



**CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**City Council**

**AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET**

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**AGENDA DATE:** May 27, 2025

**DEPARTMENT:** Office of Community Safety and Empowerment

**DIRECTOR or DESIGNEE:** LaKenya Middlebrook

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**AGENDA SUMMARY**

An Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$1,500.00 from the Community Safety and Empowerment budget and donating same to the S.O.U.L.S. Youth Choir in support of an educational musical event that will engage young people in conversations around bullying and discrimination as well as attendance of the musical Hairspray.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED**

All Districts

**BACKGROUND**

S.O.U.L.S. (Sounds of Unity Lifting Spirits) is a 501-(c)(3), non-profit corporation founded with the purpose of providing opportunities for culturally diverse youth up to age 18 years old to build relational bonds through music and leadership training. S.O.U.L.S. Youth Choir will be working on musical theater Broadway music this summer every Monday night from 6 pm-7:45 pm that addresses national and civic issues that affect them, such as bullying and racial discrimination. One of the musicals they will be learning about is Hairspray, which is a show that sheds light on racial discrimination in the 1960s and weight issues among teens. This music and musical theater experience will be a catalyst for thoughtful conversation to break down barriers.

**ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE**

June 1 – June 28, 2025

**PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW**

Approved on first reading at the 5/13/2025 regular meeting by vote of 8-0.

**FISCAL INFORMATION**

\$1,500.00 to be funded from 000100.011116.8950.0839 Office of Community Safety and Empowerment and administered by Office of Community Safety and Empowerment Staff.