



## Legislation Text

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**File #: 0497-2022, Version: 1**

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### Background:

This legislation authorizes the City of Columbus to accept and appropriate two federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) sub awards from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Office of Justice Policy and Programs. Grant awards support prosecution and victim advocacy services provided by the Columbus City Attorney's Office. Award dollars fund 1) a portion of salary for two specially trained domestic violence prosecutors; 2) total compensation for one specially trained anti-stalking victim advocate; and 3) an online subscription for case research and cyber-stalking investigations.

The Domestic Violence & Stalking Unit provides best-practice prosecution services for victims of misdemeanor domestic violence and stalking crimes. The unit employs six highly-trained and experienced domestic violence prosecutors, sixteen victim advocates, one stalking investigator, one anti-stalking victim advocate and hosts professional liaisons from Franklin County Children Services and Capital University Law School's Civil Protection Unit. Services provided by the unit are modeled after the National District Attorneys Association's National Domestic Violence Prosecution Best Practice Guide and are designed to improve victim engagement; decrease recantation; and increase community and law enforcement collaboration. This ordinance authorizes the appropriation of grant funds and the transfer and appropriation of the matching funds required by the grant award.

Domestic Violence & Stalking Prosecutors 21-WF-VA2-8758 Award = \$115,978.06  
Domestic Violence & Stalking Prosecutors 21-WF-VA2-8758 City Match = \$38,659.35  
Total- \$154,637.41

Law Enforcement and Anti-Stalking Advocate 21-WF-VA2-4600 Award= \$59,596  
Law Enforcement and Anti-Stalking Advocate 21-WF-VA2-4600 City Match = \$19,865  
Total- \$79,461

Fiscal Impact: VAWA sub awards require a 25% city cash match of \$58,524.35. Matching funds are included in the City Attorney 2022 General Fund budget.

Grant Period: 01/01/22 - 12/31/22

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Total- \$79,461

Combined Award- \$175,574.06  
Combined City Match-\$58,524.35  
Total- \$234,098.41

### Emergency Action:

Emergency action is requested to allow the grant activities to commence at the beginning of the grant period.

To authorize the City Attorney to accept federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) sub awards 21- WF-VA2-8758 and 21-WF-VA2-4600 from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' Office of Justice Policy and Programs in the amount of \$175,574.06 to support domestic violence and stalking prosecution and victim advocacy services; to authorize the transfer of matching funds in the amount of \$58,524.35 from the General Fund to the general government grant fund; to authorize the total appropriation of \$234,098.41 in the general government grant fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$234,098.41)

**WHEREAS**, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' Office of Justice Policy and Programs has awarded the Columbus City Attorney's Office grant funding in the amount of \$175,574.06 to support domestic violence prosecution and stalking victim advocacy services; and

**WHEREAS**, the term of grant funding is for the period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, grant acceptance requires matching funds in the amount of \$58,524.35; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Attorney desires to accept said grant award; and

**WHEREAS**, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the City Attorney's Office in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the City Attorney to accept the award, appropriate the grant funds, and transfer and appropriate the matching funds so that the services may commence during the grant period, all for the 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 City Attorney is hereby authorized to accept Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) sub awards 21- WF-VA2-8758 and 21-WF-VA2-4600 from the Franklin County Board of Commissioners' Office of Justice Policy and Programs in the amount of \$175,574.06 to support domestic violence prosecution and victim advocacy services.

**SECTION 2.** That a transfer out of \$58,524.35 within the General Fund will serve as required grant match and is hereby authorized.

**SECTION 3.** That the transfer of \$58,524.35, or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized from Fund 1000 City Attorney General Operating, Department 24, to Fund 2220 General Government Grants.

**SECTION 4.** That from the unappropriated monies in the General Government Grants Fund number 2220, and from all monies estimated to come into said Fund from any and all sources during the grant period, the sum of \$234,098.41 is hereby appropriated to the Columbus City Attorney, Department 24 according to the attached accounting document.

**SECTION 5.** That funds are hereby deemed appropriated and expenditures and transfers authorized to carry out the purposes of this ordinance and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

**SECTION 6.** That funds appropriated shall be paid upon order of the City Attorney and that no order shall be drawn or money paid except by voucher, the form of which shall be approved by the City Auditor.

**SECTION 7.** 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.

**SECTION 8.** That at the end of the grant period, any repayment of unencumbered balances required by the grantor is

hereby authorized and any unused City match monies may be transferred back to the City fund from which they originated in accordance with all applicable grant agreements.

**SECTION 8.** 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.