



Council Highlights June 11, 2007

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PROVIDING INTERPRETATION SERVICES: The Franklin County Municipal Court will continue providing vital foreign language interpreter services for non-English speaking persons who may appear before the Court. Judiciary & Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0833-2007, which authorizes the Municipal Court to extend a contract with Asist Translation Services, Inc. in the amount of \$50,000. This legislation will allow the company to continue providing translation services through May 2008.

BRINGING JOBS TO COLUMBUS: A central Ohio contract logistic provider with 25,000 employees in the United States and Canada is moving to Columbus. Exel Inc. is a leading provider of warehousing and freight management services. Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0906-2007, which will grant a Jobs Creation Tax Credit of 65% for a period of 8 years when the company leases an 11,500 square foot facility at 1650 Watermark Drive. Exel Inc. promises to retain 22 full-time positions and create 45 new permanent full-time jobs with an annual payroll of \$1.4 million. Additionally, the company will invest \$600,500 in leasehold improvements and new personal property which will increase job opportunities and strengthen the economy of the city. Exel services a variety of markets including consumer packaged goods manufacturers, technology, automotive, healthcare and chemical. Their portfolio of services spans the entire chain from international logistics management and distribution, to store-to-store logistics and home delivery.

FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY: The Columbus Division of Fire will soon have a state-of-the-art training facility for Fire Fighters. Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0854-2007, which will spend \$8,572,180.00 on a facility that will be used by new recruits as well as for continuing education for veteran Fire Fighters. The building will provide the Division of Fire with a new area to practice hands-on training techniques. The construction will consist of the following: a practical skills building, a burn building, a training tower, a simulator, a shelter, a pole barn, and all related site utilities and improvements.

CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE CHORES PROGRAM: The Chores Program provides minor home maintenance and repair services to low and low/moderate-income elderly and disabled homeowner-occupants in the City of Columbus. Examples of program services include replacement or repair of leaking faucets and commodes, faulty light fixtures and switches, loose or missing sections of porch decking or steps, and

installation of handrails, smoke detectors and deadbolt locks. Eligible homeowners may receive up to \$1,000 in home repairs within one calendar year. LifeCare Alliance is the program provider to neighborhoods on the south and west sides. This program assists approximately 50 households. Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring ordinance 0892-2007, which will extend the City's contract with LifeCare Alliance and authorize the organization to continue providing the Chores Program to eligible applicants.

NEAR EASTSIDE UPDATE: In his continuing effort to highlight great Columbus neighborhoods, Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) has invited Kathleen Bailey, chair of the Near East Area Commission, to address Council Monday evening.

“PUNCHER” PRIDE: A program that instills confidence in students and creates a better learning environment at Mifflin High School will be honored by Columbus City Council. “Puncher Soldiers” are a group of young men who provide positive role models for students at Mifflin. “Punchers” is the nickname of Mifflin High School. Resolution 0095x-2007 sponsored Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) will honor the group of two dozen for their leadership and drive to excel. The leadership team for the program received the title “Overall Most Exemplary Project” of the 2007 High School Service Above Self Fair.

CONGRATULATIONS YOUTH COMMISSIONER GRADUATES!: Council President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) wants to congratulate members of the Columbus Youth Commission who are graduating high school. Gustavo Garcia, Brandyn McElroy, Ai Binh Ho, and Caroline Kusi all took part in the CYC, a program of the Mayor's Office of Education. The group advises City Council and the Mayor on youth issues, along with planning and co-sponsoring youth educational and recreational events. Councilmember Boyce sponsored legislation to establish the Columbus Youth Commission in 2001. On behalf of all City Council we would like to congratulate them and we wish them all the best as they pursue their dreams!

*Also tonight representatives from the Central Ohio Crime Stoppers program will thank Columbus City Council members for their continued support of this very important crime fighting tool.