



## COMMITTEES

HOUSING

PUBLIC SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & JUDICIARY

# COUNCILMEMBER SHAYLA FAVOR

November 2020



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## A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMEMBER SHAYLA FAVOR

Greetings Columbus,

Fall has arrived, which means it is almost time for Thanksgiving. As we prepare for the holiday season and reflect on this challenging year, I would like to share my commitment to helping our city navigate these difficult times.

Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing affordable housing, decreasing evictions, and ensuring Columbus residents have a safe place to call home were an important part of my work here at Council. More than anything, the pandemic has made it drastically clear how critical it is to shelter in place and stay safe, even as families struggle with job and financial losses beyond their control. It has simply made our work in the area of housing that much more important as families try to figure out how they will pay bills, feed their families, and avoid a devastating eviction or set out that can lead to homelessness.

To help fight the wave of evictions that continues to impact us throughout the course of this pandemic, City Council has approved over \$10 Million CARES Act dollars for direct rental assistance, as well as mediation and legal help at eviction court. These dollars have helped keep thousands of Columbus families in their homes and away from our shelter system. I know that these dollars are not enough, and I am continuing my advocacy at all levels of government for additional assistance. COVID has taught us that our tenants need even more help at the public policy level. I am looking forward to introducing and passing a Housing for All legislative agenda by the end of this year to continue fighting for the housing needs of all Columbus residents.

In addition to housing, I take my role as Chair of the Criminal Justice & Judiciary Committee seriously. As our country continues to mourn the lives of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor that were taken at the hand of law enforcement, I understand and appreciate the importance of this movement to honor black lives and strive for racial equity within all of our systems, including policing. Over the summer, City Council began our Reimagining Public Safety effort where I was proud to support legislation prohibiting Columbus Police Officers and recruits from affiliating with hate groups. I plan to continue leaning in to this work, particularly as we prepare to review the 2021 budget and consider the needs of all segments of the community.

Finally, as our city continues to reopen and adjust to this new normal, I urge you to recognize that the pandemic is not over. Please make sure to keep practicing social distancing and other safety protocols aimed to slow the spread of COVID-19. Remember to always wear a mask and wash your hands for at least 20 seconds periodically. And don't forget to get your flu shot!

I would like to personally thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I promise to do my best to keep our community informed on news coming from the City of Columbus. We are in challenging times, but Council is working hard to address some of the greatest concerns faced by residents. Your thoughts and ideas are very important to me. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or policy ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office by phone at 614-645.7263 or email my Legislative Assistant at [aaliban@columbus.gov](mailto:aaliban@columbus.gov).

Yours in service,

## LEGISLATION UPDATES

I was pleased this summer season to make great progress on several important pieces of legislation.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

#### **Law Enforcement Background Checks**

- Ordinance 1817-2020: expands police background checks to include hate group affiliations

An idea submitted by a resident, this effort expands our current hiring process to include hate group affiliation screening to check for potential issues and conflicts. There is no place for racism, prejudice, or any type of conscious biases within policing.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

#### **School Zone Flashing Beacon Project**

In September, I sponsored ordinance 2024-2020. We must continue enhancing safe walking routes for our students and neighbors.

- Ordinance 2024-2020: authorizes the purchase of school zone flashing beacon equipment
  - **29** schools will receive system upgrades and **7** additional schools will receive new flashing beacons

### **HOUSING**

As Chair of Council's Housing Committee, I am working around the clock to try and solve Housing concerns, even with the limits on the City's ability to intervene. Recently, I joined Mayor Andrew Ginther at a virtual groundbreaking for Kenlawn Place, a 50-unit housing development coming to the North Linden community. When completed, Kenlawn Place will provide additional affordable housing to some of our city's most vulnerable residents. I also believe the problem with affordable housing has existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic. This is why I urged Council to set up a fund for people facing eviction last year. I continue to hold regular meetings with housing partners across the City to get a better understanding of their top concerns and needs during this time. Our goal is simple: we want to keep families in their homes.

#### **CARES Act Funding**

As of today, we have allocated the following:

- Approximately \$10 million dollars in CARES Act funding to IMPACT for direct rental assistance
- \$250,000 to Legal Aid Society of Columbus to help increase the capacity of the Tenant Advocacy Project, which provides legal representation to tenants facing an eviction. This funding will support 5 additional attorneys at eviction court
- \$100,000 to Community Mediation Services to assist individuals and families with eviction prevention conflict management & mediation services for people who are currently homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless due to COVID-19

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Last month, Columbus City Council adopted a resolution to declare the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Columbus, and to recognize Lutheran Social Services (LSS) CHOICES For Victims of Domestic Violence for their ongoing efforts to raise awareness for domestic violence prevention.

#### **Did you Know?**

- LSS CHOICES helps victims of domestic violence and their children by encouraging them to call the CHOICES hotline 24-7. Support Franklin County victims by shining a bright light on this crime
- Domestic violence takes many forms: bruises, battering, humiliation, control, isolation and death. If you are a Franklin County resident, you can get help by reaching out to the LSS CHOICES 24-hour hotline at 614-224-4663

OCTOBER IS  
NATIONAL  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS  
MONTH



## COVID-19 RESOURCES

### **Ohio Department of Health:**

The Ohio Department of Health is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all Ohioans. Please visit [\[coronavirus.ohio.gov\]](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) to learn more.

**Testing Saves Lives.**

If you're sick, get a free COVID-19 test.

 614-645-1519 or Live Chat [here](#) with one of our agents

### **Columbus Public Health:**

**QUESTIONS?** The COVID-19 outbreak is a rapidly evolving situation. If you have questions, call Columbus Public Health at 614-645-1519

### **Responsible RestartOhio:**

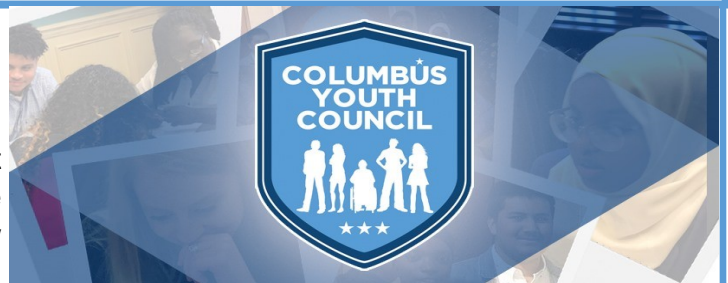
Responsible RestartOhio is about protecting the health of employees, customers, and their families; supporting community efforts to control the spread of the virus; and, leading in responsibly getting Ohio back to work.

Learn more by visiting: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/welcome/responsible-restart-ohio>

## JOIN COLUMBUS YOUTH COUNCIL!

Council is accepting applications for the **Columbus Youth Council!**

The Columbus Youth Council program gives select Columbus City Schools juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn about city government, and how they can become stewards in their community.



### **WHAT IS THE CYC?**

The Columbus Youth Council (CYC) is a five-month program in which high school juniors and seniors from Columbus City Schools will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in city government and learn how they can become stewards in their community.

Students selected to the Columbus Youth Council (CYC) will have an opportunity to learn about city government and how they can become stewards in their community. They will be participating in several lessons dealing with topics such as the structure of city government, city development, what municipalities can and cannot do, and much more.

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

- Applications available from students Principal/Guidance Counselors beginning November 9, 2020
- Completed [applications](#) must be received by December 11, 2020
- Selected program participants will be notified by December 18, 2020
- Interested students should speak with their Principal or Guidance Counselors and ask for a reference to fill out the [Application Form](#) and [Recommendation Form](#)

Visit the [CYC Facebook page](#) for more information!



## Legacy Pointe & Scholar House Tour

## IN THE COMMUNITY

**Coming this Fall:** Columbus Scholar House for former foster youth will be located in the City's King-Lincoln District. Positioned just 4 miles from 10 local universities and colleges including the Ohio State University, Miami-Jacobs Career College and DeVry — future residents will enjoy various amenities such as a community patio and an on-site laundry facility. Applicants are to be 18-24 years old, a full-time student, or will be leaving foster care within 90 days. For more information about qualifications, visit [www.cpoms.org](http://www.cpoms.org).

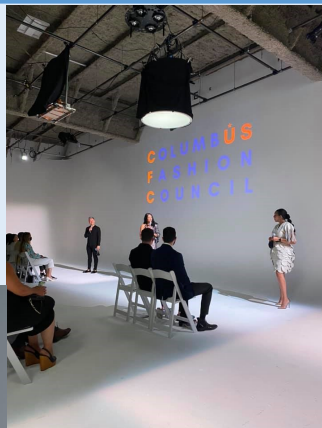
*"I am pleased to know our community partners are devoted to providing families and youth with the opportunity to experience quality, affordable living."* - CM Shayla Favor



## COLUMBUS FASHION WEEK

I was honored to provide opening remarks at the **2020 Columbus Fashion Week** finale show!

**Bottom: Councilmember Favor**



The Columbus Fashion Council is a non-profit organization seeking to expand the fashion economy in Central Ohio. Last year, the Columbus Fashion Council celebrated the 10th anniversary of their flagship program—Columbus Fashion Week.

## 2020 CATCHCOURT GRADUATION

I was honored to give remarks at the annual **CATCH** graduation ceremony. The CATCH (Changing Actions to Change Habits) program, launched by Judge Paul Herbert, aims to help women who have been arrested for prostitution, instead of condemning them. Program participants must attend a counseling program, classes and therapy to successfully complete the 2-year program.

For more information, please dial (614) 645-8214.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**10/12—** Speaker at Columbus Metropolitan Library's virtual 'Voter Awareness Storytime' !

**10/15—** Speaker at Homeport's virtual 2020 Voice & Vision Award Celebration!

**10/22—** Panelist on **"Forward: Creating Feminist Futures"** virtual event

**10/27—** Housing for All | Public Hearing

**10/28—** Panelist | Office of Diversity & Inclusion (ODI) & Alumni Association present **'Diversity Series'**

# HOUSING RESOURCES & LEGAL SERVICES

## Housing Resources

### Coalition on Homelessness & Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)

- ♦ Supports Ohio residents and organizations seeking guidance on landlord-tenant law and the Fair Housing Act. If you need free legal advice on how to deal with a specific issue, email them or call them using the Housing Information Line

**175 South Third Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215**

**General: (614) 280-1984**

**Housing Information Line: (888) 485-7999**

### Columbus Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)

- ♦ Advocates services for those experiencing homelessness, educates the central Ohio community about homelessness, and actively works to reduce hate crimes. They also provide homeless persons with a "Streetcard", that lists information on most needed services in Franklin County for which they may be eligible

**89 West Park Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43222**

**(614) 228-1342**

**Emergency Shelter: (614) 274-7000**

## Legal Resources

### Franklin County Municipal Court Self Help Center

- ♦ Those who need legal assistance should go to Franklin County Municipal Court, 375 S. High St. Those seeking emergency funding should **call Impact at 614-252-2799**

### Ohio Legal Services

- ♦ Provides statewide legal assistance to low income Ohioans in several areas including housing, utilities, benefits and consumer issues. Connect with a local legal aid attorney and/or access self-help or pro se resources by topic at [oslsa.org](http://oslsa.org), or call **(866) 529-6446 (Toll Free)** or **(800) 750-0750 (TTY/TDD)**



## Additional Resources

### Legal Aid Society of Columbus

- ♦ The Legal Aid Society of Columbus provides advice and representation for tenants residing in private or subsidized housing. Our goal is to preserve and improve the quality of the tenant's home. Legal services are provided in the following areas:
  - Fair Housing
  - Security Deposits
  - Housing Condition Problems
  - Section 8 Voucher Terminations

**For more information, please call Legal Aid Society at 614.241.2001.**

