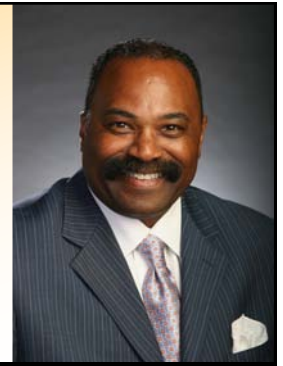




# Craig Connection

## Columbus City Council



Winter 2008

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Winter seems to be the season of hustle and bustle. This is definitely true in my life as a member of Columbus City Council. The Mayor's Proposed 2009 Budget has been submitted and we are weighing through the proposed cuts. It is a difficult task, not just because the city is facing a major shortfall, but also because of the effects the proposed cuts would have on our community.

I feel confident that my council colleagues and I are taking every step to pass a 2009 budget that lives within the means of the city without compromising our ability to meet the basic needs of the city. We will have to make hard decisions. There will be cuts that will potentially impact children, families, and our city as a whole.

I encourage you to be engaged in the process. Make your priorities known to me and my fellow council members. Please contact my office at 645-7379 to speak with my aide, Talia Brown, or reach her at: [TJBrown@columbus.gov](mailto:TJBrown@columbus.gov).

## 2009 BUDGET PROCESS

The Columbus City Charter requires the Mayor to submit to City Council by November 15 a proposed operating budget for the succeeding year.

This budget is then reviewed by City Council and amended following a public hearing process. A vote on the final amended budget will occur in February.

I encourage you to visit the City of Columbus website to review the Mayor's Proposed 2009 Budget and submit your comments. Comments regarding potential amendments to this budget can be made online by emailing all council members.

[View Mayor's Proposed 2009 Budget](#)

[2009 Budget hearing dates and times](#)

[Contact the council members](#)

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERIES

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which Councilmember Craig recognized by sponsoring a Resolution of Expression that was presented to the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence for their dedication to helping victims of domestic violence in our community.

Councilmember Craig also held the final in a series of public hearings which focused on educating and informing the community to where victims of domestic violence can turn for help. This series of hearings led to the passage of legislation that will provide the City Attorney's office with powerful resources to reduce this crime in our community.

"Over the course of several months I've listened to experts convey to me how serious an issue Domestic Violence is in our community," said Craig. "As a result of these committee meetings, I've been able to work with the City Attorney's office to implement legislation that will have a substantial impact on this injustice."

Following the final hearing in October, Craig sponsored additional legislation which addressed the main concerns brought up by the numerous experts who made recommendations.

"This legislation contains all the critical elements that have been shown to empower survivors of domestic violence," said Craig. "In addition to helping survivors navigate through the legal process, we also focused on supporting them in connecting with agencies and community resources. One of my main concerns was making sure people know they do not have to face this situation alone." Craig urges anyone facing domestic violence to please reach out for help.

*If you need help, please call:*

**Columbus Coalition Against  
Family Violence 722-5985**

**Columbus City Attorney 645-6232**

**CHOICES Hotline 224-4663**

## INVESTING IN AMERICAN ADDITION HOUSING

Councilmember Craig joined Mayor Michael B. Coleman, other city leaders and community partners on October 24, 2008 at the American Addition neighborhood, to unveil plans for an area that has seen very little new development over the past 50 years.

Plans for the Northeast Side neighborhood include storm sewers, curbs, gutters and sidewalks, with ADA ramps. New pavement and bike paths planned will spur the economic growth of this neighborhood.

"This is an exciting time for American Addition," Councilmember Craig commented, "as well, as the entire City of Columbus. We are investing in our future as a city and doing our part to make Columbus the best city to live, work, and raise a family."

American Addition will be revitalized as the City of Columbus plans to invest \$15 million in infrastructure improvements to complement plans for new housing by Columbus Housing Partnership (CHP). Approximately 120 new houses are planned for construction, with 12 homes scheduled for groundbreaking on Lee Avenue in April 2009.

For more information about the Columbus Housing Partnership and their commitment to American Addition, please visit [www.chpcolumbus.org](http://www.chpcolumbus.org).



**Councilmembers Craig and Tavares gathered with Mayor Michael B. Coleman and community partners to announce the revitalization plans for the American Addition neighborhood.**

## CRAIG PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

The Ohio Department of Development's Minority Business Enterprise Division, in cooperation with the Global Markets and the Entrepreneurship and Small Business divisions held its first Ohio Minority Business International Trade Conference on October 2.

The conference was a day-long event for 179 small businesses and minority entrepreneurs interested in expanding their local operations into the global market.

The keynote speaker was Earl Graves, Jr., President and Chief Operating Officer for Earl G. Graves Publishing Company, publisher of Black Enterprise Magazine.

Councilmember Craig, Chair of the Minority and Small Business Development Committee, also attended. Craig presented a Resolution of Expression from Council. "It is our desire to support this effort and recognize the impact that the global economy can have in developing Columbus' and Ohio's minority business leaders," said Craig.

The event included workshops by international trade specialists including the U.S. Department of Commerce, Export/Import Bank, the U.S. Small Business Administration, as well as the managing directors for the State of Ohio's International Offices located in Brazil, Canada, and Mexico. Panel discussions with corporate leaders who have been successful doing business internationally, were a highlight of the conference. The variety of workshops provided information on exporting, financing, specialized workshops for those interested in expanding their local business to Africa, Brazil, Canada, China, and Mexico.



**Councilmember Craig addresses the first Ohio Minority Business International Trade Conference held on Oct. 2, 2008.**

## COUNCIL RECOGNIZES REDD



**Michael Redd, leader of the Michael Redd Foundation, was honored By Columbus City Council for his 2008 Olympic Gold Medal in basketball, as well as his community service work.**

At the September 9 Columbus City Council meeting, Councilmember Craig honored Michael W. Redd, an Olympic Gold Medal recipient and member of the US National Basketball Team at the 2008 Summer Games. Redd was recognized for the community service work performed by the Michael Redd Foundation.

The foundation equips youth & young adults with tools to succeed in life by promoting social, economic and racial reconciliation within the community.

A graduate of Columbus' West High School, Redd played for the Ohio State Buckeyes from 1998 to 2000, going on to play in the NBA for the Milwaukee Bucks and the 2004 NBA All Star Team.

Remaining active in the local community, Redd has hosted a summer basketball camp for Ohio youth over the past six years. He has also helped to build the Philadelphia Deliverance Church of Christ on the City's East Side, located on Napoleon Avenue.

For more information about Michael Redd and The Michael Redd Foundation, please visit him online at [www.mredd22.com](http://www.mredd22.com).

## SMALL BUSINESS SURVIVAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig participated in a town hall meeting sponsored by the Ohio Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at TechColumbus on November 19. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the current economic conditions and how they are affecting local start-up and emerging business owners.

Michael Bowers, director of SBDC at Columbus State, addressed participants on the current state of the economy after a welcome from Minority and Small Business Development Committee Chair Hearcel F. Craig. The meeting then focused on a panel discussion among community partners such as the Treasurer of State, Ohio Department of Development, City of Columbus Department of Development, Economic Community Development Institute, and Huntington Bank, among others.

The meeting was 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.



**Hearcel Craig encourages small business owners during tough economic times.**

## FIRST CUP OF COFFEE BUSINESS BRIEFING HELD



**Councilmember Craig spoke with SBDC clients and partners at the First Cup of Coffee Business Briefing Event on Sept. 17.**

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Columbus State Community College held its First Cup of Coffee Business Briefing event on September 17.

The briefing was organized as a breakfast and brought together SBDC clients and partners with the purpose of discussing the latest trends and practices in today's fast paced business environment.

As Chair of the Minority and Small Business Development Committee, Councilmember Craig was in attendance as the keynote speaker and was able to provide insight on connecting resources for small businesses as well as gather information on how the City of Columbus can accelerate business growth and opportunities for small business owners.

“The Minority and Small Business Committee was created to first and foremost be a catalyst for business growth and opportunity in Columbus,” said Craig. “A major goal for the committee is to stimulate business relationships between minority and small businesses and many of the major employers that currently call Columbus home.”

In addition to the content, the event provided an important networking opportunity for local businesses and SBDC clients.

## NORTH MARKET SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING

They are two of the most successful small business owners in Columbus. John Hard of CaJohn's Flavor and Fire and Jeni Britton-Bauer of Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams have both parlayed their love of food into nationally and internationally recognized business ventures. And both went about gaining that acclaim with opposite strategies.



**David Wible, Executive Director of the North Market, outlines future plans for expansion of a community kitchen at the North Market.**

**Councilmember Craig discussed issues and challenges faced by small and minority businesses at the North Market.**

"CaJohn's first became very popular on the national food convention circuit," said Hard, who founded the company in 1996. "And while we are a business based in the Linden neighborhood, some 25% of our sales come from the European market."

Britton-Bauer's business has been a local sensation that has quickly garnered national critical acclaim. While her business has been open for about 6 years, the dream of producing exotic ice creams with tempting names like Dark Cocoa Gelato, Thai Chili or Lime Cardamom Yogurt with Lingonberries began in the mid-90s.

"My business went from just me making the product to the situation I'm in now, where I have managers to manage other managers," said Britton-Bauer. "Having mentors and the chance to talk to business owners who have experienced the same struggles I have has been a key component of my success."

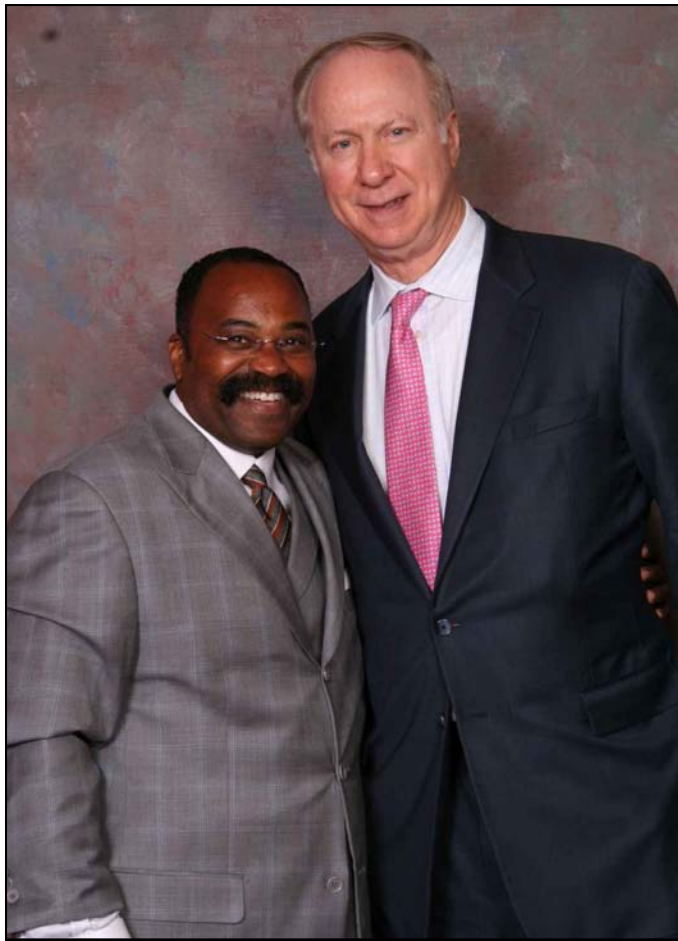
Both have one thing in common, the North Market. The Columbus gathering point for locally produced food products is also a must see tourist attraction for out of town visitors. The North Market also serves as an important small business incubator that encourages operations like CaJohn's and Jeni's to flourish in these struggling economic times. Wanting to learn the secret of their success is why Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, Chair of the Minority and Small Business Development Committee, held a public meeting at the North Market to explore ways to sustain and expand the North Market model to other sectors of the Columbus economy.

"The North Market has proven itself to be a perfect small business incubator," said Craig. "Despite the success of CaJohn's and Jeni's, I believe the North Market still has a large amount of untapped potential that can lead to even more successful business ventures."

One such idea the Councilmember is exploring is turning an unused second floor kitchen at the North Market into a "community kitchen," a place where small business owners can rent space and equipment to make small amounts of their product to take to the marketplace. The idea would help keep start up costs low, while providing fledgling business owners' access to more successful owners who could serve as mentors.

"The North Market holds an important role in the daily lives of many Columbus residents and serves an example of what can happen when hard work and creativity meets opportunity," said Dave Wible, North Market's Executive Director. "Many of the business owners have a dream to be as successful as Jeni's and CaJohn's, but have as their core value making a quality product that others will enjoy for years to come."

## CHP COMING HOME CELEBRATION



**Councilmember Hearcel Craig (left) and CNN's David Gergen enjoy the 2008 Coming Home Celebration sponsored by Columbus Housing Partnership.**

More than 1,200 people gathered together along with Councilmember Craig for Columbus Housing Partnership's 2008 Bringing Home Celebration. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the work of CHP's many partners in providing quality affordable housing and homebuyer education.

The program featured David Gergen, commentator, best-selling author and former advisor to presidents for 30 years, providing the keynote "2008 Election: Issues and Answers."

Gergen has been an active participant in American national life as a commentator, editor, teacher, public servant, since serving as director of communications for President Reagan and other positions held in the administrations of Presidents Nixon, Ford and Clinton. He currently serves as editor-at-large at U.S. News & World Report and as a regular television commentator for CNN. Gergen is also a professor of public service at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and is director of its Center for Public Leadership.

The celebration took place October 28 at the Ohio Theater, and honored Eric Carmichael, co-founder of Gideon Development Partners and New Millennium, Inc. for his commitment to affordable housing in Columbus.

Other speakers included Leslie Wexner, Chairman and CEO, Limited Brands and Amy Klaben, CEO/President of Columbus Housing Partnership. 10TV's Angela Pace served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Columbus Housing Partnership (CHP) is a private, nonprofit organization who works to provide quality, affordable housing and related services to low to moderate income households in Columbus and the surrounding area. Since its inception in 1987, Columbus Housing Partnership has developed approximately 4,000 affordable homes.

### IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS:

**2009 COUNCIL BUDGET RETREAT**— Columbus City Council will conduct its annual retreat as part of its review of the administration's proposed 2009 City budget. A series of panels with local experts will provide Councilmembers information on the local economy, workforce development issues, and the business climate. In addition to two public forums held in December, Councilmembers have been busy conducting a series of budget hearings by committee.

**BUDGET ROLL OUT** — After numerous budget briefings and public hearings, Columbus City Council will present the 2009 Budget with possible changes. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan 22, 2009 in City Council Chambers.

**JMLBA SPEAKER SERIES** — Councilmembers Hearcel Craig and Kevin Boyce will be guest speakers at The John Mercer Langston Bar Association Monthly Speakers Series meeting on **January 22, 2009, from 12:00pm-1:30pm**. The John Mercer Langston Bar Association is the African American Bar Association in Columbus, and provides programming and support for African American attorneys and aspiring attorneys.