

April 8, 2010

Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson
Columbus City Council
90 West Broad Street
Second Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Councilmember Tyson,

Columbus Public Health Healthy Places program and the Institute for Active Living support the changes to the City of Columbus Zoning Code Revisions to Title 33 Article XIII, Parking. On September 15, 2009, the City of Columbus Board of Health passed Resolution No. 09-22 supporting the code revisions due to the health benefits.

Research has shown that the built environment and specifically sidewalks, distance to destinations and bike racks increase physical activity. The Parking Code Revisions will improve the built environment by requiring a sidewalk from the street to the front door; require less parking therefore reducing the distance between the street and the front door; require bicycle parking and increase the number of shade trees in the parking lot. The Parking Code improvements directly relate to built environment changes that will increase physical activity.

Columbus Public Health supports creating more walkable and bike-friendly environments not only through the Health Places program and Institute for Active Living but through Creating Healthy Communities (formerly the Heart Health Network) and the Franklin County Safe Communities programs as well. Columbus Public Health continues to have strong partnership with the Department of Development and looks forward to additional collaborations to make the City of Columbus a healthier, safer city.

Sincerely,

Barb Seckler
Director, Institute for Active Living

Christine G. Green
Healthy Places Coordinator

Cc: Charleta Tavares, City of Columbus City Council
Teresa C. Long, M.D., M.P.H., Health Commissioner
Vince Papsidero, Administrator, Planning Division