

**COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

For Immediate Release:
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For More Information:

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REMOVING “DARK MONEY” FROM CITY POLITICS: President Pro Tem [Michael Stinziano](#) and Council President [Shannon Hardin](#) are sponsoring ordinance 3386-2018 to create campaign finance reforms in Columbus. The new code changes address campaign contribution limits for municipal candidates, financial and election period communications disclosure, new duties for the City Clerk and City Attorney, and fines and penalties for violation of the new code.

Specific changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Limit annual contributions to municipal candidates by following the state law contribution amounts.
- Create new, cutting edge “dark money” disclosure by requiring anyone issuing an election period communication to immediately disclose their contributions, expenditures, and debt.
- Continue to require more campaign finance disclosure than state law. This is the most disclosure of any large city in Ohio.
- Require auditing of all campaign finance filings to assure compliance with campaign finance laws.
- Create a system to report and investigate alleged violations of the new city code.
- Allow a nonrefundable municipal tax credit of \$50 per individual or \$100 per joint filer if they file a city tax return, mirroring similar state law for state candidates.

CREATING A COMPREHENSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN FOR THE HILLTOP: Council President Pro Tem [Michael Stinziano](#) is sponsoring an ordinance for the development of a comprehensive Hilltop community plan. This legislation allows the Neighborhood Design Center to work in coordination with the Department of Neighborhoods to engage the Hilltop communities, City departments and community partners to align resources to develop a strategy revitalization for the Hilltop. The first phase of the contract resulted in the One Linden Plan which was completed September 2018. This legislation authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of \$285,000 from the Community Development Block Grant specifically for Hilltop planning.



**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | MICHAEL STINZIANO, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
ELIZABETH C. BROWN | MITCHELL J. BROWN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | PRISCILLA R. TYSON**

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED: Councilmember [Priscilla Tyson](#), chair of the Housing Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0044-2019 to allocate \$2 million to make financial assistance grants available to homeowners, homebuyers, renters, for-profit and non-profit organizations to increase the local supply of decent, safe, and sanitary housing and decrease the number of vacant properties in our neighborhoods. Housing Preservation Fund assists homeowners, homebuyers, renters, for-profit and non-profit developers with grants for residential projects including both affordable and market-rate housing. For more information visit: <https://www.columbus.gov/development/housing-division/Homeowner-Assistance/>

SUPPORTING PUBLIC EDUCATION: Councilmember [Elizabeth Brown](#) chair of the Education Committee is presenting a resolution to recognize January 20-26, 2019, as Public Education Week in Columbus, Ohio. Traditional public school districts in Ohio serve more than 1.8 million students and employ more than 245,000 Ohioans full time. Columbus City Schools is the largest public school system in Ohio and serves more than 50,000 students each year. Public education prepares students to be successful adults and is critically important to the economic vitality of the City. Columbus City Council proudly acknowledges January 20-26 as a moment to celebrate the students, teachers, staff, parents and caregivers who rely on and support public education in Columbus.

\$1.1 MILLION IN UPGRADES TO STATE ROUTE 161: Councilmember [Emmanuel Remy](#), chair of the Public Service & Transportation Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0010-2019 to allocate \$1.1 million for the resurfacing and pavement repairs along State Route 161 from the City Corporation limits (Big Walnut Creek) to the pavement change at Little Turtle Way. This effort continues Council's commitment to providing safe streets and sidewalks throughout the City.

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