SUPPORTING ARTS AND CULTURE:  Councilmember Jaiza Page, chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, is sponsoring three ordinances to help improve the local cultural attractions. Ordinance 2195-2015 authorizes the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into a $1,500,000 contract with Franklin Park Conservatory for the implementation of the Franklin Park Master Plan. The money will allow the Conservatory to build an 11,000 square foot education facility and shelter house. Ordinance 2211-2015 allows the City of Columbus to establish a purchase order with the Columbus Museum of Art in the amount of $1,500,000 for improvements to the Museum. The money will be used for work on Washington Plaza and the Sculpture Garden, as part of the third and final phase of the Museum’s multi-year expansion and renovation project. The third ordinance is 2225-2015, which will allow the city to enter into a grant agreement with the Columbus Metropolitan Library in the amount of $1,333,000 for improvements to the Main Library and surrounding property located at 96 South Grant Avenue and 400 East Town Street.

EXPANDING FLEET SERVICES:  Columbus’ Division of Fleet Management is a nationally recognized unit that excels in the delivery of services, creation of cost savings, and implementation of environmentally friendly policies. Ordinance 2131-2015, sponsored by Finance Committee chair Priscilla R. Tyson, will allow the division to provide maintenance services for local governments. This ordinance authorizes the Director of Finance and Management to establish rates, procedures, and mechanisms to allow the repair and maintenance of vehicles to other political subdivisions without negatively impacting the care and maintenance of Columbus assets. Billing rates shall be similar with internal billing rates to all city agencies. The City of Reynoldsburg wishes to contract with Fleet Management to repair and maintain its police motorcycles.

CLEAN WATER:  Public Utilities chair Zach Klein is sponsoring ordinance 1766-2015 to help ensure the city has clean and safe waterways. The legislation modifies an existing engineering contract with Burgess & Niple, Inc. for the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment –Disinfection Project. When completed in 2019, the upgrade to the plant will allow the city to handle an extra 110 million gallons of water a day during periods of high rain to help prevent sanitary sewer discharge into the Scioto River.
NEIGHBORHOOD BEST PRACTICES: Councilmember Eileen Y. Paley, chair of the Administration Committee, invites all Columbus residents to attend the 6th annual Neighborhood Best Practices Conference. The conference is a joint effort between the United Way Neighborhood Partnership Center and the City of Columbus and offers opportunities for community groups to share their success stories and collaborate on a wide variety of subjects to improve our city. This year’s conference is Saturday, October 3, from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Columbus Downtown High School, 364 South Fourth Street.

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