

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

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| TO: | Mayor and Councilors |
| AGENDA SUBJECT: | Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NeighborWorks Columbus |
| AGENDA SUMMARY: | Approval is requested to authorize a MOU with NeighborWorks Columbus for the development of workforce housing at Elliott's Walk utilizing State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Funding. |
| INITIATED BY: | Community Reinvestment Department |

Recommendation: Approval is requested to authorize a MOU with NeighborWorks Columbus for the development of workforce housing at Elliott's Walk utilizing State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Funding.

Background: The State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has announced the newly established Rural Workforce Housing Initiative. It is meant to spur the development of critically needed workforce housing across the state. Through resolution 230-23, The City of Columbus has applied on behalf of NeighborWorks Columbus for the Elliott's Walk development, which was awarded and will provide 24 single-family homes for sale at price points between \$150,000 and \$ 180,000 as well as the infrastructure for this development. The City wishes to enter into a programmatic administration of the allocated funds through Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NeighborWorks Columbus for the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative.

Analysis: The applicant for the funding source had to be a unit of local government. The City of Columbus was awarded and to move forward, the city will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with NeighborWorks Columbus. The funding will include a \$1,000,000 construction loan (NeighborWorks Columbus) and \$2,256,463 infrastructure grant (State of GA).

Financial Considerations: There will be no financial impact to the city. There are no match requirements for this grant by the city. The match funds will be provided by NeighborWorks Columbus through its \$1,000,000 construction loan.

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

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to authorize a MOU with NeighborWorks Columbus for the development of workforce housing at Elliott's Walk utilizing State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Funding.

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NEIGHBORWORKS COLUMBUS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORKFORCE HOUSING AT ELLIOTT'S WALK UTILIZING STATE OF GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS EQUITY FUND RURAL WORKFORCE HOUSING INITIATIVE FUNDING

WHEREAS, The State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has announced the newly established Rural Workforce Housing Initiative, meant to spur the development of critically needed workforce housing across the state; and,

WHEREAS, DCA has made the opportunity of funding available to local governments through the OneGeorgia Authority; and,

WHEREAS, The Columbus Consolidated Government has applied for and accepted a State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Award on behalf of NeighborWorks Columbus; and,

WHEREAS, The City wishes to enter into a programmatic administration of the awarded funds through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NeighborWorks Columbus for the State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative at Elliot’s Walk.

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

The City Manager is authorized to execute the attached memorandum of understanding and appropriate related documents relative to the development of workforce housing at Elliott's Walk utilizing State of Georgia Department of Community Affairs Equity Fund Rural Workforce Housing Initiative Funding.

_____ Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of December 2023 and 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 Begly voting _____.
- Councilor Huff voting _____.
- Councilor Thomas voting _____.
- Councilor Tucker voting _____.
- Councilor Cogle voting _____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Mayor