



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for October 15, 2007

For More Information:

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SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS: Dozens of area seniors will join Columbus City Council to urge voters to support the Senior Options Levy that will appear on the 2007 General Election ballot. Passage of the levy will allow for the continuation of services and the improvement of facilities that seniors use to maintain their independence and quality of life. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is introducing *resolution 0165X-2007* in support of the levy. Councilmember Tyson's other six colleagues are joining her to co-sponsor the resolution. More than 5,100 seniors each month depend on the Senior Options Program for services such as home repairs, medical transportation and *Meals on Wheels*.

HELPING VICTIMS OF CRIME: One of the services that the Franklin County Municipal Court provides to Columbus residents is a program to assist victims of crime. Judiciary and Court Administration Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will sponsor *ordinance 1540-2007* to help maintain staff support for this important program. Staff members primarily assist probation officers in the domestic violence unit and act as liaisons to the City Prosecutor to work with victims when a perpetrator has been placed on probation. The City of Columbus will accept a grant from Ohio's *Crime Victim Assistance Office* for \$43,826 and authorize the transfer of \$63,000 from the Municipal Court's special revenue fund for probation fees to serve as a grant match.

NEW FIRE HYDRANTS TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY: The Columbus Division of Fire clearly needs working fire hydrants to keep Columbus residents safe. Utilities Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) will be sponsoring *ordinance 1428-2007* to appropriate \$859,925 for a contract with Storts Excavation, Inc. to replace up to 200 hydrants through 2008. Latest statistics indicate that less than one-half percent (0.3%) of the city's 25,000 fire hydrants are currently out of service. Furthermore, no two consecutive hydrants are inoperable.

WORKING TO ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS: With colder weather quickly approaching, there is a continued effort to help Columbus' homeless population move from the streets and encampments to supportive housing. *Ordinance 1368-2007* sponsored by Health, Housing and Human Services Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) will authorize the expenditure of \$50,400 to modify and increase a contract with the Community Shelter Board (CSB) for two important programs. The *Homeless Prevention Program* works to reduce the number of persons needing shelter by preventing families and individuals from becoming homeless. The *Transitions Program* focuses on re-integrating families and individuals who are currently homeless back into the community.

COUNCIL HELPING NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT: When helping to rebuild neighborhoods, City Council has several different economic programs they can use to assist homeowners who are trying to increase the value of their properties. One initiative is the creation of a Community Reinvestment Area (CRA). Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1501-2007* to designate the newest residential CRA on Oak Street, from Parsons Ave. to Rhodes Ave. Homeowners can qualify for 100% tax exemptions based upon the type of remodeling project completed—including a maximum 100%, 15-year tax exemption for construction of a new owner-occupied dwelling. The work must be completed by the end of 2012 to be eligible for the exemption.

HELPING PRESERVE THE OHIO THEATER: Since opening in 1928, the Ohio Theater has entertained hundreds of thousands of people. Now, Columbus City Council will help ensure that many more will be able to enjoy all forms of entertainment there for decades to come. Finance Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1555-2007* to use \$66,668 from the Urban Development Action Grants (UDAG) fund for the immediate and long term maintenance of the Ohio Theater.



LINCOLN THEATER RENOVATIONS: The rebirth of the Lincoln Theater continues as the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and area residents and business leaders join together to celebrate the beginning of the renovation of the near East Side landmark. City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will join Mayor Michael B. Coleman and other dignitaries to share remarks during the ceremony, which is being held at the Lincoln Theater (771 East Long Street) on Tuesday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m.