



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Highlights for May June 9, 2008

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CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS CODE CHANGES: Columbus City Council will consider *ordinance 1795-2007*, sponsored by Councilmember [Andrew J. Ginther](#) and co-sponsored by Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#), which would require *all* organizations wishing to solicit charitable contributions *in the roadway* to apply for a permit. Through extensive outreach with law enforcement and the public, Councilmember Ginther determined that legislation is necessary to create a more comprehensive permitting process and improve public safety by making sure law enforcement officials are notified in advance when and where roadside donations will occur. Additionally, the permit requirement will ensure that Columbus citizens who generously give to organizations soliciting in the roadway will have some assurance that their donation is being used for truly charitable purposes and is collected and distributed in a manner consistent with public expectations.

BICENTENNIAL BIKEWAYS PLAN SETS COURSE FOR THE FUTURE: The *Columbus Bicentennial Bikeways Plan* provides a road map for adding 538 miles of bike paths and other features throughout Columbus. Tonight, Council will consider approving the plan, sponsored by Public Service and Transportation Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#). If passed, *ordinance 0849-2008* will serve as a guide for policy decisions affecting zoning, planning of future public bikeway facilities, and capital improvements. The plan calls for three phases of development over a 20-year period. Councilmember O'Shaughnessy and Mayor Coleman's administration have worked diligently to ensure the plan incorporates "complete street" concepts to accommodate all forms of transportation from motorized vehicles to pedestrians.

CONTINUING EFFORTS TO END HOMELESSNESS: The *Rebuilding Lives Program* provides critical help to those in Columbus who are homeless and seeking to turn around their lives through permanent supportive housing. Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0814-2008* to provide the Community Shelter Board \$902,734 for these efforts. *Rebuilding Lives* meets the short and long term needs of homeless individuals by offering immediate emergency shelter as well as providing coordinated support services to those making the transition to permanent housing. Councilmember Tavares also is sponsoring *ordinance 0813-2008* to enter into a \$255,025 contract with the Community Shelter Board to support the *Homeless Prevention* and *Transition* programs. These programs work in tandem to reduce the number of individuals requiring shelter by helping to prevent homelessness and by reintegrating homeless families and individuals back into stable living conditions.

SPONSORING CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: The *Partnership through Sponsorship* program offers funding opportunities to non-profit organizations that host community events emphasizing cultural, ethnic and artistic diversity. Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0895-2008* to award \$29,000 in competitive grants to numerous organizations that provide creative entertainment and program activities for the Columbus community. Sponsoring organizations receiving grants this year are for the following events: the Asian Festival; Cruise the 'Ville; Columbus Gospelfest; First Night, Focal Point Concert Series; Juneteenth Ohio Festival; Music on the Hill; Southfield Reunion; and the Jam-N-Jefferson Park Festival.

CRAIG HOLDS HEARING ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION: According to local experts, nearly one-third of the Franklin County Municipal Court arraignment docket is filled with domestic violence cases. CHOICES, a Columbus-based organization that helps victims of domestic violence, receives nearly 30 calls each day on their 24-hour hotline. Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#), chair of the Judiciary and Court Administration Committee, is hosting a public hearing *Wednesday, June 25 at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers* to discuss a comprehensive strategy aimed at breaking the cycle of family violence with advocates and partner agencies such as the Coalition Against Family Violence.

PREPARING FOR NEW POLICE FACILITY: The Columbus Division of Police's Strategic Response Bureau (SRB) will continue to be temporarily housed at 3042 McKinley Avenue until their new permanent facility at 120 Morse Road is completed. *Ordinance 0736-2008*, sponsored by Finance Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#), will extend the lease to allow the SRB to continue using the facilities. The lease will allow the SRB to continue providing critical safety services to the community for the duration of the construction project, which is projected to be finished by November.

HONORING OF AN OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVANT: Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is sponsoring *resolution 0110X-2008* to honor the life of Alphonso Coleman Montgomery, former director of the Columbus Department of Public Safety. Mr. Montgomery served in this capacity from 1983-1990. In addition to serving the citizens of Columbus, Mr. Montgomery held a wide variety of leadership roles in his lifetime, including second lieutenant in the United States Army, assistant professor of Military Science and Tactics at Prairie View A & M University, and assistant director/director of the Administration of Justice Division, Department of Economic and Community Development for the state of Ohio.