



Council Highlights May 21, 2007

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NEW CRUISERS FOR POLICE: Soon there will be dozens of new squad cars on the streets of Columbus. The Division of Police is purchasing 41 fully equipped Crown Victoria Police Interceptors. Thirty-six will be used as patrol cruisers and five on the freeways. Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0716-2007, which authorizes the director of Finance and Management to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$1,659,934 to the lowest bidder, Statewide Ford Lincoln Mercury. When delivered to the City, each squad car will come fully equipped with video camera, computer, and lights and siren for the road.

KEEPING COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL: Columbus school children will have a chance to win valuable prizes and help keep the city beautiful at the same time. The City's Keep Columbus Beautiful program has been awarded a "Students for Recycling" grant from Keep America Beautiful, Inc. for meeting promotions, entry requirements, and recruiting schools to participate in recycling. Public Service and Transportation Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0463-2007 to accept the \$2500 grant, which will be used to help remove plastic bottles from the waste stream through recycling. "Students for Recycling" is a nationwide effort, with the top 100 winning schools each receiving a minimum of 100 backpacks made from recycled material.

COLUMBUS COMMITS TO COSI: The Center of Science and Industry (COSI) has been a source of education and entertainment for children of all ages, and a focal point of civic pride for Columbus residents, for more than 43 years. Finance Committee Chair Kevin L. Boyce is sponsoring ordinance 0636-2007 to appropriate \$800,000 to the museum in 2007. City Council has pledged to invest a total of \$2 million over the next two years to help COSI continue its mission of educating and entertaining the estimated 900,000 people who pass through their doors each year. COSI President and CEO David Chesebrough will address Council and be available to answer questions from the Council members.

SOFTWARE UPGRADE: Each day thousands of Columbus residents access public information in a user-friendly format when using the Franklin County Municipal Clerk of Court website. CourtView 2000 is the case management software for the Municipal Clerk's office, allowing deputy clerks and the public to locate case history by entering a defendant's name, ticket number or case number. Ordinance 0727-2007 sponsored by Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel Craig](#) will renew the contract with CourtView's designer, Oracle Corporation. The contract provides maintenance support and upgrades.

FEEDING COLUMBUS SCHOOL CHILDREN: While many area children receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year, some families struggle to feed youngsters during the summer. The Summer Food Service Program recognizes that

proper nutrition is essential to both the physical and educational development of children year-round. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla Tyson](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0717-2007, which will enable the City to accept a \$1,093,937 grant from the Ohio Department of Education to operate the program. The Summer Food Service Program will run from June 11, 2007 to August 24, 2007, serving approximately 100,000 breakfasts and 300,000 lunches at 157 sites throughout Columbus.

TAX BREAKS FOR BUILDERS: Builders of affordable housing in Columbus will become one step closer to eligibility for tax breaks if City Council approves a series of resolutions. Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta Tavares](#) is sponsoring nine resolutions in support of various agencies applying for Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA). The agencies are:

LEADS (Brice Senior Housing)
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (Creekside Landing)
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (Waterford Place)
Community Housing Network, Inc. (Jefferson Avenue Apartments)
Community Housing Network, Inc. (Livingston Avenue Apartments)
Herman & Kittle (Creek View Place)
National Church Residences (Commons at Buckingham)
NRP Group (Columbus Elderly 2)
Samaritan Project Development Corporation/Commonwealth Capital Corporation
(Samaritan Senior Village)

The organizations receive additional points on their applications if they have a resolution of support from the City.

HEARING FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOODS: In a continuing effort to highlight the concerns—as well as the accomplishments—of neighborhoods throughout Columbus, President [Michael C. Mentel](#) invites a representative from one of the 14 area commissions to present a report to City Council each month. In April, Gary L. Baker II provided a report on the state of the Greater Hilltop Area Commission and this evening Carol Stewart, president of the Franklinton Area Commission, will inform members of Council about some of the latest developments in her neighborhood. President Mentel recently attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Fire Station 10 being built along West Broad Street, and President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce joined Mayor Michael B. Coleman for the announcement of a \$23 million development at the former B & T Metals plant at the corner of West Town and Lucas Streets in Franklinton.