

## COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

For Immediate Release:  
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**TOBACCO 21:** President Pro Tem [Priscilla Tyson](#) is sponsoring ordinance 3156-2016 to require retailers to obtain a license for selling tobacco products and product paraphernalia and prohibit the sale of those items to individuals under the age of 21. Tobacco use is the foremost preventable cause of premature death in America and causes 500,000 deaths annually. In 2015, the Institute of Medicine concluded that raising the minimum legal sales age for tobacco products nationwide to 21 would lead to a 12% decrease in smoking prevalence. Additionally, the Institute predicts that Tobacco 21 laws will reduce preterm births, low birth weight and sudden infant death due to reduced tobacco exposure in mothers and infants.

**NEXT GENERATION 911:** Councilmember [Michael Stinziano](#), chair of the Technology Committee, is sponsoring ordinance 2991-2016 to enter into contract to install fiber optic cabling to the City's 911 Call Center for the Next Generation 911 Call Taking Enhancement. A next generation network requires a 911 service provider to manage the intake, routing, distribution and delivery of calls placed to 911 from any device, including mobile phones. Installation of this robust fiber optic network must be in place in order to ensure the City meets National Emergency Number Association standards.

**OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:** Councilmember [Shannon Hardin](#) is sponsoring ordinance 3025-2016 to create the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) and establish its functions and duties. The office will establish guidelines, initiatives and programs to advance supplier and workforce diversity within City of Columbus departments. The ordinance also creates a business opportunity assessment program, expanding the City's supportive service efforts for businesses. Additionally, the ordinance expands eligibility standards for the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) to include Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans, as defined by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The ODI replaces the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office (EBOCO).



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ELIZABETH C. BROWN | MITCHELL J. BROWN | SHANNON G. HARDIN | JAIZA PAGE | MICHAEL STINZIANO

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**REPEAT OFFENDER CODE CHANGE:** Councilmember [Jaiza Page](#) is sponsoring ordinance 3019-2016 to amend the current code to clarify that no provisions of the Columbus City Code can prohibit or limit existing remedies available by law. This includes but is not limited to filing a civil complaint or a criminal misdemeanor complaint in the Environmental Division of the Franklin County Municipal Court. Instances of code violations repeatedly found on the same property or parcel have a significantly adverse impact on neighborhoods. This legislation allows residents to have additional tools to fight repeat code violations in their communities.

**HUNTINGTON EMPOWERMENT CENTER CONSTRUCTION:** Councilmember [Elizabeth Brown](#), chair of the Environment Committee, is sponsoring ordinance 3153-2016 to enter into a grant agreement with Columbus Urban League to perform asbestos remediation and selective demolition on the site of the new Huntington Empowerment Center. The Center will include My Brother's Closet, a collection of professional clothing provided to low-income men, flexible spaces for youth programs, social programs and business incubator space. The project adheres to guidelines set by the Green Columbus Fund Program, which represents the City's commitment to foster sustainable building through LEED certification and sustainable redevelopment.

**REMEMBERING JOHN GLENN:** Council President [Zach Klein](#) is presenting resolution 0311X-2016 to honor the life of former Senator John H. Glenn. Glenn was the first American astronaut to orbit earth and decades later, at age 77, became the oldest astronaut to travel in space. In his life, he also served our country as a Marine Corps pilot and four-term U.S. Senator from Ohio. He was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama in 2012. Earlier this year, Columbus airport was renamed in his honor as the John Glenn Columbus International Airport.

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