



Columbus City Council

# THE BOYCE REPORT

...your inside guide to City Hall.

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the second issue of The Boyce Report. I again want to state how important citizen involvement in the legislative process is in our city. I hope that you use the publication as a resource.

In this newsletter, I will provide updates on several important initiatives and activities of my office—including the upcoming November Bicentennial Bond Issue Process, the City's Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), and how we are working to enhance City investment in quality cultural and arts programming.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the actions we are taking to

keep moving Columbus forward.

I 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.



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](mailto:yjnelson@columbus.gov)

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## 2008 BICENTENNIAL BOND PACKAGE

On March 13th Mayor Coleman presented his annual State of the City Address. A key component of the speech involved the upcoming Bicentennial Bond Package scheduled for this November. Just as you and your family need to invest to purchase and maintain your own home, the City must invest to maintain the public infrastructure and develop new facilities as the City grows in population and area. The City routinely seeks voter-approval for the issuance of debt to finance capital improvements. Voted debt reduces the interest cost the City must pay, and therefore saves taxpayer dollars—really allowing the City to do more with the tax dollars it already receives.

The Bicentennial Bond Package will address City capital needs for the next five years or so. And over the next few months, City and Neighborhood leaders will be working with the community to identify the most important neighborhood projects that require attention. City Council will conduct hearings, and the administration will schedule several neighborhood-based information sessions. Projects will include public safety needs, new fire apparatus and new fire stations for example; new recreation centers and park improvements; street and road maintenance; and projects to spur economic development, to name just a few. Council will listen to the area commissions and civic associations and invites you to attend information sessions and fight for projects and issues that concern you. Let your voice be heard. The City is considering an investment for *your* city and wants to hear what *you* have to say.

**April 15, 2008**

City Council Budget Hearing on 2008 Proposed Capital Improvements Budget

**May 5, 2008**

Adoption of the 2008 Capital Improvements Budget

**May 31, 2008**

2012 Update to Council

**June 1—15, 2008**

Voted Bond Package Community Meetings

*\* dates are tentative*

**July 7, 2008**

Adoption of 2009-2013 Capital Improvements Program

**July 14, 2008**

City Council adopts Resolution of Necessity

**July 21, 2008**

Council adopts Resolution to Proceed

**July—November, 2008**

Neighborhood Based Campaign

**November 4, 2008**

Election Day

To help keep the public informed as the City moves toward election day this November, the City will develop a web-based system that you can access to see on a neighborhood basis where projects will be located. We hope that that is a great resource for you.

City Council is proud of the role it plays in helping the City maintain the highest bond rating in the nation: Triple A. 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.

# COLUMBUS CULTURAL & ARTS INITIATIVES

Annually, the City allocates nearly \$5 million in bed tax revenues to support a variety of cultural and arts endeavors, principally through the Greater Columbus Arts Council. Because cultural and arts opportunities are so important to the overall quality of life in the Columbus community, and as an attraction for tourists, the City must be careful in how it invests these resources. City and community leaders have been assessing current practices with an eye toward making sure we leverage public and private sector money to maximize the City's investment into cultural arts activities. They want to preserve and grow the major institutions the city already enjoys to meet the needs of an ever-expanding and diverse community, and also provide critical financial support to smaller projects and artists that help comprise the exciting mosaic of culture and art that blesses Columbus.



The formation of a Cultural Planning Committee is another step in the process. Councilmember Boyce will sponsor legislation to establish this 19 member group of arts, community, and business leaders. This group will help bring organization and voice to the city's major cultural and artistic "anchor" institutions, with a focus on policy and strategy in both the short term and extended time frame. It will work to promote culture and arts with the idea of making them significant factors that can better contribute to the city's overall economic development. More specifically, City Council has charged the commission with developing a Cultural Business Plan for the greater Columbus community. The intent here is to strategically position the region to capitalize on the emerging collaboration between the city's cultural and business community leaders, and to ensure the implementation of growth strategies that drive a sustainable/successful cultural economy.

On another front, Council allocated \$700,000 of bed tax funds to the Columbus Cultural Leadership Consortium to provide financial stability to anchor institutions in this difficult economy. Franklin County

provided matching funds for this effort totaling \$600,000, and efforts are underway to secure private sector funding for this purpose, as well.



Photos courtesy of the Greater Columbus Arts Council.

# ENCOURAGING OUR YOUTH

## BBBS Mentoring Celebration

If you truly believe that children are our future, a great way to help is to be a mentor. Councilmember Boyce knows first-hand what it means as a young person to have a mentor to provide critical life advice to keep you moving on a productive path. He remembered Lee Williams, once the director of the Windsor Recreation Center and later Boyce's track coach at East High School. Williams was a major reason Boyce decided to go to college at the University of Toledo. Mentors often see things in your potential before you do. That's important to a young person, particularly in today's high-pressured environment.

The Mentoring Center is a partnership among FIRSTLINK, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Association, and over 35 youth-mentoring organizations.

Mentoring Services  
195 N. Grant Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 233-6368  
FAX (614) 224-6866  
mentor@firstlink.org



## Economic Advisory Committee

Councilmember Boyce has joined 14 other community leaders to study City finances and recommend long-term strategies to maintain balanced budgets and quality neighborhood services. Bob Howarth serves as chairman. In addition to Boyce, the team includes City Auditor Hugh Dorrian and City Finance Director Joel Taylor. Members come from diverse backgrounds that include neighborhood leadership, managing businesses, accounting, providing social services, and planning municipal finances. Its mission is to help the City of Columbus plot a long-term course to maintain its history of balanced budgets, economic growth and the continued delivery of quality neighborhood services. Meetings began in earnest in February.

The Committee will study concerns of a budgetary structural imbalance to understand the true gap between revenues and expenses and what can be done to eliminate the problem. It will issue a report to the City in 2009, recommending action steps that can be enacted as early as 2009.

### Featured City of Columbus Department:

**Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office**

109 N. Front St., 4th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
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The mission of The Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office is to promote inclusiveness of minority and female owned businesses within the City's procurement process and to facilitate the equitable awarding of contracts to minority and female business enterprises.

# Otterbein College MLK Convocation

Councilmember Boyce had the privilege to address faculty and students at Otterbein College during its annual Martin Luther King Convocation in January. Quoting Thurgood Marshall, Boyce challenged everyone to make equal rights “a goal worth working for.” The best way to secure the rights guaranteed by our Constitution is to vote. Boyce noted that in 2004 18-24 year olds voted at the rate of 47%, while the vote for those 55 and older was 72%, a key difference being registration. “The fight to vote..., the right to vote, and the need to vote are elements that have helped to shape our nation,” Boyce said. “And while we haven’t always gotten it right, our efforts have been productive.”



Boyce urged the audience to make a personal contribution to our future by voting and taking an active role in following the issues and candidates in the upcoming national election. Martin Luther King is an exemplary role model. “Civil rights and the right to vote for generations to come would forever designate Dr. King’s life as a sacrifice for all,” Boyce said. “So on election day, whether it is cold, snowing, raining, or just down right a bad day—we should all reflect on a person who gave his life representing ‘we the people’ and hope for our posterity. While Dr. King’s death was tragic, let us honor and respect his contribution to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in the exercise of our vote—every year.”

## MLK Breakfast

Councilmember Boyce also attended the annual MLK breakfast at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on January 21, 2008. This year’s keynote speaker was James Lawson, considered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be the leading non-violence theorist in the world. Lawson inspired the large gathering with his message of hope and urgency to continue striving for Dr. King’s dream.



**Above: (L-R) Atiba Jones, Newton Burris, Councilmember Kevin L. Boyce, and Leonard Scott.**

**Below: (L-R) Franklin County Clerk of Courts John O’ Grady, Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard, Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, Pastor Donald Washington, Senator Ray Miller, Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce, and Reverend Fred Lamarr joined together to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**



# 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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90 W. Broad St.  
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Columbus City Council

With spring right around the corner, check this quick reference guide for information and phone numbers to help keep your family and neighbors safe.

- 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.
- For trash pick up, call the Columbus Refuse Collection at 645-8774.
- For bulk trash pick up, call 645-8774
- For gas emergencies, call Columbia Gas at 614-481-1000.
- For non-emergency animal control, call 614-645-6134. For an emergency, call 614-465-3400.
- To report environmental issues (air and water quality standards; solid, hazardous and infectious waste standards; water quality planning, supervision of sewage treatment and public drinking water supplies, etc.) contact the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency at 644-3020
- To report potholes or for general street repair, call 645-5660.
- For streetlight outages, contact 645-7627 (be sure to know either the number on the base of the light, or specific location).
- To report traffic light outages or street signs, call 645-7393.



## 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 Councilmember Boyce's 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](http://council.ci.columbus.oh.us/mostrequested/zoning_docket.asp).

## Contacting Other Council Members

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