

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	2024 Legislative Agenda
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested of the resolution for the 2024 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 2024 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 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 resolutions, which the Mayor and Council deem appropriate.

1. ADOPT THE MENTAL HEALTH MODEL:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders. (*Recommended by ACCG and City Manager, Isaiah Hugley*)

Explanation:

The Columbus Consolidated Government request the local delegation continue efforts in the 2024 legislative session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responders' units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

2. ONE USER UTILITY BILL:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support statewide legislation that would require public utilities to bill local governments and school districts on a "one user" basis which would allow billing discounts that would benefit all taxpayers. (*Request of Judge Bobby Peters, Superior Court Judge*)

Explanation:

Currently each building or each school owned by a local government or school district is billed separately. However, legislation could require that the rate charged be based on the total usage of all of the government or school district buildings and facilities of that one owner. Aggregating the total usage of each governmental owner would mean a much lower rate per gallon of water or per kilowatt hour of electricity. A local government or school district could still use separate meters to track usage in each facility for efficiency, but the local government or school district should be given credit for total usage to get a lower rate.

3. TECHNOLOGY FEE SURCHARGE ON RECORDER'S COURT FINES:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly permit imposition of court costs of \$10.00 to be added as a surcharge to each fine imposed by Recorder's Court, effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2034 to be used to defray technology costs of the Recorder's Court. (*Request of Judge David Ranieri, Recorder's Court Judge*)

Explanation:

Recorder’s Court is requesting to impose and collect a technology fee for each fine imposed, not to exceed \$10.00 for a period of ten years. The technology fees would be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Recorder’s Court such as: computer hardware purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation; imaging, scanning, facsimile, communications, projection, and printing equipment; and software purchase, lease, maintenance, development, and installation.

4. ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES (APRN) LICENSING:

The Columbus Consolidated Government along with the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus chapter is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support legislation which would remove barriers to APRN practice whereby decreasing a delay in care for the citizens of Georgia’s access to medication and treatment. APRN’s have the advanced education and trusting relationships with their collaborating physicians to provide safe, effective healthcare services.

APRN’s are currently issued an “authorization to practice” as an Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner under their RN’s license. Independent licensing could allow them to be recognized separately from their RN license. *(Request of Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes)*

Explanation:

This SB 164 bill was vetoed Session (2023) at the request of the sponsor. In the 2024 Session, the language is anticipated to be amended for smoother implementation to handle the volume of applicants.

5. ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES (APRN’S) SIGNING DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE DISABILITY PARKING PERMITS:

The Columbus Consolidated Government along with the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus Chapter is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support legislation which would add APRN’s to the list of the Department of Motor Vehicle’s approved practitioners to sign disability parking permits. *(Request of Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes)*

Explanation:

APRN’s are able to complete the physical examination for the DMV application for a handicap placard but not allowed to sign it which results in a delay of care waiting for the physician to sign it. Georgia is one of two states in USA where this total restriction remains.

Approval of the above proposed legislation will remove delays in patient care and treatment, increase access to optimal healthcare, and improve healthcare outcomes for the citizens of Georgia.

6. ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES (APRN'S) WRITING PERSCRIPTIONS FOR SCHEDULE II CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:

The Columbus Consolidated Government along with the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus chapter is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support legislation which would authorize APRN's to write prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances: Stimulants-for ADHD, ADD for 30-day supply and Opiates prescriptions would be a 3-day supply with other criteria. (*Request of Councilor Jerry "Pops" Barnes*)

Explanation:

APRN's already write prescriptions for schedule III, IV and V medications which treat conditions such as depression, anxiety, and opioid abuse. APRN's are not allowed to write for Stimulants (Ritalin, Adderall) for ADD/ADHD for adults' patients, but they assess and evaluate the behaviors/symptoms for the medications and send it to the physician to send to the pharmacy which often results in a delay in the patient receiving the medication. There is a proposed bill suggesting a three-day prescription for opiates in an emergency with other criteria. There is currently no bill pending to allow APRN's to prescribe stimulants. Georgia is one of two states in the United States where this restriction remains.

7. ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES (APRN'S) CERTIFYING ORDERS FOR HOME HEALTH AGENCY VISITS:

THE Columbus Consolidated Government along with the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus Chapter is requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support legislation which would authorize APRN's to certify orders authorizing home health agencies to make home visits. (*Request of Councilor Jerry "Pops" Barnes*)

Explanation:

APRN's can assess, diagnose, and treat for most conditions requiring home health but are not able to order the services for home health that would allow for nursing services, physical or occupational therapy, to go into the home and prevent an exacerbation of symptoms. The order has to wait for the physician to sign it which may cause a delay of care, especially after an inpatient hospital stay. Georgia is one of the 11 states in the United States where this restriction remains.

8. MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS FOR ADULT ABUSE, NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support legislation requiring that the multidisciplinary teams for dealing with adult abuse, neglect and exploitation described in O.C.G.A. § 30-5-11 be mandatory in each judicial circuit of the State. *(Request of Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes)*

Explanation:

In 2018 legislation was passed to create another tool in the toolbox to combat elder abuse by allowing judicial districts in Georgia to create multidisciplinary teams to help address elder abuse and in the districts that have set up these teams, it has been a very effective tool. Updating the Adult Abuse Neglect & Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team Establishment Law to require all judicial districts to create multidisciplinary teams for coordination of local resources and response for adult abuse, exploitation and neglect would allow a uniform response to the needs of vulnerable adults throughout the State.

9. \$10 MILLION INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting that the local legislative delegation advocate for a \$10 Million increase in funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) order to provide services in the home that help older Georgians stay in their homes and communities for longer and avoid the expense of nursing home care. *(Request of Councilor Jerry “Pops” Barnes)*

Explanation:

The Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Program provides services that promote health and independence. HCBS programs consistently demonstrate that services in the home help older Georgians stay in their homes and communities. On average, these services can help delay premature nursing home care by 51 months. In-home services include home delivered meals, adult day care, respite care, home modification and more. The longer a person is able to stay at home with support, the happier and healthier they are and the more it saves taxpayer dollars. The Georgia Council on Aging and the Coalition of Advocates for Georgia’s Elderly (CO-AGE) members support the request to increase funding by \$10 Million.

Carry Over Requests from Previous Years

10. **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 Toyia Tucker/Carry Over From Previous Years*)

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 interest 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.

11. **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/Carryover From Previous Years*)

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.

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

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the local legislative delegation 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 Toyia 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).

13. 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 Councilor 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.

14. 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/Carry Over From Previous Years)*

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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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/Carry Over From Previous Year)*

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.

18. NEW OPTIONS WAIVER PROGRAM AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS WAIVER PROGRAM:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the legislative delegation to the General Assembly evaluate and appropriately fund operation of the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), which offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD). (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker/Carry Over From Previous Year*)

Explanation:

See fact sheet attached.

19. CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE POSTING:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the legislative delegation to the 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. (*Request of Councilor Glenn Davis/Carry Over From Previous Years*)

Explanation:

The 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. 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).

20. LEGITIMATION PROCEDURES:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the legislative 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. *(Request of Councilor Glenn Davis/ Carry Over From Previous Year)*

Explanation:

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. 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.

21. TAX ALLOCATION LAW AMENDMENT:

The Columbus Consolidated Government is requesting the legislative delegation to the Georgia general assembly introduce an amendment to O.C.G.A. Section 36-44-21 which allows voluntary acquisition of property within a TAD by elected officials and employees of a political subdivision, but prohibits receipt of any TAD funding by such elected officials or employees; and to further amend said law so as to clarify that elected officials may conduct business within a TAD and that citizens owning a business, property or a home within a TAD can run for and hold any elected office in a county which has created TAD districts. *(Request of Councilor Charmaine Crabb/Carry Over From Previous Year)*

Explanation:

This resolution requests the legislative delegation to introduce an amendment to the TAD conflict-of-interest law to permit voluntary acquisition of property within a TAD by elected officials or employees of the county in question, but to prohibit the receipt of any TAD funding by such elected officials or employees.

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
GEORGIA TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO REFORM AND IMPROVE MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITIZENS OF GEORGIA.**

WHEREAS, being the constitutional level of government closest to their constituents, Georgia counties are on the front lines of responding to mental health issues within the community as well as the development of mental health reform efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Consolidated Government supports efforts designed to provide every citizen in need to have accessible, affordable, and adequate mental health services; and,

WHEREAS, the Columbus Consolidated Government is grateful for the efforts of Georgia's executive, legislative, and judicial branches in working towards mental health reform in recent years, such as the passage of HB 1013 (2022) and introduction of HB 520 (2023), Chief Justice Boggs's work on jail diversion initiatives, and Governor Kemp's commitment to expanding mental health resources in schools for children and young adults; and,

WHEREAS, despite these prior steps and successes, the Columbus Consolidated Government recognizes that there is still a tremendous amount of work for the citizens Muscogee County and other citizens across Georgia to receive adequate healthcare for mental health and substance abuse disorders; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Columbus Consolidated Government that Muscogee County government reaffirms its commitment to reforming and improving mental health services for its citizens and all citizens of the state of Georgia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Columbus Consolidated Government specifically urges the Governor and General Assembly to continue efforts in the 2024 Session of the Georgia General Assembly to enhance Georgia citizens' access to vital mental health services, including the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders.

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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

**RESOLUTION
NO.**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION SUPPORT
EFFORTS TO MANDATE “ONE SOURCE” BILLING FOR PUBLIC UTILITY
SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, each building or each school owned by a local government or school district is billed separately; and,

WHEREAS, legislation could require that the rate charged by regulated public utilities be based on the total usage of all of the government or school district buildings and facilities of that one owner; and,

WHEREAS, aggregating the total usage of each governmental owner would mean a much lower rate per gallon of water or per kilowatt hour of electricity; and,

WHEREAS, a local government or school district could still use separate meters to track usage in each facility for efficiency, but the local government or school district should be given credit for total usage to get a lower rate which would benefit all taxpayers.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support statewide legislation that would require public utilities to bill local governments and school districts on a “one user” basis which would allow billing discounts that would benefit all taxpayers.

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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, the Chief Judge of the Recorder's 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 Recorder's Court to charge and collect a technology fee to be set by the court, not to exceed \$10.00, as a surcharge to each fine imposed; and,

WHEREAS, such technology fee surcharges shall be used exclusively to provide for the technological needs of the Recorder's Court as follows: computer hardware and software purchases; lease, maintenance, development or installation of computer hardware and software; purchase, lease, maintenance, and installation of audio-visual, imaging, scanning, facsimile, communications, recording, projection, sound systems, and printing equipment and software; and procurement of services and equipment for the conservation of court records and archiving the same to digital contents for retention and access; and,

WHEREAS, the funds collected pursuant to such authorization shall be maintained in a segregated fund by the Clerk of Recorder's 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, 2033, and any residual funds shall remain with Recorder's Court; and,

WHEREAS, said Act and Technology Fee will be automatically repealed on July 1, 2033; 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 of \$10.00 to be added as a surcharge to each fine imposed by the Recorder's Court, effective July 1, 2024, to be used to defray technology costs of the Recorder's 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 \$10.00 technology fee to be added as a surcharge to each fine imposed by the Recorder's Court, effective July 1, 2024, to be used to defray technology costs of the Recorder's 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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN's) are currently issued an "authorization to practice" under an RN's license; and,

WHEREAS, independent licensing could allow APRN's to provide services which they currently cannot provide such as being an approved signature to order disability parking permits, writing prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances subject to certain conditions, and the ability to certify orders for a home health agency to make home visits; and,

WHEREAS, in the 2023 Session, S.B. 164 was approved to permit separate licensing for APRN's but it was vetoed at the request of the Sponsors due to some administrative details that still needed to be worked out; and,

WHEREAS, APRN's have advanced education and trusting relationships with their collaborating physicians to provide safe, effective healthcare services; and,

WHEREAS, the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus Chapter join in requesting Council action to allow APRN's to provide more services through this revision of licensing requirements.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support an amended revised version of SB 164 which passed last year to remove barriers to APRN practice and thereby increase access to cost effective, quality, and safe healthcare services.

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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN’s) are able to complete the physical examination for the DMV application for a handicap placard but are not allowed to sign it; and,

WHEREAS, this restriction can result in a delay of care waiting for the physician signature; and,

WHEREAS, Georgia is one of two states in USA where this total restriction remains; and,

WHEREAS, the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus chapter join in requesting Council action to allow APRN’s to provide this service.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support legislation which would add APRN’s to the list of the Department of Motor Vehicle’s approved practitioners to sign disability parking permits.

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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN’s) are able to write prescriptions for schedule III, IV and V medications which treat conditions such as depression, anxiety, and opioid abuse but are not allowed to write for Stimulants (Ritalin, Adderall) for ADD/ADHD for adult patients; and,

WHEREAS, APRN’s assess and evaluate the behaviors/symptoms for these stimulant medications and send it to the physician to send to the pharmacy which often results in a delay in the patient receiving the medication; and,

WHEREAS, Georgia is one of two states in USA where this restriction remains; and,

WHEREAS, the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus chapter join in requesting Council action to allow APRN’s to provide this service.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support legislation which would allow APRN’s to write prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances which are Stimulants under certain conditions.

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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN’s) can assess, diagnose, and treat for most conditions requiring home health but are not able to order the services for home health that would allow for nursing services, physical or occupational therapy, to go into the home and prevent an exacerbation of symptoms; and,

WHEREAS, the order has to wait for the physician to sign it which may cause a delay of care, especially after an inpatient hospital stay; and,

WHEREAS, Georgia is one of eleven states in United States where this restriction remains; and,

WHEREAS, the United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (UAPRN) of West Georgia Columbus chapter join in requesting Council action to allow APRN’s to provide this service.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support legislation which would allow APRN’s to write orders for home health care services.

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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, Adult Abuse Neglect & Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team Establishment Law (O.C.G.A. § 30-5-11) was adopted in 2018 to allow the establishment of multidisciplinary teams for coordination of local resources and responses for adult abuse and exploitation; and,

WHEREAS, in circuits where the teams have been established, they have been a very effective tool; and,

WHEREAS, updating the Adult Abuse Neglect & Exploitation Multidisciplinary Team Establishment Law to require all judicial districts to create multidisciplinary teams for coordination of local resources and response for adult abuse, exploitation and neglect would allow a uniform response to the needs of vulnerable adults throughout the State.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce or support legislation which would requiring that the multidisciplinary teams for dealing with adult abuse, neglect and exploitation described in O.C.G.A.§ 30-5-11 be mandatory in each judicial circuit of 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 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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

WHEREAS, The Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Program (HCBS) provides services that promote health and independence; and,

WHEREAS, HCBS in home services which include home delivered meals, adult day care, respite care, home modification can help delay premature nursing home care by 51 months; and,

WHEREAS, the longer a person is able to stay at home with support, the happier and healthier he or she is and the more taxpayer dollars are saved.

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

This Council respectfully requests that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly advocate for a \$10 Million increase in funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) order to provide services in the home that help older Georgians stay in their homes and communities for longer and avoid the expense of nursing home care.

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

**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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

**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 _____ 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

**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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

**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 _____ 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

**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 ____ day of _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation 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

**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 _____ 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

**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 _____ 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

**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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

A Resolution requesting that the local legislative delegation evaluate and appropriately fund operation of the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), which offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD).

WHEREAS, the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD); and,

WHEREAS, goals for participants in the NOW program, which serves individuals with less intensive needs than those in the COMP program, include: Avoiding the need for more intensive services. Increasing independence and quality of life of individuals with I/DD; increasing the flexibility of service planning and delivery to meet exact individual needs; providing the opportunity for all participants to elect to direct their services to the extent that they choose; and ensuring the health, safety and welfare of NOW participants; and,

WHEREAS, goals for participants in the COMP program include: avoiding the need for institutional placement; increasing independence and quality of life of individuals with ID/DD who have intensive or comprehensive support needs; facilitating the transition of institutionalized individuals to community living; offering opportunities statewide for participant direction by waiver participants who have intensive or comprehensive support needs; and ensuring the health, safety and welfare of COMP program participants; and,

WHEREAS, there are more than 12,000 people with developmental disabilities who are served by the NOW/COMP programs in Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the local legislative delegation evaluate and appropriately fund operation of the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), which offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD).

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

We hereby request that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly evaluate and appropriately fund operation of the New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP), which offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD), through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Division of Developmental Disabilities. Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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

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 _____ 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said 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 _____.

**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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmation 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 _____.

**A RESOLUTION
NO.**

A resolution requesting that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia general assembly introduce an amendment to O.C.G.A. Section 36-44-21 which allows voluntary acquisition of property within a TAD by elected officials and employees of a political subdivision, but prohibits receipt of any TAD funding by such elected officials or employees; and to further amend said law so as to clarify that elected officials may conduct business within a TAD and that citizens owning a business, property or a home within a TAD can run for and hold any elected office in a county which has created TAD districts.

WHEREAS, the conflict-of-interest provision of Redevelopment Powers Law, Title 36, Chapter 44 is broadly and unclearly worded in a way that prohibits elected officials and employees of a political subdivision from voluntarily acquiring a direct or indirect interest in property in any TAD created by a local governing body; and,

WHEREAS, this Council desires that the conflict-of-interest provision applicable to TAD's be amended to permit voluntary acquisition of property within a TAD by elected officials and employees of a political subdivision, while prohibiting receipt of TAD funding for any property so acquired by elected officials or employees of a political subdivision; and,

WHEREAS, this Council further desires that said law be amended to clarify that elected officials may conduct business within a TAD and that citizens owning a business, property or a home within a TAD can run for and hold any elected office in a county which has created TAD districts.

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

We hereby request that the local delegation to the General Assembly introduce an amendment to O.C.G.A. Section 36-44-21 which allows voluntary acquisition of property within a TAD by elected officials and employees of a political subdivision but prohibits receipt of any TAD funding by such elected officials or employees. We hereby further request that said law be amended to clarify that elected officials may conduct business within a TAD and that citizens owning a business, property or a home within a TAD can run for and hold any elected office in a county which has created TAD districts..

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 _____, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ____ members of said 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