



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 1, 2007

For More Information:

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COUNCIL SEALS THE DEAL ON CITY CENTER: In continuing the efforts to reinvent downtown Columbus, City Council is initiating the next step to allow the City to gain control of City Center Mall. Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1587-2007* to authorize a \$2,870,000 agreement with the Capitol South Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation for the purpose of acquiring the mall and the adjacent Centrum site. Council will appropriate the money from Capitol South Fund No. 481, ensuring that revenues generated from the City Center project will pay for the acquisition, rather than general revenue tax dollars.

HELPING ARSON INVESTIGATORS: The Division of Fire is acquiring a new tool to assist in its battle against arson. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) will sponsor *ordinance 1474-2007* to purchase a voice stress analyzer for investigators in the Arson Bureau (\$6,765). The analyzer is a type of lie detector which measures stress in a potential suspect's voice. The instrument can be used by arson investigators to help determine the truthfulness of a suspect's statements.

STRENGTHENING POLICE PRESENCE: The midwatch shift provides vital police protection to citizens during shift changes. President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) will sponsor legislation to initiate construction of a new police midwatch station. *Ordinance 1350-2007* will authorize a \$29,500 contract for the design of interior office space for a Division of Police facility located at 2077 Parkwood Avenue. The new midwatch station will operate 24-hours a day, with 3 shifts of officers operating out of it.

TYSON CONTINUES PARK IMPROVEMENTS: Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring legislation totaling \$325,000 to improve three Columbus parks. *Ordinance 1357-2007* will appropriate \$175,000 for a series of improvements at Karns Park on the city's Southeast side, including a new shelter house and basketball courts. *Ordinance 1359-2007* will authorize the expenditure of \$50,000 for improvements at Maynard & Summit Park, which include asphalt overlay, concrete, site furnishings and landscaping. Finally, *ordinance 1360-2007* will authorize the appropriation of \$100,000 for several improvements to Somerset

Park in Northeast Columbus, including the removal of debris and the addition of a 525-foot boardwalk.

PROVIDING HOME REPAIRS TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS: With winter approaching, house repairs become more critical to families who are preparing their homes to endure the elements. Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1497-2007* to appropriate \$1,000,000 for the Roof Repair Plus Program. This program provides low and moderate-income level homeowners with assistance for roof and other related home repairs. These repairs are critical to preserving the housing stock in neighborhoods and enabling homeowners to remain in their homes.

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER: Judiciary and Court Administration Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will sponsor *resolution 0159X-2007* to recognize the American Cancer Society's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk* on Sunday, October 14, 2007. This inspiring event unites the entire community to honor and celebrate breast cancer survivors, as well as to educate the public about the importance of early detection and prevention, and to raise money for lifesaving research and support programs.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) has been invited to speak at the annual Firefighter's Memorial Service. The memorial service pays tribute to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as retirees who have passed away in the last year. In the presence of fire chaplains, families and special guests, uniformed firefighters will stand at attention as the historic brass bell is tolled for those who have answered their last call. The outdoor service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 7, 2007 at the Firefighters Memorial Monument in Battelle Riverfront Park across from City Hall. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) also will attend.

NO COUNCIL SESSION ON COLUMBUS DAY: Please note that Columbus City Council will not hold a meeting on October 8, 2007 in recognition of Columbus Day.

Visit City Council's Website: www.columbuscitycouncil.org, to learn more about Council Initiatives and to access links to City departments.