



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for February 27, 2011

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EXPANDING THE MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIALTY DOCKET: Councilmember [Michelle M. Mills](#), chair of the Public Safety and Judiciary Committee, is assisting the Franklin County Municipal Court to expand their specialty docket with a program to help military veterans. The Specialty Docket will now consist of three programs: the Solicitation Program, Changing Actions to Change Habits Program (CATCH), the Addiction Program Specialty Docket (APSD) and the Military and Veteran's Specialty Docket. The CATCH Program is designed for those with multiple solicitation arrests, the APSD addresses individuals with alcohol and/or chemical dependencies and the Military and Veteran Specialty Docket will assist individuals directly or indirectly connected to military service or combat and may have suffered from drug addiction, poverty and lack of community support. All three programs are designed to promote effective treatment as an alternative to incarceration for non-violent offenders. Councilmember Mills' sponsorship of *ordinance 0111-2012* authorizes the appropriation of \$465,887.00 from the Franklin County Municipal Court Judges Specialty Docket fund for the programs. The programs require limited court involvement in treatment planning and compliance, resulting in more effective utilization of county and court resources.

PROVIDING INTERPRETATION SERVICES AT COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH: Thousands of Columbus residents speaking various languages utilize the services offered by Columbus Public Health each year. Technology Committee Chair [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring legislation that will provide language interpretation services for persons with limited English proficiency receiving those services at health department clinics. *Ordinance 0291-2012* will authorize the expenditure of \$20,002.50 from the Department of Technology's internal services fund to renew a contract with Language Access Network, LLC., for streaming video and phone-based interpretation services at the Health Department's facility located at 240 Parsons Avenue. This contract will be the final year of a five year agreement and will cover services through March 31, 2013.

WEATHERIZING HOMES TO REDUCE ASTHMA AND OTHER HEALTH HAZARDS: The Columbus Healthy Homes Project (CHHP) was funded through grant monies from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. The project works with IMPACT Community Action to provide physical intervention and weatherization services in Columbus homes most at risk for asthma triggers and injury hazards. Health & Human Services Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0323-2012*, to modify a contract with IMPACT Community Action by extending through June 30, 2012. The program works with families to eliminate certain triggers that cause asthma attacks by providing free supplies, in-home education and support, minor home repairs, home insulation services, furnace maintenance and repair, and professional pest management.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION DOLLARS HELPING COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOODS: In 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded Columbus \$23.2 million in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2). The funds, included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, were made available to provide for the acquisition, rehabilitation, redevelopment, or demolition of foreclosed, abandoned and vacant properties. Development Committee Chair [Zach M. Klein](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0353-2012* for the expenditure of \$500,000 within the General Government Grant Fund for eligible projects and activities approved under the grant funding. The projects are designed to help 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.

IMPROVING CITY STREETS: Public Service & Transportation Committee Chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0297-2012* to authorize the expenditure of \$283,859.75 from the from the Streets and Highways G.O. Bonds Fund for the Roadway Improvements – 18th Street project. The project involves improvements to 18th Street including reconstruction of the pavement, curbs, and walks, north of the intersection of Livingston Avenue and 18th street to south of the intersection of 18th Street and Mooberry Street. Reconstruction will include upgrades to the traffic controls, street lighting, storm sewer system, utilities and addition of street trees. The project will provide remediation for deteriorating pavement conditions, provide a center turn lane in lieu of the existing parking lane, and 5-foot wide sidewalk will be added or reconstructed on the East and West side of the road as well as 14 ADA wheelchair ramps.

PROMOTING COLUMBUS: The Columbus Hotel/Motel Excise Tax is used to support various community organizations designed to strengthen and enrich the lives of area residents. Experience Columbus is the city's convention and visitors bureau for selling, marketing and promoting Columbus as a destination for trade shows, conventions, business meetings and group and leisure tourism. Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#), chair of the Administration Committee, is sponsoring *ordinance 0319-2012* to authorize the expenditure of 1.5% (presently estimated at \$4,400,000) of the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax and \$2,000,000 from the General Fund for a combined total of \$6,440,000 for Experience Columbus. The organization's mission is to create, sell and market a customized "Columbus Experience" to visitors which supports 62,000 jobs and generates \$7.2 billion in visitor spending in Central Ohio annually.