



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

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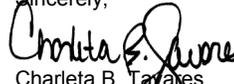
WELCOME

On December 15 and 16 of 2009, I hosted my annual Health, Human Services, Housing and Workforce Development Budget Hearings at City Hall. During the hearings, my Council colleagues and I had the opportunity to hear first-hand the successes and struggles of over forty city-supported agencies. The resounding message heard from the organizations was that while community need is at an all-time high, due to the struggling economy and chronic unemployment the resources available to address the need is stagnant. As we welcome in a new year, let us all recommit ourselves to helping those agencies that do so much for so many of our families, neighbors and friends.

As Council continues to work diligently to ensure that your tax-dollars are spent responsibly and receive a solid return on investment, know that I will strive to make sure that programs overseen by my committees – Health, Housing, and Human Services and Workforce Development – continue to deliver the best and most effective services for all of our residents.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact my legislative aide, James Ragland, at (614) 645-8580 or jcragland@columbus.gov. Have a safe and prosperous 2010.



Sincerely,

 Charleta B. Tavares

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JOB LEADERS



Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation

Recently Columbus City Council passed legislation that authorizes the Mayor of the City of Columbus to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Central Ohio One-Stop Delivery System, or more commonly referred to as the JOBLEaders Career Center.

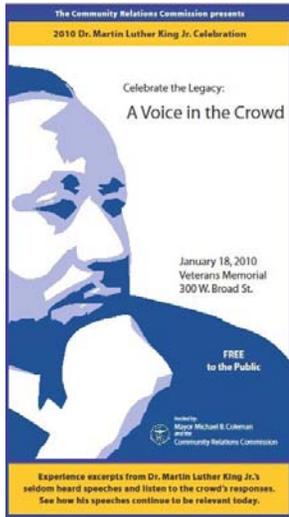
The MOU is designed to provide an effective foundation for the operation of the JOBLEaders Career Center and to define the relationship between the partners in their roles and responsibilities relative to workforce services. The MOU is

between the Mayor of the City of Columbus, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Board (COWIC), and The JOBLEaders Career Center Partners. This new MOU will be for a period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

“As chair of Council’s Workforce Development Committee, I consider the services offered to the community by the JOBLEaders Career Center to be paramount,” said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. “Ensuring seamless delivery of these services, especially during these economically challenging times, is critical.”

This legislation also authorizes the appropriation and expenditure of \$33,939 from the Neighborhood Economic Development Fund to the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation for the City of Columbus’ contribution to the JOBLEaders Career Center. Visit www.cowicjobleaders.org for more information on the many services provided.

2010 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION EVENTS



The public is invited and encouraged to attend the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration hosted by the Columbus Community Relations Commission. Admission is free.

January 18, 2010 Event Schedule

4:00 pm; **Commemorative March**; Meet at the Columbus City Hall parking garage for the annual march across the Broad Street Bridge. This event echoes Dr. King’s march for voting rights across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

4:45 pm; **March Step Off**

5:00 pm; **Doors Open**; Seating for the main stage in Veteran’s Memorial Hall begins.

5:45 pm; **Student MLK Oratorical**; Presentation of the winning student’s speech.

If you are unable to attend in person, tune in to GTC3 (cable channel 3) for a live broadcast at 6:00 pm, featuring the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Children’s Choir, Ballet Met, local actors & entertainers.

For more information or free tickets, call (614) 645-1993.

NBC-LEO ELECTS OFFICERS

SADIRA DAHER-NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) elected a new Board of Directors at this year’s Congress of Cities in San Antonio. In addition to the newly elected President, Audwin Samuel, NBC-LEO’s new officers are: Charleta B. Tavares, councilmember, Columbus, Ohio, president-elect; Michael Johnson, councilmember, Phoenix, first vice president; Deborah Denard Delgado, councilmember, Hattiesburg, Miss., second vice president; James Walls, mayor, District Heights, Md., treasurer; Charles Blango, alderman, New Haven, Conn., assistant treasurer; Louvenia Mathison, councilmember, Berkeley, Mo., secretary; Lavonta Williams, councilmember, Wichita, Kan., assistant secretary; Joe Davis, alderman, Milwaukee, parliamentarian; Barbara Swearngen Ware, councilwoman, Memphis, Tenn., chaplain; Deborah A. Hill, councilwoman, Warrensville Heights, Ohio, historian, and Daisy Lynum, immediate past president.

“It will be a true honor to serve NBC-LEO in my role as president-elect,” said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. “The impact of NBC-LEO can be felt in local governments throughout the United States. One of my goals is to increase the influence of the organization through increased membership and participation in the National League of Cities and NBC-LEO.”

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) was created in 1970 to represent the interests of African American elected officials. NBC-LEO’s objectives include increasing African American participation on the NLC’s steering and policy committees to ensure that policy and program recommendations reflect African American concerns and benefit their communities.

The organization also works independently with its members to inform them on issues affecting the African American community and helps to devise ways to achieve their community objectives through legislation and direct action. NBC-LEO conducts its annual meetings in conjunction with NLC’s Congress of Cities and the Congressional City Conference.



back row: Ivy Taylor, Councilmember, San Antonio, Texas; Joy Clarke-Holmes, Johnson Controls; Terry M. Riley, councilmember, Kansas City, MO; Preston Lee, Jr., senior director, Corporate Relations and Housing Outreach, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac); Louvenia Mathison, councilmember, East Orange, NJ; Robert G. Raynor, Jr., Alderman, New Bern, North Carolina; Barbara Swearngen Ware, councilmember, Memphis, TN; Laraine Davis, vice president, Government & Industry Relations, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
front row: Michael Johnson, councilmember, Phoenix, AZ; E.W. Cromartie, II, councilmember, Columbia, SC; Audwin Samuel, Mayor Pro Tem, Beaumont, TX; Dr. Frederick Humphries, Regent Professor at Florida A&M University and former president of National Association for Equal Opportunity (NAFEO), Florida A&M, and Tennessee State Universities; Daisy W. Lynum, commissioner, Orlando, FL; Charleta Tavares, councilmember, Columbus, OH.

COLUMBUS LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (CLIP)

The Columbus Legislative Internship Program (CLIP), conceived and sponsored by Councilmember Charleta Tavares, provided a paid internship for four graduate students from the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at City Hall offices. The CLIP partnered with The Ohio State University to provide interns with a tuition paid Master's in Public Administration from the John Glenn School while participating in on-the-job learning at City Council. The interns assisted in policy research, constituent services, speech writing, monitoring and attending standing committee meetings, and drafting legislation. The program was later expanded to include an unpaid high school intern.

"This program is tremendously valuable for students who want a hands-on experience while attending school," said program champion Councilmember Tavares. "The CLIP partnership provided a place for the public servants of tomorrow to learn the skills they need to succeed as policymakers and administrators for the city of Columbus and other public, not-for-profit and private entities. Since the program was initiated, our interns have gone on to use their skills here in Columbus to further their public service and nonprofit careers."

Periodic updates on our former City Council interns will be included in the *Tavares Times News* in the coming year. This month, we take a look at where former CLIP interns Likun Cao and Eric Russell are after graduating from The Ohio State University in 2008 with the Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree.

FORMER CLIP INTERN, LIKUN CAO



Likun Cao is currently working with the Office of Human Resources Management as a Staff Development Assistant at the United Nations Headquarters, located in New York City. He began his career with the U.N. as an intern and was hired on permanently in May 2009. Likun is responsible for organizing some of the training programs for the more than 14,000 worldwide U.N. employees and serves as the first contact for over 7,000 U.N. and permanent mission employees to enroll in language courses and ethics training programs. Likun, originally from China, enjoys meeting people from all over the world and the opportunity to learn new things everyday while working for the United Nations.

Likun, who came to Ohio State as an international student, considers Columbus his hometown in the States. He is always proud to say "I'm from Columbus!" He has returned to visit several times since moving to New York. Likun says, "Columbus might not be as international as New York (yet) but it has a lot of hospitality, comfort and beauty to offer."

FORMER CLIP INTERN, ERIC RUSSELL

Eric is currently working for Crowe Horwath LLP, the eighth largest public accounting and consulting firm in the United States, as a public sector consultant in the Performance Services – Government Division. Despite having grown up in Tennessee and attending undergraduate school in Florida, Eric remained in Ohio to work in Crowe's 200-person downtown Columbus office. He works primarily on initiatives and projects within the health and human services, justice and public safety industries.



In addition to maintaining a demanding career, Eric continues to be involved with the community and wants to give back to Columbus. He currently holds a position on the Kaleidoscope Youth Center's Board of Directors, and dedicates time as requested to speak with students at the Ohio State University.

Eric has made Columbus home and enjoys cheering on OSU athletics, attending concerts and games for the Columbus Clippers, Blue Jackets, and Crew, eating at the many unique restaurants in the Short North and German Village areas, and playing tennis as often as the Central Ohio weather allows.



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

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**NATIONAL COALITION OF 100 BLACK WOMEN
—COLUMBUS CHAPTER CELEBRATES LEADER**

Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares recently participated in an event honoring National Coalition of 100 Black Women (NCBW) President M. DeLois Strum. Tavares, a founding member and former Vice President of the Columbus Chapter of NCBW, was honored to participate in the event that highlighted the achievements of President Strum.



(l to r) Deborah Miles, Mary Harden, Toni Robinson, NCBW President DeLois Strum, Councilmember Charleta Tavares, Greta Russell, Iris Cooper, Doreen Gentry-Davis and Linda Thomas.

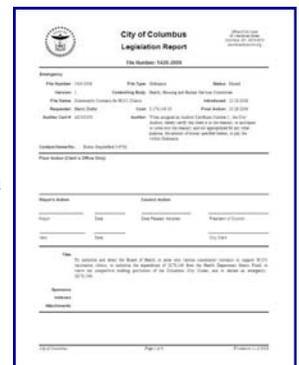
“The network of NCBW chapters throughout the US provides an important forum for women of color entrepreneurs and professionals,” said Charleta Tavares. “Under the leadership of President M. DeLois Strum—the network has grown stronger.”

NCBW was established in 1981 and currently consists of 62 chapters in 26 cities and the District of Columbia. Its mission is to advocate on behalf of women of color through national and local actions and strategic alliances that promote agendas on leadership development and gender equity in health, education and economic development. NCBW is an organization of progressive women of African descent whose voice and force for gender equity and sociopolitical advancement drive meaningful change to benefit women of color.

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

PROMOTING LEAD SAFE HOMES IN COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOODS: Lead-based hazards can still be found in many Columbus homes. Through local and state grant funding, the Lead Safe Columbus program offers resources to remove hazardous lead-based materials for eligible property owners. Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares sponsored ordinance 1522-2009, which authorizes the expenditure of \$83,000 from the Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration grant fund for media campaigns to inform qualified Columbus residents about the program and promote educational activities about healthy housing principles and neighborhood revitalization efforts. The program demonstrates the city’s commitment to generating lead-safe affordable housing and the prevention of lead poisoning in children and adults.

REVITALIZING NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGH THE HOME AGAIN PROGRAM: The Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and preserving quality affordable housing for families in need. The organization participates in the Home Again program to address blight through the acquisition and rehabilitation of vacant houses, which will increase the supply of safe, affordable housing and enhance neighborhood revitalization efforts. Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares sponsored ordinance 1668-2009, which authorizes the expenditure of \$168,880.64 from the Land Management Fund for the program. The city is working with the Housing Trust in addressing vacant homes in Franklinton and other designated model zone areas.



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