



Tyson's Corner



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2011

WELCOME...

This is an exciting time for our city. We are continuing to rebound from the fiscal crisis that confronted us only a few short years ago, and as we look ahead to the 2012 bicentennial, we have every reason for optimism and confidence.

Years of strategic investment in our downtown, our historic and emerging neighborhoods, and our workforce have helped us to weather the worst of the recession. Challenging times have brought out the best in our city, as residents and leaders are working together as never before to ensure that Columbus remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

As state and local governments across the country are under extreme financial duress, Columbus continues to prosper. When our residents supported Issue 1 in 2009, they expressed their faith in our ability to come out of the recession a stronger city. We continue to fight for every job, increase the efficiency of city government, restore our city's rainy day fund, and partner with our neighbors to bring economic development to our region.

None of this would be possible were it not for the goodness and generosity of the residents of this great city. Nor would we be able to say, as we can today, that we remain the only large city in America to have earned a Triple A bond rating from Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch Ratings. This achievement is a tribute to the civic pride of our residents and the responsible governance of our leaders.

As chair of Columbus City Council's Finance Committee - a role I assumed in February of this year - I am deeply involved in the development and passage of our city's capital and general fund budgets. In May, I held a public hearing to review the city's first-quarter financial position. We are on track to meet our fiscal projections for this year, and also those in the Department of Finance and Management's three-year financial plan. We will continue to monitor and report out on our position.



I encourage residents who have questions or would like to learn more about city finances, or any other city matters, to contact my office by phone, letter, or email.

In the meantime, I will continue to do everything I can to ensure that your city government is responsible and responsive in its service to the public.

Thank you for all that you do to make our city great.



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Sponsored Legislation

Below you will find summaries of some of the legislation I sponsored during the last three months. My sponsorship of these ordinances reflects my dedication and commitment in making sure Columbus remains a strong, growing, and dynamic city.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE SCIOTO TRAIL: I

sponsored legislation that will enhance recreational access to the Scioto Trail. *Ordinance 1471-2010* authorized the expenditure of \$735,000 from the Voted Recreation and Parks Bond Fund/Build American Bonds for the Scioto Trail – Main Street Connector Project. The connector will provide a link for cyclists and pedestrians from the Scioto Trail to an underpass beneath the Main Street Bridge, and will also allow north and south travel along the path. The project will increase safety for cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists. The Scioto Mile is scheduled to open in July of 2011.



WEAR RED DAY: Cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of twenty in the United States. That *resolution 0007X-2011* to declare the city of Columbus. The American Heart Association's *Go Red For Women* movement encourages women to pay attention to their hearts and take preventative measures to reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease to live longer, healthier lives. City Council hopes that many lives can be saved by increasing the awareness of the risk factors associated with this devastating disease and encouraging actions to reduce them.



of death among women over the age is why I was proud to sponsor February 4, 2011, "Wear Red Day" in

KEEPING CITY VEHICLES OPERATING EFFICIENTLY: City vehicles are used every day to provide essential city services to residents. Fire engines, police cruisers, EMS vehicles, and refuse collection trucks often need repairs due to high usage. As chair of the Finance Committee, I sponsored legislation to ensure that the city's award-winning Fleet Management Division has the parts and supplies it needs to keep city-owned vehicles in the best possible working condition. *Ordinance 0309-2011* authorized the expenditure of \$222,976.21 from the Fleet Management Services Fund for automotive parts, supplies, and services needed to repair the city's fleet in a minimal amount of time to keep the equipment operational and ready to respond.

SUPPLYING NATURAL GAS FOR CITY VEHICLES: In an effort to reduce emissions, part of the city's fleet is being replaced with compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles. I sponsored *ordinance 0673-2011* to authorize the expenditure of \$2,864,000 for the construction of a CNG fueling station at 4211 Groves Road. The fueling station will provide a rapid and reliable dispensing of compressed natural gas to the 23 CNG heavy-duty vehicles the city will receive this year. The fueling station will also be used to safely store and maintain CNG units. Compressed natural gas vehicles produce significantly lower amounts of harmful emissions such as nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and toxic and carcinogenic pollutants. Natural gas is readily available, clean-burning, and costs less than gasoline or diesel fuel.

| City of Columbus Legislation Report | | Office of City Clerk 85 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-6111 columbuscitycouncil.org |
|---|--|--|
| File Number: 0062-2008 | | |
| Emergency | File Type: Ordinance | Status: Passed |
| File Number: 0062-2008 | Version: 1 | Controlling Body: Recreation and Parks Commission |
| File Name: Appropriation of \$3,366,584.50 from Bond Fund 223 for supplies and services in 2008 and to declare an emergency. | | |
| Requester: Zac & Patsy Decker | Cost: \$3,366,584.50 | Final Action: 1/31/2008 |
| Auditor Cert #: | Auditor: When assigned as Auditor Certificate Number 1, the City Auditor hereby certifies that there is no treasury, or contingent to create any new liability, and not appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of money specified herein, to pay the within Ordinance. | |
| Contact Name/No.: | Cait Colucci 645-8435 | |
| Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only) | | |
| Mayor's Action | | |
| Mayor | Date | Date Passed/Adopted |
| Veto | Date | President of Council |
| City Clerk | | |
| Title: To authorize the appropriation of \$3,366,584.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to continue purchasing supplies and providing services during 2008, and to declare an emergency: (\$3,366,584.50) | | |
| sponsors: | | |
| deletes: | | |
| amends: | | |
| Page 1 of 4 Printed on 2/20/08 | | |



Tyson, Ginther Recognized by Krumm Community

Councilmember Tyson and Council President Ginther were recently recognized by the Krumm Park community for the time and effort that they devoted to reopening the Krumm Park Recreation Center, which had closed its door due to budget cuts in 2009. The center, located in east Columbus, opened in 1971.



Michael Johnson, Councilmember Tyson, Commissioner Bill Adams, President Ginther, and students from Krumm Park.

Aminah Robinson Featured at Columbus Museum of Art

The Columbus Museum of Art is joining the city of Columbus in celebrating our city's bicentennial with programs and exhibitions throughout 2011 and 2012. Its inaugural project, *Street Talk and Spiritual Matters*, commemorates the bicentennial through the celebration of a beloved Columbus artist and a historical Columbus neighborhood.

The exhibit, on view from May 20 to September 4th, explores artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson's documentation of the Mt. Vernon Avenue community where she grew up, and also her depictions of women who personify African American spirituals. *Street Talk and Spiritual Matters* features the artist's RagGonNons, paintings, drawings, hogmawg sculptures, prints, and books about Mt. Vernon Avenue, the heart of the African-American community in

Columbus from the early 1900s to the 1960s. The Mt. Vernon paintings and prints reflect stories handed down from Aminah's ancestors, as well as her personal memories and careful research from primary sources.



Councilmember Tyson and Ms. Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson at the Columbus Museum of Art.

Councilmember Tyson and Commissioner Paula Brooks Meet with Chinese Delegates

In April, Councilmember Tyson met with representatives from China to explore ways to increase the economic competitiveness of the city of Columbus in the global economy. At the National League of Cities' Leadership Academy on Local Competitiveness in a Global Era, local leaders engaged with national experts, other US leaders, and a delegation of Chinese officials and business executives to strengthen trade relationships and to learn how to better attract international investments into US cities.

The event, co-hosted by the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle, provided leaders

with a forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges of foreign investment and international trade, to tap into new markets and sources of growth, and to network with leaders from across the country.

In a session facilitated by the US Department of Commerce, participants engaged with more than twenty Chinese businesses seeking job-creating investment opportunities in the United States. Some of the industries that were represented included high-tech, R&D, pharmaceuticals, aviation and space, auto manufacturing, and high speed transportation.



"The world that we live in is large, and we must leave no stone unturned when it comes to attracting and developing jobs in our community. That is what global competition is all about." - Councilmember Priscilla Tyson.

Councilmember Tyson Attends National League of Cities Meeting

Washington, DC – Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, who chairs the Finance Committee on Columbus City Council and is a member of the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee for the National League of Cities (NLC), joined over 1,500 local leaders in Washington, DC, to promote an agenda for economic growth for cities during the NLC's 2011 Congressional City Conference.



Councilmember Tyson (Left), Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, Councilmember Deborah A. Hill, Warrensville Heights,

Delegates to the conference heard from First Lady Michelle Obama, who discussed her "Let's Move!" initiative; Erskine Bowles, who recently served as co-chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform; Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ron Sims; Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Procari; Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska); and several other presenters. As Congress and the Obama administration work to address economic recovery and budget concerns, a successful agenda for economic growth will prioritize the protection of proven federal investments like the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the rebuilding of the nation's transportation infrastructure system.

"I am honored to be in a position where I can interact with our elected officials in Washington on issues like job creation, economic development, and articulating the impact of federal policies and budget cuts on the city of Columbus and other urban communities, especially on matters as critically important as Community Development Block Grant Funding," said Tyson.

Councilmember Tyson, a board member of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO), also participated in policy development sessions which addressed broadband access to disadvantaged communities, health care, workforce development, fiscal assistance to cities, bone marrow registry, and incarceration reduction.

The Congressional City Conference is NLC's annual legislative meeting designed to inform municipal leaders about federal policy issues. It also provides an opportunity for city leaders to bring local concerns to their federal elected officials. Attendees participate in general sessions with national leaders and a range of educational, networking, and strategy sessions on a variety of issues.

"It is essential that we invest in our nation's municipalities if we want to help our communities and our country grow and prosper," said James E. Mitchell Jr., NLC President and Councilmember from Charlotte, NC. "While in Washington, we urged Congress and the administration to promote economic growth and job creation in cities by investing through the Community Development Block Grant, rebuilding our transportation infrastructure system, and fixing the nation's broken immigration system. This will allow cities to help spur economic recovery and allow our country to be more competitive in the future."

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership, and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns, and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

ABOUT NLC

Working in partnership with the 49 state municipal leagues, NLC serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents.



Councilmember Tyson Celebrates Passage of Capital Improvements Budget

Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, chair of Columbus City Council's Finance Committee, celebrated the passage of the \$365.1 million 2011 Capital Improvements Budget and the passage of the \$2.46 billion 2011-2016 Capital Improvements Plan. "This legislation allows the city to build strong neighborhoods, attract and retain jobs, and support our safety needs while enhancing the quality of life for our residents," said Tyson.

More than \$30 million was allocated for resurfacing, the most ever devoted to that purpose in a single year. The budget also includes upgrades to our city's recreation centers, including HVAC improvements to Barnett, Milo Grogan, and a number of other recreational facilities. The budget supports housing preservation and demolition and allows for the purchase of new fire vehicles and the installation of neighborhood cameras. It funds street and alley resurfacing, bridge repair, sidewalks, bike paths, and other needed improvements. The budget ordinance also included the creation of a new Jobs Creation and Economic Development Fund, which was spearheaded by Council President Andrew Ginther and Councilmember Zach Klein.

"This fund is critical to our ongoing commitment to economic development," Councilmember Tyson said. "It will assist businesses who have demonstrated a commitment to creating jobs."

Councilmember Tyson thanked each of the members of Council and the administration for their support and for making the budget process a smooth one.

Councilmember Tyson Tours Award-Winning Fleet Facility



BLUE SEAL of EXCELLENCE
RECOGNITION PROGRAM
"We're Proud of Our Blue Seal Team"

For the fourth consecutive year, the city's Division of Fleet Management has received the ASE Blue Seal, the top level of certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. Only three other major cities in America have achieved that level of certification. The city of Columbus remains the largest Blue Seal municipality in the United States and ranks among the elite in recognition of its fleet.



"This is really an exciting achievement for our city," said Councilmember Priscilla Tyson, who recently toured the division. "It is a reflection of the commitment and professionalism that exists among our city employees, who are among the nation's finest. Their efficiency and ability to manage our large fleet has helped us remain one of the best cities in America to live, work, play, and raise a family."

The City of Columbus manages more than 3,950 cars, trucks, patrol cruisers, and fire trucks, as well as more than 2,000 off-road vehicles. Under Mayor Coleman's leadership, the city now has 46 master certified technicians, with more than 83 percent of our technicians holding at least one ASE. Thirty-three employees hold 89 EVT certifications, with seven master fire apparatus technicians certifications from the nationally recognized Emergency Vehicle Technician Commission.

The Blue Seal certification is further illustration that Columbus technicians on the floor are highly trained, educated, and knowledgeable in diagnostics related to fire apparatus, articulated loaders, street equipment, patrol cruisers, light duty vehicles, and other specialized equipment. Continued employee education and the renewal of the ASE Blue Seal certification for the fleet division result in lower maintenance costs and better service for all city departments who rely on the division for vehicle and equipment repairs.



Columbus City Council

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Councilmember Tyson Honors Eastmoor Academy for Service to Homeless

Each year, Columbus Rotary partners with Columbus City Schools and Hands On Central Ohio to sponsor the High School "Service Above Self" Fair, which honors students from Columbus City Schools for their service to the community. Students work individually and in groups at each school to design and implement service projects which address many of our community's most pressing issues and challenges, including hunger, homelessness, access to education, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, and many others.

On May 9th, 2011, the Eighth Annual High School "Service Above Self" Fair recognized sixty-seven projects created by students from twenty-three high schools. Among the many extraordinary projects featured at the fair was Eastmoor Academy's *Year of the Homeless*, which was conducted by EA's Impact Team and selected the Overall Most Exemplary Project of the fair.



CM Tyson with students from Eastmoor Academy

Year of the Homeless and the other projects exhibited at the fair represent the very best values and ideals of our city. They are a tribute to the spirit of service that guides the work of Columbus City Schools, Columbus Rotary, and HandsOn Central Ohio.

Councilmember Tyson encourages Columbus residents to join her in honoring and recognizing all of the student participants in the Eighth Annual High School "Service Above Self" Fair.

Finance Committee Meetings

Councilmember Tyson hosts a Finance Committee meeting every quarter. The dates for upcoming meetings are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will occur on the third Thursday of the month and begin at 5:30pm in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, in downtown Columbus.

We encourage the public to attend. A valid photo ID is needed to enter City Hall. If you would like to speak at the meeting, you must complete a speaker slip. The slips are available at City Hall from 8am to 5pm on the day of the meeting.

Upcoming meetings:

- July 21, 2011 — Finance Committee Meeting: Second quarter review
- September 15, 2011 — Finance Committee Meeting: Fleet Management
- October 20, 2011 — Finance Committee Meeting

