

## PROTECTING HARRISON WEST

Council member [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) and neighborhood advocates wore big smiles as Council approved the Harrison West Plan to guide growth and redevelopment in the neighborhood abutting the Olentangy River. The Plan will help protect historic assets, preserve neighborhood character, and identify significant infrastructure deficiencies in the area.

"Quality neighborhoods need mixed uses," said O'Shaughnessy. "You can lose the unique character of what makes a neighborhood great without planning efforts like this."

One key area project is at the old AC Humko manufacturing site where approximately 300 owner-occupied homes are being built. "We're turning an abandoned industrial site into an exciting residential development," said O'Shaughnessy. "Overall, the Plan also includes new office and light industrial development, and a three-acre riverfront park."



(L to R) Planners Lori Baudro and David Hall, Council Member Maryellen O'Shaughnessy (middle), and planning partners Mary Funk and Veda Gilp proudly display graphics of the Harrison West Plan.

## KEEPING KIDS SAFE



Kevin Boyce (left) with principal Andrew Smith III and friends at Broadleigh Elementary.

You'll soon hear lots of laughter and sighs of relief at two Columbus playgrounds as children and parents enjoy new, safer equipment thanks to Council member [Kevin Boyce's](#) Building Safe Playground Initiative. Council moved the project from paper to reality by funding improvements at Broadleigh and Northtowne Elementary Schools.

"Kids deserve a safe place to play, and playgrounds serve as much more than just aesthetic greenspace," said Boyce, noting that he played on the existing equipment at Broadleigh when he attended the school twenty-five years ago.

It's not just about fun. Children's Hospital alone annually treats more than 600 children for playground injuries. The rubberized surfaces being installed will cushion falls to reduce bumps, scrapes, and broken bones.



## PARTNERING WITH LINDEN



A new elementary school to serve kids from the Greater Linden area will soon rise on Bonham Avenue. Council President [Matt Habash](#) worked with neighborhood residents and Urban Concern, Inc., to turn an abandoned police substation site into a new school.

“We are excited to convert this site into a productive community asset,” said Habash. “City Council wants to identify projects that promote healthy neighborhoods and quality community development. This is a great example.”

The City sold the site for fair market value and \$3 million in private funds will cover construction. When complete, the new school could serve as many as 126 students from kindergarten through grade five.

Habash meets with Linden area friends, students at Harambee School to be relocated to the new building.

## RECAP OF COUNCIL’S TARGETED FUNDS

Want to know what Council members have accomplished so far with some of the special funds they created last winter when amending the Mayor’s 2005 budget? *Call The Roll* has highlighted several initiatives. Here’s a recap, and look for more to follow:

<b><u>\$2 million Public Safety Initiatives Fund</u></b>	
Reserve for future police and firefighter hires	\$400,000
Fighting animal abuse and family violence	86,000
Getting drug treatment to 28 women at Maryhaven	50,000
Adding auto crash rescue tools to two more Fire stations	21,000
Modeling an innovative crime prevention program on the Eastside	20,000
Implementing a defensive driver training program for firefighters	<u>16,000</u>
Used to–date:	\$593,000

<b><u>\$2 million Jobs Growth Initiative Fund</u></b>	
Urban Growth Corp operating support	\$172,000
Identifying reusable industrial sites	150,000
Developing a High-Tech Science Research Corridor for new jobs	138,000
Helping entrepreneurs during the startup phase	100,000
Creating a Southside Vision Plan to redevelop Parson Avenue	80,000
Supporting the Northland Alliance efforts to redevelop Morse Road	36,730
Creating a Revolving Loan Program for microbusinesses	33,333
Conducting a traffic study to redevelop Grandview Ave/Route 33	<u>15,000</u>
Used to–date:	\$723,063

**Columbus Tax Incentive Summary**

**69 Enterprise Zone and CRA Agreements:**

- 4,310 new jobs – 98% of goal
- \$155 million in new payroll – 116% of goal
- 9,723 jobs retained – 98% of goal
- \$1.7 billion in private inv. – 115% of goal

**11 Pre-1994 CRAs and 6 Residential CRAs:**

- \$476 million in private investment
- 19,683 new jobs

**24 TIF Districts:**

- \$2.3 billion in private investment
- 55,772 new jobs

Source: Development Department

It's good to regularly review how the City promotes job growth through various incentive programs. Thanks to the City's three primary incentive programs, Columbus has either created or retained more than 89,000 jobs through 2004, and generated nearly \$4.5 billion in private investment. Most of the activity has occurred in the last decade.

"Most incentive projects exempt the Columbus Public School system," said Council President [Matt Habash](#). "The school system continues to receive property tax revenues as if the incentive did not exist. And in the long run, it sees significant increases in revenue thanks to the new development."

**CREATING JOBS**



Mary Jo Hudson. SNP

That's a goal you hear expressed a lot if you walk the corridors of City Hall. In October, Council took the words to heart and enacted legislation to help Grange Mutual Casualty Company's planned investment of approximately \$80 million to expand its Front Street headquarters. Grange is the largest employer in the Brewery District.

A non-school tax increment financing district and other incentives for the company will help finance public infrastructure improvements in the area.

For Columbus, that means the retention of 775 current jobs and the expected addition of another 800 over the next twenty years.

"It's all about encouraging the right kind of jobs to give Columbus residents a quality paycheck," said Council member [Mary Jo Hudson](#), who sponsored the action. "At the same time, we need to protect the City's income tax base. That's the key to maintaining critical public services like police and fire protection." Look for cranes to pop up in the area soon.

**\$80 Million Private Investment**

**Retain 775 Jobs and create up to 800 new Jobs**

**New 200,000 Sq.-foot Office Building**

**\$3.3 Million Annual Income Tax Impact**

**\$2.5 Million for Columbus Schools**

## TAVARES CHAIRS NLC GROUP LOOKING AT EDUCATION

Council member and National League of Cities Board member [Charleta Tavares](#) chaired a NLC Task Force looking at the “No Child Left Behind Act.” The group developed specific legislative recommendations to make the Act more effective. “For schools that are identified as needing improvement, we want corrective action to be locally-driven,” said Tavares. “There is no cookie-cutter approach, and to expect that there is only one way to test students, or that needs do not differ by community, is unrealistic. Individual school systems need more flexibility.”



Council member Charleta Tavares.

President Bush signed the “No Child Left Behind” Act in January 2002. Designed to reform public education across the nation, it was intended to make federal dollars contingent on improved scholastic achievement and closing the gap between white and minority children.

To learn more about this and other issues facing Columbus area school children, visit: Kids Ohio at <http://www.kidsohio.org/>

## GETTING READY FOR WINTER



Mayor Coleman and Maryellen O'Shaughnessy with Bonna Hildreth, one of the City's dedicated Snow Warriors. Hildreth is just one of one hundred and eighteen frontline drivers on call, with another one hundred on standby.

Before we know it, Columbus drivers will be negotiating slippery streets and regretting that they did not change those old wiper blades. City Council member [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) recently joined the Mayor for their annual inspection of the City's snow plow fleet. Here are some facts about the City's plan to tackle winter precipitation on nearly 4,700 lane miles of streets:

Icey road treatment resources are at full capacity, including 30,000 tons of salt, 59,000 gallons of calcium chloride, and 17,600 gallons of brine.

One hundred and seven pieces of snow-fighting equipment are available.