



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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NEW REC CENTER: One month ago, Columbus City Council and Mayor Coleman announced the 2015 Capital Budget and priorities at the Driving Park Community Center. Ordinance 1019-2015, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee chair Jaiza Page, allows the City of Columbus to enter into a \$10.5 million contract with RW Setterlin Building Company for the renovation and addition to the existing center. These improvements will update the HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems as well as upgrading the existing classrooms and multipurpose room. There will be an addition that will house a new dance studio, new gymnasium, fitness center, classroom, game room, welcoming lobby and offices that will enhance the community's use of this facility. The current facility has 9,500 square feet and will be expanded to 24,000 square feet. The facility will also be the new home of the relocated Fairwood Pool, which will be 8,500 square feet and include a zero entry access, tot area, water slides, a six lane competition pool, and a dive well.

FIGHTING TRUANCY: Ordinance 0909-2015, sponsored by Public Safety Committee chair Zach Klein, provides \$125,000 so the City can partner with the YMCA and Columbus City Schools to support the community's truancy program. Police officers will transport youth that are truant from school during the day to the YMCA's Long Street location so the children can be supervised until their parent or guardian can pick them up. Staff members at the YMCA will work with the family when they arrive to help identify and resolve any issues that may be present and review the truancy law and its implications to both youth and parents.

CLEARING PROBLEM PROPERTIES: Development Committee chair Michelle M. Mills is sponsoring ordinance 1017-2015 that allows Columbus to assess owners for the demolition costs of their nuisance properties. The demolitions were done pursuant to Environmental Court orders and the Columbus Building Code and part of the Vacant and Abandoned Properties Program. The legislation looks to recover \$516,572.81 from 33 property owners.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS: Public Service and Transportation Committee chair Shannon G. Hardin is sponsoring ordinance 1020-2015 to allow the City to partner with the Ohio Department of Transportation to improve US 23, Summit and 4th Streets between Hudson and I-670. Construction will reduce the road from three to two lanes to allow for a bike lane and still maintain parking. The project should begin this summer and end this fall. The estimated construction cost of the project is \$6.8 million with the City's share being \$3,087,866.00.

LEGAL SELF HELP CENTER: Judiciary and Court Administration Committee chair Eileen Y. Paley is sponsoring 1002-2015 to allow the Franklin County Municipal Court to enter into a contract with Moritz College of Law at OSU for \$86,000. This money will go to hire a newly admitted lawyer from Moritz for 15 months to staff and run the Assisted Self-Help Civil Center that will be opening this fall. The center will be a place where indigent persons can get assistance filling out forms, complaints, and responses to their civil issues. The reason it is called "Assisted Self-Help" is because there will not be legal representation and no attorney/client relationship formed. It is merely a qualified and trained attorney helping people represent themselves by choosing the correct brochures, filling out forms properly and in many cases even reading the forms and brochures to those who cannot read for themselves.