



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

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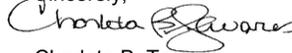
WELCOME

Welcome to summer in Columbus! As we enter into the hottest months of the year, it is important for us to keep an eye on our elderly friends and neighbors. Check in on them regularly, especially during peak heat periods and when air quality alerts are issued. To keep informed, I encourage all residents to visit the Columbus Health Department website (publichealth.columbus.gov) and sign-up to receive health alerts. Staying informed with accurate, up-to-date information is one of the most effective ways to remain healthy.

Summer is also a good season to enjoy time outdoors and to focus on fitness and fun. This is why I have included information on the City of Columbus' Institute on Active Living. This initiative was developed to help combat some of the major issues affecting Columbus residents. Please see page three for more information on this health initiative.

As always, if you have any comments or concerns about City services or programs, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (614) 645-8580—we are here for you. Be safe and enjoy a healthy and active summer in 2010.



Sincerely,

Charleta B. Tavares

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FAMILY COMES FIRST

Family Comes First (FCF) promotes effective, evidenced-based education and program delivery through the integration of responsible fatherhood, healthy parental relationships and informed waiting (abstinence through relationship education) among network service providers within the State of Ohio. To accomplish its mission of, “advancing the well-being of children by protecting the family”, Family Comes First, provides an array of services that reinforce the organizational and programmatic infrastructure of affiliated family-supportive organizations.

FCF's motivation, to put the family first, goes beyond the individuals who parent or even the extended family framework. The organization recognizes there are many external societal pressures that make it difficult to keep the family first; and that our workplaces, schools, religious organizations, social service agencies, government, and the media can each play significant roles in creating a culture that supports the family.

Human Development Committee chair, Charleta Tavares notes, “The Columbus City Council helps promote the Family Comes First Framework because it is important to our community, and while we don't offer financial support, we do our best to lead by example.” By collectively supporting the family structure, FCF and other leaders in our community, like Columbus City Council, will serve as catalysts in changing the way our culture supports this most basic of human relationships.

FCF philosophy is when we, as a society, start to put the family first, we will truly begin the work of “advancing the well-being of our children”, thereby creating stronger, healthier communities and a more promising future for us all. For more information, please visit: www.familycomesfirst.org.

JEFFERSON AVENUE APARTMENTS



Jefferson Avenue Apartments

Community Housing Network (CHN) develops, owns and manages permanent supportive housing for individuals disabled by mental illness, substance addiction or histories of chronic homelessness. CHN currently owns and manages more than 1,000 apartments throughout Franklin County.

CHN's latest endeavor is Jefferson Avenue Apartments, at 50 Jefferson Avenue. CHN and Amethyst collaborated on this project that is home to recovering single parents and their children. The apartments are within the "campus" of the Jefferson Center for Learning and the Arts (JCLA), a non-profit organization. The building offers 39 units of housing, including 12 one-bedroom apartments, 24 two-bedroom apartments, and 3 three-bedroom apartments. CHN manages the property on land owned by JCLA, and Amethyst provides and coordinates alcohol and drug treatment, intensive case management, and employment services.

Recently CHN acknowledged the funders, service partners and community members who supported the project at a grand opening reception at Jefferson Avenue Apartments. The event also included a Community Fair for residents, during which representatives of the non-profit organizations within JCLA, the King-Lincoln District and the Discovery District staffed table-top displays and spoke about activities of interest to resident adults and their children.

"Having two outstanding, city-supported organizations collaborate on a project to provide much needed services and housing to people in need is especially important during these challenging economic times." said Columbus City Councilmember Charleta Tavares. "Community Housing Network and Amethyst are providing an example of the tremendous impact organizations can have on our community and most importantly our residents when they work together to benefit from each others strengths and areas of expertise."

For more information on this, and other CHN projects, visit www.communityhousingnetwork.org

AMETHYST



Homeless women and their families face many challenges. When the disease of addiction is coupled with homelessness, it is much more difficult for a woman to locate treatment, family services, and housing. Despite all of this, Amethyst sees hope and promise in each woman—regardless of her life circumstance.

Amethyst's goal is to help women, children, and families achieve lifelong sobriety, healthy relationships, permanent housing, and economic stability through gender-specific programs and services that combine alcohol and drug treatment with supportive housing for homeless women.

"The City of Columbus has been a proud financial partner of Amethyst for many years," said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. The outstanding and proven approach of the organization has become a model for other similar organizations throughout Ohio and the U.S. We are fortunate to have them here in Columbus serving a population in need."

Amethyst gives women the hope for recovery, the desire to heal their lives and the lives of their children, and the courage to ask for help. Homeless women and their families face many challenges. When the disease of addiction is coupled with homelessness, it is doubly difficult for a woman to locate treatment, family services, and housing. Despite all of this, Amethyst restores lives and builds success for each woman.

For more information on Amethyst, visit www.amethyst-inc.org



Health is more than health care. The personal and collective choices we make are shaped by the choices and options we have. The City of Columbus and Columbus Public Health want to give our residents and visitors the opportunity to make healthier and active choices. With this in mind and armed with information from a citizen summit held in early 2008 where 1,800 Columbus residents told the City they loved Columbus' home town values yet wanted to live in and become an active, vibrant city, The Institute for Active Living was established.

The Institute for Active Living has been working with Columbus residents to build an active and healthier community for the last two years. The Institute works to lower the incidence of chronic diseases by implementing strategies to make Columbus a more active, vibrant place to live.

The Institute also introduced The Foundation for

Active Living, a fund established at the Columbus Foundation by the City of Columbus to accept corporate and private donations to support the work of the Institute, which has distributed \$55,000 so far. This funding supports both the programs of the Institute and external support to the Linden community garden, Kicks for Kids soccer club, and YMCA summer camps.

Program Director Barb Seckler sites some staggering statistics that are used to help guide The Institute for Active Living and set priorities:

- ◆ Ohio has the third highest death rate in the nation due to diabetes.
- ◆ Columbus' diabetes mortality rate is twice the national average.
- ◆ African-Americans, American Indians, and Hispanics are two times more likely to have diabetes than whites.
- ◆ Increasing sedentary living.
- ◆ Many people at-risk do not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ 33 % of Franklin County third graders are obese or overweight.
- ◆ 49 % of Franklin County adults are obese or overweight.
- ◆ Decreasing life expectancy

To combat these health issues, The Institute for Active Living advocates for and educates the people of Columbus. As an example, recently they have worked on communicating the benefits fresh food and they helped support and coordinate the farmers markets, community gardens, and advocate for neighborhood grocery stores to stock local, fresh produce. Additionally, programs focusing on being active, including bike safety programs, walking programs, and educational partnerships with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department are all working together to help create a more physically fit community. "There is momentum and a huge opportunity to change our way of being, our culture, to change lives because the stakes are very high. To not try vigorously to do it would be costly," said Director Barb Seckler.

For more information about the Institute for Active Living, contact BJSeckler@columbus.gov and for information about donating through the Columbus Foundation, email dsd@columbusfoundation.org.



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

Office of
Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

City Hall
90 West Broad Street
Second Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tavares

Legislative Aide: James Ragland
Email: jcragland@columbus.gov
Phone: (614) 645-8580
Fax: (614) 645-7399

Scheduler: Jackie Whitworth
Email: jawhitworth@columbus.gov
Phone: (614) 645-7317

Newsletter Contributors
Thomas Diamond
Kelli Arthur Hykes

TAVARES RECOGNIZED



Ohio Realist Association President Darryl W. Isabel, Columbus City Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares and Ohio Realist Association Chairman Roland Sumerville attend the 2010 Legends Ball.

Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares was recently honored by being recognized as a "Legend" at the Ohio Realist Association, Columbus chapter's annual Legends Ball. The Realist Association became an important organization and voice for black/minority realtors before successful integration of the industry, making it one of the oldest minority trade associations in America. The organization provides education, training and advocacy on housing related issues for realtors and brokers as well as provides outreach to those interested in becoming realtors.

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION DOLLARS HELPING COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOODS: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded Columbus \$23.2 million in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2). The funds, included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, will provide for the acquisition, rehabilitation, redevelopment, or demolition of foreclosed properties. Housing Committee chair Charleta B. Tavares sponsored ordinance 0800-2010 to appropriate \$11,117,773.00 in various divisions and object levels of the General Grant Fund to provide funding for approved programs in order to create vital, healthy neighborhoods by implementing strategies that build a stronger housing real-estate market in weak-market areas of Columbus. The city of Columbus is the Lead Applicant of the NSP2 Consortium which also includes Franklin County, the Affordable Housing Trust of Columbus and Franklin County, Campus Partners, Columbus Housing Partnership, Community Development Collaborative of Greater Columbus, and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Columbus.

FUNDING ADDICTION SERVICES: The Columbus Health Department offers a wide range of services to help individuals who are battling drug and alcohol addiction. Ordinance 0828-2010, sponsored by Health and Human Development Committee chair Charleta B. Tavares, will direct the Board of Health to accept a grant service contract from the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board in the amount of \$878,750 and authorize a total appropriation of \$1,200,500. The grant will be used to fund the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outpatient Program, Adult Prevention Services, Women's Project, Children & Adolescent Prevention and the Alcohol Other Drug/HIV Prevention programs.

To receive the **Tavares Times News** directly by ground mail or e-mail call (614) 645-8580 or email jcragland@columbus.gov