

# Tyson's Corner



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2012

## WELCOME...

I'm proud to represent our community as a member of the National League of Cities, an organization that serves as a resource and advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages, and towns it represents. I am the vice chair of the NLC's Community and Economic Development Steering Committee and a board member of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a National League of Cities constituency group.



During the Congressional City Conference this spring, I joined Cleveland City Councilmembers Matt Zone and Terrell Pruitt, and Ohio Village City Councilmember Johnnie Warren, to meet with Sen. Sherrod Brown to discuss proposed cuts to federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

In Columbus, CDBG funds support programs and services that many residents would consider essential, including:

- After-school, weekend, and summer programs for our young people, including the Capital Kids and School's Out programs;
- Code enforcement and environmental nuisance clean-up;
- Acquisition of vacant and abandoned properties for redevelopment;
- Various business development efforts, including loans to existing small businesses and start-ups;
- Rebuilding Lives, a program that aims to end homelessness in Columbus and provides immediate assistance to people in need;
- Home repair and maintenance loans and grants to low-income households;
- Neighborhood Pride, which provides one-stop-shop centers for city services;
- Neighborhood Liaisons, who work one-on-one with residents and community groups to address neighborhood issues; and
- Public health efforts like the Pregnancy Support Program and Sexual Health Awareness Program.



Councilmember Tyson and her colleagues visit with Sen. Brown.

Locally and in Washington, I will continue to advocate for the funding that allows us to provide impactful services for our residents. If you have any questions about CDBG funds or other federal issues—and to find out how you can help—please call my office at (614) 645-2933.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sponsored Legislation	2
Council Passes 2012 Budget	
Columbus Kids: Ready, Set, Learn	
International Women's Day	3
AmeriCorps Volunteers	
American Addition	
Council Community Meetings	4
MLK Award	
Committee Hearings Schedule	



**Sponsored Legislation**

**FLEET DIVISION PROVIDES SERVICES:** In 2011, our Fleet Division was ranked 3rd by "100 Best Fleets in North America" and received the Government Green Fleet Award. Ordinance 0292-2012 authorized MOUs with various neighboring jurisdictions that will allow Columbus to generate revenue for services performed on non-city vehicles.

**WEATHERIZING TO REDUCE ASTHMA, INJURY HAZARDS:**

Ordinance 0323-2012 extended the city's contract with IMPACT Community Action for the Columbus Healthy Homes Project. The project provides intervention and weatherization services in homes that are at risk for asthma triggers and injury hazards. The program provides free supplies, education and support, minor home repairs, insulation services, furnace maintenance/repair, and pest control.

**FUNDING SOCIAL SERVICES:** Ordinance 0398-2012 authorized contracts worth over \$3.3 million with agencies that provide families and households with access to day care, substance abuse programs, refugee and resettlement programs, senior care, mediation services, services for the disabled, material assistance and food programs, workforce development, and youth programs.

**2012 COMMUNITY GARDENING PROJECT:** Community gardens produce nutritious food, economic development, and educational opportunities in our neighborhoods. With ordinance 0495-2012, Council authorized a \$40,000 expenditure to fund community gardening projects across the city.

**City of Columbus**  
**Legislation Report**  
 File Number: 0062-2008

Emergency  
 File Number: 0062-2008 File Type: Ordinance Status: Passed  
 Version: 1 Controlling Body: Recreation and Parks Committee  
 File Name: Appropriation of \$3,366,184.50 from Fund 222 for supplies and services in 2008 and to declare an emergency. Introduced: 1-4-2008  
 Responder: Zac & Paul Diederl: Cost: \$3,366,184.50 Final Action: 1-31-2008  
 Auditor/Civil #: Auditor: What assigned as Auditor Certificate Number 1, the City Auditor, hereby certifies that there is in the treasury, or receipts to cover the same, sufficient to pay the amount of any specified items, to pay the within Ordinance.

Contact Name/No.: Cost Center: 641-8428  
 Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only)

Mayor's Action		Council Action	
Mayor	Date	Date Passed/Adopted	President of Council
Video	Date		City Clerk

Title: To authorize the appropriation of \$3,366,184.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to purchase purchased supplies and providing services during 2008, and to declare an emergency. (\$3,366,184.50)

Sponsors:  
 Indexes:  
 Attachments:

Page 1 of 1 Printed on 1/31/2008

[columbuscitycouncil.org/highlights](http://columbuscitycouncil.org/highlights)



**Council Passes 2012 General Fund Budget**

Columbus City Council passed the city's 2012 general fund budget on January 30. The general fund provides for many of the city's most essential services, including public safety, which makes up approximately 70% of this year's \$738,475,000 budget.

In passing the budget, Council added several amendments to preserve public safety, improve access to job opportunities, and strengthen neighborhoods. Those amendments included an increase in funding for the Community Crime Patrol and \$500,000 for a new graffiti abatement program.

Finance Committee Chair Tyson's amendments included \$100,000 for workforce development. The funds will train workers in the technical skills valued in today's marketplace, and also in critical "soft skills" such as communication, teamwork, and customer service. As chair of Council's Workforce Development Committee, Councilmember Tyson will continue to work with her colleagues to help our residents prepare for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

**Councilmembers Support Columbus Kids**

Councilmember Tyson and Council President Andrew J. Ginther sponsored a \$250,000 budget amendment for Columbus Kids: Ready, Set, Learn, an early intervention program that prepares children for success in the classroom.

Columbus Kids is led by United Way of Central Ohio and is a collaboration of more than 100 community organizations.

The program enrolled 2,941 children between February 2010 and September 2011. Sixty percent of the children were from families with annual incomes of less than \$10,000. Approximately one in four children was identified as being in need of referral for services.



United Way of Central Ohio CEO Janet Jackson, Columbus City Schools Superintendent Dr. Gene Harris, and Councilmember Tyson discuss Columbus Kids.

## Columbus Celebrates International Women's Day

The best cities welcome people from all over the world, and one thing that nearly all great cities have in common is that they are all international cities.

Columbus is home to tens of thousands of immigrants and is quickly becoming a global city. New Americans have established vibrant communities that have added to the richness and diversity of our community. They are helping to make Columbus an even better place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Many of these immigrants are women. In March, Councilmember Tyson delivered the keynote address at the annual International Women's Day Celebration. She stressed her conviction that Columbus must work harder to welcome and support women from all over the world as they come here to build better lives for themselves and their families.

**Women from diverse communities and backgrounds came together for International Women's Day.**



## AmeriCorps Volunteers Active in Our Community

National AmeriCorps Week was March 12-16, 2012, and this year's theme was "AmeriCorps Works."

AmeriCorps certainly works in our community. Corps members assist agencies that provide critical services to Columbus residents, including the Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, various food banks, the YWCA, and AMVets.

Councilmember Tyson shared her experiences in community service, including her founding of City Year Columbus, with Homeport AmeriCorps members at a March 8<sup>th</sup> event hosted by the Greater Linden Development Corporation.

Later that day, the volunteers were joined by several dozen students from Linden-McKinley STEM Academy for a neighborhood clean-up event.

**The AmeriCorps volunteers were ready for an afternoon of hard work in Linden.**



# New Homes Are More Good News for American Addition

The American Addition neighborhood marked another milestone in its rebirth in February when Homeport joined federal, county, and city leaders, including Councilmember Tyson, to celebrate the completion of six new single-family homes on Lee Avenue.

The homes were designed by Sullivan-Bruck Architects and Kaiser Design Group and built by KMM Builders. All six are exemplars of efficiency, meeting green AWARE standards, and are affordable, priced at less than \$120,000. All new homebuyers will complete the HUD-certified home buyer education classes in Homeport's Housing Advisory Center.

Homeport provides quality affordable homes and services to low and moderate income households in Central Ohio. In American Addition, Homeport will build a mixed-income community of one hundred energy-efficient, quality homes.

Located in north-central Columbus, American Addition was founded a century ago and attracted African Americans who migrated to Columbus from the south. The neighborhood was annexed into Columbus in 1959 but has only recently received investment in infrastructure like streets and alleys, sidewalks, lights, curbs, waterlines, and storm-sewer lines.

Through it all, the neighborhood's proud residents have waited patiently for the rest of Columbus to discover what they knew all along: American Addition is a gem in our city, with both a proud past and prospects of a bright future.



**The new homes on Lee Ave are the latest exciting developments in American Addition.**



## Columbus City Council

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#### Councilmember Tyson's committees:

##### Chair Finance

Health & Human Services  
Workforce Development

##### Member

Development  
Recreation & Parks  
Veterans Affairs  
Small & Minority Business Development  
Zoning

## Council Community Meetings Continue

Columbus City Council continues to meet with Columbus residents in public locations across the city. Remaining meetings for 2012 include:

Tuesday, July 10, 2012  
King Arts Complex  
867 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43203

Tuesday, May 15, 2012  
Westgate Community Center  
455 S. Westgate Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43204

Tuesday, June 12, 2012  
Martin Janis Senior Center  
600 E. 11th Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Please join us to share your concerns, questions, and ideas.



**Councilmember Tyson meets with a constituent.**

## Councilmember Tyson Receives Columbus Education Association's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award

Earlier this year, Councilmember Tyson received the Columbus Education Association's 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award at the association's annual dinner. She joined fellow Humanitarian Award honoree Pastor Dale B. Snyder and Helen Jenkins Davis Award winner Jimmie Beall at the ceremony. The Rev. Jesse Jackson delivered the keynote address.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award recognizes community members for "distinguished service in the areas of community service, education, or human and civil rights which has been rendered at the local, state or national level."



**Councilmember Tyson with family and friends at the awards ceremony.**

## Committee Hearings

The dates for upcoming hearings are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will begin at 5:30pm in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, in downtown Columbus.

We encourage the public to attend. A valid photo ID is needed to enter City Hall. If you would like to speak at the meeting, you must complete a speaker slip. The slips are available at City Hall from 8am to 5pm on the day of the meeting.

Upcoming hearings:

- May 17, 2012 — Review of city's first-quarter finances

