

Call The Roll

An E-Publication of Columbus City Council

May 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In today's global economy, it is extremely important for Columbus to build relationships with other communities, no matter where they are located in the world, and create partnerships that can lead to new jobs and new technologies right here in central Ohio.

Accordingly, I was honored to have served as a member of the delegation joining Mayor Coleman on his recent trade mission to Israel. More than two dozen local leaders in business, academia, and government spent a week visiting officials in four Israeli cities: Jerusalem; Haifa; our sister city, Herzliya; and Tel Aviv.



(L-R) TechColumbus President and CEO Ted Ford, City Council President Michael C. Mentel, and Mayor Michael B. Coleman announced an agreement with Rad BioMed, a life science technology incubator located in Tel Aviv. [Listen](#) to President Mentel reflect on the trade mission to Israel and the importance of recruiting high-tech companies to Columbus.

Representatives from 127 Israeli companies met with us at various events throughout the mission and our delegation members held 88 separate other meetings. In addition to the doors that were opened with these numerous contacts, our trade mission helped solidify a business relationship that holds some exciting potential. The City of Columbus and TechColumbus signed a memorandum of understanding with Rad BioMed, a life science technology incubator in Tel Aviv, to pursue mutually beneficial projects and encourage Israeli startups to locate to Columbus for their U.S. operations. Much like our own TechColumbus, the Rad BioMed incubator provides a wide array of services to help entrepreneurs establish cutting-edge technology companies and launch them into the commercial market.



Council President Mentel met with Israel's former Industry & Trade Minister Micha Harish at a business reception in Haifa.

Inside this edition of *Call The Roll* you will see more scenes from Israel and also learn about Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig's public meeting at TechColumbus later this month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael C. Mentel".

Michael C. Mentel
City Council President

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

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 3 [Slowing Down Speeders](#)
- 3 [Supporting the Local Economy](#)
- 4 [New Fleet Maintenance Facility Keeping Columbus Safe](#)
- 5 [Tyson Announces Park Beautification Grants](#)
- 6 [Council Supports a Diverse Safety Force](#)
- 7 [New Health Center on Columbus' West Side](#)
- 8 [Scioto Mile to be Part of Exciting Downtown Riverfront](#)
- 9 [Scenes from Israel Business Trip](#)



SLOWING DOWN SPEEDERS



Public Service Committee Chair Maryellen O'Shaughnessy sponsored legislation that will help the City's Transportation Division and Department of Public Safety work together on a comprehensive strategy to reduce speeding.

A sure sign of summer can be found in Columbus neighborhoods, where speed trailers are beginning to appear. The solar powered trailers signal how fast motorists are traveling and will help city officials gather valuable data that can lead to more permanent traffic calming devices.

"Experience has taught us that drivers slow down once they see their speed lit up on one of these trailers," said Councilmember [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. "It is a simple, cost effective way to reinforce the idea that people need to be aware of how fast they are going, especially in neighborhoods with narrow streets and children playing."

O'Shaughnessy sponsored legislation to invest \$109,830 in ten new speed awareness trailers, increasing Columbus' total from 12 to 22. While the current trailers only display the speed of drivers, the new additions will have the capacity to collect and store information on traffic volume and speed. The data from these "smart" trailers will be shared with the Department of Public Safety and the Transportation Division to help focus enforcement resources and prioritize streets for future

permanent traffic calming features.

"Speed trailers are an important part of our pedestrian-safety initiative," Mayor Coleman said. "Not only do they tell people how fast they are driving, but the new trailers will help us better target our police efforts to get people to slow down."

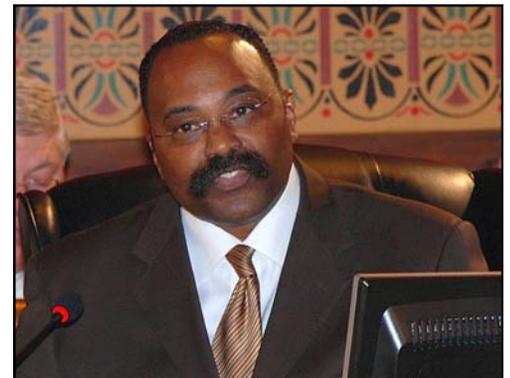
The speed trailers are deployed in neighborhoods with traffic problems, using guidelines developed by the Department of Public Service.

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY

In an effort to identify ways for City Council to assist in the creation and retention of innovative new companies, Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#) plans to hold a series of committee meetings to better understand the needs of small businesses and high-tech startups in Columbus.

Councilmember Craig, who chairs the Minority and Small Business Development Committee, will first meet with leaders and business owners at TechColumbus, the highly successful organization that helps coordinate the region's technology development efforts.

"TechColumbus is a prime example of what can happen when successful business models are applied to developing technologies," said Craig. "City Council intends to continue assisting companies that are on the cutting edge of the information and bio-medical industries. We need to make sure all of us are doing everything we can to build upon the success stories at TechColumbus."



Councilmember Craig chairs the Minority and Small Business Development Committee.

Councilmember Craig will meet with Ted Ford, president and CEO of TechColumbus, and owners of businesses at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21st at 1275 Kinnear Road.

NEW FLEET MAINTENANCE FACILITY KEEPING COLUMBUS SAFE



As chair of the Finance Committee, Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce oversees legislation pertaining to fleet management.

More than 3,100 cars, trucks, police cruisers and fire trucks, and 2,000+ off-road vehicles are getting the best possible attention from a new centralized fleet maintenance team that includes 59 ASE certified mechanics. Council President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#), Mayor Michael B. Coleman and the Department of Finance and Management officially opened the new Groves Road Facility and recognized the team of mechanics who work 24/7 to keep equipment on the road.

“Fleet management provides our Divisions of Police and Fire with the tools they need to keep our community safe,” said Boyce. “While this event marks the opening of a state-of-the-art facility, this celebration extends beyond bricks and mortar. This is an investment in the City employees who work tirelessly to keep our safety vehicles in excellent working order. I want to thank the fleet management crew for the outstanding work they do.”

received the top level of certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Only three other major cities in America have achieved such a high level of certification. The City continues to train and test mechanics to bring even more up to higher standards.

“We’re making sure that every vehicle has the best care available and that our mechanics are trained, professional and accountable,” said Mayor Coleman. “We congratulate this team for earning Blue Seal Certification from ASE, and for their commitment to getting vehicles fixed and back on the road quickly. Quality maintenance keeps our employees and citizens safe.”

Seventy-five percent of the fleet management’s team of 78 mechanics and supervisors are ASE certified, holding a total of 301 certifications. They were notified early in February that they had



Councilmember Boyce inspected the new police cruisers that Fleet Management is currently preparing for service.

Fleet Maintenance teams moved into a top-of-the-line facility at 4211 Groves Road in March, where they conduct long and short-term maintenance on the City’s vehicles. The City broke ground on the \$26.4 million facility in 2006. The Division of Fleet Management was relocated in the Department of Finance and Management by Mayor Coleman in May 2007. It has a total operating budget for 2008 of



\$28.7 million in the Fleet Services Fund, and 130 full-time employees. The new Groves Road facility provides 16 heavy truck/fire apparatus service bays among a total 77 bays, state-of-the-art parallelogram vehicle lifts, overhead cranes, fenced and covered vehicle storage areas, fueling pumps, secured parking, emergency generating power, and other amenities that improve operational efficiencies and overall maintenance practices.

TYSON ANNOUNCES PARK BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS

Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) recently announced a pilot program to leverage public dollars and provide funding to the civic groups that routinely volunteer their efforts to help beautify public parks. Councilmember Tyson worked with Recreation and Parks officials to create the Landscape Enhancement and Beautification in Public Spaces project, a competitive grant program to make \$10,000 available to non-profit and other community-based groups that provide landscaping in Columbus parks.



Recreation and Parks Committee Chair Priscilla R. Tyson (right) and Recreation and Parks Director Alan McKnight (left) presented a check to grant recipients.

“These grants from City Council will help pay for flowers, mulch, weed control, gardening equipment and other items that volunteer organizations need as they take an active role in making our parks wonderful places to visit,” said Tyson.

Grant Recipients

- ◆ Friends of Moeller Park
- ◆ Friends of Goodale Park
- ◆ Friends of Schiller Park
- ◆ Krumm Park CRC
- ◆ Friends of Westgate Park
- ◆ Friends of the Cultural Arts Center
- ◆ Park of Roses Foundation
- ◆ Eastmoor Civic Association
- ◆ University Area Enrichment Association
- ◆ Friends of the Hilltop

\$1,000 grants have been awarded to ten different park groups. The grant requires a dollar for dollar match from the organization. A committee of forestry and horticultural staff members reviewed the proposals and helped make recommendations to award the grants.

“We are grateful to Councilmember Tyson for funding this pilot project in cooperation with our community volunteers. Their efforts are crucial in helping us plant and maintain the floral landscaping in a number of our parks,” said Alan D. McKnight, director of the Recreation and Parks Department. “As a result, this type of a partnership will benefit everyone involved, including all our citizens and guests who visit these particular parks throughout the year.”

The grants must be used for the intended purpose and documentation of expenditures—including original receipts and contracts—must be submitted to the Recreation and Parks Department.

“The volunteer programs supported by Columbus Recreations and Parks is a great way for neighborhood volunteers to partner with a City agency to achieve more than either could do alone,” said Martin Cataline, a member of the Friends of Moeller Park. “This grant money from City Council will be used to add additional native plants and maintain the existing flower beds in Moeller Park. It’s an important way to assist and recognize volunteer efforts.”

COUNCIL SUPPORTS A DIVERSE SAFETY FORCE

The Columbus Division of Police strives not only to “serve and protect” but also to recruit officers who are representative and responsive to the Columbus community. To help support these goals, Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is promoting the Diversity Recruiting Council, an ever growing group of citizens and government officials who have pledged to encourage women and people of color to join the Columbus Division of Police by reaching out to community and faith-based organizations.

“The Diversity Recruiting Council is a new initiative that is focused on increasing diversity within the Division of Police and promoting law enforcement as a rewarding career for people from all walks of life, including minority youth and women,” said Ginther. “This is not just an effort to increase the number of minorities in uniform, but to create clear pathways for underrepresented people to join the ranks of the Columbus Division of Police and to serve the community.”



Councilmember Ginther recently invited Sgt. Anthony Wilson to speak to the community about the Division of Police’s minority recruitment outreach efforts.

The Minority Recruiting Unit already has several programs in place to help Columbus Police meet their minority recruitment goals. The programs include:

Job/Career Fairs – Job fairs help identify, recruit, and establish relationships at various historically black universities and community colleges with a large minority student population to increase the minority pool of applicants, through on-site testing.

Community Partnerships - Columbus Police are partnering with the Columbus Urban League, NAACP, and college fraternities to allow members of the community to participate in the recruiting/testing process.

Community Centers - Plans have been developed to recruit at several community locations in the Somali, Hispanic, Asian and African-American communities to eliminate barriers and utilize these centers for application filing sessions. This will also allow the Minority Recruiting Unit to interact with a host of diverse organizations located throughout the city.

U.S. Army PaYS Partnership - PaYS program is a recruiting initiative developed by the United States Army that ensures military recruits have a civilian job with a leading employer after completing their service to the country. This particular partnership enables the Division to continue to access the PaYS database by race, gender and age to provide information and applications to those military personnel who will be out-processing within a 12-16 month period.

Electronic Media/Technology - The Division of Police has developed a recruiting DVD, and has posted online videos on popular Web-based portals, including YouTube. Those interested in a career in law enforcement can view the video at <http://www.youtube.com/CPoliceD>.

"To continue developing a diverse police force, we need the input, participation and commitment of community leaders willing to serve as ambassadors of the Division of Police," said Ginther. "Together, we will build upon the diversity within the force, create opportunities for minorities to succeed, and help ensure the Columbus Division of Police mirrors the rich culture and diverse backgrounds of the citizenry it serves."

If you would like more information on the Columbus Division of Police’s Minority Recruitment Unit, contact Sgt. Anthony Wilson at 645-4954.

NEW HEALTH CENTER ON COLUMBUS' WEST SIDE



Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair Charleta B. Tavares spoke about the critical services that the new Health Center will provide Columbus residents.

Working to promote safe and healthy neighborhoods, City Council and Mayor Coleman are investing \$7.9 million for a new health center that will provide greater access to primary care and other health services to residents on the West Side of Columbus.

The new West Side Health Center, one of five Columbus neighborhood health centers, will offer a wide variety of quality primary care services, including obstetrics, podiatry, dental, family practice, nutrition services, immunizations and pediatric care. The services are structured to be comprehensive, accessible, and affordable. The new facility will also house the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, which offers access to healthy foods, nutritional education, and other forms of support to women who are pregnant or who have infants or children under the age of five.

“Everyday, 45 million Americans are without health care,” said [Charleta B. Tavares](#), chair of the Health, Housing &

Human Services committee. “This project continues the trend to build bigger, more efficient, environmentally friendly health care centers in Columbus.”

A citizens advisory committee comprised of local members of the business community, the Greater Hilltop Area Commission, local historical society, neighborhood leaders and healthcare advocates was created to help gather input on the location and design of the new center. After listening to the residents’ feedback, the City selected former Fire Station #17 to preserve one of the most significant historic structures in the Hilltop. The station will also serve as a family center with community space for meetings and social events.

“We are pleased to be part of the important services that will be provided to our residents of the West Side, right in their own back yard,” said Health Commissioner Dr. Teresa Long. “I am also proud of the efforts of West Side residents to work with primary care and public health leaders to bring these services to this historic site.”

The new health center replaces the Hilltop Health Clinic and will serve approximately 7,200 patients a year with more than 22,000 visits—which is triple the number of patients and patient visits currently being provided.

“For far too long, families on the West Side have been dependent on the small, outdated Hilltop Health Clinic on Sullivant Avenue and this new 35,000 square foot facility will triple our capacity,” said Mayor Coleman. “This new health center will not only offer great quality health services, but it will also help spur economic development along the West Broad Street corridor.”



(L-R) President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce, Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares, Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig and Mayor Michael B. Coleman display an artist’s rendering of the new West Side Family Health and Wellness Center.

SCIOTO MILE TO BE PART OF EXCITING DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT



Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce, Council President Michael C. Mentel, Mayor Michael B. Coleman, and Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson broke ground at the site of the Scioto Mile Park.

The transformation of Civic Center Drive is underway, eventually turning a one way corridor out of Columbus into a signature space for families to enjoy the downtown riverfront. Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) joined Mayor Michael B. Coleman and several other members of Council for the Scioto Mile groundbreaking in April.

“Every great American city has a place in the heart of downtown where people can gather and enjoy the energy and vitality of their community,” said President Mentel. “The Scioto Mile Park will be the setting for many exciting Columbus events for generations to come.”

Project leaders Michael G. Morris of American Electric Power (AEP) and Mayor Coleman joined leaders from the business community, federal government, state of

Ohio and Franklin County to dedicate the beginning of the \$38 million Scioto Mile Park. The Scioto Mile will transform the downtown riverfront, creating places for festivals, families, fountains, dining and a variety of other attractions for Columbus residents, employees and visitors to enjoy.

“This new park is historic in nature, with unprecedented partnership and funding from local businesses like AEP and our partners at the federal, state and county levels,” said Mayor Coleman.

In February 2007, AEP and the City of Columbus announced the historic partnership to fund the Scioto Mile, with each committing \$10 million as part of a joint fundraising effort between the public and private sectors to raise the necessary funds to build the park.

“Proven success in developing new public spaces has come from a strong partnership between the public and private sectors. That’s the approach we have taken with this project,” said Michael G. Morris, AEP chairman, president and chief executive officer. “Together, we have raised more than \$38 million to build this project and endow a fund at the Columbus Foundation to support the ongoing operations, maintenance and programming of the park.”

The Scioto Mile is another key cornerstone in the City’s plan to revitalize downtown, and is designed to attract and complement on-going residential development, boost property values, and stimulate commercial growth.

“The design of the Scioto Mile is unique in nature, with a promenade that integrates water with a canal and fountain, and benches for seating and playing games,” said Guy Worley, president and CEO of the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation. “In addition to a café and permanent band shell, the park will also include a fountain unlike any other we’ve seen, serving as a signature element for the Scioto Mile.”

The Scioto Mile is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2011, in time for Columbus’ Bicentennial in 2012.

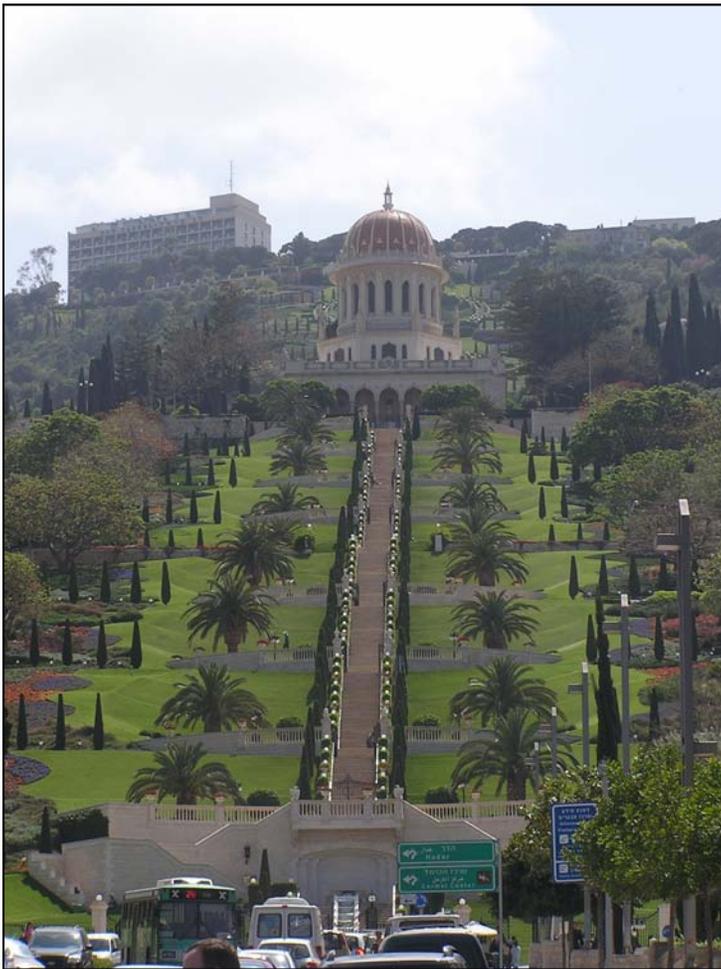
SCENES FROM ISRAEL BUSINESS MISSION



The city of Jerusalem from the top of the Mount of Olives.



President Mentel and Mayor Coleman view Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives.



Temple of the Baha'i in the city of Haifa.



Jaffa Gate leading into the Old City of Jerusalem.

SCENES FROM ISRAEL BUSINESS MISSION



President Mentel and delegation members received a presentation by the Haifa Economic Corporation at the MATAM Technological Park in downtown Haifa.



A view of the West Bank from atop Mt. Scopus.

SCENES FROM ISRAEL BUSINESS MISSION



The Western Wall.



Mayor Coleman in Herzliya as he launched the world premier of a video promoting Columbus as a vibrant place for international companies to conduct business.



Hebrew University.

SCENES FROM ISRAEL BUSINESS MISSION



Haifa Port. Haifa is the home of Technion University, known as the "MIT" of Israel.



President Mentel and Mayor Coleman listening to Dr. Idan Tamir, CEO of Rad Biomed Incubator.



One of the keeps of the wall that surrounds the Old City in Jerusalem.