



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

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WELCOME

As summer comes to a close, it is once again a great time to do all that we can to ensure a healthy, nurturing and positive environment for our children. Columbus is fortunate to have numerous organizations that contribute to the lives of Central Ohio youth. Many of them recently testified during my Annual August Human Services Briefings and several are featured in this month's newsletter. I encourage Columbus residents to learn about these and other organizations supported by the city that serve residents of all ages, including our youth.

I would also like to thank Columbus voters for supporting Issue 1. As we read in the news of better economic times ahead, remember there are many in our community who continue to struggle with job loss, foreclosure and illnesses. It is important for us all to stay active in the community and lend a helping hand when we are able.

Thank you for giving me the honor to serve and represent your voice on Columbus City Council. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact my office at (614) 645-8580 and speak with my Legislative Aide, James Ragland.



Sincerely,

Charleta B. Tavares

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COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS



Communities In Schools (CIS) is the nation's leading community-based drop-out prevention organization helping kids stay in school and graduate. Operating in nearly 3,000 schools in 28 states, CIS provides access to community services to nearly two million kids every year.

Communities In Schools' dedicated and experienced staff work across the district in Columbus and Whitehall City

Schools to improve academic success and graduation rates.

"Everyday CIS is helping find solutions for the students who need help by developing successful strategies focused on improving low graduation and high dropout rates, school violence and behavior and access to proper health care," said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. "Columbus is fortunate to have such an exemplary organization serving our community and its children and youth."

CIS will host their first annual "Step Up With Kids" 1K Fun Walk/5K Run Saturday morning, September 19, 2009. This Walk/Run will end up at the Riverfront Arts Festival which is running September 18-20 at Genoa Park, in downtown Columbus.

Please visit <http://premieraces.com/2009Races/CommunitiesInSchools5K.html> to register for this important event.



2009 HUMAN SERVICES BRIEFING

Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares held her annual Human Services Briefings on August 17th and 18th in Council Chambers to hear from non-profit organizations that have received funding from the City of Columbus. The testimony will help City Council as they prepare the 2010 General Fund Budget.

Over thirty community organizations, including City Year Columbus, Stonewall Columbus, Firstlink and the YWCA, presented to the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee during the two-evening event. They highlighted the programs that the city helps to fund, challenges and trends in service needs for our community's residents. Nearly all presenters demonstrated how a small investment of public dollars is leveraged with private donations and foundation funding to provide quality services to the people of Columbus. For example, The Godman Guild received \$5,755 in 2009 to support a childcare program they have developed for families participating in their Job Success programs. Wendy Hansan-Smith, a program director with Godman Guild, notes that, "although funding from the City is less than 0.15% of the Guild's budget, it is important because it provides funds for a critical and difficult to fund child care service for short-term classes or that meet less than 30 hours per week for parents to successfully obtain job skills for employment."

As committee chair, Councilmember Tavares was eager to hear about the return on investment for city funds, "I require every organization to outline how they measure post program benefits and am always pleased that a small contribution of public dollars on our end saves so many more tax-payer dollars in the long run." This is highlighted by so many organizations, such as Lifecare Alliance, who uses city funds to help provide Meals-on-Wheels to city residents under the age of 60 who boasts that for every Columbus client they serve, they help save \$55,000 in public assistance funds per client by allowing people to live at home instead of being institutionalized for care. They estimate that the total positive tax impact of their program is more than \$10 million annually!

Organizations also took the opportunity to thank Columbus voters for passing Issue 1, which raised the income tax one-half of one percent. The revenue generated from the increase will allow the city to avoid police officer and fire fighter layoffs, but the non-profit organizations made the argument that the revenue will also contribute to public safety in other ways. This revenue means that Human Services will be spared devastating cuts and the organizations will be able to continue to provide services like childcare, meals, job training, and other services for struggling Columbus individuals and families.

For more information about human services programs funded this year by the city or for information about the 2010 budget process, please visit www.columbus.gov or call (614) 614-8580.



City Year CEO Lourdes Barroso and staff participate in the 2009 Columbus Human Services Briefing.





The City of Columbus is proud to partner with local colleges, and civic and corporate entities, including The Ohio State University, Columbus College of Art & Design (CCAD), Experience Columbus, and Compete Columbus, on the Columbus Student Engagement and Retention initiative. A critical component of the project is the *easyColumbus* website.

The *easyColumbus* website is the culmination of two years of thoughtful research on eleven Columbus college campuses to ensure that our region's students are more connected, informed and engaged personally and professionally with Columbus. *easyColumbus* will launch later in September.

Connecting students personally through discounts, events, and maps that help them experience Columbus will be done both online at www.easyColumbus.com as well as in a printed Student Guide coming out on September 17. The professional connection is a great collaboration with the Columbus Chamber and www.columbusinternships.com connecting students to internships and employers to students.

"Time after time studies have shown that the more involved students are with their adopted 'college home town', the better the chances they will remain residents after graduation," say Councilmember Charleta Tavares. "The contribution the City of Columbus has made to the Columbus Student Engagement and Retention initiative and *easyColumbus* is yet another important investment in our overall effort to attract and retain young talent in Columbus."

The overall goal of the entire initiative is to truly "welcome" the 100,000 plus students in the region – with the result of having them enjoy Columbus so much, that when it comes to job-seeking and accepting their first position after graduation; Columbus will be the preferred location to call home.

For more information on *easyColumbus*, please visit www.easycolumbus.com



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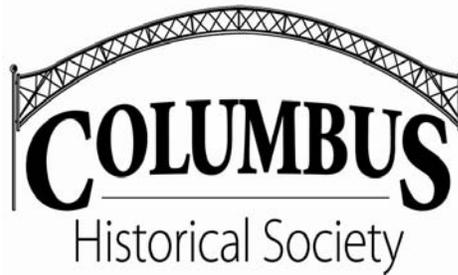
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historical organizations to cross promote activities, education, events, preservation, programs, and publications offered throughout the community.

The Society provides outstanding free public programs, off-site exhibits, publications, elementary and adult education, and its signature summer bus tour series. The Society collects Columbus and Central Ohio historic artifacts and documents the stories of people, places and events in our unique history. Heritage Tourism is now a primary focus for the Society which both delivers direct consumer and education services, and promotes events with other like-minded organizations.



"Keeping the past alive for both today's youth and future generations is very important," said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. "As a new Councilmember in the early part of this decade, I was impressed by the excellent work and dedicated and passionate members promoting our City's history and pioneering people and sponsored legislation to support their educational programming for our children and community. Their efforts have helped us to learn the outstanding contributions of our forefathers/mothers and the events that shaped our city."

As Columbus approaches its bicentennial year in 2012, the Society will serve as a focal point for the collection and dissemination of Columbus history. Projects include a permanent exhibit space, publications, web-based and print educational information, and increased community outreach. In addition, the Society plans research projects to coincide with the bicentennial.

Upcoming events include an exploration into the life and magic of Richard Potter, the first truly successful American magician. To do so, the Columbus Historical Society has invited Robert Olson to present a program and performance on Thursday, September 3rd. Olson, from Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, has spent the past 30 years studying and recreating Potter's magic. Olson's program includes the history of magic and the life of Potter. He will also perform some of Potter's magic effects, as done in the 1820s. Seating is limited and tickets can be purchased by visiting www.columbushistory.org.

The City of Columbus is proud to support such an important organization. Learn how you can help make a difference in Central Ohio, and help preserve its artifacts and stories for future generations. Visit www.columbushistory.org for more information.

To receive the **Tavares Times News** directly by ground mail or e-mail call (614) 645-8580 or email jcragland@columbus.gov.