



Council Highlights June 25, 2007

For more information:

John Ivanic

645-6798

\$63 MILLION FUNDING FOR SENIORS: Columbus City Council will be asked to approve state funding for a program that helps seniors stay in their homes instead of living in a nursing facility. Ordinance 0928-2007 sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) will accept a \$63,000,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Aging for the operation of the PASSPORT (Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today) program. Under PASSPORT, Medicaid-eligible clients receive case management, adult day-care, homemaker, meals, personal care, respite, transportation and emergency response services. According to the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, there are approximately 4,100 PASSPORT clients in the Columbus area.

PROTECTING POLICE: Protecting the men and women who protect Columbus residents is a top priority for Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#). Ginther is sponsoring ordinance 0836-2007, which authorizes the expenditure of \$379,362.94 to purchase uniforms for two new Division of Police recruit classes this year, as well as to account for increased costs associated with new body armor.

“PAY AS WE GROW” CONTINUES: In a continuing effort to manage growth in Northwest Columbus, Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O’Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0980-2007 to approve a petition to create the Hayden Run Community Development Authority. Once established, this entity would then govern the Hayden Run Community Development District, which is a designated area where additional money from property taxes will be set aside to help pay for infrastructure improvements. The initiative is in accordance with the “Pay as We Grow” philosophy that Columbus has used for the last several years to ensure that road and utility improvements are built for new development areas.

IMPLEMENTING COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS: Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0937-2007 to allow the Franklin County Municipal Court Clerk to purchase new phone center equipment and software to meet operating requirements. The legislation will authorize a supplemental appropriation of \$88,738 from the Municipal Clerk’s computer fund for the purchase of an integrated customer interaction call center. The communications bundle will include a call center management information system, automated call distribution, interactive voice response, unified messaging, integrated recording and an outbound dialer.

HOME AGAIN HOUSING: Columbus City Council continues to support programs that turn vacant and blighted houses into homes for local families. Ordinance 0880-2007 sponsored by Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) will allocate \$350,000 from the Housing Preservation fund from the Home Again program. The funding will be used to help rehabilitate vacant houses and increase the supply of affordable housing through various neighborhood revitalization efforts.

PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL: President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0985-2007 to help provide legal counsel for indigent persons charged with criminal offenses. Passage of 0985-2007 will authorize the City to expend \$932,160 to enter into contract with the Franklin County Public Defender Commission—with the understanding that the total cost for these legal services is \$3,807,843. The State Public Defender Commission is expected to reimburse an estimated 28%, and the Franklin County Commissioners will pay 66% of the remaining expenses that are the result of State charged misdemeanors for a net cost to the City of \$932,160. During the 2007 Budget amendment process, City Council allocated \$915,000 for this contract. The remaining \$17,160 will be funded through the contingency fund in the Department of Finance and Management's citywide account.

SPECIAL GUESTS AT COUNCIL: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will welcome some very special guests to Columbus City Council chambers. A delegation of business leaders from the trade and technology industries in India are visiting Columbus and will stop by City Hall for the beginning of Council's meeting. Council President Mentel hopes the delegation's visit—which was arranged through the Indian American Chamber of Commerce and Columbus Sister Cities—will lead to business opportunities for Columbus companies in the expanding Indian market. The delegation's visit is part of Mayor Michael B. Coleman's directive to add a sister city in India.

Currently, Columbus has seven sister city partnerships: Dresden, Germany; Genoa, Italy; Hefei, China; Herzliya, Israel; Odense, Denmark; Seville, Spain and Tainan City, Taiwan. An eighth city (Kumasi, Ghana) was added recently.