



Council Highlights
July 30, 2007

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CONSERVATION NEIGHBORHOODS: City residents who want to preserve the unique qualities of their neighborhood will have a new tool to make that happen. Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1922-2006* to establish the Conservation Neighborhood pilot initiative. Three neighborhoods will be chosen by the Development Department to take part in the one-year pilot program, which aims to foster civic pride in the beauty and distinctive character of an area. Conservation Neighborhoods must encompass at least 10 blocks with 60 percent of the homeowners in the proposed Conservation Neighborhood agreeing to the designation.

NEW GUNS FOR NEW POLICE OFFICERS: A new recruit class for the Columbus Division of Police needs new weapons for training while they are in the Police Academy. Safety Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1257-2007* to spend \$40,555.38 to purchase 42 new semi-automatic handguns. The weapons are Smith & Wesson M&P .40 caliber handguns, the same as officers carry on the streets. However, these weapons will be modified to ensure safety during the training process.

PARKING GARAGE FUNDING: The City is quickly moving forward with plans to build new parking garages in downtown Columbus. Mayor Michael B. Coleman announced plans to build two parking garages that will contain 1,400 spaces. One of the structures will be located near Fourth and Gay streets, while the other will be built near the redeveloped Lazarus building. *Ordinance 1277-2007* sponsored by Finance Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#) will authorize City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian to create a fund to deposit money that will be used to pay for the garages. Money generated from a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district near Easton Mall is being used to pay for the project.

NEW OSU PARTNERSHIP: Columbus City Council and The Ohio State University are beginning a new internship program designed to give students real life experience working in the

public sector. *Ordinance 1258-2007* sponsored by Workforce Development Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) will authorize the City Clerk to enter into a contract with the O.S.U. Research Foundation to support the Columbus Legislative Internship Program. Beginning this fall, four graduate level students with the John Glenn School of Public Affairs will begin a one year, paid internship with the City. The students will work in various City Council offices supporting staff in their day to day tasks. The cost of the program is \$64,094.

****PLEASE NOTE SEPARATE MEDIA ADVISORY FOR NEWS CONFERENCE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM***

FOCUS ON NEIGHBORHOODS: The North Linden area will be the latest Columbus neighborhood to be highlighted by City Council. In an ongoing effort to focus attention on the important role of civic organizations, President [Michael C. Mentel](#) invites a different area commission to offer a report to City Council each month. Tonight, Danny Popp, chair of the North Linden Area Commission, will provide an update of neighborhood activities—as well as ask and answer questions before Council. Columbus currently has 14 area commissions.

MEETING OF NOTE: Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) continues to find ways to improve Columbus' trails and walkways. Councilmember Tyson recently held a public hearing on the issue with Columbus leaders, including Recreation and Parks Department Director Alan McKnight. During the meeting, several individuals representing various stakeholder groups made presentations to Councilmember Tyson. A replay of the hearing will occur at noon Tuesday and Thursday on Government Channel 3. The next scheduled Recreation and Parks Committee meeting will be held September 27, 2007.

SCHEDULE CHANGE: Health, Housing and Human Services Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is announcing a schedule change for Human Services briefings. The events will be held August 6th and 7th at Columbus Police Headquarters. Meetings had previously been scheduled for August 8th and 9th in Council Chambers. For the most current information regarding public hearings hosted by Council, please visit City Council's [Meeting Calendar](#) Web page.

REMINDER: Council begins their August break following tonight's meeting. Council will reconvene September 10th.

