

Columbus Consolidated Government

Council Meeting

9/22/2026

Agenda Report # \_\_\_\_

TO: Mayor and Council

SUBJECT: Office of Dispute Resolution

INITIATED BY: Columbus Office of Crime Prevention

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to enter into a one-year contract with Muscogee County Office of Dispute Resolution to award funding for Crime Prevention initiatives.

**Background:** Columbus Office of Crime Prevention has agreed to recommend the funding of \$17,000.00 to the Office of Dispute Resolution to run the Legitimation Station.

**Analysis:** This program will help establish relationships between fathers and their children that were born out of wedlock.

**Financial Considerations:** These funds are appropriated from the Other Local Option Sales Tax, Crime Prevention Program and do not require a match.

**Recommendations/ Actions:** Approve the resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to enter a one year contract with Office of Dispute Resolution to provide funding for The Legitimation Station.

**A RESOLUTION**

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

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH OFFICE OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION FOR \$17,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE INITIATIVES OF LEGITIMATION STATION.**

**WHEREAS**, Office of Dispute Resolution has the Legitimation Station Program to impact the lives of fathers to reconnect them to their children and,

**WHEREAS**, the Columbus Office of Crime Prevention has authorized funding under the Crime Prevention Program for this project in the amount of \$17,000.00 to the Office of Dispute Resolution.

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

The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a one-year contract through the Columbus Office of Crime Prevention with the Office of Dispute Resolution for \$17,000.00 for funding the Legitimation Station Program. Funds are budgeted in the FY27 budget: Other Local Option Sales Tax, Crime Prevention Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the 22nd day of September, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_\_ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Crabb voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Barnes voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Davis voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Chambers voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Huff voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Garrett voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Tucker voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Cook voting\_\_\_\_\_.
- Councilor Cogle voting\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LINDSEY MCLEMORE  
CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
SKIP HENDERSON  
MAYOR

Local Assistance Grant Agreement

Grant Program Name: Columbus Office of Crime Prevention

Fiscal Agent: Muscogee County

Administering Agency: Columbus Office of Crime Prevention

Grant Recipient: Office of Dispute Resolution

Amount: \$21,000.00

|         |                   |                   |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Budget: | Personnel –       | \$18,000.00       |
|         | <u>Supplies -</u> | <u>\$3,000.00</u> |
|         | Total -           | \$21,000.00       |

Program Contact Information

Name: Judge Gil McBride Title: Director

Address: 308 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Columbus, GA 31901

Phone #: 706-653-4464

Project Description

The Legitimation Station’s objective is to help fathers of children born out of wedlock to establish legal relationships with their children through legitimation, which is required to secure a father’s legal rights to custody and visitation of nonmarital children. To achieve this objective, the Legitimation Station seeks funding to employ a project co-ordinator to recruit, train and co-ordinate *pro bono* attorneys and paralegals to assist fathers in preparing and filing legitimation pleadings in superior court and to maintain the *pro se* forms on the family law information center website.

I, Gil McBride the duly authorized representative of the above named Grant Recipient, do hereby agree to the following terms that outline the requirements of Columbus, Georgia for organizations/agencies receiving funds from the Columbus Office of Crime Prevention. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions regarding these terms and fully understand my organization’s obligations incurred by accepting this grant. I understand that prior to the disbursements of any funds the following criteria must be met:

1. The above named Grant Recipient represents the beneficiaries of the Grant and the above named individual is authorized to act in the name of Office of Dispute Resolution as the Grant Recipient.

2. The subject matter of this Agreement is primarily the provision of services in the form of legitimizing fathers.
3. When reimbursement is sought, the name of the person providing the service shall be provided along with the type of service provided. The Grant Recipient shall immediately notify the Agency if any of their service providers are arrested. At the time Grant Recipient learns that one of its service providers has been arrested, then Grant Recipient shall cease to use such service provider in connection with programs funded by this Grant.
4. In the initial report submitted to the Administering Agency, Grant Recipient shall provide:  
(a) the name of the chairman and the secretary of the advisory committee; (b) the times and dates that the Grant programs are available – essentially a schedule of services; (c) the number of participants in the program; (d) Description of the process used to identify individuals for which services will be provided; (e) provide specifics on the evaluation process that addresses how the process will work, how the statistical data will be gathered, how it will be analyzed.
5. Grant Recipient shall provide an accounting system that shall separate Grant Funds from other funds. The accounting system shall also separate Grant related expenses from other expenses.
6. Grant Recipient shall submit to Agency a monthly report on the progress of the programs. The annual report shall provide statistical data that supports the projects goals of reducing the recidivism rates of the participants within the program.
7. Grant Recipient shall use Grant Funds strictly for the purposes outlined in the Grant. Any changes to the programs must be submitted in writing to Columbus Office of Crime Prevention for approval or the funding may be jeopardized.
8. Grant Recipient shall identify the members of its Board of Directors which will assume liability if the Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council determines the funds have been misused.
9. The Grant Recipient shall use generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) to account for all financial transactions used to substantiate the fulfillment of this Grant.
10. The Grant Recipient shall maintain all records of Grant-related financial transactions for a minimum of three years after the completion of the Grant and to make all records available for inspection and fully cooperate with any audit or investigation requested or undertaken by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the State Auditor, the Internal Auditor for Columbus, Georgia, or any other officials of the state or federal government who have the authority to conduct audits.
11. The Grant Recipient shall comply at all times with the provisions of Article I, Section II, and Paragraph VII of the Georgia Constitution regarding the prohibition against Sectarian Aid.
12. The Grant Recipient hereby releases Columbus, Georgia from any liability whatsoever and Grant Recipient hereby agrees to indemnify Columbus, Georgia against any and all claims for damages, bodily injury or death arising from any of the activities contemplated by this Agreement raised by any person. Grant Recipient shall provide to Columbus, Georgia a

certificate of insurance that shows general liability coverage in the amount of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and which shows that Columbus, Georgia is named as an additional insured.

13. All services must be provided by properly certified or licensed personal.
14. In the event there is any discrepancy in the language of the project description and these numbered paragraphs, the language in the numbered paragraphs shall control.

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Signature of City Manager, Isaiah Hugley

Date

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Approved as to form by City Attorney

Date

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Signature of Grant Recipient Representative, Gil McBride

Date

