



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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FINANCE FUND: Small and Minority Business Development Committee chair Shannon G. Hardin is sponsoring ordinance 1811-2015 to expand the work of the Finance Fund. Finance Fund provides administrative services to support implementation of the City's small business loan fund. Finance Fund provides debt and equity to clients through the management of 28 entities totaling \$250 million. Partnerships have enabled low-income people access to 15,854 units of affordable housing, 21,932 direct jobs, and 3,036 early care and education spaces for 69,497 children benefiting the lives of over 182,635 Ohioans. The legislation allows Finance Fund to spend the contract balance of \$469,523.31 as well as add an additional \$120,858 from the 2015 CDBG Fund budget to continue program services.

SAVING AN ENDANGERED BUILDING: According to the Columbus Landmarks Foundation, the 53 year old Franklin Park Medical Center, 1829 East Long Street, is one of the city's most endangered buildings. The Medical Center features architectural elements inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright and was opened by five African-American physicians and served primarily African-American residents at a time when medical services were still heavily segregated. Ordinance 1953-2015, sponsored by Development Committee chair Michelle M. Mills, will transfer the building from the City of Columbus to the Central Ohio Community Improvement Corporation to complete extensive renovations in preparation for the building being once again used as medical offices.

HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS: Health and Human Services Committee chair Priscilla R. Tyson is sponsoring ordinance 2038-2015 to provide two groups with crucial funding to complete their important community missions. The two agencies receiving funding are Community Mediation Services that will receive \$93,563 for homeless prevention and housing stabilization services and Jewish Family Services that is getting \$80,000 for a Job Readiness program for professional workers who qualify as "Dislocated Workers" under federal guidelines.

WORK RELEASE PROGRAM: Judiciary and Court Administration Committee chair Eileen Y. Paley is sponsoring ordinance 2043-2015 to use \$250,000 from City Council's Public Safety Initiatives

Fund to support the Franklin County Municipal Court's work release program. The enhanced probation program is operated by Alvis House and allows individuals to serve their sentence while offering the opportunity to retain their current employment, reducing the risks for recidivism and promoting continued economic development in our city.

CHARTER CHANGES: Ordinance 2030-2015, sponsored by Rules and Reference Committee chair Council President Andrew J. Ginther, puts in place changes to the Columbus Charter voters overwhelmingly approved last November dealing with limitations on public expenditures and the prohibited uses of public funds.

In accordance with Section 31 of the Columbus City Charter, this ordinance establishes prohibited uses of public funds, and the associated penalties, consistent with the most applicable general laws of the state outlined in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §9.03.

This section of the ORC regulates the use of public funds in three specific areas: 1) the prohibited uses of public funds by a governing body of a municipality in terms of communication; 2) prohibiting municipalities from compensating employees for political activity; and 3) the conducting of direct or indirect transactions of public funds for the benefit of a political entity.

In addition to the ORC, Sections 159, 160, and 161 of the Charter govern municipal contracts and establish multiple checks and balances to safeguard taxpayers, hold decision makers accountable and to ensure the City is a responsible steward of public dollars.

This ordinance is consistent with the both the ORC and existing Charter provisions, but further regulates the use of public funds and prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to: 1) benefit any political entity; 2) discriminate against anyone for any reason ordained in Columbus City Code; and 3) to expressly advocate for or against any candidate for public office, or the passage or defeat of an initiated municipal ballot issue.

BLUEPRINT PLAN: Public Utilities Committee chair Zach Klein is sponsoring ordinance 1977-2015 to enter into a \$1,760,330.00 contract with John Eramo & Sons, Inc. for the Barthman-Parsons Blueprint Green Infrastructure Pilot Project Phase II. The work consists of constructing four Bio-retention basins and associated storm water piping systems to reduce sanitary sewer overflows.