2024

COMMUNITY SAFETY

FRAMEWORK

Community Safety Overview: Progress and Next Steps for Consideration

Charlotte, like nearly every other large city in the United States, must simultaneously manage multiple facets that comprise a safe community for residents and visitors. The Charlotte City Council has spent considerable time in the last several months working collaboratively with public, private, and non-profit partners to address concerns related to quality of life and the unhoused population in Uptown. The focus of this work includes:

- Quality of Life
  - The human and social factors that promote a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment.
  - Components: Unsheltered population and enforcement for certain ordinances
- Public Realm
  - The physical aspects that support a memorable, vibrant, and inviting atmosphere.
  - Components: Public realm
- Business/Economy
  - The economic vitality and diversity of a place that facilities a thriving central business district.
  - Components: Remote work and Uptown Real Estate

Areas of Focus for a Safe Community

Crime
Violent Crime
Youth Crime

Uptown Safety
Quality of Life
Public Realm

Uptown Vitality
Economic/Business
Public Realm

Work Underway to Improve Safety in Uptown

Housing, Safety, and Communities Committee (HSC)

In August 2023, the Housing, Safety, and Community began work on a Mayoral referral to address the policy question:

> *What effective strategies can the city employ to collaborate with Mecklenburg County, United Way, and Charlotte Center City Partners to holistically address perceived safety concerns in Center City and surrounding areas?*

At the January HSC Committee meeting, staff from the City Manager's Office and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police (CMPD) reviewed strategies to address the policy question above. This included both enforcement and non-enforcement strategies. The CMPD recommended to move forward with criminal enforcement of eight ordinances. The committee passed this motion by a vote of 3 – 2.

Jobs and Economic Development Committee (JED)

Also at the January JED Committee, staff and external partners shared a presentation detailing vacancy rates in prominent Uptown office buildings to begin work on a policy referral:

> *What effective strategies can the city employ to mitigate the impact of Uptown vacancies through economic development efforts to ensure positive growth in tax base and Uptown vitality?*

At the conclusion of the meeting, staff committed to returning to the committee with proposed strategies and projects for consideration.

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A Framework to Address Crime

The 2023 Annual Report from CMPD highlighted the need for additional focus on youth offenders as it relates to property and violent crime. An ad-hoc working group comprised of city staff, Council members, and individuals from the justice system is convening to develop a collaborative pathway forward.

While this work requires a joint response across multiple public sector organizations, it is important to recognize where the city serves as the primary body responsible for implementation and policy changes and where the city is a supporting organization.

Following the initial convening, there was widespread consensus that developing long-term solutions to this challenge will take:

- Active participation from key stakeholders
    - Each partner plays a different role in reducing juvenile offenses and providing meaningful pathways for upward economic mobility for youth in our community
- Robust analysis and evaluation that results in meaningful program and policy recommendations
    - Leverage higher education institutions to inform evidence-based programs, practices and policies
- Action from bodies with governing authority

A Framework to Address Crime			
Challenge	**Areas for Focus**	**Partners**	**Next Steps**
Increase in juvenile crime	Prevention Diversion Intervention	- Community Input Group - CMPD - Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools - District Attorney - Judicial System - Local Elected Officials - Office of Violence Prevention (Meck. Co.) - Sherriff - State Legislature - UNC Charlotte	*Short Term* Analysis: - Understand root cause of crime - Understand who are committing crimes and why - Impact of existing youth programs and opportunities for improvement Policy: - Ordinance reinstatement *Long Term:* - Policy changes - Budget allocations