

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

For Immediate Release:
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SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL: Council President [Zach Klein](#) and Councilmember [Michael Stinziano](#) are sponsoring ordinance 2908-2017 to enter into a contract for special legal counsel services regarding opioid-related matters. The City has been exploring various legal options available to help deal with the tremendous human devastation, drain on public resources and financial burden caused by the opioid epidemic. To assist in pursuing those options, the City Attorney's office has selected the law firm of Carpenter, Lipps & Leland LLP to serve as special legal counsel.

CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE: President Pro Tem [Priscilla Tyson](#) is presenting resolution 0312X-2017 to thank Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH, for over 30 years of public service. Dr. Long has served as Columbus' Health Commissioner since her appointment in 2002. During her tenure, she has provided steady leadership and guidance during critical public health issues that include HIV, the H1N1 pandemic, Ebola, Zika and the opiate crisis. She has also been at the forefront to reduce smoking by leading Smoke-Free Columbus and Tobacco 21. Dr. Long's distinguished public health career exemplifies a lifetime of passion and service in action to protect the health, safety and lives of Columbus residents.

RECOGNIZING THE COLUMBUS COMMITMENT: Councilmember [Elizabeth Brown](#) is presenting resolution 0305X-2017 to recognize The Columbus Women's Commission for its work to advance gender- and race-based pay equity for women through The Columbus Commitment: Achieving Pay Equity. This effort brings Central Ohio employers together to commit to understanding, analyzing and acting to address gender- and race-based pay disparities. Currently, 60 local employers have signed the commitment, including Mayor Andrew J. Ginther on behalf of the City of Columbus as an employer.



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OPIOID TREATMENT FUNDING: Councilmember [Mitchell Brown](#) is sponsoring ordinance 3024-2017 to accept the Law Enforcement Diversion Program Grant Award from the State of Ohio Attorney General's Office. This program provides funding to support increased treatment, new tools for law enforcement and increased prevention methods to combat the opioid epidemic. These funds will assist The Columbus Division of Police to address the opioid epidemic in Ohio by providing necessary referrals for recovery support, counseling and mental health treatment services.

OPERATION SAFE SIDEWALKS: Councilmember [Shannon Hardin](#), chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee, is sponsoring ordinances 2918-2017, 2919-2017 and 2920-2017 for the Operation Safewalks Program. This project, in conjunction with the CelebrateOne Sidewalk program, will provide the Department of Public Service with additional resources for professional engineering and survey services in the Hilltop, South Linden and Near South areas.

EMERGENCY HOME REPAIR SERVICES: Councilmember [Jaiza Page](#), chair of the Housing Committee, is sponsoring ordinance 2641-2017 to amend a previous ordinance to include emergency home repair services. This amendment authorizes the director of the Department of Development to enter into contracts to provide emergency home repair services to low and moderate income homeowners in Columbus.

UTILITY BILL PAYMENT SERVICES: Councilmember [Michael Stinziano](#), chair of the Public Utilities Committee, is sponsoring an ordinance to modify an existing contract for billing payment services for the Department of Public Utilities. Through the department's bill payment application services, customers can conveniently receive and pay utility bills online or continue to manage utility accounts through traditional means.

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