



## COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**For Immediate Release:  
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**SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:** *Ordinance 2722-2013*, sponsored by Workforce Development Committee chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), authorizes the Department of Development to spend \$20,000 from City Council's Jobs Growth Fund to enter into contract with the Columbus Chamber of Commerce to conduct the Columbus Small Business Survey. The purpose of the project is to better understand the needs of small businesses (1 to 50 employees) in Columbus in the areas of overall business environment, city services and workforce quality, recruitment, retention, and training needs. The Chamber will work with the City of Columbus to conduct outreach and market the survey to a variety of business groups and stakeholders. The results of the survey will be used to develop and improve programs for small businesses.

**CONNECTING COLUMBUS:** Technology Committee chair [A. Troy Miller](#) refers to the investment in fiber connectivity as a fourth utility, helping to spur economic development in Columbus. *Ordinance 2720-2013* will allow the Director of Technology to modify and increase an existing construction contract with Gudenkauf Corporation to provide for an additional \$1,437,570.55 investment from the Information Services Capital Improvement Fund in the City's fiber optic network. This modification will provide for additional investment in the City's fiber network, providing high speed connectivity, as follows:

- New fiber to Fire Station 24, Police Sub 18, SRB
- New fiber at various locations in North Columbus
- Link Columbus FiberNet and the CityNet Fiber system in the downtown area to complete the activation of these fiber rings

The fiber projects will provide diverse routing for many City locations which will prevent facility outages in the event of a fiber cut. Additional benefits include the elimination of leased circuit expenditures from the City's operating budget and increased network speeds at the new fiber connected facilities.

**PROMOTING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE:** Columbus' Recreation and Parks facilities are great places for residents to remain active during the winter months. *Ordinance 2883-2013*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee chair [Zach M. Klein](#), will allow the City to enter into a revenue-generating contract with American Healthways Services, LLC, to allow Silver Sneakers program participants entry into recreation centers. The City will track the attendance of Silver Sneaker members at facilities and in turn will be reimbursed by Healthways for every visit. Silver Sneakers is a fun, energizing program that helps older adults take greater control of their health by encouraging physical activity and offering social events.

**HEARING ON SHORT NORTH PARKING:** Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#) will host a public hearing at 5pm on Wednesday, December 11, to discuss two topics: the Department of Public Service's proposed 2014 budget and the Short North Parking Working Group's recommendations to address parking issues in permit zones I and V. Public testimony will be accepted and the general rules of speaking before Council will apply. Anyone wishing to testify must fill out a speaker slip on the day of the hearing. The meeting will be broadcast live on CTV, Columbus' cable access channel 3.