



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

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WELCOME

As the holiday season quickly approaches, it is customary to think of those who are less fortunate among us and how we can ensure that they are able to receive needed services. We should remind ourselves that hunger and homelessness are year-round problems. One of the nationally recognized organizations in our community addressing the long-term challenge of ending homelessness is the Community Shelter Board (CSB). CSB is committed to addressing all issues around homelessness in the Columbus and Franklin county area.

CSB is a great example of a public-private partnership organization that has literally helped hundreds of families and single adults move from homelessness to supportive housing. In this issue we highlight CSB, and several other groups addressing the housing and homelessness issue. I hope you will support them during this and all seasons.

I would also like to take this time to encourage all residents to get their annual seasonal flu shot and H1N1 flu vaccination. If you have questions about these, or any city-related issue, please contact my office by calling (614) 645-8580.



Sincerely,
Charleta B. Tavares

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H1N1 AND MINORITY HEALTH

On Thursday, October 22nd, Councilmember Charleta Tavares joined Mayor Michael Coleman, Columbus Public Health Assistant Health Commissioner and Medical Director Dr. Mysheika LeMaile-Williams, and nearly a dozen other minority physicians from central Ohio to encourage minority residents in the priority groups to get their H1N1 vaccinations.

Initial reports show that minorities are four times more likely to be hospitalized from H1N1 complications. Additionally, minority residents are nearly three times more likely to lack access to care.

“As we enter into flu season, it is important that we do all that is possible to combat the spread of H1N1 and the seasonal flu, said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. We need to work to eliminate health disparities among racial and ethnic communities by using trusted messengers to encourage these at-risks groups to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families and the overall Columbus community.”

In line with Centers for Disease Control guidance, H1N1 vaccines are initially targeted to high risk priority groups and their close contacts, including pregnant women; caregivers of children less than 6-months-old; healthcare and EMS workers; and, children 6 months to 24-years-old. As H1N1 vaccine supplies increase, other priority groups – and eventually, everyone who wants one – will be able to get one.

Columbus Public Health continues to track flu illnesses in order to take necessary steps to prevent and control the spread of H1N1 and seasonal influenza. Call 211, or visit CPH at Columbus Flu Info on Facebook and Twitter or their Web site at columbuspandemicflu.org or publichealth.columbus.gov for frequently updated H1N1 information.



Councilmember Tavares speaks at the recent minority health event.

STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN COLUMBUS

Health, Housing & Human Services Briefing on Homelessness

On Wednesday, October 7, the Community Shelter Board (CSB) led a briefing for City Council's Health, Housing & Human Services Committee to demonstrate the value of the City's investment in our community's work to end homelessness. The content of the briefing focused on 2009 system progress, an update on planning for the Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), and the annual state of homelessness. CSB Executive Director Barbara Poppe began the briefing by providing an overview of homeless services and highlights of what is new.

Several representatives from CSB-funded agencies as well as a representative from the United Way of Central Ohio also participated in the briefing. To highlight efforts to improve the family system, Molly Rampe of the YWCA Columbus gave an overview of the progress on collaborative planning to date. Stephanie Jordan-Smith of Volunteers of America of Greater Ohio outlined the process of converting Tier II Shelters to rolling stock and highlighted the success one client experienced as a result of the new model which has reduced the number of times a family has to move in transition from the YWCA Family Center to permanent housing. Beth Fetzer-Rice of The Salvation Army outlined the planned activities for the new Job2Housing program which is one of twenty-three programs awarded funding in 2008 through a highly competitive Rapid Re-Housing Demonstration program included in the HUD Continuum of Care competition.



YWCA Family Center

Caroline Holmes of the YWCA Columbus shared the success of Access to Benefits, a strategy from the new Rebuilding Lives 2 plan which calls for increased access to benefits and income which aims to provide immediate and systematic access to mainstream benefits and services for persons who are homeless and served by the homeless service system. Dave Davis of CSB outlined the Unified Supportive Housing System, another strategy from the new Rebuilding Lives plan which focuses on the development of a unified system for permanent supportive housing which includes centralized eligibility determination and placement, periodic review of tenant needs, and "move up" incentives to encourage tenants to be more independent.

Tiffany Nobles, also from CSB, provided an overview of the planning progress for HPRP and the activities planned for the allocated funding from the City of Columbus, Franklin County and the State of Ohio. After the HPRP overview, highlights were shared on three specific HPRP activities – coordinated emergency aid, homelessness prevention for mental health populations (ADAMH prevention program) and adult system improvement through the development of a centralized point of access and rapid re-housing program. Joe McKinley of United Way of Central Ohio, Anthony Penn of Community Housing Network and James Alexander of The Engagement Center at Maryhaven presented respectively.

The briefing concluded with a closing by Barbara Poppe which included a special announcement that Columbus' homeless services programs as well as several other communities across the nation were featured in the October issue of Ebony Magazine.

More information about the Community Shelter Board and its programs can be found at www.csb.org.

NEW APPOINTMENT FOR LOCAL LEADER



After 14 years at the helm of the Community Shelter Board (CSB), Barbara Poppe will be leaving that position to become the Executive Director for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. This national council coordinates federal agencies' response to homelessness and collaborates with state and local governments. She will be responsible for implementing President Obama's homelessness policies.

"Barb will take her experience as an innovator in homeless services to the highest level of government," said CSB Board of Trustee Chair, Elfi Di Bella. "Her work in our nation's capital will benefit people who experience homelessness in communities like Columbus and Franklin County as the result of greater collaboration between Washington and local communities. Federal solutions to ending homelessness will be based on some of the best practices that we pioneered here in Columbus."

Poppe has been credited for the innovative programs and collaborative partnerships that have helped families avoid homelessness, increased the number of people who exit shelter to stable housing, and created supportive housing that ends long-term homelessness.

"While Barb's spirit and skill will be missed at the Columbus Shelter Board, the entire country gains a tremendous advocate for the plight of homelessness," said Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares. My Council colleagues and I, wish her much success in her new position. We have lost her presence locally however, we have gained a friend and national recognition with her appointment and accomplishments."

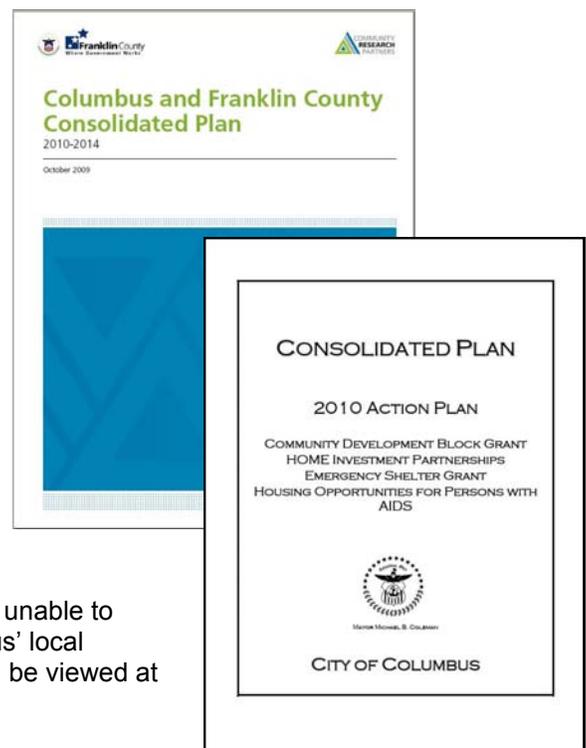
The Community Shelter Board has announced the formation of a search committee to hire a new executive director. Mark Russell, vice chair of CSB's Board of Trustees and vice president and chief administrative officer with Grange Insurance, will lead the 7-member search committee. Please visit www.csb.org for more information.

2010-2014 COLUMBUS CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and 2010 Action Plan were recently drafted and are available for public review. These plans focus on how the City intends to spend the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) federal program funding. The Consolidated and Action Plans represents a continuing commitment to provide quality housing and expanded economic opportunities for the Columbus community, and are a requirement of the federal office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Details of the 2010 Action Plan and budget were presented at an October 21st public hearing hosted by Health, Housing and Human Services Chair Charleta B. Tavares. To read the 2010-2014 Proposed Consolidated Plan, Executive Summary, and the corresponding 2010 Action Plan, please visit www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tavares.

Comments on the plan are encouraged and may be sent to jcragland@columbus.gov or by calling (614) 645-8580. If you were unable to attend the hearing, you can view a rebroadcast on GTC3, Columbus' local government cable channel. A complete programming schedule can be viewed at columbus.gov/tv





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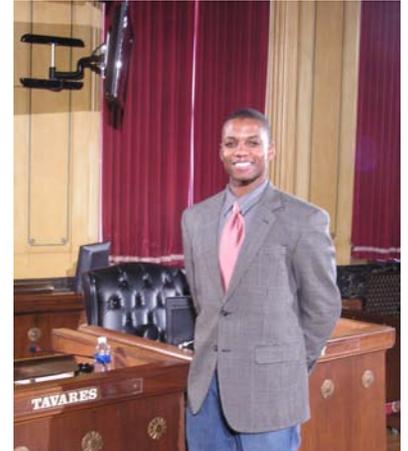
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INTERN CHAZ LOGAN JOINS TAVARES OFFICE

Chaz Logan recently joined the office of Councilmember Charleta Tavares as a student intern. This position is funded through the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation. He is currently attending The Ohio State University studying Civil Engineering. After graduation, Chaz plans to pursue environmental law.



“I have a passion for justice and equality, in pursuing environmental law. I sense that more avenues will be available for me to have a greater positive impact on the lives of others who are less fortunate than myself,” said Chaz. “I feel that in order to truly deem oneself a success, one has to first help another reach to fulfill their own potential.”

Chaz is using his talents to assist Councilmember Tavares’ Legislative Aide James Ragland in managing the day-to-day operations of the office and constituent relations.

“As chair of Council’s Workforce Development Committee, I feel it is important to provide professional opportunities for our City’s young adults,” said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. I’m happy and proud to have Mr. Logan representing my office in such a positive way.”

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

PARTNERING TO PREVENT TRUANCY IN COLUMBUS: Ordinance 1300-2009 sponsored by Health and Human Services Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares authorizes the acceptance of \$100,000 grant from the Columbus Board of Education for the support of a truancy prevention and intervention program. The funds will be used to create a community-based program that seeks to reduce truancy through education, case management and other interventions with the YMCA of Central Ohio. The program meets the Senate Bill 181 mandate to provide truancy intervention for habitual and chronic truants. Columbus City Schools will be responsible for educating the school system and the community about the program, Columbus Police Officers will transport truant students to the designated truancy centers and the Department of Development’s Neighborhood Services staff will serve as the fiduciary during the contract period.

TAVARES DEDICATED TO HELP PREVENT H1N1: The Columbus Board of Health continues to work with federal, state, county and other partners and local agencies to protect residents during the current H1N1 pandemic. Some 5,000 healthcare workers and emergency medical personnel that provide direct patient care, pregnant women and caregivers of babies younger than 6 month have been vaccinated in the last few days. Ordinance 1420-2009, sponsored by Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares, authorizes the Board of Health to spend \$279,149 from the Health Department Grants Fund and enter into various contracts to staff and operate H1N1 vaccination clinics and efforts here in Columbus.

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