

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Truth Spring, Inc.
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Truth Spring, the Development Authority and the Columbus Consolidated Government to provide funding for the Truth Spring Workforce Program. The budget for Year 1 of the program is \$422,800. The request from the city is \$100,000 with the balance generated by private donations. Potential income to help offset the cost is to sell or rent properties that are renovated. Funding will be provided from the Economic Development Fund.
INITIATED BY:	City Manager's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Truth Spring, the Development Authority, and the Columbus Consolidated Government to provide funding for the Truth Spring Workforce Program.

Background: The average household income for the Northland area of Columbus is \$19,374, well below the poverty level. Truth Spring, Inc.'s mission is to rebuild the North Highland community with faith-based projects and strategies. The objective of the Truth Spring Trade School is to give every resident in North Highland community the opportunity to engage in productive, meaningful work as they are given the opportunity to rebuild their own community with their own hands. Only 1.9% of all churches focus on employment as a means to alleviate poverty.

Analysis: This program is economic development by creating jobs within the North Highlands community. Students will start at minimum wage (\$7.25) for the first 8 weeks of in-classroom training. When interns successfully complete the requirements associated with the Jobs for Life curriculum and begin their trade training, they will receive an increase in pay (\$9/hr). Interns will undergo quarterly evaluations giving them the opportunity for pay raises based upon favorable evaluations. Each student will have the opportunity to learn a trade, demolition/construction, culinary arts/food service, urban farming/wellness, or janitorial services. Truth Springs, Inc. is partnering with Columbus Technical College, Olivia Amos and the Food Mill, Mercy Med and Goodwill.

Financial Considerations: The budget for Year 1 of the program is \$422,800. The request from the city is \$100,000 with the balance generated by private donations. Potential income to help offset the cost is to sell or rent properties that are renovated. Funding will be provided from the Economic Development Fund.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney has reviewed the document and approved it.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the Truth Spring, the Development Authority, and the Columbus Consolidated Government to provide funding for the Truth Spring Workforce Program.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA
AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN TRUTH SPRING, THE
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND THE COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED
GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE TRUTH SPRING
WORKFORCE PROGRAM.**

Whereas, Columbus is a consolidated city-county government existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, and Bureau is a branch of Columbus created by ordinance and administered by its Board of Commissioners (“Board”);

Whereas, the DA was established by Ordinance No. 72-76 to develop and promote for the public good and general welfare trade, commerce, industry and employment opportunities in the City of Columbus and members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor, with the consent of the Council of Columbus; and,

Whereas, TSI’s mission is to rebuild the North Highland community with faith-based projects and strategies; and,

Whereas, the average household income of the North Highland area is \$19,374, well below the poverty level; and,

Whereas, Truth Springs Workforce Program’s objective is to give every resident in North Highland the opportunity to engage in productive, meaningful work as they rebuild their own community with their own hands; and,

Whereas, the Truth Spring Workforce Program will provide a 1 year “pay to learn” program to include on-site GED classes offered by Columbus Technical College, workforce/trade development, financial training, and other training; and,

Whereas, Columbus desires to support the efforts of TSI in the redevelopment of the North Highland community and make an impact on the households in this area; and,

Whereas, the DA and Columbus wish to assist Truth Spring Workforce Program with terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

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

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to enter an agreement with Truth Spring, the Development Authority and the Columbus Consolidated Government to provide \$100,000 to the Truth Springs Workforce Program from the Economic Development Fund.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ January 2021 adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten 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

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor