



# Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

## TAVARES HONORED BY COLUMBUS HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Columbus City Council member [Charleta Tavares](#)' hard work promoting affordable housing was recognized by Columbus Housing Partnership (CHP) at its 2004 Bringing People Home Celebration on October 6<sup>th</sup>. CHP, a top non-profit producer of affordable housing in Central Ohio, has served lower-income families and individuals for 16 years, bringing 3,200 affordable homes to the Columbus market during that span. Amy Klaben, president and CEO of CHP noted that Tavares' long support has "enhanced lives, strengthened communities and brought people home."



Tavares, chair of Council's Health, Housing & Human Services Committee, also hosted a town meeting September 28<sup>th</sup> as part of the National League of Cities' nationwide discussion on how to resurrect the American Dream. **"More and more citizens are finding the American Dream out of reach," Tavares said. "Because affordable housing is a critical part of that dream, government must continue to seek partners to make home ownership a reality for more people."**



Visit: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org) to learn more about the League's recent survey.

## BOYCE JOINS FIREFIGHTERS TO ACCEPT CAMERA



Kevin Boyce thanks donors at Station 7.

A highlight of Fire Prevention Month for Council member [Kevin L. Boyce](#) was joining Columbus Firefighters at Station 7 on Indianola Avenue in the OSU Campus area to accept a thermal imaging camera from members of the OSU Greek Society, the OSU Medical Center Burn Unit, and The Society of Fire Protection Engineers. The \$10,000 camera can help firefighters find persons trapped by fire and smoke. The students helped raise money after a 2003 fire claimed the lives of five students in the area.

Boyce has been working to promote fire safety and awareness in the wake of a recent series of tragic fire-related deaths, doing literature drops and handing out fire alarms in high-risk areas. The City also recently placed an educational advertising

in the OSU Lantern for returning students. **"Government can't save lives by itself. We have to come together," Boyce said at the camera event. "This piece of equipment provides eyes for firefighters when they can't see."**

## BUSINESS NEWS:

Speaking of the need for thoughtful investments, Council President, [Matt Habash](#) said at a recent groundbreaking: **“Columbus must be smart in how it attracts new companies, smart on how it trains and supports one of the brightest and most creative workforces in the country - and smart in how it focuses its time and energies on the kinds of jobs that truly support our families.** Here’re some of the exciting job developments happening in Columbus:

### 414 NEW JOBS COMING TO COLUMBUS

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City officials welcome EMH&T to Columbus.

- [Matt Habash](#) joined Council members [Mary Jo Hudson](#), [Maryellen O’Shaughnessy](#), and Mayor Michael Coleman at the ground breaking event of Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton’s new headquarters.
- 104,000 square-foot building in northeast Columbus, employing **329 workers** with an annual payroll of about \$20 million. Another **85 new jobs** are planned between 2005 and 2007.

### A FACELIFT FOR BROAD AND HIGH

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- **\$8.8 million private investment** for the corner of Broad and High Streets with local developer Don Casto’s mixed-use project of 48,000 square feet of retail and office space. Council incentivised the project with a 75% tax abatement.
- [Mary Jo Hudson](#) called the project **“a very exciting centerpiece” to downtown development** and **“integral to creating an environment that attracts more jobs downtown,”** a priority for her as chair of Council’s Jobs and Economic Development Committee.
- An adjacent eight-story residential project with luxury condominiums overlooking the State Capitol is also in the works.
- Includes a permanent scrolling, lighted digital ticker-tape video display system.



Planned Broad and High development

## I-670 CAP



The I-670 Cap – built to resemble Union Station

- Ribbon cutting for the long-awaited Cap over I-670 took place October 28<sup>th</sup>. The City contributed \$350,000 and ODOT \$1 million of the project. The private developer Continental invested nearly **\$6 million** to build a seamless connection from the Convention Center area to the Short North.
- 26,000 square-feet of retail. The nation's first retail center over a federal highway.

## HUDSON HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

Council's newest member, [Mary Jo Hudson](#), has been quick to dive into jobs and economic development issues. She held a public briefing on October 21<sup>st</sup> to review recommendations from the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC). The TIRC monitors compliance with the City's sixty-seven Enterprise and CRA Agreements.

- Through the end of last year, collectively these projects had met 91% of the job creation goal (**4,236 new jobs**)
- Met in excess of 100% of goals for new payroll, jobs retained, and private investment. In total, the projects generated **\$1.6 billion in real and personal property investment.**



## MENTEL HOPES TO BAN UNSAFE and UNREGULATED WEAPONS

**Columbus Dispatch September 21, 2004 Editorial:** Regulation of military-style arms that aren't required for hunting or personnel security is a legitimate function of government.

Congress recently allowed the ten-year old federal ban on assault weapons to expire. That, along with the continued development of new technology concerns Council Safety and Judiciary Chair [Michael Mentel](#). "**More and more unsafe and unregulated weapons are becoming readily available in our community,**" Mentel wrote in a recent letter to other Council members, announcing plans to conduct a

series of briefings and hearings to explore ways the City can reduce access to dangerous weapons.

**“Police officers have begun seeing everything from stun guns and tasers to sniper rifles and 762 ammo that can easily penetrate bullet proof vests,” Mentel said. “Weapons experts now predict that everything from cell phones to jackets will soon double as ‘stunning devices’. The question we need to ask and answer is: ‘Should these weapons be easily accessible to everyone in our community and, if not, what steps can the City take to ban them?’”**

A briefing in early December in Council Chambers will mark the first step. It will focus primarily on police personnel detailing the types of weapons recently found in the City as well as the potential harm they may pose to law enforcement personnel or innocent bystanders. Additional sessions also will be held later in December as Mentel works toward draft legislation for Council’s future consideration.

## COLUMBUS CREW AND COSI BRING JOY TO HONDURAN KIDS



Scott Varner with six-year old Kevin

Whenever events get you down here at home, consider the plight of Honduran children diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Scott Varner, legislative aide for City Council member [Mary Jo Hudson](#), recently spent seven days at an orphanage near the capital city of Tegucigalpa. Two-dozen children, born and then abandoned by HIV-positive mothers, are given life-saving medication and a home at Montaña de Luz (Spanish for “Mountain of Light”), an orphanage organized by a Columbus-based charity. On learning of the mission from Hudson, the Columbus Crew donated twenty kids’ team jerseys, shorts, and soccer balls. Soccer is the sport of choice in Honduras, and the children were ecstatic with the gift. COSI also donated a dozen make-it-yourself kaleidoscopes and science-related gifts.

## COLUMBUS VOTERS SUPPORT CLEAN INDOOR AIR!

The election results are in and by more than a ten-percentage point margin Columbus voters agreed with City Council that clean indoor air is an important community health issue. Last June, City Council enacted the city’s first clean indoor air law in response to health concerns associated with second-hand smoke. The law is effective immediately, but will not be enforced for 90 days, until the first of February 2005. Several suburban communities have followed suit, enacting their own legislation to stop second-hand smoke, making central Ohio a leader in this effort. [Charleta Tavares](#) sponsored the City’s law and expressed her gratitude to Columbus voters. **“We all want to make Columbus the healthiest city in America. Stopping the threat of second-hand smoke is an important step in the right direction,”** Tavares said.

