

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2023 Legislative Agenda Add Ons – Child Abuse Hotline Posting &amp; Legitimation Procedures</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested of the add on resolution for the 2023 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	Isaiah, Hugley, City Manager

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested of the add on 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 was 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.

**A RESOLUTION**

**NO.**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTRODUCE STATEWIDE LEGISLATION THAT WILL REQUIRE POSTING OF APPROPRIATE HOTLINES TO REPORT ABUSE AT CHILD-CARING INSTITUTIONS, FOSTER CARE HOMES, AND PERSONAL CARE HOMES.**

**WHEREAS**, licensing and supervision 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 have become critical issues facing the state and county governments; 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 introduce legislation to require the posting of appropriate hotlines to report abuse in all child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes such as the **hotline 1-866-END-HTGA (1-866-363-4842)**

**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 require the posting of appropriate hotlines to report abuse in all child-caring institutions, foster care homes, and personal care homes such as the **hotline 1-866-END-HTGA (1-866-363-4842)**.

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

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B. H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION**

**NO**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR MAKING LEGITIMATION PROCEDURES MORE EASILY ACCESSABLE TO BIOLOGICAL FATHERS.**

**WHEREAS**, Georgia law requires a biological father who is not married to the mother at the time of the child’s birth to file a separate legal petition in order to legitimate and obtain legal rights as a parent of that biological child; and,

**WHEREAS**, the benefit of having two parents responsible for a child is known to have a positive effect on the child’s welfare; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are biological fathers who desire to obtain paternal rights but may be discouraged by the lack of awareness of cost of the legitimation procedures; and,

**WHEREAS**, legislative study of the legitimation procedures required by Georgia law to determine whether they can be revised to make them more accessible and less costly would further increase well-being and economic security for the children of this State.

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

We respectfully request that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce a resolution supporting the legislative study of legitimation procedures to make them more affordable and accessible to fathers of limited means who desire to take responsibility for a role in the life of their biological children.

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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

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B.H. “Skip” Henderson, Mayor