



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**For Immediate Release:
March 9, 2015**

For More Information:
John Ivanic, (614) 645-6798
[Web](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

NEW COLUMBUS BOMB SQUAD TECHNOLOGY: The Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad is in need of a modern bomb detecting robot used to inspect possible explosive devices from a safe distance. Ordinance 0370-2015 sponsored by Public Safety Committee chair [Zach M. Klein](#) allows the City to enter into a contract with Northrop Grumman, Remotec, Inc. for an F6b Robot which will replace less current technology utilized by the Division. The purchase is made possible through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Existing equipment will be repurposed to support the operation of the new technology and to reduce future maintenance costs.

Note: Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad personnel will be in the City Hall, second floor near Council Chambers, 4:15 pm, to demonstrate the current robot's capability and the need for a new device.

COLUMBUS KIDS: Recreation and Parks Committee chair [Jaiza N. Page](#), who also leads the Education Committee, is sponsoring ordinance 0563-2015 to authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Fund for the United Way's Columbus Kids: Ready, Set, Learn Initiative. Nearly 40 percent of the children entering Columbus City School (CCS) kindergarten classrooms require intervention because they lack foundational skills. The United Way's Columbus Kids Initiative is designed to decrease those numbers and increase the number of children who enter CCS kindergarten classrooms ready to learn. The 2015 initiative will focus on Weinland Park, South Linden, Westside and Southside neighborhoods.

NEAR EAST SIDE REDEVELOPMENT: Ordinance 0602-2015, sponsored by Development Committee chair [Michelle M. Mills](#), allows for the transfer of a number of properties in and around the site of the former Carl Brown IGA to the Columbus Next Generation Corporation for retail and residential redevelopment in the area as outlined in the Blueprint for Community Investment plan prepared by the Partners Achieving Community Transformation.

EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS: Columbus City Councilmembers will consider 0496-2015, the annual funding contract with Experience Columbus, the region's tourism and marketing group. Under the leadership of Council [President Ginther](#) and Mayor Coleman, the City of Columbus has increased investment in Experience Columbus as an economic development tool and a way to grow funding for arts and cultural services that depend on the bed tax dollars. The 2015 contract with Experience Columbus is \$8,583,000.

HONORING DR. RICHARDSON: Councilmember [Eileen Y. Paley](#), chair of the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee, is sponsoring resolution 0068X-2015 to recognize the retirement of Dr. Melvin V. Richardson, J.D., Department of Human Resources, Equal Employment Opportunity Manager on February 28, 2015 after 21 years of dedicated service to the residents of Columbus. Dr. Richardson organized the annual City of Columbus Black History Month Celebration from 1995 through 2015.