



Charlotte City Council
Housing, Safety & Community Committee
Summary
September 3, 2024

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

1. Affordable Housing Funding Policy (Action)
2. Community Safety Framework Referral (Action)
3. Housing Initiatives: Looking Ahead (Informational)

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee Members Present:	Victoria Watlington (CMGC), LaWana Mayfield (CMGC), Dimple Ajmera (virtual), Tiawana Brown (CMGC), Renee' Johnson (CMGC)
Committee Members Absent:	n/a
Other Council Members Present:	Ed Driggs (CMGC), Dante Anderson (CMGC)
Staff Resources:	Shawn Heath, City Manager's Office Rebecca Hefner, Housing & Neighborhood Services Raquishela Stewart, Housing & Neighborhood Services Daniel Frazier, City Manager's Office – Workforce Development Tanya Arrington, CMPD
Guests:	n/a
Meeting Duration:	4:00 – 5:40 PM
Video and transcript available:	City of Charlotte YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/CharlotteGOVchannel Committee Meeting Video Link: https://youtu.be/9ychDsmqarY?t=19524

MEETING MATERIALS

All meeting materials are available online at <https://charlottenc.legistar.com>

1. Presentation: Policy Referral: Affordable Housing Funding Policy
2. Presentation: Policy Referral: Youth Crime
3. Presentation: Housing Initiatives Looking Ahead (one slide)

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

City Council member Watlington called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Affordable Housing Funding Policy

Council member Watlington introduced the item and explained that the city is preparing to ask voters to approve a \$100 million affordable housing bond in November. Development of the funding policy aligns with this voter request and helps make sure that the community is aware of how the city will direct those bond investments.

Rebecca Hefner walked the Committee through an overview of the policy referral, a summary of the Committee's August discussion, responses from the housing priority community survey, and the proposed policy itself including policy goals and priorities, and housing bond investment categories and investment goals. She also shared how the Committee's feedback was incorporated into the policy framework, such as incentivizing developments outside of the qualified census tracts that are part of low-income housing tax credit incentives. Council will be able to receive updates on how the spenddown of the bond funds is going over time across both development and programming investments, and priorities and investment goals can be adjusted as needed. Development investments will continue to be via requests for proposals (RFPs) including a rolling RFP for NOAH preservation, and programming applications for initiatives like the Acquisition, Rehab and Resale revolving loan program, housing rehabilitation, and downpayment assistance. Ms. Hefner reminded the Committee that North Carolina state statutes explicitly prohibit bond proceeds from being used for rental subsidies, however the city does support rent assistance in other ways through local and federal funding sources.

Highlights of what City Council members shared included:

- Developing the policy was an outcome of a very robust City Council process and included evaluating relevant data.
- Electric vehicles are often expensive, making them inaccessible to many low- to moderate-income households. This factor should be taken into account when evaluating proposals that include electric vehicle charging stations as proposed amenities.
- Continue to focus on prioritizing the creation of homeownership opportunities including financial literacy services to help move households from renting to homeownership and build generational wealth.
- The policy helps identify what the bond funds will be used for and the effectiveness of investments, and is the best approach at trying to reconcile the inherent tension in affordable housing location.
- Appreciation for the policy's use of an equitable approach in determining location priorities, to help ensure that low-income housing is not concentrated in the same areas while also balancing community needs

MOTION AND VOTE. Council member Mayfield made a motion to approve the proposed Affordable Housing Funding Policy and advance the policy to full Council for consideration. Council member Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Community Safety Referral - Youth Crime

Rebecca Hefner provided an overview of the policy referral, updates on recommendations discussed by the Committee at its May 2024 meeting, and recommendations for investment priorities for the \$2 million approved for youth crime initiatives in the city's FY 2025 budget. The priority recommendations for the \$2 million investment were developed to maximize the impact of the investment over three years and consist of three priorities: investing in community-based partnerships, investing in the city's workforce and employment programming including expanding at-risk and justice-involved youth in the city's youth employment programs, and investing in CMPD's mentoring and diversion programming. The investments align with the city's current initiatives such as CMPD's diversion program, the Alternatives to Violence program, SAFE Charlotte, hospital-based violence intervention, and Mecklenburg County's community violence strategic plan, and include intergovernmental coordination, monitoring and reporting. The recommendations were developed through a robust process including an analysis of social determinants of health, the public health perspective on violence prevention, looking at the model of multi-level risk factors, best practices and program evaluations, and working with our partners at UNC-Charlotte. Program evaluation and data tracking of each priority area is incorporated in the recommendation, and an internal youth community of practice is being explored. Ms. Hefner reminded the committee that there are additional funds in the Corridors of Opportunity program that will comparably advance youth focused priorities.

Highlights of what City Council members shared included:

- It is important that youth see people that look like them and can identify with their experiences, and community organizations can help with this.
- Consider grass-roots organizations including reentry organizations in the funding/RFP process.
- It is important to be aware that some youth are afraid of the police.
- Be aware that the term "offender" can be offensive and re-traumatizing.
- Make sure that we are being strategic in addressing the root causes driving the increase in youth crime.

MOTION AND VOTE. Council member Johnson made a motion to align the recommended investment priorities to the \$2 million approved in the FY 2025 budget by investing in community-based partnerships, the city's youth workforce and employment programming, and CMPD youth mentoring and diversion programming. Council member Mayfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Housing Initiatives – Looking Ahead

Warren Wooten provided a brief update on current housing initiatives.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur on October 7, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 pm.