

Good afternoon, Mayor Henderson, City Manager Hugley, and esteemed Council Members.

My name is Sonya Kibble, and I serve as the Jury Manager for the Superior Court of Muscogee County. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am here to formally request the addition of two staff positions within the Jury Management Office. This request is driven by the continued growth in both the volume and complexity of our caseload, which has significantly impacted on our ability to maintain efficient and effective operations with our current staffing levels.

Over the next few minutes, I'll share an overview of our current operations, highlight our specific challenges, and

outline how these new positions would support greater efficiency, improve service to jurors, and strengthen our overall ability to meet the court's obligations.

Thank you for your time and your continued support of the judicial system in Muscogee County.

# Request for Additional Staff – Jury Manager’s Office

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## Request for Additional Staff – Jury Manager’s Office

- Presented by: Sonya Kibble, Jury Manager
- City of Columbus, Georgia

## Current Staffing Overview

- - Jury Manager
- - 1 Deputy Clerk II (full-time)
- - 1 Administrative Support Specialist (part-time) (Works full-time under ARPA Grant)
- -- Staffing is insufficient to meet growing demands

## Requested Positions

- - 1 Administrative Coordinator (G-118)
- - 1 Deputy Clerk II (G-115)
- - Will improve efficiency and office coverage
- - Critical support during peak hours and courtroom duties

## Key Responsibilities

- - Serve 9 trial courts, including grand jurors
- - Jury summons, deferments, payroll, orientations
- - Courtroom support during the voir dire process
- - Daily contact with:
  - - Judicial Assistant, Potential Jurors, and Judges
  - - Vendors (Tyler Technologies, Rapid Financial, USPS)
  - - State compliance agencies

## Staffing Challenges

- - Example: Judge and law clerk assisted with juror processing due to short staffing
- - Office left unattended during peak intake times
- - Phone calls missed, delayed responses
- - Staff stretched across the Jury assembly area and administrative duties

## **Rising Workload**

- - Court cases have tripled due to increased crime
- - Surge in returned jury summons requiring reprocessing
- - Compliance with the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia
- - More time needed for juror orientations

## **Benefits to the City**

- - Improved service to the public and courts
- - Greater efficiency in juror processing
- - Enhanced support for judges and courtrooms
- - Reduced burnout and staffing gaps
- - More effective use of taxpayer resources

## **Closing**

- Your support is crucial to ensure the Jury Manager's Office can meet the growing demands of our courts and community.
- Thank you for your consideration.