

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	2023 Legislative Agenda – Add On: - Georgia Open Records Act – Disclosure of Job Applications
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested of the add on resolution for the 2023 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly requesting that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce statewide legislation to prohibit disclosure of job applications to local governments under the open records act until the position applied for has been filled.
INITIATED BY:	Isaiah, Hugley, City Manager

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 the resolution, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTRODUCE STATEWIDE LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT DISCLOSURE OF JOB APPLICATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER THE OPEN RECORDS ACT UNTIL THE POSITION APPLIED FOR HAS BEEN FILLED.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Open Records Act does not clearly except all pending job applications for employment with city and county departments and agencies (“local governments”) from disclosure under the Open Records Act; and,

WHEREAS, the possibility of premature disclosure of a pending job application for employment with a local government could have a chilling effect on the willingness of applicants to apply for such positions; and,

WHEREAS, all job applicants to local governments deserve the same expectation of privacy and confidentiality in a pending job application that is customary in the private sector job application process and is also expressly provided to applicants for head or director of city or county departments or heads of state agencies during the hiring process.

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

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce statewide legislation to provide an exception from disclosure under the Open Records Act for all job applications for all local government employee vacancies until the position applied for has been filled.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded 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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

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