



# Tyson's Corner



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## WELCOME...

Greetings, and I hope the new year finds you reinvigorated and optimistic for a great 2010. Each new year brings with it new opportunities and possibilities. As Council begins its work for 2010, we do so with a new committee structure. I'm excited to say that I will continue as Chair of Council's Recreation and Parks Committee, plus take on the role of Chair of the Development Committee—both oversee city operations and processes that have a direct and profound impact on our quality of life and provide tremendous public value.



One of Council's most important responsibilities occurs each year at this time—reviewing and passing the annual General Fund (operating) budget. Thanks to Columbus voters, this year's budget is more stable than in years past. I, and my Council colleagues, take this responsibility very seriously. As I studied the Mayor's proposed budget, I looked at each proposed expenditure and the value it brings to our residents. The results of this review and Council's recommendations will be voted on at the February 1st meeting of Council. In addition to the Mayor's recommendations in the budget, my colleagues and I sponsored several amendments. A complete rundown of these additions can be found on page three.

I am pleased to mention that based on a more stable 2010 budget, the Recreation and Parks Department is now able to strategically reopen many of the centers that were closed due to last year's budget shortfall. A schedule of these center reopenings can be found on page four.

I'm also delighted to chair Council's Development Committee. This committee oversees such important functions as the creation of area and neighborhood plans by the Columbus Planning Office, establishment of commercial overlays in the city's commercial corridors, and enforcement of code throughout the city—activities that have a direct and profound impact on our neighborhoods and overall quality of life.

Again, happy new year to all. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the great opportunities we have for living, working and playing in our neighborhoods and throughout in Columbus. I hope to see you out at the parks, the recreation centers and enjoying the many city services offered. And, as always, thank you for allowing me to serve you on Council. If there is anything my office can do or if you have ideas to share, please do not hesitate to call (614) 645-2932.

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# 2010 BUDGET AMENDMENTS



Thanks to Columbus voters for passing the local income tax increase, Council was able to add several amendments to this year's General Fund (operating) budget, including an important allocation of funds for a fire recruit class to take place in June. This and other amendments are listed below. Each represents an excellent return on investments and contributes directly to the safety, well-being and livelihood of Columbus residents.



**Uniformed Fire Personnel** \$2,193,216.00

This amendment will provide funding for a fire recruit class of fifty (50) beginning in June, 2010. This will ensure placement of new firefighters in stations in early 2011, and will assist in mitigating the impact of retirements associated with the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (D.R.O.P.).

Sponsor(s): All Councilmembers are co-sponsoring this amendment.

**Recreation & Parks (Restorations)** \$263,000

In recent years, the Department of Recreation & Parks has been severely impacted by budget cuts, punctuated in 2009 by recreation center closures and layoffs. This amendment will help to restore programming, rehire key staff and to reopen Tuttle Recreation Center on a part-time basis. The amendment will also dedicate funding for the restoration of a limited number of landscape beatification grants.

Sponsor(s): Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson

**Columbus Cultural Leadership Consortium** \$300,000

The Columbus Cultural Leadership Consortium (CCLC) is comprised of 16 organizations including the city's major cultural and artistic institutions. This amendment will provide a match to funding provided by Franklin County and will help to provide year-long support to CCLC members while they continue to work on the *Thrive in Five* plan to focus on programming that enhances broad community benefit and propel the community's movement to a diversified arts and culture funding model.

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers Priscilla R. Tyson and Michael C. Mentel

**Franklin Park Conservatory** \$250,000

In 2009, the City of Columbus reduced the annual operating subsidy to Franklin Park Conservatory, creating a significant budget deficit for the Conservatory. The subsidy is intended to defray maintenance and security costs for 60 acres of Franklin Park owned by the City. This amendment will help mitigate the impact of funding cuts, and increases to \$350,000 the total amount budgeted for the Conservatory in 2010.

Sponsor(s): Councilmembers Michael C. Mentel and Priscilla R. Tyson

**Development Department Staff (Restorations)** \$55,165

This amendment will restore one (1) position in the Historic Preservation Office eliminated in the 2009 budget. Among the many mandated responsibilities, the office provides support to 5 architectural review commissions with statutory design review for 7,000 parcels in Columbus and the Board of Commission Appeals, as well as performing Section 106 reviews for all federally-funded projects under an agreement with the state of Ohio. The work of Historic Preservation Office is directly tied to community redevelopment efforts, and the City's ongoing efforts to revitalize neighborhoods, and will speed response to property owners and developers.

Sponsor(s): Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson

## Protecting Free Speech

On December 14, I was pleased to sponsor legislation that clarified Columbus City Code to address unauthorized removal of free print publications from distribution locations in Columbus. Prior to the passage of ordinance 1409-2009, which was voted on unanimously by City Council and signed into law by Mayor Coleman, our city code was ambiguous on the theft of newspapers that are distributed free of charge. By making theft of free print publications illegal, police and prosecutors will have the necessary laws in place when they are called regarding these thefts. Existing provisions within the Columbus City Code already addressed cases involving the theft of paid publications.



*Two residents enjoy catching up on community news.*

“Free publication” refers to the fact that readers do not pay for copies of the product, but there is a cost associated with the large numbers that are produced and distributed each month in the City of Columbus. This money comes from advertisers, who spend considerable amounts of dollars annually to promote products, services, and events. I had the opportunity to learn more about the costs from some of our local publishers, including Outlook Columbus.

I felt this was important legislation because free publications are not only agents of information exchange and alternative points of view, they are also a major economic engine to the local economy. At least two dozen publishing companies in the Columbus metro area are involved in the production of free publications, ranging from those with less than five employees to those that employ dozens, generating hundreds of jobs for journalists, sales people, graphic designers, photographers, writers, interns, delivery drivers, and others.

Free publications are stolen for a variety of reasons, including people who take newspapers because they don't agree with the editorial content. When free publications are stolen, for any of the variety of reasons, it causes an economic impact to our community, as well as diluting the voice provided by free print publications.

Now in the City of Columbus, so long as the publisher has made notice, it is illegal to take more than five copies of a free print publication. Persons who violate this law are subject to a maximum of 30 days in jail and/or up to a \$250 fine. I want people to know, they can still get multiple copies of a publication, they just need to get permission from the publisher.

If you have additional questions about this law or any other legislation, please feel free to contact my office at 614-645-2932.

## Columbus Recreation Centers

Due to financial constraints, 12 recreation facilities were closed in 2009. The 2010 budget includes nearly \$1 million that, along with private partnerships, will allow the Recreation and Parks Department to begin the process of re-opening centers on a full- and part-time basis.

**April 1:** Barack Recreation Center and Martin Janis Senior Center will open full time (five days a week). Krumm Park, Tuttle Park, Sullivant Gardens and Douglas recreation centers will stay part time, but city staffers will be added to increase programs.

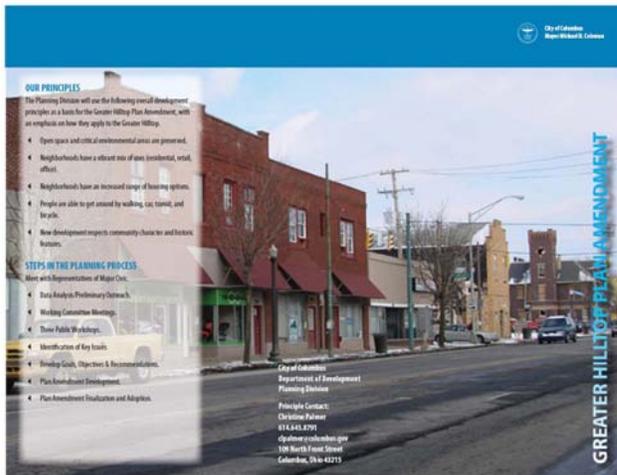
**September 1:** Indian Mound, Glenwood and Feddersen recreation centers will open full time. Milo-Grogan Recreation Center will open part time.

**No change:** Sawyer and Holton will stay part time with current operators.

For more information, visit [www.columbusrecparcs.com](http://www.columbusrecparcs.com)



# Greater Hilltop Plan Amendment



I'm pleased to report that a land use and urban design amendment to the existing Greater Hilltop Plan (2001) is underway by the Planning Division in collaboration with the Greater Hilltop Area Commission. The updated Greater Hilltop Plan will assist the area commission and city departments when reviewing development proposals.

Public participation and input have been a key component of the planning process, which included the Planning Staff meeting with the community at large at Public Workshops and with the commission appointed working committee to synthesize the public input and craft recommendations. As a final step to the process, community leaders, residents, entrepreneurs and developers will have an additional input opportunity by completing a Hilltop survey on

the Columbus Planning Division Website.

The top issues identified during the Public Input Phase of the planning process were:

- Transportation Improvements
- General Business Development
- Neighborhood Services/Code Enforcement
- Appearance of Area in General
- Business Development on West Broad Street
- Safety of Area
- Environmental Resources/Open Space
- Residential Development
- Appearance of Sullivant Avenue
- Appearance of Broad Street
- Commercial Development



*DRAFT Development Concept for the northwest corner of W Broad and Powell*

It is important to note that the Plan Amendment will not be addressing safety or transportation issues. Transportation issues will be addressed by the Hilltop Mobility Plan and as a long term plan, it cannot address immediate needs such as neighborhood services or code enforcement

Based on these top issues and public input, draft amendment recommendations were developed guided by the Planning Division's Guide to Area and Neighborhood Planning (available at [www.columbus.gov](http://www.columbus.gov)) and Working Committee input. The Planning Division is currently seeking input from the Greater Hilltop community on the draft amendment recommendations, please complete an online survey at: <http://columbus.gov/hilltop.aspx> or contact Christine Palmer at (614) 645-8791 for a hard copy of the survey.

Used in conjunction with each other, the Greater Hilltop Plan and amendment will establish a series of guidelines to manage the future growth and development of the Greater Hilltop area.



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## RECREATION & PARKS / DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

In an effort to encourage greater public involvement, I host a committee meeting each month. The date(s) for some upcoming meetings are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, meetings will occur on the third Thursday of the month in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of City Hall, 90 West Broad Street, in downtown Columbus.

I encourage you to attend. Please note, if you are able to attend an upcoming meeting, a valid picture ID is needed to enter City Hall. If you would like to speak at the meeting, you must complete a speaker slip. Speaker forms are available in Council Chambers from the start of the meeting until 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date(s)

- 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 18, 2010
- 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, 2010 & 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 18, 2010

## ARTS in Columbus

Several fun and exciting arts and culture happenings are scheduled to take place in February to celebrate Black History Month. **"The Harlem Cotton Club Revisited"** will take place on February 6, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at the newly refurbished Lincoln Theatre located at 769 East Long Street. Admission to the event is free, and is a great way to visit this historic venue. For more information, please call (614) 645-8871.

Plus, on February 20, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Ohio Historical Center, 1982 Velma Avenue in Columbus, celebrate the artwork, music and work that have brought Soul! to life. Enjoy art-making activities, performances, storytelling, exhibit tours and the Art Market featuring works of local artists.

Unveiling of *"Living in a Diverse Community"* mural at 6:30 p.m. A silent auction to benefit educational programs will run from 2-8 p.m. Sponsored by Target and the Gordon Chandler Fund of the Columbus Foundation. Admission: FREE; Call (800) 646.1541 for more information.

On a related note, Columbus Recreation and Parks is proud to host the Capital Kids Program's Black History Month event at Beatty Recreation Center on February 17th, from 4 to 6pm. The event will feature a soul food dinner. The center is located at 247 North Ohio Avenue and can be reached at (614) 645-3218 for more information.

For more information on the arts in Columbus, visit  
[www.gcac.org](http://www.gcac.org)

