



Michelle M. Mills

Columbus City Council

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Michelle M. Mills, Member
Columbus City Council

Committees:

Chair:

- Development
- Education
- Environment

Member:

- Health & Human Services
- Workforce Development
- Public Safety & Judiciary
- Small & Minority Business Development
- Rules & Reference
- Zoning

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A longtime advocate for children, families, and neighborhoods, Councilmember Michelle Mills chairs the Development, Education, and Environment Committees.

Councilmember Mills is the inaugural chair of the Environment and Education Committees, both of which were created in 2014 to help Council address key community priorities. The Education Committee focuses on education policy initiatives and strategies, including the evaluation of programs, development of performance measures, and establishment of goals, while the Environment Committee helps the city preserve and protect the natural resources that contribute to our community's high quality of life.

Councilmember Mills previously chaired the Public Safety & Judiciary Committee, where she was proud to support Columbus's safety officers by making sure that they had up-to-date gear, equipment, and vehicles.

Councilmember Mills led a two-year effort to reform the city's approach to the regulation of mobile food vending so that mobile food entrepreneurs can continue to thrive in Columbus. She has supported legislation to enhance penalties against repeat trespassers, and she sponsored legislation for the implementation and expansion of the Neighborhood Safety Camera Program. Councilmember Mills has also worked to fight scrap metal theft at both the local and state levels. She successfully advocated on behalf of residents and businesses for the adoption of a uniform statewide tracking and reporting system. This legislation, Senate Bill 193, was passed in June 2012.

In addition to her work on Columbus City Council, Councilmember Mills is President/CEO of one of the most diverse and impactful social service agencies in Columbus, nationally accredited St. Stephen's Community House. In that position, she guides an organization with a multi-million dollar budget and uses her professional experience as a launching point to help improve the lives of Columbus residents, by promoting healthy families and safe neighborhoods.

Mills holds an array of leadership positions at the local, state, national and international levels. In February 2009, Dr. Alvin Jackson asked her to serve on Governor Strickland's Infant Mortality Reduction Task Force. In November of 2013, she was appointed to serve on the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force to continue her advocacy to reduce infant mortality in our community. Mills is also the board treasurer of the International Federation of Settlements and a current board member the United Neighborhood Centers of America.

Mills has earned numerous awards and recognitions for her outstanding, extensive career in the human services sector. In 2010 alone, she received the Columbus Education Association's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the Smart Business 2010 Smart Leader Award, and The Medical Mutual 2010 Pillar Award for Community Service--Executive Director of Year. She was featured on the cover of the 2010 central Ohio edition of The Women's Book. Recently, she was selected as a 2013 "Twelve Women You Should Know" honoree and a 2013 Woman of Achievement.

Mills earned her Master's degree at Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Science and her Bachelor of Arts at Cleveland State University. In 2010 she participated in the Partnership's Next Generation Executive program in affiliation with the Harvard University Business School. Mills is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio.