

SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT



You have earned it, you should keep it.

That is the philosophy behind the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a federal program that is putting thousands of dollars back in the pockets of those Columbus residents who qualify for the program.

Charleta B. Tavares, chair of the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee.

the tax burden for low-income individuals and families.

Many Columbus residents may be eligible for the tax credits without knowing it.

Many Columbus residents may be eligible for the tax credits without knowing it.

- ◆ **No children:** If single, maximum income is \$12,590. If married, maximum income is \$14,590. The maximum credit is \$428.
- ◆ **One Child:** If single, maximum income is \$33,241. If married, maximum income is \$35,241. The maximum credit is \$2,853.
- ◆ **Two or More Children:** If single, maximum income is \$37,783. If married, maximum income is \$39,783. The maximum credit is \$4,716.

State of Ohio. Cordray is working with Councilmember Tavares to make sure Columbus residents realize that their return to have their taxes filed. They can instead take their tax information to a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site for free



Councilmember Charleta B. Tavares (right) and State Treasurer Richard A. Cordray were interviewed on a local radio program about the benefits of the Earned Income Tax Credit. Tavares and Cordray urged eligible citizens to claim the credit on their 2007 tax statements.

COUNCIL ADDS NEW COMMITTEE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES_____



Minority and Small Business Development Chair Hearcel F. Craig presents Donald Robinson of *skillsthatclick.com*, a Web-based initiative aimed at promoting financial literacy among minority youth, with a resolution of expression in Council Chambers.

In a continuing effort to further promote job and entrepreneurial opportunities for residents, Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) has announced the formation of a new City Council committee. The Minority and Small Business Development Committee will focus on expanding economic opportunities for minority and small business owners, while exploring incentive options to assist this vital segment of our economy. Council President Mentel has appointed Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#) to chair the new committee.

increase business opportunities for minority and small businesses in important growth sectors of our economy, such as technology and major goal for the committee will be to

encourage business relationships between minority and small businesses and many of the major employers

Joining Councilmember Craig on the new committee are Council President Mentel, President Pro Tem Boyce

COUNCIL CONTINUES COMMUNICATIONS OUTREACH_____

City Council is pleased to announce a new communications outreach effort designed to keep residents will contain a multi-media section that includes audio and video clips highlighting the legislation and policy issues that are impacting the Columbus community.

As chair of the Administration Committee, Councilmember [Priscilla R. Tyson](#) oversees legislation that is

strongly believe that City Council must do its best to involve Columbus residents in the policy-making of the most effective methods for accomplishing this feat is incorporating different technology platforms, such as Web-based media, into our outreach efforts. I know the citizens of Columbus will



Stay current on the latest issues affecting the Columbus community by visiting the new Media section of the City Council Web site! Click on the picture above to listen to an interview with Councilmember Mentel as he discusses the newly created position for Homeless Advocacy.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson supports community partnerships.

Supporting cultural events that engender civic pride and contribute to the local economy is an important role for municipal government. The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department will continue to support these types of events through the *Partnership Through Sponsorship* program.

Priscilla R. Tyson

Partnership Through Sponsorship typically sponsors 10-15 events per year and has helped with event funding for more than 40 different organizations since 1995. Some of the civic events assisted by the program include the Asian Festival, Juneteeth Ohio, the Hilltop Bean Dinner celebration, and the Long Street Bike Tour. In order for events to be eligible for the program, the sponsor organizations must maintain non-profit status, admission must be free to the public, and alcohol can not be served.

For more information call Recreation and Parks at 645-3333 or visit their Web site www.columbusrecparks.com. Proposals and budgets for prospective events must be submitted by March 28, 2008.

For more information call Recreation and Parks at 645-3333 or visit their Web site www.columbusrecparks.com. Proposals and budgets for prospective events must be submitted by March 28, 2008.

ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

As home of the best safety forces in the country, it comes as no surprise that Columbus police officers and firefighters go above and beyond the call of duty every day. However, there are those exceptional few who set the bar a little bit higher and motivate those around them by their examples of leadership.



Public Safety Committee Chair Andrew J. Ginther acknowledged the Safety Award recipients along with their family, friends, and co-workers.



Firefighter Gregory Gary (above) and Police Officer Brian Spann (right) received *Safety Awards* for their outstanding service and dedication to the citizens of Columbus.



Throughout the year, City Council acknowledges the efforts of these brave men and women with its special honor of recognition, the *Safety Award*. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) was proud to announce Firefighter Gregory Gary and Police Officer Brian Spann as the latest *Safety Award* recipients for their outstanding service to the citizens of Columbus.

Firefighter Gary has been a member of the Division of Fire since 1988. He is currently assigned to the Ladder Company at Station 23. Officer Spann is responsible for numerous duties involving technology management for the Division of Police.

Andrew J. Ginther

SNOW WARRIORS PLOW THROUGH THE WINTER



The beginning of February usually brings severe winter storms, as the men and women who work to clear ice and snow from our streets continue to make certain that their equipment is ready to handle the worst that Mother Nature can throw at them.

The City of Columbus has put in place to battle snow emergencies of the Public Service & Transportation Committee, following a briefing with various City leaders.

As in previous years, the Snow Warriors work 12 hour shifts and first attack Columbus freeways, then arterial streets near hospitals and schools, before moving on to collector streets and finally residential areas. Along with the trucks that are traditionally deployed during snow storms, this year the Public Utilities Department has also retrofitted dump trucks with blades to assist with the snow removal.

big job and we are lucky to have the skilled men and women who

In November, Public Service and Transportation Mayor Michael B. Coleman met with the Snow

If you have a question or concern about snow removal in Columbus, call 311. Stay tuned to

GTC-3 during the month of February for the airing of the snow removal plan briefing that Councilmember Uq U@æ ~ * @ } ^ • • ^ Á [! * æ } ã : ^ á È



7] hm' 7ci bW] ' kci' X' ' _Y' hc' h\Ub_ ' h\Y' 7] hmDg' Gbck' KUff] cf g' Z c 7c' iaVi gD' ghfYYhg' UbX' fcUXkUmg' gUZY' h\] g' k] bhYf' gYUgcb"

CELEBRATING THE DREAM



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday celebrates the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. Nearly 40 years after his untimely death, the lessons Dr. King taught the world and the value he found in every human life still hold true today.

Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#), Mayor Michael B. Coleman, Governor Ted Strickland and Senator Sherrod Brown were invited to provide opening remarks at c @ ã • ÁDr. ~~Martin Luther~~ King, Jr. Birthday Breakfast Celebration.

%oY ^ Á { ~ • c Á & [} c ã } ~ ^ Á , [! \ ã } * Á c [* ^ c @ ^ ! Á c [Á { æ \ ! ^ æ | ã c ^ É + Á • æ ã á Á Ú ! ^ • ã á ^ } c Á T ^ } c ^ | É Á Á

T æ ^ [! Á Ô [| ^ { æ } Á ^ & @ [^ á Á Ú ! ^ • ã á ^ } c Á T ^ } c ^ | q • Á • ! ^ & [{ { ã c Á c @ ^ { • ^ | ç ^ • Á c [Á Ö ! É Á S ã } * q • Á & æ ~ • ^ É Á

President Mentel asked that the community work together in order to bring Dr. A U f h] b ' @ i h \ Y f ' ?] q [ã > f " D c] c [ã b ~ • c Á [} ^ Á á æ ^ Á [~ Á c @ ^ Á ^ ^ æ ! Á à ~ c Á ^ to fruition.

%oV @ ã • Á ã • Á æ Á c ã { ^ Á [~ Á ! ^ } ^ , æ | É Á ! ^ & [{ { ã c { ^ } c Á q [ã ç ã } * Á] q] c Á b ~ • c Á [} ^ Á á æ ^ Á [~ Á c @ ^ Á ^ ^ æ ! Á à ~ c Á ^

Coleman.

V @ ã • Á ^ ^ æ ! q • Á \ ^ ^ } [c ^ Á •] ^ æ \ ^ ! Á , æ • Á R æ { ^ • Á Š æ , • [} É Á & [} • ã á non-violence theorist in the world. Lawson inspired the large gathering with his message of hope and urgency c [Á & [} c ã } ~ ^ Á • c ! ã ç ã } * Á ~ [! Á Ö ! É Á S ã } * q • Á á ! ^ æ { É



(Top)(L-F É : f U b _ '] b ' 7 c i b h m ' 7 ' Y f _ ' c Z Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, Franklin County Treasurer Ed Leonard, Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, Pastor Donald Washington, Senator Ray Miller, Council President Pro Tem Kevin L. Boyce, and Reverend Fred Lamarr joined together to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Right) Councilmembers Tyson (2nd from right) and Ginther (far right) participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade.



HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. _____



President Pro Tem Boyce urged Otterbein students to honor the sacrifice of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. by engaging their government.

way to honor the memory of Dr. King?

In a powerful question and answer session held with students and faculty after the convocation, Boyce conveyed the series of events that led to his lifetime commitment to public service. During the discussion, many students expressed an interest in becoming involved in government and asked Boyce what steps they should take to pursue their dreams.

that came my way in which I had the choice between tremendous wealth or continuing my role as a public servant. Although the job opportunity would have provided me with the ability to give financially to many causes I believe in, in the end, I knew that the best way I could give back to the community was through



%oY [~ ! Á ç [c ^ Á ã • Á ^ [~ ! Á ç [ã & ^ È +

That was the message President Pro Tem [Kevin L. Boyce](#) * æ ç ^ Á ã ~ ! ã } * Á U c c ^ ! à ^ ã } Á W } Martin Luther King Jr. convocation.

%oQ • Á c @ ^ Á W } ã c ^ ã Á Û c æ c ^ • Á ! ^ æ ã ^ Æ { ^ ! ã & æ } Á [! Á ~ ^ { æ | ^ Á Û ! ^ • ã ã ^ } • c ~ ã ^ } c • È Á Á %oCE • Á [~ ! Á } æ c ã [] Á • à ^ & [{ ^ • Á c @ ^ Á ~ ~ ^ • c ã [} Á [~ Á [~ !

Although numerous issues awaited his leadership back at City Hall, Boyce stopped to reflect on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with the Otterbein student body.

%oY ^ Á æ | | Á | ^ æ ã Á à ~ • ^ Á | ã ç ^ • È + Á • ! ^ & æ | | Á c @ ã • Á Þ [ç ^ { à ^ ! È Á , @ ^ } Á ^ [~ q ! ^ Á à ~ • ^ Á , ã c @ Á ^ [~ ! Á • c ~ ã ã

candidates we have to chose from in this election would not be possible without the sacrifice of Dr.

T æ ! c ã } Á S ~ c @ ^ ! Á S , ã w h a t i s t h e b e s t Á Á %o T

(Top) After the convocation, President Pro Tem Boyce met one-on-one with students and faculty from Otterbein University for a question and answer session.

(Left) The Otterbein Gospel Choir kicked -off the convocation with songs dedicated the memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.