



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 2, 2026

Re: Memorandum of Understanding with the Missouri National Guard, Joint Counterdrug Program to Provide Counterdrug Support Services to the Columbia Police Department.

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance authorizing the City Manager and the Chief of Police to sign and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Missouri National Guard, Joint Counterdrug Program, and the Columbia Police Department regarding the provision of counterdrug operational support services to assist the Columbia Police Department.

Discussion

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Missouri National Guard, Joint Counterdrug Program, and the Columbia Police Department for the purpose of providing operational counterdrug support to the Columbia Police Department. Under this agreement, the Missouri National Guard may provide approved non-law-enforcement support services, including but not limited to criminal intelligence and analytical support, linguist services, domestic cannabis eradication support, and limited aerial reconnaissance, when a drug nexus is present and support is requested in writing.

This MOU establishes the roles, responsibilities, command structure, reporting requirements, and legal limitations governing the use of National Guard personnel in support of Columbia Police Department counterdrug operations. Missouri National Guard personnel will operate strictly in a support capacity, will not exercise law enforcement authority, and will remain under military command while receiving day-to-day tasking from the Columbia Police Department.

The agreement does not obligate City funds, as Missouri National Guard personnel salaries, benefits, and administrative costs are paid by the National Guard. The Columbia Police Department may be responsible for certain pre-approved travel or temporary duty expenses incurred in direct support of City operations.

The MOU becomes effective upon execution by both parties and does not have a fixed expiration date, though it is subject to annual review and may be terminated by either party. This agreement formalizes an operational partnership that enhances the Columbia Police Department's counterdrug capabilities while remaining compliant with federal, state, and Department of Defense requirements.

The Police Department has utilized a Missouri National Guard Analyst in this capacity via a written agreement (MOU) since at least 2016. Prior to the MOU that was approved by



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Council in 2023, the agreements were signed by the Police Chief which is why there is no legislative history prior to 2023.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City for the next two years, as Missouri National Guard personnel salaries and benefits are funded through the National Guard.

Long-Term Impact: There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the City for years beyond two, as Missouri National Guard personnel salaries and benefits are funded through the National Guard.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Safe Community, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
3/20/2023	B51-23: Authorizing a memorandum of understanding with the State of Missouri Office of the Adjutant General - The Missouri National Guard for the use and support of the Counterdrug Task Force involving Police Department investigations relating to narcotics trafficking and distribution

Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree, staff recommends authorizing the City Manager and the Chief of Police to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Missouri National Guard Joint Counterdrug Program and the Columbia Police Department for the provision of counterdrug operational support services.