



Legislation Text

File #: 2448-2016, Version: 1

BACKGROUND:

This ordinance authorizes the appropriation of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2016 within the Franklin County Municipal Court's fund for dispute resolution. The Franklin County Municipal Court instituted its pre-filing mediation program for small claims cases in 1984; the program seeks to avoid the filing of small claims complaints by providing mediation services to interested parties before a small claims case is filed.

To support this effort, the Franklin County Municipal Court instituted a special project cost, authorized by Ohio Revised Code §1901.26(B)(1), or \$15.00.

Funds are to be used to assist in the support of dispute resolution program efforts within the Small Claims Division, not to supplant existing funds. The intent of these funds is to provide for the purchase of services and other similar small claims-related expenses not currently available to the Court's small claims services department.

FISCAL IMPACT: There are sufficient funds available within the Dispute Resolution fund to support the requested appropriation level for 2016.

Emergency legislation is requested to allow for a contract for online mediation services to be established.

To authorize the appropriation of \$20,000.00 for 2016 from the unappropriated balance of the Franklin County Municipal Court Judges dispute resolution fund for all anticipated expenses associated with the enhancement of small claim services; and to declare an emergency. (\$20,000.00)

WHEREAS, it is necessary to authorize an appropriation of \$20,000 for fiscal year 2016 within the Franklin County Municipal Court's fund for dispute resolution funds in order to continue with the enhancement of small claim services and the payment thereof; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Franklin County Municipal Court in that it is immediately necessary to appropriate the aforementioned funds in order for the small claims department to commence expending these funds, thereby preserving 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 sum of \$20,000 be and is hereby appropriated from the unappropriated balance of the special revenue fund, dispute resolution, and from all monies estimated to come into said fund from any and all sources unappropriated for any other purposes during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016.

SECTION 2. That monies appropriated in Section 1 shall be paid upon the recommendation of the Small Claims Department Manager and upon the order of the Administrative and Presiding Judge, and that no order shall be drawn or paid except by voucher, the form of which shall be approved by the City Auditor.

SECTION 3. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is

declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.