

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	2024 Legislative Agenda Add On – Muscogee County Probate Court Technology Fee
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested of the add on resolution for the 2024 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly. The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly permit imposition of court costs not to exceed \$5.00 to be added as a surcharge by Probate Court, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2034 to be used to defray technology costs of Probate Court. Such technology fee surcharges shall be used exclusively to provide procurement of services and equipment for the conservation of court records and archiving the same to digital contents for public access.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager’s Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested of the add on resolution for the 2024 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly. The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly permit imposition of court costs not to exceed \$5.00 to be added as a surcharge by Probate Court, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2034 to be used to defray technology costs of Probate Court. Such technology fee surcharges shall be used exclusively to provide procurement of services and equipment for the conservation of court records and archiving the same to digital contents for public access.

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 12, 2023.

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.**

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of Probate Court of Columbus, Georgia, finds that a need exists for imposition and collection of a technology fee; and,

WHEREAS, such legislation shall entitle the Clerk of Probate Court to charge and collect a technology fee to be set by the court, not to exceed \$5.00, as a surcharge to each fine imposed; and,

WHEREAS, such technology fee surcharges shall be used exclusively to provide procurement of services and equipment for the conservation of court records and archiving the same to digital contents for public access; and,

WHEREAS, the funds collected pursuant to such authorization shall be maintained in a segregated fund by the Clerk of Probate Court and shall be used only for the purposes authorized by legislation; and,

WHEREAS, the authority to assess a technology fee pursuant to this Act shall terminate on July 1, 2034, and any residual funds shall remain with Probate Court; and,

WHEREAS, said Act and Technology Fee will be automatically repealed on July 1, 2034; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the local legislative delegation introduce local legislation at the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to permit imposition of court costs not to exceed \$5.00 to be added as a surcharge to each fine imposed by Probate Court, effective July 1, 2024, to be used to defray technology costs of Probate Court.

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

We hereby respectfully request that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce local legislation at the 2024 Session to permit imposition of a technology fee not to exceed \$5.00 to be added as a surcharge to each fine imposed by Probate Court, effective July 1, 2024, to be used to defray technology costs of the Probate 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 the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the ____ day of 2023, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Begly voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, III Mayor