



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for February 4, 2008

For More Information:

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WORKING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE: City Council remains committed to protecting the community from the tragedy of child abuse and domestic violence. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0094-2008* to continue a partnership with the Special Victims Bureau of the Columbus Division of Police, Franklin County Children Services, the Franklin County Prosecutor, the Franklin County Sheriff and the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence. Nationwide Children's Hospital provides a central location at 655 E. Livingston Ave. for these partners to collaborate in their efforts to investigate child abuse and domestic violence cases and to protect the victims of domestic crimes. The legislation authorizes funding for the lease and maintenance of office space at this centralized location.

EXPANDING RECREATIONAL SERVICES: From swimming pools to athletic fields, the City of Columbus provides residents with a wide variety of venues to enjoy recreational activities. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring two pieces of legislation that will help enhance the City's recreational offerings. *Ordinance 0165-2008* authorizes the director of Recreation and Parks to apply for a grant to purchase crum rubber (recycled automobile and truck tires) to treat all 12 athletic fields throughout Columbus. The new turf would allow tournament play to be extended as well as provide a safer surface for those who use the fields. *Ordinance 0150-2008* authorizes the City to apply for a \$50,000 grant for renovations to Lincoln Pool, located near the Barack Recreation Center on the Southside. The project includes construction of a new ADA compliant entrance ramp into the pool.

SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF THOSE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES: The Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Levy, also known as *Issue 29*, will allow those with disabilities to continue receiving the services they need to live productive and healthy lives. Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0035X-2008* which encourages the community to support *Issue 29* as they cast their vote on *Tuesday, March, 4, 2008*. This issue has not been on the ballot for seven years. The additional cost of this levy to the owner of a \$100,000 home is less than one dollar per week.

IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS: Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) help empower communities and improve neighborhoods and commercial areas. Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring legislation to allow the director of Development to enter into contracts with four SIDs for the implementation of services agreed upon in their individual district plans. Special assessments are levied from property owners within the SID boundaries for services and improvements. A portion of each assessment is returned to the SID for operational purposes. In 2008:

The Short North SID will receive \$125,000 (*ordinance 0140-2008*)

The Capital Crossroads SID will receive \$1,700,000 (*ordinance 0141-2008*)

The Discovery SID will receive \$500,000 (*ordinance 0143-2008*)

The Morse Road SID will receive \$150,000 (*ordinance 0144-2008*)

CRAIG CO-HOSTS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: The Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (NCR) Program is designed to help stimulate business development in designated areas. Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) and Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) will co-host a leadership meeting with NCR members on upcoming legislation that will provide funding for NCR business and development organizations. NCR leaders will present their 2007 accomplishments to City Council as well as their goals for 2008. The NCR Leadership Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room.

95 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MANKIND: President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0036X-2008* in recognition of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's *Ninety-Fifth Founders Day Luncheon* on Saturday, February 9, 2008. The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was founded by twenty-two collegiate women on the campus of Howard University on January 13, 1913 and has an international membership of more than 250,000 African American college-educated women. The organization's purpose is to provide quality public service through effective programs in local communities throughout the world. In conjunction with its international sisterhood, the Columbus Alumnae chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority is celebrating 74 years of service to the Columbus community.

HEARING FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOODS: In a continuing effort to highlight the concerns—as well as the accomplishments—of neighborhoods throughout Columbus, President [Michael C. Mentel](#) invites a representative from one of the 14 area commissions to present a report to City Council each month. This month, City Council will hear from Matt Vaccaro, Chair of the Milo-Grogan Area Commission. Mr. Vaccaro will inform members of Council about some of the latest developments in his neighborhood at the Council Meeting on Monday, February 11, 2008.