



Tyson's Corner



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SUMMER 2011

WELCOME...

As chair of Columbus City Council's Finance Committee, I followed with great interest the debt ceiling debate that churned in Washington throughout much of the summer. In the wake of that conversation, I think it is important to note that Columbus is in a strong financial position as we enter the third quarter of 2011.

This summer, the city retained its triple-A bond rating from each of the three agencies that rate municipal and other bonds. Very few large cities, and only a handful of corporations, receive a triple-A from all three agencies.

The city issues bonds to finance important capital projects like park improvements, road work, sidewalks, streetlights, fire stations, safety equipment, and other public investments.

The fact that we have retained our bond rating even as the national and state economies have struggled is a testament to the sound financial policy and management of our city. Our municipal bonds remain an attractive option for investors because the city of Columbus has maintained responsible fiscal policies and practices. For instance, the city sets aside \$.25 of every dollar in income tax it collects to finance capital improvements. This set-aside distinguishes us from other municipalities and demonstrates to investors our commitment to responsible debt management.

We also continue to make progress on implementing the recommendations made by the Economic Advisory Committee in March 2009. For example, reform of city employee pension benefits will save Columbus an estimated \$22 million through 2014, while increased employee responsibility for healthcare costs is estimated to save \$7.4 million through 2019.

We are also restoring the city's rainy day fund. At the end of 2011, the fund's balance is projected to stand at approximately \$33 million.

Please see page two for more information about the city's finances at the end of the second quarter, or feel free to call my office at (614) 645-2933.



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Councilmember Tyson Speaks to Law & Leadership Students

Councilmember Tyson met some of our city's best and brightest ninth graders when she addressed the Capital University Law & Leadership class this summer.

The Law and Leadership Institute prepares students from underserved communities for the rigors of law school and introduces them to the many career options available to those who have law degrees.

Councilmember Tyson spoke to the students about the importance of public service and the many ways that law school graduates can go on to serve their communities.

More information on the Law & Leadership Institute is available at www.lawandleadership.org or

(614) 485-3504.



Councilmember Tyson with the Law & Leadership students.

PNC Arts Alive Announces 2011 Grant Recipients

The PNC Foundation's three-year, \$1.5 million PNC Arts Alive initiative provides support to artists and organizations who help make Columbus a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

At the announcement event on July 26, 2011, Councilmember Tyson presented the PNC Foundation with a resolution honoring their support of the arts in Central Ohio.

A total of \$500,000 will be distributed to thirteen recipients in 2011, the second year of the initiative. Columbus-based recipients include CAPA, Carpe Diem String Quartet, CATCO-Phoenix, Columbus Children's Choir, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, The Harmony Project, and the ProMusica Chamber Orchestra .

For more information on PNC Arts Alive, please visit www.pncartsalive.com.

Councilmember Tyson and Mike Gonsiorowski, PNC regional president for Central Ohio.



Festivals, New Parks Make for Unforgettable Summer in Columbus

Columbus summers always offer ample opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy food, fellowship, and festivity, but summer 2011 will no doubt be remembered as the year our community soaked up the sun like never before.

Two extraordinary new public parks have made our downtown an even more enticing destination. Columbus Commons offers nine acres of green space on the former site of the City Center Mall, while the Scioto Mile and renovated Bicentennial Park are jaw-dropping additions to the River South district.

Festival season continues to draw hundreds of thousands of visitors

to our community, whether for large multi-day affairs like the Arts Festival, Asian Festival, Latino Festival, Jazz & Ribs Fest, Juneteenth, and Pride, or for treasured community events like the Hilltop Bean Dinner, Ganthers Place Garden Tour, Franklinton Art Festival, Merion Village Community Yard Sale, and Northland Community Fourth of July Parade. These are just a few

of the events that make summers in Columbus so special.



ABOVE: The 17th annual Asian Festival celebrated the culture and cuisine of numerous Asian countries. LEFT: Councilmember Tyson and Deborah Hochbein at the Ohio State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition's opening reception.





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COWIC Intern Shines at City Council

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

This year, Councilmember Tyson's office was one of several Council offices to participate in the program. We were pleased to welcome Jalen Carter, a senior at Gahanna Lincoln High School, to our office in late July.

Jalen is an exceptionally bright and mature young man who made an immediate contribution to our team. He tackled high-level research projects with the gusto of an experienced policy wonk and provided Councilmember Tyson with helpful background information on a variety of topics. Jalen's poise and professionalism made a great impression on City Council staff and also on the community leaders he met at off-site events.



Jalen Carter at the PNC Arts Alive grants announcement event.

City Council, School Board Excited to Partner

Councilmember Tyson and Columbus City Schools Board Member Gary Baker are co-chairs of the City of Columbus-Columbus City Schools Standing Committee, which was established in June 1994 to explore issues of mutual interest to the city and the school district. The committee will meet on a bi-monthly basis to explore partnerships on such issues as public safety, economic and workforce development, health and wellness, and public infrastructure.



Councilmember Tyson with Columbus City Schools Board Member Gary Baker, President Carol Perkins, and Superintendent Dr. Gene Harris.

Finance Committee Meetings

Councilmember Tyson hosts a Finance Committee meeting every quarter. The dates for upcoming meetings 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 meetings:

- November 17, 2011 — Finance Committee Meeting: Third quarter review
- TBA (December) — Committee hearings on the mayor's proposed 2012 general fund budget