The current legislation provides for certain state sales tax credits for production companies producing music or musical theatre productions in Georgia while touring and defines parameters including the dollar amount to be spent in the State of Georgia over a certain period and length of time that a production must tour in order to be awarded the state sales tax credit. The current legislation excludes most music and music theatre production companies from taking advantage of the tax credit thereby severely limiting most production activity to outside the State of Georgia.

V. DESIGNATION OF MUSCOGEE COUNTY AS A SINGLE COUNTY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the local legislative delegation introduce legislation to create a Muscogee Judicial Circuit comprised of judges from Muscogee County Superior Court. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker and Evelyn Mimi Woodson*)

Explanation:

See attached letter.

VI. AMENDMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST PROVISION FOR REDEVELOPMENT POWERS LAW:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting to introduce/support legislation to revise and to clarify the conflict of interest provisions in the Redevelopment Powers Law which address the participation of local government elective and appointive officials and employees in the creation and administration of Tax Allocation Districts. *(Request of Councilor Tucker and Glenn Davis/Carry Over From Previous Years)*

Explanation:

1) With respect to property acquired after the designation of a redevelopment area or TAD, the current law very broadly prohibits any "elected official, appointed official, **or employee** of any political subdivision, board, commission, or redevelopment agency from voluntarily acquiring any interest, direct or indirect, in any property contract or transaction or proposed contract or transaction in connection with the redevelopment of that redevelopment area..." The proposed revision would remove the blanket prohibition against voluntary property acquisition in a redevelopment area and instead provide that any official or employee who has a direct ownership interest in a property that is proposed to receive payment of redevelopment costs shall disclose the interest in writing to the legislative body and shall not vote or in any way participate in considering the matter or seek to influence the votes of others on the matter.

2) The current law requires that any elected or appointed official or employee of a political subdivision who has acquired any interest direct or indirect in property in the redevelopment area within the two years immediately prior to the date the plan is submitted to the local legislative body shall disclose the interest in writing 30 days in advance and "not participate in any action of the political subdivision which affects that property." The revision would cut the time of written notice to 5 days and limit the coverage of the provision to public officers as defined by O.C.G.A. Section 21-5-3 (22) instead of the current general reference to all elected officials, appointed officials and employees.

3) The proposed revision also refines the definition of the property interest covered by the conflict provision. The current law covers any transaction which facilitates the acquisition "any interest direct or indirect" in property and substitutes a direct ownership interest in property as defined by O.C.G.A. Section 21-5-3(8).

VII. COUNTY SPECIAL LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX MAINTENANCE RESERVE:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the legislative delegation consider amendments to the County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax imposed

by Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the official Code of Georgia Annotation to allow consolidated governments to expend up to 5% of the tax levied to be spent for future maintenance of the capital outlay projects approved by the referendum levying the tax. (*Request of Councilors John House and Judy Thomas/Carry Over From Previous Years*)

Explanation:

Previous capital outlay projects in the Columbus Consolidated Government have demonstrated that when tax funds are expended on significant capital infrastructure, a maintenance reserve would greatly assist in improving the useful life and efficiency of such facilities and allow the better and more timely upkeep of projects built with taxpayer funds.

VIII. RECIPROCAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation encourage all possible legislative actions which would encourage negotiations with Alabama and other neighboring states to provide that the laws of each State would be amended to provide for reciprocal sovereign immunity so that local governmental officials carrying out duties and operating vehicles in neighboring States would have the same or similar sovereign immunity protections that they have under Georgia Law. (*Request of Councilor John House and Fire Chief Scarpa/Carry Over From Previous Years*)

Explanation:

Currently, CCG officials, including law enforcement who take vehicles into adjoining states are not protected by Georgia sovereign statutes. Given the proximity to Alabama, and the particular provisions of Alabama law on the subject this creates a significant risk that influences decisions with respect to both emergency and routine business duties which may be most efficiently carried out by driving across state lines. Hopefully, the General Assembly, with the guidance of the State Attorney General, will consider a Resolution to study this issue and enter into discussions with Alabama and other adjoining states where it would be beneficial to Georgia local governments.

IX. FUNDING FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the legislative delegation advocate for support of a robust system of care for behavioral health, addictive diseases and developmental disabilities, and additional funding for crisis intervention teams throughout the state. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker*)

Explanation:

The Columbus Consolidated Government recognizes the need for a robust system of care that supports recovery and independence for people living with mental illness, addictive disorders and developmental disabilities. Locally provided state services to individuals living with disabilities are critical to providing an appropriate safety net and an alternative to incarceration. There should be an adequate number of crisis intervention teams around the state to help public safety officials manage critical

situations as needed. These services also help people meaningfully contribute to and participate in the life of our communities.

X. PERSONAL CARE HOMES (Prompt Notification of Local Authorities Upon Licensing):

The Columbus Consolidated Government respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation introduce state-wide legislation that will require prompt notification of county and city police and fire departments, licensing departments, and planning and zoning departments upon licensing or licensing changes of child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes as defined and used above. *(Request of Councilor Glenn Davis/Carry Over From Previous Years)*

Explanation:

This Council recognizes that the State of Georgia licenses facilities for various types of assistance for both children and adults in a home-like setting. Notification of county agencies and officials is often lacking at the time licenses to such facilities are granted by the State, including but not limited to, “child-caring institutions” defined at O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-3, “foster care homes” as defined at O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-60, and “personal care homes” as used in O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-13. The lack of awareness of the licensed facilities or changes in licensing status may prevent local governmental entities from acting promptly to protect the health and welfare of those persons in such facilities. The Council hereby requests that the local legislative delegation introduce a state-wide bill to require prompt notification to certain county/ municipal officials upon licensing or changes in license status of child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes by the State of Georgia.

XI. PERSONAL CARE HOMES (Minimum Staffing Requirement):

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce state-wide legislation that will require minimum staffing of two trained supervisors or managers between the hours of 6:00 pm and 6:00 am at child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes. We also request that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly require that all such child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes be accredited by a national accrediting body such as COA or CARF. *(Request of Councilor John House and Glenn Davis/Carry Over From Previous Years)*

Explanation:

The Council supports legislation to require better staffing and training for personal care homes operated in Columbus and the State of Georgia.

XII. CASINO GAMING REFERENDUM:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the legislative delegation introduce or support legislation to authorize a statewide referendum for a constitutional amendment to allow Georgia citizens to vote as to whether casino gaming should be allowed in Georgia for the purpose of Hope Scholarship funding. Further, if any such constitutional amendment is adopted, this Council requests a local referendum be established for approval or rejection of any such casino gaming in Muscogee County. (*Request of Evelyn Mimi Woodson/Carry Over From Previous Years*)

Explanation:

To provide Hope Scholarships to college bound students to ensure that a lack of funding does not prevent them from going to college, staying in college and graduating from college.

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

A Resolution requesting that the local legislative delegation introduce an amendment to said statewide legislation to allow cities and counties to enact localized anti-displacement policies for properties in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and Difficult Development Areas (DDAs) economically depressed zones as defined by general law of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. Section 44-7-19 prohibits city and county governments from enacting, maintaining, or enforcing “any ordinance or resolution which would regulate in any way the amount of rent to be charged for privately owned, single-family or multiple-unit residential rental property.”; and,

WHEREAS, rising rents compound the overall financial insecurity of many households. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a cost-burdened household as one that spends more than 30 percent of its income on housing costs; the onslaught of pandemic-related job losses, rising health care costs, and increased cost of necessities due to inflation and supply chain issues likely worsened the outlook for many renters; the pain of rising rents and the associated financial insecurity disproportionately affects single parents, individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with multiple or intersecting identities; the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic fallout succeeded in shining a harsh light on the ongoing housing crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce an amendment to said statewide legislation to allow cities and counties to enact localized anti-displacement policies for properties in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and Difficult Development Areas (DDAs), economically depressed zones as defined by general law of the General Assembly.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ___ day of _____, 20__ and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

A Resolution supporting legislation which maintains local municipal control of units used as short-term rentals.

WHEREAS, current Georgia Municipal Association policy provides as follows: Short-term or vacation rentals are popular in certain areas of the state, which often creates commercial competition inside residential neighborhoods. Lodging facilitator legislation passed in 2021 helps to level the playing field between short-term rental providers and more traditional hoteliers and bed and breakfast owners. Current state law requires short term rental operators to remit the appropriate state and local taxes on their transactions. Aside from taxation, municipal governments have a vested interested in balancing the community impact of short-term rentals. Parking, noise and party houses can be recurring issues with short-term rental properties in unregulated environments. Operating lodging businesses in residential settings defeats the purpose behind residential designations, unless properly governed with clear guidelines from the local government; and,

WHEREAS, this Council supports the GMA policy position on short-term rentals and local control of units used for short-term rentals in Columbus and urges the local delegation to the General Assembly to maintain local control of such units.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY
RESOLVES:**

The Columbus Council supports the GMA policy position on short-term rentals and supports local control of the regulation of short-term rentals as necessary for quality of life, public safety and a competitive lodging marketplace. This Council urges the local delegation to the General Assembly to maintain local control of units used as short-term rentals, subject to all applicable state laws and ordinances.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ___ day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

A Resolution requesting that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce a local Act setting the salary of the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia at 70% of the salary of the City Manager; and setting the salary of the Mayor Pro-Tem at 35% of the salary of the Mayor; to be effective in January, 2027; and to repeal any conflicting provisions of the Columbus Charter.

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Government Pay Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Columbus Council for public safety and general government employees; and,

WHEREAS, the current pay study from Evergreen consultants did not make a specific recommendation for the salary of the Mayor or Mayor Pro-Tem; and,

WHEREAS, this Council deems it appropriate to request that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce a local Act to set the salary of the Mayor of Columbus at 70% of the salary of the City Manager and the salary of the Mayor Pro-Tem at 35% of the Mayor, to be effective in January, 2027.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY
RESOLVES:**

We hereby request that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce a local Act to set the salary of the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia at 70% of the salary of the City Manager and the salary of the Mayor Pro-Tem at 35% of the Mayor, to be effective in January, 2027; and to repeal any conflicting provisions of the Columbus Charter.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ___ day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor

A RESOLUTION

No. _____

WHEREAS, current legislation in Georgia provides for certain state sales tax credits for production companies producing music or musical theatre productions in Georgia while touring the production; and,

WHEREAS, current legislation defines parameters including the dollar amount to be spent in the State of Georgia over a certain period and the length of time that a production must tour in order to be awarded the state sales tax credit; and,

WHEREAS, the current legislation excludes most music and music theatre production companies from taking advantage of the tax credit thereby severely limiting most production activity to outside the State of Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly revisit the current legislation providing certain state sales tax credits for production companies producing music or musical theatre productions to make it more feasible for production companies to take advantage of these credits.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby respectfully request that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to expand certain state sales tax credits for production companies producing music or musical theatre productions to make it more feasible for production companies to take advantage of these credits in Georgia.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2022, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

A Resolution requesting that the local legislative delegation introduce legislation to create a Muscogee Judicial Circuit comprised of judges from Muscogee County Superior Court.

WHEREAS, seven counties in Georgia currently comprise a single judicial circuit; and,

WHEREAS, Muscogee County has grown to the point that this Council deems it appropriate to request that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to create a Muscogee Judicial Circuit comprised of judges from Muscogee County Superior Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to create a Muscogee Judicial Circuit comprised of judges from Muscogee County Superior Court.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ___ day of _____, 20__ and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III, Mayor

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

WHEREAS, the conflict of interest provision of Redevelopment Powers Law, Title 36, Chapter 44 is broadly and unclearly worded in a way that leaves all CCG officials, even employees whose positions have nothing to do with the creation or administration of a Tax Allocation District, subject to possible disclosure requirements and prohibitions from voluntarily acquiring a direct or indirect interest in property in any TAD created by Council; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the conflict of interest provision applicable to TAD’s be more specific and limited as to the persons covered by its requirements and use definitions consistent with the Ethics in Government Act found in Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Georgia Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby request that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce/support the attached proposed amendment to O.C.G.A. § 36-44-21 or any similar proposal, which clarifies that code section by providing standard definitions and eliminates the prohibition against the acquisition of property in TAD’s by all CCG employees. Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Mayor

A RESOLUTION

No. _____

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE COUNTY SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (SPLOST) TO ALLOW THAT CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENTS MAY ALLOCATE UP TO 5% OF THE TAX LEVIED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE REFERENDUM.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have identified the significant burden placed on the Columbus to provide for ongoing maintenance of CCG facilities which may be financed as SPLOST projects; and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly could amend Section 48-8-111.1 to provide that a consolidated government may use up to five percent of the tax levy as a maintenance reserve fund for newly approved SPLOST projects thus enabling the timely upkeep of those facilities and prolonging their useful lives and efficiency.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby respectfully request that the Local Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation at the 2022 Session to amend O.C.G.A 48-8-111.1 so that a maintenance reserve fund not to exceed five percent of the authorized tax levied would become a permitted use of funds levied pursuant to the SPLOST authorized by Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated when a consolidated government is imposing the tax.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____ 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Deputy Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALABAMA TO PROVIDE FOR RECIPROCAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, officials of the Columbus Consolidated Government including local law enforcement officers who carry out official duties and take vehicles across the State line into Alabama are not protected with the immunity that they have when carrying out their duties and operating official vehicles within the State of Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the proximity of Columbus to the State of Alabama has created situations where Columbus officials have had to carry out parts of their official duties or render mutual aid outside of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, with the assistance of the State Attorney General, will need to negotiate with Alabama to reach satisfactory terms of reciprocal sovereign immunity which can then be adopted by each State’s legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby request that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support legislative efforts that will facilitate the negotiation and legislative adoption of provisions governing reciprocal sovereign immunity between the State of Georgia and the State of Alabama.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the ____ day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation vote of ____ members of Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Baker voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, ADDICTIVE DISEASES AND DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES.**

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes the need for a robust system of care that supports recovery and independence for people living with mental illness, addictive disorders and developmental disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, locally provided state services to individuals living with disabilities are critical to providing an appropriate safety net and an alternative to incarceration; and,

WHEREAS, there should be an adequate number of crisis intervention teams around the state to help public safety officials manage critical situations as needed; and,

WHEREAS, these services also help people meaningfully contribute to and participate in the life of our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY
RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that members of the local delegation to the General Assembly join in advocating for support for a robust system of care for behavioral health, addictive diseases and developmental disabilities, and additional funding for crisis intervention teams throughout the state.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held on the 12th day of _____, 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation vote of ____ members of Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Baker voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor

A RESOLUTION

No. _____

WHEREAS, this Council recognizes that the State of Georgia is licensing facilities for various types of assistance for both children and adults in a home-like setting; and,

WHEREAS, notification of county agencies and officials is often lacking at the time licenses to such facilities are granted by the State, including but not limited to, “child-caring institutions” defined at O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-3, “foster care homes” as defined at O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-60, and “personal care homes” as used in O.C.G.A. Section 25-2-13; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly address these matters and require prompt notification of certain county agencies and officials upon the granting of licenses to such facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby respectfully request that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce state-wide legislation that will require prompt notification of county and city police and fire departments, licensing departments, and planning and zoning departments upon licensing of child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes as defined and used above.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2022, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B. H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

WHEREAS, this Council has previously requested legislation from the General Assembly to provide notice to counties upon licensing of child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes as defined at O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-3, O.C.G.A. Section 49-5-60, and Section 25-2-13; and,

WHEREAS, alleged criminal activities have occurred at or near some of these homes in the State of Georgia, and most recently in Muscogee County, bringing the issues of staffing and training of supervisors and managers to the forefront; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly address these matters and require minimum staffing of two trained supervisors or managers at such homes between the hours of 6:00 pm and 6:00 am; and,

WHEREAS, this Council also desires that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly require that all such child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes be accredited by a national accrediting body such as the Council on Accreditation (“COA”) or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (“CARF”).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

We hereby respectfully request that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce state-wide legislation that will require minimum staffing of two trained supervisors or managers between the hours of 6:00 pm and 6:00 am at child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes.

We also request that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly require that all such child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes be accredited by a national accrediting body such as COA or CARF.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2022 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

**A RESOLUTION
NO. _____**

WHEREAS, this Council desires to facilitate the provision of Hope Scholarships to college bound students to insure that a lack of funding does not prevent them from going to college; and,

WHEREAS, additional funding sources are necessary to be able to fully implement the Hope Scholarship program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA,
HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

We hereby respectfully request that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support legislation to authorize a referendum to allow Georgia citizens to vote as to whether casino gaming should be allowed in Georgia for the purpose of Hope Scholarship funding. Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2022, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____.
- Councilor Barnes voting _____.
- Councilor Crabb voting _____.
- Councilor Davis voting _____.
- Councilor Garrett voting _____.
- Councilor House voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Woodson voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B. H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor