



Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

January 2003

Patsy Thomas Joins City Council

COLUMBUS - Because of her proven leadership on neighborhood issues, Patsy A. Thomas was selected as the newest member of Columbus City Council.

"Patsy Thomas is at the forefront of cleaning up blighted neighborhoods and shutting down crack houses," said Council President Matt Habash said. "She is a home-grown, grassroots neighborhood leaders who knows how to get things done."



Thomas, 42, is an Assistant City Attorney and the Supervising Attorney of the office's Environment Division. In that position, she has participated in the closing of more than 15 crack houses and worked with community leaders to rid their neighborhoods of abandoned and dilapidated properties.

"I sought out this opportunity, because I want to continue to serve the neighborhoods of Columbus," Thomas said. "At the City Attorney's Office, we have shut down more than 15 Crack Houses and as a member of Council, I will work on procedures that will help us get rid of the rest of them along with the other nuisance properties that become havens for criminal activity."

Thomas was sworn into office on January 13 to fill the term of Jennette Bradley. Bradley is resigning her seat on council to become the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, she is also devoted to a number of civic activities and the Second Shiloh Baptist Church, where she serves as church treasurer and taught Sunday School for 22 years.

Thomas began her career as a legal secretary, and spent 11 years continuing her education at night. She earned an associate's degree from Columbus State Community College, then a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Franklin University and finally her law degree from Capital University.

She is a founding member of the Ohio Chapter of the John Mercer Langston Bar Association, a professional organization for African American lawyers; is chairwoman of the Program Committee of the Columbus Area Salvation Army; and a Lifetime Member of the Girl Scouts. She was a former troop leader in the "Bonds Beyond Bars" project, a troop for the daughters of incarcerated women.

Bradley Makes History in New Role

Jennette B. Bradley ended her 11-year career on Columbus City Council by making history. On January 13, she became the first black female lieutenant governor in the United States.

Bradley resigned her seat on Council the same day and moved on to new challenges that not only include serving as second-in-command to Gov. Bob Taft, but also taking the reigns of the Ohio Department of Commerce.

A former vice president at Huntington Bank, Bradley will now direct one of the state's largest and most diverse regulatory agencies. The Department of Commerce has eight divisions and oversees such varied industries from financial institutions to real estate to the sale of liquor and fireworks.

Joining Bradley's lieutenant governor staff is Karen Pettiford, her legislative aide at Council. Karen ended her long tenure at City Hall to take on the new challenges facing the state.

We wish both of them the best of luck in their new endeavors!

Kathy Owens Added to Council Staff

No stranger to the workings of City Hall, Kathy Owens has joined City Council staff as the legislative aide to Patsy A. Thomas.



Owens has 14 years of state and local government experience and is leaving her job as assistant to City Attorney Janet Jackson to take on the new assignment.

"I'm excited about this new opportunity. I looking forward to improving the future of Columbus, my hometown," Owens said.

A native of Columbus, Kathy received her bachelor's degree in Human Resources from the University of Urbana. She earned an MBA from Ashland University.

Prior to work for the City Attorney, Owens served in the Mayor's Office and with the Ohio Supreme Court. She and her husband, Erick, live on the Near East Side.

As a legislative aide, Kathy will work closely with Councilmember Thomas on many key issues. She can be reached at 645-8559.

Fans Celebrate OSU Championship

City Council invites Ohio State fans to congratulate the National Champion Football Buckeyes at a special celebration set for 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, in Ohio Stadium. The event is free and open to the public, and every fan attending will receive a commemorative program.

Coach Jim Tressel, the team and coaches will be honored by Ohio State President Karen A. Holbrook, Gov. Bob Taft, Mayor Michael Coleman, and Council President Matt Habash.

Highlights of the national championship game, including the two heart-stopping overtimes, will be shown on the stadium scoreboard.

Gates will open at 11:30. Free parking will be available in garages around the stadium, and in the St. John Arena, Schottenstein Center and Agricultural Campus lots.

Emergency Medical Services Program

This month Columbus joined the rest of the 20 most populous cities in the nation and seeks reimbursement for the cost of providing emergency medical services through its division of Fire. The federal government, through MEDICARE and MEDICAID, and private insurance carriers routinely cover a portion of such expenses. You may not know it, but as federal taxpayers and the beneficiary of health insurance, either through your employer or purchased under an individual policy, you indirectly already pay for EMS coverage. And, because city income tax revenue is

now used as the sole funding source for EMS services, Columbus taxpayers are really paying twice.

The new program, projected to generate about \$5 million in annual revenue, will help finance this critical service and allow city income tax dollars to support other critical needs - all helping to balance the 2003 budget.

Council is monitoring the program through an oversight committee chaired by Councilman Michael C. Mentel.

The city is embarking on an extensive public education campaign about the new service in mid-January. A new toll-free hotline and website have been opened to take your questions about the EMS service.

Call 1-800-342-6919 to get your questions answered or log onto: www.columbusfire-ems.com

New Addition to Boyce Family Arrives

Councilmember Kevin L. Boyce and wife, Crystal, are pleased to announce the new addition to the Boyce family born December 26, 2002. His name is Christopher Stanley Boyce and he weighed in at 5 pounds, 11 ounces at birth. This is the couple's second child. Kevin, Jr., is enjoying-having a baby brother.

City Budget Revisions in the Works

Two public hearings in December 2002 brought more than 75 people to City Council chambers to share their thoughts on the proposed 2003 budget.

Council has been digesting the insight offered by the citizens who suggested we change the spending plan and council members are busily working to ensure scarce taxpayer dollars are spent as wisely as possible.

Council's budget revisions will soon be announced and expects to approve the plan at its January 27 meeting.

SHARE IDEAS WITH COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

6 p.m. Wednesday, January 22
Greater Hilltop Resource Center
(Located in basement of Westgate Methodist Church)
61 South Powell Avenue
Lower Level
Call Anaela Miao - 645-2537 - for details