



COMMITTEES

HOUSING
PUBLIC SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & JUDICIARY

FAVOR'S FORUM

Quarterly Newsletter



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A Message From Councilmember Shayla Favor

Greetings Columbus,

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. This empowering month should serve not only as a time to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues but also as a time to recommit ourselves to reducing the stigma that so many experience.

This quarter, we also observed Women's History Month. As a member of the Columbus Women's Commission, I am committed to supporting policies that help retain women in the workforce. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on women, particularly Black and Hispanic women. Even before the pandemic, women of color often stood at the intersection of multiple barriers. Despite advances, many of the disparities reflect long-standing challenges such as housing. This is why it was important to me that I sponsor various ordinances that provide solutions to our city's housing crisis, which disproportionately impacts minorities, women and families.

In this newsletter, you will learn more about the Housing for All legislative package that Council passed unanimously as well as Columbus' Vision Zero Action Plan. I would like to personally thank you for taking time to read my quarterly 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 challenges faced by residents. Your thoughts and ideas are very important to me. As always, if you have any questions or policy ideas, please do not hesitate to contact my office by calling 614-965-8297 or emailing aaliban@columbus.gov.

Yours in service,

Resolutions, Observances & Awareness Months

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In February, Columbus City Council held the 3rd annual Black History Month celebration to recognize African American history in the success and shaping of Columbus. This year, Council honored the recipients of the 2021 James Preston Poindexter Awards, named after Reverend James Preston Poindexter, the first black member of Columbus City Council. Councilmember Favor presented Otto Beatty Jr. with the James Preston Poindexter Award. The full program can be viewed on the City's YouTube channel.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In celebration of International Women's Day, Councilmember Favor presented a resolution to the Columbus Women's Commission for their efforts to retain women in the workforce. This year, women and girls across our community have displayed resilience in the face of the pandemic. Councilmember Favor looks forward to continuing to support the vital role that women and girls play in our community.



RESOLUTIONS

National Reentry Week

April 26th - April 30

Each year, over 600,000 individuals return to their communities from State and Federal prisons. The challenges facing formerly incarcerated people during their transition back in to society are numerous, including finding and maintaining employment, locating safe and affordable housing, obtaining reliable transportation, and various other difficulties which can lead to recidivism. This year, Councilmember Favor presented a resolution to Central Ohio Restored Citizens Collaborative for their efforts to support returning citizens throughout the Central Ohio region.

National Student Leadership Week (NSLW)

April 18th - April 24th

NSLW is an annual theme-based week dedicated to recognizing and supporting the vital role of student leaders. In honor of NSLW, Councilmember Favor presented a resolution to Youth to Youth International, a local community based drug prevention & youth leadership program.

Mental Health Awareness Month

May 2021

For more than 65 years, May has been observed as National Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental health is important all year-round, but emphasizing these issues in May allows us to unite to show our support and efforts for those who suffer from mental disorders & illnesses.

On May 10th, Councilmembers Favor and Priscilla Tyson co-sponsored a resolution to recognize and celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month.



#ARTUNITESCRUS



DELIVER
BLACK
DREAMS

The novel coronavirus brought the world together through a common experience. Across the country, we realized that this experience was not universal because the pandemic exposed our nation's inequalities. Racial minorities who already had unequal access to affordable housing, health services and transportation were disproportionately impacted once the pandemic struck. Income inequality became more apparent as millions of Americans struggled to gain quick access to new technology for school and work. This caused our nation

to grapple with these harsh truths as millions of Americans marched in record numbers to demand that we do better. These demands have not slowed down in 2021.

Councilmember Favor continues to advocate for social justice by supporting initiatives like the Deliver Black Dreams campaign and the City's Reimagining Public Safety efforts.

#DELIVERBLACKDREAMS

IT'S FOR ALL OF US.



DELIVER
BLACK
DREAMS

Art must be used as an accessible tool for communication, raising awareness about social issues and affecting positive change.

The first phase of the Deliver Black Dreams campaign was based in visual expression & was completed last year. Led by Marshall Shorts, the second phase of the campaign is well underway.

Deliver Black Dreams is a campaign of, by

and for Black people. The murals drew attention and prompted important conversations around the arts, the city, businesses and social change. The murals were temporary, but the public response led to a broader discussion about how art should and can be part of more substantial work to further the cause of racial equity.

The recent deaths of Casey Goodson Jr. and Andre Hill at the

hands of police brought to a head the critical issue of racism in our community, prompting protests and the desire for effective police reform. Now more than ever, we must come together to ensure a better future for Columbus residents.

“

When I think about **#DeliverBlackDreams**, I think about how all of our futures are tied together. When Black and Brown people succeed, we all succeed. Every Columbus resident—no matter their skin color—deserves to live in a city that supports their future.

- Councilmember Shayla Favor



COLUMBUS FAMILIES TOGETHER FUND

In May of 2017, the Trump administration introduced its “zero-tolerance” immigration policy, calling for the prosecution of all individuals who cross the border into the United States without documentation.

This policy had the immediate effect of separating thousands of parents from their children when they enter the country together, because parents are referred for prosecution and the children are placed in the custody of a sponsor, such as a relative or foster home, or held in a shelter.

To date, an estimated 4,368 children have been removed from their parents and moved to 100 different detention centers in 17 states.

In January 2020 the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reported that the official government number of children separated from their parents or guardians under the policy was 4,368 ¹

In 2017, Columbus City Council established the Columbus Families Together Fund (CFTF) to protect immigrant and refugee families from the financial and emotional devastation that results from aggressive immigration enforcement. CFTF provides funding to support legal education and representation for eligible immigrants in removal proceedings before the Cleveland Immigration Court.

Despite the devastating consequences of detention and deportation, there is no right to appointed counsel in immigration court.

As a result, most immigrants facing deportation—particularly those in detention—go unrepresented, forced to defend themselves against the federal government. Councilmember Shayla Favor has pledged to award over \$100,000 in grants to organizations providing legal representation, know your rights training and wrap-around services to immigrants.

What many Columbus residents don't know is that a majority of deportation cases in Ohio emanate from Franklin County. Too many residents have been separated and put behind bars in our backyard. Thus, the CFTF fills a clearly defined gap in services to the City's residents and their families. The CFTF provides immigrants with a chance to have their fair day in court with a lawyer, someone to educate and counsel them about immigration law and relief requirements, and answer their questions about the detention and removal process. The program helps to restore dignity, humanity, fairness, and justice in the immigration system. Later this month, the Columbus Families Together Fund Advisory Board will select the 2nd round of grant recipients.

Reference:

1. Southern Poverty Law Center <https://www.splcenter.org/news/2020/06/17/family-separation-under-trump-administration-timeline>

A recent review done by the Biden administration found that more than 1,400 parents were deported without their children.

Many of the adults who have been detained and prosecuted are women, fleeing gang and domestic violence in their homelands with their children in order to seek safety and security in the United States.

Children across our nation, including in Ohio, have been ripped from the arms of their parents and separated for months.

According to ABLE, Ohio saw two very large workplace raids in 2018, and over 10,000 removal cases pending before the Cleveland Immigration Court, which has jurisdiction over all of Ohio.



Let's Talk Legislation!

VISION ZERO

The **Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0** lays out a set of two-year strategies to make safety the number one priority of the Columbus transportation system. The plan lays out a strategy to begin to achieve the goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries from crashes on city streets.

The Action Plan identifies a High Injury Network of city streets that have a higher density of fatal or serious crashes involving vulnerable road users; pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists are inherently more at risk if involved in crashes. Streets on the network may run through other municipalities.

The Action Plan was developed through hundreds of hours of collecting and analyzing data, mobility planning and engaging the community, after Vision Zero Columbus launched in March 2020. The plan features equitable solutions, attainable goals and accountability to residents. It will be updated continually as new data becomes available and strategies prove successful in making travel on city streets safer.



PUBLIC SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

As Chair of Council's Transportation and Public Service Committee, Councilmember Favor has been working with the City's Public Service Department and Vision Zero Columbus to increase safety and equitable mobility since March of 2020.

In March 2021, Council voted to adopt the Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan 1.0 as the primary framework for reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero.

Every person has the right to get to their destination safely.

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We must do everything we can to protect human life, and our city's traffic and street infrastructure is an extremely important part of this conversation.

- Councilmember Shayla Favor

Let's Talk Legislation!

HOUSING COMMITTEE

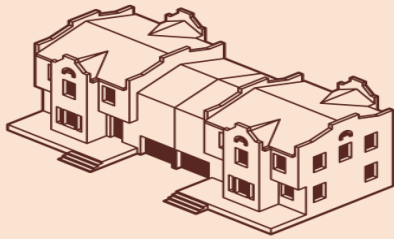
Did you know Council has invested roughly **\$29 million dollars** in rental and utility assistance since 2020?

- Council allocated approximately \$16 million to IMPACT in 2020
- In 2021 Council allocated an additional \$10 million to IMPACT
- Council also awarded \$3 Million to the Columbus Urban League



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL PASSES

HOUSING FOR ALL



ORDINANCE 0494-2021

Prohibits housing discrimination based on source of income

ORDINANCE 0495-2021

Provides multiple options to pay security deposit

ORDINANCE 0496-2021

Mandates landlords provide receipts to document proof of payment



Councilmember Shayla Favor

Since joining Council in 2019, Councilmember Favor has been vocal about her plans to address the city's housing crisis. Last fall, Councilmember Favor held 2 public hearings and met with dozens of housing stakeholders, residents and landlords to better understand their needs and challenges.

After several months of engagement, Councilmember Favor introduced a **Housing for All** legislative package that includes: Renter's Choice, Source of Income and Rental Receipt legislation.

In March, Council passed a series of ordinances in support of the Housing for All legislative package. The policies are intended to help encourage more affordable housing opportunities in the City of Columbus. In the coming months, the City will collaborate with community partners- including the Columbus Urban League- to roll out an education plan for landlords and tenants.

JOIN COLUMBUS YOUTH COUNCIL!



Applications for the 2021 **Columbus Youth Council** program will be available on Friday, May 26th at 3PM!

The 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.

Visit the [CYC Facebook page](#) and [CYC webpage](#) to learn more and apply!




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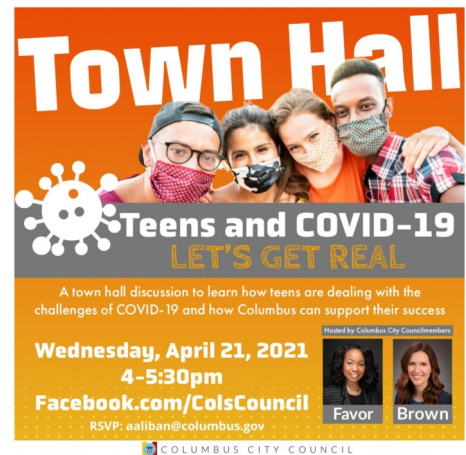
YOUTH TOWNHALL

As part of National Student Leadership Week, Councilmember Favor and President Pro Tem Brown held a virtual Youth Townhall for Columbus students.

Students from 13 high schools participated. NSLW is an annual theme-based week dedicated to recognizing and supporting the vital role of student leaders. This year's theme was **#LeadershipUnlimited**.

This event coincided with the shooting of a Columbus teenager which prompted discussions about policing, violence and mental health.

During the Townhall, students engaged with each other, elected officials and school board members who reminded them that they play a vital role in creating a better future.



For information about the next Townhall series, follow Columbus Youth Council on Facebook and Instagram!



@columbusyouthcouncil



@ColumbusYouthCouncil

In The Community!

2021 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



COUNCILMEMBER FAVOR PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL REENTRY WEEK!

NA-

COTA OFFERS BUS RIDE TRAININGS FOR NEW AMERICANS!



Housing & Legal Resources

Housing Resources

City of Columbus

- ♦ The city has a hotline for tenants being illegally evicted **(614) 645-5650**

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

- ♦ 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, 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.

