



**COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL**  
**Agenda Highlights for December 15, 2008**

**For More Information:**  
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**CRAIG WORKING TO CREATE SR-161 SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT:** [Hearcel F. Craig](#), chair of City Council's Minority and Small Business Development Committee, is sponsoring *Ordinance 1968-2008* to provide \$50,000 in additional funding for the efforts of the Northland Alliance to create a special improvement district (SID) along S.R. 161. Once established through a voluntary petition process, a SID allows business owners within a defined geographical area to raise funds for mutually beneficial district-wide services and improvements. Four other SIDs have been created to assist businesses in areas throughout Columbus, including Morse Road, the Short North, Downtown, and the Discovery District.

**COUNCIL FOCUSED ON DETERRING AGGRESSIVE PANHANDLING:** In an effort to better protect Columbus citizens and businesses from aggressive solicitations, Councilmember [Andrew J. Ginther](#), chair of the Public Safety Committee, is sponsoring *Ordinance 1062-2008* which will strengthen the city's panhandling law. The proposal offers greater protections for people near automated teller machines, parking meters, parking lots and outdoor patios or sidewalk cafes. The ordinance also creates an improper solicitation after dark offense, whereby certain verbal solicitations of money would be prohibited after nightfall until sunrise. The ordinance is the result of many months of meetings and dialogue between Councilmember Ginther, the City Attorney's office, Columbus Police, business owners and social service agencies.

**COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LIQUOR PERMIT OBJECTIONS:** Council members will consider resolutions objecting to the renewal of certain liquor permits by the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control (*resolutions 0220X-2008 through 0238-2008*). At the end of each year, Columbus City Council, the Columbus City Attorney, the Columbus Division of Police, the Columbus Department of Health and the Columbus Department of Development work with community leaders to help advance public safety by presenting the resolutions of objection. The resolutions address liquor permit holders and establishments that have a documented record of liquor, code and health violations, criminal activity, excessive police runs and that have shown disregard for neighborhood safety. While City Council cannot revoke or deny the renewal of liquor permits, each year Council exercises its right to submit resolutions of objection to the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control for consideration during the annual review of liquor permit applications. The Division has the sole authority to grant a renewal.

**BOYCE SUPPORTING GREEN FLEET:** President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) is sponsoring legislation that will help reduce the environmental impact of Columbus' diesel vehicles. *Ordinance 1943-2008* will allow the City to establish a purchase order in the amount of \$1,464 for the installation of diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) on select diesel vehicles. DOCs are estimated to reduce particulate matter by 25%, carbon monoxide by 50% and hydrocarbons by 50%. This project is part of a grant awarded by the US Environmental Protection Agency to fund the Mid-Ohio Public Diesel Fleet Initiative, a collaborative partnership between the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), the City of Columbus, and the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA). The grant is funding Fleet Management's portion of the project.

**REDUCING SCHOOL TRUANCY:** Recognizing that truancy deprives children of an education and is often times a gateway activity to more serious criminal behavior, the Columbus Division of Police continues to work with various agencies to alleviate the problem. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 1963-2008* to authorize the Director of the Development Department to extend the Truancy Intervention Program contract with the YMCA of Central Ohio. The modification has no fiscal impact. The YMCA works with the Columbus Public Schools to reduce truancy through educational procedures, case management and other interventions. Columbus police officers who apprehend students skipping school transport the minors to designated Truancy Centers.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION CIVIL RIGHTS CODE CHANGES:** Councilmember [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), chair of City Council's Administration Committee that oversees operations of the Columbus Community Relations Office, will bring forth legislation that will update Columbus' Civil Rights Code. *Ordinance 1865-2008* will more clearly define Columbus as a national leader in the preservation of human rights and expansion of respect for all individuals.

**MAKING COLUMBUS A BIKE-FRIENDLY CITY:** Public Service & Transportation Committee Chair [Maryellen O'Shaughnessy](#) is sponsoring legislation that will update the City's Bike Law to coincide with Ohio Revised Code, Complete Streets principles and the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan. *Ordinance 1987-2008* will implement the code modifications necessary to apply the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan. The city plans to expand its current network of 87 miles of bike trails, bike routes and bike lanes by adding 31 miles of off-street trails and 58 miles of on-street bike lanes and bike routes. Projects in the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan slated for construction include:

- Connecting the Olentangy Trail to the Alum Creek Trail, with 14 miles of bike lanes and paths
- Constructing 1 mile of bike lanes on Kimberly Parkway, from Hamilton to Courtwright roads
- Transforming Sullivant Avenue into a 12.6 mile bike corridor, from the Main Street Bridge to Georgesville Road
- Building 5 miles of bikeways in 8 Downtown alleys
- Adding 1.8 miles of bike lanes on State Route 161, between Sawmill and Linworth roads
- Building 1 mile of bike lanes on Lockbourne Road, from Livingston to Frebis avenues
- Designing a share-the-road campaign for an 8-mile stretch of High Street, from Downtown out to Morse Road

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF NOTE:**

- Finance Committee Chair Kevin L. Boyce will host a public hearing exclusively dedicated to receiving community input on the proposed 2009 Budget on Tuesday, December 16, 2008 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Those who wish to testify before Council may fill out a speaker slip at the security station located inside the Front Street entrance to City Hall. Speaker slips will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m and will be heard based upon the order in which they are received. Free parking is available after 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall surface lot at Gay and Front Streets. I.D. is required to enter the building.
- Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares will hold a Health, Housing & Human Services Budget Briefing on December 18, 2008 at 5:30 p.m in City Council Chambers. Speaker slips will be accepted until 6:30 p.m.
- Please note the December 15 Council Meeting is the last Council Meeting scheduled for 2008. The next Council Meeting will be held on January 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.