

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

For Immediate Release:
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET: Finance Committee Chair [Priscilla Tyson](#) is introducing ordinance 0960-2016, the 2016 Capital Improvements Budget. The adoption of the proposed \$1 billion budget supports capital projects that strengthen neighborhoods, improve citizen safety and spur economic development. Improvements include shelter and community center renovations, housing preservation, resurfacing, public utility projects, police and fire station updates as well as a new fire station.

NON-ESSENTIAL TRAVEL: Councilmember [Shannon Hardin](#) is presenting resolution 0100X-2016, which bans all non-essential travel by City employees or officers to the State of North Carolina. In late March 2016, North Carolina passed a law which City Council believes to be inconsistent with the values and principals of the City.

STRENGTHENING NEIGHBORHOODS: Councilmember [Elizabeth Brown](#) is sponsoring ordinance 1115-2016, which enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with Partners Achieving Community Transformation (PACT). This group is working to enhance the quality of life on the near east side of Columbus. The City of Columbus, The Ohio State University Medical Center and the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority are committed to the vision of creating a healthy, financially and environmentally sustainable community where residents have access to safe and affordable housing, healthcare, education and employment opportunities.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG: Public Utilities Chair [Michael Stinziano](#) is supporting ordinance 0932-2016, which allows the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to receive and efficiently process utility locate requests created by the Ohio Utilities Protection Service, better known as OUPS. The Department of Public Utilities receives approximately 140,000 of these requests from Columbus residents through OUPS annually. After receiving a request, the DPU is able to mark underground electric, water and sewer



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facilities in the excavation area to keep residents from damaging gas, electric, communication, water and sewer lines.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM: Councilmember [Jaiza Page](#), chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, is sponsoring ordinance 0764-2016, which accepts a grant from the Ohio Department of Education for \$2,500,000.00 to fund the 2016 Summer Food Program. This program provides nutritionally-balanced breakfasts, lunches and snacks to children who qualify during the summer months. Approximately 195,000 breakfast meals, 340,000 lunch meals and 95,000 snacks will be served. Thousands of children will receive meals at 240 sites throughout the greater Columbus area.

ARSON PREVENTION WEEK: Councilmember [Mitchell J. Brown](#), chair of the Public Safety Committee, is presenting resolution 0101X-2016 to raise awareness of arson and juvenile fire setting and provide individuals with strategies to combat these problems in their community. The theme of this year's Arson Awareness Week is "Accelerant Detection Canines—Sniffing out Arson." In 2015, investigators called for the assistance of an Accelerant Detection K-9 on 98 structures, 28 auto fires, 7 article searches, 3 area searches and one line up. These canines are invaluable members of the Columbus Division of Fire and are trained to sniff out minute traces of ignitable liquid accelerants that may have been used to start a fire.

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