



## **Council Highlights June 18, 2007**

**For more information:**

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**EMERGENCY HELP FOR HEALTH SERVICES AGENCIES:** Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring two ordinances that will provide emergency grants to five Columbus social service agencies. The agencies applied for assistance through the Emergency Human Service Application program.

Ordinance 0940-2007 will provide:

- The Central Ohio Diabetes Association with \$25,000 to continue operations, programming and services at the Near Eastside Healthy Lifestyle Center.
- New Directions Career Center with \$10,000 for rental of a building at 199 Rich Street.

Ordinance 0941-2007 will approve more than \$92,000 from the Emergency Human Services Capital Fund to help three agencies make improvements to their buildings:

- The Breathing Association will receive \$35,950 for capital improvements and alarm systems for the free clinic at 1500 Old Henderson Road.
- Asian American Community Services will receive \$22,824 for renovation and construction costs, and computer equipment for English as a Second Language classes at 4100 North High Street, Suite 301.
- Stonewall Columbus, Inc. will receive \$33,500 for capital improvements and security systems for offices located at 1160 North High Street.

**2008 TAX BUDGET:** President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring resolution 0081x-2007 to adopt the City's 2008 Tax Budget and to authorize the City Auditor to file it with the Franklin, Fairfield and Delaware County Budget Commissions. These steps will allow Columbus to receive "local government funds," which are monies collected by the State of Ohio and distributed via the counties. The Tax Budget also establishes the 2008 property tax rate for Columbus residents. The rate will remain the same and has not increased in over 50 years. The resolution will be tabled one week to permit City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian to hold a public hearing on the Tax Budget during the June 25<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

**WEED AND WASTE ABATEMENT PROGRAM:** Areas with weeds and other yard waste are not only unsightly; they are also a public nuisance. Ordinance 0911-2007 sponsored by Public Service Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) will allow the City to recover costs associated with cleaning and clearing blighted properties. In the assessment period covered by this legislation (November 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007), owners of 277 properties were notified to abate weed and solid waste problems. The properties where violations were not abated were turned over to the Environmental Nuisance Weed and Solid Waste Program for compliance. Abatement was completed

using the services of private contractors. This ordinance allows the City to pass that cost onto the homeowner through their property tax bill.

**NEIGHBORHOOD POLICING CENTERS:** Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) will sponsor ordinances 0898-2007 and 0923-2007 which will allow for the design and construction of two new policing centers. The Far East Neighborhood Policing Center represents the city's latest effort to involve community organizations in helping Columbus Police officers fight crime, while the Moody/Hall Neighborhood Policing Center is a historic collaboration between The Ohio State University and The City of Columbus.

Recently, Councilmember Ginther attended the ground breaking for the Moody/Hall Neighborhood Policing Center. In addition to providing permanent space for Columbus Police officers, the sub-station will also have space for University Police and members of the Community Crime Patrol. The building will also have a Neighborhood Pride Center and meeting rooms for area residents to discuss the issues facing their community.



**TECH CORPS STIPENDS:** Teens participating in a popular program that offers hands-on technological experience will receive stipends through a new community office. Ordinance 0800-2007 sponsored by Administration Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) will move funding for the City Student Tech Corps from COWIC, the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation, to the Columbus Urban League.

City Student TECH CORPS is an innovative program funded by Franklin County Jobs and Family Services. This 16-week program provides computer instruction and software training for close to 100 students, ages 14 to 18. The students are paid \$7.00 an hour during their 30 hour work week.

**STORM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:** The City of Columbus continues to build a modern system to handle storm water. Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0945-2007, which will allow the City Attorney to file paperwork for the appropriation of permanent easements in and to real estate necessary for the Charleston Avenue Storm Water System Improvements Project. Since all other legal options to buy the parcels of property have been exhausted, the ordinance will allow the City to take the property owners to court to obtain the needed portions of their land to begin the project that will build a new storm water sewer system along Charleston Avenue.

**DECLARATION OF *BEAN DINNER DAY*:** Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is sponsoring Resolution 0000x-2007 to declare Saturday, June 23, 2007 as *Bean Dinner Day* in the City of Columbus. The original Bean Dinner harkened back to the traditional gatherings of Civil War veterans who assembled to reminisce and prepare beans and coffee in the style of the army. The contemporary version of the event is celebrating its 26<sup>th</sup> year of sponsorship by the Hilltop Business Association (HBA). HBA President John D. Lowry, HBA Treasurer Gary L. Baker, II, and Historic Hilltop Bean Dinner

Chairman David Slack will receive the resolution and inform Council about the scheduled activities for this year's Bean Dinner.