

# Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Earlier this year I wrote about a group of dedicated volunteers who had been charged with the task of helping update the way City Council and neighborhood organizations interact with each other for decades to come.

In this edition of *Call The Roll*, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the efforts of the Area Commission/Civic Association Work Group and some of their findings.

The individuals who volunteered their time to participate in this Work Group truly embody the spirit of public service. Beginning in May and continuing through September, the Work Group held public meetings twice a month, taking testimony and gathering facts. They even spent eight hours one Saturday amidst tornado warnings to compile their findings into a final report.

Under the leadership of Gary L. Baker II, chair of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission, the Work Group members had complete autonomy to structure their organization and set the course for their study. First, they established their rules, then set their agenda and debated any and all issues that the public brought before them.



**Members of the Area Commission/Civic Association Work Group worked tirelessly to provide their list of recommendations to Columbus City Council.**

It is clear to me and Councilmember Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, who helped empanel the group, that these civic leaders have given thoughtful deliberation to the broad range of topics they considered.

In the coming weeks Councilmember O'Shaughnessy and I look forward to a public meeting that will allow even more discussion and input into the Work Group's recommendations.

I would like to take one more opportunity to thank all those who served on the panel. Their hard work is greatly appreciated by Council and by the citizens whom they represent.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Mentel  
City Council President

**Visit Columbus City Council's [Website](#) to learn more about Council's [Initiatives](#) and to access links to City departments.**

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 3 [New Technology for Columbus Police](#)
- 4 [Revolutionary Green Asphalt Makes Its Columbus Debut](#)
- 5 [RASTRA Plant Promotes Job Growth and Green Innovation](#)
- 6 [Hilltop Business Report](#)
- 7 [Work Group Gives Council a Preview](#)
- 8 [Tyson Meets with Westside Business Owners](#)
- 9 [Collaborative COMBAT Program Improves Snow Removal Strategy](#)
- 10 [Finding Space for ArtSpace](#)
- 11 [Lincoln Theater Revival](#)
- 13 [Columbus Art Commission](#)
- 14 [Internship Initiatives Help Retain Young Professionals](#)
- 15 [Protecting Charitable Donors](#)
- 16 [Crime Stoppers Celebrates 30 Years](#)



## NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR COLUMBUS POLICE

Receiving a traffic ticket may not be the most pleasant experience, but in the future it will take less time and allow Columbus police officers to get back on the streets more quickly.

Five Columbus police cruisers are now equipped with Electronic Ticket technology that enables officers to swipe a driver's license and upload the information immediately into a cross-jurisdictional database.

"We are harnessing the available technology to give our officers the tools they need to get their jobs done in a faster, more streamlined manner," said [Hearcel F. Craig](#), chair of the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee.

The five squad cars being used for the E-Ticket pilot program have portable printers that create a paper ticket that offenders can keep for their records. In the 60 seconds it will take to complete a traffic stop, information on the offender will be shared with the Columbus Division of Police, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation. E-Ticket also will improve the processing time for staff in the Municipal Court Clerk's office.

"My office currently has more than a dozen employees who enter information from written tickets into a database," said [Lori M. Tyack](#), Clerk of the Franklin County Municipal Court. "I will be able to better allocate staff members elsewhere in our office because of the E-Ticket technology, which improves efficiency and maximizes taxpayer dollars."



**Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig (podium) and Municipal Court Clerk Lori M. Tyack (right of podium) announced the E-Ticket program.**



**(top) Councilmember Craig inspected one of the five police cruisers supporting the new E-Ticket technology.**

**(right) The compact E-Ticket equipment will expedite the citation process, enabling officers to spend less time on paperwork and more time on enforcement.**

Officers say E-Ticket is also making them safer since they are spending less time parked on the side of roadways as they process tickets. In the past, officers say they could spend anywhere from 10 minutes to half an hour waiting for the information they needed to complete a citation. Now, the ticketing process is nearly instantaneous.

"It really is amazing what officers can get done in a shorter period of time," said Officer Dennis Venrick of the Columbus Division of Police. "E-Ticket will allow us to spend more time on enforcement and less time writing tickets. That, in the end, will make Columbus safer."



## REVOLUTIONARY *GREEN* ASPHALT MAKES ITS COLUMBUS DEBUT

“Green”—or environmentally friendly—technology is becoming more abundant in Columbus. From a Downtown office building designed to catch rainfall for use in its septic water system, to homes constructed to reflect the sun’s heat and keep occupants cool, the City’s goal is to promote energy efficiency and creative reuses of disposable materials.

The City of Columbus is continuing this commitment to environmental technology with the latest innovation, *green* asphalt.

As part of Mayor Michael B. Coleman’s *Get Green* initiative, a portion of N. 21st St. between Mount Vernon Ave. and Long St. has been resurfaced with a mixture of asphalt and recycled tires.

“Roads that are built with rubber from used tires are expected to last longer and need less maintenance,” said [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), chair of the Recreation and Parks Committee. “This new roadway will be quieter and cause less wear-and-tear on vehicles. It also continues our commitment to make Columbus as ‘green’ as possible.”

The paving project is partially funded with a \$17,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. In all, 1400 feet of N. 21st will be repaved with 337 tons of ground tire asphalt, including an estimated 337 tires, at a cost of \$23,590. The complete project also involves the installation of 22 new ADA-compliant curb ramps.



**Hugh Chapman (left) of Seneca Petroleum Co. showed Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson (right) the refined ground tire asphalt.**

Ground Tire Asphalt (GTA) is being used in limited tests in other parts Franklin County as well. However, the project on N. 21st St. is believed to be one of the first residential applications of GTA in the nation.



**Crews laid down fresh “green” asphalt. Asphalt made from old tires reduces wear-and-tear on vehicles and on the environment.**

“While we test this material in the NoBo (North of Broad Street) section of the King-Lincoln District, I will encourage more Columbus residents and businesses to look for ways to *Get Green* too,” said Mayor Coleman.

The GTA is generally a mixture of 20% crumb rubber particles derived from the grinding of waste tires with 80% paving grade asphalt.

## RASTRA PLANT PROMOTES JOB GROWTH AND GREEN INNOVATION



**Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares discussed the numerous benefits that the RASTRA plant will bring to Columbus.**

In addition to paving *green* roads, Columbus is ready to welcome a company that specializes in helping to build *green* homes.

RASTRA is a Scottsdale, Arizona company that mixes crushed polystyrene (Styrofoam) with cement to create the framework for load-bearing walls and other building components. RASTRA is constructing a new \$8.3 million facility at 2500 Jackson Pike that will create 50 new full-time jobs within the next three to four years.

"This is more than bringing good jobs to Columbus," said [Charleta B. Tavares](#), chair of the Workforce Development Committee. "We are celebrating the fact that we can recruit a new business, improve our environment, and extend the life of our landfill—all of which will make a positive impact on Columbus for decades to come."

RASTRA proclaims that its product is strong enough to withstand hurricanes, tornados, fires, and termites. RASTRA products also provide outstanding sound and temperature insulation, and in some cases can help reduce certain utility bills by fifty-percent. RASTRA considered placing their new plant in two other states before choosing Columbus because of their strong working relationship with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).

"Opening this plant in Columbus helps position our company for growth in the Eastern United States," said RASTRA President Karl Holik. "The strength of the Columbus workforce and the City's commitment to green technology matches RASTRA's mission to provide high-tech building materials for homes and businesses."

RASTRA's Columbus facility will produce about 3500 square feet of wall per shift, which is enough material to construct a mid-size house. After a short start up period there will be two shifts at the facility.

"This is a prime example of how SWACO acts as a catalyst in Central Ohio to spur public/private projects that *reduce, reuse and recycle*," said SWACO Interim Executive Director Ron Mills. "It also brings benefits to taxpayers as RASTRA's use of polystyrene will save space at SWACO's Franklin County landfill."



**Director of Ohio Economic Development Steven Schoeny, Franklin County Commissioner Paula Brooks, Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares, Environmental Steward Susan Ashbrook, RASTRA President Karl Holik, and SWACO Interim Executive Director Ron Mills broke ground at the future site of the RASTRA manufacturing facility.**

## HILLTOP BUSINESS REPORT



**Safety Committee Chair Andrew J. Ginther helped unveil a preliminary report of the Hilltop/West Broad Corridor market analysis.**

The Hilltop area west of downtown is the largest community in Columbus. In fact, if the Hilltop were a city it would be the 11th largest in Ohio.

A recently unveiled interim Hilltop/West Broad Corridor Market Analysis shows that the 67,000+ people living in the Hilltop are looking to spend more of their time and money closer to home on a variety of goods, services, and entertainment.

“There is an untapped market potential that businesses can really target,” said Councilmember [Andrew J. Ginther](#), chair of the Public Safety Committee. “This market analysis will help City Council, residents, and business owners better understand what needs to be done to attract the kinds of shops and restaurants people want.”

The report, which was prepared by the Columbus-based Boulevard Strategies and funded by a \$15,000 grant from City Council, analyzes a variety of factors that may spur economic growth in the Hilltop/West Broad corridor.

The analysis includes a retail market outlook, an office market outlook, and a housing market outlook. The study also includes a profile of the residents and businesses, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the current business environment.

“City Council and the Mayor continue to prioritize public safety in the Hilltop, as evidenced by our expansion of Community Crime Patrol in this area to aid Columbus Police,” said Ginther. “Neighborhood safety is a key component to improving the business climate for shop owners and residents.”

“We truly appreciate City Council’s support for this study,” said Greater Hilltop Area Commission Chair and Hilltop Business Association member Gary L. Baker II. “We’ve seen what studies like this have done for Clintonville and the Short North.”



**Councilmember Ginther addressed the audience members who attended the Hilltop marketing plan meeting.**

## WORK GROUP GIVES COUNCIL A PREVIEW

The culmination of nine months of work has paid off for the citizens of Columbus. The Area Commission/Civic Association Work Group, empanelled by Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) and Councilmember [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), previewed the final report of their recommendations during a recent Council Meeting.

The report recommends methods for improving Columbus' neighborhoods as well as steps Council and the Mayor's office can take to increase collaboration and communication between City Hall and neighborhood groups.

"I'm extremely proud of the work you have accomplished," said Council President Mentel. "Beyond the scope of this report, you now have a way of organizing yourselves and unifying your voice. This is going to allow City Council to better meet your needs."

The Work Group met at least twice a month, working its way through a list of topics they had agreed to consider in their study.

"From the outset we understood the critical nature of our task," said the Work Group's chair, Gary L. Baker II. "Each meeting was full of spirited debate and passionate public testimony. The Work Group arranged a retreat at the end of September to develop our final recommendations based on the deliberation of our previous meetings. The retreat, which was originally scheduled for four hours, lasted for eight. We stuck with it and compiled a list of recommendations which we strongly feel will help make Columbus an even greater city to work, live, and raise a family."

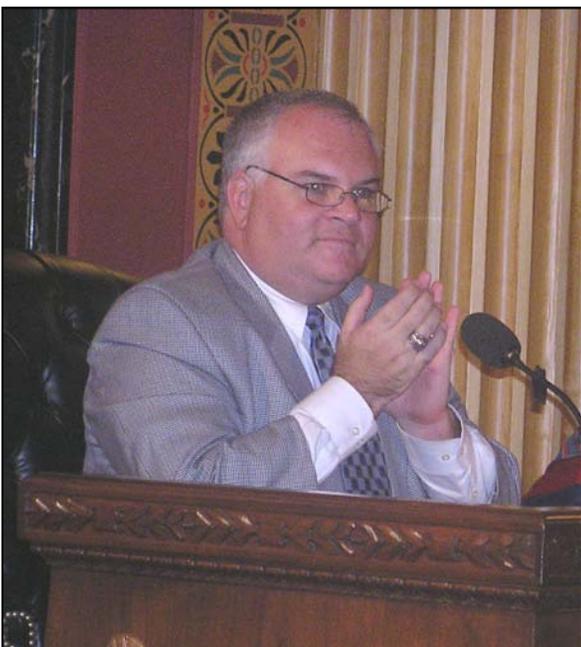


**(L-R) Work Group members Elwood Rayford, Debera Diggs, Gary L. Baker II, Becky Obester, and David Paul previewed their findings at a recent Columbus City Council meeting.**

A community briefing will be held in the coming weeks to discuss the full results of the report as well as the next steps the City can take to implement the Work Group's recommendations.

"Councilmember O'Shaughnessy and I agreed from the outset that we were handing the gavel over to you," said President Mentel. "You effectively brought together a diverse group of neighborhoods and presented Council a formal report that represents your combined goals and objectives. I look forward to seeing the impact that this effort will have on the community."

Visit City Council's [Initiative Web page](#) for more information on the Work Group's proceedings.



**Council President Michael C. Mentel applauded the efforts of the Work Group volunteers.**

## TYSON MEETS WITH WESTSIDE BUSINESS OWNERS

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**Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson listened to local business owners and discussed their concerns.**

Believing that the best way to help people is to talk with them one-on-one and discuss their needs, Councilmember [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) met with West Side business owners during a series of meetings at a dozen locations. The meetings provided Councilmember Tyson, who chairs the Administration and Recreation and Parks Committees, a better understanding of what City Hall needs to do to help spur economic growth and residential development on the West Side.

“The West Side is the birthplace of Columbus,” said Tyson. “Our city was founded by Lucas Sullivant in what is now Franklinton, on the west side of the Scioto River. City Council will continue to work with Mayor Coleman’s administration to bring economic prosperity and residential opportunities to Franklinton, the Hilltop and beyond.”

One of the businesses that Tyson visited was Phillip’s Original Coney Island, where owner Nick Manus mentioned that he has seen an upswing in business at his Franklinton restaurant and believes the increase is related to a lower office vacancy rate Downtown.

“I think there’s a good buzz around the Downtown and Franklinton right now,” said Manus, whose family-owned business has operated along West Broad Street since 1981. “People are coming back to the area and that is very good for business. It will be interesting to find out if the residential growth that has been talked about in Franklinton for years will eventually take off.”

The City’s *Home Again* program is helping reclaim vacant and abandoned homes in Franklinton. Of course, residential growth is just one component of building better neighborhoods. The City of Columbus is also working on a commercial corridor redevelopment plan with the Hilltop Business Association and local residents to maximize business opportunities in the area as well.

## COLLABORATIVE *COMBAT* PROGRAM IMPROVES SNOW REMOVAL STRATEGY

Determined to stay one step ahead of this year's winter weather, Columbus and Franklin County are working together to initiate the new *Central Ohio Management-Based Applied Technology (COMBAT)* pilot program as part of their comprehensive snow removal strategy. The program incorporates the latest in global satellite technology to promote more efficient use of personnel, equipment, and resources. Twenty City-owned snow trucks and ten County vehicles will be equipped with the Global Positioning Satellite System (GPS) technology.

Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#) observed as the Department of Public Service demonstrated the GPS equipment in action.



**Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig investigated the new GPS technology.**

“City Council’s main concern during a winter storm is the safety of our residents,” said Craig, who chairs the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee. “We want everyone to be safe, including motorists, pedestrians, emergency personnel, and our Snow Warriors who clear the roadways. The addition of GPS devices will allow our crews to do a safer and even better job of clearing our streets.”

“Removing snow and ice during a winter storm is one of the toughest jobs in the world, and while we’re proud of our Snow Warriors, we must also be testing new ideas and technology to improve our operation,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “This new system will allow us to adjust faster to changing weather conditions, as well as monitor and control snow operations in real time.”



**(top) Mayor Michael B. Coleman (front-left) and Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig (middle-left) were provided a demonstration of the GPS tracking capabilities.**

Councilmembers [Andrew J. Ginther](#) and [Maryellen O’Shaughnessy](#) recently sponsored legislation to purchase the GPS technology and eight new snow trucks and four new snow plows. These additions brought the City’s snow fleet to a record-breaking 125 vehicles.

“This technology will ensure that our snow fleet is on the right path, no matter how severe the weather conditions are,” said Ginther, who chairs the Utilities Committee. “The GPS technology will also enhance operational efficiency by allowing the County and City to use their resources—such as salt and other ice-melting chemicals—more effectively.”

“It’s essential that we continue taking a holistic approach to snow removal and winter weather safety,” said Public Service and Transportation Committee Chair Maryellen O’Shaughnessy. “Whether it’s through joint efforts such as the *COMBAT* program or retrofitting our utility vehicles with snow blades and plows, it’s clear that a comprehensive approach allows us to better leverage taxpayer dollars and keep our roadways safe.”

## FINDING SPACE FOR ARTSPACE



**President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce addressed the audience at the GCAC symposium.**

Columbus is taking the next step in an effort to create live/work spaces for artists. At a recent Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC) meeting held at Columbus State Community College, GCAC released a report issued by Artspace, the nation's leading real estate developer for the arts. The report recommends an Artist Market Survey to determine the number of artists interested in affordable live/work spaces in Downtown Columbus. The report also identified the Trautman building along South High Street as a potential space that could be used for this type of development.

During the GCAC meeting, Columbus City Council President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) and Mayor Michael B. Coleman discussed their vision for the future of the arts in Columbus.

"In the last seven years, the City of Columbus has invested nearly \$30 million in GCAC and their arts and cultural programs," said Boyce, who chairs City Council's Finance Committee. "We need to make sure that we, as a community, are leveraging our resources to generate more public and private investment in the arts community."

According to Boyce, one way the City has made sure it has spent public funds wisely on the arts was the creation of the Creative Columbus Policy Steering Committee. The group examined the current effectiveness of arts funding and ways to strengthen that funding in the future.

"The report told us that we need to cultivate a synergy between our arts community and the broader public and private sector while at the same time helping all three of those groups pursue multiple strategies that will allow the arts community to grow in Columbus," said Boyce.

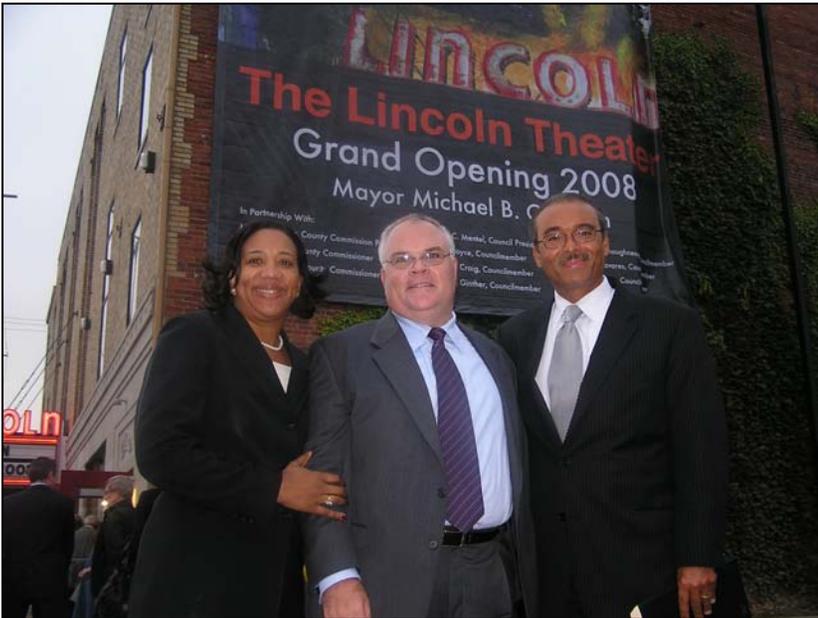
Mayor Coleman said the arts community is a cornerstone of his ambitious 2012 Bicentennial Bond package going before voters in 2008.

"We must integrate the arts into the very fabric of our society," said Coleman. "We must use the creative economy to drive an economic engine that will help turn around Columbus neighborhoods such as the King-Lincoln neighborhood. When you take art to the people, you build demand. And when you build demand, we can build the capacity."



**Finance Committee Chair Kevin L. Boyce and Mayor Michael B. Coleman discussed the impact the creative economy will have on Columbus' future.**

## LINCOLN THEATER REVIVAL



**(L-R) Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, Council President Michael C. Mentel, and Mayor Michael B. Coleman.**

It was once one of the most important buildings for African American culture in Columbus. Now, the Lincoln Theater on East Long Street is set to undergo an \$11 million restoration that will restore the former prominence it once held as a center of arts and entertainment on the near East Side.

“There are times when the slate needs to be wiped clean and a neighborhood starts over again,” said Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#), who joined Mayor Michael B. Coleman and County leaders to celebrate the start of the Lincoln Theater restoration project. “When it comes to the Lincoln Theater, there is simply too much Columbus history in those walls to wipe the slate clean. It would be a tragedy to lose this beautiful building.”

That is why the City of Columbus and Franklin County each committed \$4 million to the

project, and have worked with the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) and local business leaders to raise additional private funding for the renovation and operation of the theater.

“This theater is an empty cavern today, but with the support of the community we will make sure that its stage is filled with life, dance, music and laughter next year,” said Mayor Coleman.

The Lincoln Theater opened in November of 1928 and has hosted a long list of entertainers including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, James Brown, Sammie Davis, Jr. and Columbus native Nancy Wilson. The improved Lincoln Theater will be fitted with state-of-the-art lighting, as well as new sound and rigging equipment. The second floor ballroom will still be available for meetings, wedding and other events. In addition, the Jazz Arts Group announced that a new Jazz Academy will make the third floor of the theater its home. The theater is just one of many economic revitalization projects that City Council and Mayor Coleman have advanced to turn around the King-Lincoln neighborhood.



**The Lincoln Theatre is the centerpiece of the King Lincoln District on the near East Side.**

“I want to thank Mayor Coleman for putting his money where his mouth is and helping us make the King-Lincoln District a place of pride for all of Columbus,” said Annie Womack, CEO of the Long Street Business Association.

The restored Lincoln Theater is scheduled to open in late 2008.

## LINCOLN THEATER REVIVAL (CONT.)

*Past & Present*—In its prime, the Lincoln’s architecture was the epitome of theater design. The City is committed to returning the theater to its former glory.



(above) Lincoln Theater, main stage (1928).



(right) Lincoln Theater, main stage (2007).



(above) Lincoln Theater, side stage (1928).



(right) Lincoln Theater, side stage (2007).

## COLUMBUS ART COMMISSION

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**Development Committee Chair Maryellen O'Shaughnessy has played a pivotal role in supporting the arts community.**

Public displays of art can become symbols for cities.

Philadelphia has the “LOVE” sculpture in JFK Plaza. Chicago has the famous unnamed Picasso statue in Daley Plaza.

To help determine how public works of art can better define Columbus, our city has the Columbus Art Commission.

Established in 1960 to help review, examine and consider all works of art acquired by Columbus for display on public property, the commission held a meeting in mid-October.

“We need to ensure an aesthetic review for art in our parks and public places,” said Councilmember [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), chair of the Development Committee, as she addressed the commission. “Along with that review function, I want this group to give us suggestions as to how to fund a vibrant public arts program.”

The seven commission members are all appointed by the Mayor with the approval of City Council. They serve unpaid terms and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in the fields of architecture, landscape design, sculpture, painting and other artistic endeavors. The commission members are:

- Susan Saxbe
- Diane Nance
- Malcolm Cochran
- Barbara Nicholson
- David Barker
- Nannette Maciejunes
- DeeDee Glimcher

One of the most important tasks that the commission will undertake in the coming months will be to review current City Code as it relates to privately owned art in the public right-of-way. The commission also has the task of establishing a maintenance schedule for those pieces.

“I hope this is the beginning of a significant change in our public landscape when it comes to works of art,” O'Shaughnessy said.



**Development Committee Chair Maryellen O'Shaughnessy shared her ideas about art in public places with Columbus Art Commission members.**

## **INTERNSHIP INITIATIVES HELP RETAIN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

Some new faces in City Hall this fall signal the beginning of a partnership between Columbus City Council and The Ohio State University's John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

The Columbus Legislative Internship Program (CLIP) will place four graduate level students in various City Hall offices, including the Council President's office, for a two-year paid internship. The interns assist in policy research, constituent services, writing analyses, monitoring legislation and attending standing committee meetings.

"This is a unique opportunity that the John Glenn School of Public Affairs and Columbus City Council are providing us," said Eric Russell, a native of Nashville, Tennessee. "The hands-on experience we are being provided supplements the education we are receiving in the classroom."



**(L-R) Mark Harris, Jr., Likun Cao, Anna Bianco, and Eric Russell are the first students to participate in City Council's CLIP program.**

Currently, the program includes four students from OSU. The interns selected for this program must be enrolled full-time in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at the Glenn School. The program will eventually expand to seven students in the coming years.

The partnership between City Council and the Glenn School is another example of how the City is working to help groom leaders of tomorrow and give "young professionals" internship opportunities in the business world that will hopefully convince them to stay in Columbus after they complete their education.



**Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares believes internship programs are a key component of retaining young professionals in Columbus.**

Another tool to make that goal a reality is an internship web portal created by the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and substantially funded by City Council with a \$65,000 grant from the Jobs Growth Fund.

"This website will help connect young people, who may look outside of Columbus for a job, with local companies in search of talented employees to add to their workforce," said Councilmember [Charleta B. Tavares](#), chair of the Workforce Development Committee. "We need to help young professionals understand that Columbus offers great opportunities and job possibilities."

The Columbus metropolitan area has an overall student population in excess of 100,000 from a variety of public and private post-secondary colleges and schools. In all, there are more than 250,000 people between the ages of 20-39 living in the area.

## PROTECTING CHARITABLE DONORS



**Safety Committee Chair Andrew J. Ginther is working to update the City's roadside solicitation ordinance.**

Roadside solicitations can account for a major portion of an organization's yearly fundraising goals. Two local examples, the *Charity Newsies* effort to clothe needy children and the *Fill the Boot* campaign put on by area firefighters to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, are a success because of the generosity of Columbus residents.

Before those fundraising efforts can take place, both organizations must obtain a permit to stand in the public right-of-way at intersections and collect donations from motorists. Religious organizations that wish to use similar methods to raise money do not.

In an effort to level the playing field for all non-profit organizations that choose to collect money with roadside solicitations, Councilmember [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is working with the Columbus Division of Police, religious leaders, neighborhood leaders, and charities to make changes to the City Code. The proposed legislation will require all groups seeking to use the public right-of-way for fundraising activities to obtain a permit.

"This really is a public safety issue," said Ginther, who chairs the Public Safety Committee. "Our police need to know who is in the right-of-way and our citizens have a right to know where their money is going."

The legislation being crafted by Councilmember Ginther will look to close any loophole in the charitable solicitation law by requiring organizations to first obtain a permit before seeking donations. Once a permit is obtained, all groups (including religious organizations) will be limited to collecting money one day a year, at specified locations and during certain hours. Permit holders will also be required to disclose how much money was collected.



## CRIME STOPPERS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

Several members of Columbus City Council joined local law enforcement and community leaders to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Central Ohio Crime Stoppers program.

Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#), President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#), Public Safety Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#), Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) and Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) were all present during the anniversary breakfast.

All of them congratulated various award winners, including Linda Henry. Henry, who serves as president of the South Side Neighbors Against Crime, is a tireless crusader working to remove criminals from Columbus streets. City Council and the Mayor proudly presented her with the *Citizen of the Year Award*.



President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce (right) and Councilmember Andrew J. Ginther (left) presented the *Citizen of the Year* award to Linda Henry (center).

“We need more people like Linda Henry, who are willing to stand up and do whatever it takes to make their neighborhood a safer place to live,” said President Mentel as he thanked her for her vigilant efforts.

