



# Tyson's Corner



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## WELCOME...

The economic realities of job loss, credit crunches, and home foreclosures have taken our country by storm. Unfortunately, the City of Columbus is not exempt from these struggles. Our city budget faces an even greater gap than was anticipated at the end of last year.

This means that to pass a balanced budget, as council members, we had to make some painful cuts in services. This is especially worrying to me because we have to close eleven of our recreation and parks centers that provide activities and services to people of all ages in Columbus. Numerous non-profit partners can pick up some of this lost capacity, but I am committed to finding ways to maintain options for the residents who use our centers.



The Columbus Economic Advisory Committee has come together to provide some recommendations on altering our revenue and expenditure picture to avoid this issue in the long term. Ideas such as reduced yard waste pick up have already been implemented to deal with our shortfalls. Raising some fees and taxes where suggested by citizens who came out to voice their own opinions on what could be done. We will have to adjust to some new realities in order to get through these tough economic times.

In the end, though, we all know the only way to improve the budget picture is to continue to attract and create new jobs and businesses to Columbus. I have met so many engaged and industrious people in this city during my time in public service that I know with the hard work of Council, our Mayor, and the talented people of Columbus this will happen and is happening right now. As a Council member I will continue to support policies that encourage job creation and growth. I look forward to working with our community to ensure that Columbus is and will remain the greatest place to live, work and play.



And we must remember, that even in these trying times, there are always things to celebrate. I am particularly proud that our city is home to the 2008 MLS Cup Champions, Columbus Crew. Recently team leaders and members accepted a resolution of expression from me and my council colleagues. The resolution highlighted the hard work, dedication, and pride these soccer players demonstrated throughout the past season. I am looking forward to cheering them on in 2009.



## Sponsored Legislation

Below you will find a list containing some of the legislation I was proud to sponsor during the previous three months. My sponsorship of these ordinances reflects my dedication and commitment in making sure Columbus remains a strong, growing and dynamic city.

- HELPING THE ARTS THRIVE IN FIVE:** Local arts organizations are working together to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Columbus cultural groups with the *Thrive In Five* campaign. In 2006, the city's 16 anchor arts and culture institutions formed the Columbus Cultural Leadership Consortium (CCLC). The group has leveraged public and private dollars, allocating money to member organizations. Ordinance 0135-2009, sponsored by Councilmember Priscilla Tyson, amended a contract between the city of Columbus and CCLC to allow the group to continue raising matching funds through the end of 2009.



City of Columbus Legislation Report		Office of City Clerk 55 West Broad Street Columbus, OH 43215-0115 ohio@citycolumbus.org
File Number: 0062-2008		
Emergency	File Type: Ordinance	Status: Passed
File Number: 0062-2008	File Type: Ordinance	Status: Passed
Version: 1	Controlling Body: Recreation and Parks Committee	Introduced: 1-4-2008
File Name: Appropriation of \$3,366,084.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to continue purchase supplies and providing services during 2008, and to declare an emergency. (\$3,366,084.50)		
Requester: Rec. & Parks Dept.	Cost: \$3,366,084.50	Final Action: 1/31/2008
Auditor Cert #:	Auditor: When assigned as Auditor Certificate Number 1, the City Auditor hereby certifies that there is no necessary, or necessary to cause the resources, not yet appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of currency specified herein, to pay the within Ordinance.	
Contact Name/No.:	City Clerk 601-8428	
Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only)		
Mayor's Action		Council Action
Mayor	Date	Date Passed/Adopted
		President of Council
Veto	Date	City Clerk
Title: To authorize the appropriation of \$3,366,084.50 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to continue purchase supplies and providing services during 2008, and to declare an emergency. (\$3,366,084.50)		
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- PROVIDING PROGRAMS FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUTH:** Each year the Recreation and Parks Department uses funds appropriated by City Council to provide opportunities for disadvantaged children to participate in certain fee-based programs. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla Tyson sponsored Ordinance 0090-2009 to appropriate \$8,000 from the Private Leisure Assistance for Youth (PLAY) Fund for scholarships to pay the fees of these programs. In 2008, more than 5,100 children benefited from the PLAY fund.
- TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES IMPROVE CITY SERVICES:** Councilmember Priscilla Tyson sponsored legislation that streamlines several City operations to provide improved services to residents. Ordinance 1680-2008 allows the City to replace out-dated servers with virtualization software that will allow for the consolidation of multiple servers. This upgrade will reduce time-consuming efforts of managing separate servers and will help staff perform tasks associated with recovery, backup, and archiving, in less time. The new server will support critical City services including One-Stop-Shop, 3-1-1, The Division of Fire EMBERS system, and the FleetAnywhere system.
- SUPPORTING SENIORS IN NEED:** Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla Tyson sponsored legislation that provides critical services to seniors. Ordinance 1643-2008 authorizes the expenditure of \$6,333,215 for 32 community services contracts for the provision of meals, adult day care, homemaker, personal care, transportation, home repair and legal services for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. The service providers were selected from proposals submitted to the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging in 2008. The contracts represent the 1st year of a 1-year proposal period. Approximately 40,000 individuals are expected to be served.



## Columbus Cultural Arts Center Celebrates 30 Years



In late 2008, the Columbus Cultural Arts Center (CAC) celebrated its 30th year as a community arts asset. The event featured studio demonstrations and entertainment all through the evening. As an added attraction there were several auctions featuring artwork by CAC faculty

members Denise Romecki, Jim Mason, Tracy Steinbrook and Jon Wahling. All proceeds from the evening benefited CAC's programs, gallery lighting, furniture, studio supplies and equipment.

The center is housed in a former Ohio Arsenal. In 1861, this building, one of the first Ohio State Arsenals, designed specifically for the storage of arms. It continued to operate as an arsenal until the mid 1970's. In 1973, Melvin B. Dodge, then Director of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, toured the arsenal and saw a unique possibility and then set into motion his creative idea and vision. The Ohio State Arsenal was officially dedicated as the Columbus Cultural Arts Center on Monday, June 11, 1978.

Thirty years later, the center remains an important part of Columbus culture. No matter the

skill or interest level, residents can express ideas and enhance creativity by registering for the many classes offered.

Congratulations on this magnificent anniversary. Resident wishing to enroll in classes should visit: [culturalartscenteronline.org](http://culturalartscenteronline.org) or call (614) 645-7047 for more information.



*CAC staff members Sheri-Lynn Caffey and Jennifer Johnson joined me at City Hall for a resolution honoring the 30th anniversary.*

## Columbus Recreation Centers

The faltering economy has a domino effect that led to some major budget cuts. Ultimately these cuts led to the closure of eleven recreation centers operated by the Recreation and Parks Department. The following centers have closed or are slated for closure:

- Barack
- Feddersen
- Glenwood
- Holton
- Indian Mound
- Krumm
- Martin Janis
- Milo Grogan
- Sawyer
- Sullivant
- Tuttle

The closure of some of these centers is nothing short of tragic. As I listened to many of you who are impassioned supporters of recreation centers during our budget hearings, you confirmed my sense of the importance of these centers on our neighborhoods. Not only do they provide invaluable programs to the community, they also provide safe havens for the children of working parents by providing productive, enriching and fun activities.

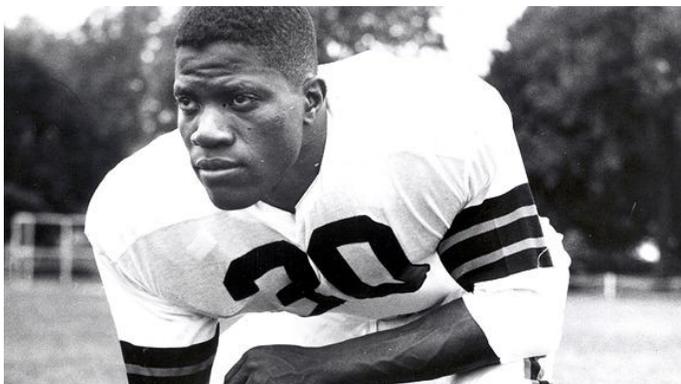
This is why I am committed to working with several non-profit and business partners to find ways to re-open at least some of the recreation centers. Public-

private partnerships have been an important tool for me since I joined City Council as a way to save scarce budget dollars and leverage additional dollars. These relationships are even more important now. I hope to announce in the near future plans to re-open some of these centers. Please visit my Web site for center updates and news.

Summer Camp Brochures will be available in our Recreation Centers beginning March 11th.

Also, mark your calendar for the Camp Fair on April 4th 11 am to 1 pm at the Franklin Park Adventure Center.

## BILL WILLIS—AN HONORED LOCAL LEGEND



*Pro Football Hall Of Fame/Getty Images*

I was thrilled that as part of my role as chair of Recreation and Parks committee, I was able to join members of the Willis family and National Hockey League pioneer Willie O'Ree to help honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Bill Willis, by naming a youth football league in his honor. Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will also plant buckeye trees this spring as a further tribute to his contribution to young athletes.

Willis was born in Columbus and attended Columbus East High School where he ran track and played football. In 1941, he entered Ohio

State University and at the time, no African American played under the head football coach. In his sophomore year, new Ohio State head coach Paul Brown liked Willis' speed and he became a starter. That year the Buckeyes won the Big Ten Conference and were voted national champions by the Associated Press. Willis was named to the United Press International and Look Magazine All-Star teams, after leading the Buckeyes through an undefeated 1944 season. He also played in the 1944 College All-Star Game in Chicago.

The prospects for professional football for an African American were slim when Willis graduated from OSU. No African Americans had played in the league since 1933, so he went to Kentucky State College to serve as their head football coach and athletic director. Soon after, Willis learned that his former college coach, Paul Brown, was leading an All-American Football Conference team in Cleveland. Willis tried out and won a position as a walk-on with the Browns playing both offense and defense, latter changes in substitution rules allowed him to concentrate on the defensive middle guard position. The Browns won their league title every year they played in the AAFC, and Willis was named as an All League player after three of those four years.

In 1971, Willis was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame and in 1977, as a charter member of the Ohio State Varsity O Hall of Fame. After the Browns joined the NFL, Willis was selected for the Pro Bowl in 1950, 1951, and 1952. He was also inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1977. The Ohio State University honored Willis in late 2007 when his #99 jersey was retired. Mr. Bill Willis served as an inspiration

not only Columbus residents, footballs fans, but to athletes and African Americans all over our country. He died November 27, 2007.



*Willie O'Ree and members of Bill Willis' family join me at the special Willis naming event.*

### WILLIE O'REE

Joining me at the naming event was Willie O'Ree, the retired professional ice hockey player, known best for being the first black player in the National Hockey League. Born October 15, 1935, in Fredericton, New Brunswick, O'Ree played as a winger for the Boston Bruins.





During my time as Chair of Council's Administration Committee, I had the pleasure of working with the Community Relations Commission (CRC) to update Columbus' Civil Rights Code. These important updates now extend basis human rights and anti-discrimination protections to a larger number of residents. The update added the following six new protected classes to the list of existing classes: 1) age, 2) disability, 3) sex, 4) gender identity or

expression, 5) familial status and 6) military status.

This is just one example of the fine work of the CRC. Established in 1990, the CRC was established to help bring civic leaders, business leaders, citizens and elected officials together on issues of ethnic, racial and cultural diversity. The fundamental direction of the CRC is to: Promote 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; Work with community organizations to develop programs and educational campaigns devoted to the elimination of group prejudices, racial or neighborhood tensions; Conduct research on the status and treatment of racial, religious and ethnic groups in Columbus; and Enforce the City of Columbus Civil Rights Code.

I'm very proud of this update and it more clearly define Columbus as a national leader in the preservation of human rights and expansion of respect for all individuals.

Residents who feel they have experienced discrimination based on one of the protected classes should contact the CRC at (614) 645-1993 for assistance.

## Zoning Committee

I am excited that I now have the opportunity to be the first woman chair of Columbus City Council's Zoning Committee. All members of council sit on this committee and we meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday evenings, in conjunction with full meetings of council.

Zoning is the public regulation of the use of land. Columbus is divided into various zones for uses such as residential, commercial, and industrial. Zoning regulations typically address building height, bulk, lot area, setbacks, parking, signage, and density.

As chair of Council's Zoning Committee, I will work with Columbus' Development Commission, land owners, developers, neighborhood commissions, civic associations, and the general public to consider variance and rezoning applications.

A council variance allows a use for the property that is not otherwise allowed under the current zoning district, but leaves the current zoning district in tact. For example, we would consider a council variance for a commercial property if the owner wanted to use the attic as an apartment.

A rezoning is when we use legislation to change the zoning district assigned to property. For example, as our city grows and changes, sometimes a block of residential homes have evolved into small businesses and retail shops. When this is the case, and a recommendation comes from the Development Commission, City Council can change the zoning district from residential to commercial.

I am excited about the opportunity to play a larger role in how our city grows and making sure that we use our land in ways that help our economy and are mindful of our environment and our neighbors.



## Columbus City Council

Office of  
Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson

90 West Broad,  
2nd Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

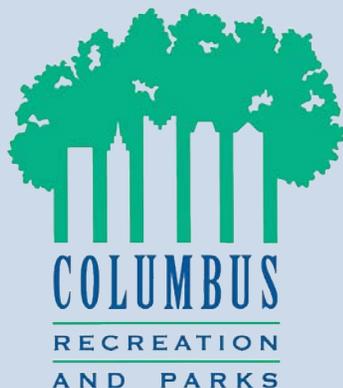
Phone: (614) 645-2933  
Fax: (614) 645-0533

Carl Williams, Legislative Aide  
E-mail: [cgwilliams@columbus.gov](mailto:cgwilliams@columbus.gov)

[www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson](http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson)

### Staff

Mark Harris, Jr.  
Kelli Arthur Hykes  
Thomas Diamond  
Rachel Klegman



[recparcs.columbus.gov](http://recparcs.columbus.gov)

## RECREATION AND PARKS 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 and begin at 5:30 P.M. 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 5:30 until 6:00 P.M. on the day of the meeting.

Upcoming meeting date(s)

- Thursday, April 16, 2009 — Recreation and Parks Meeting
- Thursday, May 21, 2009 — Recreation and Parks Meeting

## Jerry Borin Retirement

I think that it is important for us to honor and highlight the civil servants who do incredible work for the City of Columbus and provide extraordinary service. As Chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee, it is my delight to pay tribute to the work of Gerald Borin, who recently retired from the City after 36 years of service. Mr. Borin, or Jerry as he is known to his family at the Zoo and City, spent 23 of those years as the Executive Director of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and during his tenure, oversaw the transformation of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium into a world-class institution.



*Columbus Crew General Manager Mark McCullers, Columbus Crew Midfielder Brian Carroll and Former Columbus Zoo Executive Director Jerry Borin joined me at City Hall to accept their Resolutions from Council.*

Under Borin's leadership, the zoo grew from 75 acres to 580 acres, the budget increased to \$55.2 million, and attendance nearly tripled from 700,000 to 1.9 million. He did this by renovating all the Zoo's exhibits and adding the Discovery Reef, Manatee Coast, the Islands of Southeast Asia, Asia Quest, the Safari Coast, Zoombezi Bay, and the Polar Frontier. He also established a strategic partnership with the Wilds in southeast Ohio. His visionary leadership led to service on numerous boards, including the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums and the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund International. It also gave the voters of Columbus the confidence to vote overwhelmingly for tax levies to support the zoo's operations. Most recently, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium was ranked the **top** zoo in the United States by the USA Travel Guide publication.

Jerry will be sorely missed.

The same night Jerry joined Council for his Resolution, we also had the pleasure of congratulating the Columbus Crew for winning the 2008 Major League Soccer Cup!

[columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson/comment](http://columbuscitycouncil.org/tyson/comment)