

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for Action Review on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 5:04 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Council Members present were Dimple Ajmera, Ed Driggs, Malcolm Graham, Lawana Mayfield, Victoria Watlington, and Braxton Winston II.

ABSENT: Councilmember Renee Johnson

ABSENT UNTIL NOTED: Councilmember Danté Anderson, Tariq Bokhari, James Mitchell, and Marjorie Molina

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Mayor Lyles said I would like to call to order our January 23, 2023, Action Review Meeting of the Charlotte City Council. We at this time generally talk about items that are coming in front of us. Today we have three exceptional reports.

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ACTION REVIEW

ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mayor Lyles said first before we start, are there any questions that have been addressed Ms. Marie? Everyone has in front of their places the Council Policy Business Consent Item Q & A's.

Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget said yes ma'am. I've been able to speak to a few of you and good evening. Does anyone else have any further questions on consent items?

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ITEM NO. 2: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 18 THROUGH 89 MAY BE CONSIDERED IN ONE MOTION EXCEPT FOR THOSE ITEMS REMOVED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER. ITEMS ARE REMOVED BY NOTIFYING THE CITY CLERK.

Mayor Lyles said we have settled Item number 86, and Item number 87 has been deferred by the staff. So, are there any consent questions for which you would like to have a separate vote?

Councilmember Mayfield said I want a separate vote on number 54. Staff has given an update, but I think it would be helpful for them to share on this [inaudible] because of the location of what we have going on in the City.

Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget said yes ma'am, and we have Ms. Jane Taillon on here tonight that can address that.

Mayor Lyles said alright. So, we'll have Ms. Taillon here as well. So, the next question I had. Is there any item that a Council member would like to have a comment for the record on?

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Winston, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items 18 through 89 as presented, with the exception of Item No. 54, which was pulled for discussion, Item No. 86, which was settled, and Item No. 87 which was deferred by staff.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 18: Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Acceptance

Authorize the Charlotte Area Homeland Security Director (Charlotte Fire Chief) to accept a grant for \$3,040,000 from the United States Department of Homeland Security for the 2022 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program.

Item No. 19: Residential and Community Spaces Wired and Wireless Internet Services

(A) Approve the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Residential and Community Spaces Wired and Wireless Internet Services, (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Spectrum Southeast for Residential and Community Spaces Wired and Wireless Internet Services for an initial term of two years; and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to one, one-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 20: Catch Basins, Grates, Frames, and Hoods

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for the purchase of catch basins, grates, frames, and hoods for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.*	\$353,934.00
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*The City issued an Invitation to Bid; only one bid was received.

Item No. 21: Purchase of Portland Cement

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Cemex Construction Materials Atlantic, LLC. for the purchase of Portland cement for an initial term of one year, and B. Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

Cemex Construction Materials Atlantic, LLC*	\$107,500.00
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*The City issued an Invitation to Bid; only one bid was received.

Item No. 22: Roadway Object Markers

(A) Approve unit price contracts for the purchase of roadway object markers for two years to the following: Qwick Kurb, Inc., and Stay Alert Safety Services, LLC., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 23: Traffic Sign Installation Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with AWP, Inc. dba Area Wide Protective, for traffic sign installation services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 24: Construct Sidewalk Gaps and Ramps Fiscal Year 2023

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,767,570.00 to the lowest responsive bidder United of Carolinas, Inc. for the Sidewalk Gaps and Ramps Fiscal Year 2023 project.

Summary of Bids

United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,767,570.00
DOT Construction, Inc.	\$2,063,502.00
Efficient Developments, LLC	\$2,770,605.00

Item No. 25: Lease of Warehouse Space for Charlotte Fire Operations

(A) Approve a lease with BIN-VD12210, LLC for warehouse space located at 12210 Vance Davis Drive for relocation of Charlotte Fire Department's Center for All Hazards Resource and Operations, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute any documents necessary to complete this transaction.

Item No. 26: Fire Apparatus Repair and Maintenance Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Atlantic Coast Fire Trucks for fire apparatus repair and maintenance services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 27: Cooperative Purchasing Contracts for Generators, Accessories, Maintenance, and Repair Services

(A) Approve the purchase of generators, accessories, and preventative maintenance and repair services from cooperative contracts, (B) Approve unit price contracts with the following vendors for the purchase of generators, accessories, and preventative maintenance and repair services for a term ending November 22, 2026, under Sourcewell: Carolina Tractor & Equipment Company (contract #092222-CAT), Cummins Inc. dba Cummins Sales and Service (contract #092222-CMM), Nixon Power Services, LLC (contract #092222-KOH), and (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contracts for additional terms as long as the cooperative contracts are in effect, at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contracts.

Item No. 28: Landscape Maintenance Services Contracts

(A) Approve contracts with the following companies for landscape maintenance for an initial term of three years: Pristine Properties of NC, Inc. (SBE), Roundtree Companies, LLC (MBE, SBE), Triple L. Landscape, LLC (MBE, SBE), Champion Landscapes, Inc., Southern EEZ Landscaping (SBE), and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 29: Storm Drainage Video Inspection and Pipe Cleaning Services

(A) Approve contracts with the following companies for storm drainage video inspection and pipe cleaning services for an initial term of three years: Bio-Nomic Services, Inc., EnviroWaste Services Group, Inc., Champion Cleaning Specialist, Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 30: Transport Equipment for Electric Vehicle Chargers

(A) Approve the purchase of solar powered electric vehicle charging transport equipment and solar powered electric vehicle chargers by sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Beam Global for the purchase of electric vehicle charging transport equipment and solar powered electric vehicle chargers for the term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 31: Construct Storm Drainage Improvements Projects

Approve a contract in the amount of \$2,647,601.39 to the lowest responsive bidder United of Carolinas, Inc. for the Collective Storm Drainage Improvement Project Series S.

Summary of Bids

United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$2,647,601.39
Efficient Developments, LLC	\$2,994,257.11
Zoladz Construction, Inc.	\$3,100,571.31
Blythe Development Company	\$3,240,910.75

Item No. 32: Construction Materials for Franklin Water Treatment Plant Improvements

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. for the purchase of large diameter valves, pipe, and fittings for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to one, one-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Summary of Bids

Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$2,866,096.00
Fortiline	\$3,248,892.00

Item No. 33: Elevated Storage Tank Construction and Construction Administration Services

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$10,395,735.00 to the lowest responsive bidder CB&I Storage Tank Solutions LLC for the Elevated Storage Tank project, and (B) Approve a contract amendment #1 for \$1,344,848.00 to the contract with Black & Veatch International Company for construction administration services for the Elevated Storage Tank project.

Summary of Bids

CBI Storage Tank Solutions, LLC	\$10,395,735.00
Landmark Structures I, LP	\$10,881,150.00
Caldwell Tanks, Inc.	\$21,023,100.00

Item No. 34: Generator Preventative Maintenance and Repair Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Clarke Power Services for generator preventative and repair maintenance services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 35: Specialized Water Testing Services

(A) Approve unit price contracts with the following companies for specialized water testing services for an initial term of two years: The GEL Group, Inc. dba GEL Laboratories, LLC, Pace Analytical Services, LLC, and Montrose Environmental Group, Inc. dba Enthalpy Analytical LLC, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 36: Stowe Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility Access Drive

Approve a contract in the amount of \$7,984,332.62 to the lowest responsive bidder Blythe Development Company for the Stowe Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility Access Drive project.

Summary of Bids

Blythe Development Company	\$7,984,332.62
Morgan Corp.	\$9,129,617.64
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$11,039,220.17

Item No. 37: Water and Sanitary Sewer Main Construction

Approve a contract in the amount of \$9,594,536.00 to the lowest responsive bidder R.H. Price Inc. for water and sanitary sewer main construction.

Summary of Bids

RH Price, Inc.	\$9,594,536.00
Propst Construction	\$11,927,271.00
BRS, Inc.	\$22,202,025.00

Item No. 38: Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Installations

Approve a contract in the amount of \$11,436,260.00 to the lowest responsive bidder Mainlining America, LLC for the water and sanitary sewer service installations project.

Summary of Bids

Mainlining America	\$11,436,260.00
Fuller & Co. Construction	\$11,943,935.63
BRS Inc.	\$12,230,603.00
Propst Construction Company	\$14,329,579.00

Item No. 39: Medium and Heavy-Duty Non-Revenue CATS Support Vehicles

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Piedmont Truck Center for the purchase of medium and heavy-duty non-revenue support vehicles for an initial term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to four, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

	<u>Gas</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
Piedmont Truck Center*	\$1,331,025.00	1,492,513.00

*CATS issued an Invitation to Bid twice; only one bid was received.

Item No. 40: Airport Perimeter Fence Upgrade Design Contract

(A) Approve a contract for up to \$696,998 with WSP USA Inc. for Perimeter Fence Upgrade Phase II Design services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 41: Airport Personal Mobility Lift Purchase and Installation Contract

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder P&W Quality Machine Inc. for the purchase and installation of Vertical Conveyor Personal Mobility Lifts for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

P&W Quality Machine Inc.	\$2,226,640.00
AERO Bridge Works	\$2,930,700.00

Item No. 42: Airport Property Lease – Menzies Aviation (USA), Inc.

(A) Approve two five-year lease agreements with Aviation Services International, Inc., dba Menzies Aviation (USA), Inc. for offices and warehouse space at the airport related to its fueling services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew each of the leases for up to one, five-year extension.

Item No. 43: Airport Roadway Relocation Design Services Contract

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$2,296,662 with STV Engineers, Inc. for West Boulevard Relocation Design services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 44: Airport Terminal Lobby Expansion Construction Change Order

Approve change order #1 for \$1,381,211 to Holder Edison Foard Leeper - A Joint Venture for the Terminal Lobby Expansion project.

Item No. 45: Passenger Boarding Bridge Spare Parts

(A) Approve the purchase of spare parts for passenger boarding bridges DEW models by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with A-Bridge LLC for the purchase of spare parts for passenger boarding bridges DEW models for the term of five years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 46: Wilson Air Center North Terminal Building Renovation Contract

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to the lowest responsive bidder Keach Construction, Inc. for the Wilson Air Center North Terminal Building Renovation project.

Summary of Bids

Keach Construction, Inc.	\$1,000,000.00
Edison Foard	\$1,035,100.00
Archer Western	\$1,079,320.00

Item No. 47: Set a Public Hearing on Avery Place Area Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for February 27, 2023, for Avery Place Area voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 560-561.

Item No. 48: Set a Public Hearing on Evolve Northlake Area Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for February 27, 2023, for Evolve Northlake Area voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 562-563.

Item No. 49: Set a Public Hearing on Mallard Wood Phase 4 Area Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for February 27, 2023, for Mallard Wood Phase 4 Area voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 564-565.

Item No. 50: Set a Public Hearing on Mt. Holly Riverside Area Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for February 27, 2023, for Mt. Holly Riverside Area voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 566-568.

Item No. 51: Resolution of Intent to Abandon a Portion of Unopened Right-of-Way Between 828 and 900 Matheson Avenue

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon a Portion of Unopened Right-of-Way Between 828 & 900 Matheson Avenue, and (B) Set a Public Hearing for February 27, 2023.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 569-570.

Item No. 52: Refund of Property Taxes

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$23,613.89.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 571-573.

Item No. 53: Meeting Minutes

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of: February 07, 2022, Strategy Session, and February 09, 2022, Budget Workshop.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 55: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Clarke Creek Basin PS and FM Project, Parcel # 17

Resolution of Condemnation of 16,419 square feet (0.38 acres) in Permanent Sewer Easement, 4,358 square feet (0.10 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 13506 Asbury Chapel Road, Huntersville from Jeffrey Wilson Brown, Joann Brown Miller and Ruth Marilyn Brown for \$12,325 for Clarke Creek Basin PS and FM, Parcel # 17.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 574.

Item No. 56: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Clarke Creek Basin PS and FM Project, Parcel # 18

Resolution of Condemnation of 19,263 square feet (0.44 acres) in Permanent Sewer Easement at 13507 Asbury Chapel Road, Huntersville from Beatriz Cabrera and husband, John Michael Cabrera for \$13,625 for Clarke Creek Basin PS and FM, Parcel # 18.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 575.

Item No. 57: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Idlewild Road Water Supply Project, Parcel # 12

Resolution of Condemnation of 7,117 square feet (0.16 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement, 5,301 square feet (0.12 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 1500 N. Sharon Amity Road from Spectrum Southeast, LLC (f/k/a Time Warner Cable Southeast LLC) for \$42,150 for Idlewild Road Water Supply, Parcel #12.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 576.

Item No. 58: Property Transactions – 14700 Black Farms Road, Parcel # 1

Acquisition of 3079 square feet (0.071 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 14508 Black Farms Road, Huntersville from Ronald W. Johncox and Amy M. Johncox for \$12,500 for 14700 Black Farms Road, Parcel # 1.

Item No. 59: Property Transactions – 1437 East Sugar Creek Ped Beacon, Parcel # 1

Resolution of Condemnation of 376 square feet (0.009 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 187 square feet (0.004 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 1500 E Sugar Creek Road from Vanessa A. Graves for \$6,050 for 1437 E. Sugar Creek Ped Beacon, Parcel # 1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 577.

Item No. 60: Property Transactions – 5413 Rocky River Road, Parcel # 1

Resolution of Condemnation of 10,097 square feet (0.232 acres) Permanent Sanitary Sewer/Waterline Easement at 5326 Rocky River Road from Tommy H. Starnes, Jr. and Pamela D. Starnes for \$4,625 for 5413 Rocky River Road, Parcel # 1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 578.

Item No. 61: Property Transactions – 7023 Gilead Road, Parcel # 5

Resolution of Condemnation of 2,285 square feet (0.052 acres) Permanent Sewer Easement and 1,242 square feet (0.028 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 7201 Gilead Road, Huntersville from William Alonzo Craig, Jr. and the heirs of Samantha Jean Jensen for \$19,175 for 7023 Gilead Road, Parcel # 5.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 579.

Item No. 62: Property Transactions – 7023 Gilead Road, Parcel # 8

Resolution of Condemnation of 3,641 square feet (0.083 acres) Permanent Sewer Easement and 1,670 square feet (0.038 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 7101 Gilead Road, Huntersville from Jimmy Rojas and Ma. De Lourdes Alvarez and the heirs of Guillermo Rojas and Arcelia C. Rojas for \$8,900 for 7023 Gilead Road, Parcel # 8.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 580.

Item No. 63: Property Transactions – Beatties Ford Sidewalk Phase 1, Parcel # 4

Acquisition of 838 square feet (0.019 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 1,623 square feet (0.037 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 1915 Beatties Ford Road from Nations Financial, LLC for \$17,000 for Beatties Ford Sidewalk Phase 1, Parcel # 4.

Item No. 64: Property Transactions – Elevated Storage Tanks, Parcel # 1

Acquisition of 28,310 square feet (0.650 acres) Water Line Easement at 321 W Woodlawn Road from PEG Charlotte Property, LLC for \$260,600 for Elevated Storage Tanks, Parcel # 1.

Item No. 65: Property Transactions 0 Idlewild BPS Supply Main, Parcel # 1

Resolution of Condemnation of 124,611 square feet (2.861 acres) Water Line Easement and 22,286 square feet (0.511 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 5400 Monroe Road from SCI North Carolina Funeral Services, LLC for \$93,175 for Idlewild BPS Supply Main, Parcel # 1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 581.

Item No. 66: Property Transactions – Monroe Road Streetscape, Parcel # 13

Acquisition of 2,116 square feet (0.05 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 6,904 square feet (0.16 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 4229, 4231 and 4235 Monroe Road from 4229 Monroe Road, LLC for \$161,900 for Monroe Road Streetscape, Parcel #13.

Item No. 67: Property Transactions – Monroe Road Streetscape, Parcel # 26

Acquisition of 966 square feet (0.022 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 720 square feet (0.017 acres) Utility Easement and 373 square feet (0.009 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 4415 Monroe Road from Oakhurst Investments, LLC for \$32,700 for Monroe Road Streetscape, Parcel # 26.

Item No. 68: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 29

Acquisition of 1,207 square feet (0.028 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 3220 East Ford Road from Gregory D. Hall for \$14,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 29.

Item No. 69: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 34

Acquisition of 530 square feet (0.012 acres) Utility Easement, 109 square feet (0.003 acres) Storm Drainage Easement, and 401 square feet (0.009 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 1931 and 1933 Shamrock Drive from Tod Edwards for \$12,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 34.

Item No. 70: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 37

Acquisition of 978 square feet (0.022 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 129 square feet (0.003 acres) Utility Easement and 1,860 square feet (0.043 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2001 Shamrock Drive from Muoi Luong and Dai Dinh Ngo for \$13,332 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 37.

Item No. 71: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 43

Acquisition of 1,623 square feet (0.037 acres) Utility Easement, 366 square feet (0.008 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 268 square feet (0.006 acres) Storm Drainage Easement and 181 square feet (0.004 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2200 Shamrock Drive from Ryan Richard Oertel for \$42,050 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 43.

Item No. 72: Property Transaction – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 46

Acquisition of 1,472 square feet (0.034 acres) Utility Easement, 410 square feet (0.009 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 190 square feet (0.004 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2218 Shamrock Drive from Chad Fultz and Samantha Fultz for \$13,500 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 46.

Item No. 73: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 49

Acquisition of 538 square feet (0.012 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 408 square feet (0.009 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2219 Shamrock Drive from Amy Lynn Trochum for \$12,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 49.

Item No. 74: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 54

Acquisition of 699 square feet (0.016 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 567 square feet (0.013 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2237 Shamrock Drive from C. Watson Properties, LLC for \$15,375 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 54.

Item No. 75: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 56

Acquisition of 29 square feet (0.001 acres) Fee Simple, 1,641 square feet (0.038 acres) Utility Easement, 537 square feet (0.012 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 48 square feet (0.001 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2515 Hilliard Drive from Myra Benbow for \$19,999 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 56.

Item No. 76: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 62

Acquisition of 1,421 square feet (0.03 acres) Utility Easement and 838 square feet (0.019 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement at 2308 Shamrock Drive from The Loftis Family Trust for \$19,999 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 62.

Item No. 77: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 63

Acquisition of 696 square feet (0.016 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 901 square feet (0.021 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2317 Shamrock Drive from Smoking Oak, LLC for \$15,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 63.

Item No. 78: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 73

Acquisition of 235 square feet (0.005 acres) Fee Simple, 971 square feet (0.022 acres) Utility Easement, 841 square feet (0.019 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 56 square feet (0.001 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2413 Shamrock Drive from Kara Michelich and Chris Tomlinson for \$18,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 73.

Item No. 79: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 74

Acquisition of 295 square feet (0.007 acres) Fee Simple, 973 square feet (0.022 acres) Utility Easement, 839 square feet (0.019 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 71 square feet (0.002 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2417 Shamrock Drive from Ian S. Counts for \$18,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 74.

Item No. 80: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 75

Acquisition of 361 square feet (0.008 acres) Fee Simple, 1,135 square feet (0.026 acres) Utility Easement, 685 sq. ft (0.016 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 159 square feet (0.004 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2421 Shamrock Drive from Pamela Nicole Harris for \$17,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 75.

Item No. 81: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 84

Acquisition of 119 square feet (0.003 acres) Fee Simple, 1,424 square feet (0.033 acres) Utility Easement, 815 square feet (0.019 acres) Storm Drainage Easement, 333 square feet (0.008 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, and 3,049 square feet (0.070 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2521 Shamrock Drive from Albert Quarles and Francine D. Quarles for \$28,000 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 84.

Item No. 82: Property Transactions – Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 103

Acquisition of 2,312 square feet (0.005 acres) Utility Easement and 272 square feet (0.006 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement at 2600 Palm Avenue from William Lewis Saunders, III and Kristen Leigh Saunders for \$13,201 for Shamrock Drive Improvements, Parcel # 103.

Item No. 83: Property Transactions – Steele Creek and Erwin Congestion Management Project, Parcel # 1

Acquisition of 23,674 square feet (0.54 acres) Fee Simple (total take), at 12841 Steele Creek Road from Carolinas Properties, LLC for \$15,000 for Steele Creek and Erwin Congestion Management Project, Parcel # 1.

Item No. 84: Property Transactions – Tryon Street at Herman Avenue Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, Parcel # 2

Acquisition of 41 square feet (0.00094 acres) Utility Easement and 528 square feet (0.012 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 3126 South Tryon Street from Danny O'Shea Keaton for \$15,000 for Tryon Street at Herman Ave Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, Parcel # 2.

Item No. 85: Property Transactions – Tuckaseegee Road Sidewalk Project, Parcel # 2

Acquisition of 7,047 square feet (0.16 acres) Fee Simple, 1,660 square feet (0.038 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 95 square feet (0.002 acres) Storm Drainage Easement and 6,090 square feet (0.140 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 7435 Tuckaseegee Road from the heirs Peggy R. Black, Remigio Morales Villegas and Maria Atanacia Lovo for \$6,600 for Tuckaseegee Road Sidewalk Project, Parcel # 2.

Item No. 88: Property Transactions – XCLT Tryon to Orr, Parcel # 11

Acquisition of 1,247 square feet (0.029 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 328 square feet (0.008 acres) Utility Easement, 287 square feet (0.007 acres) Storm Drainage Easement and 1,612 square feet (0.037 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 224 Bennett Street from Alice Beatrice Camara for \$17,000 for XCLT Tryon to Orr, Parcel # 11.

Item No. 89: Property Transactions – ECLT Tryon to Orr, Parcel # 14

Acquisition of 2,836 square feet (0.065 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 2,994 square feet (0.069 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 225 Lambeth Drive from Day Care Properties, Inc. for \$31,350 for XCLT Tryon to Orr, Parcel #14.

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IN REM REMEDY

ITEM NO. 54: IN REM REMEDY: 421 MONTROSE STREET

Adopt Ordinance No. 465-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 421 Montrose Street (Neighborhood Profile Area 370).

Jane Taillon, Code Enforcement Division Manager said good evening, everybody, I'm Jane Taillon. I'm the Code Enforcement Manager for the City of Charlotte. In regard to 421 Montrose, I have been in conversations with Mr. Grier who currently owns the home. He has indicated to us that he would like to demolish it on his own. I have an email from him on December 12, 2022; however, he's not responsive. I haven't heard from him since December, and we'd like an opportunity to have some leverage to have him come through. We continue to get complaints from the neighbors about the home.

Councilmember Mayfield said thank you for the clarification Ms. Taillon. The main reason I reached out to you was because of the location, what we're seeing across the community with housing.

Councilmember Bokhari arrived at 5:08 p.m.

So, to have the background from you that you have been working with this particular homeowner, I don't know if this would be part of our upcoming budget retreat for legislative discussions. When we have a homeowner, to me it's the same as with a multi-family that lets a unit go into disrepair and be the unit that causes challenges in neighborhoods. I want us to consider our role in that. So, we know that this will be estimated around \$21,000 and some change to demolish. We have a process where a lien is then put on the land if he sells later. Same thing with a multi-family. The home goes in disrepair, they come in, we provide assistance to try to provide housing. I'm wondering if we have some leverage in those conversations. Otherwise you just get to let this nuisance be in a neighborhood and then government comes in to have to address it to create a safe space for the neighbors that are living there, but you basically get access to us doing a service that is much more economical than you doing it on your own because I don't think I would necessarily be able to identify a company to come in and demolish the home at the rate that we're going to do it.

I do appreciate the fact that we have interest that will be applied if it's not paid within a certain amount of time, but that just might be a conversation for Committee. Mayor, I'm not sure which Committee it would be, but just looking at our policy because initially I reached out to Ms. Taillon to try to find out and Grier, we're getting ready to do what with a 1920s home? The home is in major disrepair. Is the owner taking advantage of the government and tax dollars by doing it this way and is there a way through our legal department, Mr. Baker, to think about language to protect the residents on the front end if something like this was to happen that goes beyond just putting a lien on the property to just cover our costs?

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Driggs and carried unanimously to adopt an ordinance authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 421 Montrose Street (Neighborhood Profile Area 370).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 65, at Page(s) 405.

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ITEM NO. 3: ACTION REVIEW AGENDA OVERVIEW

Marcus Jones, City Manager said thank you Mayor and members of Council. Tonight, we have for the Action Review discussion really around public safety. Many times, we talk about policing, but you know that it's more than just policing when we start to discuss public safety. So, I'll remind Council that back at I think your first meeting, September the 13th, 2022, Chief Jennings came in and gave you a bit of an update about what's happening in terms of policing. I believe tonight gives us an opportunity not to just look at what's happening currently, but some of the headwinds that we will be addressing as we start to discuss public safety.

Councilmember Molina arrived at 5:12 p.m.

So, while we have the police update, the fire update and the medic update, I don't want to overwhelm the agenda tonight. So, we've already talked with the three presenters that at anytime this needs to be an overflow to the Manager's Report, we can also do that when we're in the chambers. So, with that said Mayor, I will turn it back over to you.

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ITEM NO. 4: ACTION REVIEW ITEMS

Deputy Chief David Robinson, CMPD said good evening, Council and City staff. Mayor, thank you for the introduction and Mr. City Manager, Mayor Pro Tem. It is a great honor and privilege to be before you again representing Chief of Police Johnny Jennings. Chief Jennings regrettably is not here this evening. He is on a national board and panel for talking about recruiting and retention within the law enforcement community tonight. I do understand that he has joined us via either Webex or Teams or on the phone. So, he is present here. The Chief wanted to convey his heartfelt apology for not being here in person. He is very proud of these numbers as we all are to share with you. You have some information that's been provided to you by City Corp Com that details what we'll cover tonight.

So, for tonight, we will go over the end of the year recap in terms of our crime response. We've got some very positive points to make out of that. We'll talk about violent crime and our homicide breakdown. We'll also talk about a topic that is so near and dear to his heart pertaining to recruitment and our retention efforts. When we talk about the partnership that we have with each of you here in the City and on this elected board and Council, we talk about partnerships a lot. We talk about partnerships with the community and Chief Jennings knows as we all know within his executive staff and command staff that it is truly a partnership. That we can't do it alone and but for the graciousness of the

City Manager and this Council, we wouldn't be standing here tonight touting any good news.

Councilmember Anderson arrived at 5:14 p.m.

Retirements certainly are an issue, and then looking forward and then we'll wrap up with some questions. So, as we move forward our end of the year recap.

So, as you know our strategic direction based upon the Chief's vision has to do with his Core 4, which pertains to community collaboration, professional accountability, crime management and then finally employee wellness. I'm pleased to announce that we have made huge gains in each of his Core 4 strategies and have fulfilled, I can tell you with great certainty, several of these initiatives as we've moved into 2023. As we look at the crime stats, 979,000 911 calls for service. Up 1 percent from 2021, and we've talked about that before. I had the privilege of addressing this Council just a few short weeks ago where we talked about our challenges. We still plan to come back within the 90-day period to talk about the gains and successes that we've had even thus far within that.

I'd like to take you to the 529,000 police interactions, and we talk about that. That's not a number that's foreign to anybody in this room, but it does indicate a continued effort by the men and women who do this work to actively engage with our community. That number I would argue is a bit low in the sense that we don't always capture each and every time an officer gets out and talks to somebody or goes into a convenience store to talk with the clerk or check on a person in a business or in any particular environment, but 529,000 police interactions. Fourteen thousand fifty-nine total arrests, up 7 percent from our 2021 numbers. Overall crime numbers, up three percent. Now that is a bit deceiving because when we hear that we're up in crime, we want to say, "Wait a minute, what's happening and why?" We are down five percent in violent crime, on top of the seven and a half percent decrease that we experienced in 2020. So, over a two-year average in Charlotte Mecklenburg. We are down 12.5 percent in violent crime, and I would put those numbers up against any major city within this country. We're very proud of that. It was the Chief's vision and his priority from the start, and we're proud of those numbers. 3,182 firearms, guns taken off the street in 2021. Let that sink in just for a minute, and if you know about what happened yesterday at one of our divisions, some children were playing with a weapon, and it discharged killing a young person in our community. We can't stress enough about the importance of responsible gun ownership and gun management so that it doesn't fall into the hands of a child or a person seeking to do criminal behavior.

So, what is the end result? The end result is for public safety and for an opportunity within Charlotte Mecklenburg to have a safe community. We're very intentional in how we deployed our resources. For example, the Crime Gun Suppression Team is a team that was put together not just going after people with guns but going after and taking guns off the street and out of the hands of people that have had a history of potentially using them in a violent crime. Our Crime Gun Suppression Team, we'll get to in a just a minute to give you some more specific data on that. So, if you look at our numbers, yes, we are up in property crime. I had a momentary conversation with Councilmember Driggs about property crime. I know that is a priority for people when we talk about our population explosion, the building and the rapid growth that we've experienced within this jurisdiction. Six percent, we're not happy with and certainly understand that we've got some work to do there. Five percent down in violent crime. Now our homicides. We talk about homicides quite a bit. Up 10 percent. Rapes and sexual assault, down 23 percent. Burglary is down as well. Vehicle thefts, if you look at that number and say, "Wow, what's up with that?" What I'll tell you is juveniles in our community, and if you heard of the Kia and Hyundai Challenge that was out on Tik Tok, just about 8 out of every 10 cars we have stolen is a Kia or a Hyundai vehicle. So, if you're a Kia or Hyundai owner and you're hearing me right now, please take precautions to put a club on your steering wheel, park in a well-lit area, know where your vehicle is, get a car alarm, something to help us with that. Violent crime trends across the country, while they trended up in other areas, have trended down in Charlotte Mecklenburg and that is something that the Chief and every member of his Police Department is very ecstatic about. As I talked about down 12.5 percent over the

two-year average, three of our 2022 homicides are currently in review by Mr. Merriweather at the District Attorney's Office. What that means is there could be circumstances within that particular case that would lead to charges not being filed. Say for instance, self-defense. One of the few major cities to show a decrease in violent crime and again, we're proud of that.

So, what does this look like? I didn't want us to put too much information on the screen, but I lost that argument because the information is simply that good. There are two points on this slide. One is the Violent Criminal Apprehension or VCAT Team and if you've heard of the VCAT Team, this is a very elite group of men and women who received specialized training, many of whom are on the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team trained in de-escalation, trained in things that we expect from our men and women who are going after folks who have already demonstrated a propensity to use violence within our community. Two hundred ninety-four apprehensions. Now what does that mean to the average citizen? That means that for 294 victim's families, closure can begin when that suspect is arrested. Up two percent from 2021, 72 murder charges. Seventy-two people charged with murder which is down 17 percent from 2021 within the jurisdiction, 18 attempted murders, 57-armed robbery, 15 for rape, ADW, assault with a deadly weapon 53, eight kidnapping and 21 for shooting into an occupied dwelling. That's the abbreviated. Now if you've heard from your constituents about gun violence within neighborhoods, shooting into occupied dwellings, is one of those crimes that if you're a police officer will keep you up at night because once the bullets start flying and they fly into home particularly those homes that have nothing to do with or the wrong intended target, we have seen evidence of innocent people, in some cases children and young people asleep in their beds being shot by indiscriminate bullets within our jurisdiction.

The Crime Gun Suppression Team, CGST, we talked about that briefly at the intro. This team was put together in 2021 to combat the rising gun crime within our jurisdiction. CMPD (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department) merged three units from the crime gun to form the CGST. We've got gang detectives, SIOP Taskforce which is shooting into occupied property and the old TRAP (Targeted Response and Apprehension Team) unit. If you remember the TRAP unit, this was kind of VCAT light if you will, which means that these are highly elite, highly specialized people that go after people who are shooting inside Charlotte Mecklenburg. Two hundred sixty-two arrests in 2021 and that's a staggering number to be up 62 percent. That shows that this team has really taken off and flown. Two hundred eighty-three firearms seized, 36 of those were stolen firearms that were recovered which is up 57 percent from 2021. Very proud of both of these teams. It is directly in line with the Chief's response to violent crime and is well worth the effort that is put forth to staff these units pertaining to our crime rate.

Our violent crime efforts, and we're very proud of this number too, 75.7 percent of the time we clear a homicide, three out of every four. That is above the five-year national average which is 61 percent. That is a homicide detective times about 10 with crime scene technicians and victim assistance groups going out from CMPD representing the City of Charlotte to solve cases that families need for justice to be served and we couldn't be prouder of each member of our homicide unit and those numbers. When I said homicides were up, we did experience 110 homicides this year and as I said three of those are with the DA's (District Attorney) Office for further evaluation. So, people ask all the time, "Where are our homicides occurring?" As you can see, each dot represents a homicide case within Charlotte Mecklenburg. It shows no specific concentration, nor does it show that any community within Charlotte Mecklenburg is immune to this violence. To think about, I'll take just a second and say this, as I spent some time in homicide as a Lieutenant some years ago. I thought about homicides as only a homicide occurs and we put a case together and we go look for the person responsible, but you don't think about the families behind the victims and I've heard many members of this Council speak about the victims of homicide and I can tell you that's one of the toughest things for our men and women in blue and the detectives that do this work and the VCAT Officers that go after these folks who have truly not only affected their own outcomes in life, but the lives taken for those who in most cases started as just an argument that escalated out of control, but as you can see all over the Charlotte area with 110.

So, a lot of people will like to say violent crime is through the roof and in some jurisdictions they'd be right. We're here to say that since 1990, and this is 32 years of data, as you can see the dotted line other than anomalies throughout the year, that we are trending in a downward direction. Some would say, "Well, that's just great. It's based on your rising population you can claim those numbers." No, those are actual numbers based upon where we are in 2022. As you see per 100,000, we have an even steeper trajectory down. So, what that means is as the Charlotte area has grown and exploded in population, we've maintained that downward trajectory as a community. Let me be clear and say the Police Department is not spiking the football. Any violent crime, any crime that occurs in our jurisdiction, we take that personally and we've said that before, the Chief has said that. We're moving towards making Charlotte the safest major City in America and to do that we have to keep the pressure up and have to keep doing the work that we're doing even in the midst of unparalleled growth, steady decline. That is one violent crime per 100,000 people per year. So, that's just counting the growth not the events, or the visitors, or the workforce that comes into Charlotte every day, and if you travel 85 or 77 or Independence Boulevard, you know there's a bunch of people trying to get into town to live and work and play in the Charlotte area.

So, this is from our 32-year count on our homicide victims and as you've seen 1993, we had tied back in 2020 with 122. This year we were at 110 after having a year of 97 in 2021. I will tell you just anecdotally we continue to see those engaged in high-risk lifestyles and high-risk behaviors affected by homicide on both sides. We also see seemingly minor disputes and arguments that erupt into violence often times resulting in tragic consequences, and it is hard to fathom and wrap our heads around the fact that but for an argument or but for a situation that spirals, we could really improve that number. What we will do is continue to put officers in places that have the most impact in terms of visibility from a deterrence and prevention standpoint and we'll stand tall on that. The homicide victim rate per 100,000 that means it's 11.1 homicides per 100,000 people in Charlotte here in 2022 and that's drastically down from where we were in the early 1990s and has again followed that steady trajectory.

So, a lot of our "low level crime" that occurs within our jurisdiction, and I want to be careful how I say this, we understand that mental health is a health crisis. If there's a person experiencing a mental health crisis in our jurisdiction, often times that can have a negative impact. Our mental health response is critical to helping our community thrive as we all know and everyone in this room particularly within Council and the Manager and the Mayor have been persistent in showing how much this community does care about our mental health response by funding appropriately and doubling our efforts with CPCRT, our Community Policing Crisis Response Team from six officers and clinicians to 12 officers and clinicians in 2022. That's a direct action from what this body did. We're reaching people in the community who need different attention, and if you think about back in 1990 how we would've responded to a mental health crisis, I can assure it's different today when we talk about words like empathy and compassion and understanding and truly trying to walk a mile in another person's shoes to understand that behavior manifesting itself that we might have looked upon as being criminal years ago, is now looked at as a health crisis. No different than if a person was having high blood pressure or a stroke or a heart attack and we're going to try to align those folks with the resources that they need. The CARES (Community Assistance Respond, Engage, Support) Team and I know that's been a topic for everybody in this room including myself and my peers and colleagues over there as well as the Chief of Police, we've piloted two civilians. We're in what we call a soft grand opening with that and we're in our phase of really trying to do this correctly and to get the right folks out on the street responding to low level calls for service. These are master's level of clinicians that are going out and trying to address issues such as homelessness and panhandling and things such as that.

So, we continue to look at additional ways to address mental health needs based on the SAFE Charlotte Report. Now the answer before might've been to take somebody to jail. Today, the answer is how do we get that person experiencing a mental health crisis the long-term care and help that they need. This goes along with our crime management approach within the Chief's vision and the Core 4 because many of these people are out committing crimes in our jurisdiction. In years before, we may not have cared of asked

about the reason why, but in 2022 and moving into 2023, arresting people continues not always be the answer. We measure based on violent crime and property crime, in the past, mental health was quite frankly secondary. Now it's what the impact on the community and what is that person as our end user expecting from a police officer. I'm just super proud of the work that the men and women based on the CPCRT Teams and now the CARES Team as we get off the ground. It's a different way of doing business, it helps us with our manpower issues, and it creates for us another opportunity to engage with the community that doesn't involve using force and doesn't involve us in a negative type of situation.

So, moving into our hires and separations, vacancies and recruiting. Now the nationwide trend, this is not Charlotte I just want to say this. Nationwide trends based on the Police Executive Research Foundation, down four percent in hirings in 2021 compared to 2019, up 43 percent in resignations and up 24 percent in retirements. So, I'd like to tell you that in Charlotte we're different and we talk about Charlotte being different all the time and different in a very good way. Those jurisdictions that may have cut funding to public safety, particularly police departments several years ago are now scrambling to give funding back to the communities that so desperately need public safety. Let's be clear, a safe community is a community where people can thrive, not where you live in fear. A safe community in a place where you can raise a family, start a business, live, work and play, not being in fear for your life or your property. So, when we talk about what the impact is, that is directly attributed to the men and women who are attracted to this job in the first place and the civilian staff that go along with those hires to help them understand what their place is in this community when it comes to safety.

So, with that said, we're very proud of the fact that we received almost 2,000 applications this year and if you say, "Well Dave that's great, but it shows that you're down 16 percent from 2021," I would say that we're advertising smarter. Instead of somebody just filling out an application just because they may have us near the list with Target and Starbucks and FedEx and Amazon, our marketing campaign has allowed us to be more strategic and more intentional about exactly who we want. Who is that we want? We want somebody to come join our ranks who truly has a servant's heart, who truly understands the value of public safety and more importantly the role of a police department in a healthy community. We've hired 151 sworn officers in 2022. That's up 12 percent and that is a direct correlation to the efforts of this body and the direction from our City Manager. We've also hired 171 civilian hires and so for those who remember, we talked about the telecommunicators, that's part of this as well along with our HR (Human Resources) staff and our support staff and other folks that we've hired civilians to take the place of sworn officers to give us some relief on the street.

So, when I talk about being strategic with who we are looking for, we're looking at the whole person. You know, used to, we wanted the perfect officer, the officer who'd never made a mistake, at least didn't tell us about it, right, that we couldn't find out, but now we're looking a little deeper into the entire person and recognizing that if you are a person who's answering the call to serve in this jurisdiction, that we do our due diligence to be more intentional about looking at the whole person from start to finish. What does that mean exactly? That means if you got a ticket when you were 17 and now, you're 34, we're not going to kick you out of the process necessarily. We're going to talk to you a little bit more. That means if you're part of this community and you grew up here and you might've made a youthful indiscretion, and I'm not talking about going out here and killing somebody. I'm talking about a youthful indiscretion that I'm sure many people in this room had, that we look intentionally at who you are and who you've become and more importantly who you want to be because as we hear the Mayor and the City Manager talk about Charlotte as a destination hiring spot, that's what we're charged with doing and that's what we're charged with doing every single day.

So, as we look at the numbers, and I want to be clear on this. It looks like we had a spike in 2022. We have, but I'd like to point to the retirement numbers. If you've been in Charlotte and part of this game for a long time, you know that in the early 90s, then President Clinton sponsored the Cop's Act that put federal funding into hiring local police officers. So, do the math. We had a 30-year span, so a lot of those officers came on in

the early 90s, now we're into the early 2023. That's 30 years. So, we're in that phase of we're going to see some retirements and so we know that. Listen, the great resignation has affected really every sector and profession within the country over the past few years. We see data that says we're coming out of that. Look, if you've been here 30 years, you've earned your retirement and we'll try to keep them around, but at the end of the day, they understand that it's time for them to enjoy that.

So, our resignations are up slightly, and I say slightly, but year over year since 2019 we are up. What that tells us is that the competition within our job market is tight and we understand that to be the preeminent destination for law enforcement recruits within the State and region and country, we've got to be intentional about doing things to make it so. So, as we look at that, we see numbers that may be challenging to some, but we look at it as an opportunity to continue to grow and get better. So, as you look at this data, and we talk about what we're going to be doing in the next few years when it comes to retirements. Now, I don't like a lot of asterisks on a presentation because it leaves too much open, but I want to be clear and honest with you about what this data shows. We anticipate 91 officers who are eligible to retire in 2023, the tail end of those Cop's Grants, 2024, 2025, and 2026 we're going to hold somewhere in the 50 to 60 range for retirement. Now that's based on 30 years of service or 55 years of age, and I do know at least anecdotally that we have several people within the organization particularly in command staff or leadership positions who are staying beyond their eligible retirement date because they want to see this through. I commend those people for doing that and understand that these numbers, although hard to predict, do give us at least a baseline indication of when people are eligible to declare their retirement.

So, the recruitment and retention efforts that this body and our City Manager have helped us achieve and helped us move into that upward trajectory including the \$7,500 hiring incentive, moving expenses for laterals, our laterals continue to be a program that has worked well for us. Our application process from 13 to six steps. So, instead of 15 different ways from Sunday, we've streamlined that process. We've focused on our National Digital Advertising Campaign, recruit team regionally focused. Used to, we'd go out to all parts of the country. Didn't really get the results that we wanted from that and so we're going to stick more regionally within our community college system and within our regional partners within the UNC (University of North Carolina) System for example. We're also looking at the fact that our residency incentive, shift pay differential. Let me just say these are things that do matter to our men and women in the CMPD. Take shift pay differential for example which is an opportunity to compensate the men and women working second and third shift permanently, permanently here is the key, that don't get to make their own days off and don't get to work whenever, but that are on a shift more likely to either answer your 911 call or show up at your house. These are the men and women that we're trying to incentivize within this structure that Mr. Jones created for us, and Council approved, so helpful, so appreciative. Military differential pay increases, secondary language incentive. Up to 15 languages, years ago it was two. Updated grooming standards and continuing to expand our take home car program. These are all tangible things that this body has presided over. We understand the sacrifices that each of you have made to help us better our department and therefore have a safer City and we appreciate it.

Moving into 2023, we talk about the officer of the past and the officer of the future. Remember we talked about officers of the 1990s and what he or she may have looked like. I'll tell you there was a lot more he's than she's back then for sure. The officer of today is more focused on diversity and equity and inclusion, and we hire accordingly. I'm proud to say that our metrics pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion have gone skyward. We talk about protect and serve back in the day. Just the facts ma'am, sir, adhere to the law, direct as policies, very clear cut, right, wrong, black, white. We referred to our standard operating procedures. We left very little room for shades of gray. The officer of 2023 is more focused on people. We talk about being in the crime management business, right, but it's so much more complicated and detailed than that. We're in the people business. That's exactly what we're in, and those people are focused on diversity and inclusion, empathy. We place a high value on education, to exceed people's expectations, to develop professionally. We never talked about that. You'd come here and you'd work your 30 years and if you got promoted good on you, but we didn't talk

about how to be intentional and what professional development looked like. Finally, wellness. For years, those officers of the 1990s and before, we just said, "Hey, whatever you're going through is part of the job. So, buck up, do your job and show back up tomorrow." Today, we talk about things like, "Hey, are you okay?" Because we know if you're not okay, and you go back out on the street, that tragic consequences may occur. It's important for us to recognize the strides that we've made in partnership with this Council that position Charlotte Mecklenburg in 2023 and beyond in a very positive place. So, our priorities for 2023 from the Chief himself. To continue efforts to reduce violent crime and that's not to say we'll ignore property crime but it's to say that we will put our resources into preventing people from being victims of violent crime in this jurisdiction. We'll continue to recruit and retain and have efforts to increase our applicant pool of the right people who want to be here for the right reasons, and to enhance our current workforce. We'll continue our customer experience training, which is focused on employee wellness and our world class internal culture. That's the other thing about the officer of the 2023 era, is that we're focused on customer service. If you took the word customer service in 1990, I don't think that was even a thing for retail, so it certainly wasn't for police. Even in 2020 when we rolled it out, people were like, "What? What are you talking about?"

The truth of the matter is customer service has done very well for us. It's a very strategic piece for our profession and law enforcement agencies across the country have joined in and want to see what we're doing in Charlotte. Then number four, ensuring that officers have the best equipment, technology and training possible for shared success. I talked about this partnership. That's where you come in. The things that we do, the things that we're able to do within the organization, overseen by Chief Jennings and his executive staff could not be possible without the vision and the clarity from our manager and from this Council and Councils before. We appreciate that. You allow us to be the best trained and equipped Police Department in the entire Country, and for that we are eternally grateful. Any questions for me?

Mayor Lyles said I am sure that there are going to be many questions, but before we do that Chief, I want to say that I think back to 2020 and where we are sitting today and how much work we put into SAFE Charlotte and how we've supported this effort so much, but it's not just this body, it's taking the people that work with us to join in and believe in the values that we set. I know Chief Jennings, if you're listening, I want you to know how this community is glad that we have the leadership that we have and the officers that work everyday for us and this community. So, I want to say thank you. The Deputy Chief did a wonderful job presenting this and I am sure that there are going to be many comments and questions from the Council.

Councilmember Mayfield said thank you for the presentation Deputy Chief and I've appreciated being able to join you all at promotion ceremonies as well as graduations. Can we go back to slide 10 where it was the 1990, 2022 violent crime count? I was just wondering if you might know. What was happening between 2008 and 2014 where we saw that major decline? Was that during the time that we had the community policing? So, when we saw that decline between 2008 and 2014, outside the numbers of residents we had, were we doing anything different back then with outreach? I know there was a time where you and I before you stepped into a number of graduations, we would do our community outreach and our community corners and had a different type of relationship in neighborhoods. Was there anything that stands out to you that was happening different locally?

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, I looked back at those times, and I remember where I was in 2008. I know that Chief Monroe had come into Charlotte in 2008. He decentralized a lot of units that had been operating in a large group doing different things. He really reprioritized our focus, exactly like Chief Jennings has done with our Crime Gun Suppression Team and our VCAT Unit and our CPCRT Team. I do know that in 2008 just anecdotally, I do know that we did not experience the same exact staffing issues that we did and so we had more opportunity to work on crime prevention. I think that's where the Chief will lead us into the future. It pertains to how as we add people back into our ranks that we can be more intentional about crime prevention. You know, police can't be

everywhere at all times, and we know that, and even if we were, crime is still going to occur. We've seen evidence of that. However, if we talk to people and are intentional about, even with the explosive growth that we've had within this community, that there are steps that our individual citizen can take to make themselves, their families and their property less susceptible to crime. We know that that's something that we want to get back out into the community and talk to people about. We're doing that one person at a time today.

Ms. Mayfield said so, the follow up to you all getting back out in the community, how can we as your Council help you with reaching the community to have these conversations? Again, backtracking, I appreciate and thank you again for being at my community conversation last year, but how can we help you all?

Deputy Chief Robinson said well, I think Ms. Mayfield it's exactly that. We will show up at any event that you want us at, at any time. We work 24 hours a day. So, you want to have one at 3:00 a.m., we'll be there. I'll tell you that it's important because we want to meet people where they are. We want people to understand and to hear and to see that we want to engage with them. We went to an event on the east side over at Aldersgate on Saturday and talked about aligning priorities. That was a wonderful event. Two of our Captains were there. It was a beautiful event and I think we had more people there than I've ever seen on a Saturday. So, it was a really good event. It almost rivaled Councilmember Mayfield's event, but we had a really good moment to engage with folks and that's the kind of thing we need more of. So, you call us we'll be there, and that's a good thing for us.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you Madam Mayor. Thank you, Deputy Chief.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you ma'am.

Councilmember Winston said thank you. As you were presenting slides 10, 11, 12 and 13, I was thinking of that upper left-hand part of the slope and coming to what Ms. Mayfield was pointing out anecdotally. That 1990 number, if anybody remembers, back then it was the height of the crack era and it was a particularly violent time everywhere in the country and a lot of it had to do with I think that under market. Today the drug on the street that's really tearing up the community it still is crack in some senses, but it's fentanyl. I think I've asked this question a couple of times. What is there in today's Charlotte, in today's climate the relationship between the illicit drug trade and crime and in particular violent crime and how are we seeing that play out in the community?

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, thank you Mr. Winston. Our response has always been towards open air drug markets and in the 1990s it was focused on open air drug markets particularly with the crack epidemic being what it was. So, violence would erupt from that. Now we see violence erupting between two people who are coming to do a deal and I've learned a lot in my career that focuses on you may have two drug dealers who sell marijuana for example, one sells a different kind. People still die behind it, it's still a commodity within the community, but from a fentanyl standpoint and heroin and things like that, technology has leveraged to where it's a quick transaction in a parking lot versus a known durable hotspot to where drugs are sold. So, I think it's more challenging for us to put those cases back together if two people come together, make a deal, something goes sideways and then someone gets shot. We've seen literal evidence of that pertaining to violent crime related to the drug trade in those 110 homicides. So, again, high risk behavior, high risk lifestyle choices that would lead somebody. Again, very low instances of just anything random, but nonetheless every single death and homicide within our jurisdiction is one that we take personally and regardless of the circumstances, we'll work to investigate tirelessly.

Mr. Winston said thank you. So, my second question. I don't know if it can be answered by the Deputy Chief or Mr. Baker this might be something that we look into. One of the changes that CMPD made last year was how you guys interacted with the media and I know that got a lot of questions, a lot of attention. I was trying to think of a way that we could look back at it to see what the effect was of it. I know some of that is quite possibly

people's opinions, but I guess is there a way that we can look at particularly the stats for Freedom of Information Act or public records requests? Are there any stats of are we facing more litigation around release of information from CMPD? What has been the affect of those changes if any?

Patrick Baker, City Attorney said from a litigation perspective, I've not seen an uptick in anything. We have I think one case right now that's not involving CMPD. I know there's been a lot of discussions over the course of time. So, I don't know in terms of from CMPD's perspective what their view is.

Deputy Chief Robinson said I'm trying to get the Chief on.

Chief Johnny Jennings, CMPD said yes, I'm available. Can you hear me?

Deputy Chief Robinson said yes sir.

Chief Jennings said I think the best way to answer that is I was pretty clear back then that the only thing that we really had to stop doing was the abundance of emails and phone calls that were requested from the media. We were in upwards of 120 to 150 per day that we were trying to respond to and that's just simply not feasible with our staffing and resources that we have. So, that was really the main thing that we cut out and I know the media, or some members of the media were saying that we were stopping communication altogether. That was simply not true. As a matter of fact, we looked at some numbers recently and we've actually done more press conferences and put out more stories since we have changed our stance with the information that we were providing back out to the media. So, it's very difficult. I don't know of any agency in this country that can handle the abundance of direct phone calls and messages that comes through their PIO (Public Information Office) office that the expectation is to respond immediately and that was the main thing. I think it's getting to where we are really a lot more functionable as an agency and able to put information out as best that we can with the staffing resources we have.

Mr. Winston said thank you very much.

Councilmember Driggs said I'd like to welcome the other Chiefs who are here tonight. Great leadership team. Appreciate you guys, all of you. The one thing that concerns me a little bit about the report is I realize they're good numbers here and you guys have a lot to be proud of, but the community perceives an issue still. If you look for example at some of these slides and you look at the numbers for the last 12 years, the trend line is up and certainly in my experience there have been a lot more complaints about these property issues, retail theft, and things like that. So, I wouldn't want people to come away from this meeting of Council thinking that we are complacent or that we're happy or this is fine. I'm sure you don't. I'm sure you've set higher goals. You always do for yourselves, but there is still a problem. 110 people is not an acceptable outcome for the year. It's not a reflection on CMPD, but it's simply something that our City should not tolerate. So, I hope we will continue to work together and to invest in ensuring that our citizens are safe and don't have to fear for their property.

I did have a question in that regard. You mentioned 150 recruits, 164 departures. I assume there were also some hires, but what is the state of manpower right now? So, in the past we know that we had vacancies, there was a 10 percent or so shortfall. Is there a gap that we still need to feel, or do you have some numbers around that?

Deputy Chief Robinson said we're about 300 down if you look at our total numbers, but again that number fluctuates. I think what we've been charged with by the Chief of Police is very simple, and that's how do we do more with less? We recognize and we talked about the hiring practices. That takes time. So, we started academy class back in December, we're starting another one in late February. We graduated 25 recruits, and Ms. Mayfield had talked about that. So, we're chipping away at that, and again we're going to continue to maintain that until we come out of that. Our metrics moving forward in the next five to seven years, I'm very optimistic about this profession, I'm very optimistic

about this City and this leadership that's going to be right there with us every step of the way to continue the focus and the pressure.

Let's be honest though. When we talk about retail theft Mr. Driggs, we talk about 110 homicides, the police department unfortunately has been all things to all people for far too long. I think now people are starting to recognize that we're, but one spoke in the community safety wheel. We are almost like providing a pain reliever if you will for, whatever that chaotic moment is. I think that, and you and I talked about it in the doorway, it comes down to legislative support from Raleigh. It is that simple. It is absurd to me that we have maintained the crime numbers that we have since 1990 and Spencer Merriweather is having the exact same number of resources that he had in 1990 and yet our population has exploded. So, when we talk about people walking out of Lowe's with a bunch of tools and nobody does anything about it, well, there's a court system behind that that's backed up and that has difficulties. I have conversations, as the Chief does with Mr. Merriweather and they're struggling as well and doing more with less. So, I will say I've known a lot of different District Attorneys in my career, and he is a person who is 100 percent focused on doing everything he can within this jurisdiction for public safety and being a partner with us.

Mr. Driggs said we had an explanation a couple of years ago about calls for service and how you scale the manpower you need from trying to maintain certain response times based on urgency of calls for service. So, are we keeping up if we look at that metric of calls for service? Are the response times getting longer or how are we doing in that respect?

Deputy Chief Robinson said I'm not going to sugar coat it. My responsibility as the Deputy Chief over patrol, our response times are not where we want them to be. We are experiencing challenges with them in the sense that the calls that we do answer are more complicated, they are more nuanced. I'll give you an example. We talked about this statistic today with the meeting of all of our Patrol Captains and command staff. The least amount of time it took one of our Officers to get through the intake center with an arrestee, and mind you we made 14,000 arrests in 2022, was an hour and 25 minutes. The longest it took in the last month was four and a half hours. Now that Officer, I need them back on the street answering calls for service and they can't if they're inside waiting for a Magistrate to appear in the window in order to let us swear to our part of that. So, again, being part of that system and that structure, we need assistance from areas other than the City, that maybe from an anecdotal discussion point, we could make some headway. I see the City is doing our part. I see this body is doing their part. I see this Police Department is doing our part, but there are other people within this system that need to be held accountable.

Our Chief has been very specific about that when it comes to Magistrate accountability as well as Judges. Particularly when it comes to bond. Let's be clear, no one in the Police Department is saying that somebody who steals a tube of toothpaste from the drug store needs to be sitting on a \$2,000 or \$3,000 bond. That's not accurate and that's not applicable, and that's not appropriate, but if you pull a trigger in this community, if you endanger the life and safety and welfare of somebody, you need to be in jail long enough that we can get back out into the neighborhood and restore calm. There are cases upon cases of officers not even finish with the paperwork and Magistrates letting people out of jail right back into the very communities that they just wreaked havoc. Now, I don't know about you, but that makes it difficult to tell that man or that woman who just signed up to be a police officer with us that their work matters. So, I'm glad you asked that question. It is a very passionate topic for us because we see all sides of it, and certainly play a part and understand and own our piece of it, but we're not the only ones.

Mr. Driggs said you know that on our legislative agenda for the state is the request for public safety. So, maybe we need to work with you and make clearer what it is that we need from them to help you. I just want to stress we appreciate CMPD, all of your men and women. All I'm talking about here is that we have a burden as well to make sure you have what you need. Thank you very much.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you Mr. Driggs.

Councilmember Anderson said thank your numbers for recruitment I think are looking really good, especially because you're working with a smaller base. So, I encourage you to continue to do what you guys are doing in that regard. I wanted to talk about the CARES pilot. I'm wondering if you could share some insights. I know personally for District 1 some of my constituents have utilized the CARES pilot and they've seen the impact in the community, specifically the Uptown community. Can you share some insights around that pilot?

Deputy Chief Robinson said I sure will. This team that many of you in this room and you specifically are aware of, again, we talked about that kind of soft launch on December 8, 2022, within the Central Division. Central Division is Uptown and that is our Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. when most people are moving around and that's when we see a lot of activity for sure. Between December 8, 2022, and January 17, 2023, the team responded to 25 calls for services, 84 percent of individuals engaged with the team and accepted the assistance. That's a good start for that because it tells us that we're on the right track, and 92 percent of the calls did not result in an arrest. We had five housing focused follow ups, engagement with an individual identified by Central Division as generating a very high call volume or 911 calls related to homelessness.

So, what we're talking about is providing opportunities and aligning folks, again not a uniform standing there, but we're talking about clinicians who are trained and equipped to deal with our homeless population and those experiencing a mental health crisis. So, our CARES team, we see a high upside to that. We think it's going to help us with our response times and to be more intentional about the community we serve.

Ms. Anderson said those are really good numbers, especially the 84 percent acceptance of service that's offered. So, I'm looking forward to that program expanding into some of our other areas where we have a high concentration of the unhoused. I know that it's helping Uptown, and I look forward to that.

So, with the homicide numbers you shared the map where it was clear that it's dispersed throughout the entire City. I'm wondering is there any recurring theme in some of these homicides that are increasing over last year? Are you seeing some baseline recurring themes that maybe we can address acutely?

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, as I mentioned, high risk lifestyles, high risk behavior. We talked about the drug trade with Mr. Winston's question. I think that just continuing to see minor disagreements spilling over into deadly conflicts and I think that our response is always going to be the same. So, we take extra time when we focus on a neighborhood dispute, a neighborhood fight or a neighborhood issue. I know we saw a case where kids had gotten into it at a high school and that spilled over into deadly violence within the neighborhood, all over disrespect, and all over just a disagreement that looking back the trajectories of two lives and the families and friends associated will never be changed. Those are the challenges that we deal with. If there was a magic pill or a magic panacea for that, I assure you it's what I think about every night and every day, how do we prevent people from taking that level of violence and taking someone's life.

Ms. Anderson said lastly, I just want to extend my gratitude to all the work that the officers do in the community. Thank you all for your commitment to the City of Charlotte. Thank you, Mayor.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you ma'am.

Councilmember Watlington said thank you. I have a couple of questions. How are you doing?

Deputy Chief Robinson said Hey, how are you ma'am?

Ms. Watlington said I'm good. So, much of what Mr. Driggs spoke about in terms of data and the action plans is where I'm most interested, but before I get into that, real quick question since we're on this map. Can you just give me a quick rationale if you've got it as to why Westover is drawn the way it's drawn? The reason I ask is because I'm looking at the southwest area neighborhoods as you get closer to Nations Ford Road and Arrowood. I'm just curious as to why Westover Division is cut the way it's cut given the intensity of the violent crime on the west side.

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, we look at things like response time, we look at proximity to everything. In fact, the Steele Creek Division, we could probably split that into half and split the South Division into half. As we've grown, we've seen a pretty exponential growth within Westover. We haven't redrawn the division lines in probably a decade or so. It may be time to relook at that when it comes down to it. We are attempting to get the Northwest Division which will be the new North Division off the ground, and as we look towards the reasoning behind that, it's to split North Division in the next decade and a half or so. So, we've got long range plans in order to improve those response times and as we talk about even answering 911 calls, how our 90-10s and you're familiar with that from the last time we talked, we've gotten better on those metrics, but as our population has grown and our lines really haven't been changed. I don't have an answer as to why Westover encompasses that although I do know that Steele Creek's division with the amount of square mileage that they have, it's a bear. I worked down there for a long time in the early 2000s and today, compared to what it was in 2003, it's not even the same place.

Ms. Watlington said yes. So, I would love to see what the plans are to do the redrawing of the divisions here soon. You mentioned the piece about response time and that was something I did want to circle back from last month. I've asked a couple of times since then. Do we have an answer to my previous question? What needs to be true to leverage technology for a remote call center and remote call taking?

Deputy Chief Robinson said I'm glad you asked. I saw your email and I want to give you specific data on that. The piece that when we talked about it back last month, you technically could do that but there are requirements that come in from a quality control criminal justice standards perspective that are very limiting and quite frankly prohibitive of doing that. We know of no agencies doing that right now. I think we could talk through doing that. I also think that the measures that we've taken to improve the 911 situation have already taken root. In fact, the 90-10s that we talked about, and I just said this, have been enhanced dramatically just in the past 60 days so that we're getting back to 90 percent of our 911 calls being answered within 10 seconds or less. Our friends at the fire department and medic have also taken charge of that as well to come to the table and just recently in the last two weeks have looked at that. So, the home idea was a theory and a thought, an idea that we're fleshing out. We're finding just that they're headwinds in that that would be cost prohibitive and also prohibited by the state.

Ms. Watlington said if you could send that list. I want to know what they are so that as we talk about our legislative agenda and what mitigation plans, we can take action.

Deputy Chief Robinson said got it. I will just say from a cost perspective, our baseline cost would be about \$30,000 per person to equip them at their home and that doesn't take into account if they've got a barking dog or a loud neighbor using a chain saw or a kid running it or whatever. From the criminal justice standpoint, and I'll get this to you, it does come down to protecting criminal justice information that we get. For example, we can run somebody's license, but we know that we run that license, it's on a terminal that's designated by the State up in our communications room. So, if we had that just down in somebody's house, the State would not sanction and authorize that as an example for us to be able to do that.

Ms. Watlington said if you could just shoot me the list that would be great.

Deputy Chief Robinson said I will. I will for sure. Thank you, ma'am.

Ms. Watlington said so, I'll go down your list of your priorities. I see here the four, with number one as it relates to continued effort to reduce the violent crime. I know that the

Alternative to Violence Program has been making some strides as it relates to the priorities in 2023. Can you speak to how CMPD intends to expand upon that program?

Deputy Chief Robinson said the specific program? Say that one more time.

Ms. Watlington said Alternatives to Violence.

Deputy Chief Robinson said yes, I don't have any specific data on that program, but I will get back to you on that.

Ms. Watlington said okay. Is Federico here at all Mr. Jones?

Chief Jennings said Council member I can weigh in on that.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you Chief.

Chief Jennings said so, the big thing that is impressive about this whole initiative is that it's not a police initiative and that's one thing that I'm proud of because you heard Chief Robinson say earlier that in today's world of policing that there is a lot of ownership outside of just for police when it comes to crime initiatives. So, the violence interrupter programs, we own a very small piece of that, and we work very well with Federico in making sure that the resources are there for initiatives that's he's doing, but we don't own that. That probably is a question that's better answered by him, but when it comes to the plans and initiatives that go with it, that does not come from CMPD.

Ms. Watlington said okay. So, I'd be interested to know if there's any scope within CMPD to support those programs, where that falls within your priorities for 2023 just so that as we're planning and our budget and we are understanding, not just for Alternatives of Violence, but across the board that we know very clearly, back to Mr. Driggs' point, what needs to be true and how do we show up to help CMPD from where we sit. So, that's the intent behind the question, just understand very specifically what are the help requests. To that end, the other piece around continued efforts to violent crime, when we talk about the violent crime reduction that we've seen in your charts and as I sit in the neighborhood meetings and listening to certain neighborhoods talk about what they're facing, they're really looking for what is it that we can do. So, as we understand our data, have we connected the dots, similar to what Councilmember Mayfield was asking, what specifically were the drivers for the crime reduction and how do we leverage those learnings across the board to continue making the reduction?

Deputy Chief Robinson said well, that's a great question and I would point back to the Chief's initiatives pertaining to our Crime Gun Suppression Team and our VCAT Team. I think there is no greater example of continuing to drive down violent crime and again we've seen two years of 12.5 percent cumulatively over those past two years. You'd be hard pressed to find another major city with those numbers and data sets. I do believe that again when we talk about the intentionality behind what our teams are, we're putting our resources essentially our money where our mouth is.

Councilmember Mitchell arrived at 6:17 p.m.

So, when we talk about violent crime, we staff homicide appropriately. In other words, again, that's an after.

Ms. Watlington said that's what I was going to say because I want to be clear about what CMPD is doing versus what's actually driving the violent crime down because if it's something that doesn't maybe sit with CMPD, but we need to know what's different, how do we equip our neighborhoods and how do we equip our resources in terms of the City to address it. So, I hear the work that CMPD is doing, but what I'm trying to understand is, is that what's driving the crime reduction?

Deputy Chief Robinson said you know it's hard to say that and I said we're never going to spike the football about successes. We're going to talk about it in terms of partnerships,

we're going to talk about it in terms of one person at a time to the end of time. One homicide victim in Charlotte is one too many as far as we're concerned. So, when we talk about it, we talk about it in those terms. I think that from a neighborhood perspective, I think it's very important as elected to officials to talk about the relationship that your Police Department has with you and how that can transpire and how that can grow within our communities. I think that in some communities we have difficulty talking and getting involved with folks. In other communities I think where we've got longstanding relationships and those connections, I think it does prove beneficial because we can talk about things like crime prevention. We can talk about things like something's going on in the neighborhood. I'll be fair. It doesn't do us any good to go into a neighborhood and say, hey, look here, we're down X number of percentage points if that doesn't align with the priorities of the neighborhood. Then we're wasting our time and the Chief's been very specific about us again, doing more with less and that comes down to presence in neighborhoods. I'd like to think that has a preventative effect. It's hard to say. I also think that when we take guns out of the hands of people that we believe would have a potential to use those guns in our jurisdiction, that that also prevents crime.

Ms. Watlington said okay. It may be Mr. Jones, something for our data analyst to really understand because I think that's the recurring theme. As hard as our officers are working particularly in certain areas, our neighborhood leaders are asking what is it that we can do to reduce the crime. I'm not hearing the connection between what we believe drives crime down and how we're supporting that from a proactive standpoint. So, I really want to see some analysis there so that we know where to put our dollars going forward. You spoke a little bit earlier about the criminal justice system as a whole more broadly. I just want to make sure as we are preparing our legislative agenda that we've got the things captured that we specifically need. We know we need to be helping to lobby for more funding for the DA's office. We know from a gun disposal standpoint that there has been a previous request about being able to address that. So, we've got that listed down. Are there any other things specifically that we need to be lobbying for from a legislative agenda standpoint because I think about some of the things that I hear in Reid Park or some of the things I hear in the Swan area neighborhoods. We talk about repeat offenders for instance, we talk about the rental registry as more homes switch over from owner occupants to rentals, we start to see more transient communities and those kinds of things. Can we get a specific help request list from CMPD for the things where our hands are tied at a State level?

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, you hit on the first part and when it comes to having more capacity in which to engage with folks at the State level, I like the idea of yes, violent criminals and taking violent criminals and looking at means and methods to prevent them from doing that again. I also, and we've been very strong on this when it comes to diversion and looking at people. Again, we talk about the whole person and looking at circumstances. So, diversion's a big piece. So, expanding our probation and parole opportunities. When it comes to our Magistrates and I think this is a big thing for us, you've heard the Chief kind of sound the alarm for a responsible comprehensive bail initiative to where we're talking about this in very specific terms but also how reducing and lowering bail makes neighborhoods less safe. Let me say that again. Reducing and lowering bail makes neighborhoods less safe. So, people who don't seem to understand that piece of it are putting neighborhoods at risk. So, from a legislative standpoint more accountability for Magistrates is a big component and a big mission for our department and our Chief.

Ms. Watlington said thank you for that. Mr. Jones, from a lobbyists' standpoint, I'd like to understand what we're doing in these areas and what needs to be done to get us closer to where we're trying to go. You already spoke about the net FTEs (Full Time Equivalent) versus what's needed, and I heard you say about 300 down versus where we need to be. Correct?

Deputy Chief Robinson said yes ma'am.

Ms. Watlington said you also talked about doing less with more. Are there any additional operating efficiencies we can leverage or is there work being done to see what officers are spending their days on and what they need help with?

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, we capture just about every single second of their day, not even anecdotally but certainly we know what calls for service tend to take the longest, we know what locations cause us the longest, most resources. So, we do know that. I think that from an operational standpoint our value is in our people and our equipment, and you know, I talked about how this Council and our Manager has been specific about providing CMPD the necessary tools in which to be successful and to provide a safe community. I do know that if we could go back to the bail accountability. I know that's one of the Chief's kind of heartfelt things. I just want to give him a chance to weigh in Chief if you're still there.

Chief Jennings said yes. I'll speak on it real quick. I just want to be clear. I've always been an advocate for when we talk about bail reform. So, I understand that there are certain crimes that you don't want to let money be the reason that somebody is or is not able to get out. I think what Chief Robinson is referring to are your most dangerous repeat violent offenders that we can continue to give opportunities to, to get back out and commit these crimes and prey on the citizens of Charlotte. So, when I talk about reforming that and having accountability in the work that we've been doing, we have a legislative [inaudible], we're getting support behind and that we'd like to introduce as soon as possible that is going to put more accountability. There are certain crimes that I truly believe should not be in the hands of Magistrates to make that determination on bail. So, the goal is to put that individual in front a judge much like we do domestic violence cases. So, hopefully we can see some of this come to fruition throughout this year, but I will be certainly asking Council for support with this and move forward with other [inaudible] and other associations dealing with law enforcement across our State.

Ms. Watlington said thank you. Then my last question has to do with the Pipeline Programs aligning with your number two priority. I just would like to understand. I know one of the things coming out of our SAFE Charlotte program was hiring staff to do program evaluations. Where are we with that? Do we have any understanding of what programs, specifically our youth programs are working from a diversion standpoint and also from building or filling the pipeline for future officers? I just would like to understand where are we with that initiative?

Deputy Chief Robinson said specifically I will say that we have a very successful diversion program. We have a very successful youth program, particularly our cadet program and we had a graduation earlier this year where we graduated a large number of young high school aged kids. We've got folks who have come through academy that were cadets. So, it works. It's part of our strategy. I think that when we talk about every person, every opportunity to engage every single time, I think that we can look to kind of large scale things that improve our standing in the world to make policing an attractive option, but we've also got to be specific too about how we go after that person who may have an interest in law enforcement and showing them what it's really about.

Ms. Watlington said do we have program evaluation data yet?

Deputy Chief Robinson said I personally don't have that with me for this, but we can certainly follow up and get that for sure.

Ms. Watlington said okay. Thank you so much. I appreciate you.

Deputy Chief Robinson said yes ma'am. Thank you. I appreciate you as well.

Councilmember Molina said first I have to begin by saying thank you for your service to our community. Chief Jennings, thank you so much for serving our community. I specifically have to also call out the Captains of the East Side. Captain Sanders, Captain Ford and Captain Fischbach. They are amazing leaders that I'm growing to really enjoy working with and having conversation with and they also were at the East Side Intergovernmental Summit, and they also came to my town hall, and they delivered some information around East Charlotte specifically. I have to tell you that I was pleasantly surprised and even extremely happy that crime had actually gone down in East Charlotte.

So, that's Hickory Grove, that's Independence and that's Eastway Division, have actually had a decline in crime. So, subsequently what I've done prior to my town hall and prior to the summit, I sat down with the three Captains from East Charlotte, and we had a very in-depth conversation getting to know them and having a better understanding of what they needed from us as a governing body and in particular, me as the representative on Council for East Charlotte. What they brought to my attention in that meeting was how violent offenders actually gain access to weapons. The three of them concurrently brought to my attention that that happens through weapons being made available in unlocked vehicles which I was unaware of among many things that they brought to my attention at that meeting. I promised them a subsequent meeting where I could actually go to my colleagues and provide that information so that we from a policy perspective can partner with you because what I'm interested in, in getting to know them and having them get to know me is how I can partner like you're saying with them for the solutions that you need to do your jobs effectively. So, that was one I heard resounding. If you could speak to that. I don't know how that resonates beyond East Charlotte because of course I haven't met with any other Captains besides the Captains in East Charlotte, but I don't know how that data is relative to the entirety of our City. I don't know if you have any information with regards to that.

Deputy Chief Robinson said well I will say your name and that conversation came up today in our large-scale command staff meeting and talked about the partnership with their Council member. I appreciate that and what it shows is a collaborative spirit between you and the police leadership of the East Side to address our most pressing issues and I think when we talk about how firearms being in the hands of children and juveniles who use them even inadvertently to create a negative outcome, I think we also have to speak just as intently about alleged responsible gun owners who leave weapons unsecured in unlocked vehicles. I think that is, from a strategic standpoint, something I believe that whether it's ordinance or State law that we have to speak intentionally about, what effect that's having on our community. Just the other night in the Uptown we had several guns taken out of otherwise unlocked or some glass breaks, but taken out of vehicles and to me, if you are responsibly owning a weapon, you need to responsibly store that weapon, so it doesn't fall into the wrong hands. So, I think there's opportunities for us there. The bigger issue though is that partnership and that dialogue. I think they consider themselves to have a very effective dialogue with you and that means the world to us and our Chief as far as what that should look like. We appreciate that.

Ms. Molina said thank you very much.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you.

Ms. Molina said with that, there was one other piece of information that I actually saw in this slide outside of my conversations with the Captains on the East Side, particularly around the workforce and the amount of resignations. I think we have to be mindful of the expectation and the growing expectation that we have of the men and women who serve us in that capacity, is their well-being. We're asking them to partner with us so that we can be responsible for the well-being of our residents, but in that, it looks like based on the demonstrated information here that we're actually losing them. So, I don't know that we have that with specificity as to why we're losing them, but I would like to know why because I think this is kind of dual. We have to make sure that we are taking care of our populations and our residents and serving them to the best of our capacity, but we also have to make sure that the people who protect and serve are healthy enough to continue to do that work. So, what I see based on the information here to some degree is that it's a growing number which that says that there could possibly be an issue with how our actual force is feeling because they're resigning from the job. I understand the idea of great resignation, but I don't think that a person with bills and responsibility just says, "I'm going to leave my job, because I still have bills that have to be paid." So, you have to have, in my opinion, a great burden to feel as though you're going to walk away from what is paying your livelihood unless you have something of course set up. Again, when we make those types of changes, there's something that informs us to make that decision. So, I don't know what the climate is or what the current conversations are around the workforce and resignations, but maybe you can.

Deputy Chief Robinson said so, I appreciate that, and I do know that every resignation we take personally, and I know we'll do an exit interview with our human resources staff. We'll find out exactly what went wrong in the process. I do know of a medium size city also in North Carolina that had eight recruits that went through their Police Academy, eight. All eight of them resigned before they ever hit the street permanently. Now if you think about what went into that, this was in Asheville, and I think the Chief up there attended a conference where he was literally at his wit's end, and I think it comes down to a couple of things. We want to be more intentional by showing somebody what this job really is. Now, if we graduated 25 recruits last month and all 25 are gone by February, I think you would have some serious questions for leadership within Charlotte and our Chief and we'd have to really go back to the drawing board. I will say that people today tend to leave with the understanding they'll get a job or use this job as leverage for another one. It's not as much of a calling as it was back in the day.

I will say though we had 1,650 officers that didn't resign and that although it seems dramatic to see that number going up, that's a number that we're concerned about but it's not a deal breaking for us. I'd rather somebody resign because it's not for them than to stay and then to decide that it's not for them in the midst of a crisis and make a decision or a mistake, God forbid, that would lead us to national prominence for the wrong reasons if that makes sense. I've got some feelings about that. Ultimately, we don't want anybody to leave but we want people to be here for the right reasons.

Ms. Molina said okay. That's good feedback. So, my only ask because I think my colleagues did a really good job of articulating some of the concerns based on the data. I'm really looking for those opportunities to continue the partnership, especially with what I've already started on the East Side. I really have and continue to enjoy a great open dialogue with the captains that serve East Charlotte and they give me relevant data and feedback and I'm in the opportunities where I can be, where they are resident-facing and that's been excellent. I think I went to the Kids, Cars and Cops.

Deputy Chief Robinson said yes ma'am.

Ms. Molina said my screensaver is this cool car that I was sitting in and it was so fun. I think I had more fun than the kids. It was so great, but I just saw a whole bunch of really happy residents at the Independence new division, getting the opportunity to see our public servants in that capacity and as many opportunities as we can offer to our residents, I think it is beneficial for them to see our servants humanized in that way and understand that it's really a partnership just like this is a partnership. So, the feedback that says like Councilwoman Watlington was saying, the information that can best inform us how to create policies so that we can be effective partners is what we would need. You're already doing a great job at providing that. So, thank you so much.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you so much. We appreciate that partnership.

Mayor Lyles said I want to tell you that we have our public forum tonight. So, we're going to ask our Fire Chief Reggie Johnson to come in February, but we will have the Medic presentation during the Manager's Report.

Councilmember Ajmera said Deputy Chief Robinson, thank you so much for all that you do and thank you Chief Jennings for everything that you do. I'm certainly very impressed with the results of the Crime Gun Suppression Team. I know it's a newly formed team. It's only been a year, but the results look great from this effort. So, I certainly appreciate the work that's being done there. I know a couple of times the legislative agenda items were raised. So, I just wanted to give you all an update on that, especially the Pre-trial Integrity Act that is for our holding that clearly provides language and accountability measures for our Magistrates and just establishing greater consistency in pre-trial management. So, that work has been a collaborative effort between CMPD, DA's office and Magistrates. I know as of last week our staff person Dana Fenton had a meeting with the Police Chief and that conversation continues, however at this point from what I understood from Dana that we are not ready to add that item to our legislative agenda because Chief is still working with other groups to build consensus. I just want CMPD and

the staff to know that we stand ready, at least I stand ready to support that ask because I know that's been an ongoing issue and I hear that loud and clear from Mr. Driggs, Ms. Watlington. There just needs to be more work that needs to occur at this point.

I appreciate the update that you provided on 911 operators hiring. There are two issues that often have come up during my interaction with the community. One is the response time and I know that CMPD has initiated multiple efforts and programs to address lowering the response time. I would be interested in seeing updated data as to how we are doing with some of those programs and whether they're working. Also, some sort of update on drag racing because that's been an issue that has really come up in my conversations with the community, not just in one part of town but throughout the City. I know that there have been multiple arrests that have been made, but how are we doing in terms of preventing or a reduction of drag racing? So, if you could just provide an insight into that, that would be very helpful.

Deputy Chief Robinson said will do. I do know really quickly that our 911 trajectory is heading in the right direction. I do know too that upon the media outlets that had reported some drag racing issues several months ago, the Chief of Police immediately directed that we move resources to develop a taskforce and a response to that, including a Detective and some division officers as well as some transportation officers. I know that problem has subsided a bit I think, but it will always be an issue. So, what we're looking at long term is more of a templated response from each division so that number one, divisions communicate, number two, that we're hitting the right areas to try and prevent these type of street takeovers. I know nothing is more infuriating than driving down the road and have a road being taken over by folks doing burnouts in the middle. So that is a huge priority for this organization as directed by the Chief.

Ms. Ajmera said is there anything that you need from the Council to address this issue, especially drag racing? Anything that we can do? Obviously, it was great to hear when you said that we are doing our part and that the City is doing everything that we can to support you all. Obviously, you need resources from other agencies, especially from legislators in Raleigh to address some of the issues with Magistrates and our judicial system, but is there anything else that we could look into as we look at our 2023 priorities especially with our retreat coming up and our budget coming up? I'd be interested in hearing that.

Deputy Chief Robinson said I believe the Chief wants to weigh in on this.

Chief Jennings said yes. What I can tell you Council member is that we have some very robust laws in the State of North Carolina that helps us deal with street racing and the reason we have been successful in countering some of the street racing we've seen particularly in other major cities is because of those laws and our use of them. When you see us stand in front of the media with 60 something cars throughout an investigation that we have seized, it's pretty promising for our ability to be able to stop that and that message gets around. So, we'll continue to do that, we'll continue to seize vehicles if people want to partake in those activities, then they're going to lose their vehicles. So, we have some really good tools in place for us. So, I don't really have an ask of Council that we need anything else to be able to combat those incidents that we see in Charlotte.

Ms. Ajmera said thank you Chief Jennings. Now that you're back online, I know that you're working with Dana on the Pre-trial Integrity Act which we were originally planning on introducing that bill actually this month. Could you give an update on that? I know that Dana, when I talked to him last, he had shared that it's still premature at this point. So, are we pushing that timeline further down to make sure that we have consensus and support that we need to get approved?

Chief Jennings said well let me just start by saying I absolutely do not want to push that timeline back. I've had a conversation recently with Dana as well. I do have to speak with the Chiefs Association Lobbyist, Fred Baggett that I plan on making a phone call because I really want this pushed in as quickly as possible. I know there's some things that will probably have to go through committee and be reviewed and possibly even changed, but

if you look at the gist of the entire legislation, it has in there what we need to better keep our community safe. So, I'm going to do everything I can to make sure that this is not pushed back further even if that means that I'm on the phone myself making those calls.

Ms. Ajmera said well I appreciate that Chief. I think Dana will probably take you up on that offer of making calls. I look forward to getting that done, to really get the support that CMPD has asked for and deserves. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said alright. This has been a very resource-filled presentation. So, thank you. It's given I think every Council member the opportunity to comment on some things that we need some follow up, some things that will be a part of our budget. So, with that I'm going to call this meeting and ask us to get downstairs for our public forum and our business meeting. I want to thank all of you that have come and for the firefighters that will be coming back, you'll be welcomed just as equally. So, thank you very much. Now we'll go downstairs for our business meeting.

Deputy Chief Robinson said thank you.

The meeting recessed at 6:47 p.m. to move to the Meeting Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

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The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for a Business Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:54 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Council Members present were Dimple Ajmera, Danté Anderson, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Malcolm Graham, Lawana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Marjorie Molina, Victoria Watlington, and Braxton Winston II.

ABSENT: Councilmember Renee Johnson

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Lyles gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Boy and Girl Scout Troop 70 and 70G.

Mayor Lyles said alright. Thank you everyone. I think we have some former elected officials in the audience. I can see Ms. Carter. Is there anyone else that we have in our audience? We want to say thank you for your service. Now, I don't know if you want to stay and watch all of this, but you're welcome to. So, with that I want to recognize Councilmember Mitchell to talk about the Troop, that's joining us tonight.

Councilmember Mitchell said Mayor and Council, thank you so much and I'm going to try to be brief, but I think when we have the opportunity of our young leaders to be here to witness this, I want to bring attention to them. This is Paw [inaudible] Troop 70 as the Mayor said serving boys and girls. They were formed in 1989. The many opportunities they learn, to advance leadership, community service and recreation and outdoor and environment. Ms. Cobb, thank you for allowing them to be here. Currently, Troop 70 Boys have 60 Eagle Scouts and Troop 70 Girls has 2 scouts that are currently working the process of completing your Eagle project. Thank you for being here and good luck.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Thank You to Council

Jimmy Burke, 8810 Oakham Street, Huntersville said thank you Mayor, thank you Council. I was here last June and in November of last year, this Council voted unanimously to amend an ordinance concerning animal care and control, specifically reducing the number of days that an individual convicted of cruelty or abuse, or neglect of the animal had to appeal to Superior Court. That changed. That amendment went from 30 days to 10 days. As a volunteer at Animal Care and Control, I just wanted to in person say thank you to you all. There are a number of individuals and other groups that were involved in this, and they are too numerous for me to name them all, plus it is highly likely I would inadvertently omit someone. I do have some individuals that I would like to call out that I know were very involved in moving this forward. Councilman Driggs was one of them, Assistant City Manager Brent Cagle, Josh Fisher who is the Director of Animal Care and Control, the shelter on Byron Drive. Shannon Harkey who is the shelter Manager and Judy Storey who is a shelter volunteer, and the City Attorney's office. I just wanted to thank all of these folks for their efforts moving this forward. It's a huge win for the animals. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Burke, let's thank you as well as a volunteer at our shelter and someone that cares deeply. Thank you for coming down tonight and giving us that appreciation.

Mr. Burke said you're very welcome, Mayor.

Traffic Needs

Cynthia Salazar, 9039 Holland Park Lane said good evening, everybody. First, I want to congratulate everybody because I think everybody here is doing the best that they can at all times. As part of that I wanted to speak up on an issue that I'm really concerned about at the moment. It's the fatalities and the car accidents. North Carolina ranks within the top 10 states in terms of fatalities due to car accidents in the entire country. That to me is a little alarming, and then it makes me look deeper into what the causes may be. We have a range of them. There is distracted driving, which I know that some rules have been implemented but I'm not exactly sure how well they're being monitored because the other day I was driving on Ardrey Kell which isn't really that big of a road. It does get busy sometimes, and there were two separate car accidents. One on either side. One of them in front of me, it was diagonal, it was a three-car accident. The middle car was flipped completely upside down, and then on the other side, there were two cars. That's just one and this happens every single day and I'm only talking about the Ballantyne Provincetown area because that's where I live, but after looking at all the numbers, this is a Citywide issue and these just keep going up and up and up. So, I'm just wondering what exactly is being done for this? I know that there is an initiative, but I just don't see what the progress has been since it's come into place because as far as I've seen, this initiative started in 2015 and yet the numbers since then have still continued to rise.

I know that specifically the areas that I'm thinking about around Ardrey Kell and Johnston Road, there's a lot of dark spots. At night it's really difficult to see around there. I'm not surprised if there are a lot of accidents at night. Then of course during the daytime, I'm just worried because there's more people that are going to be coming into the City and I also understand that every City has its own driving culture. The one here in Charlotte is very unclear. There are some people that follow New York City driving rules and they just drive like an animal because that's what it's like. Then you have the other people that might be from a more pleasant place like actual Charlotte, and they drive at a more respectable rate. So, I'm just wondering what you guys will be doing.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much for coming down. We will get information to you on what we're trying to accomplish and let you see what the programs will be. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Driggs said call me, please call me.

CMPD Pay & Benefits

Daniel Redford, 1201 Hawthorne Lane said good evening, Mayor, Manager Jones, City Council members. For those that don't know, my name is Daniel Redford. I serve as the President of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police. You probably got my email Saturday. I stand before you tonight in hopes that we can aggressively work together on pay and benefits for our CMPD brothers and sisters. As you know, the CMPD is hundreds of officers short and the growth that we've have seen in this City is making it harder for the officers that we have to manage as more and more events are brought into this City, as well as the calls that are continuously coming in. I do want to also start off by saying that I do appreciate the work that we've been able to accomplish over the years. So, I don't want that to be over shadowed. However, we do look at other cities that are also recognizing the importance of improving pay and benefits. For example, Tampa recently approved an 18.5 percent salary increase for their City employees, and in comparing them to officers, they will make \$20,000 more per year than what a CMPD officer would.

Other jurisdictions are offering incentives that aren't offered here that reward employees such as longevity benefits, healthcare for their retired employees, call back pay, better uniform options and many other things. It does pain me as well as it does my fellow brothers and sisters to hear Charlotte citizens being placed on hold with 911 only for it to take several hours for an officer to respond to their issues that they're calling 911 for, such as car wrecks, break-ins, and domestic violence cases. I hear our police dispatchers continuously saying on the radio that there are no units available Citywide as people are waiting for police to respond. We must do better so that CMPD can continue to grow and provide the protection and service needed to keep this City safe as well as our officers safe. A strong investment and significant increase in CMPD salaries, reinstating their healthcare when they retire, along with other benefits will help to attract and retain employees. The FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) and CMPD's Pay Plan Committee have been working on proposals that we will be providing the City Manager. We're meeting this Friday as a committee as these budget talks begin and we'll provide these recommendations to him.

As a world class City, we should not have to be playing catch up. I believe our proposals will help make Charlotte the employer of choice that we are all after, and that's why I'm asking you for your support. Finally, I wouldn't be standing here today if the issues that I am addressing or the emails that I sent to you weren't real. I didn't have much time, but these are the officers that I was able to get in, in about 20 hours' notice. So, I do appreciate them being here as well. As Councilwoman Molina mentioned earlier about why officers are leaving Charlotte, we collect that data. We are in tune with why our officers are leaving. So, if you really want to know the reasons why our officers are leaving, we'll be glad to share that data with you. If any of you want to hear from officers directly, our membership meeting is held the first Tuesday of every month at our lodge at 6 p.m. and all of you are invited to attend. So, I do appreciate you giving me time. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Affordable Housing

Kate Murphy, 5735 East WT Harris Boulevard said hi my name is Kate Murphy and I serve as the Pastor of the Grove Presbyterian Church in East Charlotte. Our mission is inviting all to serve and come alive in Christ and serving is the center of our life together. For us that looks like a free after school program, a free weekly pop-up farmer's market, our open to all community garden, a free six-week freedom school, community meals, food pantry, day camp Bible school during CMS (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools) spring break, the list goes on. We exist to serve our neighbors and we make sure that everything we do is accessible to everyone without barriers of any kind, especially cost, but we're not a wealthy congregation. So, we have had to pray hard and get really creative about how to use what we do have to serve our neighbors in love.

In 2012 we invited a young couple with a lot of relevant ministry experience and a heart for our mission to move into our mostly empty building, to live there for free and to help up maintain and care for our space and build our outreach ministry and service to our

neighbors. Immediately petty crime on our campus went down, our ministry expanded, and it has been a mutually beneficial arrangement for everyone, the church, the neighborhood, and the family. City building code allows for churches to have residential dormitory space. In June of 2021 at our regular fire inspection, we were failed for having the dormitory space. A report said that we needed the approval of the City Building Code Enforcement. Once we worked with the City and got that approval from City Building Code Enforcement, our inspection was changed to say that we needed County Building Code Enforcement and that is not the same. When the County came in and inspected our building, they said that we needed to move the space and undertake extensive renovations and hire an architect. We did all those things and we're working with the County to bring the building into compliance with County codes and the County said the family could continue to live in our space and serve with us while we were coming into compliance, but on November 29, 2022 at a County building change of views meeting, the Fire Inspector evicted the family and told us that if they were not out by January 1, 2023, he would see to it that our building was disconnected from the power grid. When the family moved out, the Fire Inspector sent two members of his department to watch for several hours. The next day, we opened our building to welcome in our neighbors experiencing homelessness to be part [inaudible] in the end.

I believe that everyone in this room is working together in good faith to promote flourishing in this community and I want to be clear. I honor and respect the very important and critical role that the Fire Inspector plays in our community, but as a nonelected layperson, there's several aspects about this situation that deeply trouble me. I don't understand why the Fire Inspector who works for the Fire Department of the City of Charlotte.

Mayor Lyles said it is always one of the hardest things to do to say that the time has ended, but I want to say that I think I see our Fire Chief up there and Ms. Murphy, we'll follow up. Renee is going to be following up with you. If you would step down and speak with Renee, that would make a big difference. So, thank you very much.

Councilmember Bokhari said I would like to also personally follow this one if that's alright. We have to streamline permitting, zoning, all of these functions for 1,000 different reasons. We have to get that done.

Mayor Lyles said thank you.

Catawba Crossings Project

Evan Schultheis, 241 Hydrangea Drive, Lake Wylie, South Carolina said hello. My name is Evan Schultheis. I have a degree in chemistry from Winthrop University and briefly worked with Energy Storage Technology for the Department of Energy. I would like to open by expressing my support of the initiative being spearheaded by 350 Charlotte and other local environmental groups tonight. The continuation of the Olin Creek Solar Farm which will close approximately 35 to 40 percent of the remaining gap in Charlotte's clean energy goals. While it is estimated that the delay would result in the City of Charlotte having to pay for the project rather than net a small income, and its completion would be delayed to late this year. This project would reduce dependence on coal or natural gas acids such as Allen Steam Station, the second worst polluted coal plant in the United States and one that directly impacts my community downstream.

This brings me to the primary item I came to speak about tonight, which was the proposed Catawba Crossings Project to build a new bridge across North Lake Wylie next to Allen Steam Station. While Allen Steam Station is not as well studied as Marshall Steam Station and the Mooresville community nearby, it is believed that a significant amount of fly ash pollutes the soil around Allen Steam Station on the South Belmont peninsula. The proposed Catawba Crossings Project would result in that fly ash entering Lake Wylie, an already heavily contaminated lake and affecting downstream communities. I therefore ask the Council to vote yes on continuing the Olin Creek Solar Project and to reconsider their involvement with the proposed Catawba Crossing Project on Lake Wylie. I yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Charlotte International Cabinet

Nalan Karakaya Mulder, 9531 Ardrey Woods Drive said thank you. Honorable Mayor Lyles, Mayor Pro Tem and City Council members. I currently serve as the Chair of Charlotte International Cabinet that represents the international and cultural diversity we have in Charlotte. Charlotte continues to gain national and international attention for its attempt to become a truly global city. Global cities focus on attracting and retaining international talent, investment and so does Charlotte. As an advisor board responsible for promoting Charlotte as an international city, we commend the City on its commitment. As a continuation of sharing CIC (Charlotte International Cabinet) updates and recommendations, I'm back here in front of you to share three items.

First, to commend the work the City has done to move forward language access policy and starting to develop international business relations strategies which have been recommended by CIC. Second, to share what CIC has been working on. We set our top priorities for the year as ongoing support for Charlotte International Strategy Development, 2050 Year STGs (short term goals), and organizing forums to convene the international and immigrant communities to raise issues facing the community, promote cooperation and drive CIC recommendations to the City. In October we held a Charlotte Community Immigrant Forum with immigrant organizations in USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) Charlotte office. Forum discussions recognize Charlotte becoming a welcome and certified City, City Workforce Development Grants and elect [inaudible] recommendation to reestablish the Naturalize Charlotte Committee and keep the naturalizecharlotte.org website current. In December, we held a forum to reengage with North Carolina Consular Corps and discussed how CIC and the NCCS can collaborate more to engage international communities in Charlotte.

Third, we continue to recommend to formalize Charlotte's commitment to sustainable development goals in order to further position Charlotte as a global City. One, include STGs an international strategy, two, formally sign on as a partner for UN (United Nations) STG goals. Three, commit to conducting periodic [inaudible] STG progress reviews like New York, L.A. (Los Angeles), Orland and Pittsburgh in the US (United States). The UN adopted 17 STGs that include sustainable cities and communities, reduce inequalities, quality education, decent work and economic growth, industry innovation and more. I have distributed pages that list all of them. They have the power to create a better world and better future for everyone. The City, the County and Charlotte businesses are already doing significant work from improving equity and mobility, to corridors work you are doing, to clean water and energy sustainability which all align to STGs. In our February meeting, we plan to review what more CIC can do to support the international strategy and how STG commitments could align to global business interests in Charlotte.

So, I'm here tonight to respectfully request City Council to take formal action to assess and implement these STG recommendations and they relate to our international communities and determine how CIC can support further action. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Car Free Transportation

Thomas Ratliff, 3730 Philemon Avenue said yes. Good evening, everyone. My name is TJ Ratliff. I recently moved to the Sugar Creek NoDa (North Davidson) area of Charlotte from Columbus, Ohio and I'm excited to be at my first City Council meeting ever. I was at the County Budget Meeting on Wednesday. I was politely informed that a lot of the things that I brought up were City issues and not County issues. So, here I am.

I'm here to advocate for more funding for car free transportation options. I consider myself a car-light person trending towards car-free. I want to acknowledge that my car-light lifestyle is my choice and the danger I feel navigating around the City must be half or a third what a person with vision disabilities feels every day. I also acknowledge that there

are more underserved communities in Charlotte that could use more sidewalks, bike lanes, greenspaces, and transit outside of NoDa, my immediate neighborhood. At the same time, I have to speak to what I know. One of the things that inspired me to move to Charlotte was the Blue Line. When I visited, I was amazed at the prospect of being able to grab a drink in Southend, Uptown and NoDa on the same night without getting an expensive Uber. The Blue Line is the reason that I picked this City over comparable Cities such as Raleigh or Nashville. I use the train all the time including to get to this meeting today. It is discouraging to see the time between transit has lengthened recently, worsening the commuter experience.

When I moved, I picked an apartment close to the Blue Line which coincidentally happened to be on the future site of the Cross Charlotte Trail. Right now, I have to walk in the road and get passed by large buses on my way to and from the Sugar Creek Light Rail Station. Finishing segment seven of the Cross Charlotte Trail will provide adequate sidewalks to get to the station safely. Finishing segment six of the Cross Charlotte Trail would help me be able to get safely to NoDa. I know that the amount of money for sidewalks, Vision Zero and biking has increased between the 2022 and 2023 budgets. To that, I say good job. Keep going. Fund the Blue and Gold Line better, build the Silver Line faster, design the Red Line and any other color you can think of. Consider e-bike rebate program like Atlanta or Columbus. Complete the Cross Charlotte Trail and close the existing gaps in our greenway network and then plan and build a second east-west Cross Charlotte Trail as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Lyles said thank you.

Cloud-Based Solution for Public Safety Officials

Alexandra Bryant, 15711 Clems Creek Lane said hi, I'm Alexandra Bryant and I'm a local resident of Charlotte, North Carolina. On July 1, 2020, Chief Jennings stated, "We are never going to move the needle and build community relations until we recognize how the community wants to be policed. That will require all of us, every single one of us, coming together to make this community safer and the CMPD a better department. Residents are encouraged to engage with the CMPD to provide input how they want the department to best serve the community and staff is empowered to hold each other accountable, to hold to the highest standards of interaction with residents." As a sales coordinator, iCrimeFighter, I am here tonight to request an increase in funding for CMPD and budget approval for iCrimeFighter. An effort to implement a software solution across the community that will aid in keeping our residents and students at higher educational institutions safe. Founded by two law enforcement officers in 2011, iCrimeFighter is an AWS GovCloud CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) compliant digital evidence collection storage and transfer solution. It remains far superior than any other DMS (Digital Management System) in the market as it allows law enforcement agencies, County Attorneys, Title IX Coordinators, Offices of Student Conduct at colleges and universities, students, citizens of our community and any other individual or agency involved in a crime case to safely and efficiently collaborate.

Three ways iCF (iCrimeFighter) can improve our community is time, accountability and community engagement. iCF allows public safety professionals to seamlessly streamline digital evidence from the field to the court room so they can dedicate more time making a positive impact in our community. iCF case history feature is an audit trail that timestamps every incident associated to a case. Community members want to see a decrease in crime rate. Community members can assist by taking videos from their phones, their Ring doorbells and home security cameras. Moreover, retail stores are willing to provide surveillance footage. With iCF evidence anywhere feature, departments can collect that evidence with their cellphones by sending a secure link for the community members to automatically upload to that case file. I hope you will see the value in the solution I present to you today and I want to thank each and every one of you for all that you do for our community.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. We look forward to having more conversations about this topic in the next several months.

Retrieve Badge from Airport

Zenas Henderson, 6010 Lawn Meadow Drive said hello Council. What I'm asking for is very brief. I am just here to get a work badge reinstated for the Charlotte Airport which is owned by the City of Charlotte. That's all I'm here for.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. Madam Clerk, is that the end of our speaker's list for the forum?

Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk said speaker 12 is not going to be present tonight.

Mayor Lyles said alright thank you everyone. As I said, we will get some information back to each of you that have spoken as we go through this.

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PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC HEARING FOR ALBEMARLE CORPORATION BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Driggs and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Approve the City's share of a Business Investment Grant to Albemarle Corporation for a not to exceed amount of \$7,239,818 over 12 years.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 8: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor Lyles said at this point we're going to turn it over to Medic for a presentation on the work that they are currently doing. Thank you for your patience, Mr. Peterson. If you would introduce the gentlemen joining, you.

John Peterson, Medic Executive Director said thank you. Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to be here and present to you. My name is John Peterson. I'm the Executive Director at Medic and with me tonight I have to my left Dr. Jonathan Studnek. Jon is our Deputy Director of Operations at Medic and to his left is Dr. Doug Swanson. Dr. Swanson is our Medical Director at Medic. So, again, appreciate the opportunity meet with you this evening and to go over with you a brief report on our response configuration.

So, just to give you an overview of what we hope to accomplish in the presentation, specifically with the why, the what and the who. We want to make sure that we go through these items with you. We're going to discuss getting an ambulance to our patients, to the right patient, with the right resource in the right period of time. One of the things I want to make sure I go over is the who, which is a collaborative effort from the very beginning of putting together this project and I'd like to specifically thank the Charlotte Fire Department and CMPD for their participation with us in creating this new model for responses within Mecklenburg County, also our Medical Control Board and our Agency Board of Commissioners.

So, why change response configuration within Mecklenburg County? First of all, our current response and outcomes are misaligned. What I mean by that is that in today's EMS (Emergency Medical Services) with Medic, 76 percent of the time that we respond to calls, we are responding with lights and sirens as if it is a life-threatening emergency. Once we arrive on scene, have an opportunity to do an assessment on the patient, we

realize that only about five percent of the time are those patients actually suffering from a life-threatening emergency. That means that we have a disproportionate number of emergency responses in this community versus the number of emergent patients. So, what this proposal hopes to do and plans to do is to protect our sickest patients by realigning the system to be better aligned so that ambulances can be more readily available to respond to those sickest patients. We'll talk a little bit more about how we intend to do that on future slides.

One of the ways that we intend to do that is to reduce our lights and sirens uses in Mecklenburg County. Why should we do that? There's a lot of literature that has been proposed and studies over the years going all the way back to the 1990s about lights and sirens response within communities throughout the United States. Most recently there was a White Paper that was written by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration back in 2017 that made a suggestion for EMS systems throughout the country to rethink how they respond to lights and sirens to communities and to consider reducing that. Part of the reason for that is what we know is that the minute that we turn our lights and sirens on and start responding in our community, we increase our chance of a crash by 50 percent. So, it is one of the most if not the most dangerous things that our employees at Medic do every day. We also know that average response times actually only change by about 42 seconds to 3.8 minutes with lights and sirens. So, it's a very minimal amount of time that it actually saves considering the potential risk. Most recently, back in February of this year, there was a group of about 14 agencies including the American Ambulance Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of EMS Physicians that wrote a position statement basically outlining a request for EMS systems throughout the country to reduce their lights and sirens usage.

So, what I'd like to go over now is I'll invite Dr. Studnek to come up and speak and we're going to talk to you a little bit about tip to tail how a 911 works within Mecklenburg County. **Dr. Jonathan Studnek, Medic Deputy Director of Operations** said thank you JP, Madam Mayor, City Council. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. Going to a little bit more of the technical details of what this means for the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County in general and how we're going to manage responses to emergencies in Mecklenburg County. So, as you may know, if you call 911 within Mecklenburg County and specifically today the City of Charlotte, your phone call is answered by Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. They ask a question as soon as the phone is picked up. Do you need police, fire, or medic? If a caller says they need medic, that phone call is then transferred to our emergency medical dispatch center that we house within our headquarters off of Wilkinson Boulevard and our trained telecommunicators will then answer that phone call that's been transferred to us from CMPD. We then go through a process of asking specific questions to callers to determine their medical complaint and assess the potential severity of that medical complaint. This is a protocolized set of questions that are asked of every caller and we call this Medical Priority Dispatch. Medical Priority Dispatch allows us to determine the call type and the potential severity based on the information gathered from the caller and the call taker, we then will classify a call into one of several categories to determine how quickly we dispatch an ambulance and how quickly we should target having that ambulance arrive on scene. Those targets are what we call our response configuration.

So, if we move to the next slide, we'll see what our current response configuration in Mecklenburg County looks like today. So, today there are three different configurations of responses within our community. A little bit deeper in response configuration, what I mean is our time target, whether or not we respond lights or sirens and whether or not we ask first responders such as the Charlotte Fire Department to respond with us. Today we have three primary response configurations. One at a 10:59 response time target and one at a 12:59 response time target. Those are both immediate dispatch of any ambulance and a first responder and everybody going lights and sirens. So, we see here where the statistic earlier, 69 percent of our responses today are an emergent lights or sirens response. We also have one response time criteria that's non emergent. It is a 60-minute response which we do not dispatch an ambulance immediately, but we wait until there are an appropriate amount of resources within the community to dispatch to low acuity patients that likely do not have a life-threatening emergency, and that's about 22

percent of our patients today. Now that 60-minute response time window came about during the height of the pandemic when resources were stretched. We had increasing call volumes and increasing number of low acuity patients. We received permission from our Agency Board of Commissioners and our Medical Control Board to institute the 60-minute response time window. Now we know that there may be more nuance than a 60-minute window requires and that is why we're here today to share with you our updated response configuration.

So, we'll move to the next slide and talk about where we will be moving to relative to responses in this coming quarter. So, as we see on that top line, responses to life threatening emergencies remains largely unchanged. We have a 10 minute and 59 second response time window. We will be immediately dispatching those calls with our first responders, and everybody will be going lights and sirens to these calls. We see that this will constitute about 19 percent of our call volume. This is largely unchanged. So, when you talk about life threatening emergencies, what we're talking about is patients in cardiac arrest, whose heart has stopped, patients who have difficulty breathing and unable to speak clearly between sentences, folks that have altered mental status and aren't thinking or acting or behaving clearly. Is it life threatening or potentially a life-threatening emergency?

We then see underneath that, we will no longer respond lights and sirens to the rest of these call classifications, however the 15-minute response time window will have an immediate ambulance and first responder dispatch. So, we will dispatch right away once we understand the nature of the emergency and the location of the patient. We will aim to arrive there in 15 minutes and that'll constitute about 18 percent of our volume. We will dispatch first responders on many of those calls, but not all of them, reserving our first responders only for those calls where we know that our trained EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) that work with our fire departments are able to have an impact on patient care immediately upon their arrival. We have a new 30-minute response time window, non-emergency, sometimes with the fire department, and sometimes without. We retain a 60-minute response time window. We have a 90-minute response time window and those are for patients that are primarily transferred back to us from one of our three nurse lines that we work with for low acuity patients. If you have a very low acuity illness, we will often transfer you to a nurse line operated by one of our two health care systems or our community crisis line to see if they can intervene prior to dispatching an ambulance. Sometimes patients get through that secondary triage and all they need is transportation. We will offer them a Lyft or an Uber to the healthcare destination of their choice and if they don't feel comfortable in a Lyft, we will still send an ambulance, but we have a very broad response time window for these non-critically ill patients.

So, then our final response determination is there are some incidents that occur in our community that will be evaluated first by first responders. So, low critical motor vehicle collisions, unknown problems within our community, we'll ask our first responder partners to determine if there's a patient on that scene and if there are, an ambulance will respond. If there's not a patient, if it's just a motor vehicle collision with property damage, they'll clear that scene, and an ambulance won't be dispatched preserving resources for more acutely ill patients within our community. So, those are the broad strokes of how we're going to respond to emergencies in the future. Two response priorities where you'll receive an immediate ambulance dispatch and three response priorities where we will wait to dispatch an ambulance until we have the appropriate resources positioned in our community to do so and still be able to respond to our high acuity emergencies. I'm going to pass it over to Dr. Swanson who's going to discuss the safety profile and what we have learned over this past year operating a low acuity dispatch priority in our 60-minute window.

Dr. Doug Swanson, Medic Medical Director said thank you and also thank you to the Council for the chance to brief you on this. So, the question I'm always asked is, is it safe? I'm here to let you and the public know that yes, this is safe. In looking at the calls that Dr. Studnek referenced, those with a 60-minute response window in this 13-month period here, 12,900 calls, less than 1 percent and the actual number is about 0.7 percent of calls result in emergent transport to the hospital. Now if you further look at those, about 50

percent of those, we met the timeframe of the original 12 minutes and 59 seconds. So, these are not folks waiting necessarily 60 minutes. In fact, our average response time to all of these calls is 32 minutes, but it is very safe and as you can see from the data, only 65 percent of these calls are even transported. 17 percent of them elected not to be transported anywhere. That's the patient making that election after we've arrived on scene, 17 percent cancelled the ambulance because they ultimately decide that they don't need an ambulance, they actually have a family member that can take them to the Urgent Care, or first responders have arrived and determined that in fact a transport to the hospital is not needed. So, again, it's very safe. Thirteen thousand calls, we still continue to look at these. I evaluate every one of them and I do not find to date even past this timeframe of where there has been an adverse impact to the patient related to their response time to their call. Thank you.

Mr. Peterson said thanks Dr. Swanson. So, what does this mean for our community here in Charlotte and in Mecklenburg County? Well first and foremost, rapid responses to our sickest patients will not change. I want to make sure that is clear. Secondly, this will be a safer method of response for our community, for our motorist in the community and for the personal at Medic and for the fire departments. Thirdly, we will have a better opportunity to protect our sickest patients through this response configuration change and there will be some potential slower responses to low acuity patients as a result of what Dr. Studnek and Dr. Swanson just described.

So, I just wanted to brief the Council for the next couple of slides on where we're at in this process and how we are communicating this with the public. So, we've had numerous meetings and discussions about this so far with both the County Board of Commissioners as well as all of the Town Managers and City Manager, and of course here with you all tonight. We will be speaking at each of the town and City Council meetings upcoming this month and next month throughout the community. We will be speaking in each of the six County commissioned districts. We have some locations identified. We do not have dates and times scheduled yet, but we anticipate that some time between now and the end of March we will have our public meetings where the public can come and meet with us, have an opportunity to discuss this with us and we will do a presentation at that time and also take an opportunity to do some education on when to call 911 for an ambulance within Mecklenburg County. So, with that, again thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening. Happy to entertain any questions that you might have.

Mayor Lyles said so, I already have several people that would like to speak with you as well.

Mr. Peterson said okay.

Councilmember Winston said thank you very much. Over the past couple of years and the past few months of this term, I've been spending some time in our fire houses with different fire companies, and it was no surprise to learn that a lot of our calls are medical calls and the guys and ladies are certainly proud to do that. I remember a particular anecdote conversation in Company 23 that I had with Ms. Molina on the East Side. There were some stories of responding to a very sick child and needed to get that child to the hospital quickly. Our fire service does an excellent job of rendering first aid, but our fire trucks are not very well equipped to transport people to the hospital. There were some tactics that they had to use that probably weren't up to code to get this young lady to the hospital through a family car and save her life. Another anecdotal, I grew up in New York City and I remember in the 90s the EMS service was consolidated within FDNY (Fire Department of New York). So, my question is for a large City like Charlotte, what does the national best practices say about consolidating EMS and ambulance services within the fire service and has that been looked at? What kind of cost savings or efficiencies are found if any by a move like that?

Mr. Peterson said sure. Thank you. It really depends on the community. If you look at one EMS system, there's a saying that you've seen one EMS system. It's what's best for each individual community. Most of those communities have had their EMS systems set up for many years like we have here in Charlotte and in Mecklenburg County. There are many

fire-based EMS systems, there are many non-fire-based EMS systems such as Medic and Mecklenburg County. There are some systems that hire private companies to operate their EMS systems. So, there is a wide variety of difference types of systems throughout. There are some systems like here at Medic where we do all of the emergency and non-emergency transportation for ambulance within the County. There are some systems where the ambulance service only does 911 and they use somebody else, like usually typically a private contractor to do the non-emergencies. So, in other words, there's a wide vast variety. I do not believe, to answer your last piece of your question, I do not believe that there are any financial efficiencies in changing what we have here. What we have had in Mecklenburg County is working well. It has worked well for very many years. We provide an outstanding level of service to our community and very proud of the men and women that wear the Medic uniform every day. They do great service to our community, and I would not suggest any changes.

Mr. Winston said okay, just to follow up on that. I do know that in some instances Medic does cohabitate at times in fire stations. You mentioned that there are many different ways to measure what is best for communities. So how is Medic measuring what is the best response model for the City of Charlotte?

Mr. Peterson said absolutely. So, first of all thank you to the Fire Chief for allowing us to utilize those stations. Our folks do not utilize stations. We utilize what's called systems status management and so we priority post our units throughout the community utilizing a system that allows us to help predict where our next serious call would come in. We're very good at that. We use a 20-week demand. We can look back past years of data. We can just about tell you at any given time at any given place within Mecklenburg County where there's going to be a medical emergency and we can position our units available. In some of those cases, the fire department opens up their doors to us to be able to utilize their facilities while we wait. So, thank you to the Chief for that.

As far as how Medic is benchmarking ourselves nationwide, I sit on multiple committees with the American Ambulance Association, one of those is the Professional Standards Committee. So, I'm very familiar with how other EMS systems are benchmarking. We utilize response times as one piece but even becoming more critical is clinical outcomes, looking at how our patients come out of the hospital based on the clinical care that we provide, and measuring other methods of quality care that we do that show that we're in some of the highest elite of the EMS community.

Mr. Winston said thank you. Mr. Jones, I'd love to follow up to cross reference data from Medic, from the fire department and our hospital systems to in fact determine how and why the best and highest response models are. What are they? Is this model that we are imploring in fact that? Thank you.

Mr. Peterson said you're welcome.

Councilmember Watlington said a couple of questions. First of all, thank you for what you do. Much appreciated. I do have one very quick question I hope and it's a pipeline question. We talk about the pipeline for CMPD, we talk about the pipeline for CFD (Charlotte Fire Department). If someone was watching this and wanted to know, how do they get to where you are today, you don't have to tell me the whole career path, but what are they looking for? What should they be searching into?

Mr. Peterson said yes. Specifically for my position?

Ms. Watlington said sure.

Mr. Peterson said so, I started as an EMT in Chicago 23 years ago riding on an ambulance. Found a passion for EMS and loving what I did, went to Paramedic School became a Paramedic and worked hard to have an opportunity to work my way up through the ranks to eventually become a Chief Operating Officer of my previous employment in Pinellas County, Florida where I worked for 18 years. So, it really is, there's an opportunity for anyone to get to my position. One of the things I like to tell our new hire employees is,

I was sitting in that seat where you're sitting 23 years ago and here, I am today, and you can get here too. So, there's a lot of opportunities for that. We have some great programs coming up that allow people to come from the street I'll call it as a layperson and into Medic and become an EMT. So, one of those programs that is currently underway is a program we have with Central Piedmont Community College. We have a class of 22 EMTs starting on February 7, 2023. We have another class of around that same amount starting in March and those folks have the opportunity to not only have their education covered, but to also receive a \$17 per hour stipend to go to school.

Another program that we have at Medic is an opportunity for people to come and learn to work in our logistics division, essentially learning how to restock ambulances and purchase medical supplies and things like that. That's a \$20 per hour starting position that brings somebody in the door while we train them to become an EMT. A big thank you to the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners for approving funding for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) for us to continue that program through this upcoming fiscal year. So, we're very excited about those opportunities and we see that by July we're going to see a significant bolus if you will of EMTs because of these community options.

Ms. Watlington said I love that. Obviously, you're on the County side, but we're interested in workforce development, and this sounds great. \$20 an hour doesn't sound like a bad roll. Paid training sounds great. So, thank you for sharing that. I do have a question along the lines of what Mayor Pro Tem Winston was talking about because there does seem to be a little bit of what seems to be overlap if you will between CFD and Medic. So, I'm trying to understand. So, forgive me if these questions are very remedial if you will. Every fire fighter is an EMT. Is that correct? Okay. So, does that mean people are matriculating through your program to the fire department or is that a separate [inaudible]?

Mr. Peterson said I think in some cases that happens. I don't think that's a tremendous amount here. Tell me if I'm wrong.

Dr. Studnek said no.

Mr. Peterson said it's not a pipeline if you will.

Ms. Watlington said okay. So, those are separate?

Mr. Peterson said right.

Ms. Watlington said got it. So, then my next question is when we call 911, and I appreciate you going through your process flow, I just want to understand. If someone calls 911 and is in need of a medic, is it conceivable that the fire department can go there? I'm trying to compare their response times if I'm understanding, around three minutes, to the response times I saw here in this PowerPoint. Can you help me wrap my mind around that? I see I can get an EMT in three minutes or I can get an EMT in 10 minutes 59 seconds. What should one do with that if I'm calling 911, I'm going to say fire versus a medic.

Mr. Peterson said sure. Well, it's intentionally designed that way to get fire department first responders there to do an assessment and potentially stabilize a patient while the ambulance is on the way. That's how the system is designed, that's how it was designed many years ago and that is the whole point of the dual response. That's why our first responder partners are so vital to what we do in EMS because they get there three to four or five minutes, whatever the time is, and have an opportunity to stabilize or call us off. Part of what we're trying to do with response configuration is to be a little bit smarter about that. There are some calls that the fire department may not need to go on. So, why are we utilizing that resource on a call the fire department doesn't need to be there and vice versa. There are calls that the fire department can go out and easily take an assessment and say, "You know what, we don't need a medic here," why send both at once. Let's be smarter about how we utilize those resources.

Ms. Watlington said Chief, did you want to weigh in?

Chief Reginald Johnson, City of Charlotte Fire Chief said so, I just wanted to add in and it's in the presentation that I'll do in February, but you have that in your paperwork already, but we have a National Fire Protection Association Standard that we use, NFPA 1710. It's overall for an emergency, which is just what JP is talking about. An urgent emergency, we have six-minute overall response times. So, it weighs a little different when you're talking about that versus what they're looking for as far as life saving interactions with paramedics and transport.

Mr. Peterson said one other thing, if I may on that.

Ms. Watlington said sure.

Mr. Peterson said with the fire department, part of keeping them available to quickly respond to those calls is having them get to the patient, quickly assess, turn the care over to Medic and then go back available to run the next call. Whereas when Medic arrives on scene and transports a patient, instead of 20 minutes, 30 minutes, I don't know what your average call times are Chief, but the average call time for Medic is an hour and 10 to an hour and 20 minutes because we have the time of taking the patient to the hospital, then transferring caregiving report, and then going back available after restocking of trucks. So, that's part of the design of the system to is to get those fire units back in service again quickly, continue to keep responding to calls.

Ms. Watlington said got you. You mentioned something that I want to make sure that I'm clear about. Is there a distinction between a medical and a first responder?

Mr. Peterson said so, yes and no. It's really between EMT and paramedic is what you need to know. So, an EMT is a basic level of emergency medical technician. It's approximately a one semester, 16 weeks. Typical class I think 248- or 250-hour class. Paramedic is a much more intensive two-year program with multiple clinicals and there's a lot more skills. Paramedics are able to interpret EKGs (electrocardiogram), they're able to administer medications and start IVs (intravenous) and do higher level skills more equivalent to like a nurse.

Ms. Watlington said okay. Then my last question is you mentioned here in the slide about what you feel like the impact overall is in these changes. I'm still trying to understand is there an operational gain. What led you all to want to do this?

Mr. Peterson said so, the operational gain, I go back to really focusing on our priority one sickest patients. We are seeing two things. One is in the last five years; we've seen a 33 percent increase in the number of our sickest patients calling for a medic. At the same time, we've also seen a significant increase in low acuity calls, patients that may not even need an ambulance, but are calling for an ambulance. The way that the system is set up today, we are potentially unnecessarily sending ambulances, emergency lights and sirens right of way to patients that don't necessarily need it, when over here we have a patient that needs it and that unit's now no longer available to respond to that patient. So, we are trying to reprioritize that a little bit so we can say, "You know what, through our dispatch process and our medical triage process, we can say this patient here can wait a little bit longer and we'll hold this unit available for that call that we believe is going to come in that could be a cardiac arrest or some other life-threatening emergency." It just helps us realign a little bit to be smarter with that.

Ms. Watlington said got you. Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Peterson said yes.

Councilmember Bokhari said thank you guys obviously for being here and what you do. My family thanks you as well. They were participants in your service about a year ago. So, we know how important you are. Just really quick though. I do want to make a point for follow up when we do this little analysis because I've been a proponent for at least having conversations on doing an analysis of policy across City to County and EMS and the fire department if not look for consolidation opportunities. My examples are all anecdotal, but in a lot of ride alongs with the fire department, particularly Station House

4 where it's Uptown where a lot of the calls are medical health related and not fire, I would just see things that felt to me like opportunities for operational refining. Where fire would get there first and then I was explained later after I asked some questions after seeing it a couple of time, it seemed like when EMS got there, they had an option to basically say they were going to accept this case, or they were not and then the fire department had to finish it off. So, while there may not be individual cost savings based on the work load in either division today, I have a real big hunch just based on the anecdotal things I've seen, that at a minimum if we don't go down the consolidation path, at just a policy alignment because there are two different municipalities plus all of the other municipal bodies, different budgets and P and Ls (Profits and Loss), I think there's an exercise that would behoove us to at least go through at some level. Would you agree or disagree that there is some operational efficiencies to be gained?

Mr. Peterson said I think that's why we're here, just because we've identified that they're operational efficiencies. Dr. Swanson did you want to say?

Mr. Bokhari said I don't mean within your shop; I mean within the broader protocols between fire and EMS.

Mr. Peterson said yes. So, I'll let Dr. Swanson answer.

Dr. Swanson said sure, number one, I'd like to know if that happens because that is not how we function. We don't make a decision whether or not we're going to accept the patient from the fire. Fire is often positioned the way they are for a quicker response, that's why we utilize them. When we arrive, 100 percent of the patients are accepted by the EMS system to now be further evaluated and determine what hospital they're going to go to, how they need to go to that hospital, and on many occasions, provide care and then not transport the patient at the patient's request.

Mr. Bokhari said just to be clear. I saw three. This is myself and I was kind of behind the scenes. So, people didn't know I was there, they were just operating. It wasn't cases for all three of those where someone needed to go to the emergency room, but they needed medical attention and the question was, "Are you going to take over the medical attention so we can go back to the fire house, or go to our next call?"

Dr. Swanson said that should be what occurs every time. If it doesn't, and I'm sure Chief Johnson and his folks would reach out to me to let me know what has occurred because 100 percent of the time when we arrive on scene, we obtain a report from the fire department and we assume care. Now some of that report may be that the patient does not want any further care. The patient has already stated they don't want to go to the hospital, they don't want any further evaluation and at that point, everybody leaves, but we don't leave, we being Medic, EMS leave to have fire finish the care of the patient. That is not the way the system is designed, that's not the way the protocols are written, and like I said, I'm sure Chief Johnson and his crew would reach out to me if that ever was the case.

Mr. Bokhari said I'll follow up offline. I just wanted to kind of relay that anecdotal observation I had.

Councilmember Anderson said thank you for your service to the community and what you all do every day to make Charlotte a safer City. I have a question about your numbers that you have on slide 4. So, for that year over year outlook from October 21 to October 31, you dispatched 12,901 medics into the City of Charlotte. Is that correct?

Dr. Swanson said so, that's 12,900 calls that once the call taking was completed, was felt to be a very low acuity and placed into the 60-minute response time category that we had to incorporate back in October of 2021 at the height of COVID when call volumes were very unpredictable. Low acuity calls were skyrocketing and having workforce needs, unfortunately EMS gets exposed to things like coronavirus as well and has to be out on quarantine. So, there was some significant staffing challenges, significant rise in low acuity calls. So, this number only represents those very low acuity calls. Of this time, in a

year's time, there was about 165,000 total calls and about 115,000 that result in transport to an emergency department. So, this is just a small fraction of the total call volume that we would respond to.

Ms. Anderson said understood. So, of this number of low acuity calls, you have 17 percent or a little less than 2,200 of these calls that were cancelled, but you actually had dispatched someone to go out?

Dr. Swanson said either prior to the ambulance being dispatched or while the ambulance was in route to the call, the call was then cancelled.

Ms. Anderson said so, I have two questions. How does that relate to a national average of percentage of cancelled calls and is there anything else that you can do in your call decision tree to identify more acutely some of these calls that might be cancelled?

Dr. Swanson said the protocol that Dr. Studnek referenced, Medical Priority Dispatching, it is an EMS call taking protocol that is very regimented, very well designed, used worldwide, answers millions and millions of calls a year and then divides up life threatening, the urgent and the low acuity calls, and then even a subcategory of calls that we, as Dr. Studnek mentioned, referred to the nurse advice line. These calls have a lot of track record to them. It tends to, as we know by our data, err to pick up the sickest calls. We know through research that there's only about five call types that time is of the essence. Cardiac arrest, severe difficulty breathing, severe trauma, myocardial infarction or a heart attack, STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction) and then some, not all, but some strokes.

We know that for the majority of calls, and again that's what we want to protect the response to, but it's a very small percentage of our overall call volume. It's five or six percent of the calls that we respond to have a time dependent need to them. So, we want to get to everybody. We understand that people have a medical need, and we want to respond to them, but to ensure that we can respond to the sickest of the sick, we can be slower in responding to those non-emergency calls, calls that we know through the interrogation, people are wide awake, they're not having any difficulty breathing, they don't have any life threats, they're not bleeding severely. We know that we can take time, pause and take time to send the best asset to the them versus simply sending the first asset to them, again, so we can protect the response to that small percentage of people that really have a time dependent need to them.

Ms. Anderson said okay, that makes sense. The other question I had is that you mentioned that utilizing sirens and lights automatically increases accidents by 50 percent. Is that an issue currently? Is that part of the motivating factor for you making this pivot? Do we have an issue with wrecks with our medics as they're being deployed?

Mr. Peterson said we do, and we have for I think ever since the inception of the agency that's been a concern. I do believe that we have a higher number of accidents with ambulances because of responding emergency, especially at intersections. Intersections and going through controlled lights with lights and sirens is dangerous.

Ms. Anderson said so, it'd be interesting to see the numbers, the performance as it relates to accident reduction after you execute this operational pivot so we can understand what that trend line is.

Mr. Peterson said agree. Thank you.

Ms. Anderson said thank you.

Councilmember Graham said I want to take the opportunity also to thank each and every one of you for what you do. It's a follow up to Councilmember Watlington's question about the 10:59 response, lights and sirens. I kind of had an uneasy feeling in my stomach when you said that, if someone had a heart attack or a stroke. So, what's the industry standards and help me understand the relationship when you say fire can get there in 6 minutes

versus medic in 10:59? Are they dispatched simultaneously for a call like that where he can get there quick to start immediate care until medic gets there?

Mr. Peterson said so, yes, that's my understanding. Once the call is screened by CMPD police, fire, or medic, they say medic, the call goes to our communications center where the interrogation of the caller happens and when we determine whether or not it needs a fire department response or not, then we get dispatched simultaneously currently. Correct?

Mr. Graham said so, those heart attacks, strokes, literally someone would be on the scene within six minutes of the call?

Mr. Peterson said yes sir. Yes.

Mr. Graham said then there's immediate care, you guys come for transport and to help with that care?

Mr. Peterson said right. So, remember 10 minutes and 59 seconds is the goal, 10 minutes and 59 seconds or less. Our average in Mecklenburg County right now for FY (Fiscal Year) 2022 average priority one response time is around 8 minutes and 23 seconds, and in Charlotte Central, it's about 8 minutes.

Mr. Graham said thank you.

Mr. Peterson said yes.

Councilmember Driggs said so I have three quick comments, they're really not intended to elicit a response. First of all, I think what you're proposing makes a heck of a lot of sense. So, rationalizing that way, including safety, absolutely. The other thing I would note though, is the time from when somebody calls 911 until the phone gets picked up is added to whatever your reaction time is. So, I would just encourage you to participate in efforts to shorten those times and also maybe through technology to develop a means of seeing to it that that life-or-death call gets through quickly because as I say, you can't do anything until somebody picks up the phone at 911 and passes the call through to you. I agree with Mr. Bokhari about the need for better integration of service delivery. One situation that occurs to me, a sad one, was when CMPD encountered Danquirs Franklin at Burger King and he was shot, and he lay there. There weren't medically qualified personnel for quite a while, and he lay there. Then they said, "We're waiting for Medic." So, if the police are responding in a situation like that, does the call go out immediately, "We may need an ambulance"? Telling somebody to stop whatever they're doing and get the hell over here, or did the call not go out until the shots were fired? So, that's just an example I think of how CMPD could coordinate to ensure that there are no long wait times when a potentially use of deadly force occurs.

Then the last thing is a question. I will relay a personal experience. About eight years ago, I was riding my bike and a car went through a stop sign in front of me and I hit it hard. So, I went over the top of the car and came down the other side. I would like to report I damaged the car. I ended up lying in the street dazed and the first thing I knew when I was aware of my surroundings, an ambulance, a fire truck and a police car were gathered around. So, I talked to them a bit. I said, "I think I'm okay," but I was obviously a little disoriented and they said, "We think you should probably go get yourself checked out at the emergency room." So, I thought, "fine." I got in the ambulance, walked to the ambulance, got in, was driven to the hospital, nobody was in the ambulance with me. I was just driven there and afterwards; I got a bill for \$900 for what was basically a three-mile cab ride. So, my question is are people, when they are in a traffic accident or something like that, do they have any awareness of what the liability might be if they are taken by an ambulance to the hospital? Do they have any chance to look at their insurance situation and their personal situation and decide whether or not they would prefer to get to the hospital by other means? No one told me and I just wonder how that works.

Mr. Peterson said so, that's a difficult question to answer because each individual person has their own either insurance company or maybe they don't have insurance. We don't have the ability or the luxury quite honestly in that emergent situation, especially in a trauma situation to stop and wait and try to figure out what kind of insurance they have. We don't do that. We do ask patients their demographic information and take that information as we can and then we figure that out just like healthcare in general and bill on the backend and that's how it works. So, we don't know if somebody has insurance or not or if their insurance will pay or not. It's really individual.

Mr. Driggs said right. I just think if there was some way to let the patient or others who might be on the scene understand that the decision to be taken by ambulance could involve what is for many people, a really big financial commitment, it would be helpful rather than find that out later. So, I'll just put that out there. Thank you.

Mr. Peterson said you're welcome.

Councilmember Ajmera said this is the first time we are discussing Medic. So, you might get questions that are probably very 101. So, forgive me for that because I'm just getting started on Medic 101 here. I'm not exactly sure what exactly are you looking for from the Council. Are you looking for some sort of green flag that we approve of this change? What exactly are you looking for?

Mr. Peterson said no ma'am. Thank you for asking that. The purpose of us being here tonight is just simply to inform the Council of changes that Medic intends to make hopefully by the end of the first quarter of this year. These changes have been unanimously approved by our Medical Control Board and our Agency Board of Commissioners. Our Agency Board of Commissioners is appointed by the Mecklenburg County Commissioners to oversee Medic. So, these are the approved changes, and the point now is just to make sure that all the Councils in our community, including this one have an opportunity to ask us questions and give us feedback and to hear what we intend to do because it impacts everyone in the community.

Ms. Ajmera said got it. So, it's more of an outreach, just a heads up.

Mr. Peterson said exactly.

Ms. Ajmera said here are the changes that we are making.

Mr. Peterson said yes.

Ms. Ajmera said is Medic funded by the County?

Mr. Peterson said so, we are primarily funded by our bills for service. That covers about 75 percent of our revenue. The other 25 percent of our revenue comes in the form of County subsidies. So, yes, we are funded in part by the County.

Ms. Ajmera said okay. So, I understand the goal here is to prioritize calls that are absolutely sickest calls like heart attacks, some strokes, heavy bleeding issues. I understand the goal here, but since this is the first time many of us have listened to the Medic presentation, especially I have, I'm going to probably do some more work here and I might reach out to you to understand the model here. I guess I'm trying to understand what other cities have this model or the changes that you are proposing? Are other cities moving towards this direction to really prioritize sickest calls so that they can respond in the quickest way, especially saving more lives as a result of these changes?

Mr. Peterson said there are and there's a lot of discussion amongst the EMS community that this is the right direction for us to go as an EMS community in the future. There are others that we have modeled this off of; however, I will tell you that we are at the forefront of this, and Medic is in part leading the way on the charge to make response configuration changes like this.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, so is Mecklenburg County one of the first ones that's taking a lead?

Mr. Peterson said we'll be the first in the State that I'm aware of to do this.

Ms. Ajmera said first in the State but not first in the nation?

Mr. Peterson said just to be clear, everyone does prioritized calls. So, every EMS system across the country that has 911 callers, those 911 call takers do prioritize, it's just how we do it and the methodology of how we dispatch units is what we're changing.

Ms. Ajmera said yes. So, that's what I'm trying to understand. What methodology are other large cities our size are using to prioritize calls? I understand it may not be the same as Mecklenburg, but I'd be curious as to what methodology are there. Is this the future for the EMS community? Is this where the majority of the municipalities are moving to? That's the sort of insight that I'm looking for.

Mr. Peterson said yes. I do believe that this is the future of EMS, what we are doing here in Mecklenburg County.

Ms. Ajmera said so, as far as the City Council is concerned because I know you all work very closely with the fire department, I'm just trying to understand the impact of this change on our City employees, especially fire and police. So, Chief Johnson, if you could just elaborate on that impact if any, of this change and how we should be preparing?

Chief Johnson said okay. So, some of the stuff that you weren't able to see that JP has shared with us as we went through the many months of this process is, the calls that the first responders, the Charlotte Fire Department is going to go on is where we can make an actual difference in the patient's life. We were able to sit down and go through about 1,800 determinants. So, when they talk about their medical priority dispatch, as you answer questions it goes down into an algorithm and determines resources and whether it's an emergency or non-emergency response. Right now, with the prediction is that the fire department will see a decrease of about 10 percent of EMS calls which means currently we're going on calls where it's low acuity and we're not really making a difference. So, we all have limited resources. Some of the information we'll talk about in February talks about our increased response times because we ran over 143,000 calls last year. The majority of them are EMS as Mayor Pro Tem has identified, but this will be a reduction in that and make our units more readily available for the sickest patients, for structure fires or other emergencies that the fire department is responsible for.

Ms. Ajmera said okay. So, from what I hear, this proposed change will help in terms of from the fire department?

Chief Johnson said yes. It's actually going to make sure that when we're going on a call, we're going to make a difference.

Ms. Ajmera said it is for fire related and not necessarily EMS related?

Chief Johnson said no. It is EMS related.

Ms. Ajmera said no, I'm talking about when you get a call. I guess I'm trying to understand how would this impact our fire employees? Does that mean that our fire employees would have less calls because we are prioritizing?

Chief Johnson said it's less calls because of the reconfiguration, which means on a call that we go on today, if we've done the reconfiguration and we've looked at it, first responders, the fire department may not go on that same call once we do this because that's a very low acuity call. We see the numbers up there. Maybe the call we go on today maybe now is getting moved to the 60-minute or 90-minute bucket and you don't need a first responder. So, we will see an overall reduction of about 10 percent in first responder calls from the Charlotte Fire Department.

Ms. Ajmera said got it. Okay. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said alright. Thank you very much for the presentation. Your next stop I think is another community in our County.

Mr. Peterson said it is tomorrow.

Mayor Lyles said so, good luck with that.

Mr. Peterson said thank you very much.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. I think that maybe I'm the only one, and maybe Mr. Mitchell that remembers when there was a private service that provided this. It didn't involve government at all in Charlotte.

ITEM NO. 10: AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER, SEWERS AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISCHARGE RESTRICTIONS ORDINANCE NO. 464

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Anderson and carried unanimously to adopt an ordinance approving amendments to Sections 23-41 and 23-126 of the City Code.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 65, at Page(s) 403.

BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 11: AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Mayor Lyles said we're now going into the business items. I want to make sure that I remind everyone we do have a closed session at the end of our business meeting. So, we have two closed sessions because they have to have two motions, but one place to sit for both of them.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Driggs to (A) Approve an additional \$800,000 HOME Investment Partnership Program allocation to Urban Trends Real Estate, Inc. for Lakewood Apartments, (B) Approve an \$894,000 Community Development Block Grant allocation to Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region for East Lane Townhomes, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to execute, amend, and renew contracts and other required documents to complete the transactions approved by these actions.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Mitchell, Molina, Watlington, and Winston

NAYS: Councilmember Mayfield

ITEM NO. 12: AMENDMENT OF THE GREEN SOURCE ADVANTAGE SERVICE AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract amendment to the service agreement for solar energy generation with Duke Energy Corporation, Ecoplexus

Inc., Olin Creek Farm Solar, LLC, and their respective subsidiaries and affiliates for the city's participation in Duke Energy's Green Source Advantage Program, for a term of up to twenty years.

Isabelle Elizondo, 425 Wilcox Street said hi. Good evening, I'm Isabelle Elizondo. I'm coming here to ask you to vote yes on the Olin Creek Solar Power Project. I'm one of your younger speakers here tonight. I'm 23 years old and I live and work here in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a young person, I'll have to contend with the repercussions of decisions that leaders like all of you make today. Actions from leaders thus far has put us on the path to reaching the 1.5-degree Celsius limit set by the Human International Panel on Climate Change within a decade. This limit on temperature rise is linked with irreversible climate tipping points such as the melting of the Greenland ice sheet. What all this jargon means is that within my lifetime, within your children's lifetime and within their children's lifetime, we're going to see unprecedented storms, crippling droughts, devastating sea level rise, freshwater surges, famine, extreme heat and much more. These impacts will be unfairly felt upon the marginalized communities across the world. Every action towards mitigating these devastating effects help to create a more livable earth for the youth of today and tomorrow. As such, the City's goals in achieving carbon free municipal buildings by 2030 is really important.

The solar farm at Olin Creek is a critical piece in reaching these goals and I urge you to vote yes to continue this project despite the price increases. These price increases, which amount to around \$1 per resident of added or reconciled cost to the City budget are worth it. They are worth it to bridge the gap and the carbon free goal by 35 percent. They're worth it to begin transitioning the grid out of fossil fuel dominance. They're worth it to begin cutting carbon emissions now instead of further down the line. They are worth it for the City to show it can take meaningful climate action and they are worth it to give my generation and those that follow me a shot at the future.

The solar farm may be a local action, but it has global repercussions that will echo. I'll reiterate. I'm coming here today to ask you to vote yes on the solar project. It is an essential small step towards a larger goal of limiting global warming. In addition, I hope that this City will set more ambitious climate goals in the future. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Tina Katsanos, 6620 Cashion Road, Huntersville said hi. Good evening. My name is Tina Katsanos. I'm here representing the Charlotte Mecklenburg NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), the Charlotte Mecklenburg Climate Leaders and the Climate Reality Project. We have enumerated the compelling reasons to support the Olin Creek Solar Farm in previous emails to you. I trust you had a chance to read those.

Tonight, I would like to highlight the reasons for why we find ourselves in this predicament. For the past 70 years the general public and government officials have been purposefully misinformed about human caused climate change. Fossil fuel industries have used a strategy of climate change science denial. They then shifted their tactics to casting doubt on the human causes. Now as they are no longer able to effectively deny the science, and no longer able to use doubt as their greatest weapon for immobilizing action, they have shifted their focus to delay. Delaying of the transition to renewables. Please do not do the bidding of the fossil fuel industries by delaying progress towards our 2030 carbon reduction goals. Without the Olin Solar Farm, we will not meet those goals. If you vote no on this project, I can only assume that fossil fuel funded disinformation campaigns are holding you hostage, that you are confused and/or unaware of the human health costs and the severe economic hardships climate change causes and will continue to cause without the transition to renewables.

Despite the added immediate cost for moving forward, the Olin Creek Solar Project is an important opportunity for the City of Charlotte to say, "Yes, we understand climate justice as a civil rights issue." An opportunity for the City to say, "Yes, we will do this because we understand the moral imperative to safeguard Black indigenous, people of color

communities who are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.” An opportunity for the City to say, “Yes, we care about the long term viable of our economy and we are a City that will serve as a beacon of hope and an exemplary model for other cities as they also begin the transition to renewable energy.” No more denial, no more doubt, no more delay. Please vote yes on the solar project. Thank you.

Councilmember Ajmera said I think our speakers did a great job talking about why we need to do this and why it's needed now versus later. Last year our Council approved equity and governance framework and when I look at this, this is not about the SEAP (Strategic Energy Action Plan), this is really about equity because clearly this will help us improve our air quality and health outcomes as we know that carbon pollution has a disproportionate effect on communities of color and based on the local and climate models that was developed by economists who was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2018, in this model, this project alone is modeled to avoid \$20 million in expected health expenses in Mecklenburg as a region. So, as a community we are at an inflection point where we have to decide whether we continue with the status quo and let the short-term economic decisions negatively impact our health outcomes and our environment, or we have a choice to be bold and seize the moment and address one of the most pressing issues that our generation faces which is the carbon pollution. So, I urge my colleagues to support this, seize the moment and be bold in implementing our equity goals, our SEAP goals and for the better health outcomes for all of our residents. Thank you.

Councilmember Bokhari said despite the speakers' point that there's only a single reason not to vote for this, there are actually many reasons and I'm not going to be supporting it for two specifically. One is after digging in deep with staff, it's clear to me that we're not an evolved state of maturity in this space where it actually makes sense right now from a fiscal perspective and it's great to do things and push the envelope for things you want to achieve, but just spending money on topics at a point where they need more time to evolve and R&D (Research and Development) just to say we're doing it doesn't make a ton of sense. I put that aside though because the bigger reason why I'm not voting it is I've had multiple conversations now with Duke Energy and we have a real problem today with our energy grid and the level of infrastructure investment that we've put in it. If you've experienced rolling black outs around here, this is just the beginning. So, the thought of going into some kind of joint venture to spend money on a nice to have that isn't evolved enough. While, by all means, I believe that at some point in the future, critically important for us to head down that path. That point in technology is not today and certainly not before we figure out the basic blocking and tackling of making sure energy is at people's doorsteps. To my colleagues, I want you to know, if you're not aware of how bad the current situation is with infrastructure investment with Duke and the power grid, and what we're going to need to do, I was very frightened by some of the things I've learned in the last couple of weeks, and I'll be hopefully bringing some of those updates to you guys soon. Thank you.

Councilmember Driggs said I think Mr. Bokhari makes some excellent points and I'm frankly a little conflicted, but I do think we have a SEAP, and we have to put our money where our mouth is. The question is, how much money? So, it was, I guess, a little disappointing that the first time we heard about this, it was actually going to be a net saver and then we found out it was a cost involved. In my mind that required a re-examination to try to reach a level of comfort that the amount of investment that was called for was commensurate with the kind of difference we were able to make. At the end of the day, quite a high percentage, a substantial percentage of the City's power consumption can be developed, not directly, but an amount that electricity can be developed through this solar contract that represents a significant percentage of the total power consumption of the City and this does align with our plan. I also don't want an appearance that on one side of the aisle we're one thing and on the other side of the aisle we see it differently. I think we all understand that we need to be responsible about our environmental challenges. So, on that basis while actually agreeing that we have some pretty scary things in store, I do intend to support this, and I feel that the value for this investment in terms of the amount of electricity we could create from solar is justifiable. Thank you.

Councilmember Winston said I just want points of clarification that this in fact will be a City investment in our power infrastructure, in our energy infrastructure. My colleague just mentioned the need for that and that's what this is. Also, just like a point of clarification for the first time in the history of Duke Energy, as customers we all experienced the rolling blackouts over the holiday season of 2022. Those rolling blackouts were in fact caused by the deficiencies in the coal infrastructure that has been heavily invested in for over 100 years, which again belabors the point that we need to be investing in new more efficient and more reliable energy generation needs, which in fact this is. So, if you would like to do that, I would encourage all of my colleagues to vote yay on this item. Thank you.

Councilmember Mitchell said Phil and Sarah, I just have a couple of questions. I'm in support of it as well, but I just want to make sure that some of the things my colleagues brought to our attention, from a staff's perspective, could you address them for us. Particularly the relationship with Duke Energy.

Sarah Hazel, General Services said so, are you looking to understand what the relationship is with Duke Energy and the relationship with the solar developer? So, an explanation?

Mr. Mitchell said yes.

Ms. Hazel said so, this is a three-way agreement. The City has an agreement with the solar developer, and we also have an agreement with Duke Energy. Duke and the solar developer have an agreement. So, they agreed to put the energy on the grid, we agree to pay a product charge for the renewable energy which we pay through Duke Energy bills like we typically do for the amount of energy that's produced by the solar farm.

Mr. Mitchell said so, I'm assuming by the partnership, Duke hasn't complained about any of the potential issues in the future once Council votes on this topic?

Ms. Hazel said no, it's Duke Energy's program. So, this is a program that they created to support renewable energy and to support large customers who want to invest in bringing more renewable energy online.

Mr. Mitchell said thank you Sarah.

Councilmember Mayfield said Sarah, if you can stay there, please. I hear the concerns and the challenges of my colleague. I share some of the same challenges just with this particular relationship with Duke Energy. We saw the impact over the Christmas holiday throughout the State with the rolling blackouts. We see now, media attention and commercials regarding Duke Energy asking for authority for yet another rate increase, meaning whatever funds that may have been lost for them to keep up with the power needs today that is yet another cost that's being rolled over to all of its customers. In this particular agreement, we basically have no choice but to partner with Duke Energy. We don't have another choice in the region. So, that's one thing I want people to understand. If we're going to move to a much more sustainable option for our City, which we need to do, we're limited on who we can partner with. Do we know if there's any correlation between us having this relationship and the funding that we're now having to put forward when previously it was to be no cost? Now that there is a cost, if Duke continues to seek a pay increase from our North Carolina General Assembly, how would that also impact solar discussions moving forward? Is anyone on our legal team or on our environmental team even asking that question as far as how the role with Duke Energy, since they are the major partner in this, how is that going to potentially impact our customers, meaning our residents in the City of Charlotte?

Ms. Hazel said so, I can speak to this particular agreement. So, we pay the premium, the product charge for the renewable energy. So, this is not something that would impact customers, it's impacting us as a customer and a large customer who's reaping the benefits of the renewable energy that's being created by the solar farm. To I think your larger question around what the impact is of bringing on renewable energy to the right payers, these are the types of conversations that are happening at the North Carolina

Utilities Commission are separate from this particular agreement but are certainly things that are important to continue to consider.

Ms. Mayfield said I appreciate that clarification because some conversations are blended. It's not necessarily understood by all of us, all of the constituency, this business conversation that we're having and the rate payer as an individual Duke customer, how that conversation goes when we look at the impact of everything that's happening with Duke and this particular conversation for those who may be tuning in or sharing or even for any of us. Let's say I have absolutely no idea. Explain it to me in a way that's simple where I can then share with the community, which is why I asked the questions. So, thank you for explaining that separation and hopefully that will help some of those who may be tuning in.

Mayor Lyles said this is an important part of what we did when we approved our Energy Plan. We said that we wouldn't do things and just put words on paper, that we would act on it. So, taking action is important, not just because of what we committed to do, but also because doing something differently and assessing it is the only way to move forward and what we have to do as we are changing. This is happening to us in so many ways. When we talk about what is current and where we're trying to go, the chips, the ideas of what opportunities we have, I hope that we consider our Energy Action Plan just as significant as any other source of work that we do in this community. I think it's really important for us to continue on this and I hope that this vote will be supported.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Driggs, Graham, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, Watlington, and Winston

NAYS: Councilmember Bokhari

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ITEM NO. 13: RESIDENT UTILITY ASSISTANCE AND DISPLACEMENT SUPPORT

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, and seconded by Councilmember Graham to (A) Approve the use of \$1,936,602.82 from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to provide utility assistance for Charlotte Water customers, (B) Approve \$1,936,602.82 in Emergency Rental Assistance Fund allocations to support Charlotte residents experiencing displacement, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate, execute, amend, and renew contracts as needed to complete these transactions.

Councilmember Mayfield said so when we're looking at A, B and C for this approval, B being the approval for Emergency Rental Assistance Fund allocation as well as utilizing the funding to pay for utilities. Here's the question that I have. Last year or so, we had a conversation where we had residents because of error, don't really know why, had a \$1,000 water bill, another one, someone received an \$8,000 water bill. These aren't individuals that necessarily qualify for our assistance programs, but we know that there's clearly some type of challenge with either updated the meter, water was running and it wasn't caught. Would individuals in those situations that have these astronomical water bills, their water bill goes from under \$100 to over \$800 in a month or we realize we've been under charging which is our responsibility. So, we should just incorporate that in, but we didn't hit you with a bill. Are those individuals in a position to receive access to funding in this allocation? I'm trying to see who is the target for this, and if that target is broad enough to meet the needs? Because if our water bill is what's going to cause that undue burden and hardship, I would like for it to be considered.

Shawn Heath, Housing Director said thank you Councilmember Mayfield. So, this program is really designed for low-income customers that are either in a delinquent status or possibly under a deferred payment arrangement with an overdue balance. So, it wouldn't necessarily be designed to address the specific scenarios you're alluding to, unless it just so happens that those particular customers are income eligible. Director Charles would like to add a little commentary.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you Director Charles.

Mayor Lyles said sure. Thank you.

Angela Charles, Charlotte Water said good evening, Mayor, Council, Manager. Councilmember Mayfield, if a customer, whether they're low income or not has a leak or a pipe that has burst that's caused an astronomical bill, we do have a leak adjustment policy. So, if that particular customer would call 311, we even have inspectors who can go out and inspect the dwelling and then there's a process. Even once they've gotten it fixed, we can look at the meter and look at the usage and even tell that the leak has been fixed. So, there's a way to address usage that is beyond the norm. That's part of the process.

Ms. Mayfield said so, Mr. Manager, I would like for us to consider when we're talking about over a \$1 million and some change, one, it would be really interesting if we have this dollar amount of individuals that have delinquencies or need assistance.

Ms. Charles said right.

Ms. Mayfield said yet, we know that either computer updates, clerical error, whatever it is on our end, on the City's end, that adjustments have been made.

Ms. Charles said we will adjust for that.

Ms. Mayfield said individuals who may not qualify for government assistance, but this new bill, we have this long process. There are individuals out there who have received a bill that is three times the amount that they're used to. There's an error somewhere. What I'm asking is if we're going to say we're going to help, the help can't just be for those in crisis if we can help to prevent someone going into crisis because this bill that may have been triggered because we realize that we may have been under charging in the system. So, then we send you a bill for whatever this back due amount is for however many years. That's something that falls on us. So, I'm just wondering, because again, I cannot imagine that we have almost \$2 million plus in back assistance that's needed to pay off. I would just like for us to consider because we don't get that information. We don't get a breakdown. That's confidential information. I don't need to know someone's individual bill amount. I just would like for us to consider when we're allocating this money that we look at our customers who are being impacted and if you received \$1,000 bill, a \$3,000, a \$8,000 bill for whatever reason, then we need to look at how can we help you on the front end so that we're not the cause of your credit being negatively impacted or other bills in your household not being taken care of because you're trying to figure out how to pay a water bill that you didn't know was coming your way. So, that's for you to figure out Mr. Manager with your team.

Ms. Charles said yes. Can I respond to that?

Ms. Mayfield said yes ma'am.

Ms. Charles said we agree. So, as a result of COVID, we set up a customer care team to work with the citizens who are customers of Charlotte Water and what we do is, we just don't depend on this funding but also funding throughout the community. So, since January of 2020 we've gotten in over \$6 million from non-profits, from the federal programs to help folks in our community who have excessive bills or who have fallen behind for any reason.

The second thing is, is that if we go out and we find that there's a problem with the meter, we will adjust. So, if the cause is something that has to do with our electronics, because you know we don't physically read now, we've got the technology, but if the cause is due to electronics or something due to the fault of Charlotte Water, we will adjust that bill. So, again your point is very well taken. We are working on a nonprofit that we think will help us long term deal with these types of issues in our community, but we do have the

philosophy that we want to do everything that we can to help folks who are the customers and our rate payers.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you.

Councilmember Bokhari said yes, I won't belabor the point, but I'm going to vote no on this just because I find it a stretch right now in the first quarter of 2023 that the majority of this money is going to go towards true pandemic related recovery impacts versus a more tactical approach to entitlement spending. I think there could've been so many more things we could've done strategically that would've been opportunity incensing with this money, but it is what it is. I know that we've just got to move on. So, I'm a no.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Driggs, Graham, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, Watlington, and Winston

NAYS: Councilmember Bokhari

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ITEM NO. 14: CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION SUPPORT

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to (A) Approve the use of \$2,000,000 from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in support of Charlotte Rescue Mission's overall capital campaign to construct a new building and enable expanded programming for men experiencing homelessness, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to execute, amend and renew contracts as needed to complete this transaction.

Councilmember Driggs said I just had a question. Do I understand correctly that this frees up \$2 million that we were going to use that will be available for other purposes?

Mayor Lyles said correct.

Mr. Driggs said so, it really is just relabeling the amount of money?

Mayor Lyles said yes.

Mr. Driggs said okay, I'm fine. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said it's the appropriate source of money.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

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ITEM NO. 15: ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SYSTEM AND RELATED SERVICES

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield and seconded by Councilmember Anderson to (A) Approve the purchase of an Enterprise Resource Planning system including implementation, subscription, and other related services from cooperative contracts, (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Accenture LLP to implement the city's Workday Enterprise Resource Planning system for an initial term of up to 28 months under the Texas Department of Information Resources agreement (#DIR-CPO-4923), (C) Approve a contract with Workday, Inc. to provide and support the city's Workday Enterprise Resource Planning system for an initial term of 10 years under the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance/Region 14 Education Service Center agreement (Contract #01-103, RFP #25-19), (D) Authorize the City Manager to

extend the cooperative contracts for additional terms as long as orders placed under the cooperative contracts are in effect, at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contracts, (E) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute various other contracts that support the Enterprise Resource Planning system for services such as third-party applications, software implementation, change management, data conversion, hardware, and other specialized implementation, training, consulting, or support services, (F) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved, and (G) Authorize the City Manager to purchase such additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance, and support as required to maintain the system for as long as the city uses the system.

Councilmember Driggs said I think this is something we need to do. This is an overhaul of our IT (Information Technology) systems. I did talk to Mr. Bergman before about how exactly this is being made to fit into our budget and because it's not something that was part of our plan a few years ago. So, I'd just encourage us all as a group to be mindful of whatever displacement is happening because we are now making room for \$60 million that we need for this purpose, particularly because a lot of the money is coming from PAYGO (pay as you go) and I challenge anybody around this dais to describe how that works. The PAYGO money is not subject to a public vote. It's different from debt-funded capital spending. So, the PAYGO is an account from which a lot of things can get paid for either a current payment of capital items or programs. So, in situations like this, and in my mind, this applies also to the settlement that was recently announced on water, we just need to be clear that we're finding \$9 million that wasn't necessarily in our plans a few years ago. I think we need to be clearer about what we're not going to be able to do in order to make room for that. I do think we should make room for it. So, I'm going to support it, but this is just a general comment on how these things get funded. Going forward, I would hope that for one we look a little closer at PAYGO and what kind of things are being paid for from that account. I think everybody knows PAYGO is funded by a set aside in our tax and then it's also funded by any surpluses we have from normal operations, but what is the breakdown of the use of that money? So, that's just an observation going forward. I will support this. Thank you.

Councilmember Bokhari said I'll just re-emphasize what I said the last time we had this presentation which is in the private sector I've seen many ERPs (Enterprise Resource Planning) happen and either the people who bring them forth are heroes or they are fired and it's usually nothing in between those two. It's a massive undertaking. I have a ton of faith in our City CIO (Chief Information Officer). My assumption here is, given this is like the single biggest technology spend the City has made in modern history, that we are approving a sophisticated approach which is starting us off with Workday, with I think Accenture and we're going to have updates and have other touch points of approvals, and this isn't the only time and all of a sudden you don't need approvals from us. Is that correct?

Unknown said correct.

Mr. Bokhari said got it. Alright.

Councilmember Anderson said I am very happy that we are taking this task on now. To go through an ERP transformation is a heavy lift as Mr. Bokhari said. However, to rationalize the applications that we run as a City and to streamline so many processes from hire to retire, to our procure to pay processes is critical. As we see, this is a multiyear endeavor. Part of being successful in these ERP projects is to ensure that we have the right partner to begin with at the table and I believe we do have the right partner. So, I'm very confident that we'll be able to execute through this and I plan on supporting it. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. I think this is one of the most important decisions we'll make on this agenda, and we've done a lot of hard work here. The idea of how an organization works with technology and advance, it is way past due and we really do appreciate our

CIO. More importantly, I think if we do this really well, that we'll see the benefits that will come out of for so many ways in terms of the lack of communication between our systems now, is basically a lack of communication among what things we're trying to accomplish. So, this kind of builds it all in and you're right Mr. Bokhari, it's probably one of the best investments in the longest time for something that we're doing. So, thank you.

Mr. Bokhari said or the worst.

Mayor Lyles said well, we're going to be optimistic about this. Thank you everyone.

Councilmember Ajmera said so to follow up on Mr. Driggs' point, when I looked at that \$59 million and then \$4.5 million of operating expenditures to maintain this ERP system, what gives me faith is that original investment of \$10 million came from the federal government that we got that really kick started this project to get us to this point. So, as I think some of my colleagues have shared this, that this is way past due especially when it comes to our technology. So, I look forward to maybe along the way as we look at PAYGO funds, hopefully we will get some more federal dollars from our infrastructure to continue to find creative ways to fund this as we have found in the past, especially the \$10 million. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said alright. I think everyone has commented.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

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ITEM NO. 16: CENTRAL AVENUE PROPERTY TRANSACTION

Motion was made by Councilmember Molina and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to (A) Adopt a resolution approving the sale of city-owned property located at 5516 Central Avenue (Parcel Identification Number 103-021-02) to Starmount Management, LLC for \$2.76 million; and (B) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to close the transaction as authorized.

Councilmember Molina said I first of all want to take a moment to highlight this particular agenda item and give the reasoning behind how I came to a yes and I think that's important to the people that we serve and it's important to the community members that will also share in this sale and hopefully what will be a great addition to not only Charlotte, but the greater North Carolina area. So, I'm going to start with the quantitative information because that's important. The numbers need to make sense. So, when I was looking over the information provided to me for this particular project, it's actually the sale. So, the sale of an item is a little bit different than a rezoning, but still, for the purposes of what the intention behind the sale is, I took a look behind the scenes to find the quantitative information to make sure that it makes sense. Is there a need? So, the need is based on an issue. It's a critical health gap for behavioral health in not only Charlotte, but in North Carolina. So, Atrium Health has seen a 65 percent increase in emergency department patients needing psychiatric care and for children in need of psychiatric care the demand tripled in the wake of the pandemic. Young people have experienced higher levels of depression with 44 percent of US high school students in 2021 reporting persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness. North Carolina right now, it ranks 44th nationally in access to mental health care and 45th overall in pediatric mental health care. A lot of that is largely based on the fact that we don't have facilities that can properly facilitate that need in our area.

North Carolina has ranked 44th nationally of course across the nation in mental health care and UNC's medical main psychiatric clinic saw 150 percent increase in patients per month from Spring 2020 to Spring 2022. This is the most relevant piece of information that actually I could get my hands on, 1 in 5 Charlotteans, that's 20 percent of the population lives with a mental illness as a diagnosis. So, we definitely have a need for it. I mean there's more data, I won't bore you with the data, but more importantly and more relevant to Charlotte, I want to emphasize and first off I want to thank the community members who have taken the time to meet with me. The members of FinCo, ECON,

Charlotte East, Eastway-Sheffield, I depend on those leaders to give me perspective and I've met with them now three times, and there are others who have come to virtual meetings. In person, we recently had an intergovernmental summit on the East Side. It was this past Saturday and I met with those leaders in addition to other opportunities to speak to them to get perspective and see what their feelings were. I actually met with the purchaser of the property as well to have him to personally deliver the information so that they can better understand what this transaction meant to our particular community and what it means for the City overall. So, part of the incentive for the East Side and even the overall Charlotte area was that Starmount Healthcare has plans to create approximately 145 jobs that serve in pediatric behavioral health. They'll have an extensive array of need of course and hopefully the projection, the promise is to partner with institutions like CPCC (Central Piedmont Community College) and UNCC (University of North Carolina at Charlotte) for social work, for clinical psychology programs, to develop training, vocational programs and to form an actual cohesive relationship to keep that pipeline of talent growing.

In Charlotte, and especially in East Charlotte, we have a specific need for living wage positions in Charlotte. So, with all of that being said, the commitment from Starmount to serve the people from all socioeconomic levels in this facility was something that I came to a conclusion that could actually be an opportunity for, again, not only just East Charlotte, but Charlotte overall and of course there being precious few. This would be one of the first of its kind, not only in Charlotte but in the State of North Carolina. Starmount has committed to working with us to put an emphasis on hiring local talent from the East Charlotte community. That's very important because East Charlotte continues to grow. It must grow with the community and bring opportunities to the people who live and East Charlotte and who make the community so special. This project is another step forward in revitalizing the East Side which is extremely important to me. We have been working for a long, long time to make progress in East Charlotte and there has been a lot of talk about what could be done, but we're finally starting to see real progress as ideas become reality. Ideas like this one with the promise of actually creating economic growth and development opportunities in Charlotte is an absolute plus and where it brings economic development growth opportunities not only to East Charlotte but of course the greater Charlotte community.

We continue to make progress in our Corridors of Opportunity playbook and are turning ideas into reality with a business hub and the incubation program and planning for the economic cultural trail. Now this project, which will revitalize a building that has sat dormant for many, many years, talk is becoming action. That's my words, the way I feel about it and the East Side community is moving forward together. I want to thank again my East Side leaders, the East Side community overall, Starmount, our City staff for helping me come to a conclusion, giving me real data and information to help me arrive at a decision that makes sense for not only our stakeholders in the community but also to deliver that information to my colleagues here at the dais. I want to thank my colleagues and I ask you all, as you've all heard, to consider supporting this item along with me tonight.

Councilmember Driggs said just briefly. We're selling the property at a market price that was determined last July and we've deducted from that \$170,000 as an incentive for job creation which we're going to get back. I thought this construction of the contract was a little odd, but not worth opposing something that I do think is essential. Back when I was a healthcare analyst quite a while ago, mental health was a very underserved area in the health care industry. Lengths of stay at mental hospitals went down from 24 days to about four to five days. Recidivism went up and a lot of the difficulty we experience with homelessness and crime and so on is because of untreated mental health issues. So, on that basis alone I am supportive of this. I applaud Starmount and I look forward to voting for it. Thank you.

Councilmember Anderson said thank you Madam Mayor. In addition to what my colleagues have said, I would also like to say that this is exactly what the East Side has been asking for. We understand that it's a bit of a job desert and we are working hard to create jobs that East Side residents can access. However, they have been asking for

good paying jobs within the East corridor. I think this is a great example of how we can continue to work with parties like Starmount to come to the table to bring the jobs to the community. So, I will be supporting this and I hope there are other opportunities for the East Side as well as we move forward.

Councilmember Aimer said I agree with my colleagues. This creates opportunities. Many residents when it comes to jobs and employment, they're having to commute outside of the district. So, this helps us address congestion and traffic if people can find employment near where they live. So, this is a no brainer, creates jobs opportunities. As Ms. Molina mentioned earlier, this fills the void that we have in underserved areas especially in behavioral health. Certainly, I appreciate the work that Starmount has done, especially during the pandemic in serving underserved areas where we don't find many of these services. So, I appreciate Mr. [inaudible] and his team for being there for the community. I remember calling him during baby formula shortage and his team was there to assist us. I certainly appreciated what you have done for the East Side, for the West Side, especially for our underserved communities. We are very grateful for this. Tracy, I look to you. Hopefully you'll bring more of this for the East and West Side where we need to create more jobs and opportunities for our residents where they live. Tall order, but certainly I appreciate the work that staff has done, especially Tracy, you and your team, to bring us to this point. I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Councilmember Bokhari said thank you. Yes, I'll actually echo that point to Ms. Dodson and team. I think you guys paired with all the other departments are really starting to kind of figure out a rhythm for how to get the full viewing and weight of experts and opinions on it and start to bring it through and I do look forward to seeing how that evolves. I just wanted to take a second to give credit and thanks to one of my personal friends, Britney Broyhill of Atrium Health. It was over a year ago that she brought the importance to me personally of pediatric behavioral health. It wasn't really something on my radar and since then I've learned a lot. It's been interesting to watch all this unfold. I'll just say a couple of points that I think should be known by the community. In a nationwide study between 2015 and 2020, they found that mental health visits in pediatric emergency departments increased by eight percent annually with 13 percent of those patients revisiting within six months. That was 8 percent greater than any other emergency department visits, and nearly one in three of those visits are classified as suicidal thoughts or self-harm. You got to think about the fact that, that was 2015 to 2020. That doesn't even include the pandemic and how that influenced it. It doesn't even include the impacts of fentanyl over the last three years, so many other things. This is a growing and deeply specialized need that is having to be addressed by general ER (emergency room) practitioners because we lack the dedicated resources across the entire country. We have heartbreaking local stories, where accessing care added to the nightmare many parents are facing every single day.

So, each day in North Carolina over 250 people are waiting for behavioral health services in emergency departments and more than 50 of them are youth. So, many of them end up languishing in ERs for days because North Carolina has historically lacked the dedicated resources to address these needs. Many in our own community have to drive hundreds of miles to even find help and I'm just grateful that all ends today thanks to Starmount and what that great team is doing.

Mayor Lyles said alright. Thank you. So, I think we've heard from everyone that wishes to speak.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 557-558.

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ITEM NO. 17: LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT JW CLAY PARKING DECK

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, seconded by Councilmember Anderson and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution to approve a lease agreement with Carolina Fit Foods, LLC, operating as Project Lean Nation, with a 63-month term for retail space in the JW Clay Parking Deck, (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the lease for up to one, 60-month term, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.

Mayor Lyles said I really like the Project Lean. It's almost February. So, everybody can stop what they were doing in January and get better at this, I guess.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 53, at Page(s) 559.

ITEM NO. 5: CLOSED SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried unanimously to go into closed session to view a recording released pursuant to NC General Statute § 143.318.11 (a) (10).

The meeting was recessed at 9:15 p.m. to go into closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 5 Hours, 39 Minutes
Minutes completed: June 12, 2024