

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	DOJ FY 2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested for submission, acceptance, and expenditure of any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) FY 2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (BIDEN) Program, to increase investigations and prosecutions of crimes by individuals unlawfully present and drug/human trafficking cases.
INITIATED By:	Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO)

Recommendation: Approval is requested for the Mayor, or their designee to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the DOJ FY2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program to increase investigations and prosecutions of crimes by individuals unlawfully present and drug/human trafficking cases, in the amount of \$7,000,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

Background: DOJ FY 2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program funds will be used to increase MCSO’s operational capabilities by providing equipment and technology that directly supports efforts to identify, locate, apprehend, investigate, detain, and transport criminal illegal aliens, drug trafficking suspects, and human trafficking perpetrators.

Analysis: These funds are available through the DOJ FY 2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program.

Financial Considerations: There is no local match requirement.

Legal Considerations: The Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office is eligible to apply for, receive, and expend these funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, and will be obligated to the conditions of the grant award.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested for the application for, acceptance, and expenditure of these funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the DOJ FY2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program funds will be used to increase MCSO’s operational capabilities by providing equipment and technology that directly supports efforts to identify, locate, apprehend, investigate, detain, and transport criminal illegal aliens, drug trafficking suspects, and human trafficking perpetrators, in the amount of \$7,000,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND ANY AWARDED FUNDS AS PER THE GRANT GUIDELINES AND CITY REGULATIONS, IF AWARDED, A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,000,000, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, DOJ FY2026 BRIDGING IMMIGRATION-RELATED DEFICITS EXPERIENCED NATIONWIDE (“BIDEN”) PROGRAM, AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT AWARDED. FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED TO INCREASE MCSO’S OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES BY PROVIDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY THAT DIRECTLY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY, LOCATE, APPREHEND, INVESTIGATE, DETAIN, AND TRANSPORT CRIMINAL ILLEGAL ALIENS, DRUG TRAFFICKING SUSPECTS, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PERPETRATORS.

WHEREAS, the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office has been authorized by DOJ FY2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program, to apply for \$7,000,000 of grant monies; and,

WHEREAS, funding is from the U.S. Department of Justice Office (DOJ); and,

WHEREAS, funds will be utilized to increase investigations and prosecutions of crimes by individuals unlawfully present and drug/human trafficking cases; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be utilized to increase MCSO’s operational capabilities by providing equipment and technology that directly supports efforts to identify, locate, apprehend, investigate, detain, and transport criminal illegal aliens, drug trafficking suspects, and human trafficking perpetrators; and,

WHEREAS, funds will be utilized for locating and apprehending aliens who have committed a crime under federal, state, or local law, in addition to being unlawfully present in the United States (hereafter referred to as “criminal illegal aliens”): and

WHEREAS, funds will be utilized for collection and analysis of law enforcement investigative information within the United States to counter gang or other criminal activity; and,

WHEREAS, there are no matching funds required for this grant project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the Mayor or their designee is authorized to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, the DOJ FY2026 Bridging Immigration-Related Deficits Experienced Nationwide (“BIDEN”) Program, in the amount of \$7,000,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount awarded.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Barnes	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Cook	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Deputy Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor