



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 0668-2023, **Version:** 1

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**BACKGROUND:** In 1999 the Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce and the Columbus Department of Trade and Development initiated an effort to work with downtown property owners to create a Special Improvement District (SID) in the core area of downtown. Property owners were surveyed and overwhelmingly were in support of creating a SID. The SID was created for a five (5) year period and was very successful, and re-authorized for additional terms in 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2020 with City Council's consent.

In 2020 the SID's petition for the Transit Services Plan was accepted and approved by Columbus City Council by Ordinance No. 0802-2020, passed May 7, 2020. Another action required by the Ohio Revised Code was the approval of the Base Services Plan and the inclusion of City owned property in said plan. This legislation was approved by Columbus City Council by Resolution No. 0067X-2020, passed May 18, 2020. The third piece of legislation was to declare the necessity to implement the Base Services Plan adopted by the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District of Columbus, Inc., and to levy a special assessment for the services. This legislation was approved by Columbus City Council by Resolution No. 0100X-2020, passed June 29, 2020. A final piece of legislation, providing for the levy of assessment to property owners, was approved by City Council by Ordinance No. 1892-2020, passed September 14, 2020, for a consolidated 5-year term from 2021 to 2025. Each assessment is to be returned to the SID for operational requirements as set forth in the District's Plans.

This legislation appropriates and approves the assessments collected in Fiscal Year 2023 that are to be returned to the SID. This legislation also allows the Director of Development to enter into a contract with the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District of Columbus, Inc. for disbursement of these funds in 2023.

Emergency designation is requested to prevent any interruption of service as these critical payments are only released from the auditor bi-annually for continued cleaning and safety services, and are the sole source of employee payroll for the districts they serve.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Funds for this expenditure will be received from the levy of assessments collected from property owners in the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District. These funds are deposited into and expended from Agency Fund 3307.

To authorize the Director of Development to enter into a contract with the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District of Columbus, Inc. for the implementation of services set forth in the District's Plans for Services; to authorize and direct the City Auditor to appropriate and expend up to \$3,100,000.00 from assessments levied from property owners; and to declare an emergency. (\$3,100,000.00)

**WHEREAS,** City Council approved in 2020 the creation and implementation of a Base Services Plan for the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District of Columbus, Inc. for a period of 4 years from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council approved in 2020 the implementation of a Transit Services Plan for the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District of Columbus, Inc. for a period of 5 years from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, City Council's final approval (Ordinance 1892-2020) to the Capital Crossroads SID's request for reauthorization in 2020 synchronized the terms of the SID's current Base Services Plan and its Transit Services Plan to be concluded simultaneously on December 31, 2025 and, thus, made it possible for Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District to apply for a reauthorization of its Base Services Plan and Transit Service Plan during the same calendar year.

**WHEREAS**, City Council has also levied assessments in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 1710 for such purposes, which funds are in the process of collection and are required by law to be distributed to the District by the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the assessment funds collected by the County and forwarded to the City for disbursement will be available in March 2023 and September 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation needs to be an emergency to allow the Capital Crossroads SID to operate its organization and to fund its initiatives in a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an emergency in the usual daily operation of the City, requiring the distribution of such funds, to prevent any interruption of service as these critical payments are only released from the auditor bi-annually for continued cleaning and safety services, and are the sole source of employee payroll for the districts they serve and for the further preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare,

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of Development is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District of Columbus, Inc. for the implementation of services for the operations requirements set forth in the District's Plans previously approved by City Council pursuant to Resolution 0067X-2020, for an amount not to exceed \$3,100,000.00.

**SECTION 2.** That for the purpose stated in Section 1, the expenditure of \$3,100,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in Fund 3307 in care of Capital Crossroads SID, under an assigned Object Class for Other Expenditure per the accounting codes.

**SECTION 3** That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

**SECTION 4.** That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.