COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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EMBRACING A WELCOMING CITY: Councilmembers Emmanuel V. Remy, Elizabeth Brown, Jaiza Page and President Pro Tem Michael Stinziano are sponsoring ordinance 2624-2018 to enter into a grant agreement with the Bhutanese Community of Central Ohio (BCCO) to maintain services to the Bhutanese-Nepali refugee population in Columbus. As a result of substantial changes to federal immigration policy and attributed funding, many refugee resettlement organizations have experienced dramatic reductions in operational support. Despite Central Ohio’s Bhutanese-Nepali refugee population increasing by nearly 400% in the last eight years, the BCCO has lost approximately 90% of its federal funding with the non-renewal of its Office of Refugee Resettlement grant. Council’s support will sustain BCCO’s operations while allowing the organization to focus on delivering the broader services and programs needed by the community.

GROWING THE LOCAL ECONOMY: Councilmember Jaiza Page, chair of the Economic Development Committee is sponsoring ordinances 2492-2018 and 2516-2018 to authorize the Director of the Department of Development to enter into a dual-rate Jobs Growth Incentive Agreement with Davenport Aviation, Inc. and an Enterprise Zone Agreement with EX2 Investments LTD and Carr Supply Co. By incorporating these new jobs incentive agreements into their total financial forecasts, the companies expect to generate over $8.2 million in annual payroll to the City. Davenport Aviation, Inc. is a broker and distributor of aviation parts for airlines around the world, a player in a U.S. industry. EX2 Investments LTD and Carr Supply Co. is a real estate holding company.
COLUMBUS MAKES ART WITH BICYCLE RACKS: Councilmember Elizabeth Brown, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee is sponsoring ordinance 1964-2018 to authorize the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into a contract with IMAX Engineering, Inc. for the fabrication and installation public art bike racks at Blackburn, Tuttle Park, and Westgate Community Centers.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY OUTREACH WITH THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA: Council President Pro Tem Michael Stinziano, chair of the Neighborhoods Committee is sponsoring an ordinance to authorize a grant agreement between Columbus City Council and the Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America, in support of its Refugee and Immigrant Outreach program. The Boy Scouts of America seek to expand its outreach to the refugee and immigrant community in the Hilltop and Wedgewood neighborhoods. This includes growth in organizational partnerships related to this effort, and include My Project USA, ETSS, New Bridge and Bridge Gate schools, Eakin Elementary School and area mosques. The goal is to provide positive mentorship and experiences for youth.
SUPPORTING HEALTHY ACTIVE LIVING: Councilmember Priscilla Tyson, chair of the Health and Human Services Committee is sponsoring ordinance 2354-2018 to direct the Board of Health to modify the purpose of the endowment fund with The Columbus Foundation, The Foundation of Active Living, to allow for funds to be used for public health to protect, promote, and monitor the overall health of the community. The Foundation for Active Living was established to accept corporate and private donations, and distribute those funds to various organizations within the community for the benefit of Columbus Public Health, the Institute for Active Living and other City programs.

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