FUNDING CRUCIAL HUMAN SERVICES: When the South Side Settlement House closed last year, it left a void in providing important social services in the south side. The City of Columbus has worked with various non-profit agencies to provide human services for residents in that community. Ordinance 2528-2012, sponsored by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson, provides Community Development for All People a $30,000 grant to continue meal programs, after school activities and GED programming in the community.

STABILIZING COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOODS: The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) has helped rebuild or demolish vacant or abandoned structures in Columbus neighborhoods to create stronger, safer communities. Since the program began in 2008, Columbus has received more than $50-million in three rounds of NSP funding. Development Committee Chair Zach M. Klein is sponsoring ordinance 2388-2012 to appropriate and expend $860,000 in NSP 1 funding for various projects around the City.

PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS: False alarms unnecessarily stretch valuable safety resources and could potentially put first responders and residents at risk. The Public Safety Department uses software, called CryWolf, to track contact information from false alarm runs and hold home or business owners responsible for repeated false alarm calls. Ordinance 2377-2012 sponsored by Public Safety and Judiciary Committee Chair Michelle M. Mills will modify a contract with Public Safety Corporation and Pomeroy IT Solutions to provide an upgrade to the Division of Support Services-License Section's false alarm application. The upgrade will also provide mobile device support, establish an investigative workflow for background checks, support code enforcement, facilitate complaint review and dispositions, calculate fees, generate bills and manage collections. This will not only give the License Officers more time to enforce the codes, but it will save on paper, time and money and will allow revenue to be deposited more quickly.

SUPPORTING SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: Columbus City Schools children will have a chance to display their theatrical talents on a very special stage next summer thanks to a grant from the AT&T Foundation. Council President Andrew J. Ginther is joining members of the AT&T Foundation, The Actor’s Theater of Columbus, and Columbus Commons to accept a $25,000
grant that will allow the students, grades 9 thru 12, to present works from Shakespeare during The Actor’s Theater 2013 summer season. The productions will be held in the Columbus Commons Bicentennial Pavilion. President Ginther will join community leaders for a check presentation on Tuesday, November 20, at 10:30 am at Columbus Commons.

WELCOMING PER SCHOLAS TO COLUMBUS: Per Scholas is a non-profit workforce development solutions group that is opening a site in Columbus that will focus on the IT job training needs of the community. Councilmember A. Troy Miller, chair of the Technology Committee, will attend the grand opening of Per Scholas Columbus at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, November 20, at 112 Jefferson Avenue, in the 2nd floor ballroom.