



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for January 28, 2008

For More Information:

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CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ANTI-GANG INITIATIVE: The Columbus Division of Police will continue their efforts to prevent and eliminate gangs with the help of a Department of Justice grant. Public Safety Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 2100-2007* to accept the \$87,112 grant. The funds will be used in a multi-faceted, collaborative effort to identify and investigate gang infrastructure and prosecute individual gang members. Last September, Columbus received a \$266,551 Anti-Gang Initiative grant to continue the *Model Zone* program (which places a high concentration of police in a neighborhood to defeat gangs), as well as to enhance the award-winning Neighborhood Safety Academies and to purchase hi-tech equipment for the Police Gang Unit.

COUNCIL WORKING TO RETAIN JOBS: In an effort to retain 147-full time permanent positions and an annual payroll of \$8,500,000 in the city of Columbus, Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0069-2008* to enter into an Enterprise Zone Agreement (EZA) with Capital City Group, Inc. The crane rental and field services company has outgrown its current 6,400 square-foot facility along Frank Road and are looking to relocate and invest \$2.5 million in a new 25,000 square-foot building along Performance Parkway on the city's southeast side. The company is considering other sites outside of Columbus for their new office space. The Department of Development is recommending a 75%/10 year EZA tax abatement on real property.

BUILDING A NEW HEALTHCARE FACILITY: The design plans to build the new West Side Family Health Center at 2300 West Broad Street are moving forward—with a targeted completion date set for the spring/summer of 2009. Finance Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring *ordinances 0047-2008* and *0060-2008* to purchase medical equipment for the new facility. By purchasing the equipment in advance of the facility being built, the City will save money by capitalizing on current market prices rather than waiting for future price increases. *Ordinance 0047-2008* will appropriate \$171,552.90 for various types of medical equipment, including scales, wheelchairs, and stretchers. *Ordinance 0060-2008* authorizes \$23,365.00 to purchase optometry dispensary equipment.



WEAR RED DAY: Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death among women in the United States. Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0026X-2008* to declare February 1, 2008 as "Wear Red Day" in the city of Columbus. The American Heart Association's *Go Red For Women* campaign encourages women to take preventative measures to reduce their risk for cardiovascular disease and live longer, healthier lives. City Council hopes that many lives can be saved by helping

increase the awareness of the risk factors associated with this devastating disease and encouraging actions to reduce them.

LOCAL CHARITY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS: Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is presenting a resolution to Charity Newsies in recognition of the local non-profit group's 100 years of dedicated service to the children of Columbus. Resolution *0028X-2008* honors the efforts of the 700+ members who volunteer more than 15,000 hours annually to fulfill the Newsies mission. Newsies—as the volunteers are called—help raise money to purchase clothing for needy children and victims of fire and flood disasters. They also staff the organization's warehouse, make appointments for children to receive free clothing, and visit families to help emphasize the value of education.

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES: Parks are an integral part of any community and help provide a focal point for neighborhoods throughout the city. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0062-2008* to appropriate \$3,366,584.50 to the Department of Recreation and Parks for supplies and services throughout 2008. The funds will be utilized for various operating and capital expenditures, which include water way improvements, nature preserves, softball and baseball tournaments, and future park development.

COUNCIL LOOKING FORWARD TO CITIZEN SUMMIT: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) serves as co-chair of the of the 2012 Bicentennial Commission's *Jobs & Technology* focus group and is looking forward to incorporating citizen input into the blueprint for Columbus' 200-year anniversary celebration. Several members of Council are scheduled to attend the 2012 Bicentennial Citizen Summit being held at the Convention Center on Tuesday, January 29. This important gathering of community leaders, neighborhood activists, and concerned citizens will help provide focus group participants like President Mentel with ideas and suggestions from Columbus residents. For more information about the Citizen Summit and the progress of the 2012 Bicentennial Commission, visit <http://columbus.gov/columbus2012/>.