

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	Emergency Purchase – Information Only: Public Defender Services
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	Finance Department

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On March 22, 2021, Muscogee County State Court Judges notified the City Manager of the need for an additional Public Defender due to the backlog of cases as a result of COVID.

The Judges have identified a significant constriction to quickly process cases in the large Civic Center venue. There are currently only two public defenders handling the unprecedented number of back-logged cases, with significant time constraints. The ability to handle cases would be greatly enhanced with an additional public defender.

The Judges are requesting temporary funding for a public defender for one year at a cost of \$40,000.00.

The City Manager approved the emergency purchase on April 6, 2021.

Funding is available as: General Fund – Public Defender - Muscogee County – Public Defender; 0101-520-2000-PBDF-6313.