

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	2023 Brownfield Assessment Grant Re-Write
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to apply and accept if awarded, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded up to \$300,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within the south and midtown areas of Columbus.
INITIATED BY:	Community Reinvestment

Recommendation: Approval is requested to apply and accept if awarded, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded up to \$300,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within the south and midtown areas of Columbus.

Background: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the FY 2024 Request for Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grant Proposals. Community Reinvestment has worked with Terracon to develop a grant application which was submitted to EPA on November 8, 2022. We were notified that we were not selected as a recipient of the grant. However, we were encouraged to reapply for funding for the same activity and the same amount. The rewritten application will be submitted by November 13th, 2023. If awarded the Brownfield Assessment Grant could provide up to \$500,000 to conduct environmental studies and perform hazardous cleanup activities on properties located within Columbus, Georgia. The assessment will provide the City with information on the number of potentially environmentally contaminated properties that exist within the boundaries along the south and midtown areas of Columbus, as well as provide resources to mitigate potential hazards. This will be our first step in developing a plan for remediation in order for the properties to be redeveloped for future uses.

Analysis: If awarded the City could receive up to \$500,000 to conduct assessments of the properties within the south and midtown areas of Columbus to determine how many may be environmentally impacted. The report will be a useful tool for redevelopment purposes. On the back end of the funding, it could be used to potentially remediate some of the potentially identified environmentally contaminated properties.

Financial Considerations: There will be no financial impact. There are no match requirements for this grant.

Legal Considerations: The City Attorney will review all grant agreements prior to obtaining the City Manager's signature.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to apply and accept if awarded, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded up to \$300,000 from the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA). The grant funding will be utilized to conduct Brownfield Assessments of properties and cleanup activities within the south and midtown areas of Columbus.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE IF AWARDED, AND AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT AWARDED UP TO \$500,000 FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO FUND BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENTS OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced the FY 2022 Request for Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grant Proposals; and,

WHEREAS, if awarded the Brownfield Assessment Grant could provide up to \$500,000 to conduct environmental studies on properties located within Columbus, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the grant application must be submitted to EPA by November 14, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the grant funds will assist the City in developing a plan for the remediation of environmentally contaminated properties so these properties can be redeveloped for future uses.

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

To authorize the City Manager to apply, accept, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the amount awarded up to \$500,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct a Brownfield Assessment of properties located within Columbus, Georgia.

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 Begley 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