



**Columbus City Council:
Agenda Highlights for May 7, 2007**

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GCAC CONTRACT: City Council will consider increasing cultural arts funding for the fifth consecutive year at this evening's meeting. President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0177-2007, which will allocate \$4,074,000 from the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax Fund and contract with the Greater Columbus Arts Council (GCAC) for the purpose of fostering and sustaining arts and cultural services. Pro Tem Boyce also has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the Creative Columbus Policy Steering Committee's 11-month study that addressed all facets of the arts community and arts funding. The hearing will take place on Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. at the Columbus College of Art and Design.

BETTER BUSINESS THROUGH BETTER PARKING: As City Council continues to support downtown development, available parking remains a concern. Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0628-2007 to commission a downtown parking study through the Capital South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation. With the ultimate goal of raising occupancy rates downtown, the study is intended to identify improvements in the amount, cost and convenience of parking spaces.

MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Local home builders who are working to provide low and moderate income individuals and families with a quality place to live are eligible to apply for grants from the City. The HOME Investment Partnership Program will help developers increase the availability of affordable housing in Columbus by offering them no or low interest rate loans. Ordinance 0565-2007 sponsored by Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta Tavares](#) will make \$4,870,715 available to builders to ensure the best housing market for the Columbus residents.

POLICE SET TO PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT WITH SPECIAL FUND: The Columbus Division of Police will be able to purchase new equipment and supplies due to the efforts of officers on the street. Revenue generated from seized and forfeited property is placed into the Law Enforcement Contraband/Seizure Fund and appropriated for law enforcement purposes only. Ordinance 0685-2007 sponsored by Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) will appropriate \$1,106,874 from this special fund to allow the Division of Police to buy new Global Positioning Systems tools to track vehicles, license plate scanners used to identify stolen cars, covert surveillance equipment, and other items.

WHETSTONE MAKEOVER: A popular Clintonville recreation center is set to receive a major makeover. The Whetstone Recreation Center originally opened in 1956 and remains one of Columbus' most popular destinations for recreational activities. Improvements to the center will involve an 8300 square foot addition, along with window replacements and a new heating and air conditioning system. The renovation plans also include a new "green" roof, continuing the City's commitment to the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) standards, which ensure the latest in energy-saving and environmentally-friendly technology. Ordinance 0569-2007 sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla Tyson](#) authorizes the City to enter into a contract with Hopewell Constructors for the renovation project. The total cost of the bid—which is the lowest of the six received by the City—is \$5,448,000.

GRANT TO HELP REDUCE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: The Ohio Attorney General's office offers a variety of programs designed to provide local governments with the proper resources to fight domestic violence. The Crime Victim Assistance program in the Attorney General's office oversees a federal grant program called Victims of Crime Act. Ordinance 0646-2007 sponsored

by Judiciary and Court Administration Chair [Hearcel Craig](#) will allow Columbus to accept a grant from the state for the City's Domestic Violence Advocates program. The ordinance also allocates matching funds from the City.

SKYBUS PUBLIC HEARING: City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is hosting a public hearing on Skybus Airlines. The low-fare carrier based in Columbus is about to take flight, with some seats costing as little as \$10. Skybus is eligible to receive more than \$14 million in payroll and investment incentives from the City if it meets certain job creation and investment goals. The public hearing will be held Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at Port Columbus International Airport in the second floor conference room. The hearing begins at 3 p.m.