



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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2014 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: Finance Committee chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring *ordinances 2730-2013, 2731-2013 and 2732-2013* to enact the 2014 General Fund Budget. In November, Mayor Coleman proposed the \$796 million spending plan. The City Council then began a series of public hearings to discuss possible budget amendments and community priorities. Columbus City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian reported to City Council a carryover of approximately \$4.89 million in general fund revenues from 2013. Council President Andrew J. Ginther and Councilmember Tyson are recommending that Council place a one-time \$5.714 million state refund of workers' compensation premiums in the Basic Neighborhood Services Fund to offset unexpected City expenditures.

WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS: *Ordinance 00067-2014*, sponsored by Public Utilities Committee chair [Zach M. Klein](#), will allow the City to spend up to \$2,521,193.48 for the Sexton Drive Area Water Line Improvements Project in the Hilltop. The work will rehabilitate water mains that have high break histories and require frequent maintenance. The project area includes Sexton Drive, Georgian Drive, Savannah Drive, Holly Hill Drive, Halsey Place, Cottrell Court, Ardath Court, Devton Drive, Adell Court, Arnelle Court, Greenock Court, Kilbreck Court and Kildare Place.

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS DISTRICTS: Small and Minority Business Committee chair [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring four ordinances that will fund Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) around Columbus. The Discovery, Morse Road, Short North and Capitol Crossroads SIDs are funded by assessments levied on property owners and continue to contribute to the safety and quality of life of these neighborhoods. SID dollars pay for everything from cleanup projects, increased signage, to extra security patrols. The ordinance numbers are *0204-2014, 0205-2014, 0207-2014, and 0208-2014*.

HARMONY PROJECT: In about three short years, the Harmony Project has become a community focal point of entertainment, engagement, inspiration, and social change in Columbus neighborhoods. The mission of the Harmony Project is simple: unite people through song and help make Columbus an even more special place to live and work for residents and families. The group of up to 200 strong has performed at Mayor Coleman's State of the City address, the opening ceremony for the Presidents Cup, and numerous other events. When not creating beautiful music, Harmony Project members are volunteering in support of

neighborhood projects that make Columbus a great place to live. For these reasons and others, Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0371-2014*, a 2014 general fund budget amendment to allow the Recreation and Parks director to enter into contract with the Harmony Project for the purpose of providing at-risk youth with year-round music lessons. Council will fund the \$200,000 amendment through its Neighborhood Initiatives Fund.

Through two performance seasons, the Harmony Project has made exceptional contributions to the Columbus community through hands-on volunteerism and charitable fundraising. Among these contributions, the Harmony Project, through performances and fundraising efforts, cleaned and refurbished Blackburn Recreation Center for After-School All-Stars, cleaned and mulched beds and playgrounds for Beatty Recreation Center, collected 4000+ toys and gift cards for children and teens in Central Ohio, collected 100+ bicycles for the children and teens of Franklin County Children Services, adopted families through the Center for Healthy Families and answered wish lists, and provided 300 hours of service to Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The Harmony Project is proposing a series of re-beautification projects called “One Week, One Neighborhood” that will include Old Town East, Franklinton, and Livingston Avenue between Parsons Road and Nelson Road. The project will feature educational, service, and artistic components. Funding from Columbus City Council will leverage private sector contributions for educational and service programs.