



Columbus City Council

THE BOYCE REPORT

...your inside guide to City Hall.

WELCOME!

It is with great pride that I introduce this first issue of The Boyce Report. The importance of citizen involvement in the legislative process in our city cannot be overstated and I hope that you use my publication as a resource.

In this newsletter, I will keep you up to date on the activities of my office—everything from events I attend to legislation we are working to pass. You will also find useful material such as contact information for various city offices, history and facts about Columbus, and upcoming events. Thank you for taking the time to read about the actions my

office is taking to keep moving Columbus forward.

It is my hope that you will read about the issues that concern your community and take action to assist me in ensuring that your neighborhood's needs are met. With the cooperation of citizens like you, Columbus will continue on its path to greatness.

Being born and raised in Columbus, I have a special attachment to this city. It was where I grew up and where I am choosing to raise my family—and I cannot think of a better place. The progress that Columbus continues to make, and the great residents who make those changes, are what makes our city exceptional.



Again, thank you for taking time to keep up to date on my office. Please don't hesitate to contact me or my legislative aide, Kym Nelson with any concerns or ideas you might have. You can reach us at 614-645-0852 or by email at yjnelson@columbus.gov.

Meet My Staff

KYM NELSON
Legislative Aide

yjnelson@columbus.gov, 614-645-0852

Kym joined my office in 2005 from the Ohio House of Representatives where she worked as a Legislative Service Commission Intern with the Democratic Caucus.

Kym holds a Masters Degree in Applied Politics and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Fort Valley State University.

RACHEL KLEGMAN
Legislative Assistant

rbklegman@columbus.gov, 614-645-0854

Rachel joined my office in August 2007 after moving to Columbus from Madison, Wisconsin. In Wisconsin, Rachel interned in State and US Senators' and the Governor's offices.

Rachel graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Madison with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

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BUDGET CALENDAR

On November 15, Mayor Coleman presented the proposed General Budget for 2008—\$650.3 million, increased only 2.5% from last year. The Budget Review Process is a key part of financial responsibility. Over the coming months, Councilmembers will lead budget briefings and public hearings on every aspect of the budget. Every department will share its monetary needs and its financial outlook for 2008. We will hear from community service agencies - whose services range from housing and homelessness to neighborhood and economic development. We will listen to our area commissions and civic associations. We invite you to join us on January 10th for a public comment hearing to address the issues that concern you and to let your voice be heard. We are considering the budget for *your* city and want to hear what *you* have to say.

We currently hold a Triple A bond rating, the highest in the country, and we will work to do everything we can to retain that rating, and ensure that our city continues to have the lowest interest rate and that our taxpayers continue to save money.

Without a doubt, this year's budget will be tight, but Columbus City Council will be working to ensure that there will be no income tax increases and no dipping into the Rainy Day Fund in 2008. We will continue to better our communities by investing in public safety and neighborhood services. City Council will continue to expand economic development and job creation within the city. This budget is for a year of creative solutions and planning for the future. Though 2008 will be a tough budget, you can be sure that City Council will be working to safeguard the many services that make Columbus a great place to live.

November 15, 2007

Mayor 2008 Proposed Budget Roll Out

November 16, 2007

Ordinances filed in City Clerk's office

November 19, 2007

Mayor's Proposed Budget
Ordinances appear on Council Agenda
(and tabled indefinitely pending public hearings)

November 24, 2007

Mayor's proposed Budget Ordinances appear in City Bulletin for the First Time (Public Notice Section)

December 1, 2007

Mayor's proposed Budget Ordinances Appear in City Bulletin for 2nd Time

December 6, 2007

Budget Briefing - Presentation by Mayors Administration
5:00 pm, Council Chambers

December 11, 2007

Health, Housing and Human Services Briefing
5:00 pm, Council Chambers

December 13, 2007

Safety Briefing
5:00 pm, Council Chambers

January 10, 2008

Public Comment Hearing
5:30 pm, Council Chambers

January 17, 2008

City Council Budget Retreat
8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.

January 21, 2008

No Council Meeting – MLK Day

January 24, 2008

Budget Roll-Out, All Council Members (Date may change)
10:00 am, Council Chambers

January 28, 2008

Council Meeting – Budget Ordinances on the agenda for 2nd reading, to be Amended and Tabled to 2/11/08

February 2, 2008

First publication of ordinances as amended in Public Notice section of City Bulletin

February 9, 2008

2nd publication of ordinances as amended in Public Notice Section of City Bulletin

February 11, 2008

Anticipated passage date of the budget ordinances as amended

February 16, 2008

Ordinances published in the City Bulletin (Ordinance section) as amended (must be published within 20 days of passage per City Charter)

** all hearing dates are subject to change*

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Operation Safewalks

1 Mile of New Sidewalks Near South Side Schools

Last month, construction was slated to begin on the first of the new sidewalks to be built under “Operation Safewalks.”

Operation Safewalks is a \$50 million initiative to make it safer for kids who walk to school by creating new sidewalks in some of the oldest neighborhoods in the City of Columbus.

Currently, work is beginning on the South Side of Columbus, with sidewalks being built on both sides of Fairwood Avenue between Koebel Road and Burley Drive. In addition, sidewalks are also being built on the south side of Koebel Road from Fairwood Avenue to Lockbourne Road, with sidewalks on the north side of Koebel being constructed in 2008. The \$214,335 project in this neighborhood will help improve safety for children attending Beery Middle School, Marion-Franklin High Schools, Watkins Elementary School, Leawood Elementary at Koebel, Sills Park, the Marion-Franklin Community Center and the Marion-Franklin swimming pool.

The city has built more than 70 miles of sidewalks with 11 miles specifically increasing safety for children walking to school. But Operation Safewalks is nowhere near completed. By our city’s bicentennial in 2012, this initiative will provide pedestrian routes along road ways by building or rebuilding basic infrastructure, including sidewalks, roads, sewers, curbs, gutters and ADA-compliant handicapped ramps.

Operation Safewalks was introduced through last year’s capital budget and is a great example of some of the many ways that Council works through the budget to improve our city.



Other City initiatives making strides to ensure the safety of our children and families include Safe Playgrounds Initiative which funded and installed safety features at four neighborhood school playgrounds: Northtowne, Broadleigh, Wayne, and Innis Elementary Schools. Each playground received roughly \$150,000 for enhancements, such as new safety surfacing, rounded climbing structures and child-friendly freestanding equipment. Projects also set aside money to help maintain the sites over a fifteen-year period.

\$228.4 Million to Provide Citywide Improvements

On November 5, City Council passed the Proposed 2007 Bond Sale, which was introduced through Finance Committee. Some of the projects that received funding through this bond sale include:

- West Side Safety and Health Centers \$6,605,000
- Police & Fire Comp. Aided Dispatching \$5,300,000
- Police Heliport \$6,877,333
- Medic Vehicles \$1,080,000
- Fire Station 35 (Waggoner Road) \$3,500,000
- Fire Station 36 (Northeast) \$4,000,000
- Scioto Mile Park \$5,000,000
- Dog Parks (Wheeler and Sycamore Parks) \$352,000
- Bikepaths \$1,500,000
- Morse Road Improvements \$5,000,000
- Pedestrian Safety Improvements \$5,300,000
- Road Resurfacing \$10,800,000
- Mechanized Refuse Equipment \$4,500,000
- Hap Cremean Water Plant \$31,400,000
- Housing Projects \$3,500,000

In total, Over \$228.4 million went to projects in divisions across the city, from public safety to recreation and parks. For more information on the 2007 Bond Sale please contact the Department of Finance and Management at 614-645-8200.

ENCOURAGING OUR YOUTH

Swearing in the Youth Commission

On Monday, September 24, the 2007-2008 Youth Commissioners were sworn in to serve the City of Columbus. Mayor Michael B. Coleman attended the City Council meeting and together we welcomed this year's group of motivated young people into service. Since initiating the Youth Commission in 2001, it has been a project of great pride for me. The 21 students who devote their time and energy to enhancing the lives of their peers are a great encourage-

ment to the future leadership of our city.

The mission of the Columbus Youth Commission is to bridge the gap between the youth component of metropolitan Columbus and city government. Our diverse and talented group of youth serve as civic leaders by interpreting and articulating the concerns of our peers to the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and other leadership residents in the greater Columbus community.

To find out more about the Columbus Youth Commission, visit their website at <http://mayor.ci.columbus.oh.us/education/youthcommission/index.asp>. There, you will find information about upcoming events, membership, issues for the current school year, and much more.



New Youth Commissioners swearing in on September 24, 2007.

Featured City of Columbus Department: **Columbus Community Relations Commission**

Director Jim Stowe
90 West Broad Street, Room #101
Columbus, OH 43215-9005
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The Community Relations Commission :

Promotes mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious, nationality, cultural, and ethnic groups in Columbus and suggest ways to prevent discriminatory practices against such behavior.

Works with community organizations to develop programs and educational campaigns devoted to the elimination of group prejudices, racial or neighborhood tensions.

Conducts research on the status and treatment of racial, religious and ethnic groups in Columbus.

Enforces the City of Columbus Civil Rights Code.

Civics 101 with Eastmoor Academy

At the beginning of the school year, I had the opportunity to address Ms. Sloan's Democratic Citizenship Class at Eastmoor Academy. As our young people reach the age of 18, it becomes increasingly important to emphasize the value of their ability to be a part of the electoral process.

personal story and plans for the future.

Hopefully, sharing my story and my dreams for Columbus will encourage this class to become active in their communities.

Councilman Boyce and the students of Eastmoor Academy's Ms. Sloan's Democratic Citizenship Class.



We discussed how the legislative process at City Council affects their everyday life. The students asked excellent questions ranging from the amount of money in the budget, to the kinds of projects the City of Columbus takes on, to my

A THRIVING COMMUNITY

National Recognition of Black MBA Association

This year marked a momentous occasion for the Columbus Chapter of the National Black MBA Association, being awarded both the NMBMAA Chapter of the Year and Outstanding MBA of the Year to their President, Oyauma Garrison.

On October 15, I presented Mr. Garrison with a resolution touting his achievements. Joining Mr. Garrison in accepting his resolution were Ms. Terina Matthews, Vice President of

Operations and Mr. Michael Johnson, Vice President of Administration. The three of them highlighted the incredible achievements and ambitions of the organizations and exemplified why the Columbus Chapter of the NMBMAA embodies the ideals of the national organization and merited recognition from the city.

In addition to his work as an MBA, Mr. Garrison is involved in community organizations and executive boards. The Columbus Chapter of the

NMBMAA as a whole gives back to the community through their "Leaders of Tomorrow" mentoring program and summer camp. I am truly proud and honored that this Columbus organization has been nationally recognized for their efforts, and was glad to showcase their achievements through a City Council resolution.

Oyauma Garrison receiving his award from Councilman Boyce (right).

Councilman Boyce, Oyauma Garrison and members of the Columbus Chapter of the NMBMAA (left).



Strengthening Columbus through the Arts

In continuing to explore ways to increase the quality of life for our citizens of Columbus, we have found that an active arts community brings great economic and cultural success to our city. On October 16, along with Mayor Coleman, I had the opportunity to address the attendees at the Greater Columbus Arts Council Arts & Culture in Columbus: Moving Forward seminar entitled "Looking Forward to 2012 and Beyond." At this event, GCAC released a report done by ArtSpace that encourages Columbus to look into downtown housing for artists. The report told us that we need to

cultivate a synergy between our arts community and the broader public and private sector while at the same time helping all three of those groups pursue multiple strategies that will



Councilman Boyce speaks to attendees on his vision of the future of the arts in Columbus.

grow the arts in Columbus.

In the last seven years the City of Columbus has invested nearly \$30 million in GCAC and their arts and cultural programs, and we need to make sure that we as a community are leveraging our resources to generate more public and private investment in the arts community. One of the ways we have taken steps to ensure public funds are used wisely on the arts is with the creation of the Creative Columbus Policy Steering Committee, this group examined the current effectiveness of arts funding and ways to strengthen that funding in the future.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any constituent concern you may have. My office is always open to assist you.

Councilman Kevin Boyce

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Columbus City Council

As the winter season creeps upon us, use this quick reference of information and phone numbers to help keep this a safe and joyous season.

- During business hours, you can always call the Columbus Call Center at 614-645-3111 if you are not sure who to call for any particular situation.
- To reach the police for a non-emergency, dial 614-645-4545, if it is an emergency, dial 911.
- If a power line is down, keep at least 10 feet away and call your electric utility. If you are a city electric customer please call 645-7627. If you are an AEP customer, please contact them at 1-800-277-2177.
- For water emergencies during non-business hours, call 614-645-7788.
- For electric emergencies during non-business hours, call 614-645-7627.
- For sewer emergencies during non-business hours, call 614-645-7102.
- The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Service (OCS) designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating. HEAP's toll free number is 1-800-282-0880.
- For information on snow conditions, call the Winter Weather Information Line at 614-645-SNOW (7669).

Zoning



Columbus City Charter empowers City Council to establish land use policy within the city through the zoning process. Zoning laws determine the type of activity which may occur within specific geographic areas within the city. By extension, zoning laws help determine the type of structure which can be built on a given site. The zoning process involves several steps designed to assure appropriate review and oversight in accordance to existing zoning laws, public policy, and community standards. At the same time it is intended to

protect individual property rights. It is the policy of Columbus City Council to encourage cooperative resolution of disputes, and to solicit neighborhood approval.

As Chair of the Zoning Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure that the best interests of the city and its citizens are carried out. For more information on the zoning process, please visit http://council.ci.columbus.oh.us/mostrequested/zoning_docket.asp.

Contacting Other Council Members

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Councilmember Priscilla Tyson

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