



**COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for June 23, 2008**

For More Information:
John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING:

Councilmember [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) will hold a special Public Service and Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers.

- At 5:00 PM the committee will accept testimony from Public Service Director Mark Kelsey and City Engineer Randy Bowman regarding potential changes to Columbus bicycle laws as proposed in the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan.
- At 5:30 PM O'Shaughnessy will moderate a public forum led by Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) president and CEO Bill Lhota. Lhota will discuss proposed service improvements, long range transit plans, and how streetcars and light rail would integrate into COTA's future transit improvements.

MORE DOG PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Columbus continues to provide safe and secure dog parks for pet owners and their canine companions. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0951-2008* to provide enhancements to the existing four-acre off-leash area in Big Walnut Park. Funding will be appropriated to build a fence that will create separate play spaces to protect small dogs from larger breeds. The legislation also will provide improvements to the pond area located in the off-leash portion of the park.

** Please note that Councilmember Tyson also has scheduled a hearing on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 6:00 PM to continue public discourse on the implementation of safety cameras at select recreation facilities. **

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION: Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is set to hear from local experts and city officials on strategies to protect victims of domestic violence and help break the unfortunate cycle of family violence. The forum will be held on Wednesday, June 25 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers and will feature a dialogue with members of the Coalition Against Family Violence, and officials from City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer's office and the Columbus Division of Police.

PROVIDING A NEW POLICE FACILITY: Finance Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is introducing *ordinance 1026-2008* along with co-sponsor Andrew J. Ginther to purchase property for the Division of Police's Strategic Response Bureau's permanent new location. After extensive review, City officials have determined that the site located at 1120 Morse Road will meet the current and future space requirements for the bureau, provide sufficient parking, and eliminate the expense of renting privately-owned real estate. The new location is nearly one and a half acres and contains a three-story, 30,000 square foot office building.

****Council President Pro Tem Boyce has scheduled a public hearing on Tuesday, July 1, 2008 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers to offer Columbus residents a forum to provide input on Mayor Coleman's Capital Improvements Plan****

TAVARES RAISING AWARENESS FOR HIV TESTING: Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0125X-2008* in observance of National HIV Testing Day. The goal of National Testing Day is to encourage individuals to take advantage of voluntary HIV counseling, testing and prevention services and to access medical care if they test HIV-positive. The Columbus Regional Advisory Group and the Central Ohio HIV/AIDS Consortium will be hosting community events to recognize the importance of this day.

GINTHER TO PRESENT COUNCIL'S SAFETY AWARDS: As home of the best safety forces in the country, it comes as no surprise that Columbus police officers and fire fighters go above and beyond the call of duty every day. City Council acknowledges the efforts of these brave men and women in uniform with the monthly *Safety Awards*. Tonight, Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) will recognize Columbus Police Officer Joel Vogel and Columbus Fire Battalion Chief Jim Flynn for their outstanding service to the citizens of Columbus.

CELEBRATING COLUMBUS' HERITAGE: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0117X-2008* to declare Saturday, June 28, 2008 as Bean Dinner Day in the city of Columbus. The original Bean Dinner celebration harkened back to the traditional gatherings of Civil War veterans who prepared beans and coffee in the style of the army and reminisced about their experiences. The contemporary version of the Bean Dinner is celebrating its 27th 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 accept the resolution and inform the public about the scheduled activities for this year's event.