



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

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

**BOYCE TO HOLD BUDGET BRIEFING:** Finance Committee Chair [Kevin L. Boyce](#) will hold a public briefing to discuss Mayor Coleman's 2009 budget proposal on Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 5:30 PM in City Council Chambers. This is the first in a series of meetings Council will hold to discuss the proposal before adopting the general revenue fund budget early next year. By statute, the administration must present a balanced budget to Council by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Council will hear testimony from all city departments. Council will receive community input on the Mayor's recommendations at future hearings. For a complete list of budget hearings visit, [City Council's Meeting Calendar Web page](#).

**GINTHER CONTINUES EFFORTS TO PREVENT SCRAP METAL THEFT:** City Council is set to provide law enforcement with the technological tools they need to combat scrap metal theft. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1723-2008* to purchase software that will provide police access to electronic records of scrap metal transactions. This information is critical in the recovery of stolen property and also to assist in identifying organized scrap metal theft efforts. This ordinance works in conjunction with prior legislation championed by Councilmember Ginther requiring more stringent licensing and regulation of scrap metal transactions.

**KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL:** Columbus' highway interchanges and exit ramps serve as gateways to our community. *Ordinance 1817-2008*, sponsored by Public Service and Transportation Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#), will authorize the city to accept and appropriate a grant to launch a new program designed to remove accumulated trash and debris, specifically cigarette litter, from ramps and interchanges leading to core city neighborhoods. Some of the key sites this program will impact include Nationwide Children's Hospital, the Ohio State University, Short North/Arena District/Convention Center, Capital University/DeVry Institute, state offices, and Columbus Crew stadium.



**SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY'S HOUSING NEEDS:** Stable, affordable housing provides an important foundation for the economic and social well being of individuals, families, and the communities in which they live. Health, Housing and Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1785-2008*, to appropriate \$250,000 from the HOME program to provide funding for various approved 2008 initiatives. The City of Columbus offers assistance to developers with grants and loans for projects designed to either increase or preserve the supply of safe and affordable housing for low income families. The City receives income from prior year investments of HOME funds in various rental and homeownership housing developments. These funds are then reinvested in HOME-eligible activities.

**TYSON PROMOTING COST-SAVING TECHNOLOGY:** Administration Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) is sponsoring legislation that will help the Department of Public Utilities improve the management of the city's vast water and sewer infrastructure network. *Ordinance 1587-2008* provides the background technology that will allow the Utilities Department to analyze potential leaks within the storm and sewer drain system and make repairs as needed. This software will save on maintenance costs by helping the city better anticipate the need for repairs.

**CRAIG TO PARTICIPATE IN SMALL BUSINESS FORUM:** Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) will participate in a town hall meeting sponsored by the Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Columbus State Community College on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at TechColumbus from 5:30-8:00 PM. The meeting will focus on how the current economic conditions are affecting local start-up and emerging business owners. The meeting is part of a series of business briefings offered by the SBDC to bring together their clients and partners to discuss the latest trends and practices affecting the local business environment.

**PRESIDENT MENTEL HELPS WELCOME OSU SPORTSMANSHIP COUNCIL:** City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) will help welcome student leaders of the Ohio State University's Sportsmanship Council this evening. In anticipation of Ohio State and Michigan continuing their storied football rivalry on Saturday, November 22, the Sportsmanship Council members will talk about their efforts to provide a safe and friendly environment for all Buckeye fans as well as for visiting teams and their supporters.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF NOTE:**

- ✓ Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares will host a public hearing on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Wednesday, November 19, 2008. The hearing will begin at 5:30 PM and will be held in City Council Chambers.
- ✓ Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson will hold a public meeting to discuss the 2009 Recreation and Parks Budget on Thursday, November 20 at 5:30 PM.
- ✓ Free parking is available after 5:00 PM in the City Hall surface lot at Gay and Front Streets. Attendees should enter City Hall at the Front Street security desk where they may also fill out a speaker slip prior to the meeting.