

# Tyson

FROM CITY HALL TO YOUR DOOR

Council Member Tyson and Wil Haygood at the City Readers Graduation, August 2013.



Photograph: Jonathan Quilter | Dispatch

## Tyson's Corner

### *A Note From Priscilla*

Fall in Columbus is definitely an exciting time as we watch the students get back to school and Buckeye football. This summer was full of graduations, festivals and thought provoking community gatherings. I enjoyed seeing each and everyone of you out taking in our wonderful city.

This summer I represented our city at the National League of Cities in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I served as moderator on a panel discussion on Reconnecting to Communities. The panel looked at how cities are addressing veteran issues, homelessness and former offenders. I look forward to weaving the best practices discussed into

our city policy.

I had the opportunity to speak at the [Per Scholas](#) graduation in July. Investments in programs like these break the cycle of poverty and enrich our workforce. In August, I celebrated National Night Out with you and many of our first responders. I also encouraged parents from Columbus City Schools to stay involved at the [Senior to Sophomore](#) send off. This program supports students to finish their senior year of High School on a college campus. We hosted the [City Readers](#) graduation in Council Chambers with Wil Haygood. City Readers is a program to encourage young men to read and lead.

Lastly, I am proud to have cut the

## September 2013

ribbon at [Columbus Neighborhood Health Center's](#) primary care center at [Maryhaven](#). This new site will provide primary care services to the community and those dealing with addiction issues.

This fall my office and I will be busy moving the city forward. As always feel free to contact us with any questions, comments or city matters that need resolution. We are happy to serve every Columbus constituent.

### In this issue

Bond Package	2
Open Enrollment	3
Legislative Highlights	4
MBE Academy, CNHC, SOAR	5



### Priscilla R Tyson

Chair Finance  
Health & Human Services,  
Workforce Development



A dedicated leader and lifelong resident of Columbus, Council Member Priscilla R. Tyson is a proven advocate for our community. In her current role, she chairs **Finance, Health, Human Services and Workforce Development**. As the Chair of Finance she leads the effort to pass the city's General Fund and Capital Improvements Budget of nearly \$773 and \$728 million. A dynamic leader she addresses many of our community's most urgent priorities, including access to quality healthcare and job training.

This fall voters will have a chance to continue to make Columbus a smart city.



## What the 2013 Bond Package means

On November 5th, Columbus residents have the opportunity to approve a package of 4 bond issues designed to invest \$842 million in neighborhood infrastructure, services and quality of life.

*A bond package does not mean higher or new property taxes.* Just like the typical citizen looking to purchase a home, the City of Columbus does not have adequate cash on-hand to finance its capital improvement program.

Columbus borrows money from investors by issuing bonds and uses the proceeds to build and maintain its roadways, acquire heavy equipment, construct police and fire facilities and so on. In this manner, future beneficiaries of the improvement will help pay for acquisition or construction.

## How is the debt paid off

The city typically relies on general obligation debt, secured by an ability to levy a property tax if necessary to repay the borrowed funds. However, the debt for non-enterprise agencies has historically been retired through the use of a portion of the city's 2.5% income tax. One-fourth of such revenues are deposited into a special fund for this purpose.

Because the city operates from well-established, sound fiscal management practices and discipline, it has never violated its long-standing promise to the voter not to impose a property tax for debt service purposes. Such a promise has existed over 57 years.

For water, electricity, sanitary and storm enterprises, user fees provide adequate revenue to pay off that debt.

## Why voted debt?

Voter approved debt saves money: Investors purchasing city bonds have more confidence they will be repaid if voters have approved the debt issuance, and generally demand a lower interest rate. Cheaper debt allows the city to stretch its dollars further, resulting in more capital improvements.

Columbus citizens are given an opportunity to help shape the voted bond package by expressing their opinions at public forums as to which capital projects are most needed.

Because overall city needs exceed the city's funding ability, it is necessary to prioritize projects. Citizen input is an important component of that process.

## Bond Package Highlights

### Safety & Health:

**\$52,500,000**

Facilities, vehicles and equipment for the Division of Police, the Division of Fire and Columbus Public Health.

### Recreation & Parks

**\$123,910,000**

Improvements and expansions of parks, playgrounds, bikeways and recreation facilities.

### Public Service

**\$220,300,000**

Equipment for trash collection and street repair, resurfacing, sidewalks, bikeways and other neighborhood improvements.

### Public Utilities

**\$445,295,000**

Water and storm system improvements, electricity and street lighting.

## What's so important about a rating?

Columbus is one of the largest cities in the nation with a "triple A" credit rating from all three national rating agencies. The City's debt is some of the most secure debt in the nation and fares competitively well in the financial markets. Voted debt will save Columbus citizens millions over the life of the loan.

---

# GET READY TO ENROLL

.....  
A BRAND NEW TYPE OF OPEN ENROLLMENT  
IS ON THE WAY UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT  
.....

## **How the Health Care Law is Making a Difference for the People of Ohio**

The Affordable Care Act gives the 86% of Ohioans who have insurance more choices and stronger coverage than ever before. For the 14% of Ohioans who don't have insurance, or Ohio families and small businesses who buy their coverage but aren't happy with it, a new day is just around the corner.

Soon, the new online Health Insurance Marketplace will provide families and small businesses who currently don't have insurance, or are looking for a better deal, a new way to find health coverage that fits their needs and their budgets.

Open enrollment in the Marketplace starts Oct 1, with coverage starting as soon as Jan 1, 2014. Columbus families and small business can visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) right now to find the information they need prepare for open enrollment.

## **What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?**

The Marketplace is a new way to find health coverage that fits your budget and meets your needs. With one application, you can see all your options and enroll.

## **What you'll learn when you apply in the Health Insurance Marketplace**

When you use the Health Insurance Marketplace, you'll fill out an application and see all of the health plans available in your area. You'll find out if you can [get lower costs on your monthly premiums](#) for private insurance plans. You'll learn if you qualify for [lower out-of-pocket costs](#).

The Marketplace will also tell you if you qualify for free or low-cost coverage available through [Medicaid](#) or the [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\)](#).

## **Apply online, by mail, or in-person**

You can apply for Marketplace coverage three ways: **online, by mail or in-person** with the help of a Navigator or other qualified helper. Telephone help and online chat will be available 24/7 to [help](#) you complete your application.

Open enrollment starts October 1, 2013. Plans and prices will be available then. Coverage starts as soon as January 1, 2014.

work live play  Community Calendar	September	October	Novemebr
	<p><b>1</b> Flu season is upon us. Make sure you get your Flu shot early.</p> <p><b>19</b> Catch <a href="#">Shrek The Musical at Columbus Children's Theater</a>. For more information call, 614-224-6672.</p> <p><b>21</b> Education is power. Attend the 5th annual HBCU College Fair at Barnett Rec Center from 9am-2pm.</p>	<p><b>5</b> Restoration Academy Graduation.</p> <p><b>12</b> Celebrate Columbus Day and receive 50% of at local attractions. Visit <a href="#">ExperienceColumbusDays.com</a> for participating businesses.</p> <p><b>12</b> Give Kids a Smile Day provides free dental exams and more. 9am-2pm Call 614-688-1470 for details.</p>	<p><b>2</b> 58th <a href="#">Columbus International Festival</a> at Veterans Memorial.</p> <p><b>8</b> Celebrate Veterans Day and watch the parade from noon to 2pm.</p> <p><b>28</b> Happy Thanksgiving Deliver Meals with <a href="#">Life Care Alliance</a>. Interested, call 614-278-310 to sign up.</p>

### Legislative Highlights

**Ohio Equity Institute Kick Off**

Ordinance 1588-2013 accepted a \$100,000 grant to support the Child and Family Health Services Perinatal Program with The Ohio State University Research Foundation. The Foundation provides perinatal care services to high-risk and uninsured patients under the program. Ordinance 1603-2013 authorizes a contract with CityMatCH, a national organization of urban maternal and child health leaders that will assist with the Ohio Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes, a new three-year project to promote health equity and help babies reach their first birthday.

**Encouraging Active Living**

Chair Priscilla R. Tyson introduced Ordinance 0977-2013 to support a Columbus Public Health partnership with 10 TV's Commit To Be Fit, a public awareness campaign developed to improve the health of our community

**Drug Treatment**

Ordinance 0930-2013, sponsored by Chair Priscilla R. Tyson, allows the city to accept a \$1,992,453 grant. These funds enable the Health Department to continue to provide treatment, counseling and prevention services to men, women, children and families and the homeless population.

**Solar Panels**  
Investing in green infrastructure is what makes ColumbUS a smart city. Council Member Tyson Chair of Finance works to continue the reduction of our carbon footprint in the most cost effective manner. The 240-watt solar panels installed at 4211 Groves Road in May will produce almost half of the building's electricity needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 566 tons. This is the first City of Columbus facility with a large-scale solar energy system, the largest of its kind in Ohio.



## Growing Business in Columbus

This past spring, Council Member Priscilla Tyson introduced legislation that established the Minority Business Enterprise Academy. The program will provide a tailored suit approach to cultivating and strengthening MBE business relationships and day-to-day operations. Each business will go through an operational assessment to determine the health of their business.

The MBE Academy will grow the competitiveness of these targeted minority businesses by providing hands on individualized organizational assessments and strategically connect them to corporate/government opportunities.

This program will be facilitated by South Central Ohio Minority Supplier Development Council which is dedicated to providing a direct link between minority business enterprises and its corporate members, while promoting economic inclusion and entrepreneurship. Applications were sent out and evaluated and the first class started August, 29th 2013. For more information about the MBE Academy please visit [scomsdc.org](http://scomsdc.org).

### Council Intern SOARS

The Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) offers the S.O.A.R. (Summer Opportunities to Achieve and Reconnect) hire! program. This internship provides young people ages 14 to 24 with valuable professional experience in workplaces across Central Ohio.

Turquoise S. Burke interned with Council Member Tyson's office and served as a great asset to the team. Sharing on her experience Ms. Burke stated, "The opportunity to intern for Council Member Tyson was indeed an honor. I witnessed the need for representation in our communities, and am happy that she has made the commitment."

Turquoise is passionate about public service and plans on obtaining her masters degree in social work at The Ohio State University.

### City Training for Small Businesses

In June the City of Columbus began offering free classes to small-business owners and their employees to bolster work-force development in the city.

Chair of Workforce Development, Council Member Tyson set aside \$10,000 for the pilot program this spring. It gives small businesses access to the city's own training classes at the Jerry Hammond Center at 111 E. Broad St. They're open to sole businesses with 50 employees or less.

The need for training opportunities was identified during a series of small-business roundtables held by City Council. Access to city classes can have a big impact on small businesses while effectively managing taxpayer money. "Our investment in easier access to training will help businesses reinvest more into their companies and their employees," Tyson said. "It's good for small business and that's good for Columbus' economy."

Columbus' [Citywide Training and Development](#) office is offering more than 400 classes, include training focused on so-called soft skills such as effective communications, creative thinking, time management, team building and problem solving. You can see the full list of topics by [clicking here](#). For more information, contact [Kris Cannon](#), enterprise training coordinator at 614-645-2851.

Contact Council Member Priscilla Tyson:

Carl Williams  
Legislative Analyst  
[CGWilliams@columbus.gov](mailto:CGWilliams@columbus.gov)  
For Legislative Concerns

Hosana Tekie  
Legislative Assistant  
[HOTekie@columbus.gov](mailto:HOTekie@columbus.gov)  
For Constituent Issues & Scheduling

COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL  
90 W BROAD ST  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215