



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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REDUCING INFANT MORTALITY: Columbus City Council President [Andrew J. Ginther](#) has created the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force to devise a community plan that will cut Columbus' alarmingly high infant mortality rate in half, with particular emphasis on minority populations. *Ordinance 0554-2014* authorizes the Board of Health to enter into a \$225,000 contract with Health Care Collaborative of Greater Columbus (Access Health Columbus) for administration of the infant mortality program. Health Care Collaborative of Greater Columbus is a broad based, non-profit community partnership whose mission is to improve access to health care in Franklin County, particularly for the most vulnerable persons, by convening public-private partners and coordinating innovative solutions. This contract will allow Health Care Collaborative of Greater Columbus to negotiate wages, act as a fiscal sponsor, and hire a consultant to work on behalf of City leaders to lead and/or facilitate the development and operation of the Columbus Infant Mortality Reduction Task Force. The money to fund the program is coming from the City Council's Neighborhood Initiatives Fund.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Developed in a joint effort between the community and City of Columbus in 1995, English Park is a half-acre site on the Near East Side and features the Kwanzaa playground. *Ordinance 0262-2014*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#), will spend \$225,000 to replace the existing playground, paths, and fencing while

also making artwork improvements. The park focuses on positive African-American images based around the concept that "It takes a whole village to raise a child." The park is also known in the community as the Children's Africentric Playground.

AREA COMMISSION FUNDING: The Columbus City Council continues its commitment to support area commissions and their important role in neighborhoods. *Ordinance 0486-2014*, sponsored by Development Committee chair [Michelle M. Mills](#), will provide \$55,000 for 17 area commissions and five architectural review commissions. In 2013, City Council doubled funding for each individual commission in an effort to better offset the costs and operational functions they experience during the year.

BUILDING BETTER ROADS: A sure sign of spring is the beginning of the road resurfacing season. Public Service and Transportation Committee chair [A. Troy Miller](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0387-2014* to allow the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract with the Kokosing Construction Company for the construction of the Resurfacing - Resurfacing 2014 Project 1 project and to provide payment for construction administration and inspection services. This \$10,601,208.18 contract will repair and resurface 122 city streets and construct 509 ADA curb ramps.

KEEPING COLUMBUS SAFE: Based in the Division of Police, Central Ohio Crime Stoppers has been working for years to keep Columbus neighborhoods safe. *Ordinance 0426-2014*, sponsored by Public Safety Committee chair [Zach M. Klein](#), provides \$35,000 for the Crime Stoppers program. Crime Stoppers operates 24 hours a day and provides residents a means to give information and anonymous tips to police. Residents who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect may be eligible for cash rewards.