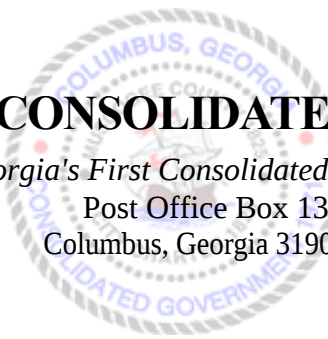




COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT

Georgia's First Consolidated Government

Post Office Box 1340

Columbus, Georgia 31902-340

Memorandum

To: City Council

From: Lindsey McLemore, Clerk of Council

Date: 09/08/2026

Re: 2026 Inter-City Leadership Conference – Transportation Expenses

COMMENTS: Request authorization for the Columbus Consolidated Government to cover transportation/airfare expenses for **Councilors Simi Barnes, Travis Chambers, and Cathy Cook, and Councilor-Elect Sherrie Arron**, who were selected to attend the **2026 Inter-City Leadership Conference** in Spartanburg, South Carolina, September 29 – October 2, 2026.

According to the **Columbus, Georgia Chamber of Commerce**, hotel accommodations for the selected participants will be covered. The **estimated total transportation/airfare cost is \$2,600**.

For 30 years, the Inter-City Leadership Conference has brought together leaders from government, business, education, nonprofit organizations, and other community sectors to explore successful practices and innovative approaches in peer and aspirational cities. This year's conference will provide opportunities to learn from Spartanburg's efforts in economic development, workforce alignment, downtown revitalization, tourism, the arts, talent attraction, and community-driven development.

Participation by Columbus elected officials provides valuable exposure to strategies and best practices that may be applicable to future projects, policies, and initiatives in our community. It also strengthens collaboration among local government, business, education, and community partners while ensuring Columbus is represented in discussions focused on regional growth and development.

Council authorization is respectfully requested to approve transportation/airfare expenses at an estimated total cost of \$2,600 for the selected participants.

Attachment(s): n/a