

**COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

For Immediate Release:  
February 25, 2019

*For More Information:*

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**SUPPORT TO KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER:** Council President [Shannon Hardin](#) is presenting resolution 0073x-2019 to support Edith Espinal, Miriam Vargas and their families as welcomed residents of the City of Columbus. The United States is a nation of immigrants where, since its founding, people like Espinal and Vargas have come to seek protection from persecution and enjoy the freedoms of our nation. Council recognizes Edith Espinal and Miriam Vargas as long-time residents of the City of Columbus and support their respective efforts to remain in the United States and provide for their families.

**SUPPORTING THE DISTINCTIVE COLUMBUS EXPERIENCE:** [Elizabeth Brown](#), chair of the Finance Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0369-2019 to contract with Experience Columbus for marketing services to increase tourism and convention business and promote Columbus as a destination experience to visitors. Annually, the greater Columbus area welcomes nearly 40 million visitors each year who spend \$6.4 billion at local businesses. The tourism sector alone supports nearly 78,000 jobs in Columbus and Franklin County. Experience Columbus is a vital asset and resource for the Columbus community.

**COUNCIL ACCEPTS \$4.7 MILLION GRANT FOR HIV PROGRAMMING:** Councilmember [Priscilla Tyson](#), chair of the Health and Human Services Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0415-2019 to accept a \$4.7 million grant to support the 2019 Ryan White Part A HIV Care Program. The HIV Care Part A grant's purpose is to improve access to medical care for persons living with HIV or AIDS living in Central Ohio. The goal is that each client will achieve viral suppression, which improves their quality of life and reduces the risk of spreading the infection. In 2018, The Ryan White Part A program served over 2,400 people in Central Ohio living with HIV through several programs including outpatient/ambulatory medical care, mental health services, medical case management, early intervention services, housing services, non-medical case management, emergency financial assistance and medical transportation.



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

**CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC**

**AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO NEIGHBORHOODS:** Councilmember [Shayla Favor](#), chair of the Economic Development Committee is sponsoring ordinance 3469-2018 to create the Kenny and Henderson Community Reinvestment Area. The goal of a Community Reinvestment Area is neighborhood revitalization and stabilization. As Columbus City Council and the Department of Development navigate through the new incentive policy, one of the recommended areas of focus is CRAs. New abatement areas will conform to existing boundaries such as Census tracts. Also, new abatement areas will be evaluated on 6 distress criteria used to categorize the area (population growth, median household income growth, poverty rate, median rent/square feet, housing vacancy rate, mortgage foreclosure rate); and lastly project metrics such as project size, financial viability, affordability and consistency with the City's development policies.

**COUNCIL EXTENDS CHARITABLE DONATIONS TO INCLUDE CLOTHING:** Councilmember [Emmanuel Remy](#), chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0272-2019 to authorize the Department of Public Service to donate gently used clothing items to various local nonprofit charitable organizations. Employees who end employment with the City often turn in or leave behind gently used clothing items. Donating these items to charity rather than discarding them helps to better support the community and falls in line with the Department's values.

**INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY'S "RREACTION" TIME:** Councilmember [Mitchell J. Brown](#), chair of the Public Safety Committee is sponsoring ordinance 0562-2019 to purchase two vehicles to support the Columbus Division of Fire and Division of Police Rapid Response Emergency Addiction Crisis Team (RREACT). The RREACT program is the first and only program of its kind in the country that brings EMS personnel, police officers, social workers and treatment facilities together to combat the ongoing opiate crisis. The program provides follow-up to overdose patients to connect them with treatment. Since the spring of 2017, RREACT conducted over 1000 follow-up visits, with a nearly 90% engagement rate and provided direct linkage to treatment to approximately 25% of these individuals. With the addition of these two vehicles, RREACT looks to increase the effectiveness of first responders as they combat the opiate epidemic plaguing Columbus residents.

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