

Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

May 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for taking a moment to read “Call The Roll,” Columbus City Council’s monthly electronic newsletter that highlights some of our most recent activities.

Within the last few weeks we have welcomed our newest member to Council, Hearcel Craig. Councilmember Craig brings the wisdom and experience of more than 30 years of service in the public and private sectors to Council. He also is a tireless volunteer, having worked with dozens of social service organizations throughout central Ohio. I know that I speak for all my colleagues when I say we are looking forward to serving with Hearcel Craig, a caring person who is committed to bettering the quality of life for all residents of Columbus.

As spring unfolded in central Ohio I attended many events that reminded me why I’m so proud to call Columbus home.

I was honored to join Mayor Mike Coleman as we kicked off another year of the successful Neighborhood Pride program. The annual effort places concentrated city services in areas throughout the city, where volunteers line up shoulder-to-shoulder with City workers to clean their streets and sidewalks, and make their neighborhoods safer places to live. I’m extremely proud of all the citizens who participate in this wonderful program year in and year out.

And then there was the groundbreaking for a new fire station in Franklinton. I grew up a short distance from where I stood with a number of my fellow Councilmembers, turning the first shovels of dirt for a historic new fire station.

During the coming weeks City Council also will hold a number of very important public hearings. Please be sure to see the end of this newsletter for more details. I encourage you to attend one or all of the meetings. The feedback we receive from citizens is critical in helping us shape the vision for the future of our great City.

If you cannot attend one of those hearings, there will be three regularly scheduled Council meetings in May. Please note that we will not have a meeting on Memorial Day.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Mentel



HEARCEL CRAIG WELCOMED ABOARD

City Council chose a lifelong Columbus resident with more than 30 years of public service to the community to fill a vacancy on Council. Councilmember [Hearcel Craig](#) will serve out the unexpired term of Patsy Thomas, who stepped down in April to become a Franklin County Municipal Court Judge.

“I have had the chance to serve on many diverse boards around Columbus, working with young people, senior citizens and people with disabilities,” said Craig. “It gives me tremendous pride and humbles me to have the opportunity to continue my service to the public as a member of City Council.” Councilmember Craig serves as chair of the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee.



Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, a veteran of the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne, was sworn in on April 23, 2007.

CITY ACQUIRES NEW BOMB SQUAD ROBOT



Councilmember Andrew Ginther (right) discusses the latest bomb detection technology with Columbus Division Fire Capt. Steve Saltsman.

The Columbus Division of Fire soon will be getting a new state-of-the-art robot for its Bomb Squad. Safety Committee Chair [Andrew Ginther](#) was given a first-hand look at an older generation robot during a City Hall demonstration.

The Division of Fire secured a \$300,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security and City Council used \$3,480 from the Safety Bond Fund to purchase the new BOZ robot. The new robot will be larger and more powerful than its predecessor, and will be able to remove much heavier objects.

The newer model also will have better anti-terrorism capabilities. The current robot will be kept in working order, allowing the Bomb Squad to have both machines at their disposal.

NEW BEGINNING FOR BRETNELL

A popular East side recreation center is renovated and ready to go for thousands of Columbus residents.

The Brentnell Recreation Center has served as a focal point for many East side residents who have enjoyed the athletic and artistic programs offered there. Those programs will continue for years to come thanks to the makeover.

Councilmember [Priscilla Tyson](#), who chairs the Recreation and Parks Committee, spoke during the rededication ceremony about her many fond memories at Brentnell.



Councilmember Priscilla Tyson talks to teens at the Brentnell rededication.

“LIVE FIRST, WORK SECOND”



Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce addresses the audience at the Young Professionals presentation.

That seems to be the motto of the most sought after demographic in the U.S. these days. Council President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) and Health, Housing and Human Services Chair [Charleta Tavares](#) both spoke during the unveiling of a study that details how the City can attract and retain workers under the age of 40.

The Young Professionals crowd is becoming increasingly important in the labor force and social fabric of society as baby boomers retire. In the ongoing effort to retain jobs and create new opportunities for employment, City leaders are committed to making Columbus a place where Young Professionals want to call home.

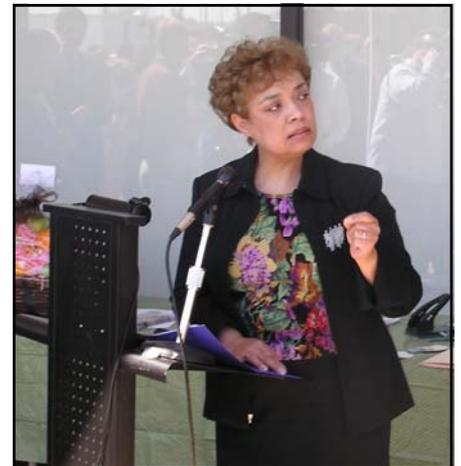
In 2006, City Council approved the study that will serve as a blueprint to keep graduates from the nearly 20 area colleges and universities here in Columbus. Columbus plans to hold a statewide Young Professionals conference, and Mayor Michael Coleman hopes to name a Young Professional liaison to the City.

SOUTH SIDE HEALTH CARE FACILITY REOPENS

The doors are now open to Columbus' newest Neighborhood Health Center. The John R. Maloney Health Center is a familiar name for South side residents, but the center is in a new location.

A deteriorating building along Parsons Avenue forced the City and Health Department to close the health center. Six months later, Councilmember [Charleta Tavares](#) participated in the ribbon cutting of the new 7,000 square foot facility along South High Street near the Great Southern Shopping Center.

“City Council made this Health Center a priority in the budget,” said Councilmember Tavares who heads the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee. “We will continue to work to make sure we have the best health care possible for residents of this South side Community.”



Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares

FIRE STATION 10 GROUNDBREAKING



Members of City Council joined other City and neighborhood leaders for the groundbreaking for a new fire station in Franklinton on the near West side. Fire Station 10 has stood at 1096 W. Broad St. since 1896 and cost \$22,139 when originally constructed. The cost included six horses, harnesses, furnishings and hoses. The station converted to motorized vehicles in 1913.

(L-R) Councilmember Andrew Ginther, Council President Pro Tem Kevin Boyce, Councilmember Priscilla Tyson, Safety Director Mitchell Brown, Council President Michael Mentel, Carol Stewart of the Franklinton Area Commission, and Mayor Michael Coleman break ground at the newly located Fire Station 10.

(Fire Station 10 cont.)

Councilmembers approved spending \$4,454,208 to begin the construction of the modern fire station, which will be built next to its historic ancestor. The modern fire station will have more than double the square footage of the old building and will include the latest “green” technology to make sure the building is energy efficient and environmentally friendly.



The new Fire Station 10 will maintain the historic look of the Franklinton area.

SAFER SIDEWALKS



Councilmember [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) recently sat down with Centennial High School students and interns to the Northwest Civic Association to talk about beginning a sidewalk building program in the area.

"These students identified pedestrian safety and sidewalk construction as the issue they wanted to carry forward for their neighborhood," O'Shaughnessy said. "We are working with the Transportation Division of the Public Service Department to use this effort as a pilot program for a City-wide sidewalk construction assessment policy."

Joining the students, the Councilmember and neighborhood activist Rosemarie Lisko were teacher and advisor Fred Erfurt, City Engineer Randy Bowman and Transportation Division Assistant Administrator Dave Mackey.

Councilmember Maryellen O'Shaughnessy chairs the Development and Public Service and Transportation Committees.

BISHOP CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY WITH COUNCIL RECOGNITION

During the past quarter century, Bishop Timothy Joseph Clarke has built the First Church of God from a humble congregation of 65 members to more than seven thousand. During that time, through his tireless acts of faith and devotion, Bishop Clarke has inspired countless more Columbus residents to improve their lives and better their community.

For those reasons and many more Bishop Clarke and his wife, Lady Clytemnestra Lawson Clarke, were recognized with a resolution sponsored by Councilmember [Priscilla Tyson](#). During her presentation Councilmember Tyson reminded the audience that Bishop Clark, while tending to his church, also has served on numerous community boards, including the United Way of Franklin County, The Columbus Urban League, and the Mayor's Community Relations Board.



(L-R) Lady Clytemnestra Lawson Clarke, Councilmember Priscilla Tyson, and Bishop Timothy Joseph Clarke.

THREE SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS IN MAY



Columbus City Council will be hold three important public hearings in May.

The first hearing will feature representatives from Columbus based Skybus Airlines, which will take flight this month. Skybus is offering fares to selected cities for as low as \$10 a seat. Councilmembers will learn about the company's unique business model and how

Skybus is progressing toward meeting goals set forth in a performance-based incentive package offered by the City. Skybus is expected to add more than 1,000 jobs. The hearing will take place Tuesday, May 8, 2007, in the second floor conference room at Port Columbus International Airport and will get underway at 3:00 p.m.

City Council is also set to examine both short term and long range capital improvement projects. The Capital Improvement Budget (C.I.B.) for 2007 will map out a plan to invest hundreds of millions of dollars for better roads, sewers, sidewalks and other community oriented projects. President Pro Tem and Finance Chair Kevin Boyce will hold a public hearing on the C.I.B. Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

A hearing will be held on the latest recommendations to improve the arts community in Columbus. Wayne Lawson, chair of the Creative Columbus Policy Steering Committee, will brief City Council on the committee's recommendations. During their 11-month study the committee looked at all facets of the arts community and arts funding in Columbus. The group made nearly 70 recommendations to Council. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Columbus College of Art and Design.