



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

TAVARES TIMES NEWS

From the Office of Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

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WELCOME

It is autumn, the time of year when Columbus residents begin to prepare for the upcoming winter months. With that in mind, I have decided to include information on several City-supported agencies and initiatives that help young and old alike meet daily and unplanned shelter needs. Whether it be offering runaway youth a temporary place to stay before returning home, or a senior seeking a comfortable, accessible home to meet their changing needs, Columbus is fortunate to have a number of highly-regarded and -qualified service providers and programs. Several of these are highlighted on the following pages.

Columbus was also honored to be the later-life home of one of the "Little Rock Nine," a group that became a part of U.S. history during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. Read about Mr. Jefferson Thomas' life and contributions on page two.

As always, if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my legislative aide, James Ragland, at (614) 645-8580. We can also be reached by email at jragland@columbus.gov.

Have a great, safe and healthy autumn.



Sincerely,
Charleta B. Tavares
Charleta B. Tavares

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ NORTH CENTRAL VILLAGE SENIOR APARTMENT HOMES 2
- ◆ HONORING JEFFERSON THOMAS
- ◆ HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS, HEALTHY FAMILIES (HNHF) INITIATIVE 3
- ◆ COLUMBUS LITERACY COUNCIL
- ◆ UPCOMING HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND HOUSING COMMITTEE HEARINGS 4
- ◆ LEGISLATIVE WATCH

HUCKLEBERRY HOUSE



Huckleberry House provides a safe haven for teens in crisis. As the primary provider of shelter and services to runaway and homeless youth in Franklin County since 1970, the organization is the only participating member of the Community Shelter Board representing youth.

"It's critical that our teens know they have a safe alternative to the streets. And very often, Huck House is the only agency capable of reaching our most in-need youth," said Huck House Executive Director Becky Westerfelt.

Huck House also aims to educate the community about the issues that impact teens. They empower teens to speak up for themselves and serve as leaders for their peers. Huck House also fosters greater community understanding on issues that cause teens to run away and the importance of preventing their flights.

"The services and support provided to teens by Huckleberry House are critical, states Councilmember Charleta Tavares. Their dedication to providing youth with safe and secure temporary housing, and ultimately reunification with family is priceless. The City of Columbus is proud to be a partner with such a well-respected organization."

For more information on Huckleberry House and to find out how you can help, please call (614) 294-8097 or visit www.huckhouse.org.

NORTH CENTRAL VILLAGE SENIOR APARTMENT HOMES

In mid-September, Councilwoman Tavares welcomed the new residents of the North Central Village Senior Apartment Homes on the City's north side. These apartments address a serious need for senior housing within the City of Columbus and have updated features that have allowed it to be near capacity at the Grand Opening.

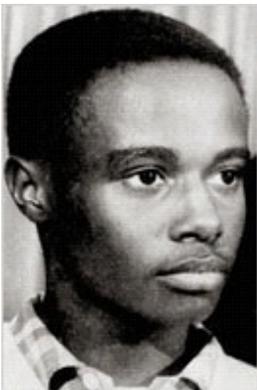
The property will have 74 two-bedroom cottage-style single-story apartment homes for seniors 55 and over, each with fully-equipped kitchen with stove, dishwasher, refrigerator and disposal; washer and dryer connections; clubhouse with kitchenette; community room with cathedral ceiling and fireplace; resident computer center with internet access; laundry facility; and planned activities and social events.

MiraCit Development Corp. Inc was the lead developer on this project with help from a host of community partners.

Councilwoman Tavares states, "As our senior population increases in Columbus and around the country, projects like this become more important to our communities. I am proud of the effort of Bishop Posey with MiraCit and its partners to develop such high quality senior housing and I look forward to many more communities such as this throughout Central Ohio."



HONORING JEFFERSON THOMAS



Jefferson Thomas as a teen in Arkansas

Jefferson Thomas, who gained his place in history as one of the Little Rock Nine by testing the federal government's resolve to enforce school desegregation, died in Columbus last month. Mr. Thomas volunteered to test the U.S. Supreme Court order that segregation in American public schools was illegal. He wanted to attend Little Rock, Arkansas' Central High for a better education than the one available at the local all-black school, which had second-rate facilities and hand-me-down equipment. Central, by contrast, had science laboratories, modern textbooks and an impressive record of college placements.

Mr. Thomas and the other eight students were subjected to daily violence, and Governor Faubus even closed all high schools in Little Rock the following school year to prevent blacks and whites from attending school together. Thomas continued his education by taking correspondence courses and attending classes at a local community college until Central reopened and he could resume his high school classes. He went on to earn a degree in business administration from what became California State University in Los Angeles, prior to serving in the Army during the Vietnam War. In addition to his scholastic achievements, in 1964, Thomas narrated "Nine From Little Rock," the Academy Award-

winning documentary short directed by Charles Guggenheim that explored the incident from Mr. Thomas' perspective.

After over twenty-seven years as a civil servant, Thomas retired in 2004, from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Columbus, where he had made a home with his wife Mary. He served as a volunteer mentor in the Village to Child Program with Ohio Dominican University, where he also received his Honorary Degree, "Doctor of Humane Letters", in 2001, for his life-long efforts in human rights and equality advancement.

Columbus City Council honored the life and contributions of Thomas with a resolution of expression offering condolences to his family. Councilmember Charleta Tavares joined sponsor Priscilla Tyson and all other members in co-sponsoring the resolution and noted, "Columbus was proud to become home to Jefferson Thomas; our community was able to benefit from his willingness to detail the historic actions of the Little Rock Nine."

HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS, HEALTHY FAMILIES (HNHF) INITIATIVE

Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families



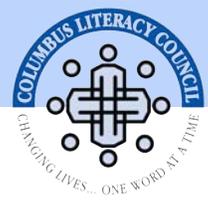
On September 17, 2010, Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares along with Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Nationwide Children's Hospital CEO Steve Allen, MD, and community leaders, celebrated one of the city's first renovated residential property utilizing federal housing and recovery funds through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The home located at 829 Carpenter Street was recently rehabbed as part of the Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Families (HNHF) initiative, a joint venture between Nationwide Children's and Community

Development for All People (CD4AP) with support from the City of Columbus and the United Way of Central Ohio.

NSP was established for the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Through the purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties, the goal of the program is being realized. HNHF, first announced in September 2008, is a five-pronged, public-private collaborative focused on neighborhood revitalization in Columbus' South Side, which creates tangible outcomes through a broad-based effort that is responsive to the needs and desires of the community. Built on existing efforts, HNHF targets the neighborhood around the new Livingston Avenue Elementary School, Nationwide Children's and current South Side housing improvement efforts. Affordable housing is one of five components identified by HNHF as an integral part to strengthening neighborhoods to create the best environment to nurture children and families. The other four components are education; health and wellness; safe and accessible neighborhoods; and workforce and economic development.

Councilmember Tavares, chair of the Health and Human Development Committee states, "The City of Columbus and Nationwide Children's Hospital are bringing many ideas and partners to the table because there is no single solution to the problem of poverty or access to health care in our community. Working together, across a broad range of social service agencies and components, we will affect change in Columbus."

COLUMBUS LITERACY COUNCIL



Columbus Literacy Council (CLC), a central Ohio provider of adult basic literacy instruction was founded by Church Women United in 1970. Formally established as a non-profit educational corporation in 1975, CLC's mission is to increase the level of functional literacy among adults reading below an eighth grade level by teaching the English language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. CLC is the largest and oldest volunteer adult literacy program in central Ohio.

"Columbus is privileged to have the Columbus Literacy Council providing much needed services to residents of the community, says Councilmember Charleta Tavares. Studies show that 50% of the chronically unemployed lack the reading, writing, and basic math skills needed to function effectively in daily life. With these statistics in mind, the support given by the City of Columbus to the CLC is very worthwhile."

CLC modes of instruction include one-to-one tutoring, small group instruction and computer-assisted instruction. CLC's decentralized tutoring operations occur in 119 different sites. In addition, 31 classes are offered at satellite sites around Columbus. Within the workplace, CLC maintains classes focused on teaching English language skills at various local companies.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please register for an information session or contact Kathleen at KLantz@columbusliteracy.org or (614) 221-5013 x215.



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

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UPCOMING HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, AND HOUSING COMMITTEE HEARINGS

For in-depth information on upcoming health, human development and housing legislation, please join Councilmember Charleta Tavares during one of her upcoming committee hearings. These meetings take place in the City Hall Council Chambers. For agendas and more information, please visit www.columbuscitycouncil.org.

- ◆ Wednesday, October 6, 2010
- ◆ Wednesday, October 20, 2010
- ◆ Wednesday, November 3, 2010

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

HELPING REPAIR EMERGENCY SHELTERS: Housing Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares recently sponsored legislation to help repair six emergency shelter facilities in Columbus. Ordinance 1217-2010 will authorize the expenditure of \$250,000 from the Housing Preservation Fund for the Emergency Shelter Repair program. The Emergency Shelter Repair program provides funding to emergency shelter facilities in need of repair in order to improve services to homeless individuals and families. Repair projects will focus on health and safety issues and include roof replacement, bathroom and kitchen renovations and improved security systems. Each agency will provide matching resources including both cash and/or in-kind contributions. The agencies receiving

funding to improve their shelters include ADAMH, Huckleberry House, Lutheran Social Services, Southeast Mental Health, Volunteers of America and the YWCA.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION DOLLARS HELPING COLUMBUS NEIGHBORHOODS: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded Columbus \$23.2 million in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2). The funds, included in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009, will provide for the acquisition, rehabilitation, redevelopment, or demolition of foreclosed, abandoned and vacant properties. Housing Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares sponsored ordinance 1240-2010 to appropriate \$6,882,700.00 in various divisions and object levels of the General Grant Fund to provide funding for approved programs in order to create vital, healthy neighborhoods by implementing strategies that build a stronger housing real-estate market in weak-market areas of Columbus. The city of Columbus is the Lead Applicant of the NSP2 Consortium which also includes Franklin County, the Affordable Housing Trust of Columbus and Franklin County, Campus Partners, Columbus Housing Partnership, Community Development Collaborative of Greater Columbus, and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Columbus.

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES: The Columbus Health Department, through grant funds from the Ohio Department of Health, operates clinics for the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program. WIC provides various healthcare programs to income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who recently had a baby, infants and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. The WIC budget provides money for the lease of real property to be used as clinic space for the program. Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares, chair of the Health and Human Development Committee, sponsored three pieces of legislation to lease clinic space in locations throughout the city. Ordinance 1256-2010 allows the Columbus Department of Health to lease clinic space at 5253 Cleveland Avenue, ordinance 1257-2010 authorizes the lease of property located at 1288 Georgesville Road and ordinance 1258-2010 allows for the renewal of four existing lease contracts with the Holt Run Center, LLC. The total expenditure authorized is \$185,268.00 from the Health Special Revenue Fund.

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