



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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For More Information:

John Ivanic, (614) 645-6798

[Web](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

HEALTHY COLUMBUS: The City of Columbus continues to experience large savings following the implementation of a series of reforms and efficiencies designed to lower the cost of government. City workers are paying more for health insurance and pension pickups and have saved taxpayers more than \$220 million since 2009. Administration Committee chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring 11 ordinances this evening that, if approved, will provide health insurance and other benefits to Columbus workers and their families. Thanks to an aggressive education campaign and wellness programming offered to City workers and families, Columbus' growth rate for employee health insurance is approximately half that of the national average.

SAFE KIDS GRANT: The non-profit [Safe Kids Central Ohio Agency](#) is a coalition of public and private organizations working together to prevent injuries to children. *Ordinance 0027-2014*, sponsored by Health and Human Services Committee chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), allows the Board of Health to accept a \$10,000 grant from the agency for child passenger seat safety classes.

PROTECTING FAMILIES: [The Lead Safe Columbus Program](#) provides money to eligible property owners for lead-based paint hazard control in tenant or owner occupied units. *Ordinance 0001-2014*, sponsored by Development Committee chair [Zach M. Klein](#), will allow the City to spend an additional \$85,517.20 to generate lead-safe affordable housing and to prevent lead poisoning of children and adults in Columbus neighborhoods. Applicants are eligible to receive up to \$8,500 in grant funds.

RECRUITING RECRUITS: Last September, Safety Committee chair [Michelle M. Mills](#) submitted [a letter to the editor in the Columbus Dispatch](#) urging Mayor

Coleman and Department of Public Safety leaders to increase efforts to recruit women and people of color into the Divisions of Police and Fire. *Ordinance 0104-2014*, sponsored by Councilmember Mills, will allow the Safety Director to enter into a \$30,000 contract with the State Fire Marshall for a unique, new, hands-on recruiting tool designed to give potential fire recruits a real world taste of what is like to be a fire fighter. The City of Columbus is sponsoring a pair of three-day camps, one for men and one for women, that will provide basic firefighter training and offer participants the opportunity to become certified in CPR and First Aid. The camps will be held at the Ohio Fire Academy. Money for the training is found in the Columbus City Council Public Safety Initiative Fund. Details on enrollment will be released shortly.

THANK YOU: Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#), chair of the Public Utilities committee, and fellow Councilmembers will take time this evening to publicly thank Director Greg Davies and the many city workers who braved arctic conditions to repair a water main break that occurred last week in the downtown. The hard work to fix the problem exemplified our public servants' dedication to protecting Columbus residents in some of the harshest conditions imaginable.