

City of Columbus

Department of Neighborhoods

Area Commissions / Civic Associations



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS

PLEASE KEEP YOUR MICROPHONE ON MUTE



Department of Neighborhoods

Who we are and what we do



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS

Many Neighborhoods, One Columbus



“To strengthen communities by providing customer service, advocacy, and by connecting neighborhood resources and city services to all Columbus residents”



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



Department Divisions

Neighborhood Services

- Neighborhood Liaisons
- Neighborhood Pride Centers
- Neighborhood Pride Program
- New Americans Initiative Program

311 Customer Service Center

Community Relations Commission

Comprehensive Neighborhood Safety Strategy

Community Planning



Neighborhood Liaisons

- Assigned to 8 geographic areas of the city
- Support, advise and technical assistance for area commissions
- Manage Neighborhood Pride Centers
- Quality control for service requests
- Larger Planning, Zoning, Infrastructure, Health Projects
- Communication with Neighborhoods / Networks
- Communication with front line city staff
- Interagency Communication, Mayor's Office, Administration
- Advocate for Neighborhoods
- Coordinate investment of City Resources



Neighborhood Liaisons Roles:

- Advocate / Inform (residents, organizations, City)
- Manage City and Community Priorities
- Coordinate Interagency / Neighborhood Communication
- Resolve Citizen Requests / Issues
- Provide Technical Assistance
- Manage Area Commissions
- Connect with Neighborhood Organizations
- Coordinate Investment City Resources



Who do liaisons work with?

- Area Commissions
- Civic Associations
- Business Associations / Businesses
- Community Service Providers
- Block Watches
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Community Leaders
- Police / Fire
- Public Health
- Code Enforcement
- City Attorney
- Development
- Public Service
- Building and Zoning
- Public Utilities
- Recreation & Parks



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



Neighborhood Pride Centers

North Side Pride Center
248 E. 11th Avenue

Far East Pride Center
2500 Park Crescent Drive

South Side Pride Center
280 Reeb Avenue

Near East Pride Center
1393 E. Broad Street

West Side Pride Center
1186 W. Broad Street



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



Purpose:

Serve as the direct communication link between the city and community.

A one-stop-shop for city services.

Dedicated to protecting the health, safety and welfare of the families living in the area.



COLUMBUS AREA COMMISSIONS

In the early 1970's, Columbus City Council established Area Commissions to act as a liaison between neighborhood groups and city government.

In 1996, the Area Commission provisions of the Columbus City Code were re-organized and moved from the Zoning Code to Title 31 of the Columbus City Codes - what is now known as the Planning and Historic Preservation Code.

The purpose of Area Commissions is spelled out in CCC 3109.01:



COLUMBUS AREA COMMISSIONS

PURPOSE:

- To afford additional voluntary citizens participation in decision making in an advisory capacity
- Facilitate communication, understanding and cooperation between neighborhood groups, city officials and developers



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



Area Commissions are made up of citizen volunteers that perform a number of public functions:

- hold hearings on problems and issues affecting the neighborhood
- recommend legislative solutions
- make recommendations for restoration and preservation of historical elements and
- participate in decision-making by making recommendations on matters pertaining to re-zonings, special permits, variances, demolitions, and zoning appeals.



Area Commissions:

- Meetings
- Best Practices
- Code of Conduct, Inclusion and Removal
- Conflict of Interest
- Legal Considerations
- Budget
- Fund Raising / Contracts
- Subcommittees
- Elections
- Appointed and Elected Members



Area Commission Formation

- Columbus City Code chapter 3109 provides the purpose of Area Commissions and procedures for establishment
- Persons residing, working or owning property in the city who desire to participate in decision-making on a representative advisory area commission basis, may petition council.
- 500 signatures of residents / property owners required
- Petitioners have 30 days after filing a petition to notify residents . Residents have 60 days to file a written objection.
- Petition includes Commission Area, Task Force, By-Laws



Area Commission Formation

- Each commission must prescribe the number of members (no less than 7, no more than 21).
- Members appointed by Mayor with the concurrence of Columbus City Council.
- Nominations for the Mayor's consideration may be made in accordance with the body's authorized election procedure.
- Members serve terms of 3 years.



The Columbus City Charter requires that all public bodies hold meetings in accordance with the general laws of the State of Ohio pertaining to Open Meetings.

An Area Commission, with its commissioners appointed by the Mayor and with its advisory role in the decision-making process relating to zoning and planning issues, is a Public Body and must comply with the Open Meetings Act.



CURRENT EMERGENCY MEASURES – COVID-19

During the period of the emergency, the state code amendments allow for:

- Members of a public body may hold, attend, and conduct meetings & hearings by means of:
 - Teleconference, video conference, or any other similar technology
- For such meetings:
 - All members attending via technology will be considered “present,” may be permitted to vote, and shall be counted towards determining a quorum



FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

- **Serve as advisory body to the City**
- **Represent residents, businesses, other organizations in the area on community issues**
- **Communicate needs and concerns of the area to the appropriate government agency**



FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

- Create plans and policies that serve as guidelines for future development of the area
- Hold regular public meetings and public hearings on problems, issues, and proposals affecting the area
- Review the capital improvement budget and propose new items and changes related to the area



FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

- **Initiate, review and recommend criteria and programs for the preservation, development, and enhancement of the commission area, including, but not limited to, parks, recreational areas, sidewalks, streets and traffic, and development projects**
- **Request and receive reports on proposed changes in service to the area and recommend approval/disapproval of the changes**
- **Advise on re-zonings, special permits, variances, demolitions, and zoning appeals**



CURRENT AREA COMMISSIONS (21)

5th by Northwest

Columbus Southside

Far South Columbus

Franklinton

Greater Southeast

Mideast

Near East

North Linden

University

Westland

Clintonville

Far East

Far Westside

Greater Hilltop

Livingston Avenue

Milo-Grogan

North Central

Northeast

South Linden

Southwest

West Scioto



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



<https://cbusareacommissions.org/>



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



Civic Associations:

- The City of Columbus defines a civic association as: a non-public, volunteer organization made up of residents or other stakeholders of a geographically defined area of the City of Columbus established for the purpose of providing a holistic approach to improving the quality of life in the area.
- Registration and Database



Civic Coalitions:

The City of Columbus defines a coalition as: a non-public, volunteer organization made up of two or more civic associations with a geographically defined area of the City of Columbus established for the purpose of providing a holistic approach to improving the quality of life in the area.



Neighborhood Services Division Contact Information

David Hooie, Neighborhood Program Coordinator
614-645-7343 / dehooie@columbus.gov

Alfred Akainyah, Near East Pride Center
614-645-7964 / aaakainyah@columbus.gov
Milo Grogan, North Central, Northland

Rebecca Deeds, North Pride Center
614-645-6016 / redeeds@columbus.gov
Far West, West Scioto, Northwest

Beth Fairman Kinney, South Side Pride Center
614-645-5220 / bfkinney@columbus.gov
Southside, Far South, Southwest

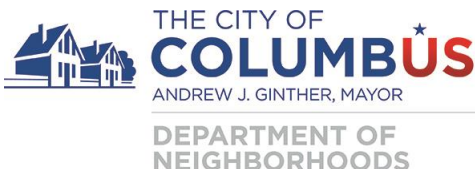
Jesús Ovalle, Near East Pride Center
614-645-7131 / jdovalle@columbus.gov
Near East, Livingston Avenue, German Village

Katherine Cull, North Pride Center
614-724-1900 / khcull@columbus.gov
University, 5th by Northwest, Clintonville

Melissa Green, West Side Pride Center
614-724-2033 / megreen@columbus.gov
Franklinton, Hilltop, Westland

Lynne LaCour, Far East Pride Center
614-724-0100 / ldlacour@columbus.gov
Mideast, Far East, Greater Southeast

De Lena Scales , 1111 E. Broad Street
614-645-0699 / dpscales@columbus.gov
South Linden, North Linden, Northeast



Many Neighborhoods, One Columbus



QUESTIONS / COMMENTS



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS



Many Neighborhoods, One Columbus



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS

