



**COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for March 17, 2008**

For More Information:
John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

COUNCIL PURCHASING NEW HOLSTERS FOR OFFICERS: Last year, the Division of Police transitioned their standard issue weapon from Smith & Wesson's discontinued .45 caliber handgun to their new .40 caliber model. The resulting differences in design and function of the new model requires a different style of holster, and tonight City Council is fulfilling its commitment to provide Columbus police officers with new holsters that will help ensure safe handling of their weapons at all times. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) and Administration Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) are co-sponsoring *ordinance 0487-2008* to appropriate \$71,750 from Council's *Public Safety Initiatives Fund* to purchase the holsters. The holsters will allow officers, including plain clothes detectives and those working undercover, to carry their service weapon in almost any situation. With very few exceptions, Columbus police officers are required to carry their weapon at all times, whether on-duty or off-duty.

COUNCIL HELPING POLICE TAKE DRUGS OFF OUR STREETS: The Narcotics Bureau within the Columbus Division of Police completes over 300 missions annually by strategically arresting drug offenders. To help their operations, Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0372-2008* to purchase a Rapid Deployment Vehicle (RDV). The RDV can safely transport a dozen fully-equipped tactical officers to each mission. Councilmember Ginther also remains attentive to our current economic challenges and has worked with Mayor Coleman's administration to purchase a demonstration unit of the RDV. In addition to being fiscally prudent, this approach will also ensure that the vehicle is delivered and ready for operations much sooner.

REVITALIZING ANOTHER URBAN BROWNFIELD: Located in the Weinland Park neighborhood, the former Columbus Coated Fabrics site was once a hub of manufacturing activity. With her sponsorship of *ordinance 1456-2007*, Development Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is supporting a plan to turn this site back into a thriving part of the community. The legislation will allow the City to enter into the Columbus Coated Fabrics Economic Development Agreement (EDA) with Wagenbrenner Development, Inc. The EDA outlines various actions and associated agreements required for the completion of the Columbus Coated Fabrics redevelopment project. The City, Campus Partners, and Wagenbrenner Development have worked extensively with Weinland Park residents to ensure that the proposed development of

approximately 500 residential units and a new park space complements the existing neighborhood.

Meeting of note: Councilmember Maryellen O'Shaughnessy will convene a public hearing to discuss the Administration's proposal to adjust the waiting period for demolition permits in selected cases Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 5:30 pm in City Council Chambers.

INCREASING SAFETY AT RECREATION CENTERS: As an amendment to last year's capital budget, Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) set aside \$200,000 dollars for security enhancements at various recreation centers located throughout Columbus. Tyson's commitment to make recreation centers safer for all residents gets underway tonight, with her sponsorship of *ordinance 0409-2008*. This legislation will authorize the City to enter into a consulting contract for safety camera assessments at 12 recreation centers. Click [here](#) to learn more about this important initiative.

COUNCIL CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH SHELTER BOARD: Homeless shelter services and transition programs help save lives by providing housing options to those who are homeless or facing homelessness. Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0416-2008* to enter into a \$2,287,766 contract with the Community Shelter Board (CSB) to help sustain Columbus' network of emergency homeless shelters.

Also, as part of her continuing effort to support Columbus' housing needs, Councilmember Tavares will host a meeting with housing advocates and neighborhood representatives to discuss the concept of Community Land Trusts and their potential use in Columbus. The meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 3:30 pm in Council Chambers.

CRAIG SPONSORS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT VICTIMS: In keeping with his steadfast commitment to protect victims of domestic violence, Judiciary and Court Administration Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring two important ordinances this evening. First, Craig is offering *ordinance 0431-2008* to use an \$83,000 grant to help fund a cyber crime investigator and a domestic violence victim advocate within City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer's office. Councilmember Craig also is sponsoring *ordinance 0451-2008* to contract with Choices for Victims of Domestic Violence. Choices will work with the City Attorney's office to provide additional victim advocacy, crisis intervention, and referrals to other partner agencies.

SUPPORTING CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: AFS Intercultural Programs is a worldwide, nonprofit organization that has been a leader in high school student exchange programs for 60 years. President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0058X-2008* to recognize AFS high school exchange students now studying in the United States for their participation in a government education program on March 17, 2008. The organization sends more than 1,500 students to more than 40 countries each year, awards more than \$1.5 million in financial aid and scholarships annually, places more than 2,800 students from abroad with American families, and is supported by approximately 5,000 volunteers in the U.S. and 30,000 volunteers around the world.

NEW TIME FOR CALL THE ROLL RADIO SHOW: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is pleased to announce that City Council's public affairs radio program, *Call The Roll*, can now be heard two times every Saturday, at 7:00 am and 2:00 pm, on *Freedom FM, 91.5*.

"Expanding our community outreach programming will help us reach more residents and educate them on many of the beneficial initiatives provided by the City and our partners," said President Mentel.

Call The Roll is a lively half-hour program that features interviews with members of City Council and other Columbus leaders on topics that range from pending legislation to upcoming community events and programs.

Please note that Columbus City Council will not hold a meeting on

March 24, 2008.