

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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COLUMBUS ARTS FESTIVAL: President Pro Tem [Priscilla Tyson](#) is sponsoring resolution 0131X-2016 to celebrate the 55th year of the Columbus Arts Festival. Each year, the festival transforms Columbus' Riverfront into a stunning outdoor art gallery, with nationally and internationally recognized artists displaying their work and attracting art enthusiasts from all over the country. Additionally, the Festival will host more than 1,100 musicians, dancers, actors and spoken word artists, showcasing the work of local and emerging artists.

BARBERSHOP BOOKS: Chair of the Education Committee, [Elizabeth Brown](#) is co-sponsoring ordinance 1293-2016 with Councilmember [Shannon Hardin](#), which enters into a support contract with Columbus City Schools for the Barbershop Books initiative. This initiative seeks to reduce the achievement gap by providing child-friendly reading spaces in neighborhood barbershops. With the support of Columbus City Council, Columbus City Schools will purchase 150 books and create 10 reading spaces in neighborhood barbershops.

SPORTS COURT REPAVEMENT: Councilmember [Jaiza Page](#), chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, is sponsoring ordinance 1283-2016, which enters into contract for the repair and replacement of sports courts at Milo Grogan Park, Wolfe Park and the construction of a new half court for basketball at Nafzger Park. The sports courts located throughout the City of Columbus are heavily used by their surrounding communities. The Department of Recreation and Parks takes input from community members and staff to determine the greatest need and then uses a portion of the annual hard surface funds to make improvements to the courts.

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION: Chair of the Judiciary and Court Committee, [Michael Stinziano](#), is sponsoring ordinance 1353-2106, which enters into a contract with the Franklin County Public Defender



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Commission to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with criminal offenses. This contract continues to afford legal services to qualifying persons in Columbus and preserves public peace, property, health, safety and welfare.

RECOGNIZING POLICE AND FIRE CHAPLIN: Councilmember [Mitchell J. Brown](#) is presenting resolution 0136X-2016 to recognize Reverend Richard D. Ellsworth’s outstanding contributions to law enforcement in the City of Columbus and the State of Ohio. Reverend Ellsworth has served as chaplain for the Columbus Division of Police and Division of Fire for over 50 years, acting as counselor and spiritual advisor to members of the division and their families. In October of 2013, Columbus Chief of Police Kim Jacobs honored Reverend Ellsworth’s dedication to the men and women of the division.

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS: Councilmembers [Shannon Hardin](#) and [Michael Stinziano](#), are co-sponsoring ordinance 1079-2106, which enacts, amends and repeals various sections of the Columbus City Codes to create a new Department of Neighborhoods. Administration of the neighborhood liaison communication program, Neighborhood Pride program, Neighborhood Pride Centers, the 311 Call Center and the Community Relations Commission will be incorporated into this new department. These changes increase efficiency and effectiveness while improving neighborhood-focus and public accessibility.

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