

# Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

November 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Council President Michael C. Mentel spoke at the recent opening of the new Fire Station 10. Passage of Issues 14-19 can help ensure firefighters have the tools they need to continue keeping Columbus safe.**

Regular readers of *Call the Roll* should be readily familiar with the importance that capital investments have in improving our city's infrastructure and the quality of life for our residents.

This year's voted bond package, Issues 14–19, represents another chance to invest in our community to help neighborhoods and create new jobs. The Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce estimates that the bond package could generate \$3 billion for our local economy and sustain an average of 5,500 jobs over the next five years. We also hope to retain 8,310 jobs and create 10,816 permanent new ones by investing in key job centers throughout Columbus. It is also important to note that approval of the bond issues will **not** result in a tax increase, but will save nearly \$30 million on critical capital projects such as new sidewalks and fire engines.

Passage of the six bond issues will authorize the city to borrow funds for capital projects at lower interest rates through the sale of bonds. This is a secure investment and has the backing of City Auditor Hugh Dorrian, who has a long-standing reputation as a very prudent and cautious steward of Columbus' finances.

My Council colleagues and I understand that these are challenging economic times and it can be difficult to contemplate investing in projects that may take many years to complete. However, the bond package is an opportunity for our residents to invest in their future and make Columbus the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael C. Mentel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael C. Mentel  
City Council President

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**Voted bond authority allowed the city to purchase new bulk-trash vehicles to keep neighborhoods clean. Voter support of the 2008 Bond package will permit the city to continue supplying critical services such as waste and snow removal.**

## O'SHAUGHNESSY UNVEILS NEW "COLUMBUS GREEN BIKES" PROGRAM



**Councilmember O'Shaughnessy, an avid bike enthusiast, discussed the benefits of the new "Columbus Green Bikes" program.**

Columbus employees are riding "green bikes" down city streets as part of a new program. With the leadership of Public Service & Transportation Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), workers can now ride bikes between downtown meeting locations or even during their lunch hour for exercise.

"This cost-saving project is a great way to get to a nearby meeting or use during the lunch hour to grab a bite to eat and stay active," said Councilmember O'Shaughnessy. "Instead of getting in a city vehicle for a five minute trip, employees can choose to get active."

The initiative is possible thanks to assistance from the Division of Police, which donated 10 unclaimed bicycles from the impound lot, and the Fleet Division, which prepared the bikes for the road.

The bicycles are equipped with helmets and locks and are located at city buildings. Helmets were donated by the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital. The initiative will place six bikes at City Hall, two bikes at Columbus Public Health and two bikes at the Jerry Hammond Center.

"This pilot program represents one more step toward making Columbus a more active, vibrant community," said Dr. Teresa Long. "The choices that we make are shaped by the choices that we have and we are giving our colleagues one more way to make healthier choices to stay active."



**(Above) Barb Seckler, director of the Institute for Active Living, explained how biking to work can save money while promoting an active lifestyle.**

**(Left) A few of the new bikes donated by the Columbus Division of Police.**



## SUPPORTING DIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE

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**Councilmember Tyson sponsored a resolution to support National Disability Employment Awareness Month.**

There's an untapped workforce in our community and they want employers to know they are prepared to tackle the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That was the message Administration Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) promoted through her sponsorship of a resolution to raise awareness of the growing number of young professionals with disabilities who are eager to live the American dream and contribute to their community through gainful employment.

"It is important for employers to be educated on the benefits of hiring those with disabilities," said Councilmember Tyson. "Research shows that those with disabilities are dedicated employees who have low rates of absenteeism and turnover. They also add to the diversity of a company and that makes for a stronger workforce."

Tykihah Wright, who has been instrumental in providing students with professional development opportunities through her non-profit organization, Wright Choice Inc., accepted the resolution on behalf of the disabled community and stressed the benefits employers gain by engaging this dynamic sector of the workforce.



**Tykihah Wright, executive director of Wright Choice Inc., was recognized for her contributions in helping those with disabilities acquire the work experience they need to be successful.**

"With the pending shortage of labor in this country, employers need to understand the value that we can bring to the market place," said Wright.

To learn more about how to support Wright's initiatives or to research internship opportunities, visit [www.wrightchoice.org](http://www.wrightchoice.org).

## TAVARES WELCOMES NEW DIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

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**Councilmember Tavares presented a resolution of expression to NADOHE Ohio Chapter committee members.**

The National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), a professional organization of senior and chief diversity officers at colleges and universities, was founded to meet the growing need for leadership to leverage and maximize investments in diversity initiatives. Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) served as the keynote speaker for the installation ceremony of the new Ohio chapter of NADOHE at the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center on the campus of The Ohio State University.

"In order for our institutions of higher learning to attract and retain a diverse student body, we must work proactively to recruit individuals of all backgrounds," said Councilmember Tavares. "As leaders, I know you are up for the charge and you are committed to championing this worthy cause."

An affiliate of the American Council on Education, NADOHE is working to expand research in the area of diversity in post-secondary education.

"Appreciation of culture and diversity is a lifelong learning experience," said Tavares. "We must not limit our understanding of diversity to simply completing a checklist of classes or seminars. Authentic education in this area comes from having a truly diverse student body and providing them with a voice."

For more information about NADOHE or to learn how to become a member, visit [www.nadohe.org](http://www.nadohe.org)

## COUNCIL DEDICATES NEW FIRE STATION IN FRANKLINTON

City officials recently joined community leaders in Franklinton to dedicate the Maurice Gates Memorial and Fire Station 10, a new fire station that will replace Columbus' oldest operating fire station.

"I want to thank the community for their work in helping make this new station a reality," said Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#). "The Columbus Division of Fire is a family built on the foundation of caring men and women who are trained and prepared to put their lives on the line at any given moment."

In addition to representing the tremendous community effort, Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) noted the new station also stands as a shrine to the brave men and women who have given their lives to keep Columbus safe. The community memorial pays tribute to Maurice Gates, a young firefighter from the Franklinton area who was assigned to the old Fire Station 10.

Firefighter Gates died in the line of duty on September 15, 1982 during a warehouse fire at 144 South Glenwood Avenue.

"Station 10 represents more than mere bricks and mortar," said Councilmember Ginther. "It was built on the spirit of sacrifice that Firefighter Gates represents. Firefighter Gates gave his life for our community and that's something we will never forget."



**Councilmember Ginther acknowledged the heroism of Columbus firefighters who put their lives on the line every day to keep Columbus safe.**



**(above) Council President Mentel reflected on the history of Station 10 and the courage of Columbus firefighters.**

**(right) The community paid its respects to Firefighter Maurice Gates at the new Fire Station 10.**



As the city's very first LEED Certified construction project, Station 10 also set a new environmental standard for capital improvement projects.

"While most fire stations are red in color, this one is *green*," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "Buildings meeting LEED standards minimize negative environmental impacts and maximize energy efficiency and sustainability."

The voted bond package supported by Columbus voters in 1995 made the dream of a new Fire Station 10 in historic Franklinton a reality. This year, Columbus citizens once again will have the opportunity to support the construction of future fire stations, along with new fire engines and state-of-the-art equipment when considering the 2008 voted bond package (Issues 14–19).

## **BOYCE DISCUSSES BOND PACKAGE WITH COMMUNITY**

If one wants to hear what Columbus residents really think of their community, all he or she has to do is attend one of the dozens of civic association meetings that take place throughout the city.

President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) met with residents in the Forest Park neighborhood during their recent civic association meeting. Boyce, who chairs the Finance and Zoning committees, talked about a number of issues, including how the 2008 Voted Bond Package will impact the Northland area neighborhood.

“Issues 14-19 allow the City of Columbus to finance needed capital projects at a lower interest rate, saving citizens about \$30 million,” said Boyce. “These projects, such as improved sewers and the purchase of new fire trucks, are at the core of improving the quality of life of our residents.”

Councilmember Boyce also talked about public safety concerns, addressing the need to improve communication between the Columbus Division of Police and Northland area residents.

“The summer strike force is a great example of a program that takes the best officers in Columbus and puts them in areas where they are needed the most,” said Boyce. “I believe the best way to fight crime is to have citizens engage our officers to make community policing a success.”



**President Pro Tem Boyce conveyed how support of Bond Issues 14-19 could help improve the community.**

## **CRAIG HOLDS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MEETING AT NORTH MARKET**



**Councilmember Craig will hold the next Minority and Small Business Development Committee meeting at the North Market.**

A Columbus landmark since 1876, the North Market remains an important part of the everyday lives of local residents and one of the “must see” attractions for visitors to our area.

To better understand the needs of the small businesses that operate in this city-owned facility and all others around Columbus, Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) plans to hold another in a series of meetings to explore the ways City Council can assist small businesses succeed in today’s challenging economy.

“The North Market is a prime example of what can happen when successful business models are applied to serving niche markets,” said

Craig, who will be holding a public meeting with North Market leaders and business owners on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 5:30 PM at the North Market, 59 Spruce Street.

Previous meetings have taken Councilmember Craig to Tech-Columbus as well as the Economic and Community Development Corporation.



**Over one million patrons visit the North Market each year.**