

6. Legislator Support



ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER
CHARLETA B. TAVARES

15TH DISTRICT

Committees

Ways & Means- Ranking
Workforce & Economic Development- Ranking
Finance
Public Safety, Local Government & Veterans Affairs
Medicaid, Health & Human Services
Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review
Joint Medicaid Oversight and Reform Committee
Finance- Medicaid Subcommittee
Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee

Ohio Senate

Senate Building
Room 228
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614.466.5131
Email: Tavares@ohiosenate.gov

January 27, 2015

Mayor Michael B. Coleman
90 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Buckeye Community Hope Foundation
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Application

Dear Mayor Coleman:

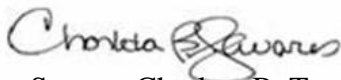
As the state senator of the 15th district of Ohio, I am writing to express support for the proposed Streetcar District Redevelopment Initiative (SDRI) from the Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (Buckeye Hope). The project includes the acquisition and renovation of the former Kent School, as well as 53 targeted vacant and/or dilapidated homes within a four block radius of the Kent School. Driving Park is one of Columbus' communities most in need of initiatives like Buckeye Hope's SDRI proposal. Instances of violent crime have been growing in Driving Park causing the historic neighborhood to receive negative repute and deterring prospective new residents to live in the community. The primary goal of Buckeye Hope with the SDRI is the restoration of the Kent School as a public community school and the refurbishment of 53 dilapidated homes for the purposes of providing affordable housing for families. This renovation is precisely what the Driving Park area needs to rise above its current erroneous representation of crime and blight.

I am sure you are aware, affordable housing, particularly within older neighborhoods like Driving Park, is in great demand throughout the city of Columbus. Organizations such as Buckeye Hope are and will continue to be critical to the revitalization of our communities. Their mission to provide quality, affordable housing to Columbus' disadvantaged population correlates directly with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency's standards applied to Housing Tax Credit recipients. Also, Buckeye Hope complies with

Enterprise Green Communities, the City of Columbus' AWARE standards for energy efficiency and healthy homes, and Franklin County Green Standards. Furthermore, Buckeye Hope has demonstrated their unwavering commitment to the program by investing over \$2 million into the redevelopment initiative to date.

They have fruitfully worked with other entities in the pursuit of their goal including: the City Land Bank (for the purposes of lot acquisition & demolition), the Livingston Area Commission, and the Driving Park Civic Association. I truly believe that it is this demonstration of a collaborative effort that has the most profound impact on the process and sustainability of our communities. Together, these organizations have invested over \$10 million in current and future initiatives for the area including: the construction of a new library, the renovation of the Kent School and surrounding homes, the procurement of funds for home ownership in Old Oaks Historic District, and the Livingston Avenue area improvements. I support Buckeye Hope in their pursuit of obtaining Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and urge your consideration and support as well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charleta B. Tavares". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

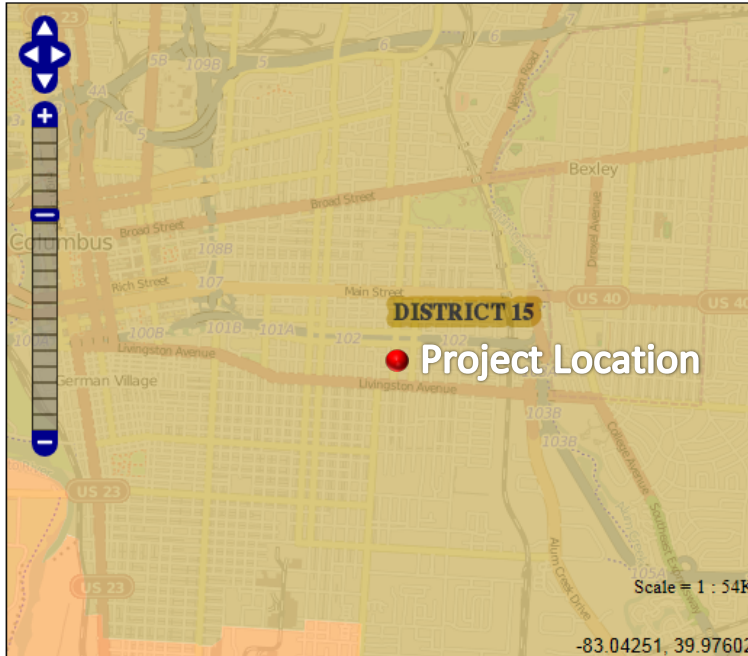
Senator Charleta B. Tavares
15th Senatorial District

SENATE DISTRICT MAP

To find your district and the representative who represents you, refer to the map below. You may also search for your representative by name, district number or zip code on the bottom left corner of the homepage.

Enter Zip Code:

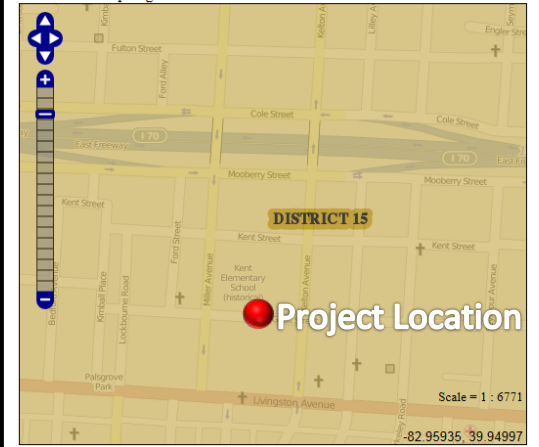
Found location ...



Map district data provided by the Ohio Secretary of State and available on the following website:

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/elections/candidates/District%20Maps.aspx>

Enter Zip Code:
Click on the map to get district information



Senate District 15



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Project Address:

Kent Place Homes

1414 Gault Street

Columbus, Ohio 43205-2933

Ohio Senate District 15

With content from *ohiosenate.gov*

<http://www.ohiosenate.gov/senate/members/senate-district-map>