

ROBERT “BO” CHILTON

DURING MY TENURE WORKING WITH COUNCILWOMAN CHARLETA TAVARES AND ASSISTING HER WITH HER WORK LEADING THE CITY COUNCIL’S HEALTH, HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, I’VE SEEN THE EFFECTS WHEN A FAMILY LACKS BASIC NEEDS. THEY LIVE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF CRISIS. THEY ARE AT A GREATER RISK FOR DEVELOPING AND ESCALATING OTHER PROBLEMS SUCH AS DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR BECOMING VICTIMS OF CRIMES.

THE CITY OF COLUMBUS CONTINUES TO STRONGLY SUPPORT 2-1-1 AND FIRSTLINK’S EFFORTS, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT BY MAKING THIS CONNECTION, RESIDENTS IN NEED WILL NOT ONLY ACCESS BASIC NEEDS AND SERVICES, BUT WILL ALSO BE HELPED IN IDENTIFYING OTHER SERVICES THAT MAY HAVE LEAD TO THE NEED FOR THIS SUPPORT.

I DO THINK IT’S IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, TO ADDRESS ONE OTHER KEY ELEMENT TO 2-1-1 WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED TODAY. THE CONCEPT OF GIVING HELP.

BY CALLING 2-1-1, CENTRAL OHIO RESIDENTS CAN BE CONNECTED TO MORE THAN 2,100 ON-GOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT MORE THAN 900 NON-PROFIT, GOVERNMENT AND HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS. THE CITY OF COLUMBUS HAS BEEN A SUPPORTER OF THE RSVP PROGRAM – THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER

PROGRAM – IMPLEMENTED THROUGH FIRSTLINK.

IN ADDITION, BOARDLINK CONNECTS VOLUNTEERS INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE GOVERNING OR ADVISORY BOARD OF A NONPROFIT, TO A COLLECTION OF MORE THAN 600 ORGANIZATIONS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW TO COLUMBUS, OR SIMPLY STARTING OUT IN THEIR CAREER AND LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITY, FIRSTLINK IS AN INVALUABLE TOOL.

AND NOW I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE ERIKA JONES WHO IS HERE TO PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO FIRSTLINK ON BEHALF OF MAYOR MICHAEL COLEMAN'S OFFICE.