UPDATING AREA PLANS: The Department of Development works with residents to formulate long range plans to address land use and capital projects that will improve the quality of life in Columbus neighborhoods. Development Committee chair Michelle M. Mills is sponsoring two ordinances to update a pair of neighborhood plans. Ordinance 1227-2014 allows City Council to adopt the updated South Side Plan that was first passed in 2002. The new plan addresses future land use, urban design, and capital improvements. Ordinance 1231-2014 adopts an amendment to the 2003 North Linden Neighborhood Plan. The amendment focuses on land use and urban design issues, covering the entire North Linden Commission area.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: Council President Pro Tem A. Troy Miller is sponsoring ordinance 1185-2014 to provide infrastructure improvements in Weinland Park and Milo Grogan. In addition to street resurfacing, Fifth Avenue will get new sidewalks, curbs, street lights, trees, and traffic control measures from 4th Street to Grant Avenue. The intersection of Fifth and Cleveland Avenue will be reconstructed with additional turn lanes, new signals, and ADA-compliant access. Traffic signals will be upgraded at Fields Drive and Fifth, and a new signal will be installed at Gibbard Avenue and Cleveland. Both Fifth and Cleveland will be resurfaced and will receive new sidewalks and curbs, street lighting and trees, and storm and water improvements.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, is sponsoring two ordinances that will improve recreation centers and playgrounds. Ordinance 1226-2014 will approve the expenditure of up to $698,500 for design services for renovations and improvements to the Driving Park Recreation Center. Possible improvements include expansions of the gym, kitchen, office, and classroom space, and upgrades of the electrical service, lighting, windows, doors, floors, and HVAC, including air conditioning. The contract will also fund a feasibility study for Fairwood Pool, to determine the best location for a new pool, a project that was included in Councilmember Craig’s capital budget amendments. A second piece is ordinance 1245-2014, to replace worn or outdated equipment at various playgrounds, including those at Big Run Park, Indian Mound Park, Innis Park, Lazelle Woods...
SAFE WATER: Councilmember Zach M. Klein, chair of the Public Utilities committee, is sponsoring three ordinances that will improve services at the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ordinances 0968, 0966, and 0967-2014 allow the City of Columbus to enter into professional engineering service agreements with various firms to support the Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment project to create additional capacity to treat wet weather flows and protect area rivers and streams.

SOUTHERN GATEWAY STUDY: The Southern Gateway Revitalization Collaborative is a public-private partnership working toward a healthier, sustainable economy built on increased residential employment and a solid tax base. Ordinance 0798-2014, sponsored by Administration Committee chair Eileen Y. Paley, will allow the City of Columbus’ Community Relations Commission to partner with the Parsons Avenue Merchants Association to complete a feasibility study that will best determine the viability and potential implementation of a mixed-use food incubator in the Southern Gateway area along Parsons Avenue. The Southern Gateway area includes the Reeb Hosack/Steelton Village, Hungarian Village, and Stambaugh-Elwood South neighborhoods.

HEALTHY COLUMBUS: Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, is sponsoring resolution 0100x-2014 to urge the Ohio Legislature to pass HB 536 to require, except in cases of medical or religious exemption, that children enrolled in a state-licensed childcare facility be immunized in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION: The Columbus Charter Review Commission will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 11, at 1pm in City Council Conference room 225, on the second floor of City Hall. All meetings of the Charter Review Commission are open to the public and are recorded for broadcast on CTV, Columbus’ government channel 3 on local cable systems.