



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for September 14, 2009

For More Information:

John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

[Web](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Twitter](#)

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES RECEIVE LONG-AWAITED FUNDING: More than 40 programs that provide a wide range of critical services for children, seniors and families will receive funding originally appropriated in the 2009 operating budget by City Council in February. *Ordinance 0617-2009*, sponsored by Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#), will provide \$1,182,972 intended for these agencies earlier in the year but held back due to several changes in revenue projections occurring after Council members initially adopted the budget. The current legislation targets social service agencies that provide help to families and households through access to self-sufficiency, counseling, transportation, youth programs, childcare, senior services, and treatment services. Click [here](#) for a complete list of the agencies and the funding they are receiving.

GINTHER HELPING IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY: The City of Columbus in coordination Columbus City Schools (CCS) will rid the community of a blighted property which has posed a safety hazard for children attending East Elementary School. The City of Columbus used its priority status as a local government entity to acquire a vacant and abandoned building on East Sixth Avenue from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Development Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is now sponsoring *ordinance 1139-2009* which will allow for a simultaneous closing on the property and the transfer of the property to the school district. CCS has sought to acquire this blighted, multi-family structure for more than two years. The structure will be demolished and the land will be used to expand the East Columbus Elementary School property. The purchase price and all closing costs will be paid by the Board of Education. No city funds will be used for the transfer.

SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL GRANT: City Council is continuing efforts to ensure that children have a safe place to walk to and from school. *Ordinance 0875-2009*, sponsored by Public Service Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#), authorizes acceptance of a *Safe Routes to School* grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). The \$234,812 grant will be used for the design and construction of a sidewalk and curb ramps along Rich Street, between Central and Yale Avenues. The missing sidewalk on Rich Street is identified as a priority in the Franklinton Community Mobility Plan and in the ODOT-approved Franklinton Area School Travel Plan. The proposed sidewalk location is on a Walk Smart Route, which is an established walking route for Dana Elementary School, and is in close proximity to Starling Middle School.

PALEY HONORING CITY WORKERS FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE AWARD: The Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant has a staff of approximately 100 employees who team together to keep the station open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with one critical objective: to remove pollutants from Columbus' wastewater intake system and discharge clean water into the Scioto River in the most environmentally friendly way possible. Public Utilities Committee Chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is introducing *resolution 0138X-2009* to honor all the employees at the Southerly facility for winning the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Platinum Peak Performance Award. Each year NACWA honors wastewater treatment facilities nationwide for 100% compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.

PARTNERING TO EXPAND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: The City of Columbus is joining the Ohio Department of Transportation's efforts to expand the Scioto Trail. The trail is part of the Greenway Trail System, providing users with various scenic views of the downtown riverfront and skyline as well as parks and other natural areas. *Ordinance 0870-2009*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), allows the Recreation and Parks Department to use \$663,269 from the 1999 and 2004 Voted Bond Fund to pay for Columbus' portion of the construction of a .27 mile pedestrian/bikeway bridge across the Scioto River and the CSX railroad tracks, as well as improvements to the McKinley Avenue intersection. This project provides a key link in the statewide Ohio to Erie Trail, a 375-mile trail stretching from the Ohio River to Lake Erie. Future projects will also join this connector to the Big Darby Creek natural areas. The investment from the City represents 20% of the total construction cost, with 80% coming from federal funds. For a map showing the location of the bridge, click [here](#).

CONGRATULATING CHAMPIONS: Councilmember [A. Troy Miller](#) is introducing *resolution 0133X-2009* to honor the Bishop Hartley Girls Track & Field Team for winning the 2009 Division II Girls state track championship. The Lady Hawks successfully defended their 4x100 meter state title. The team also represented Columbus in the high school national meet in North Carolina where they placed 3rd in the same event.