

City of Miami Beach

City Manager

Summary of Articles

Michael Reese

(Note: Articles Follow In Reverse Chronicle Order)

Articles

- *New Bike-Sharing Option Under Consideration*, The Columbus Dispatch, April 23, 2018.
- *Former Columbus Mayor Now a Lobbyist; Four-Term Leader Representing Three Clients at City Hall*, Dayton Daily News, June 6, 2017.
- *Your Schools; Ex-Mayor Hired to Renegotiate Win-Win*, The Columbus Dispatch, April 19, 2016.
- *Michael Coleman's Former Chief of Staff Joining Him at Ice Miller*, Columbus Business First, March 3, 2016.
- *Mike Reese Exits City Hall, Reflects Upon 16 Years of Public Service*, Columbus Underground, December 31, 2015.
- *Anatomy of a Stalemate; Lump-Sum Play Yields Casino Deal*, The Columbus Dispatch, May 29, 2011.
- *Deal Struck; Casino Fight May Be Over; City Would Pay Penn National \$15m for Site Costs, Get to Annex Property*, The Columbus Dispatch, May 25, 2011.
- *Casino Developer Sues City, County Over Water & Sewer Dispute*, NBC – 4 WCMH, March 11, 2011.

Websites

- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaeldreese13/>

NEW BIKE-SHARING OPTION UNDER CONSIDERATION

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Kevin Parks
April 23, 2018

A new bike-share operation, one that relies on solar energy and not docking stations, is seeking to break into the central Ohio market, and a portion of Clintonville is proposed as part of three pilot areas in Columbus.

“We’re still working through things with the city,” said Michael D. Reese, director of public advocacy and business development for Ice Miller LLP.

The local law firm is representing LimeBike, which was founded in January 2017 and is based in San Mateo, California.

“By systematically deploying thousands of smart bikes enabled with GPS, 3G wireless technology and self-locks, LimeBike will dramatically improve urban mobility by making the first and last mile faster, cheaper and healthier,” according to the press kit on the company’s website.

LimeBike, whose two-wheelers are indeed a vivid green, operates in 33 cities in a dozen states, three European cities, and two sites each in Canada and Mexico, according to the firm’s website. The site also lists 18 colleges and universities where LimeBike has a presence.

In seeking to develop a “memorandum of understanding” with Columbus to permit LimeBike to launch the pilot program, Reese said he has been making the rounds of area commissions, giving presentations on the new bike-sharing possibility.

“Part of the process is to get input from those groups,” Reese said.

Reese appeared before the Clintonville Area Commission on April 5 with one of the bikes as a visual aid.

FORMER COLUMBUS MAYOR NOW A LOBBYIST; FOUR-TERM LEADER REPRESENTING THREE CLIENTS AT CITY HALL

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

Rick Rouan
June 6, 2017

Michael B. Coleman isn't the Columbus mayor anymore, but he's still working City Hall.

Coleman is now registered as a lobbyist with the city. He is representing three clients, including two with interest in development in Franklin-ton and the Scioto Peninsula, among his crowning achievements as the city's longest-serving mayor.

After finishing his record fourth term as mayor and a 24-year career as an elected city official, Coleman, 62, took a job as director of business and government strategies at the Ice Miller law firm in Columbus last year. In January, he registered with the city as a lobbyist.

State law allows Coleman to do that, though it does place some restrictions on lobbying the level of government where an employee used to work.

Under the state's "revolving door" rules, former public officials have to wait a year before lobbying on an issue they worked on in their previous job. Coleman did that, waiting until Jan. 30, 2017, to register as a lobbyist with the city.

"Essentially, it's a cooling-off period," said Paul Nick, executive director of the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Former public officials also are prohibited from ever disclosing confidential information gleaned in the course of that work.

Coleman said he mostly has worked directly with his clients, though he has "on occasion" represented them in talks with city officials. He declined to say which public officials he has contacted on behalf of clients.

"My work has been largely and predominantly and significantly legal work," he said. "To the extent it even looked like it might come within the law, I wanted to go ahead and file (disclosures) to have a conservative approach."

Last year, the city implemented new ethics rules that require city lobbyists to disclose who they are representing three times per year. They also must notify the city about any new clients within 10 days.

Coleman and other former city officials are entitled "to conduct their professional endeavors" once the revolving-door period ends, said Tracy Retchin, the city's chief ethics officer.

The list of 82 lobbyists who work City Hall is lined with names from the old city payroll. At least 10 of them held appointed or elected positions in Columbus.

Frederick Ransier was appointed to fill Coleman's seat on City Council after Coleman was elected mayor, but he **resigned** after a short term. John Kennedy is a former City Council president.

The list also includes two of Coleman's former chief advisers: Christie Angel, a former deputy chief of staff and now of Calfee Strategic Solutions; and former chief of staff **Michael Reese**, who now works with Coleman at Ice Miller.

YOUR SCHOOLS; EX-MAYOR HIRED TO RENEGOTIATE WIN-WIN

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Bill Bush

April 19, 2016

Columbus City Schools quietly hired former Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman and his former chief-of-staff, **Michael Reese**, this spring under a no-bid contract to represent the district in the next negotiation of the Win-Win legal accord with suburban districts.

But with bills set to go over the \$25,000 limit that's allowed for contracts without school board approval, the all-Democratic Board of Education will be asked at a meeting today to increase the contract to hire Coleman's law firm, **Ice Miller**. That request says the contract is not to exceed \$127,500, an amount that could include \$2,500 for expenses. Also working under the contract will be **Ice Miller** trial lawyer John P. Gilligan, a member of the Franklin County Democratic Party Central Committee and the son of former Ohio Democratic Gov. John J. Gilligan.

The three Democrats will be responsible for completing about 10 weeks of work, said Larry Braverman, the district's chief legal counsel. The price was determined through negotiations, with the "district administration," with Braverman's input, making the final decision to hire the firm, Braverman said.

The district used a different law firm, now called Squire Patton Boggs, when the Win-Win legal accord was last up for renegotiation six years ago, Braverman said. He could not say Monday what that firm was paid in 2010, but it was "less, probably, than this."

Coleman, a lawyer who is a member of **Ice Miller's** public affairs and government law groups, was chosen to lead the effort because of his extensive experience as Columbus' longest-serving mayor at negotiating complex agreements, Braverman said.

Braverman wouldn't say whether any of the Franklin County suburban school districts who are a party to the Win-Win agreement have informed Columbus that they are using the current negotiating period marking the start of a new six-year period to pull out of the agreement, meaning they wouldn't share a small portion of certain commercial real-estate property taxes with the urban district in return for being guaranteed the right to run the schools in certain outlying areas of the city of Columbus.

Braverman, part of a two-person staff responsible for any legal issues concerning the district's 8,000 employees and more than 50,000 students, doesn't have time to tend to Win-Win himself without placing other obligations on a back burner, he said.

Without the agreement, Columbus City Schools could potentially ask the state Board of Education to transfer those areas into the urban district, which one local property-tax lawyer speculated would mean all-out political war.

School board President Gary Baker said politics played no role in the decision to hire Coleman, who left the mayor's office at the start of this year.

"It's going to be (a) very intense review during that short period of time," Baker said. "We are locked into that time window by the agreement."

"The contract is with **Ice Miller**; it's not with any one individual," Baker said. "It is my understanding that Mike (Coleman) will be one of the attorneys working on our behalf."

The reason the contract is expensive is because Win-Win is complex, district officials said, and the agreement calls for all negotiations to be crammed into an eight-week period every six years.

Columbus City Schools is not advocating an end to the agreement, Braverman said. Despite that, "what we're really going to be doing is a thorough and in-depth evaluation of the agreement," Baker said. "I mean, it's 30 years old."

The 1986 Win-Win pact called a truce to a political battle over which school districts had the right to teach children and collect taxes in fast-growing areas of Columbus: Columbus schools or the existing suburban districts that were serving unincorporated areas of the county that Columbus was annexing.

The agreement says that any property in the city of Columbus that was served by a suburban school district as of 1986 remains there as long as the accord is in place. In return, Columbus schools get 1 percent of the tax growth, capped at \$1.15 million, from construction of commercial and industrial properties in areas of Columbus that the suburban districts serve. To school districts, commercial and industrial properties represent free money, paying taxes without adding students.

Property annexed into Columbus after 1986 automatically entered Columbus City Schools.

MICHAEL COLEMAN'S FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF JOINING HIM AT ICE MILLER

COLUMBUS BUSINESS FIRST

Carrie Ghose
March 3, 2016

Michael Reese, who was chief of staff to then-Mayor Michael Coleman, is rejoining his former boss in the governmental consulting group at law firm Ice Miller LLP.

After ending his 16 years as Columbus mayor, Coleman started Jan. 1 at the Whiteboard practice in his former law firm, teaming up with former U.S. Rep. Deborah Pryce to spread "the Columbus way" of forming public-private partnerships for economic development.

Reese joins them March 7 as director of public advocacy and business development.

Reese spent 19 years in city government. As chief of staff he oversaw a \$2.2 billion operating and capital budget, managed 14 departmental directors and was liaison to governmental agencies and economic development groups. Before that he was a legislative aide in the Ohio Senate.

"Michael has been integral in so many of the city's successes in the past decade," Whiteboard Principal Dave Battocletti said in a statement. "We know his experience and relationships with countless leaders and communities throughout Ohio will be beneficial to our clients and their efforts."

MIKE REESE EXITS CITY HALL, REFLECTS UPON 16 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

COLUMBUS UNDERGROUND

Walker Evans
December 31, 2015

While the exit of Mayor Michael B. Coleman from public office is one of the biggest news stories of 2015, there's another public servant who's also leaving City Hall from more of a behind-the-scenes position. Mike Reese holds the designation as the sole staff person who has worked with the Coleman administration since day one, and is also the longest serving Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office in the city's history.

"I always saw this as a career," says Reese. "I was in it for the long haul, but I didn't know it was going to be 16 years."

During that time, Reese has worked on policy work impacting constituents and neighborhoods, and spent a year at the Columbus Department of Development, before settling into the role of Chief of Staff for the final nine years of Coleman's tenure. Reese said that his most memorable accomplishments are the very tangible efforts that can now be enjoyed by future generations.

"The work on the Big Darby Accord was one of my proudest moments — working with townships, counties, cities, and environmental agencies to make a comprehensive plan," he stated. "The cool thing about that is that my kids have grown up now and have experienced the results by canoeing on Darby."

Reese said that while Mayor Coleman has been the visionary leader in office, it has been his job to help execute the vision behind the scenes.

"I'm very proud of Coleman's vision, which was to strike the right balance between investing in neighborhoods as well as investing in Downtown and job creation," explained Reese. "Closing the infrastructure inequity gap for neighborhoods that did not have the basics has set the stage for future improvements. All of that takes a team, and I'm proud to have been a part of that team."

During a separate interview with Columbus Underground, Coleman spoke very highly of the results of the "Pay As We Grow" plan, which was implemented to help curb suburban sprawl and make new infrastructure development more cost effective. Reese agrees that the policy was one of the most important of the past two decades.

"It all started in the northwest area where we had several developers who were willing to contribute millions to roadway improvements," said Reese. "We knew that before we zone or annex, there needs to be a conscious effort to level the playing field and leverage more dollars for police, fire, and other basic infrastructure. We had to be smarter about it."

Reese added that those types of development negotiations would not be possible without collaborative partnerships between the private and public sector. When asked if there's a winning formula behind those partnerships that can be implemented in the future, he indicates that there's no one-size-fits-all solution.

"You have to take it on a case-by-case basis," he said. "If you look at Northland or City Center or the old Bob Evans site, they're all different. We did everything we could to keep Bob Evans here, but they moved away and now we're helping redevelop that area, which is a good deal for tax payers. We seized the opportunity to take over City Center, get the site, and control our own destiny. It took taxpayer money to demolish and build the new park, but that was a good investment that led to new development and vibrancy. With Northland, if we hadn't stepped in through some of our partnerships, we'd still have a vacant mall there."

Reese says that the ability for the City of Columbus to play a strong role in determining its own future is largely due to the income tax increase that was approved by voters in 2009.

"We would not be the city we are today if it weren't for that," he stated. "We're in a strong financial position to invest in our neighborhoods because of that effort. We've also achieved over 200 million in savings since 2009. We've made those commitments."

While Reese has not said exactly what comes next for him, he plans to stay in Central Ohio, and plans to focus more spare time on his newfound love of yoga — possibly pursuing a teacher training program. He said that the practice has helped him to relax during intense situations, laugh at himself a bit more, and be more reflective about his life in general.

"It sounds kind of corny, but I still remember putting my key in the keyhole of my office on my first day," he said. "My dad was a police officer, so I've always had public service in me. It's been a great ride, and I'm really excited about the future."

ANATOMY OF A STATLEMATE; LUMP-SUM PLAY YIELDS CASINO DEAL

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Doug Caruso
May 29, 2011

Over months of casino negotiations, the question came up many times:

If Columbus expected Penn National Gaming to have its casino site annexed to the city, why didn't Mayor Michael B. Coleman's administration insist on a signed agreement before the development moved from the Arena District to Franklin Township?

Columbus officials did. But no one could agree on what to sign.

Documents the city filed in U.S. District Court show that both sides tried for months early last year to come to a written agreement. But they were stuck on the issue of incentives.

Coleman's chief of staff repeatedly told Penn National that the mayor would not support tax breaks and other financial incentives for the casino. Penn National officials repeatedly asked for them.

By May 2010, when voters statewide approved the change of location, there still was no agreement.

That stalemate persisted until last week, when the city and Penn National agreed to settle the casino developer's **lawsuit**. In that **lawsuit**, Penn National sought city sewer and water service without having the casino land annexed, saying the city and Franklin County had illegally agreed to withdraw sewer service from the site.

In the settlement, Columbus pledges \$15 million in city money toward Penn National's costs to improve roads in the area and clean up pollution at the casino site, which formerly held an auto-parts factory. Penn National agrees to annex, which makes Columbus eligible to receive the income taxes from those who work at the casino and also "host city" revenue estimated at \$8 million per year.

It's a solution that avoids the tax breaks, utilities discounts and other continuing help worth about \$10 million per year that Penn National originally requested. Instead, the city pays a lump sum and moves on.

"The city feels very strongly that we've reached a very good settlement with Penn," said Greg Davies, deputy chief of staff in Coleman's office. It preserves Coleman's position against tax incentives for Penn National, Davies said.

"He said he would never give them a tax abatement or tax incentives," Davies said last week. He said the city would recover the \$15 million through casino revenue.

In February 2010, with the casino move headed to the ballot in May, the city told Penn National that a written annexation agreement made sense. But **Michael Reese**, the mayor's chief of staff, warned in an email to company officials and lobbyists that "I don't see us supporting incentives" beyond helping Penn National apply for state and federal grants.

In April, the sides were still negotiating, emails and drafts of agreements filed with the court show. The city would send agreement language with no monetary incentives. Penn would send it back with the incentives added.

"We included seven different avenues for assistance related to incentives in our development template," Carl Sottosanti, general counsel for Penn National, wrote on April 16 to Joshua Cox, an assistant city attorney working on the agreement. "Your draft unfortunately included none of those alternatives."

About a week later, with yet another Penn National draft before him and the vote on the casino move coming up, Reese canceled a conference call on the issue.

"City is not in agreement with the language proposed by Carl," Reese wrote. "To be clear, the city administration and City Council will not support tax-abatement incentives for the casino facility."

At no point do the documents show the city agreeing to incentives. Penn National officials have said that the city had promised financial help to offset the cost of the Arena District property they were moving from.

On the other hand, none of the documents shows that Penn National agreed to annex, either. City leaders have said repeatedly that, during the campaign to move the casino, the casino developer promised to annex.

The issue of incentives didn't go public until October, when Penn National presented a list of proposed incentives to city leaders for consideration as they continued to negotiate annexation to the city.

Those incentives were almost exactly the same as those proposed before the vote to move the casino. The city still wasn't interested, insisting that Penn National annex without them.

But last week, as hearings in Penn National's **lawsuit** were about to begin, the city and the casino developer tried again. City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer Jr. asked U.S. District Judge Gregory Frost for an hour to determine whether a settlement was possible.

That hour turned into two days of negotiations and produced the first written agreement between the city and Penn National since the start of their casino fight. The settlement is to be finalized by June 10.

DEAL STRUCK; CASINO FIGHT MAY BE OVER; CITY WOULD PAY PENN NATIONAL \$15M FOR SITE COSTS, GET TO ANNEX PROPERTY

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Doug Caruso
May 25, 2011

Columbus pledged \$15 million to help develop a casino and Penn National Gaming promised to build it in Columbus in a deal to end the casino developer's lawsuit against the city and Franklin County.

Penn National says the \$400 million project could open by late 2012 if all sides follow the plan hammered out Monday and yesterday. The deadline to finalize the agreement is June 10.

Penn National, Columbus and Franklin County agreed to the settlement last evening after talks overseen by U.S. District Judge Gregory Frost.

Penn National had **sued** the city and county for access to water and sewer lines. Columbus had said it would provide access only if Penn National agreed to annexation by the city. Penn demanded financial incentives before doing so.

The settlement that broke that stalemate offers a package of incentives smaller than the \$10 million per year in tax breaks, utility-rate reductions and other help that Penn originally sought. Instead, Columbus agreed to a one-time payment of \$15 million to cover Penn's costs to clean up the casino site near I-270 and W. Broad Street and make road improvements there.

The city and Penn National also agreed to put up \$2.5 million each over the next four years for redevelopment projects on the West Side.

"The mayor is all about revitalizing the West Side," said **Michael Reese**, chief of staff for Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "That was a principle all along."

Columbus will lock in "host city" revenue estimated at \$8 million per year, plus the income taxes paid by those who build and work at the casino.

The deal is contingent on Penn National selling its original casino site in the Arena District for \$11 million. That sale is in the works, said Eric Schippers, a Penn National senior vice president. He would not name the potential buyer but said the sale should be ready by June 10.

Nationwide Realty Investors, the primary developer of the Arena District, has talked with Penn National about buying the site, but no agreement is in place, said President Brian Ellis.

Another contingency requires two other lawsuits involving the casino to be dropped. One was filed by The Dispatch Printing Company, publisher of The Dispatch, seeking to force Penn National to accept annexation. The other was filed by Penn National, which asked the court to prohibit Dispatch Printing from interfering in its business.

Dispatch Printing will drop its suit only after the annexation, said attorney Steven Tigges. "I don't see any reason for us to consider dismissal until" then, he said. Asked whether that could kill the deal, Tigges said: "Nobody from Penn talked to us about that."

Dispatch Printing has said it got involved because Penn National reneged on a deal to agree to annexation.

The city can't control what happens with the Arena District sale and Dispatch Printing lawsuit, said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer Jr. "If they don't happen, they don't happen," he said.

Penn National spokesman Bob Tenenbaum said all the contingencies in the settlement, including approval by the City Council and Franklin County commissioners, must take place before it is final.

Still, city and Penn National leaders promised a new era of cooperation despite a fight over annexation that included a Penn spokesman calling Mayor Michael B. Coleman a "bully" and Coleman's spokesman accusing Penn National of "shakedown" tactics.

"I am pleased the city and Penn National have come to terms on the agreement and look forward to fulfilling our promises of revitalizing the West Side," Coleman said in a joint statement issued by the city and Penn National.

"We're pleased to be in a position to collectively lay down swords and take up shovels to get this economic-development project built," Tim Willmott, president and CEO of Penn National, said in the statement.

People who view the casino as a catalyst to revive the W. Broad Street commercial strip never were interested in the feud, said Chris Haydocy, co-owner of Haydocy Buick GMC. "Now, everyone can get on the same page," he said. "We have a much bigger chance to get the total revitalization if everyone's on the same page."

Walt Workman, executive director of the AFL-CIO's Central Ohio Labor Council, said he was told recently that more than a third of the region's building-and-trades workers are laid off. Casino construction is to provide an estimated 3,500 construction jobs.

Workman said the city's \$15 million in help sounded like a bargain. "I'm sure the city will get that money back in a very short time," he said.

With annexation into Columbus, the casino site will leave Franklin Township.

Township Trustees Chairman Timothy Guyton called annexation "probably inevitable." The township was unable to provide water and sewer service, and its trustees approved an economic-development arrangement with Columbus last year as a precursor to annexation.

County commissioners were named in the Penn National suit because they agreed to change a contract with the city that removed sewer service from the site.

Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment in November 2009 to allow four casinos in Ohio, including ones in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo. Franklin County voters opposed the proposal.

Business and political leaders in Columbus balked at the Arena District site set out in the amendment and persuaded Penn National to change locations. That required another statewide vote on a constitutional amendment, which Ohioans approved in May 2010.

The company asked for the city's financial help after changing sites, in part to reimburse it for costs connected to the Arena District location. Columbus said no.

That led to a tug of war over annexation that has delayed construction. Penn National is working on the foundation and a parking garage, the only parts for which it has permits.

Dispatch reporter Robert Vitale contributed to this story.

CASINO DEVELOPER SUES CITY, COUNTY OVER WATER & SEWER DISPUTE

NBC – 4 WCMH

Patrick Preston
March 11, 2011

A subsidiary of Hollywood Casino Columbus developer Penn National is suing the **city of Columbus**, Franklin County, and nearly a dozen current and former elected leaders involved in the ongoing dispute over water and sewer service at the future casino's West Side location.

The lawsuit filed in US District Court, Southern District of Ohio, on Friday alleges that Mayor Michael Coleman, Coleman's chief of staff, **Michael Reese**, six current and former Columbus city council members and three Franklin County commissioners violated Penn National's rights under the U.S. and Ohio constitutions by withholding water and sewer service from the company in order to force Penn to annex the casino site into the **city of Columbus**.

In the lawsuit, Penn National subsidiary CD Gaming Ventures asks for an injunction preventing the **city of Columbus** and Franklin County from denying water and sewer service to the casino site. The lawsuit also seeks monetary damages.

In a release from the company, Penn National Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Eric Schippers said the company relocated its planned casino from the Arena District to the West Side after being pressured by opponents of a Downtown casino, including the city.

"At the City's specific request -- and at great risk to itself -- Penn National agreed to look for a different parcel of land that would be acceptable to the City and the business interests pulling the strings," Schippers said in the release.

"Given what's at stake and the continued attacks from the City to delay and actively interfere with us, we felt we had no choice but to file this action to ensure this project, which was overwhelmingly supported by the voters of Ohio, could proceed on schedule."

Contacted Friday morning, Coleman's spokesperson, Dan Williamson, said the mayor had not had time to review the lawsuit.

"We support-and continue to support-Penn National Gaming's effort to build and operate a successful casino on the West Side of Columbus. They must keep their promise to the city and the citizens to annex into the **City of Columbus**," Williamson wrote in an email.

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/michaeldreese13 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Public Policy

Community Outreach

Government

Michael Reese

Director of Local Government Affairs at Ice Miller LLP
Columbus, Ohio Metropolitan Area

Summary

Experienced Director Of Government Affairs with a demonstrated history of working in the public policy and legal/lobbying industry. Strong manager/leader skilled in Government, Economic Development, Procurement, Operating/Capital Budgets, Public/Private Partnerships, Strategic Planning, Community Outreach, Public Speaking, Public Policy and Fundraising.

Experience

Ice Miller LLP

Director of Local Government Affairs
March 2016 - Present (5 years 1 month)

Ohio Water Development Authority

Board Member
October 2017 - Present (3 years 6 months)
Columbus, Ohio Area

City of Columbus

Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy Advisor and Legislative Analyst
July 1997 - December 2015 (18 years 6 months)
Columbus, Ohio

Columbus State Community College

Adjunct Instructor
January 1995 - December 2000 (6 years)
Columbus, Ohio

Education

Bowling Green State University

Master of Arts (MA), Political Science · (1991 - 1993)

Ohio Wesleyan University

Bachelor of Arts, Politics and Government · (1986 - 1990)