

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Muscogee County Sheriff's Office Back the Blue Act Donation
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to accept a donation in the amount of \$5,735.28 from the Georgia Sheriff's Association, Inc as part of the 2025 disbursement from the Back the Blue Act funds defined in O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1
INITIATED BY:	Muscogee County Sheriff's Office

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept a donation from the Georgia Sheriff's Association, Inc. in the amount of \$5,735.28 as part of the 2025 disbursement from the Back the Blue Act Funds defined in O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1.

Background: The Back the Blue Act was initiated by Lt. Governor Burt Jones in 2024. The purpose of the Back the Blue Fund is to provide bonus payments to certified peace officers employed under a sheriff in the State of Georgia.

Analysis: The Back the Blue Fund provides discretionary funding to duly elected or appointed sheriffs of each county that can be used to hire and/or retain law enforcement officers in an effort to promote public safety and restore trust and goodwill between communities and law enforcement officers.

Financial Considerations: Money distributed from the Back the Blue Fund shall only be used for bonus payments to certified peace officers employed under a sheriff and shall be distributed equitably and fairly. Such fund shall not be used to supplement a sheriff's salary nor to supplant or replace funding by the county governing authority for the operation of the office of sheriff.

Legal Considerations: The Sheriff shall have sole discretion in determining the allocation of bonus payments to certified peace officers under his authority per O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1. Also, Council approval required to accept the donated funds required per Columbus Code Section 2-3.8.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to accept a donation from the Georgia Sheriff's Association, Inc. in the amount of \$5,735.28 as part of the 2025 disbursement from the Back the Blue Act Funds defined in O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM THE GEORGIA SHERIFF’S ASSOCIATION, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,735.28 AS PART OF THE 2025 DISBURSEMENT FROM THE BACK THE BLUE ACT FUNDS DEFINED IN O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1.

WHEREAS, the sole purpose of the Back the Blue Fund is to provide bonus payments to certified peace officers employed under a sheriff in the State of Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the bonus payments shall be distributed equitably and fairly and shall not be used to supplement a sheriff’s salary nor to supplant or replace funding by the county governing authority for the operation of the office of sheriff; and,

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has sole discretion in determining the allocation of bonus payments to certified peace officers under his authority in accordance with O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to accept a donation in the amount of \$5,735.28 from the Georgia Sheriff’s Association, Inc. in the amount of \$5,735.28 as part of the 2025 disbursement from the Back the Blue Act Funds defined in O.C.G.A. 40-2-26.1 for the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the ____ day of _____, 2026 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