



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 1111-2022, **Version:** 1

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**Background:** This ordinance authorizes the transfer of \$500,000.00 from the Department of Finance's City-wide account to the Department of Public Safety for the purposes of administering the Business District Safety Enhancement Program. Through this program, the Department of Public Safety will work in conjunction with the Division of Police and neighborhood business groups, the Short North Alliance and Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, to develop plans to appropriately deter crime and improve safety in Columbus's business districts. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the City of Columbus has experienced a significant uptick in violent crime throughout the community, notably in densely populated and visited business districts. In addition, the impacts of the pandemic have resulted in limited resources for small business owners to enhance safety features for their business and surrounding areas. There is a need to utilize funding from the City of Columbus to supplement safety enhancements in business districts throughout the City of Columbus. These organizations will utilize this funding in support of their violent crime interdiction programs, which utilize law enforcement personnel serving in a special duty capacity, educational campaigns, and community outreach workers in an effort to prevent and address violent crime in their respective districts.

**Emergency Justification:** Emergency action is requested so that organizations can immediately take steps to make safety enhancements in their business districts and the surrounding community.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$500,000.00 is budgeted and available within the Department of Finance's General Fund budget to be transferred to Public Safety for distribution to organizations responsible for maintaining the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors in Columbus's business districts.

To authorize the Director of the Department of Public Safety to enter into grant agreements with the Short North Alliance and Columbus Downtown Development Corporation for the purposes of administering the Business District Safety Enhancements Program; to authorize the transfer of \$500,000.00 within the General Fund, from the Department of Finance to the Department of Public Safety; to authorize the expenditure of \$500,000.00 from the General Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$500,000.00)

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to authorize the Director of the Department of Public Safety to enter into grant agreements with the Short North Alliance and Columbus Downtown Development Corporation to administer the Business District Safety Enhancement Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the transfer of funds is necessary in order to properly align appropriation with projected expenditure; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to authorize the expenditure of \$500,000.00 from the General Fund 1000-100010; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a negative impact on the economic health and safety of Columbus's Downtown business district and other business districts throughout Columbus; and

**WHEREAS**, an expenditure of funding is necessary to ensure Columbus's business districts remain safe for residents, business owners, employees, patrons, and visitors as our community continues to grapple with the uptick in violent crime attributed in part to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency exists in the usual daily operations of the Department of Public Safety in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director to enter into grant agreements with the Short North Alliance and Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, for the preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety, and welfare of Columbus residents and visitors; **NOW, THEREFORE**

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

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of the Department of Public Safety is authorized to enter into grant agreements with the Short North Alliance and Columbus Downtown Development Corporation to administer the Business District Safety Enhancement Program.

**SECTION 2.** That the amount of \$500,000.00 or so much as may be necessary, is hereby authorized to be transferred within the General Fund, fund 1000-100010 from Finance and Management to the Department of Public Safety per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

**SECTION 3.** That for the purpose stated in Section 1, the expenditure of \$500,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in Fund 1000 General Fund in object class 03 per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

**SECTION 4.** That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this ordinance and to make any accounting changes necessary to ensure that this contract is properly accounted for and recorded accurately on the City's financial records.

**SECTION 5.** That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, the City Auditor shall establish such account codes as necessary.

**SECTION 6.** 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.