

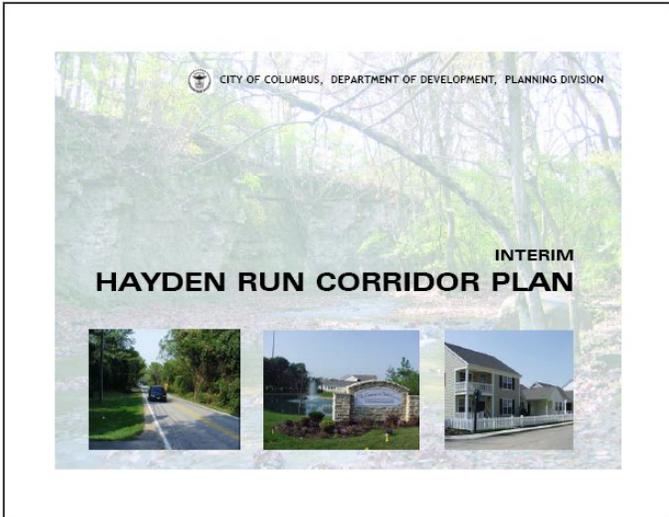


# Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

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## CITY USES PRIVATE FUNDS FOR NORTHSIDE GROWTH CORRIDOR



<http://www.columbusinfobase.org>

A new model to help pay for capital improvements in City growth corridors has been created thanks to an historic agreement sought by City Council and Mayor Michael Coleman. The agreement affects the Hayden Road Corridor in Northwest Columbus and means private developers and the diversion of new property tax revenues through a Tax Increment Financing district will cover most of the \$40 million needed for road work to support an expected 2,600 new homes in the area – at least 72.5%. State funds are expected to cover the balance of costs. **“Our economy has changed,” Council President [Matt Habash](#) said. “Columbus can no longer afford to support new development the old way, solely on the backs of income taxpayers. Instead, we need to forge partnerships with the private sector and suburbs that support sustainable growth.”**

Council Member [Maryellen O’Shaughnessy](#), chair of Council’s Public Service and Transportation committee, initiated a traffic study of the area last year as impetus for discussions with the private developers and worked with zoning chair, [Michael Mentel](#), to delay three residential zonings pending successful negotiations. **“The Hayden Run concept means the private sector pays a fair share of costs for roads to accommodate increased traffic from residential and commercial growth,” O’Shaughnessy said. “We hope that Hilliard and Dublin embrace the concept too.”** A special assessment on new homeowners by a Community Development Authority will also support City services such as police, refuse collection, and code enforcement for the new neighborhoods.

## PROMOTING FIRE SAFETY

Council member [Kevin L. Boyce](#) and the Division of Fire continue an all out effort to promote fire awareness and safety. Recent meetings with residents of the OSU Campus area and the Franklinton/Hilltop area kicked-off a stepped up campaign to encourage homeowners to install smoke detectors in their homes.



Nationwide Insurance, ClearChannel Communications, and the Local 67 IAFF Union have donated funds for the public outreach campaign, which will include billboards, posters, flyers and related advertising. The next scheduled event has Boyce and volunteers walking Hilltop neighborhoods and commercial areas on June 19<sup>th</sup> to spread the word and distribute smoke detectors. For more information, visit: <http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/firesafety/>.

## SAYING THANKS TO COLUMBUS VETERANS



With the sixtieth anniversary of the D-Day landings of June 6, 1944 fast approaching, Council recognized Columbus' own Band of Brothers at its May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, awarding six local veterans of the "Longest Day" with a ceremonial resolution. These Columbus area heroes regaled Council President [Matt Habash](#), City Auditor Hugh Dorrian, and City Attorney Rick Pfeiffer with stories of the landings before the ceremony. **"It's an honor to recognize these men," Habash said. "We can't thank them enough. It's not an exaggeration to say that the performance of the allied troops on one of the most dramatic days in human history saved world freedom."** The event served to remind us of the contribution this nation's armed forces make every day to preserve our freedom.

## Clean Indoor Air

Calling it one of the top five health threats to city residents, Council member [Charleta B. Tavares](#) wants the community to weigh in on a proposed clean indoor air law designed to prevent diseases caused by second-hand smoke. On June 7<sup>th</sup> the Smoke-Free Columbus Coalition presented Tavares, chair of Council's Health, Housing and Human Services Committee, its report and recommendations on the matter after a nine-month in-depth review.

**"Second-hand smoke is linked to many forms of cancer, including breast and lung cancer, in addition to pulmonary disease such as emphysema and asthma," Tavares noted.** She's scheduled two public hearings, June 16<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>, for testimony before deciding what form of legislation to submit for her colleagues' consideration. Participants should give specific, written recommendations and proposals. Also available is a dedicated phone line **(645-7309)** and a page on Council's web site for interested citizens to comment on the issue: [www.columbuscitycouncil.org/cleanair](http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/cleanair).



## Keeping Columbus Parks and Pools Safe



Council members [Kevin Boyce](#) and [Michael Mentel](#) want Governor Bob Taft and the Ohio General Assembly to extend the ban on concealed carry weapons to public parks and pools, or at least allow municipalities like Columbus to exercise their home rule powers to do so themselves. The State failed to do so in its recently passed HB12, prompting City Council to unanimously pass Resolution 96X-2204. **"Parks are for kids and relaxation, not guns,"** Boyce said. The council members sent the resolution to the Statehouse along with letters to Governor Taft and members of the Franklin County state legislative delegation. Ohio State Senator Ray Miller and House Representative Tyrone Yates plan to push legislation to address Boyce and Mentel's concern.

## Protecting Big Darby

One of the more vigorous debates to come before Council is the role Columbus should take to protect the Big Darby, a national and scenic river whose watershed lies to the immediate west. Though Columbus occupies just 1% of the watershed, the City has taken several steps over the last decade to preserve and improve this important natural resource.

-  Adopted an Environmental Conservation District adjacent to the Big Darby Creek as an area where the city would not promote annexation and development until storm water management issues could be effectively addressed to protect the Big Darby Watershed.
-  Restricted the expansion of its sewer and water contracts with the cities of Hilliard and Grove City preventing them from extending water lines into the Big Darby Watershed until protection strategies are adopted.
-  Enacted a two-year moratorium prohibiting extension of sewer and water pipelines into the Watershed.
-  Conducted an extensive study for the eastern portion of Hellbranch Run and Clover Groff Ditch to develop a proposed Hellbranch Run Watershed Protection Overlay. That overlay proposes groundbreaking new methods of protecting streams from storm water runoff within a portion of the watershed prone to development
-  Enacted one of the toughest watershed protection laws in the country.

To see more on the Big Darby, visit [www.columbuscitycouncil.org/news/press/pr\\_hellbranch.htm](http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org/news/press/pr_hellbranch.htm)