

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	Federal Reimbursement Recovery Services
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of a contract with Justice Benefits, Inc. (Coppell, TX) for federal reimbursement recovery services. The Muscogee County Sheriff's Office will utilize the services to recover federal reimbursement regarding special circumstance inmates. The reimbursements may include expenses for medical, mental health, translator, transportation, food and housing.

Many of the services provided by the Muscogee County Jail are funded directly by local and state funds when, in fact, some of those services are eligible for Federal Financial Participation. In essence, the federal government will reimburse a percentage of local dollars spent for services currently provided by the Muscogee County Sheriff's Department.

Justice Benefits, Inc (JBI) specializes in federal revenue maximization for state and local government entities. The State Criminal Allien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Under SCAAP the OJP makes payments to eligible state and local governments that incur certain types of costs due to incarceration of undocumented individuals.

Justice Benefits, Inc. was selected by the Sheriff's Office based on their ability to provide maximization services for federally funded programs. JBI provides professional assistance to identify opportunities and uses proprietary software programs to maximize dollars on reimbursement claims. The Sheriff's Office has utilized this vendor since 2000. JBI's active SCAAP clients in Georgia include the following counties: Chatham, Clarke, Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Floyd, Fulton, and Henry.

Justice Benefits, Inc. will provide professional expertise, technology and manpower to assist the City in securing the appropriate federal reimbursements. The services include the following:

- A. Review the policies and procedures used by the City to identify such additional federal and other revenue sources, if any, as may be available to the City through participation in new programs or expansion of existing Federal Financial Participation. These efforts may include any of the following activities: advising the City of the reimbursement opportunity, preparing or enhancing the claim, preparing or assisting with submittal packages, preparing audit files, assisting the City with submittals, assisting the City should it be audited for claims on which the Justice Benefits, Inc. assisted, or other related federal revenue enhancement activities.

- B. Continually monitor for new opportunities of funding. Whenever a new federal reimbursement opportunity arises, Justice Benefits, Inc. may notify the City of that opportunity. Justice Benefits, Inc. will strive to identify and optimize all federal reimbursement opportunities for the City; but is not obligated to make the City aware of all possible opportunities and shall have no liability for any omission to identify the same.

The term of the contract shall be for four years.

The vendor will be compensated with twenty-two percent (22%) of new revenues received by the City that are expressly deemed to be a result of efforts by Justice Benefits, Inc.

Revenue funds will be deposited into: General Fund Supported Capital Projects, Office of Justice-SCAAP; 0508-660-1000-CPGF-4328-22180 -20010. Expenditures will be paid from: General Fund Supported Capital Projects, Other Purchased Prof & Tech Services – Office of Justice-SCAAP, 0508-660-1000-CPGF-6444-22180-20010.

**A RESOLUTION**

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

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH JUSTICE BENEFITS, INC. (DALLAS, TX) FOR FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT RECOVERY SERVICES. THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE WILL UTILIZE THE SERVICES TO RECOVER FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENTS REGARDING SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE INMATES. THE REIMBURSEMENTS MAY INCLUDE EXPENSES FOR MEDICAL, MENTAL HEALTH, TRANSLATOR, TRANSPORTATION, FOOD AND HOUSING.**

**WHEREAS**, the vendor will provide professional expertise, technology and manpower to assist the City in securing the appropriate federal reimbursements; and,

**WHEREAS**, the vendor will be compensated with twenty-two percent (22%) of new revenues received by the City that are expressly deemed to be a result of efforts by Justice Benefits, Inc.; and,

**WHEREAS**, Justice Benefits, Inc. was selected by the Sheriff’s Office based on their ability to provide maximization services for federally funded programs. JBI provides professional assistance to identify opportunities and uses proprietary software programs to maximize dollars on reimbursement claims. The Sheriff’s Office has utilized this vendor since 2000. JBI’s active SCAAP clients in Georgia include the following counties: Chatham, Clarke, Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Floyd, Fulton, and Henry; and,

**WHEREAS**, the contract term shall be for four years.

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

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Justice Benefits, Inc. (Coppell, TX) for federal reimbursement recovery services. The Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office will utilize the services to recover federal reimbursement regarding special circumstance inmates. The reimbursements may include expenses for medical, mental health, translator, transportation, food and housing. Revenue funds will be deposited into: General Fund Supported Capital Projects, Office of Justice-SCAAP; 0508-660-1000-CPGF-4328-22180 -20010. Expenditures will be paid from: General Fund Supported Capital Projects, Other Purchased Prof & Tech Services – Office of Justice-SCAAP, 0508-660-1000-CPGF-6444-22180-20010.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_\_ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting \_\_\_\_\_

Councilor Barnes voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor Begly voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor Cogle voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor Crabb voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor Davis voting \_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor Garrett 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 III, Mayor