

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Columbus Police Department: Donation Request
AGENDA SUMMARY:	Approval is requested to accept two (2) BolaWrap® remote restraint devices from Back Columbus Blue and Chaplain Paul Vorhees. The donated value of two BolaWraps® is approximately \$2,400. Training will be required for any officer using this item, as well as, updated policies.
INITIATED BY:	Columbus Police Department

Recommendation: Approval is requested to accept two (2) BolaWrap® remote restraint devices from Back Columbus Blue and Chaplain Paul Vorhees.

Background: The non-profit Back Columbus Blue was founded in 2015 by Chaplain Paul Vorhees. This organization exists to show appreciation and support to the members of the Columbus Police Department. Through donations and fundraisers, Back Columbus Blue has provided holiday meals to the Department and endeavors to expand their giving through this equipment donation.

Analysis: The BolaWrap® remote restraint device is a hand-held pre-escalation apprehension tool for police that discharges an 8ft Kevlar® cord to restrain uncooperative suspects or nonresponsive persons in crisis at a range of 10-25 ft. The BolaWrap®'s surprising sound and ability to restrict an individual's movement buys officers time and makes it safer for them to approach and gain control of individuals.

Situations between officers and uncooperative individuals are usually chaotic, and officers do not have many effective options to handle them. Instead of waiting for an encounter to unfold and escalate, the use of the BolaWrap® can effectuate an arrest quickly, safely, and humanely - ending the situation and facilitating a positive outcome that does not result in injury or use of force.

When encountering a subject who must be detained, officers are faced with the daunting task of de-escalating the situation and taking the subject into custody without injury to the subject, the officer, or bystanders. In general, the amount of resistance an officer faces from a noncompliant subject will determine the amount of force the officer will be allowed to use to achieve compliance from the subject. The various levels of force that an officer can use is referred to as the Use of Force Continuum. Verbal commands exist on the very low end of the Use of Force Continuum, while the use of deadly force exists on the very high end. BolaWrap® is considered by law enforcement to be positioned on the low end of the Use of Force Continuum. Police officers are constantly faced with noncompliant subjects who are either experiencing a mental health crisis, are in a drug induced psychosis, or in some state of being that disables them from being able to respond or comply to the commands of an officer. These noncompliant subjects often pose a serious threat to themselves, others, or the officers, and they must be detained. The

use of higher levels of force may lead to serious injury or death. Although the use of higher levels of force may be warranted and justified, the BolaWrap® optics are often not understood and do not present a positive image of law enforcement. is intended to serve as an additional tool to help officers safely restrain subjects who are not complying, without having to resort to the use of higher levels of force. Other devices on an officer's duty belt intend to inflict pain to gain a subject's compliance (i.e., batons, pepper spray, Tasers, guns, etc.). Similar to handcuffs, the BolaWrap® is a *restraint* device designed to restrict the movement of a subject's legs or arms and does not intend to inflict pain to achieve compliance.

Financial Considerations: The donated value of two BolaWraps® is approximately \$2,400, however, training will be required for any officer using this item, as well as, updated policies.

Legal Considerations: If a subject is not wearing clothing or their hands get in the way, the BolaWrap® can still wrap and the small hooks at the end of the tether may penetrate a subject's skin.

Recommendation/Action: Approval is requested to accept two (2) BolaWrap® devices from Back Columbus Blue and Chaplain Paul Vorhees.

A RESOLUTION

NO.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT TWO (2) BOLAWRAP® DEVICES VALUED AT \$2,400 FROM BACK COLUMBUS BLUE AND CHAPLAIN PAUL VORHEES.

WHEREAS, the Columbus Police Department is requesting the acceptance of these donated items for use within the Department; and,

WHEREAS, Back Columbus Blue and Chaplain Paul Vorhees donated two (2) BolaWraps® to the Columbus Police Department, and,

WHEREAS, these generous donations express the corporate and civic involvement of our community with the Columbus Police Department; and

WHEREAS the Columbus Police Department wishes to express their sincere thanks and gratitude for these displays of support and generosity; and

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

That the Columbus Police Department is hereby authorized to accept these donated items for use within their Department.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the _____ day of _____ 2021 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of ten members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Barnes voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor House voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Thomas voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.
Councilor Woodson voting	_____.

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson, Mayor