

Sanford Bishop earmarked more than one hundred ninety thousand dollars in federal funds for a youth program in Muscogee County that hired Bishop's stepdaughter and her husband despite the couple reportedly living over one hundred miles away at the time.

BACKUP:

Bishop earmarked more than \$190,000 of federal, taxpayer funds for a program that employed members of his family:

Editor's Note: Sanford Bishop's stepdaughter is named Aayesha Reese and her husband (Bishop's stepson-in-law) is named Stephen M. Reese.

- **Bishop earmarked more than \$190,000 in federal funds to a youth program operated by the Muscogee County Marshal's Office.** "Bishop was also caught up in a scandal in 2009 when the Georgia Bureau of Investigation began a probe into whether a youth program operated by Muscogee County Marshal's Office improperly spent federal funds after it hired Bishop's stepdaughter and her husband. Bishop had earmarked more than \$190,000 for that youth program. Reese and her husband, Stephen, were paid more than \$14,000 by that program, although they lived in the Atlanta area, more than 100 miles from Columbus, where the program operated." (John Brensnahan, "Bishop Steered Scholarships To Family," [Politico](#), 9/9/10)

Editor's Note: \$117,500 plus \$75,000 equals \$192,500, hence more than \$190,000.

- **Bishop's stepdaughter and stepson-in-law were employed by the Muscogee Country Marshal's Office Junior Marshal Program.** "The internal audit of the Muscogee County Junior Marshal program revealed more than \$7,000 was deposited into the account of Bishop's wife on behalf of her son-in-law, Stephen M. Reese, according to Columbus city attorneys. The audit also revealed Bishop's stepdaughter was paid \$7,575 from the program." (Greg Bluestein and Ben Evans, "US Rep Bishop's Link To Earmark Raises Questions," [Harford Courant](#), 3/6/09)
- **In June 2007, Bishop's \$117,500 in earmarks for the Muscogee County Marshal Program was passed in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.** (H.R. 2764, [Roll Call Vote #542](#): Passed 241-178; R 31-164, D 210-14, 6/22/07; "Sanford Bishop: Earmarks," [Open Secrets](#), Accessed 3/24/22)
 - **Bishop earmarked \$117,500 for the Muscogee County Marshal's Office Junior Marshal Program.** ([Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008](#), Filed 1/08, p. 420)

001-Juv Justice	Muscogee County, GA, Marshal's Office Junior Marshal Program	\$117,500	Bishop (Sanford)
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([Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008](#), Filed 1/08, p. 420)

- **In February 2009, Bishop's earmark of \$75,000 for the Muscogee County Marshal Program was passed in the Omnibus Appropriations Act.** "Juvenile Justice Muscogee County Marshal

Muscogee County Marshal Columbus, GA 75000.0 Bishop, Jr., Sanford D.” (H.R. 1105, [Roll Call Vote #86](#): Passed 245-178; R 16-158, D 229-20, 2/25/09; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 3/24/22)

- **Bishop Earmarked \$75,000 For Muscogee County Marshal.** ([H. Rept. 110-919](#), Filed 12/10/08, p.259)

Department of Justice	OP—Juvenile Justice	Muscogee County Marshal	Muscogee County Marshal	Columbus, GA	\$75,000	Bishop, Jr., Sanford D.
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([H. Rept. 110-919](#), Filed 12/10/08, p.259)

Bishop’s family members earned more than \$14,000 from the Junior Marshall Program:

- **Bishop’s stepdaughter was paid \$7,575 by the Muscogee County Junior Marshal Program.** “The internal audit of the Muscogee County Junior Marshal program revealed more than \$7,000 was deposited into the account of Bishop’s wife on behalf of her son-in-law, Stephen M. Reese, according to Columbus city attorneys. The audit also revealed Bishop’s stepdaughter was paid \$7,575 from the program.” (Greg Bluestein and Ben Evans, “US Rep Bishop’s Link To Earmark Raises Questions,” [Harford Courant](#), 3/6/09)
 - **Aayesha Owens Reese was an administrative assistant for the Junior Marshal Program.** “This investigation started back in February after a city pay roll audit raised questions about the employment of Aayesha Owens Reese, the stepdaughter of Congressman Sanford Bishop and daughter of Columbus Municipal Court Clerk Vivian Creighton Bishop. Reese’s husband at that time, Stephen Reese was also on the payroll as an assistant, while Aayesha’s job title listed her as the Marshal Program’s Administrative Assistant.” (Chauncy Glover, “GBI Finds No Criminal Activity At Jr. Marshal’s Office,” [WTVM 9](#), 5/28/09)
- **Bishop’s stepson-in-law was paid \$7,000 by the Muscogee County Junior Marshal Program.** “The internal audit of the Muscogee County Junior Marshal program revealed more than \$7,000 was deposited into the account of Bishop’s wife on behalf of her son-in-law, Stephen M. Reese, according to Columbus city attorneys. The audit also revealed Bishop’s stepdaughter was paid \$7,575 from the program.” (Greg Bluestein and Ben Evans, “US Rep Bishop’s Link To Earmark Raises Questions,” [Harford Courant](#), 3/6/09)
 - **Stephen Reese was an assistant for the Junior Marshal Program.** “This investigation started back in February after a city pay roll audit raised questions about the employment of Aayesha Owens Reese, the stepdaughter of Congressman Sanford Bishop and daughter of Columbus Municipal Court Clerk Vivian Creighton Bishop. Reese’s husband at that time, Stephen Reese was also on the payroll as an assistant, while Aayesha’s job title listed her as the Marshal Program’s Administrative Assistant.” (Chauncy Glover, “GBI Finds No Criminal Activity At Jr. Marshal’s Office,” [WTVM 9](#), 5/28/09)
 - **Reese’s pay was deposited directly into the bank account of Bishop’s wife.** “The internal audit of the Muscogee County Junior Marshal program revealed more than

\$7,000 was deposited into the account of Bishop's wife on behalf of her son-in-law, Stephen M. Reese, according to Columbus city attorneys. The audit also revealed Bishop's stepdaughter was paid \$7,575 from the program." (Greg Bluestein and Ben Evans, "US Rep Bishop's Link To Earmark Raises Questions," [Harford Courant](#), 3/6/09)

- **In 2009, Bishop's stepdaughter and stepson-in-law were living in an Atlanta suburb, 100 miles from Muscogee County.** "Authorities say the pair live in the Atlanta suburb of Lithonia, which is more than 100 miles from Columbus. Several telephone messages left this week at the couple's home were not returned." (Greg Bluestein and Ben Evans, "US Rep Bishop's Link To Earmark Raises Questions," [Harford Courant](#), 3/6/09)