

Heidi Samuel

For Columbus City Council

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Put Columbus in the Big Ten

Heidi Samuel sets 2012 goal for Columbus to be among the safest big cities in America

Columbus – With football season in full swing, many Columbus citizens are cheering on the scarlet and gray. With the same passion, Heidi Samuel, candidate for Columbus City Council, encourages the City of Columbus to establish our city as one of the ten safest cities by 2012.

“There is a lot of talk about what we want for Columbus in its 2012 Bicentennial year; my goal is simply one thing – to be ranked as one of the safest big cities in America,” Heidi Samuel said.

The Fraternal Order of Police have endorsed Heidi Samuel for Columbus City Council.

In the latest ranking of compiled FBI Statistics, Columbus was ranked the 9th most dangerous big city in America.¹ A big city is defined as a city with a population greater than 500,000.

Samuel is calling for Columbus City Council to set a goal committing the resources necessary for Columbus to achieve a ranking among the top ten safest big cities in America.

“I believe economic growth and development, revitalization of neighborhoods and attracting new residents is vital to the future of our city; step one is ensuring Columbus citizens feel safe,” Samuel said. “If residents don’t feel safe in their neighborhoods, those who can afford to move out of the city will eventually move out.”

Heidi Samuel’s opponent in the November election recently wrote, “*Although statistically Columbus has some of the best big-city crime figures in the nation, it is not enough.*”²

“I agree with my opponent’s assessment that what has been done is *not* enough, but if she thinks we are among the best cities in the nation in crime statistics she is out of touch,” Samuel said. “Columbus ranks as the 9th most dangerous big city in America. That isn’t an arbitrary ranking; it’s based on our city’s crime data.”

The Fraternal Order of Police endorsed Heidi Samuel for Columbus City Council over her opponent, a recently appointed incumbent council member. Samuel has spent more than 24 hours riding with police officers and fire fighters as they responded to calls for service in the Northland area, on the east side, the Hilltop and west side.

¹ Morgan Quitno Press, now part of CQ Press is a division of Congressional Quarterly Inc.

² <http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/politics/stories/2007/09/02/colsmayor.html>

Samuel believes Columbus can achieve this goal by 2012 by elevating priority status for public safety and code enforcement. As a member of Council, Samuel will fight to divert funding for public safety and code enforcement officers and press for funding of badly-needed public safety equipment in the city's upcoming proposed bicentennial bond package.

"You can not begin to understand the situations our officers face until you have spent time with them on the front lines," Samuel said. "We have a trained, dedicated and highly motivated police force, but they are stretched to the limits and need greater support and recognition of their needs to keep our city safe."

Samuel's run for city council calls for the city to **protect, preserve and improve** neighborhoods as a method of ensuring the city's long-term health. Her focus is to restore public safety personnel numbers to necessary levels, expand the city's code enforcement program to prevent continued corrosion and blight, and develop better, more substantive partnerships with neighborhoods to answer their unique needs.

For more information, visit the official Heidi Samuel for Columbus Neighborhoods website, www.HeidiSamuel.com.

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EDITORS NOTE: The rankings are compiled by Morgan Quitno Press (now a division of Congressional Quarterly Inc.) They utilize FBI crime statistics to rank more than 300 cities; they will soon be releasing their 14th annual report. Since 1999, when the study first began to publish its list with a specific ranking for cities over 500,000 in population, Columbus has never been out of the bottom 10; it achieved its best ranking as the 10th most dangerous in 2001, and its worst ranking as the 6th most dangerous city in America in 2003.

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OVERALL: (371 cities)**SAFEST 25:****MOST DANGEROUS 25:**

1 □ Brick Township, NJ □	1 □ St. Louis, MO
2 □ Amherst, NY □	2 □ Detroit, MI
3 □ Mission Viejo, CA □	3 □ Flint, MI
4 □ Newton, MA □	4 □ Compton, CA
5 □ Troy, MI □	5 □ Camden, NJ
6 □ Colonie, NY □	6 □ Birmingham, AL
7 □ Irvine, CA □	7 □ Cleveland, OH
8 □ Cary, NC □	8 □ Oakland, CA
9 □ Greece, NY □	9 □ Youngstown, OH
10 □ Coral Springs, FL □	10 □ Gary, IN
11 □ Thousand Oaks, CA □	11 □ Richmond, CA
12 □ Orem, UT □	12 □ Baltimore, MD
13 □ Round Rock, TX □	13 □ Memphis, TN
14 □ Dover, NJ □	14 □ Trenton, NJ
15 □ Lake Forest, CA □	15 □ Richmond, VA
16 □ Sterling Heights, MI □	16 □ Kansas City, MO
17 □ Simi Valley, CA □	17 □ Atlanta, GA
18 □ Roswell, GA □	18 □ Cincinnati, OH
19 □ Lee's Summit, MO □	19 □ Washington, DC
20 □ Broken Arrow, OK □	20 □ North Charleston, SC
21 □ Chino Hills, CA □	21 □ Reading, PA
22 □ Gilbert, AZ □	22 □ Newark, NJ
23 □ Edison Township, NJ □	23 □ Little Rock, AR
24 □ Cranston, RI □	24 □ San Bernardino, CA
25 □ Port St. Lucie, FL □	25 □ Orlando, FL

CITIES OF 500,000 OR MORE POPULATION: (32 cities)**SAFEST 10:****MOST DANGEROUS 10:**

1 □ San Jose, CA □	1 □ Detroit, MI
2 □ Honolulu, HI □	2 □ Baltimore, MD
3 □ El Paso, TX □	3 □ Memphis, TN
4 □ New York, NY □	4 □ Washington, DC
5 □ Austin, TX □	5 □ Philadelphia, PA
6 □ San Diego, CA □	6 □ Dallas, TX
7 □ San Antonio, TX □	7 □ Nashville, TN
8 □ Louisville, KY □	8 □ Charlotte, NC
9 □ Fort Worth, TX □	9 □ Columbus, OH
10 □ Jacksonville, FL □	10 □ Houston, TX

CITIES OF 100,000 TO 499,999 POPULATION: (213 cities)**SAFEST 10:****MOST DANGEROUS 10:**

1 □ Amherst, NY □	1 □ St. Louis, MO
2 □ Irvine, CA □	2 □ Flint, MI
3 □ Cary, NC □	3 □ Birmingham, AL
4 □ Coral Springs, FL □	4 □ Cleveland, OH
5 □ Thousand Oaks, CA □	5 □ Oakland, CA
6 □ Sterling Heights, MI □	6 □ Gary, IN
7 □ Simi Valley, CA □	7 □ Richmond, CA
8 □ Gilbert, AZ □	8 □ Richmond, VA
9 □ Edison Township, NJ □	9 □ Kansas City, MO
10 □ Port St. Lucie, FL □	10 □ Atlanta, GA