

# Tyson's Corner



WINTER 2017

## WELCOME...

I've recently had a number of exciting achievements in my office. In this edition I will highlight the accomplishments related to the Columbus & Franklin County Local Food Action Plan and the efforts to improve food access in our community. We will also discuss Tobacco 21 and the efforts to reduce adolescent smoking rates - delaying the onset of tobacco use for those most vulnerable to nicotine addiction - ultimately improving the health of Columbus residents. I have spent the last several months in my role as Chair of City Council's Finance Committee working on the **2017 Operating Budget**. This \$872,713,000.00 budget passed on February 6th. It was the largest in our city's history. I've included additional highlights on the budget in this edition. Finally, I remain committed to empowering and engaging our residents in the public policy making process - this is why I continue to conduct bi-weekly committee hearings reviewing legislation slated to appear before the committees that I chair. In an effort to promote transparency we encourage residents to come and learn about what's going on and to speak on legislation that impacts their lives. If you would like to become more engaged, please call my office 614-645-2933.



## City Council Approves 2017 Operating Budget



Columbus City Council passed the 2017 Operating budget totaling \$872.7 million on Monday, February 6. The budget continues investments in safety, health, education, neighborhoods, economic development as well as other essential services.

As in prior years, City Council carefully considers each department's budget through a committee hearing process. Council held 13 hearings on the budget bringing in department directors and staff to provide presentations and answer questions about programs, policies, and funding amounts as recommended in the Mayor's 2017 budget.

Council also amended the budget adding \$3,213,000 which is revenue above the initial budget projection that the City Auditor indicated would be available to be included in the 2017 Budget. Council utilized the additional fund in a fiscally prudent manner by adding another \$500,000 deposit into the Rainy Day fund. The Mayor put \$2.2 million into the fund. Council's investment will bring the projected 2017 year-end balance to \$73 million.

In addition, \$250,000 was put into the Basic City Services fund (which is a fund that will only be used if the need arises). The administration deposited \$1.5 million into the fund, so the additional \$250,000 will bring the projected year-end balance to about \$5.1 million.

\$2.3 million was transferred into Council's initiative funds (the Neighborhoods Initiatives fund, Job Growth fund, and Public Safety Initiatives fund). Council will be utilizing the funds to prioritize the spending of resources during the next year. The overall focus will be to identify and support issues that enhances the quality of life for all Columbus residents.

### BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued support of social services in the amount of \$5million that helps to fund programs at non-profit organizations serving some of our most vulnerable residents.
- Continued support of the Community Shelter Board (\$6.3million) with new money to alleviate homelessness (\$167,000 to assist pregnant women, \$125,000 for non-VA eligible veterans, \$117,000 for proactive street outreach to homeless, unsheltered individuals).
- Funding for a part-time epidemiologist position at Columbus Public Health which is included to study and establish a local violence related public health data set to better understand violence (specifically gun violence) in Columbus neighborhoods.
- Funding for the Department of Public Safety was increased by nearly \$20 million over 2016, for personnel, non-lethal weapons, continued community mediation, implementation of body-worn cameras and funding for the Community Safety Initiative.



Columbus City Council

Office of  
Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson90 West Broad  
2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215Phone: (614) 645-2933  
Fax: (614) 645-7399Nicole Harper, Legislative Aide  
E-mail: nnharper@columbus.govCarl Williams, Legislative Assistant  
Email: cgwilliams@columbus.gov

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson

**Councilmember Tyson's  
Committees:****Chair**Finance  
Health & Human Services  
Workforce Development**Member:**Economic Development  
Environment, Education, Veterans Affairs  
Public Service & Transportation, Recreation &  
Parks, Small & Minority Business**Over-site Includes:****Department of  
Development:** Grants, Emergency  
Human Services Fund, Social Service  
Contracts.**Health Department:** Divisions of  
Infectious Diseases, Planning &  
Preparedness, Environmental Health,  
Community Health, Maternal/Child  
Health, Occupational Health &  
Safety. **Office of the  
Mayor:** Homeless Advocacy  
**Community Shelter Board****City Auditor:** Income tax, bond and  
note sales. **City Treasurer:** Banking,  
lockbox contracts, etc.**Department of Finance &  
Management:** Legislation and  
initiatives related to transition to work,  
job training, career and technical  
education, job placement, skill  
development and internship programs  
(i.e. Central Ohio Workforce Investment  
Corporation (COWIC))

## Increasing Access to Healthy Food



**Councilmember Tyson presents  
Food Plan Resolution R-L:  
Councilmember Tyson, Michelle  
Moskowitz Brown**

Last November Columbus City Council approved a resolution to formally accept the Local Food Action Plan which is a joint City/ County plan that was sponsored by President Pro Tem Priscilla Tyson and Commissioner John O'Grady. The plan took two years to develop and includes 4 goals and 27 recommendations.

The goals include: enhancing coordination & communication among existing food resources among agencies, improving access to and education about healthy food, affordable food, and local food, increasing the role of food in economic development, and preventing food related waste. The recommendations contained within the plan explore strategies to address food insecurity as well as innovative approaches to improve the local food system.

The plan was developed with the understanding that increasing residents' access to healthy food is a key element to maintaining a high quality of life, and it is one of the building blocks for a stronger community. Further, the data shows that a number of residents are dealing with obesity, diet-related diseases, food insecurity, and access to local food.

A Local Food Advisory Board is now being selected in order to implement the plan. There will be a total of 12 members on the board six will be selected by the City and the County will also identify six members. The Board will convene its first meeting early this spring.

[Click here for to review the Local Food Action Plan](#)

### Special Recognition for Work on the Local Food Action Plan

President Pro Tem Tyson would like to thank everyone that made this plan possible, specifically Commissioner John O'Grady of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. In addition, The Local Food Action Project Team which includes Columbus Public Health, Franklin County Economic Planning & Development, and Local Matters whose leadership made this a plan a reality. Finally, Working Committee Members who generously gave their time to assist in the development of the plan.



### Tobacco Age Restriction Increased to 21 in Columbus

President Pro Tem Priscilla Tyson recently sponsored an ordinance which has resulted in a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco products and paraphernalia to anyone under 21. The new law which also requires vendors to obtain a tobacco license which will be administered by Columbus Public Health.

Development of the policy took several months working with a number of stakeholders to ensure careful consideration was given to how the prohibition would be enforced as well as thought was given to those who could be potentially impacted by the new law. In addition, there was an opportunity for the public to give their input at two hearings held in November of last year.

The tobacco to 21 policy was developed in order to help reduce health hazards and early addiction to tobacco. The devastating health consequences of tobacco use have been well researched. Young people are a particularly vulnerable population. They are susceptible to becoming addicted to smoking and subsequently become lifelong users.

**Further the research shows:** An estimated 5.6 million young people in the U.S. under the age of 18 who are currently alive are projected to die prematurely from a tobacco-related illness and that includes 259,000 Ohio youth, if there are no changes to the rate of tobacco use. National data indicates that 95 percent of adult smokers begin before the age of 21 – this shows that 18-21 is a critical period when youth transition from experimentation to regular use. People who start smoking by the age of 18 are almost twice as likely to become lifelong smokers when compared to individuals who start after they turn 21. Last year the Institute of Medicine concluded that raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products nationwide could improve health across a person's lifetime and ultimately save lives.

In addition, with the Celebrate One initiative the City has undertaken a major effort to reduce infant mortality. Smoking during pregnancy has been linked to premature births and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The data available demonstrates that in Franklin County 22 percent of women ages 18-21 smoke during pregnancy – this is twice the rate of smoking during pregnancy for those over 21.

In February the Columbus Board of Health approved City Health Code regulations for licensure, sale, and enforcement of the new law. Licenses will be valid in October and there will be an effort to educate licensees and help them remain compliant.