

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	FY25 Community Policing Development Microgrants – Homelessness and Squatting grant application
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested for the Mayor, or his designee to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for funds to assist MCSO with the implementation of innovative and collaborative programs for addressing the negative impacts of homelessness and squatting, with an emphasis on enforcement, prevention, and community collaboration, in the amount of \$175,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.
INITIATED BY:	Muscogee County Sheriff's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested for the Mayor, or his designee to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for funds to assist MCSO with the implementation of innovative and collaborative programs for addressing the negative impacts of homelessness and squatting, with an emphasis on enforcement, prevention, and community collaboration, in the amount of \$175,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

Background: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) funds will be used to assist MCSO with the implementation of innovative and collaborative programs for addressing the negative impacts of homelessness and squatting, with an emphasis on enforcement, prevention, and community collaboration.

Analysis: These funds are available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Financial Considerations: There is no local match requirement.

Legal Considerations: The Muscogee County Sheriff's Office is eligible to apply for, receive, and expend these funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, and will be obligated to the conditions of the grant award.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested for the application for, acceptance, and expenditure of these funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) for funds to assist MCSO with the implementation of innovative and collaborative programs for addressing the negative impacts of homelessness and squatting, with an emphasis on enforcement, prevention, and community collaboration, in the amount of \$175,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount of the award.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND ANY AWARDED FUNDS AS PER THE GRANT GUIDELINES AND CITY REGULATIONS, IF AWARDED, A GRANT OF \$175,000.00, OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES, FY25 COMMUNITY POLICING DEVELOPMENT MICROGRANTS – HOMELESSNESS AND SQUATTING GRANT APPLICATION, WITH NO LOCAL MATCH REQUIREMENT, AND TO AMEND THE MULTI-GOVERNMENTAL FUND BY THE AMOUNT AWARDED. FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED TO ASSIST MCSO WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR ADDRESSING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF HOMELESSNESS AND SQUATTING, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ENFORCEMENT, PREVENTION, AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION.

WHEREAS, the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office has been authorized by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. to apply for \$175,000.00 of grant monies; and,

WHEREAS, funding is from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services - FY25 Community Policing Development Microgrants – Homelessness and Squatting grant application; and,

WHEREAS, funds are utilized to assist MCSO with the implementation of innovative and collaborative programs for addressing the negative impacts of homelessness and squatting, with an emphasis on enforcement, prevention, and community collaboration; and,

WHEREAS, funds will support projects that create or expand collaborative efforts between law enforcement and social service providers to respond to homelessness, including street outreach and connecting individuals with housing resources; and,

WHEREAS, funds will support initiatives that provide law enforcement officers with training on best practices for addressing homelessness and squatting, focusing on alternatives to arrests and criminalization; and,

WHEREAS, funds will support projects that work collaboratively with property owners, local governments, and community partners to prevent the illegal occupation of vacant properties while offering supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness; and,

WHEREAS, there are no matching funds required for this grant project.

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

That the Mayor, or his designee is authorized to apply for, accept, and expend any awarded funds as per the grant guidelines and City regulations, if awarded, FY25 Community Policing Development Microgrants – Homeless and Squatting grant application, from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) in the amount of \$175,000, or as otherwise awarded, with no local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund budget by the amount awarded.

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 _____.

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor