



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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HOME FUND: The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. *Ordinance 0786-2014*, sponsored by Development Committee chair [Michelle M. Mills](#), authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of FY 2014 HOME monies within the HOME Investment Partnerships Program for the Department of Development. The City of Columbus has been awarded \$3,426,552 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Fiscal Year 2014 to fund various housing assistance activities under the HOME Investment Partnerships Act. In addition, the City has generated \$225,000 in HOME program income. The funds will assist first-time homebuyers and for-profit and non-profit organizations with grants and no- or low-interest loans for projects designed to increase and preserve the local supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low and moderate income families.

IT PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: Per Scholas is a non-profit workforce development solutions group that has offered training and job placement services for IT professionals in Columbus since the fall of 2012. *Ordinance 0831-2014*, co-sponsored by Workforce Development Committee chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) and Technology Committee chair [A. Troy Miller](#), authorizes the Director of the Department of Development to enter into \$75,000 contract with Per Scholas that will allow the organization to partner with Columbus State Community College to provide technical training, workplace literacy and soft skills in technology education to eligible Columbus residents. This legislation supports a social service agency that will provide help to families and households through educational activities and workplace and technology skills. The funding for this ordinance is in the Council's job growth fund and was a general fund budget amendment.

TRUANCY PROGRAM: Since 2001, the YMCA of Central Ohio has partnered with the Columbus Division of Police to increase safety in neighborhoods by providing positive alternatives for students who have been suspended or are truant from schools. Police officers will transport truant youth from school during the day to the YMCA's Long Street facility where YMCA staff

will supervise them until a parent or guardian can pick them up. Staff members at the YMCA will work with the family to help identify and resolve any issues that may be present and review the truancy law and its implications for both students and parents. *Ordinance 0772-2014*, sponsored by Safety Committee chair [Zach M. Klein](#), authorizes the expenditure of \$125,000 from the Law Enforcement Seizure Funds and the General Fund to pay for the program for the 2014-15 school year.

ZOO DAYS AT CITY COUNCIL: Some star attractions from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium will visit Council Chambers to help promote the 2014 Melvin B. Dodge Summer Zoo Days. The partnership between the City and the Zoo is named in honor of the former director of the Recreation and Parks Department. *Ordinance 0827-2014*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#), will help approximately 2,000 area children involved in programs at Columbus Recreation Centers enjoy Zoo Days this summer. The Columbus Zoological Park Association will provide in-kind services in the amount of \$18,500 to be used for transportation, backpacks, novelties and admission for children.