

Columbus GA Consolidated Government
Crime Prevention Board Minutes of Meeting

August 5, 2026

Board Members Present: Seth Brown, Danny Arencibia, Erika Cottingham, Ralph King, Rocky Marsh, Sgt. Angela Florence

Board Members Absent: Rick Kelly, Dr. Michael Forte

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Seth Brown and Danny Arencibia. Following opening remarks, the Board proceeded with discussion of program funding recommendations and allocations.

Funding Allocation Discussion:

- The Board reviewed funding recommendations within the approximately \$950,000 available for crime prevention initiatives. Discussion focused on ensuring that funded programs demonstrate a clear connection to crime prevention, serve defined target populations, provide measurable outcomes, maintain accurate and reasonable budgets, and demonstrate plans for long-term sustainability.
- The Board discussed the number of organizations serving similar populations and geographic areas and identified opportunities to encourage greater collaboration and resource sharing among funded organizations. Members acknowledged that similar programming may be appropriate when organizations serve different geographic areas or distinct populations.

The Board also discussed establishing a more formal approach to funding organizations that have received Crime Prevention funding for multiple consecutive years. Considerations included gradually reducing funding over time, encouraging organizations to diversify revenue sources, and preserving funding opportunities for new or emerging programs.

Program Funding Decisions

- Following review and discussion of the applications, the Board established the following funding recommendations:

Organization/Program, Funding Recommendation w/ Notes/Conditions

- 1) Better Work** - \$10,000 ...Funding reduced in consideration of prior years of support and the Board's approach to gradually reducing funding for long-term recipients.
- 2) Boys & Girls Club** - \$0...No funding recommended based on consideration of existing funding resources and concerns regarding reported participant data.
- 3) Boys to Men** - \$5,000...Funding reduced in consideration of prior years of support and the Board's approach to gradually reducing funding for long-term recipients.
- 4) Building Toward Wellness** - \$5000
- 5) Children 1st** - \$0
- 6) Claflin** - \$10,000...Funding maintained at the prior-year level.
- 7) Clements Arts** - \$15,000...Funding recommended based on program structure and demonstrated support for foster youth and families.
- 8) Columbus Community Center** - \$15,000
- 9) Columbus Community Orchestra** - \$0
- 10) Columbus Dream Center** - \$15,000...Funding recommended in support of the organization's neighborhood-based service model.
- 11) Columbus Scholars** - \$5,000...The Board discussed reducing funding based on its review of program performance and the application.
- 12) Columbus Technical College** - \$150,000...Funding maintained at the prior-year level based on the corrected prior-year amount.
- 13) Community Restoration Outreach** - \$0...No funding recommended due to insufficient detail in the application and concerns identified during the Board's review.
- 14) Compassion Connection** - \$0...No funding recommended based on sustainability concerns and material inconsistencies in the submitted budget.
- 15) CORTA Youth Program** - \$15,000...Funding reduced from \$20,000. The Board requested clearer demonstration of the program's connection to crime prevention outcomes.
- 16) CSO Music Matters** - \$5,000...Continued funding recommended at a modest level.
- 17) East Carver** - \$20,000...Funding recommended in support of youth soccer and neighborhood revitalization
- 18) Easter Seals After-School Program** - \$5,000...Limited funding recommended based on the Board's assessment of alignment with crime prevention priorities.
- 19) Emmanuel Prep** - \$25,000...Full requested amount recommended. The organization should provide greater program detail in future applications.
- 20) Faith Program** - \$20,000

- 21) FLOW** - \$50,000...Funding recommended.
- 22) Girls Inc.** - \$10,000... Funding recommended.
- 23) Good Neighbor** - \$0...No funding recommended based on insufficiently defined outcomes and concerns regarding alignment with program funding requirements.
- 24) Goodwill** - \$30,000...Increased funding recommended based on the strength of the GED and employment-focused programming.
- 25) Great Kids** - \$0... No funding recommended based on the application's rubric score and an insufficiently defined target population.
- 26) Guided Spirit Ministries/Spirit Ministries** - \$0... No funding recommended based on application completeness, program scope, and the relationship between the amount requested and projected number of participants served.
- 27) Helping Hands** - \$0...No funding recommended.
- 28) Hope Harbour** - \$0...No funding recommended based on alignment with current funding priorities and consideration of prior years of support.
- 29) JOT/The Rise Program** - \$10,000...Funding recommended.
- 30) Kingdom Sports** - \$10,000...Funding recommended.
- 31) Legitimation Station** - \$17,000...Funding recommended.
- 32) Living Mosaic Community Garden** - \$5,000...Funding recommended.
- 33) Micah's Promise** - \$20,000...Funding recommended based on the program's work with victims of sex trafficking and its relationship to interrupting cycles of victimization and crime.
- 34) NFOAAY** - \$15,000...Funding maintained at the prior-year level.
- 35) Omega Lamp Lighters** - \$30,000...Funding recommended with the expectation that future applications provide stronger and more complete program information.
- 36) Open Door** - \$15,000...Funding recommended.
- 37) Overflow** - \$15,000...Funding maintained at the current level.
- 38) Plummer House** - \$0...No funding recommended because the population served did not sufficiently align with the target population for this funding cycle.
- 39) STEAM Race Program** - \$5,000...Funding reduced to allow reallocation of funds to the STEAM Expo.
- 40) Right from the Start** - \$30,000...Funding recommended with particular consideration given to the program's fatherhood component.
- 41) Safehouse** - \$5,000...Funding recommended.
- 42) Scouting of America** - \$20,000...Funding maintained at the prior-year level.
- 43) Second Chance** - \$78,000...Funding recommended based on the program's service to a high-risk population and demonstrated program value.
- 44) Service for Humanity** - \$30,000...Funding recommended.

- 45) STEAM Expo** - \$15,000...Increased funding recommended following Board review.
- 46) Take the City** - \$15,000...Increased funding recommended based on the program's focus on an adult population and its alignment with identified service needs.
- 47) The Links, Inc.** - \$0...No funding recommended based on concerns regarding the methodology used to identify and document the program's target at-risk population.
- 48) Truth Springs** - \$60,000...Full funding recommended based on demonstrated program performance.
- 49) Turn Around Columbus** - \$20,000
- 50) Uptown Portable Cameras** - \$0...No funding recommended.
- 51) Valley Episcopal Ministry** - \$15,000...Funding recommended in support of reentry services for returning citizens.
- 52) Voices of the Valley** - \$25,000...Funding recommended.
- 53) Whole Person** - \$20,000...Funding maintained at the current level.
- 54) Wright Fit** - \$30,000...Funding recommended.
- 55) YMCA Achievers Program** - \$10,000...Funding recommended.
- 56) Young Life "Meta Lift"** - \$15,000...Funding recommended for the teen pregnancy-focused program.
- 57) Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus** - \$10,000...Funding recommended.

Board-Directed Initiatives

· The Board discussed reserving up to \$50,000 for Board-directed crime prevention initiatives.

1) Citywide Youth Summit

- a. The Board discussed allocating approximately \$25,000 to develop a citywide youth symposium focused on crime prevention, youth engagement, community resources, and collaboration among organizations serving Columbus youth. Potential community partners were discussed.
- b. A formal symposium proposal, including objectives, program structure, potential partners, and a proposed budget, will be developed for further consideration.

2) Youth Challenge Pilot Program

- a. The Board also discussed the potential development of a three-week summer Youth Challenge pilot program modeled after elements of the Georgia Youth Challenge Program. Members discussed potential

benefits as well as operational, legal, liability, partnership, and implementation considerations.

- b. Additional information regarding program structure, costs, and partnership requirements will be obtained before the Board determines whether to proceed with the initiative. The Board will explore potential collaboration with appropriate military and National Guard partners and obtain additional program information from Youth Challenge leadership.
- c. Any proposed allocation for the pilot will remain subject to further Board consideration and applicable City approval requirements.

Next Steps

- 1) Develop a formal proposal and preliminary budget for the citywide youth symposium.
- 2) Obtain additional information regarding the structure, cost, legal considerations, and partnership requirements associated with a potential Youth Challenge pilot.
- 3) Determine applicable City approval requirements for Board-directed expenditures.
- 4) Develop a formal policy addressing long-term funding, gradual funding reductions, and opportunities for new applicants.
- 5) Revise future application guidelines and scoring criteria to strengthen requirements related to crime-prevention outcomes, target populations, sustainability, budget accuracy, and measurable results.
- 6) Follow up with applicants for whom funding recommendations were contingent upon additional information or specific conditions.
- 7) Prepare the final funding recommendations for presentation to Columbus City Council in August 2026.
- 8) Monitor awarded funds in accordance with applicable expenditure deadlines.

Next Meeting: Seth Brown will communicate the date and time of the next Board meeting by email.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned following completion of Board business.