



Council Highlights July 16, 2007

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PREPARING FOR FLU SEASON: Believe it or not, flu season will soon be upon us. Each year, thousands of Columbus residents rely on the flu shot to help stay healthy during the winter months. Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1070-2007* to purchase influenza virus vaccines from the Ohio Department of Mental Health, Pharmacy Service Center. The legislation will be passed as an emergency to ensure ample supplies of influenza vaccine will be available to Columbus residents when flu season arrives.



SAFETY IN NUMBERS: Community Crime Patrol, Inc. (CCP) serves a critical role in helping the Division of Police deter crime in Columbus. CCP is a group of trained citizen patrollers working to identify and report suspicious activities indicative of criminal behavior in several different neighborhoods throughout the city. In order to expand the CCP program, City Council amended the 2007 operating budget earlier in the year to allocate additional funding. Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) now is sponsoring *ordinance 1155-2007*, which will allocate \$283,000 from the Public Safety Initiatives Fund to expand CCP's operations in Franklinton, the Hilltop and Merion Village.

CSX TRAFFIC STUDY: With the goal of expanding economic opportunities on the South Side, Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1135-2007* to fund a traffic study near Groveport Road and SR-104. CSX is considering a 140-acre site in that area as a potential location for a new, larger intermodal facility to accommodate projections of substantial business growth in their Ohio and Midwestern markets. The facility would serve as a terminal to receive and dispatch containers via CSX's nationwide rail network, serving both domestic and international customers. The legislation appropriates \$15,000 from the Jobs Growth Fund and authorizes a contract with CSX to execute the traffic study.



The view of Columbus from the top of the Lazarus building

NEW TENANTS IN THE LAZARUS BUILDING: The rebirth of a Columbus landmark continues as the Downtown Resource Center and the City’s Economic Development Division will move into the newly renovated Lazarus Building. President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1121-2007* in the Finance Committee to lease 7,925 square feet of office space on the second floor from the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation. The remodeled Lazarus Building meets the standards of the Leadership in Energy and Design (LEED) rating system. LEED buildings are both energy efficient and environmentally friendly. Members of City Council and their staff were given a tour of

the Lazarus Building, including the unique rooftop garden, which improves insulation and catches storm water runoff.



CITY GOES GREEN IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE: While Columbus has begun implementing new “green” construction standards, the City continues another tradition of environmental commitment. 2007 marks the 28th consecutive year the Columbus has been awarded “Tree City U.S.A.” status. In conjunction with that honor, the City begins its second year of the Street Tree Improvements project. This initiative is a collaborative effort to plant 4,000 trees per year, for a total of 20,000 trees over the duration of the project. On tonight’s agenda, Recreation and Parks Committee Chair

[Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring two pieces of legislation for the 2007 fall tree planting season. *Ordinance 1111-2007* will fund the supply and installation of 258 street trees in North Linden and 296 street trees in Central City (\$82,370.07). *Ordinance 1111-2007* will fund the supply and installation of 258 street trees in North Linden and 296 spread throughout the near east, near south, and Franklinton areas (\$82,370.07).



CHAMBER TALK: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will discuss job creation and economic development at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce’s quarterly forum “Capital Connections.” The speech will take place July 19 at the Bar of Modern Art (595 East Broad Street) from 4:00-6:00 p.m. In an ongoing effort to exchange ideas with the business community, President Mentel also met with Short North business leaders at the monthly meeting for Network Columbus.

FOCUS ON THE KING-LINCOLN DISTRICT: Councilmembers will continue their efforts to rejuvenate the King-Lincoln District with a series of meetings this week. The first will be a public hearing hosted by Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#). That meeting is taking place Tuesday, July 17, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the King Arts Complex. The second is a community roundtable discussing the renovation of the Lincoln Theater. Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will attend this meeting, which will take place Wednesday, July 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the second floor ballroom of the theater.