



Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

November 2002

City Council Endorses Neighborhood Improvements

Even though the city faces one of the tightest budgets in its history, we continue to invest in making all our neighborhoods safe and healthy places for our families.

Council's recent sign-off of a \$120 million capital improvement plan will help make critical infrastructure investments throughout the community. These dollars are targeted to creating new jobs, expanding health care opportunities and making residential streets more pedestrian friendly.

Projects include:

- \$1.5 million for improvements to the Mound Street and Souder Avenue intersection in Franklinton. This allows for easy access to the new West Edge Business Center that expects to bring 1,000 new jobs to the core city.
- \$750,000 for traffic and safety projects in South Clintonville, the Hilltop, North Central Columbus, Milo-Grogan and the South Side.
- \$2.1 million for new sidewalks and street crossings in Italian Village, Merion Village, Harrison West, North Linden, Near East and South Linden.
- \$3.5 million to complete the OSU Gateway streetscape and draw \$20 million in new commercial investment to High Street, and another \$8 million to complete the widening of Lane Avenue through campus.
- \$3.7 million to construct the East Columbus Health Center on Main Street.

All of this is designed to stretch limited bond dollars as far as possible while we provide neighborhoods the tools they need to prosper.

More Than a Mall, Northland's Reusing Shopping Center Site



Council President Matt Habash hails the acquisition of the Northland Mall site by Columbus Urban Growth Corporation. Plans call for a multi-use redevelopment of the 55-acre site. "I've always said Northland is more than a mall. The vitality of the

Northland community is important to all of Columbus," said Habash. Council included \$2.15 million in the upcoming city bond sale to continue Morse Road improvements.

Citizens Impact City Spending Plans

Before Council's passes the 2003 city operations budget, we'll conduct three evening public hearings to hear ideas for investing city revenues. The mayor will submit his plan to Council by mid-November. Citizens can speak at the hearings, or submit written comments throughout the remainder of 2002 by writing to: City Council, City Hall, 90 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215 or online at:

www.columbuscitycouncil.org/contact/comment.htm

**THREE PUBLIC HEARINGS
On 2003 CITY BUDGET
5:30 p.m. Thursdays
City Hall – Council Chambers**

DECEMBER 5, DECEMBER 12, DECEMBER 19

Change Is Good!

Council Initiatives Reform City Hall

Labor/Management Partnerships

The best ideas for improving the way an organization operates often come from those closest to it: the people who work there each day. That's why in early 2002 Council challenged the administration to undertake extensive joint labor-manager partnerships in each city department to identify opportunities to save costs and improve productivity. The Columbus Department of Public Utilities has already been successful in improving service and cutting cost through the Kaizan approach, a proven system used in the private sector. The concept makes particular sense in light of the city's current budget crunch. For more information contact: Mary Austin at 645-8548.

Council passed legislation on November 11th to expand the process to other departments.



The world is starting to take notice of what an ideal place Columbus is to live and start a business. With the help of local research and development leaders, Councilman Michael Mentel has produced a plan to attract the technology-based businesses to open up shop in Central Ohio. "Some of the world's sharpest minds work and study here and we're ready to turn the dreams into innovations," Mentel said.

The STAR (Strategic Technology Advanced Relationships) plan will work to bring national and international companies to Columbus and partner with local research entities to produce commercial technologies and create jobs. [Click here](#) to view the 7-point plan. For more information contact: Tom Diamond at 645-0853.

Job Training and Social Services

Times are tough for the city when times are tough for Columbus families. City Council has a proud history of investing in workforce development and social services. Council requested Community Research Partners, an affiliate of Ohio State University, to examine how the city's past investments in human

services have been used and what the city can do to improve. Councilmembers recently heard that while city dollars are a small amount of the total invested in human services by governments and private foundations, the dollars are critical to many organizations. Groups that contract with the city to conduct job training and social service programs told the city the funds are used to serve the most needy and high-risk populations often missed by other larger, less flexible programs.

The research also indicated the city could do a better job of coordinating its funding with other sources and presenting a clearer explanation of how grants are allocated. Councilwoman Charleta Tavares committed to using the research to improve the system and vowed the city will continue to wisely invest in improving the lives of Columbus families. For more information contact: Angela Mingo at 645-2537

Gone to the Dogs! Council Praises Protectors of Pets



In October, Council recognized the **Capital Area Humane Society**, the second oldest such agency in the nation, for outstanding service to the

community. Annually, CAHS assists more than 14,000 animals. Here, Councilman Kevin Boyce holds Lucy, a yellow lab. The Society operates almost solely through donations and volunteers. Contact CAHS at 777-7387.

What's On Your Mind? Come Talk With Us

Talk with City Council members at the next Community



Residents speak with Mike Mentel

Leaders' Meeting – January 23. The Hilltop Resource Center, 6 to 7p.m. These quarterly meetings give Columbus residents a chance for face-to-face discussion with Council. Please join us. Contact Angela

Mingo at 645-2537 for details.