



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for February 22, 2010

For More Information:

John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

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

ENCOURAGING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STIMULUS DOLLARS: Finance and Economic Development Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0262-2010* which authorizes the City to partner with the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority to act as the bond issuer for \$24,500,000 in federal Recovery Zone Bonds. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – commonly referred to as the federal stimulus package – created this new category of tax-exempt private activity bonds. The bonds allow for tax-exempt financing of certain privately funded projects in areas designated as “Recovery Zones.” The bonds will provide private developers access to capital financing at a much lower cost than would otherwise be available, and are designed to encourage business expansion and economic development.

PROVIDING GREEN ELECTRICITY FOR COLUMBUS RESIDENTS: For the past 10 years, the Division of Power and Water has purchased electricity generated from methane gas at the former landfill beneath the Phoenix Golf Course. The landfill gas-fueled electric generating facility is operated by Bio Energy (Ohio), LLC. The City has a 15 year agreement to purchase electricity generated from this “green” facility. Methane gas is produced by the decomposition of trash beneath the former landfill site and the gas is used to fuel two internal combustion engine generator units. Public Utilities Committee Chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0129-2010* to authorize the expenditure of \$413,191 from the Electricity Operating Fund to purchase wholesale electricity for 2010 from the facility. Last year, the facility produced 9,666,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

ATTRACTING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TO THE COLUMBUS WORKFORCE: In 2006, the City of Columbus and the Columbus Chamber developed the Young Professionals Initiative, an economic development strategy designed to attract and retain young professionals to our area. To date, research for the project has been completed and recommendations have been presented and approved. Program implementation is now ready to begin. *Ordinance 0305-2010*, sponsored by Development Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), authorizes the expenditure of \$70,000 from the General Fund to support the Young Professional Initiative. The money will be used to partially fund the employment of a manager who will implement the program.

KEEPING COLUMBUS ROADWAYS SAFE THIS WINTER: The forecast for six more weeks of winter weather has the City of Columbus working to ensure all area roadways remain safe. Public Service and Transportation Committee Chair [Hearcel F. Craig](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0210-2010* to authorize the expenditure up to \$400,000 from the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund for the purchase of additional rock salt. The funding will be used to purchase rock salt which will be distributed to salt barns across the city. The City of Columbus currently has 12,000 tons of salt that can be used this season.

HELPING FRANKLIN COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES KEEP CHILDREN HEALTHY: Health and Human Development Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0220-2010*, which authorizes the acceptance and appropriation of \$197,615 in grant funding to allow the Board of Health to enter into a contract with Franklin County Children Services (FCCS) for the services of two public health nurses for children. One nurse will be assigned to the FCCS Intake and Investigation Department and the second nurse will provide regional nursing services. The nurses will perform health assessments of children, make home visits, provide nursing consultation and training, interpret medical reports and develop treatment plans for families referred to FCCS.

PROMOTING COLUMBUS: The Columbus Hotel/Motel Excise Tax is used to support various community organizations designed to strengthen and enrich the lives of area residents. Councilmember [A. Troy Miller](#), chair of the Administration Committee, is sponsoring *ordinance 0226-2010* that will authorize the expenditure of up to \$3,720,000.00 for Experience Columbus, the city’s convention and visitors bureau for selling, marketing and promoting Columbus as a destination for trade shows, conventions, business meetings and group and leisure tourism which supports 62,000 jobs and generates \$7.2 billion in visitor spending in Central Ohio annually.