

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Council
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>FY23 Violence Against Women Act Grant Award</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested to apply for and accept a grant in the amount of 50,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a \$16,667 local match requirement from the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, for the third year of a 3-year VAWA grant program for the Muscogee County Solicitor General Victim Witness Program, and amend the Multi-Governmental Fund by the award amount.
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	<b>Muscogee County Solicitor General</b>

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to apply for and accept a grant in the amount of \$50,000, or as otherwise awarded, with a local match requirement of \$16,667 from the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, for the continuation of the Muscogee County Solicitor General Violence Against Women Act grant program, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund by the amount awarded. This grant funds the salary and benefits of a Domestic Violence Investigator, which greatly enhances the Victim Witness office’s ability to serve the community and prosecute misdemeanor crimes as pursuant.

**Background:** Georgia Law requires the Solicitor General provide extensive services, information, and notification to crime victims pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 17-17-1 (Crime Victims' Bill of Rights). The Solicitor General is solely and directly responsible for complying with this law as mandated by the Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights.

**Analysis:** The State of Georgia awarded a three-year Violence Against Women Act grant to the Muscogee County Solicitor General’s Victim Witness office in 2021. This is the third year of the grant award. This grant funds the salary and benefits of a Domestic Violence Investigator, which greatly enhances the Victim Witness office’s ability to serve the community and prosecute misdemeanor crimes as pursuant.

**Financial Considerations:** The \$50,000 grant award and \$16,667 local match requirement are the same as that undertaken by the City in FY22.

**Legal Considerations:** The Consolidated Government of Columbus is eligible to receive the funds and will be bound by the terms of the grant contract.

**Recommendation:** Approval is requested to apply for and accept a grant in the amount of \$50,000, or as otherwise awarded, from the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, with a \$16,667 local match required, and amend the Multi-governmental Fund by the amount of the award.

**A RESOLUTION**

**NO.**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT A VAWA GRANT AWARD OF \$50,000.00 OR AS OTHERWISE AWARDED, WITH A LOCAL MATCH OF \$16,667.00 TO OPERATE THE SOLICITOR GENERAL’S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT PROGRAM FROM JANUARY 1, 2023, TO DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND AMEND THE MULTI GOVERNMENTAL FUND 0216 BY THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD.**

**WHEREAS**, the Solicitor-General designed a Victim Witness Assistance Program in 1997, which specially address the needs of misdemeanor crime victims; and,

**WHEREAS**, the funds are requested to finance personnel and budget of the Solicitor-General’s Victim Witness Assistance Program to provide services mandated by Georgia Law; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Solicitor-General Victim Witness program is requesting the acceptance of a \$66,667.00 or as otherwise awarded Federal Grant Award for salary and benefits; and,

**WHEREAS**, if accepted, Federal grant monies will reimburse the city for salary, and benefits for the excluding applicable Federal and State taxes.

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

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to accept a VAWA Grant from the State of Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in the amount of \$50,000, with a \$16,667 local match requirement, and amend the Multi Governmental Fund by the amount of the award. Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Barnes voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Cogle voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Crabb voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Davis voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Garrett voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor House voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Huff voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Thomas voting \_\_\_\_\_
- Councilor Tucker voting \_\_\_\_\_

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Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

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B.H. “Skip” Henderson, Mayor