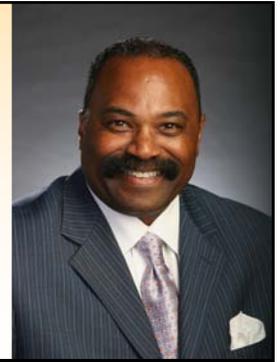




Spring 2008

Craig Connection

Columbus City Council



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Legislation Watch:

- **Council will review the mayor's proposed 2008-2013 Bicentennial capital plan in April/May for a voted bond package for the November ballot.**

Hi, I'm [Hearcel F. Craig](#), chairman of the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee, and Council's newest committee: Minority and Small Business Development. Welcome to the second edition of my quarterly newsletter. Since passage of the 2008 City budget in February, Council has been active pursuing initiatives that address the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens, families, and businesses. In a challenging economy, it is even more important to focus our energies and resources to make sure our investments of public dollars are wise.

That's why I'm so excited about the added attention our new committee will bring to helping out minority and small businesses, which comprise the majority of new job growth the City experiences. You can find out more about this effort on Page 2.

And, please join me in welcoming my new legislative aide, Talia Brown. You can contact my office at 645-7379 to speak with Talia, or reach her at: TJBrown@columbus.gov

HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Councilmember Craig has been busy pushing a series of legislative measures to protect victims of domestic violence in partnership with City Attorney [Richard Pfeiffer](#). \$83,000 in grant funding was allocated to help fund a cyber crime investigator and a domestic violence victim advocate within Pfeiffer's office. The City also recently enacted legislation of contract with Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence, a non-profit organization. Choices works with the City Attorney's office to provide additional victim advocacy, crisis intervention, and referrals to other partner agencies. Its work complements similar activity undertaken by staff within City Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit. An important component of such work is to link witnesses and victims to appropriate agencies and community resources. The City used \$33,000 in matching funds to secure a \$100,000 grant from Franklin County's Office of Homeland Security and Justice Programs to help pay for City staff.

[Link to Domestic Violence/Stalking Unit](#)

CRAIG LEADS NEW COMMITTEE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESS

In a continuing effort to further promote job and entrepreneurial opportunities for residents, in January Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) announced the formation of a new City Council committee. The Minority and Small Business Development Committee focuses on expanding economic opportunities for minority and small business owners, while exploring incentive options to assist this vital segment of our economy. Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#) chairs the new committee.



Councilmember Craig (center) discusses the focus of the new Minority and Small Business Development Committee with Steve Tugend and Michael Gordon of the Columbus Chamber.

“This new committee will work to dramatically increase business opportunities for minority and small businesses in important growth sectors of our economy, such as technology and transportation and logistics,” said Craig. “A major goal for the committee will be to encourage business relationships between minority and small businesses and many of the major employers currently in Columbus.”

Joining Councilmember Craig on the new committee are Council President Mentel, President Pro Tem Boyce and Councilmember O’Shaughnessy.

(See page 4 for an in-progress list of contacts promoting job opportunities for small business.)

[Link to Columbus Chamber](#)

NEW WATERPARK SPLASHING ON THE COLUMBUS SCENE

The Columbus Zoo is preparing to open a new attraction this summer that is sure to be a hit for families and children of all ages. The new 22.7 acre water park will offer patrons numerous recreational activities that will promote education and adventure. Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) sponsored legislation in March that allowed the sublease between the Columbus Zoological Park Association and Zoombezi Bay, LLC, the zoo's water park operator, to ensue. Zoombezi Bay will be the first water park in the country to offer admission to both a zoo and water park on one ticket.

[Click here for Zoombezi Bay information](#)



CRAIG WELCOMES NEW AIDE



Talia Brown, Councilmember Craig's new aide.

A new face is coming to City Hall as Councilmember [Craig](#) welcomes Talia Brown as his new legislative aide. Talia will hit the ground running April 28th. She holds a masters degree in Urban and Regional Affairs from the University of Pittsburg and a journalism degree from The Ohio State University. Her well-rounded work experience includes stints developing and manipulating GIS data as a geographic information system analyst at both OSU and in the Champaign County Economic Development Office. **“Talia’s experience with workforce development and land use issues will help as we focus on expanding economic opportunities for minority and small business owners in the new Minority and Small Business Development Committee,”** said Craig. You can find Talia’s contact information on the front page.

NEW HEALTH CENTERS TO SERVE COLUMBUS

New community health centers are in the works for two areas of the City. The City closed one of its five centers, the John Maloney Center on Parsons Avenue, in August 2006, setting up temporary service at a south High Street site while planning for a permanent replacement center. Councilmember [Craig](#) recently joined City and community leaders to announce progress. **“Meeting basic health care needs of our residents is one of our top priorities,”** Craig said. **“This continues City Council’s strong commitment of providing quality health care to the Columbus community.”**

A new John Maloney Center will anchor the redevelopment of the former Schottenstein’s Department Store site, located at 1887 South Parsons Avenue. And good news for southsiders—the site of the temporary center, located at 3781 South High Street will also be made permanent, doubling the access to health care for area residents. Services at both centers will include family practice, prenatal care, nutrition services, OB/GYN, immunizations and pediatric services. The Maloney Center also will house Columbus Public Health’s Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, offering nutritious foods and breastfeeding education and support to women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, and infants and children under 5 years of age.

And ground broke for a new Westside health center in the Hilltop, replacing one located on Sullivant Avenue. Located at 2300 West Broad Street, it keeps the City’s promise to preserve old Fire Station #17 as part of the new facility. The \$7.9 million center will have 35,000 square foot to triple the number of residents served and will help spur economic development along the West Broad Street corridor.

Councilmember Craig celebrated with Bob Leighty, Southside activist, in an announcement of the new John Maloney health center on Parsons Avenue.



MINORITY AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS

<p>Alfred Berthold, Executive Director</p> <p>Neighborhood Design Center 415 E Main Street Columbus, OH 43215 614- 221-5001 Website: www.neighborhooddesign.org</p>	<p>Michael Bowers, Regional Director</p> <p>Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) @ Columbus State Community College 614-287-5509 Website: www.csc.edu</p>
<p>Damita R. Brown, Business Diversity Program Administrator</p> <p>Columbus Regional Airport Authority 4600 International Gateway Columbus, OH 43219 614-239-5049 E-mail: dbrown@columbusairports.com Website: www.columbusairports.com</p>	<p>Ted Ford, President</p> <p>TechColumbus 1275 Kinnear Road Columbus, OH 43212 614-487-3700 Website: www.techcolumbus.org</p>
<p>Mike Gordon, Senior Vice President, Business Development Services</p> <p>Columbus Chamber Diversity Bridge 37 N. High Street Columbus, OH 43215 614-225-6935 Website: www.columbus.org</p>	<p>Nanda Nair, President</p> <p>Asian Indian Business Group 3SG Corporation 344 Cramer Creek Court Dublin, OH 43017 Website: www.aiabg.com</p>
<p>Community Capital Development Corp</p> <p>900 Michigan Avenue Columbus, OH 43215 614-645-8066 Website: www.ccdcorp.org</p>	<p>Frank Watson, President</p> <p>Central Ohio Minority Business Association 1393 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205 614-252-8005 Website: www.comba.com</p>
<p>Kim Knights Antha, Director</p> <p>Columbus Minority Contractors Business Assistance Program 1393 E. Broad Street—2nd floor Columbus, Ohio 43205-1584 614-252-8005 E-mail: kimansah@comba.com Website: www.comba.com</p>	<p>Fred Yates, Executive Director</p> <p>City of Columbus Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office 109 N. Front Street, 4th Floor Columbus, OH 43215 614-645-4764 Website: Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office</p>

Note: these are just some of the entities involved in providing assistance to small business in the Columbus community. Councilmember Craig will continue meeting these and other similar agencies as chair of Council's Minority and Small Business Development Committee.