COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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COUNCIL HONORS THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE “MAYOR OF LINDEN”: Council President Shannon Hardin is presenting resolution 0055x-2019 to honor, recognize and celebrate the life of Clarence D. Lumpkin. He was a longtime activist with decades of service to his community, which earned him the moniker “Mayor of Linden,” the community where he lived for more than 49 years. The U.S. Postal Service renamed the Linden office the Clarence D. Lumpkin Post Office in his honor. Born September 12, 1924, Lumpkin passed away on January 28, 2019.

COUNCIL PRESENTS FINAL 2019 OPERATING BUDGET: Finance Chair Elizabeth Brown and City Council are sponsoring ordinances 2870-2018, 2871-2018, and 2872-2018 to adopt the general fund operating budget. The $912 million budget includes resources dedicated to Council’s three priority areas: strong neighborhoods, good paying jobs and pathways out of poverty. These priorities were informed by robust community engagement through more than 100 community meetings with more than 1000 hours of public conversation.

COUNCIL FUNDS CREATION OF SENIOR HOUSING STABILIZATION PROGRAM: Council President Pro Tem Michael Stinziano, chair of the Neighborhoods Committee is sponsoring an ordinance to authorize Columbus City Council to work with the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging in support of senior housing stabilization. Council will allocate $18,270 to support preventative efforts to reduce eviction, displacement and homelessness for older adults in Columbus. These funds would directly impact needs such as a missed rent or mortgage, rent or utility deposit, housing violation moving expenses, or other hardships related to maintaining safe housing and avoid displacement.
HELPING COLUMBUS GO GREEN: Council President Pro Tem Michael Stinziano, chair of the Public Utilities Committee is sponsoring an ordinance for the City to participate in the EcoSmart Choice green energy program. The program allows the Department of Public Utilities Division of Power, to continue to offer its electric customers (including City facilities) a green energy option to offset their electric energy costs.

COUNCIL TO ALLOCATE MORE THAN $4 MILLION TO NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CENTERS: Councilmember Priscilla Tyson, chair of the Health and Human Services committee is presenting ordinance 0319-2019 to fund primary health care and dental services at community-based health centers. Community Health Centers (CHC) are successful, low-cost options for primary care access. Medical costs for CHC patients are 41% lower compared to patients seen elsewhere such as a hospital emergency room. As a result, CHC’s save the healthcare system between $9.9 billion and $17.6 billion a year.

AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN COLUMBUS: Councilmember Shayla Favor, chair of the Housing Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0227-2019 to enter into an agreement with the Central Ohio Community Land Trust (COCLT) to spend $3.8 million to develop affordable housing units in the City. The COCLT is a subsidiary of COCIC and will work with partners to develop new affordable housing units. The land will be permanently owned by the new CLT and the houses will be sold to qualified buyers. This joint ownership will ensure the houses are permanently affordable as they are resold.

ADDRESSING ONE OF THE CITY’S MOST DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS: Councilmember Emmanuel Remy, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee is sponsoring ordinance 2473-2017 for Refugee Road and Winchester Pike Intersection Improvements. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) ranks this intersection as the 16th most dangerous intersections in the Central Ohio.

COUNCIL HONORS THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COLUMBUS POLICE OFFICER JASON JACKSON: Councilmember Mitchell J. Brown, chair of the Public Safety committee is presenting resolution 0056X-2019 to honor and celebrate the life of Columbus Police Officer Jason T. Jackson. Jackson thrived as a
member of the Columbus Division of Police serving as an officer in many capacities during his 24 years of service. He was best known for his role as a Community Liaison Officer and his involvement with the CPD Explorers Program, which focuses on mentoring youth and inspiring the next generation of police officers. He will be remembered for his intelligence, charisma, and kindness for others. Jackson is the son of former Police Chief James G. Jackson.

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