

With City Councilmember Shannon Hardin, Mayor Ginther established the **Columbus Charter Review Committee** to conduct a review of certain sections of the Columbus City Charter. Community residents were encouraged to participate in eight public meetings held across Columbus in a transparent process to look specifically at the way Columbus City Council is set up.

Knowing that body-worn cameras have been shown to improve trust between the police and the community, Mayor Ginther formed a **Body-Worn Camera Committee** to provide a comprehensive and thoughtful report and recommendations for the implementation of this important initiative. The first body-worn cameras were used by Columbus police officers by year-end and 500 officers will be outfitted by year-end 2017. Additionally, the Department of Safety graduated 35 police officers and 39 fire fighters, and realigned its emergency medical delivery system.

The City of Columbus joined 13 other U.S. cities to become a **"Kiva City,"** a partnership that brings together local government, community organizations and financial institutions to promote Kiva as a tool for empowering local entrepreneurship. Columbus has already deployed \$162,000 in Kiva microloans to local entrepreneurs.

In 2016, the City of Columbus sold bonds totaling **\$470 million** to be invested in roadway upgrades, health and community initiatives, water and sewer line improvements and safety apparatus. The residents of the City of Columbus approved a \$950 million bond package to finance police and fire facilities, fire apparatus, street resurfacing, bike pathways, curb replacements, improvements to water, sanitary and power systems, and recreation and parks improvements.

Mayor Ginther added \$2.2 million to the City's Rainy Day Fund which keeps the city on track to restore the fund to **\$75 million** by year-end 2017 and \$1.5 million to the Basic City Services Fund to help offset any unexpected dips in revenue.

MAYOR ANDREW J. GINTHER'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
FEBRUARY 23, 2017 • 6:00 P.M.

Chief James G. Jackson Columbus Police Academy and Regional Training Academy | 1000 Hague Ave., Columbus, OH 43204



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

2016

ACHIEVEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF COLUMBUS



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Mayor Andrew J. Ginther issued an executive order on ethics reform, establishing a **new ethics policy** for City of Columbus executive branch officials and employees. The order prohibits conduct related to ethics and includes a financial disclosure requirement not required by state law. Tracy Retchin was named Chief Ethics Officer.

Stephen Francis was named the City's first Chief Diversity Officer and charged with developing a benchmark standard of diversity and inclusion leadership other U.S. cities may use. The **Columbus Office of Diversity and Inclusion** was established to support the development of a comprehensive workforce diversity strategy for the City as well as a Columbus-wide diversity external relations strategy.

The **Columbus Women's Commission** was established under the leadership of First Lady Shannon Ginther. The 18-member commission is focused on pay equity, workforce development, housing and health.

Mayor Ginther created the **Department of Neighborhoods** and named Carla Williams-Scott as the first director. The department is focused on providing a single access point for residents to communicate with City entities, navigate the government system and access resources.

To hear from and listen to Columbus residents, Mayor Ginther held six neighborhood family reunions in Hilltop, Woodward Park, Milo Grogan, Far East, Marion Franklin, Linden; and hosted six **Neighborhood Pride** initiatives in the Brittany Hills, South Central Commons, Southside, South Linden, Mid east Area Community Collaborative and East Hampton, and Westland neighborhoods.

To further impact our neighborhoods, the City opened the newly remodeled Driving Park Community Center on the east side and Douglas Community Center in Linden; and opened the all-new Glenwood Community Center on the Hilltop.

Mayor Ginther launched the **CelebrateOne Connector Corps** with a \$1.7 million grant from United Health Foundation to deliver new resources to women in neighborhoods that face higher rates of infant mortality and other health inequities. This "boots on the ground" work includes training conducted by The Ohio State University College of Nursing.

The **Linden Park Early Childhood Education Center** opened in October. It is a one-of-a-kind center with 14 classrooms and, ultimately, room for 200 students. The City partnered with The Ohio State University for the Early Head Start Partnership Program, which gives 100 early childhood educators in Columbus the opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree for free.

Columbus beat 77 U.S. cities in the federal **Smart Cities Challenge**, earning \$40 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation and \$10 million from Vulcan Inc. to grow economic mobility, better quality of life and an inspired, connected community. Columbus' proposal included \$90 million in matching funds from the Columbus business community and a focus on a pilot project in Linden. The City and its partners are leveraging these investments to foster a new way of looking at infrastructure, technology and transportation, making Columbus the model for connected cities of the future.

Mayor Ginther, along with MORPC, kicked off **Age-Friendly Columbus**, joining the prestigious Age-Friendly Communities network of the World Health Organization and AARP. This city-wide initiative works to ensure that individuals of all ages can remain in their neighborhoods and live a high quality of life independently.

The City expanded its **Restoration Academy**, adding a class specifically for 18 to 23 year olds, and graduated 27 men and women from the program in 2016.