



## COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

# TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

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### WELCOME

Greetings, and happy spring.

In this month's edition you will find information on many important topics—one of the most critical is the 2010 U.S. Census. Once every decade, citizens have the responsibility and opportunity to be counted. Data derived from this undertaking is used for many important purposes, including the allocation of federal, state and local funds and services. More information on the 2010 Census is available on page three.

Spring is also the time to recognize two important designations; March as Women's History Month and April as National Minority Health Month. As Chair of Council's Health and Human Development Committee, helping to improve the health status and employment opportunities of minorities and women has always been a serious concern and responsibility for me. Information on these two important initiatives can be found on page one and two, respectively.

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call (614) 645-8580 to speak with me or my Legislative Aide, James Ragland or by email at [jcragland@columbus.gov](mailto:jcragland@columbus.gov). Have a great spring.



Sincerely,  
*Charleta B. Tavares*  
Charleta B. Tavares

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## MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

**April is Minority Health Month**  
See what the Columbus Office of Minority Health is doing to celebrate...

**RAAP (Raising African American Potential) African American Family Summit**  
Theme: "Strengthening the African American Family"  
Goal: Developing ways to educate for empowering African American families through community building in the areas of:  
**Health:** Understanding the meaning of healthy family by focusing on ways to help the African American community move toward better health.  
**Mental Health:** Discussing barriers to mental health and strategies for increasing ethnic and cultural awareness of mental health professionals.  
**Education:** Looking at how the education of the African American child may be perceived as a partnership between parents, school teachers, administrators, and the community.

**April 14, 2010, 11am to 1pm**  
Columbus Public Health (Burlington)  
240 Parsons Ave  
Columbus, OH  
RSVP: Call Ryan at 645-7333

**Consumer Empowerment Training**  
Improve your health status with you. The workshop gives you the tools through a workbook to control your health. Your instructor will guide you:  
- Identifying your health needs.  
- Preparing for healthcare visits.  
- Communicating confidently with your healthcare provider (asking questions and providing information).  
- Understanding how to be a full partner in your healthcare.  
- Following your treatment plans.  
Workshops are free and held at various locations around Columbus like libraries, senior housing centers, churches, and recreation centers.

**April 3, 2010, 10am to 12pm**  
Love 200 Baptist Church  
124 Madison Ave  
Columbus, OH

**April 17, 2010, 11am to 1pm**  
Columbus Public Health (Austintown)  
240 Parsons Ave  
Columbus, OH

**Men's Health Training**  
The Columbus Office of Minority Health Men's Health workshop is designed to engage men in dialogue about the importance of taking personal responsibility for their health and well-being. The workshop provides resources to help men make a difference in their encounters with healthcare professionals and local health outcomes.

**April 8, 2010, 9am to 11am**  
Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corp (COWIC)  
1100 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH

**April 24, 2010, 10am to 12noon**  
Columbus State Community College  
500 E. Spring St. Columbus, OH

**Columbus Public Health**  
For more information, call Ryan Johnson at 614-645-7333 or visit our website: [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov)

In an effort to help eliminate disparities and improve the health status of minority populations, April has been designated as National Minority Health Month (NMHM). The Columbus Office of Minority Health has scheduled a number of events throughout the month to celebrate this important campaign to improve health education, promote disease prevention and to eliminate health disparities.

Established in 2000, the overall goals of the Columbus Office of Minority Health are to monitor and report the health status of minority populations; inform, educate, and empower people; mobilize community partnerships and actions; and develop policies and plans to support health efforts.

"Racial and ethnic minority populations face substantial cultural, social, and economic barriers to obtaining access to adequate and competent health care," said Councilmember Charleta Tavares. "Ensuring the best, most up-to-date information is available to the Columbus minority community is a big step in reducing this disparity."

NMHM is an inclusive initiative that will address the health needs of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian people.

For a full list of local National Minority Health Month events, please visit [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov)

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH "HERSTORY"



During the 1960's and 70's, a growing number of women felt that history taught in schools—especially in grade school and high school—ignored many of the important societal, cultural and economic contributions of women in the United States and throughout the world. Requests to include African-American and Native-American figures in history lessons reinforced the fact that women were still invisible in traditional history courses.



In response, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma (California) County Commission on the Status of Women began a "Women's History Week" celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8. The school district celebrated by recognizing women's contributions to culture, history and society beginning in 1979. The idea quickly caught on within communities, schools and organizations across the country, including Columbus. In 1981, Congress made the celebration official, passing a resolution establishing Women's History Week. Six years later, in 1987, the event was expanded into the entire month of March. And today, local governments and schools all across the country reaffirm the importance of Women's History every March.

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT — MARY HARRIS (MOTHER) JONES

According to West Virginia District Attorney Reese Blizzard, Mother Jones was "the most dangerous woman in America." According to Clarence Darrow, she was "one of the most forceful and picturesque figures of the American labor movement." Sixty-five years after her death, her name is still part of current culture, as the title of a current magazine.

While Mary Harris claimed 1830 as her birth year, researchers suggest that it was more likely 1837, in County Cork, Ireland. Her family immigrated to Toronto, Canada, when she was a child. She trained to be a teacher at Toronto Normal School from 1858-1859, and worked briefly as a teacher and as a dressmaker. In 1861, Mary Harris married George Jones, an iron molder and union organizer, in Memphis, Tennessee. The couple had four children - but all four children, and Mary's husband, died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1867. Mary Jones returned to Chicago, where she worked as a dressmaker until her shop was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871.

During the next few years, "Mother" Jones became increasingly active in the union movement. Her life is in some ways a history of the labor movement in the United States. A brief sampling of her activities reports her involved in the rail strike of 1877, in Pittsburgh and elsewhere; organizing the coal fields of Pennsylvania in 1899; at the founding convention of the IWW in 1905; visiting rebel Mexico in 1911; being arrested at Homestead in 1919; and working with dressmakers in Chicago in 1924.

Mother Jones has a notable place in American history. Her work as a union organizer and orator and her influence on the making of history have had more lasting significance than her writing. However, *The Autobiography of Mother Jones* which she partly wrote and partly dictated clearly illustrates the power of both her voice and her convictions. Written in a natural, colloquial style, it paints a forceful picture of the working conditions and people of the mining camps, railroad towns, and textile industry with which she worked.

Women's History Month ensures that we never forget the tenacity and courage of Mother Jones, a leader in worker's rights and champion of women across the country. To receive a compilation of the women Councilmember Tavares highlighted for educational purposes or the contributions of African Americans during Black History Month, contact her office and request the Women's and/or Black History Month 2010 brochure.

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/jones/MotherJones.html>







## COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

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The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit available to low- and moderate-income families. The EITC has been credited with lifting more children out of poverty than any other single program.

You can only get the EITC if you file your taxes or have someone file them for you. The Franklin County EITC Coalition has free tax preparation sites throughout the community. Trained, professional volunteers at these sites will prepare your taxes at no cost to you. To find a free tax site near you, call 2-1-1. Some of the sites are open during regular business hours, others in the evenings, and several on the weekends.

Unfortunately, millions of tax credit dollars are not claimed by taxpayers each year. The Earned Income Tax Credit is one example of an unclaimed refund. By getting your taxes prepared free with the Franklin County EITC Coalition, certified volunteer tax preparers will help you to file for all tax credits for which you qualify.

Councilmember Charleta Tavares, a founding member of the coalition, reminds residents, "If you have earned up to \$48,000 last year, you are eligible for free tax preparation services when you call 2-1-1. But call today, because appointment times are limited."

Calling 2-1-1 will connect you with a FirstLink operator. As a part of the Hands on Network, the operator will refer you to a free tax preparation site that is convenient for you. For more information, visit [keepitsaveit.org](http://keepitsaveit.org).

## LEGISLATIVE WATCH

**MAKING HOMES SAFER:** Housing Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares sponsored two ordinances intended to help improve the safety and quality of homes in Columbus neighborhoods. Ordinance 0392-2010 authorizes the City to enter into contracts with various non-profit organizations to support the operation of the Chores Program, which provides minor home maintenance and repair services to low/moderate-income elderly and disabled homeowners and occupants. The total amount of these contracts is \$150,000 and is funded through the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund. Examples of program services include replacement or repair of leaking faucets, faulty light fixtures and switches, as well as the installation of handrails, smoke detectors and deadbolt locks. A second ordinance, 0395-2010, allows the City to use \$175,000 from the General Government Grant Fund for lead removal in Columbus homes. Lead Safe Columbus provides grants to qualified property owners, allowing them to remove lead-based hazards.

**WEATHERIZING HOMES TO REDUCE ASTHMA AND OTHER HEALTH HAZARDS:** The Columbus Healthy Homes Project (CHHP) was funded through grant monies from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control. The project works with IMPACT Community Action to provide physical intervention and weatherization services in Columbus homes most at risk for asthma triggers and injury hazards. Housing Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares is sponsored ordinance 0321-2010, which authorizes the expenditure of \$110,000 from the Health Department Grant Fund for the continued partnership with IMPACT Community Action for the period of April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011. The program works with families to eliminate certain triggers that cause asthma attacks by providing free supplies, in-home education and support, minor home repairs, home insulation services, furnace maintenance and repair, and professional pest management.

**The April 21 HHHH Committee meeting will feature a Public Hearing on the Proposed Vacant and Abandoned Housing legislation. For an updated draft of this legislation, please call 614-645-8580 or email [jcragland@columbus.gov](mailto:jcragland@columbus.gov)**