

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Loan for Landfill Expansion Project</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested to apply for and accept a Georgia Fund Solid Waste Loan up to \$7,850,000 with a 15 year amortization period at an interest not to exceed 4.5% from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	<b>Finance/Public Works Department</b>

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to apply for and accept a Georgia Fund Solid Waste Loan up to \$7,850,000 with a 15 year amortization period at an interest not to exceed 4.5% from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).

**Background:** As part of the FY26 budget, fee increases were adopted for the Integrated Waste Fund to help offset costs associated with borrowing the funds needed for the Phase 5 Cell Expansion Project at Pinegrove Landfill. This cell expansion is necessary to ensure the city maintains adequate dumping space at the landfill without interruption. Since opening this section of the landfill is inevitable, it is beneficial to fund this expansion now rather than delaying construction to a time when costs will be undoubtedly higher due to inflation, changes in technology, or changes in landfill laws and regulations.

**Analysis:** Expansion of the landfill will provide sustainability for our Integrated Waste Management system for future generations.

**Financial Considerations:** Fee increases were adopted in the FY26 budget to help offset costs associated with borrowing the funds needed for the landfill cell expansion project. Although subject to change, the currently advertised interest rate is 3.49% and the approved loan amount will be amortized over a 15 year period. In addition, the interest rate applied during the construction period will be 200 basis points (2%) higher than the agreed to amortized interest rate. There is also a 1.5% origination fee pursuant to the loan agreement.

**Legal Considerations:** The loan agreement and other contractual documents will be reviewed by the City Attorney's Office prior to execution if approved.

**Recommendations/Actions:** Approval is requested to apply for and accept a Georgia Fund Solid Waste Loan up to \$7,850,000 with a 15 year amortization period at an interest not to exceed 4.5% from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).

**A RESOLUTION**

**NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GEORGIA FUND SOLID WASTE LOAN UP TO \$7,850,000 WITH A 15 YEAR AMORTIZATION PERIOD AT AN INTEREST RATE NOT TO EXCEED 4.5% FROM THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY (GEFA).**

**WHEREAS**, the Public Works Department of the Columbus Consolidated Government operates Columbus, Georgia’s Integrated Waste System; and,

**WHEREAS**, Integrated Waste System functions include the collection and disposal of solid waste and recyclables as well as operation of various city landfills; and,

**WHEREAS**, fee increases in the Integrated Waste Fund were adopted in the FY26 budget to help offset costs associated with borrowing the funds needed for the landfill expansion project; and.

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

That the Mayor and any other CCG officials as appropriate are authorized to apply for and accept a Georgia Fund Solid Waste Loan up to \$7,850,000 with a 15 year amortization period and an interest rate not to exceed 4.5% from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) for the landfill expansion project and to execute all necessary documents to facilitate said transaction.

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Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

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Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

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B.H. “Skip” Henderson, III, Mayor