

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for Action Review on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 5:05 p.m. in Room 267 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, Renee Johnson, Lawana Mayfield, and Marjorie Molina.

ABSENT: Councilmember Victoria Watlington.

ABSENT UNTIL NOTED: Councilmembers Tiawana Brown and James Mitchell.

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ACTION REVIEW

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

Mayor Lyles said good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the Charlotte City Council meeting for February 12, 2024, and I want to call this meeting this order. We would like to begin with introductions. This meeting is our pre-meeting before we go downstairs for our meeting that we'll discuss our policy items, but right now we have our consent items.

Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget said and Madam Mayor, I believe 49 and 50 were deferred by staff.

Mayor Lyles said aside from 35, 49 and 50. The staff pulled 49 and 50, and Ms. Mayfield asked for a comment on 35.

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CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 2: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 27 THROUGH 54 MAY BE CONSIDERED IN ONE MOTION EXCEPT FOR THOSE ITEMS REMOVED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER. ITEMS ARE REMOVED BY NOTIFYING THE CITY CLERK.

<p>Motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, seconded by Councilmember Bokhari, and carried unanimously to accept the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item No. 35 which was pulled for comment, and Item 49 and Item 50 which were pulled by staff.</p>

The following items were approved:

Item No. 27: Cooperative Purchasing Contract for Fire Apparatus

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Atlantic Emergency Solutions for the purchase of fire and rehabilitation apparatus for a term of four years under the Houston-Galveston Area Council cooperative contract #HGAC FS12-23, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for additional terms for as long as the cooperative contract is in effect, at prices and terms that are the same as or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contract.

Item No. 28: Amended Bond Issuance Approval for Fairhaven Glen Apartments

Adopt an amended resolution granting INLIVIAN's request to issue multi-family housing revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$23,000,000 to finance the development of an affordable housing development known as Fairhaven Glen Apartments.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 053-056.

Item No. 29: Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc.

(A) Approve a Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$1,291,638 to upgrade two existing at-grade railroad crossings on Rhyne Road at Mount Holly Road, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the Construction Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. consistent with the purpose for which the Agreement was approved.

Item No. 30: Charlotte Firehouse #2 Addition and Renovations Project

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,275,293.85 to the lowest responsive bidder Wharton-Smith, Inc. for the Charlotte Firehouse #2 Addition and Renovations project.

Summary of Bids

Wharton-Smith, Inc.	\$1,275,293.85
Hostetter and Son Construction, Inc.	\$1,356,218.00
G.W. Liles Construction Co., Inc.	\$1,395,593.29
Catalyst Construction Company Inc.	\$1,575,143.50

Item No. 31: Construct 16th Street Streetscape - Phase 2

Approve a contract in the amount of \$789,181.72 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Cinderella Partners, Inc. for the 16th Street Streetscape - Phase 2 project.

Summary of Bids

Cinderella Partners, Inc.	\$789,181.72
Nassiri Development, LLC	\$830,445.00
DOT Construction Inc.	\$1,930,218.40

Item No. 32: Construct Interstate 85 North Bridge Project

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract in the amount of \$27,708,368.58 with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Dane Construction, Inc. for the Interstate 85 North Bridge project.

Summary of Bids

Dane Construction, Inc.	\$27,708,368.58
Crowder Construction	\$29,301,041.23
Blythe Construction Inc.	\$29,952,823.69
Blythe Development Co.	\$32,989,535.10
Zachry Construction Corporation	\$33,743,951.70

Item No. 33: Construct J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape

Approve a contract in the amount of \$11,496,262.05 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Blythe Development Co. for the J.W. Clay Boulevard Streetscape project.

Summary of Bids

The City of Charlotte issued an Invitation to Bid twice; only one bid was received both times from Blythe Development Co.

Item No. 34: Cummins Engine Repair Services

(A) Approve a contract with Cummins Inc. for diagnostics, repairs, and maintenance 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. 36: Median Maintenance

(A) Approve unit price contracts for Median Maintenance for an initial term of three years to the following: Champion Landscapes Inc., M.B. Premier Enterprises, LLC (MBE), Taylor's Landscaping Service, Inc. (SBE), Triple L Landscape (MBE, SBE), (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 37: Application for Lease of Office and Warehouse Space for Charlotte Water Customer Service

(A) Adopt a resolution authorizing the application to the Local Government Commission for the approval of a ten-year lease with FIVF III NC 1, LLC for office and warehouse space located at 2200 Executive Street, and (B) Authorize the City Manager or designee to execute any documents necessary to seek approval from the Local Government Commission for the lease.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 057-058.

Item No. 38: Construct Storm Drainage Improvement Projects

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,198,887.60 to the lowest responsive bidder United Construction Company, Inc. for the Collective Storm Drainage Improvement Project Series P.

Summary of Bids

United Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,198,887.60
United of Carolinas Inc.	\$1,298,400.12
GreenWater Development LLC	\$1,405,935.58
Kevin Richardson Grading	\$1,610,655.20
Efficient Development LLC	\$1,719,916.80

Item No. 39: Flowmeter Equipment

(A) Approve the purchase of wastewater flowmeter equipment by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with AC Controls Company, Inc. for the purchase of a Krohne Flowmeter, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 40: Water Laboratory Chemicals, Supplies, and Equipment

(A) Approve the purchase of laboratory chemicals, supplies, and equipment from a cooperative contract, (B) Approve a unit price contract with Fisher Scientific Company LLC for the purchase of laboratory chemicals, supplies, and equipment for an initial term of 58 months under North Carolina Statewide Term Contract #4110A, (C) Approve a unit price contract with VWR International, LLC for the purchase of laboratory chemicals, supplies, and equipment for an initial term of 58 months under North Carolina Statewide Term Contract #4110A, and (D) Authorize the City Manager to extend the use of the contracts for additional terms as long as the cooperative contract is in effect, at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contract.

Item No. 41: Water Quality Report Printing and Mailing Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Loftin & Company, Inc. for Water Quality Report printing and mailing services for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, two-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 42: Lease of City-owned Property at the JW Clay Parking Deck

(A) Adopt a resolution to approve a lease agreement with Marib Coffee Co., with a 63-month term for retail space at the JW Clay Parking Deck, (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the lease for up to one, five-year term, and (C) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 059.

Item No. 43: Metropolitan Transportation Planning Support Services

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,431,847 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 44: Land Acquisition for Tree Canopy Preservation Program

(A) Approve the purchase of approximately 42.29 acres of property (parcel identification numbers 111-261-07, 111-261-44, and 5514-58-9210) located at 13138 Rocky River Church Road for a purchase price of \$2,240,000, (B) Authorize the City Manager or his designee to grant a conservation easement to the Catawba Lands Conservancy, and (C) Authorize the City Manager or his designee to negotiate and execute any documents necessary to complete these transactions.

Item No. 45: Adopt an Initial Finding Resolution and Set a Public Hearing on Certificates of Participation Financing for Equipment and Facilities

(A) Adopt an initial findings resolution making certain findings and calling for the execution of various documents necessary to complete an installment financing contract, and (B) Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for February 26, 2024, for an installment financing contract not to exceed \$137,000,000.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 060-063.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 46: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - Mallard Creek Basin Improvements Phase 1 and 2, Parcel # 14

Resolution of Condemnation of 1,941 square feet (0.05 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement and 5,326 square feet (0.12 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at Pavilion Boulevard from Point 100 Limited Partnership for #3,350 for Mallard Creek Basin Improvements Phase 1 and 2, Parcel # 14.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 064.

Item No. 47: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - Mallard Creek Basin Improvements Phase 1 and 2, Parcel # 23

Resolution of Condemnation of 27,131 square feet (0.62 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement and 17,411 square feet (0.40 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 11900 North Tryon Street from NK Investments, Inc. and Nick Stas, LLC for \$44,150 for Mallard Creek Basin Improvements Phase 1 and 2, Parcel # 23.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 065.

Item No. 48: Property Transactions - Bryant Farms Road Extension, Phase 1, Parcel # 2

Acquisition of 5,435 square feet (0.125 acres) Fee Simple, 14,378 square feet (0.330 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 5,706 square feet (0.131 acres) Waterline Easement, 1,691 square feet (0.039 acres) Storm Drainage Easement and 6,186 square feet (0.142 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 8601 Bryant Farms Road from South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church for \$72,175 for Bryant Farms Rd Extension, Phase 1, Parcel # 2.

Item No. 51: Property Transactions - Monroe Road Multiuse Path, Parcel # 1

Resolution of Condemnation of 1,474 square feet (0.034 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 1,872 square feet (0.043 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 5101 Monroe Road from EP 5101 LLC for \$34,375 for Monroe Road Multiuse Path, Parcel # 1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 066.

Item No. 52: Property Transactions - Rea Road Widening, Parcel # 9

Acquisition of 830 square feet (0.019 acres) Utility Easement, 712 square feet (0.016 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement and 1,072 square feet (0.025 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 11514 Falling Leaves Drive from 2017-1 1H Borrower L.P. for \$75,000 for Rea Road Widening (I-485 to Williams Pond Lane), Parcel # 9.

Item No. 53: Property Transactions - Regional Solids Conveyance Phase 1A, Parcel # 9

Acquisition of 5,502 square feet (0.126 acres) Sanitary Sewer Easement and 1,374 square feet (0.032 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 1601 McCorkle Road from Susan W. and Todd A. Woerner for \$18,425 for Regional Solids Conveyance Phase 1A, Parcel # 9.

Item No. 54: Property Transactions - Sharon at Sulkirk Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, Parcel # 2

Acquisition of 298 square feet (0.007 acres) Utility Easement and 116 square feet (0.003 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 5517 Sharon Road from Oliver J and Lacey Ann Carias for \$10,000 for Sharon at Sulkirk Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, Parcel # 2.

ITEM NO. 35: GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Councilmember Mayfield said thank you, Madam Mayor, and Marie, I believe you already got this information, but just for the record, Item 35 is our Ground Maintenance Services. I do not have a challenge with us moving forward with these minority businesses. I was just wondering, out of these 320 acres of vacant properties, if any of that land is developable for housing, whether it's multi-family or single?

Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget said thank you, ma'am. Again, this property, and I apologize it's not clearly stated in the explanation, it says 320 acres of vacant parcels, but in reality, it's bits and pieces. The City has 965 parcels, over 5,000 acres, and so this is remnants, and this is for mowing and trash removal and trimming trees on pieces of our property. To your point, and I've spoken with Phil Reiger, and he said it's a great segway into his presentation, because he's getting ready to present, here's an inventory of all our properties, and to your point, what could be used for different purposes? So, he's going to go in detail with you.

Ms. Mayfield said so, thank you for letting me know. I set up a great layup for Phil.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Bokhari, and carried unanimously to (A) Approve unit price contracts for grounds maintenance services for an initial term of three years to the following: G.D. Garris Lawn Care, LLC, M.B. Premier Enterprises, LLC (MBE), Taylor's Landscaping Service, Inc. (SBE), Uncommon Grounds Landscaping, LLC (SBE), (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. 3: ACTION REVIEW AGENDA OVERVIEW

Marcus Jones, City Manager said thank you, Mayor, members of Council. Tonight, we have two items on action review. One would be the proposed 2024 State and Federal Legislative agenda. Dana Fenton will be presenting, and there's been a series of discussions in the Budget Governance and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Then, as Marie mentioned earlier, I think Councilmember Mitchell said something about it before, I guess at the Annual Strategy Meeting, and then I like the way you said that, Ms. Mayfield, the layup for Phil tonight. A year or so ago, we had a number of discussions about City-owned land and how we best utilize the City-owned land. I think we had conversations about \$1 leases, and a lot of discussion about, let's make sure that we are really having a collaborative approach. So, Phil's going to come back, I know it's been a while, but tonight talk about the various categories of City-owned land

and what could be some potential uses of them. So, Mayor, those are the two items that we have teed up for tonight.

Mayor Lyles said before we start those two items, I left off something on the Council nomination to the various committees, we are pulling Item 14, nominations to the Charlotte Business INClusion Advisory Committee, and they will come back at the next time for this, okay.

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ITEM NO. 4: ACTION REVIEW ITEMS

Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office said thank you, Mayor and Council, for having me here tonight to talk about the proposed 2024 Federal and State Legislative agendas. These issues have gone through the process of the BGIR (Budget Governance and Intergovernmental Relations) Committee. Let me show you where we've been so far this year with the proposed agendas. They were first presented to the Budget Governance and Intergovernmental Relations Committee on January 8, 2024. Then, we met again on February 5, 2024. At that meeting, the committee adopted the proposed federal and state agendas, and last evening, on February 5, 2024, the Committee Chair Ajmera, reported out the committee action at committee discussion, and we're here tonight to talk about what's in the agendas for everyone's benefit.

Next steps after tonight. We'll be back before you. The plan is to be back before you in two weeks to ask for your consideration of these federal and state proposals. So, you don't have to make any decisions tonight on this. Then, from there, after adoption, we'll be on parallel tracks. The first track is to meet with our Congressional Delegation in Washington over the March 12-13, 2024, period. Those are basically the Congressional Delegations. Then, of course, in April 2024, we'll be meeting with our, and we just have a date for this, it just came in the other day, April 10, 2024, for our State Delegation briefing right here at the Government Center.

Councilmember Mitchell arrived at 5:10 p.m.

So, we still have a lot going, but I think we have something good to report to you tonight. To give you just an idea about 2024, 2024 there won't be as many workdays for the U.S. Congress this year, and also the General Assembly will only meet for about two months starting in late April 2024, and they will want to be out by July 4, 2024, at the latest. Then, because it is a short session, there are some bill-filing limitations this year. We have to look for things that are achievable in this current political climate. Also, things that we look for should be actionable through legislation, budgets and grant requests. More importantly, we've tried to do no harm. We don't want to bring up an issue that's going to elicit a response from the General Assembly, in particular, that may be injurious to the City. Also, we do have a new position on Upward Mobility this year. We'll get to that in just a few minutes. Then also, the Legislative agenda itself. I'm trying to show the linkages this year between the federal and state agendas, so many of the issues we deal with at one level are also addressed at the other level.

Then, I just have on here, I'm not going read these to you. These are the different types of groups that we've collaborated with, the last several years, and continue to do so to this day. Finally, getting to the Legislative agenda, the different issues are put into buckets for infrastructure, economic development and community, and we have the separate ones listed there. I'm going to go start with mobility on the first page. We would generally try to advance solutions to your mobility needs, including the implementation of smart policies, working in conjunction, of course, with stakeholders, legislators and state and federal agencies. On the federal side, we would be focusing upon seeking, trying to secure, federal resources to build out the Strategic Mobility Plan, and also support of federal resources for freight and passenger rail initiatives.

On the state side, we have listed one thing, state authority to enable build out of the Strategic Mobility Plan. Now, whether that would be trying to actually seek the

legislation this year or continuing talking with state leaders, I don't know at this point, but we have it in here. This would be the primary thing we'd be focusing on this year in Raleigh.

Aviation on the federal side, we still need to secure that Letter of Intent for the fourth parallel runway, and also, there's other federal resources for aviation that the airport would be trying to secure. Then, also at the state side, the North Carolina Airport Improvement Program. This provides about \$36 million per year right now for the airport for capital needs.

Upward Mobility. This is the new position, and we'd be focusing on the federal level to support federal resources for our Corridors of Opportunity projects. We've gotten a few grants this past year for that, and we look forward to getting some more in the coming years, and then also, supporting federal resources of local and regional economic and workforce development initiatives. On the state side, it would be basically support for the State Economic Development programs that impact us, like the Job Development Investment Grant Program, and also try to access pass-through funding administered by the state for Workforce Development.

Digital Inclusion. This is a lot like it was last year. On the federal side, we have a little problem. The Affordable Connectivity Program that was enacted 2½ years ago, is already going to be running out of money by the end of April 2024, and that was about 2½ years in advance. So, the need out there was much more robust than what was figured in the first place. So, we'd be trying to support those resources being appropriated. Also, there is pass-through federal digital inclusion funding that's administered by the state. It may be an opportunity to access those, and certainly support of extension of broad band to rural areas. The state has done a lot of work on that in the past four or five years, and there's probably still a lot more work to go.

Immigration. This is our immigration position from the last few years, three parts. Improve the H-1B Visa process, establish pathways to citizenship, and increase resources for refugee resettlement.

On the public safety side, there are federal resources for fire and police services, in particular, we try to still continue to access, and then also on the state side, there may be some pass-through funding coming from the federal government for these activities. Then, we do have some 2023 legislation, that's eligible to be considered in 2024, that could have some impacts upon the public safety area.

The environmental area. This fills up the whole page, as you can see here. There are federal resources for environmental programs and sustainability initiatives, much like the State Revolving Loan Funds for drinking and clean water. Then, we have also support of funding for PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) and Lead Service Line Replacement. There's a pretty high probability that some new unfunded mandates will be coming out from the federal government this year on both areas, and I know that's an issue that Angela Charles looks forward to addressing with you at the, I think it's the April 2024 Budget Workshop. Then, we have support of Environmental Justice Initiatives. I think this Council's taken a pretty strong stand in favor of that. Then, on the state side, there is the pass-through funding that comes from the federal government that's administered by the state. Then, we do have a PFAS issue with the state, is that because of what happened in Eastern North Carolina, there's a lot of proposals that will be floated during the session, or we have had that experience the last several sessions, that we try to regulate PFAS, but we found that there's a consistency issue between the federal and state government initiatives. Then, also there is some 2023 legislation to be considered in 2024 and want to be ready for that.

Finally, the last one is support for federal housing programs, like CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), the HOME investment Partnership, things like that, and then there is a continuing issue with the Federal Housing Voucher programs. A lot of landlords will not accept them, and so we think there might be something to put out there to the federal government to take a look at. Are there some ways that they can

make the program more enticing? Encourage the private sector participation in this effort? Now, on the state side, there are access pass-through Housing Tax Credits administered by the state, and also there are a few pieces of legislation in the housing arena in 2024.

So, with that, want to focus just a few things on the legislative calendar that were not on the previous calendar in the first couple slides. On March 6, 2024, the North Carolina League of Municipalities will be holding its Regional Town and State Dinner this year at the Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, and typically those dinners are held once a year in Raleigh, but it's been very, very difficult this year to find a date where you can get leaders of the General Assembly to appear. A good thing here with this date on March 6, 2024, is that Senator Paul Newton of Cabarrus County will be presenting and he's the Senate Majority Leader, and he certainly exercises a lot of influence in that chamber. Then, going down to April 24, 2024, that's when the North Carolina General Assembly convenes their short session this year. Then, in May 2024, the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance has their Raleigh Reception on May 7, 2024. Then, of course, expect adjournment for the General Assembly by July 4, 2024, and then U.S. Congress will have to adjourn by this year's end. With that, Mayor, that concludes my presentation. Be glad to stand for any questions.

Mayor Lyles said I would like to turn it over to the Chair of the Committee for comments, and then we'll continue from there.

Councilmember Ajmera said our committee did a report out last week, and because of the short session that we have ahead of us, these were the items that were recommended, but as we get ready for the long session end of 2024, we will have additional items, and that will be up for discussion later this year. I just want to recognize Committee members Mr. Bokhari, Ms. Mayfield and Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Brown. With that, I don't have anything else to add. Committee members, if I missed anything, feel free to jump in.

Councilmember Johnson said thank you, Madam Mayor. I wasn't here the report out last week. I had COVID, and we know this Council doesn't allow virtual Council meetings, but I wanted to ask, do we consider inclusionary zoning? Inclusionary zoning would require that a percentage of all of the development in the City be at an affordable level. So, I know that we're told that it's illegal in our state, but it's my understanding, some cities do it. So, is there is a reason that we don't approach that?

Mayor Lyles said I don't know. Patrick wasn't here and I wasn't here. I think former Mayor Foxx did try to get inclusionary zoning passed, and it was submitted. If I recall the outcome, I just remember that he put it out there, and I don't know how far it went. So, Mr. Fenton, do you know how far it went? It was recommended by the City of Charlotte.

Mr. Fenton said I know that that probably happened within a couple years of my arrival. It's still a little bit way back in my memory bank, I don't recall. I have received several requests, "Is this an item that if we brought up with the General Assembly, could we gain some traction and move it forward?" The answer to that has always been no. The General Assembly is in favor of incentives, encouragement to do things, as opposed to hard regulation. So, there have been many efforts made, and they haven't gone anywhere.

Ms. Johnson said and when you say many efforts, you mean not from this Council, because the last time we talked about it, it was Mayor Foxx, is that correct?

Mayor Lyles said I'm not sure. I'm just saying I remember that was not [inaudible].

Ms. Johnson said so when you say many efforts, do you mean from other cities?

Mr. Fenton said yes, there are some from legislators who are elected and used to serve on City Councils, and they will introduce legislation at their own behalf, and then there

are others, like cities that will request, and even some counties have requested that. Not all counties do planning and zoning, but some do.

Ms. Johnson said I just think as a democratic Council, I understand we want to present things that are going to pass, but I think it's something we should at least talk about it. It will be so important in affordable housing in this City, and to have not presented it since Mayor Foxx. We hear from our voters all of the time about it. So, I think it's something, if we have an opportunity, to at least talk about and research. I think that would be a good idea. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said I understand.

Councilmember Mitchell said Madam Mayor, this is a reference, since I've been around old as dirt. Councilmember Johnson, I agree with you on the topic, and it was Mayor Foxx, and I think we have tried unsuccessfully the last three Mayors, because even our delegation has not been warmed to the idea of pushing that forward, and so I think it's been hard for us to drum up support for inclusionary zoning. So, just some background information.

Mr. Fenton said and also, Councilmember Johnson, I would add in one other thing, because it is a 2024 short session, we are limited in the types of legislation that can be filed this year, especially on state-wide legislation like this. So, any local legislation, as Mr. Mitchell mentioned, you have to get a unanimous consensus from your delegation to introduce it even, and on top of that, any state-wide legislation, there's a lot of limitations to doing that. So, we do not see that as achievable in this year.

Ms. Johnson said right, but there are some cities in North Carolina that have it? Is that my understanding?

Mr. Fenton said I have seen some cities add this to their legislative agendas, but in terms of being active, trying to advocate for it, I've never seen that. I think it's something that's put on there, and they just frankly, a lot of them just are expected to die.

Ms. Johnson said thank you.

Ms. Ajmera said I think committee has an important task in identifying issues that we can truly move needle. There are a number of items we can add to our legislative agenda that we know that wouldn't actually bring any traction or wouldn't be achievable. Councilmember Mayfield had raised a legislative item for federal legislative agenda, where hedge funds would not be allowed to buy up homes over 75 units or 100 units, that's sponsored by Congresswoman Adams and Congressman Jackson, but we know that that is not something achievable under the political climate that we are in. So, while recognizing that, we champion the items that we know that we could bring traction to and are really achievable versus the ones that could potentially jeopardize other items that are achievable. So, I think there is a balance that the committee was trying to balance our priorities, our wants versus needs. I think that's what you've seen on our legislative agenda is, "Okay, here are some of the items that we have presented that we can truly bring traction on, and say hey, we can successfully deliver on."

Councilmember Anderson said I'm not a member of Ms. Ajmera's committee, but I did sit through all of the recent discussions. Mr. Fenton, I think your comment is probably the most salient, which is, this is a short session. We have a very robust legislative agenda here, and there's some pretty big things we're trying to make traction on. So, we have to balance what we have right in front of us and the opportunities that are a little bit further down the runway. So, certainly, as it relates to housing, a lot of the efforts that are on our legislative agenda for housing, strengthening the voucher programs and others, are really important and we need to continue to focus on that, as well as some key things like mobility and, of course, strengthening the airport, which is one of our largest economic generators in the state. So, we just need to be very mindful and manage how we add and subtract to the legislative agenda. Thank you.

Councilmember Driggs said I can't see yet how what you just showed us translates into the typical legislative agendas we've developed in the past. I think to Ms. Ajmera's point, we need to understand that what we're doing here is we're going into somebody's office, and we're saying, "I want you to help me with something or with a few things." Now, imagine if somebody came to one of us and said, a citizens group, somebody, "I need you to crack down on crime! I want you to bring the cost of housing down! I want you to do this! I want you to do that!" We can't engage in a debate. These guys are under time pressure. So, what we're thinking about is, "Here's something I'd like you to do. Can you do this for me?" It relates to a need that we have here, and that list, in order to have any effect, needs to be pretty short. So, if I walk in and I have 10 items on my list, I just don't expect any action on them.

So, to Ms. Ajmera's point, the thing here is, let's make this personal and immediate, actionable, and talk about things like the airport, the runway money. I mean, that's something that we can bring up that we might be able to get help with, and it's not just debating the subject of housing. There's a state-wide law in effect that says, "Municipalities may not impose ordinances that require mandatory inclusionary zoning," and the discussion around that is extensive. It has to do with what kind of a taxation in effect that represents. When you introduce that requirement, you make changes happen in the housing markets, and you place burdens on certain people, which are in the form, effectively of attacks, and the legislature isn't inclined to go there. For us to walk in and try to have that conversation again, which has happened over and over, simply undermines our credibility in terms of the things we want to accomplish. So, I just hope we can get this banged into some sort of shape, where the person reading it or hearing it, feels motivated to do something for us. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, Mr. Driggs. I think that is the key point.

Ms. Ajmera said I just wanted us to go back to the housing slide. So, here is one actionable item. What we want to do is tap into the Housing Tax Credit. Create more affordable housing. Same at the state level, as well as the federal level, because we are trying to increase the housing funds that we have. So, that is actionable. I think this is where we can get traction on and truly address affordable housing crisis without engaging in a debate.

Mayor Lyles said I think that that's a great point to come back to, Ms. Ajmera. I think that covers a lot of these items. I think what we really need to do is have the committee working with the staff to define those things that can be done, that are realistic and feasible, under the state or under the federal government, because their separate things and initiatives, because we all need to be talking about the same effort and the same decision making. If we're not, then it makes us look disjointed. So, my suggestion would be that the committee work with Mr. Fenton to decide those things that we consistently all have agreed upon as a part of our priorities from our strategic planning session, and to illustrate what Mr. Driggs has said, "What is our position and what is our ask and what information that we would have?" So, if that's okay, I'd like to refer it back to the committee for that action. Is there any objection to that? Hearing no objection, then Ms. Ajmera keep working it, okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Fenton.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said so, we talked a little bit about the use of City-owned land, so we have Phil Reiger. Mayor, I do want to remind folks that you do have a closed session.

Mayor Lyles said closed session that we'll try to do at the end of this meeting, if we can. So, if we can kind of wrap it up before we have our Business Meeting. Okay, we are ready to start as soon as Mr. Reiger is ready to start.

Phil Reiger, General Services Director said alright, good evening, Mayor, members of Council. Just for the record, I'm Phil Reiger, Director of General Services, and it's a pleasure of mine today to give you an update on staff's efforts to inventory and evaluate City-owned property. I just want to take just a moment, introduce Greg Crawford here to my right. Greg is our Real Estate Division Manager. He's been in that role for just under

a year, I believe, and so I just wanted you all to see Greg's face, because it's because of his great leadership that this work got done. So, the purpose of this project was to develop a tool, a tool that would help staff manage better the real estate portfolio, but also and maybe more importantly, to help policymakers and decisionmakers best leverage City property to achieve City objectives and City priorities.

Last year, at our March 13, 2023, Council Business Meeting, I described a collaborative process that included the participation of eight different departments. The team's charge was to evaluate the City-owned parcels and designate a future and highest, best use recommendation. This evaluation is different than evaluations of the past, primarily because it's the first time we looked at all the properties together, and we did so in a very, very collaborative manner. So, staff's completed that initial evaluation, and so tonight I'm going to share with you some summary results and next steps.

So, as worked progressed and staff thought through the future highest and best use for property, seven categories sort of rose to the top, and those seven categories are listed here on the left of the slide. The team designated all 965 parcels. That's right, we looked at 965 separate parcels, and all of those were designated in one of these seven categories. For the most part, the categories are self-explanatory, so I won't read them to you, but I wanted to highlight two that may not be so self-explanatory, and that is the category of Annual Review. Annual Review refers to property designations that could change due to market conditions, market opportunities, and they need review on a regular basis to make sure we're staying close to what's happening in the area of those properties. Finally, Remnant properties. Remnant properties are parcels that have no discernable use, they're typically very small in size, and they're left over from capital projects that we've acquired right-of-way for, for example. They typically are undevelopable pieces of property, unless they were assembled with adjoining parcels.

So, on the right side of the slide, I just wanted to give you some fast facts about the project. Again, 965 parcels were reviewed. Those parcels represent about 5,000 acres in the City. Fifty-seven percent of those parcels were identified or are being used for City operations. About 77 of those parcels are either being used today for Affordable Housing or are good candidates for future Affordable Housing projects. Then, finally, 274 parcels reside in the Corridors of Opportunity. So, this is just another way to visualize the data. This is a pie chart that describes the percentage of parcels that fall into each of the seven categories or designations. It's not a surprise that 57 percent of our properties are used for city operation. Generally, or historically, the City's interest in property has been providing city services, and so I think that's why you see this pie chart the way it is today.

So, again, just a little more detail. I'm not going to go and read this to you. This is a more granular view of the data. It kind of describes the power of the data. This is the first time we've had all this data in one place. Just for an example, if we pulled out Affordable Housing just because it's on the top of the list, again, 77 properties that either are being used today for Affordable Housing projects or are good candidates, that represents 55.8 acres, and 46 of those properties are in Corridors of Opportunities, and you can kind of see how the other categories lay out in front of you.

Then, finally, as it relates to next steps, we're really excited to put this tool to use. Currently, additional evaluation of properties designated for affordable housing, is underway, and it's underway in an effort to develop a summer RFP (Request For Proposal), so we're real excited about the fruits of that effort.

Councilmember Brown arrived at 5:40 p.m.

Economic development is continuously evaluating market opportunities, and this is another data source that they have available to them to see opportunities to include City property. The real estate collaborative, which is the team that did this evaluation, will continue to look at new properties that get added to the inventory to make sure the inventory stays up to date. Then, finally, there's been a lot of interest regarding this work and this data set in the community, and so we plan to make this data publically available

through the City's open data port. Mayor, with that, that concludes my brief presentation. I'm just really excited about the opportunity to present the work to you, and I'll turn it over to you, Mayor, for any questions.

Mayor Lyles said well, thank you first and foremost. It's very unusual for something to be absolutely new to this organization, so really appreciate the work that's been done.

Ms. Anderson said thank you for the presentation, Mr. Reiger. Just a couple questions. So, if we're reading this right on the table slide, currently we have about one percent of the City-owned acreage that is allotted to Affordable Housing, is that how we should read that percentage of acreage?

Mr. Reiger said that is correct, 1.1 percent of the total 5,000 acres, so 55 acres would equate to about one percent.

Ms. Anderson said okay, and it looks like the vast majority of those properties already sit within the Corridors of Opportunity.

Mr. Reiger said that is correct.

Ms. Anderson said okay. Do you have a perspective or a point of view as to whether that number should increase in the Corridor, or should it be spread throughout different locales throughout the City?

Mr. Reiger said so, the way we designated these properties, and let's use Affordable Housing as an example. Location really matters, and what the other uses around those properties might be. So, you're looking for potentially a more residential use and/or a transition. So, these properties also are properties that are unencumbered by, let's say, SWIM (Surface Water Improvement and Management) buffers, and some of those other things that get in the way of development. So, it was those types of factors that led to a designation of a property to be Affordable Housing or any other category. So, we weren't looking for a set number, but we were just trying to just do a straight up evaluation.

Ms. Anderson said okay.

Mr. Jones said Phil, great job. Mayor Pro Tem, the last time we did this, I think there were only like nine parcels, and to Phil's point, now that we bring everybody around the table and not just look at multi-family, all of a sudden it opened up more opportunities for single-family all the way up. So, I would just say that, if we start to look at it, and then I'll just add this to it, Phil talked about a summer RFP. Shawn, I think we may have \$9 million left in the Housing Trust Fund, something like that, which we may plow through with the current nine percent credits that are on the table. So, I guess what I'm saying is, that there's this opportunity here, whether it's Affordable Housing, Economic Development, Environmental, to look at all of the parcels that we've had, very different than what we've done in the past with a piecemeal approach, but the 77 count, I don't think I've ever seen anything that large in City-owned property as it relates to affordable housing.

Ms. Anderson said okay, great. Thank you for that clarification. I was trying to get to, if we were to subtract that 46 from the 77, we know that the Corridors of Opportunities are concentrated in certain areas within the City. In District 1 alone, there are 2½, or two and part of another, Corridors of Opportunity. So then, that identifies other areas within the City that don't have the number of units of affordable housing that might present an opportunity, and we could strategically act upon that on a go-forward basis. My last question is, the Environmental properties, can you just speak a little bit about what does that mean, the definition of Environmental properties?

Mr. Reiger said right, so that's pretty broad, but for the most part what was in the Evaluation Committee's mind, was properties that might be good for tree preservation, but also might be good properties related to stormwater drainage, sort of watershed

preservation. So, that's generally what the committee was thinking about, tree save and stormwater.

Ms. Anderson said so, one topic that's been recurring, as I'm out in the community talking to leaders and others, is this notion of food deserts throughout the City of Charlotte, and coupling that with workforce opportunities for urban farm use and farm development. So, we know things like the Carolina Farm Trust, and there are other really great community partners out there, that need a workforce element. They need people to work these jobs, but they also need space, land space for gardens and to have that vegetal growth. So, it may be a sweet spot, it might not be, but as we go through this process, maybe thinking about, and if it's under these Environmental properties, that's what I was thinking, but maybe it's under another designation, but if there's opportunities to have physical workforce programs, as it relates to agriculture farming opportunities, to address some of these food deserts that we have in the City, it might be an optimal opportunity for us.

Ms. Ajmera said great job, Phil and Greg. This is the first time I have seen a comprehensive presentation of our portfolio. So, this is what I was looking for. So, great job to you and your team in bringing this forward. A couple of questions. So, when we are looking at this portfolio, this is only General Account. Is that correct? This doesn't include our Enterprise Funds?

Mr. Reiger said this includes everything, except the airport. So, it does include Charlotte Water, CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System) and Stormwater.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, got it. So, Charlotte Water, Stormwater, that land that's from that Enterprise Fund would have restrictions. Wouldn't be able to use for other purposes. Is that right? Does it have to be used within the Enterprise Fund? I guess if you were to use it for anything else, outside of Enterprise Fund, how would the transaction work? Would we have to pay fair market value?

Mr. Reiger said generally, they would have to be reimbursed for market value, but if they got reimbursed for the market value of the land, that land then could be used for other purposes.

Ms. Ajmera said got it. So, it would come out of our Housing Trust Fund?

Mr. Reiger said well, a fund.

Mayor Lyles said it would come out of a fund.

Ms. Ajmera said okay. Then, so Environmental, Councilmember Anderson asked a question about what that includes. I know at some point with our City Arborist, we were looking at Urban Arboretum Trails, and there were discussions about that. What is the progress on that Arboretum Trail, and have we done any pilot projects so far?

Mr. Reiger said we have done projects related to Urban Arboretum Trail. I don't have that in front of me today. It's something that we could work with the Planning Department to get some information back to you.

Ms. Ajmera said yes. So, the way I look at this Environmental designation is, usually land that's very rich in tree canopy that can be used for tree preservation and help us meet our 50 by 50 goal. So, I would hesitate to use it for something else, when we have 50 by 50 goals, we've got other important goals, such as Urban Arboretums, and really addressing even the stormwater drainage issues throughout the City. However, to Councilmember Anderson's point, we could look at other areas to look at workforce development opportunities, economic development, without jeopardizing tree canopy that Environmental designation land has. I also want to highlight, we have one item on our agenda today, that's tree preservation, and we have continued to see significant increase in our Tree Canopy Preservation Fund, because of the growth and how we have been able to acquire more land.

In terms of Affordable Housing, I would also like to see where we can have more affordable housing throughout the City. I know majority of this is located in our Corridors of Opportunities, and there is concentration of affordable housing in some of those districts. So, could that be used for other purposes, to Councilmember Anderson's point, whether that's workforce development or whether that's for cultural facility, arts, or anything else?

Mr. Reiger said yes. So, the really cool thing about this tool is these designations are recommendations from staff. They're not set in stone or concrete, and so absolutely, if there are other uses that help the City achieve its priorities, then this property is available for those purposes. That's the whole sort of philosophy around portfolio management, as opposed to maybe some other philosophies for managing real estate. One other point that I wanted to make on Environmental that just sort of came to mind, one other designation for Environmental is where our landfills are. Our old landfills that we manage are in that Environmental category, because they're important for other environmental reasons.

Ms. Ajmera said right. I don't see transportation or infrastructure.

Mr. Reiger said so City right-of-way is not in this. City right-of-way is a different kind of real estate.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, alright, that's all. Thank you.

Councilmember Graham said thank you for the report. The affordable housing line item, 77 count. Did you guys also break it out in reference to the proximity to transit and the bus lines, in terms of where those properties are?

Mr. Reiger said we have not done that yet, but the cool thing about the data is we can overlay a lot of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) layers, and we can do quarter-mile, half-mile radius around all of our properties. So, we haven't done that analysis, but that is absolutely an example of the power of the tool.

Mr. Graham said, and the same question goes for the six economic development properties that are in the Corridors of Opportunity, in terms of their location, and their proximity to transit line and bus lines and those types of things like that, that you can start imagining how those things could be utilized for sure. I think that would be most helpful. I guess there's a question to the Manager and a question to Council, not to be answered tonight, but I'll ask it. Now that we have the data, now what? In terms of how do we connect the data to the priorities, like affordable housing? We talked about this for years now? I think we all campaigned on it, "City land for affordable housing." So, we've all said that at some point in time. How do we kind of realize that and make that a reality and how do we take a look at those properties, wherever they may be, in the Corridors of Opportunity for economic development opportunities for small businesses along these Corridors? So, how do we kind of strategize? We have the information that's in front of us, to connect it to priorities. Lastly, how can we do it in a timely fashion? Obviously, this conversation about City property has been going on for at least three years now. So, how can we be a lot more effective and efficient, in terms of processing the information in front of us and connecting it to priorities?

Mr. Jones said Councilmember Graham, why this is perfect timing is because just at your Annual Strategy Meeting, you talked about priorities, goals, objectives. We're working on the performance measures. We want to be data driven. So, now we're really beginning to align how we can reach the objectives that the Council has set before us.

Mr. Mitchell said I'll be very quick. City Manager, Shawn and Phil, thank you so much for compiling this information. Two quick questions. One, would an RFP mean that it could only be a nonprofit that could pursue our facilities, or for profit? That's my first question. Second, do we get the date when the RFP would be available, because I think once we make this presentation, there's going to be a lot of interest later on this evening?

Mr. Jones said yes, I'll tackle the second one first. I think we would leave it open, but first one first, we'll leave that open. So, Councilmember Mitchell, great question. What's the best way to may be bundle a summer RFP? Are there opportunities for single-family? Are there opportunities for multi-family? Something that we haven't done before. Then, I remember the last time we did this, I guess we had a dozen parcels or so, but we found out that not every parcel could be something that you could actually develop topographically and things of that nature. So, other things came up, like bike trails and things like that, but again, to Mr. Graham's point and your point, we're in the process now of taking feedback from you, and that will help us develop any RFP.

Mr. Mitchell said thank you, sir.

Mr. Driggs said so Phil, you said you took location into account in these classifications. For affordable housing, did you specifically look at all of the parameters of our location policy? Was that the lens you used in order to identify that suitability?

Mr. Reiger said so, that was the lens certainly that our housing and neighborhood services folks looked through as we looked through these, but it wasn't that hard to when you looked at the surrounding land uses. Again, I use the word potential candidates, because there's still some work to be done to make sure that we meet all of those policy requirements and that we put a piece a property out in an RFP that would actually be something somebody would be interested in actually proposing on.

Mr. Driggs said right, but the point is, that it also needs to meet the standards that this Council established for investment in Affordable Housing, and there was mobility, there was availability of food, the proximity, etc., etc. I think all of those need to be checked the same way they would for any other location. The second question I had, I noticed there was kind of a recoil when the Trust Fund was mentioned. There's a question about how we account for this. So, if you take a City property on our balance sheet, and you remove it, you need to replace that with cash. Now the cash needs to come either from somewhere else in our accounts, or new revenue or something. What I'm getting at is, the Trust Fund is what the public approved in terms of bond issuance for the purposes of housing, and it's a separate category of bond issuance, a separate accounting. So, if you get an Enterprise Fund or the General Fund, and it commits an asset to this, then that fund needs to be reimbursed, and the logical place to do that would be the Housing Trust Fund. This should be treated like any other Trust Fund transaction with that property in the capital stack, the same way do it for everybody else, because I think we owe it to the public to be transparent about the priorities that we're pursuing and the investments that we're making. This should not be a back doorway of kind of concealing the fact that we're investing more in housing than the public approved with the bonds.

In that context too, I mentioned there could well be cases where the best thing you can do is just sell that land, and if you want to, use the money for housing, but don't compromise your ability to create housing because you insist on using something that the City didn't acquire initially for the purpose of housing, and that may not be ideal. The alternative is always, you just sell it and use the cash to buy up the properties in line with a strategy that we have on the location and the type of investment we want to make in housing. Thank you.

Councilmember Mayfield said so in direct contradiction to my colleague, we have done that. We have had lots of land throughout the City that we sold for so-called highest and best use, and many missed opportunities. So, one, Phil, team, thank you for pulling this together. As we drill down and we have this conversation, Mr. Manager, you and I have already had conversations, I would love for us to look beyond, because our Corridors of Opportunity have changed from when we first went into certain areas and made investments. What I have not seen, and I don't necessarily know if it's our responsibility or if there's a way to partner with UNC (University of North Carolina) Charlotte, to look at where did the people go? So, for those who once were in those areas identified as Corridors of Opportunities that have been displaced for whatever reason, are they still in Charlotte? Have they moved outside of Charlotte? What does

that look like? Phil, question for you on these remnants. So, we're saying that it's about just under 60 acres in the remnants. Now that we're having the conversations of quads, duplexes, other things, it will be helpful if we could break that out, because I know a lot of the time, we're really focusing on multi-family, larger products, and now that we're looking at single-family, have we added in the quads, the duplexes, things like that, and if there's a possibility to break out even more, what it can look like for potential housing opportunities?

Also, keep in mind, we're having this conversation within creating partnerships with our religious institutions. Here's also a great opportunity for us to be looking at the land that we have that might be adjacent to one of the institutions that are ready to come to the table to help us move forward. Where they might have land, we might have a remnant piece that's adjacent to their piece of land, that can give us a better lot to build on. So, for me, before we put out this RFP, it will be helpful if our departments continue to cross-pollinate so that the work that is happening within Housing and Neighborhood Services, under Rebecca, Warren, Myles and the team, that we're seeing where we might have some synergy there before, we open it up to the community to say, "What are you proposing?"

I also agree with the suggestion from my Council colleague of, let's look at putting some requirements, for it to be the nonprofit organizations. We have some organizations out there doing great work. Historic West End is already making a difference in the community with what their building on West Boulevard, what we approved with them getting allocation of land off of Columbus Circle, where was one of our drug-infested areas for many, many years, now have \$700-\$800,000 homes throughout the neighborhood. We have some positive movement that's already happening. I'm looking at this as an opportunity for us to continue that movement versus creating a new lane. How do we strengthen up where we've made investments, and where do those investments need to go moving forward? So, getting a better idea for me of what that remnant looks like in comparison with Environmental, because for me, Environmental will also include our parks, our streams, our trails, where we said it might not have been good for development, but that was yesterday's development. Is it potentially a good opportunity for today's development, especially if we're going to partner with that remnant piece? Thank you.

Mr. Jones said thank you, Councilmember Mayfield. I will say that the remnant piece. I don't want people to get too excited about that. It's kind of messy. It's little slivers. In some places, the best thing to do is to just give it to the adjacent property owners, so that they would pay taxes on it, instead of us. So, you can help me out Phil. Councilmember Mayfield, you are correct. If a remnant can square off something and help with a house of worship or something, we'll go for it. I just didn't want you to think that we have 119 opportunities out there.

Mayor Lyles said you've got to be a little bit smaller to be a remnant.

Ms. Johnson said I think that's a brilliant idea, Councilmember Mayfield. It reminds me, and I've mentioned this before, in Columbus, Ohio, there was the land bank we've talked about, where the nonprofit organizations had priority to purchase these remnant pieces of land. I think that's a great opportunity. I get calls all the time from nonprofit organizations, "How can we have access to City property?" So, if there were that opportunity, first and foremost, to align with the faith-based organizations, or if there's that opportunity to expand their land, but these remnant pieces, if we could open those up to nonprofit organizations, where they can have those gardens. I saw something on the news. It was a gentleman that won the lottery. He won \$200,000 from a scratch off, and he's putting money into these little, tiny homes or something. So, there might be opportunities for nonprofits to buy pieces of land, if we could do that. So, I think that if we can make it a priority, because we're doing a lot of great work for nonprofit organizations, and I think this is an opportunity to kind of expand upon that.

Also, from an ED (Economic Development) perspective, I had the pleasure of going to one of the co-working facilities this weekend, and it was so cool. I think it's Hygge. If we

had something like that, and we talked about an incubator for nonprofit organizations. So, if we had one of these buildings for nonprofit organizations who can't afford those co-working facilities, and there are a lot of grassroots organizations that are doing great work and cannot afford office space. We know the prices are going up in the City. We had the discussion during zoning. Small businesses are being displaced. So, if we look at our properties from that perspective, ED, and for nonprofit organizations and small businesses, and then the remnants for nonprofit organizations to have access or priority to purchase those at a very, very discounted price, I think that that will be a great thing to consider. Thank you.

Councilmember Molina said I don't want to belabor any points, take any extra time, but I want to go back to what the Mayor Pro Tem mentioned, specifically around the Corridors of Opportunity, because what I know we're going to find is a lot of emphasis around the Corridor. So, first of all, I want to say to you guys, thank you for this, because the one thing that I know, and I think my point is going to lend itself to certain areas of town being overburdened with Affordable Housing. Now that we have the quantitative information for guidance, I personally feel like it needs to lend us to some level of policy, because if not, I think we're going to be kind of nitpicking, kind of picking our way through this on a one-by-one basis. District 7 is different than District 5, District 6 is different, District 3 is different. So, if we don't create something that is a policy guidance, based on the quantitative information that we have. Now that we have a full picture of what we have available to us, because I'm sure it was a lot of great ideas. We have some great ideas, but then what type of guidance are we going to use, because I think the most important thing, from an equity perspective, is that what we do in one we do in all. The one thing that I have felt since we came into the door, and Councilmember Driggs and I, we've talked about this a little bit, I really would like to see from a decision-making perspective, like what we spend per district from a budgetary perspective, but we've got a ways to go before we get there. I will not drill down on that, but know that that's coming from me, because that's something that I'm interested in knowing.

In the interim, while we have this information and while we're allowing it to make us better for decision making, I'd like to offer to the body, that I think we need to look at it from a policy perspective, some generalized guidance, where when we're talking about and discussing these assets, how we would apply that across the board, no matter what part of town we're talking about, because that's how our jobs are designed. Now, personally, if I had to speak personally, as a person where this is my only income, I've dedicated my life to do this job, and what I make here I couldn't work. So, I can't even imagine someone who doesn't have the flexibility that I have, trying to, let's say if they're a mother with children, or they're a father with children, or they have a network, they don't have a network. So, housing affordability is something that I think we all are going to be a little bit more passionate about, having our community members that serve our community able to afford to live in our community, so as it lends itself as creative as we can be, I'd like to see us be. Then also, I know we have to have some level of guidance where it's applicable across the board, no matter where we're talking about in Charlotte. Actually, starting from the place that we have right now, and this is just an assumption with no specificity, I know that some of these affordable units are more concentrated in some areas than others. So, it's going to leave us kind of chasing, I guess, what would look like some level of equilibrium to be able to make that an even spread. So, that's just a thought, an addition, an offer to my colleagues, and everyone else.

Councilmember Bokhari said first, good job, Phil. It's always good for a company to have a list of its assets, so I'm glad we're moving that forward to the next step. I just have two quick questions. One, Phil, is this inclusive of all City property, e.g., like the Government Center's in there, or just a filter lens on things that are viable for this approach?

Mr. Reiger said no, this is every piece of City property, except what's in aviation's portfolio. So, it includes Government Center and all operational facilities, everything.

Mr. Bokhari said and then second question, to you Mr. Jones. So, if you do the math roughly, let's say there's 312 square miles in Charlotte, that equates to about 200,000

acres, and that's about 5,000, so it's about 2½ percent of the entire City, is owned and on the balance sheet of the City. Once you take out what we actually operate in, I'm curious, have you contemplated, and what do you think about standing up some kind of like auction-type approach, where we just sell it all and then use that to not have to raise taxes this year? Is that possible?

Mr. Jones said so, can I say that a different way? So, the operational piece, the one thing that Phil did not mention, and this is something that was discussed originally when we went down this path is, are there facilities that we own that we could get out of those facilities? I don't want to pick anyone, but let's just say Solid Waste Services. So, in that operational, its space, we're building firehouses. Are there things that you can do when you build those, much like we were doing in District 7, when we had Affordable Housing and we had land? So, I would say to you, not necessarily going in and just doing a fire sale of what we have, I just don't think that is going to give you the bang for the buck, but the operational piece should be another dive that we take to see what we can do with the parcels that we have facilities on.

Mr. Bokhari said so, I guess my ask of you, especially since we spent the afternoon really teeing up the narrative of the need for a tax increase, I think this fits into my broader comment there which is, did we look under every rock that enables us to say, "This is the only option?" I think this is a good one, where if there's 5,000 acres there, maybe there's only 1,500 acres at the end of the day, that something could be done with, including the affordable housing 77 units. Instead of doing that, if we sold them, what kind of revenue would that generate and would that fill the gap needed when we're looking at the tax increase?

Mr. Driggs said could I comment on that? Seriously, you would not use it as revenue, because it's a one-time thing. You pay down debt with it and you would free up debt capacity. That would be the way to do what you're saying, because it's a one-time thing. So, revenue is a recurring, ongoing stream.

Mr. Bokhari said wait, what is revenue again?

Mr. Driggs said an ongoing stream, and this is an asset. So, when you dispose of the asset, you get cash from the sale, and you don't use that cash to pay operating expenses, you use it to pay down debt.

Mr. Bokhari said right, but we probably have some creative way, I mean these are existing things that then go on the tax rolls. So, what would the tax roll recurring revenue be, that is not existent today? What I'm saying is be creative, and let's not leave any stone unturned before we say, "The only thing we can do is raise taxes."

Mayor Lyles said okay. So, I heard, Mr. Jones, that you need to have a policy, a summer RPF. It needs to be aligned with Council priorities, and to consider the Enterprise Fund, look at the remnants and housing and gardens and small businesses and nonprofits, options to sell, and an Arboretum Trail. I think that what happens is you give us good data and we find ways to build on it or create it and make it happen. So, I do think the policy idea is a good one. If we can just figure out a starting point and have a couple of test points and see how it goes. We have data, but it's not the data that we're going to continue to try to screen and make sure and happen, because I think that Council priorities for affordable housing or for housing initiatives, include those things that many of you have said. So, thank you very much. Yes, there's another last question.

Ms. Anderson said and I'm not going to add to your list, City Manager, promise. Mr. Reiger, how do we have this data? Is this data sitting in a lake, and can we build algorithms on it pretty easily? You mentioned that we can do some GIS layers, but is this data malleable in a quick, efficient manner to provide insights?

Mr. Reiger said it's a database that we can report off of, yes.

Ms. Anderson said okay, excellent.

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ITEM NO. 5: CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Graham, and carried unanimously to go into closed session to consult with the City Attorney to reserve the attorney/client privilege in the matter of Bogue versus City of Charlotte.

The meeting was recessed at 6:17 p.m. for a closed session in Room 267.

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BUSINESS MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for a Business Meeting on Monday, February 12, 2023, at 6:37 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, Tiawana Brown, Ed Driggs, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, Lawana Mayfield, James Mitchell, and Marjorie Molina.

ABSENT: Councilmember Victoria Watlington.

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Mayor Lyles said thank you for being here to join the Charlotte City Council's Business Meeting today. Appreciate having all of you here. We have a wonderful crowd here today physically joining us on some very important issues. There are a couple of things I want to just say to those who are watching us on the Government Channel or any other type of connection that you would have with us on the internet, that we have in our community the idea that we can have discourse. We can have the opportunity to speak about topics, even when we don't agree with each other. I would like to say very much, over the last several weeks, we have learned that the best way to do that is by asking you to participate in an orderly way. Now, the worst thing I can say, is that if you don't participate in an orderly way, you will be asked to leave the chamber, and that's unfortunate, but that's where we are sometimes in times like this. So, I just wanted to make sure that everybody's aware of that. We've been doing this a little bit over the last several meetings, and I think it just helps everyone to understand what the ground rules are. So, thank you for allowing me to review that with you.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Brown gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by all.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 6: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor Lyles said thank you, everyone. Mr. Jones usually provides us a report that talks about the next 30 days.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said yes, Mayor, and members of Council. I do have the next 30 days in my memo. We have the Zoning Meeting next week. We have the Council Business Meeting on February 26, 2024, where there have been questions about Mobility and questions about ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), so we want to cover both of those at the Action Briefing. As you're aware, we have the Council Committee discussions on the March 4, 2024, and then as Dana Fenton mentioned, you have the National League of Cities, March 11, 2024, through 13, 2024. Mayor, I'd like to just give the rest of my time to the very important policy measure that's coming up next.

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ITEM NO. 7: CITY CODE UPDATE

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much, Mr. Jones. So, now we have an item that I think many of you are here to hear about. We have a report from our committee, and so I'd like to just go through the procedure for this one. Because this comes out of a committee, we will go ahead and have a motion based on the committee's action.

Councilmember Bokhari said sure, Mayor. I will make a motion, and I will get to that in one second, just to tee it up. I'll make the motion. The motion is to put all eight of the original ordinances that came out of committee up for a vote. Knowing there were two, 15-7 and 15-23, that had some other insights into them, I'd like to make the quick case to the Council that we keep all eight in. However, I understand that there are some that have a level of discomfort. So, if another motion is needed, to just do six, so that we do make progress in moving forward, I will support that as well. For these two cases, I just want to make the quick case, 15-7 is unauthorized person on parking lots. This is, do they have lawful business there? We've heard issues around that one, and 15-23, loitering for the purpose of engaging in drug-related activity. These are both things that, while it has been called to our attention, there may be some First Amendment issues for us to consider. I would just say, first and foremost, they were already on the books in 2021 and before with no issues. I can't remember a single instance in my 20 years here, that ever, anyone came up and it was news or an issue that had been used in an inappropriate way, let alone a way that was suppressing First Amendment rights and speech.

So, I would really encourage us to push forward for two main fronts and reasons on this. One, I hope that we find additional ordinances after today, that can push us more down the path of ensuring the folks that are on the streets, that are either offending certain Ordinances that we have, or simply are on the streets for other reasons, both for their own health and for the broader health of our community, are brought to facilities that can help them. Number two, I hope that we put just as much emphasis on funding all of the great programs for the wraparound services that they ultimately need once they are brought there. I think those two issues summarize, for the division that exists in this City right now on this topic, one or the other of the issue that folks find themselves in, and I think there's a way we do both. After many conversations in the community, I think the glue that binds those together and things that we've seen work in other cities, is us connecting a homeless court. Us finding a homeless court option, because I think one of the biggest issues is, when folks look at this, and I think we'll hear from the community today, "Well, don't criminalize it." I don't think the initial intent is to criminalize it. The first intent is for police officers to walk by a dangerous situation, or something that shouldn't be happening, just to be able to say, knowing there is ordinance and teeth, "Hey, the next time I come back by here, you can't be doing this, or there will be an issue." I think it hops straight over to the last part, which is someone being taken to jail and into the court system, which is not what any of us want. That's why I think this homeless court offers this amazing opportunity. It's populated and staffed by people that are closest to the issue in the community. It's not in the courthouse, it's in a parking lot, or it's in somewhere that's nearby where the issues are happening, and it serves, not as a court to criminalize things, but as a mechanism to route folks to the true wraparound services they need, so that we get focused ultimately on making sure they have the resources they need.

So, I will make this motion to take all eight of these ordinances that were on the books in 2021 and before, but ultimately, if we can't get there today, let's keep working on all those fronts together, and I will support just moving the ball forward tonight.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, and seconded by Councilmember Graham to adopt an ordinance amending the City Code by adding language specific to criminal enforcement.

Mayor Lyles said So, now I do want to make a note that this committee was out from our community committee on Housing and Safety, and Ms. Watlington is unable to be with us, and she chairs that committee. So, with that, we have a motion on the floor.

Councilmember Ajmera said thank you, Madam Mayor. As a committee member of the Housing and Safety Committee, I just first want to recognize Councilmember Watlington's leadership on this issue. Chairwoman Watlington has been working on this, along with Vice Chairwoman, Councilmember Mayfield, for past six to eight months, and I appreciate the work that they have done. I have been in communication with Dr. Watlington over the weekend, and you probably have heard from her over the weekend. She was trying to build consensus.

Substitute motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, and seconded by Councilmember Graham (A) To restore criminal enforcement as an option for all sections identified in Agenda Item No. 7, except for Section 15-7 and 15-23, and (B) To establish an effective date of March 1, 2024, for the effective date of the proposed amendments.

Mayor Lyles said so it was important for us to go through this, because we're going to hear you before we begin our own discussion. So, we have over 30 speakers. In our process, when we have a speakers list this long, is that each person gets two minutes. We have two mics at the dais, or down here on the floor. So, I'm going to call people, so that two people can come down at the same time, and I always say be careful, these steps are very steep. So, be careful of that.

Councilmember Mayfield said Madam Mayor, before we go to the public, I think you still have people around this dais that had their hand up.

Mayor Lyles said we were going to have our discussion following the public hearing.

Ms. Mayfield said I think there was an amendment to the amendment they were still having discussions about.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Baker, can I do an amendment to a substitute motion?

Patrick Baker, City Attorney said a motion to amend could be made, not another substitute motion, but if there's an attempt to amend. I'm not sure what motion is being amended.

Councilmember Johnson said I actually wanted to make the substitute motion.

Mayor Lyles said okay, well, we already have a substitute motion on the floor.

Mr. Baker said so, you can do one motion at a time. So, there's a motion and then a substitute motion. The substitute motion will be decided first. If the substitute motion fails, another substitute motion could be entered in at that time, but you can't have multiple substitute motions in front of the Council at once.

Mayor Lyles said so, we all understand what the Attorney has said. So, we have a substitute motion that has been released that basically is what Ms. Ajmera said, and so, now we will begin our public hearing.

Ms. Johnson said well, before we do that, I'm sorry. I mean I don't want to question you, but can you clarify that. It seems like we've done that before. I wanted to make a substitute motion, and we can hear from the public, but I wanted to make a motion that kind of removes even more of the ordinances. So, would that be an amendment?

Mr. Baker said so, if you're going to do an amendment to the motion, you can do the amendment. I don't know if you've got a second or not, but then you would have to have a vote on Council to amend the substitute motion.

Ms. Johnson said then I'd like to say for the record, I'd like to hear from the public, and I do plan to request an amendment to the substitute motion.

Elizabeth Thornton, 832 East 4th Street, Suite 9600 said good evening, Council members. I'm here as the Chief District Court Judge for the 26th Judicial District. I'm here to talk to you about the very real challenges our community faces, and which you are trying to solve, in looking at implementing criminal punishments for violation of certain ordinances and adopting other ordinances that would address some behaviors that people who are unhoused in our community exhibit in public places and impact our business community and our urban residential neighborhoods. These ordinances are classified as Class 3 misdemeanors under North Carolina law. They are punishable by a fine. Unless there's a significant criminal history, they are not even punishable by incarceration. Essentially, implementing criminalization of these ordinances, will result in people being arrested by police officers, who will spend hours in our detention center to see a magistrate to demonstrate probable cause. They'll sit in jail until they see a judge the next day who will, more than likely in most cases, release that individual, more vulnerable, back into the same situation in our community.

Now, I hear Councilmember Bokhari talk about a homelessness court. We have six recovery courts here in Mecklenburg County, and they are very much homelessness courts. They are courts where we are interacting with people who have come into contact with the criminal justice system, because of conduct associated with addiction, mental illness and homelessness, and we face the same problem that you face. We face the same problem that police officer's responding to these incidents in our community face. These are people who need resources.

Rodney Sadler, 5902 Marshbank Lane said greetings, friends. My name is Reverend Doctor Rodney Sadler, and I'm here to speak against these proposals this evening, because Exodus Chapter 23, verse 6 says, "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor." Deuteronomy Chapter 15, verse 11 says, "Since there will never cease to be some in need among you on the earth; therefore, I command you to open your hand to the poor and the needy neighbor in your land." Isaiah 58:7 says, "Bring the homeless poor into your house." Matthew 25:35 says, "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Over and over and over again in scripture we see that, not only are we to help the poor, but that God stands with the needy. Some have said that God exercises a preferential option for the poor. Thus, to stand against the poor, is in essence to stand against God. This is evident in all the scriptures of Jews, Christians, Muslims, Baha'is. Pay your money, take your choice. We know the injustice of the vagrancy laws that were in the aftermath of the Civil War, that put black and brown people in jail just for being black and brown. It would be wrong to do that, to put poor people in the jail, just for being poor.

I wholly understand why we don't want people to urinate and defecate in public spaces, but the way to achieve this is not by criminalizing the act, but by providing alternatives, and this is our moral responsibility to provide these alternatives. In the Bible, those who were impoverished were never demonized or victimized. The Bible recognizes that poverty is not the result of personal feelings or individual choices or moral deficits.

Poverty is the result of a systemic chronic issue. It is not the fault of the poor that they're poor, but the fault of bad policies and legislating systems that make poverty inevitable. So, let us fight poverty, not the poor. Fight discrimination, not the disadvantaged. Fight affluenza and privilege, not the underdogs and the underclass.

Greg Jarrell, 2910 Parkway Avenue said Council, Reverend Greg Jarrell. I'm suspicious as a theologian and Pastor of sweeping moral formations that are common to my profession, phrases like, the soul of America, or the moral character of Charlotte, but to the extent that those phrases reflect any discernable reality, they must be grounded in tangible, physical infrastructure, rather than in passing fancies, like civic cheer. What I'm saying is that it's hard to be free without a place to pee. A city that is meaningfully free requires a commitment to the hard physical infrastructure of public toilets and decent comfortable housing. Without these basic structures to provide for human need, those poorest among us are hardly free, rather they are subject to the strictures of charities and the whims of cops. With the hard infrastructure of toilets and housing, we need the soft infrastructure of care. We have the beginnings of that through the CARES (Community Assistance Response and Engagement Support) policies that the Council already has, but they require full funding and adequate time. Your task, as our representatives, is not to create the conditions for more arrests, rather it is to provide the infrastructure for care, which brings about the condition of freedom. I implore you to listen carefully to these other speakers about how we might build such as city together.

Rebecca Yarbrough, 1223 Ashcraft Lane said thank you. I'm Reverend Rebecca Yarbrough, Deacon at the Episcopal Chapel of Christ the King in Optimist Park. Let me start off by saying, I do understand the frustration of business owners, and it is a difficult problem, but the question is, is recriminalizing really the answer? Because this is really an issue of economic and social justice, and frankly care for all of our fellow human beings. In this case, people are going to be charged with a crime, because they can't afford to patronize places Uptown that have facilities that other people can use when nature calls. I mean, think about it, think about it. If you can't afford it, what can you do? It's not a road trip. You can't pull over to the side of the road and go hide in the woods. We must put ourselves in the place of our unhoused neighbors, who are our brothers and sisters, who would love to have a safe, private place, to take care of their bodily functions. Can you imagine the embarrassment and the shame of not having such a place when you really need to go? While there's a good deal of discussion about some different solutions out there, I would like to ask you all to take a minute and put yourselves mentally in the place of these folks, whose stories so often are not all that different from our stories. Then, to remember that saying from the Bible, that talks about doing unto others as you would have them do to unto you. Thank you.

Jake Sussman, 301 East Park Avenue said good evening. My name is Jake Sussman. I'm a Civil Rights Attorney with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. I'm a long time Charlotte resident and have been spending the last 20 years working in the State and Federal courts of this state, and particularly here in Charlotte. Respectfully, many of the suggestions being considered tonight, I believe, are legally dubious, and open the City up for litigation. For example, Section 15-136, Subpart 5, the anti-sleep, anti-lie provisions, by rendering it unlawful to sleep or lie down in City parks. The City would be effectively punishing the involuntary homelessness of residents of their city. That violates the substantive limits of the Eighth Amendment. We are seeing legal challenges to these kinds of ordinances around the country, and I think it almost certainly would result in legal action here. Section 15-23, the local anti-loitering ordinance, as we give CMPD (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department) nearly unbounded discretion to take otherwise legal activity, and color it as something criminal or nefarious. We have a First and Fourth Amendment for a reason. This would undermine both, and moreover, there are already laws on the books that would address unlawful drug activity.

The anti-urination, anti-defecation, if we had more public bathrooms, this would not be on the agenda tonight. As written, this too invites legal challenges. I want to note that Senate Bill 300, which started this process, went into effect around the same time as

the release of the RAND (Research and Development) study, and the city's SAFE (Safety and Accountability For Everyone) Charlotte report. RAND's analysis told us that the City should invest in alternatives to sending the police, when addressing housing and stability, mental health, and substance abuse issues. It also said CMPD needed to move away from aggressive and zero-tolerance models where appropriate. Criminalizing these ordinances flies in the face of those reports, which was evidence based. I ask you not to do it.

Tim Emry, 11818 Royal Castle Court said good evening. I stand in strong opposition to the Council giving CMPD a blank check to arrest our most vulnerable citizens for simply trying to live and survive. We know that people experiencing houselessness are more likely to be victims of crime than perpetrators. So, let's protect them, not criminalize them. We know that Mecklenburg County Jail is unsafe. Eight people are dying in the jail a year, three have passed since mid-December. You are asking CMPD to use good judgement and discretion when deciding to make an arrest. The same CMPD that has killed 18 people since Keith Lamont Scott. The same CMPD that has failed to use discretion when declining to issue more citations during the peak of COVID. The same CMPD that intentionally trapped, gassed and assaulted peaceful protestors in June 2020 because they were tired. The same CMPD that brutally assaulted a woman outside of Bojangles mere months ago.

You know better. You know better. You represent the people, not Center City Partners and Uptown businesses. Take the steps to provide for our citizens with the greatest needs. It's not a crime to sleep outside when you have no shelter. It's not a crime to ask someone for money. It's not even a crime to urinate, when we have no public restrooms, and those same businesses are openly hostile to unhoused neighbors. Stop and ask yourself, do you see a problem if you were voting with the Council Republicans and Trump supporters on this issue? Remember when we used to ask W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do)? What do think He would be doing here? Please, do the right thing and vote no.

Sara Kinny, 2816 Whiting Avenue said hi, my name is Dr. Sara Kinny. I'm a physician here in Charlotte, North Carolina. A little bit about me. I work at Myers Park Clinic, which is one of our Safety Net clinics here in Charlotte. We take care of the most vulnerable population in Charlotte. I'm here today to speak out, specifically against two of the ordinances, which is the anti-sleep ordinance, the park behavior, lying prone on a bench, as well as the urination and defecation ordinance. I appreciate the long-term efforts and remarks by City Council to work with our nonprofits to come up with viable long-term solutions to address Charlotte's affordable housing crisis. The reality is, though, that in our immediate state, we lack the infrastructure for public bathrooms. We lack the infrastructure for emergency shelter beds.

I have had to discharge patients from the hospital directly to the streets in freezing temperatures, because our shelter beds are full, to capacity. People are turned away every single night. To make it a crime to sleep outside, when we don't have any viable alternatives, is not only immoral, unethical, but we are not portraying Charlotte in the light that we want to. I know that City Council members want to treat our most vulnerable patients and people in our City with dignity. We need to do so by not criminalizing behaviors that are shared by all of us, basic bodily functions. At a minimum, I ask that we table the discussion to allow for infrastructure development. Thank you.

James Lee, 7705 King's Ridge Drive said it's been a minute since I've been here. I'm going to take this in a different direction. Some of you remember the first time you saw me. I was on the street when you first saw me and I was up here, you remember. I used to have the hair, the all, ya'll remember. Look at me now. Why am I here? Because folks like behind me, helped me to get here. There's a lot of people that's outside this door that need us to get this right. When I was on the street, yes, I used the transit, and I used the library to relieve myself. Some of you relieved yourself when you were coming down here. Most of us are going to relieve ourselves before we leave the building. When you get home, you're going to relieve yourself. First thing in the morning, you're

going to relieve yourself too. I challenge you to do what I used to do. I used to hold myself overnight, because I had nowhere to go. Although, I did put myself in the situation, okay, granted, but still as a citizen, I should still be respected enough to have a place to go, and you're tearing down two of the places that I went. I went to the public library, and I went to the transit. Public library is gone. Transit is going to go. Where am I going to go after that?

You've got a 50 million thing coming up. You need to make that a 20. Just because you make these ordinances, it's not going to make a difference to me. You guys spend a lot of time doing these kinds of things, and it's not really going to make a difference in the real world. People are still going to do what they do, and just because you put it in police's hands, it's not going to make it better. Put it in the hands of us. Let us figure it out. Give us what we need to do this. We know the answer, all of us, but you've got to give us the opportunity to do that. Ya'll know what I'd do. Ya'll know what I'd do. I'm out.

Judy Seldin-Cohen, 229 North Church Street said I am Judy Seldin-Cohen, and I live Uptown in Fourth Ward, District 2. Obviously, no one is comfortable with public urination and defecation, but in this rush to mitigate our collective discomfort, let's pause long enough for expanded Street Outreach to help the unhoused find new porta-potties. Meanwhile, let's rush to fund real solutions for all my Uptown neighbors, including those who live Uptown, but unhoused. First, expand the existing CARES team, starting in the current budget year, so that those targeted by these ordinances can be connected to social workers instead of police. CMPD is working on the weekends, so the CARES team should too. Second, expedite the specialized emergency shelter for those vulnerable neighbors. Let the CARES team and expanded Street Outreach help our neighbors find this new shelter, instead of Subsection 5, prohibiting sleeping in City parks. Third, double the housing bond issue on this November 2024 ballot. All my Uptown neighbors need the CARES team and more Street Outreach on the weekend as an alternative to CMPD. Those who are unhoused also need a non-congregate, emergency shelter with mental health services, a home with a bathroom and a bed, instead of a porta-potty and a park bench. City Council has the capacity to be responsive to all my Uptown neighbors, both housed and unhoused. This is your moment to serve all of us. Thank you.

Meko McCarthy, 1235 East Boulevard, Suite E PMB1373 said look, I'm going to be brief, and I want to say this. A lot of those people that ya'll look at as discarded trash, are voters, and they voted you in to protect them. A lot of ya'll don't have the luxury like the City Manager. Ya'll were voted in. So, ya'll got to be mindful of those same people that you're trying to criminalize, they're watching, even when you think they're not watching. So, the same way they voted you in to protect them, and we, the community got to keep them safe, they're going to vote you out. Renee, you should be familiar with that. You just had Wil run up against you. So, ya'll need to be mindful when you sit up here and want to talk about an ordinance. Yes, no need to shake your head, it's facts, you're selected. So, don't criminalize a situation when you're in a situation that you're fortunate enough. Like we have shelter. We have food. We can get in the car. We've got shelter. They don't, so they struggle with that. So, you need to be mindful before you start wanting to talk about criminalize, because the same way that got you in, the same way they'll get you out, and I'm out.

Ron Clark, 9910 Stewart Spring Lane said yes. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Ron Clark. I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for Roof Above. I'm also the Manager of Community Services for Camino Health Center, where I teach recovery and change by means of state peer support, mental health, first aid, suicide prevention, and wellness recovery action plan, which we call WRAP. Just in the year 2024, I would be facilitating 16 times within Mecklenburg County Detention Centers or Jails. Each class will be one week in length. To date, I've touched the lives of over 500 residents. We don't call them inmates. I've touched the lives of over 500 residents through these trainings through the re-entry program. I also had a nasty addiction to drugs and two untreated mental health diagnoses for over 21 years, right here in the City of Charlotte. I was not only homeless/unsheltered, but chronically unsheltered for most of that time, to include incarcerations, under bridges and bushes, bus stops. I also sleeping downtown

parks and benches. Had it not been for a complete wholistic approach to recovery, I would not be able to speak with you ya'll this evening. What we're talking about is a recovery-oriented community, where everyone is educated on the myths and untruths that people like us don't fit into recovery and change.

I'm also part of the CIT (Crisis Intervention Team), where we teach the police officers, first responders, sheriffs and others, to include dispatchers and fire department, and one of our goals is to train these individuals for diverting individuals to known resources, treatment, and housing opportunities. I understand that this is a journey, not a destination. My ask is that we adopt a wholistic approach toward addressing this situation. Let's continue to rewrite the ending for people like me living in the City.

Deborah Phillips, 5306 Dewmorn Place said Deborah Phillips, Founder of Block Love Charlotte. "Hey ma, can I use your phone?" "Yes, who do you need to call?" "My case manager," who happens to be standing beside me. "My case manager." "What's wrong? You're not smiling. What's going on today?" "I was trying to get up here, and I defecated on myself that wasn't [inaudible]. This is somebody I see smiling everyday ya'll, and this was just last Friday, and he tried to make his way from the transit to get to me where I serve every evening, to use my phone, so that he can get his housing, and if you criminalize that, that's another ding on his record, to keep a landlord from allowing him to get into a place. So, these are things that ya'll don't understand, because landlords look at that. They look at those dings, and it might be minor to you, but it's major to them when we're trying to house them. This is somebody that could absolutely die out here on the streets. When my team sleeps out every year, and yes, we sleep out every year since 2020. When we sleep outside, guess what? We're like James Lee, we've got to hold it, because there's nowhere for us to go, because we want to do the same thing that our neighbors do. Because we want everybody to understand that we've got to change the narrative of what houselessness looks like.

I can be honest, and I can honestly say this. Listen, it's one person that actually serve with one of the City Council members in this room, and he tells me it's a shame that the stance that you take, because we are a government in action, and I don't care if it was on the books since 2021. Guess what? We can always change those books. We can go back and rewrite these laws, because we've got to understand about dignity. We have to understand about respect, and we have to provide housing every single day, because these are people that we love and we serve, and I call them by block family for a reason, because they look like me. They're my brothers and my sisters. I go hard for them every single day, and I will not stop. I've have not received a paycheck since I can remember, but I stand before you all today, because I believe in this mission, I believe in what we do, and we will continue to spread love.

Jessica Lefkowitz, 820 Dobson Drive said man, having to speak after that, because the client she was talking about is actually mine, and I'm a mess after doing that. Good evening, my name is Jessica Lefkowitz. I am the Founder and Executive Director of Hearts For The Invisible Street Outreach Program. We currently serve Mecklenburg County, and since May 2024, when we got funded by Mecklenburg County, we have had over 130 positive exists out of our program. We do work nights and weekends. I do not advertise my phone number on there, because then my phone's going to ring until 11:00 p.m., 12:00 p.m. at midnight. So, we do work on the weekends. When I came up here, I wanted to share a story, because I think like Deb, we really want to try to humanize the folks that are outside, and hopefully I can get through this.

So, the story I want to share is about a young woman. She was sleeping in front of either the Aquatic Center or in front of the Court House. She, in her former life, worked at Walmart, and something really traumatic happened in her life, and she had a mental health break, and ended up upside and displaced from her family. In that time, she slept in local parks, where she was shot, which made her disabled. Now, this woman is one of the sweetest women I know. I still check on her to this day, but then she ended up Uptown. Her mental health went through the roof. She literally was IVC'd (Involuntary Committed) many, many times, because she would lie on the ground, and even in severe cold weather, she would still lie there. In fact, we were able to get her out and

then get her into the shelter. Before that, she did not have equal access to bathrooms, so she would menstruate on herself in the streets, with her disabilities, and didn't have the help and wasn't willing to accept the help, but she finally did. Once Street Outreach got involved, she finally did. We were able to get her into the shelter and then get her housed.

Harper Ellis, 1606 Abbey Place said good evening, City Council. My name is Harper Ellis, and I'm the Vice Chair for Homeless Services Network. We are a network of direct service providers that work directly with our unhoused neighbors. Something I'm not sure if City Council is aware of. If we are not in the winter months, so December 1st to March 31st, there is no rooms in the inn. Salvation Army is probably at capacity. Shelter in the city is probably at capacity. Where are they going to go? So, there in Uptown all day. They need to get their laundry done, they need to take a shower, and they need to use the bathroom, maybe call their mom on the phone, but now they're in Uptown with no bus passes and nowhere to go. So, they think potentially a safe place to sleep is on a park bench, but to do what we're doing here, would make that illegal for that person, and a cop may come up to them at 3:00 a.m., and they may not be the happiest that the cop came up to them at 3:00 a.m. and told them to sleep somewhere else. So, City Council, I tell you, this is not going to help our unhoused neighbors. Today, I'm actually wearing a shirt that was provided from me, by Mecklenburg County, that says, "Imagine a county where no one has to sleep outside," and 100 plus volunteers wore this this year as we counted our unsheltered neighbors, and City Council, I tell you that this is not going to create a county where no one has to sleep outside, and we're going to stick people in the system forever.

Joy Patterson, 6026 Glen Manor Drive said good evening. I'm Joy Patterson, a resident of City Council District 4, and a native Charlottean. I have the humble honor of being the Chair of the Board of Roof Above. I'm before you today as someone that has worked downtown Charlotte for the better part of the last 20 years and encountered countless of our unsheltered neighbors. Years ago, I befriended a frequent panhandler, Mr. Victor. After sharing lunch and snacks with him, he began to walk me to my car, and along one of our walks, I asked him if he ever stayed in a shelter or had meals at the Soup Kitchen. He mentioned that he suffered from the disease of addiction and had mental health challenges. Maintaining his sobriety away from potential temptations was more important to him than shelter.

Mr. Victor's story is not unique. With over 3,000 people experiencing homelessness in Charlotte on a daily basis, our neighbors without homes are forced to do things outside that should be done inside, due to lack of options. For many, traditional shelters are not the answer in navigating a mental health crisis or addiction. I ask you all to consider Mr. Victor, and the countless others in his situation, as you seek to address the challenges in the downtown area. Caring relationships affect much more change than criminal citations. Rather than focusing our efforts on the recriminalization of ordinances, a symptom of a larger issue, consider focusing our City's efforts on the longer-term solutions. The Housing Trust Fund, CMPDs CARES pilot, and the two new public restrooms installed today, are strong steps in the right direction, but those alone will not be enough. Expanding these programs, along with Street Outreach, and of course housing, addresses the root cause. If you do vote to criminalize these ordinances, I ask you to include a 12-month sunset provision, and a delay in enforcement. Thank you for your consideration and the steps already taken to support our neighbors.

Laura Gorecki, 4222 Sharon View Road said thank you so much for the opportunity to speak here tonight. My name is Laura Gorecki, and my official title is Chief Dignity Officer of Project Outpour Mobile Showers and Hygiene Services. My title is such because our number one goal is to bring the dignity, that comes with being and feeling clean, to our unhoused neighbors. We believe that access to sanitation is a basic human right that every person desires and deserves to have met. We serve at six locations all around Charlotte every single week, and for many of the individuals that we see, it is the only dignified restroom they have access to on a consistent basis and the only shower of any kind. People accessed our services 1,945 times in 2023. I can assure you that none of those visitors would have preferred to take care of these most

private and basic personal needs outdoors. So, please get funding and solutions in place, and give them time to work, before making it an arrestable offense to be a human being that simply lacks housing. Thank you.

Malia Suhren, 945 North College Street said thank you. Good evening, City Council. My name is Malia Suhren, and I'm a Clinical Social Worker, Charlotte native, and currently have the privilege to serve as the Director of Unsheltered Housing Navigation at Roof Above. I wanted to start my comments by genuinely thanking the City of Charlotte for their diligence in pursuing conversation with our illustrious partners at Hearts For The Invisible, Charlotte, with the possible of expanding Street Outreach in the Uptown area. In the same breath, I would challenge you all to think about the way that recriminalizing these ordinances would hinder that future investment. In conducting Street Outreach, the rapport-building piece is slow and meaningful, especially in a system that historically has built more barriers than bridges. So, to bombard an already overcrowded system with more quality-of-life crimes, would reduce the resilient neighbors that we work with each day to mere liabilities in the eyes of our community's landlords. Our neighbors will spend more time outside, more time in crisis, and continue to utilize more high-cost resources in our community.

Criminalizing these behaviors amongst the City's most vulnerable does nothing to provide basic needs or house people. It exacerbates the homelessness to prison pipeline that we already know exists in our community. You all have the power tonight to make a different choice. You all can decide if we are going to address our affordable housing crisis with punitive, expensive action, or expansion of emergency shelter, permanent housing for our neighbors, access to bathrooms, system partnerships, and more. I implore you to think about Charlotte's most recent designation as a second-chance city, but maybe our neighbors wouldn't need one if we just meet them where they are the first time around.

Michelle Frenzel, 2201 Hastings Drive said good evening, everyone. I'm Michelle Frenzel, and I'm here tonight speaking on behalf of OneMECK. We are a coalition of housing providers, service providers, and community advocates, who support diverse neighborhoods and affordable housing for all residents. We believe that the proposed criminalization of some behaviors of unhoused people will be ineffective and unnecessarily harmful. We are sympathetic to the public health and quality issues created by public urination and defecation, as well as the other unacceptable and indefensible public activities and behaviors that these ordinances are intended to address. However, we ask Council, before criminalizing these behaviors, first work to resolve the root causes, lack of access to bathrooms, insufficient transitional housing, our need for innovation in creating more affordable housing options and more mental health outreach services.

It's important to note a criminal record, for those already unhoused, will severely affect their ability to obtain future housing, causing an unintended, yet desperate and unending cycle. By focusing on implementing solutions as quickly as possible, we can deter the behavior while avoiding an increase in criminal records that can create future barriers to stable housing, and we can avoid overburdening an already understaffed and backlogged CMPD and Criminal Justice System. We respectfully request that you consider a more nuanced and targeted approach to addressing each behavior or offense by limiting citations only to the indefensible behaviors until viable solutions to public toileting and sleeping can be put in place for the unhoused, and more outreach services can be mobilized to serve those with mental health needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Clasen-Kelly, 6935 Woodstock Drive said good evening, Mayor and members of City Council. I'm Liz Clasen-Kelly, and I serve as CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Roof Above. Last Friday afternoon, I had the chance to meet with members of Friends of Fourth Ward to seek where we can find common ground, and after that meeting, a board member of Friends of Fourth Ward and I walked to the areas that the Neighborhood Association had highlighted of greatest concern. What we found there, was we found that people we met had some things in common. People we met seemed

to know each other. They were in community. We indeed did see open containers. Everyone we met was experiencing poverty. Everyone we met was experiencing homelessness. Not everyone's sleeping outside Uptown, but everyone was experiencing homelessness. It's not lost on me, that everyone we met was a person of color, speaking to the realities of slavery and [inaudible] pro and urban renewal that are right here on this land. Nearly everyone we talked with was ready to engage and talk about housing. What I walked away with was that what people most were longing for was hope. People wanted hope that life could be different, and I see that life can be different. I see it everyday on an individual level in the work we do, but I've seen it in this community.

I remember when police arrested people all the time for trespassing and open container and public urination, and police have changed. They've thought about partnerships, invest in services, alternate responses to 911, like the CARES team. I've seen us invest in housing first and invest in permanent supportive housing. I've seen us make a huge dent in chronic homelessness and the impact that has on everyone. Now, I regularly see people who were homeless for decades, that have now been in housing for a decade. I've seen us understand the connections between homelessness and housing. I see us understand that when rents go up, homelessness is going to go up unless we're doing something to actively work against it. Thank you.

LeeAnn Roughton, 530 D North Poplar Street said thank you, Mayor Lyles and City Council for hearing, and hearing everyone's perspectives. I was one of those board members that Liz met with on Friday afternoon. I want to bring a different perspective. Our children, our grandchildren also live in this community. They live all across Charlotte. I happen to live in a neighborhood that you've heard of, and it's called the Fourth Ward. I think you might have a different perspective if you look at it from that lens. The behavior that children have to witness, quite frankly, is appalling. It's behaviors that are unsafe from a health perspective, and actually cause them to be unsure about how they feel about being safe overall. I bring that up to share that there's other perspectives to think about when we think about what we're looking at and what we're proposing here. What we're really talking about is basic civil behavior, and basic civil behavior that can be enforced. That is what we're asking for. There are basic civil behaviors that often are not being performed by the unhoused. This is a bigger issue. There's rarely a time that I walk in this City that you don't witness some type of civil behavior that is not appropriate. Engagement has been a default strategy since these ordinances were in place even prior to 2021, and it's been a default strategy since removing the criminalization of the ordinances. Our public spaces have gotten significantly worse, even with those engagement strategies. We are in total agreement that additional resources for outreach are needed, and what I have read and listened to, as part of the work that has gone into this, those resources are part of this recommendation. Thank you for your time.

Chris Connelly, 400 North Church Street said thank you. Good evening. My name is Chris Connelly, and I am a member of the faith community, the business community, the downtown resident community, and I'm here to speak about the ordinances. I'm against the criminalization of homelessness, and I want to end homelessness in our lifetime if not sooner. It is for these reasons I'm asking you to pass these ordinances that we desperately need to restore the quality of life in our City. I ask you to do so for the safety, the health and the wellbeing of the housed, the unhoused, the workers, visitors and their families. This is a photo of the Little Free Library in our Fourth Ward Park, next to a bench where parents and grandparents sit with their children as they teach them to read and explore the wonders of books. Next to it with a pink arrow is a pile of fresh human feces, diarrhea in broad daylight in the hot sun, and there are flies buzzing around it.

No child should have to be exposed to that when they are just trying to read a book in the park. No parent should have to make a choice of whether to read with the children, or to avoid raw human waste. Several weeks ago, I saw a young lady who works downtown walking along that same Fourth Ward Park on a Friday afternoon. She walked past a large group of men who were drinking beer from 12-packs, even though it

was early afternoon on a weekday. As she walked past them, they drunkenly leered at her, cat calling and harassing her, taunting her about her attire, and asking for her name. She did her best to play it off, but she was obviously feeling uncomfortable, unsafe, and objectified, and moved quickly out of her own park, our park. No one should have to walk through a gauntlet of toxic drunkenness because our City leaders are allowing that to persist.

We moved to this city over 30 years ago from New York like so many others. We moved here because it was safe, and it was clean, and had opportunity, but today our city is far less safe and far less clean. So, I ask you to pass these ordinances. Thank you for hearing this.

Mayor Lyles said I understand that you may not agree with this speaker. Okay, well then, I think you ought to leave ma'am. I think that you ought to leave the building if you can't be respectful for these things. So, if we can all just get along through the respectfulness and let everyone have their speech, then we won't have this issue. We want to hear from everybody, and we don't want you to heckle anybody's thoughts, because they're different than yours.

Carol Pearsall, 3121 Sunset Drive said everybody in this world does the best they can under the circumstances they have endured. Every one of us has different viewpoints on things that need to happen in this world, and things that do not need to happen in this world. We have to really think through things in order to decide whether this should happen or not. I am a native Charlottean. My uncle used to be a City Council member for years and years. I'm 72 years old, so I was born in 1951, and I grew up going to Charlottetown Mall, where you would see white water fountains and colored water fountains, not black, but colored. Are we going backwards by saying that we should criminalize people who have to use the facility that is not existent? That is not correct, and homelessness is without a doubt the worst thing that any human should have to endure. I am on the Myers Park High School Foundation Board. When I started with them, there were 100 homeless students, they were teenagers, at Myers Park High School at that time. We think of all of the rich people and the poor people, and we need to learn to love each other and take care of each other. Amen.

Kristin Smith, 333 West 7th Street said good evening. My name is Kristin Smith. I'm a native Charlottean and proud graduate of Irwin Piedmont in West Charlotte all public schools located near Uptown. I have lived in Fourth Ward for almost 24 years. I chose to live in Uptown for the culture, walkability, diversity, and vibrancy. I live in a condo with a balcony overlooking the Main Fountain in Fourth Ward Park. We chose to buy our place knowing that we would live across the street from subsidized housing, and on a park that includes unhoused folks enjoying the park on the benches, just like everyone else does. That has not changed.

Here is what is new. The frequent drinking and drug use in the park, loud arguments and violence resulting from the drinking, being flashed by people, urinating right beneath my balcony, staying up all night long twice, worrying about my dog, who ate human feces containing drugs powerful enough to make her unable to hold her head still or walk. It was terrifying. I can't imagine how I would've felt had that been my toddler granddaughter who had come into contact with drugs or human feces that might contain drugs. I have watched many people gather on the park benches to drink for hours, consuming 6-packs or more of beer or liquor. Those people I have seen are rarely unhoused folks. They are well-dressed and carry no belongings. These are not the folks sleeping in the park.

Although I am passionately committed to living in Uptown Charlotte, I am very worried that we are becoming known as an unsafe, unclean place to live. We need to have the tools to keep our beautiful Uptown a desirable place to live and work. I encourage you to reenact the ordinances against open containers and public beer and wine consumption, masturbation in public and urination and defecation on certain property. Thank you.

Cedric Dean, 5502 McChesney Drive said yes, I just want to say to every individual that's come in this room tonight that is in favor of these ordinances, I would like for you to agree to spend one night in jail or one night on a park bench before you make this bill a law. Now, I stand in opposition of this ordinance that criminalizes mental health, that criminalizes homelessness, that punishes impoverished people. I refuse to sit comfortably in Highland Creek and not be concerned about what goes on with the homelessness in our community. Discrimination anywhere in Charlotte is a threat to democracy all over Charlotte. CMPD are not community health workers. CMPD are not properly trained to deal with poor people with mental health issues. I am sick and tired of the Councilwomen and men, of color, discriminating against people of color. We are talking about human beings, not animals that you commit to a cage. We have white kids on opioids in South Park, Mr. Bokhari. He's not here right now, but what are we going to do? We going to put them in jail too? We cannot police our way out of the inherent stresses of poverty. We cannot make poverty a crime. We cannot make white officers with guns yelling verbal commands to black people experiencing homelessness. We can't make that legal. Did you tell your constituents that you are going to criminalize mental health? Can any Council member, other than Ms. Tiawana Brown, tell me what it's like to be in a jail cell? Did you really think about what this was going to do? I want you to look at what you're doing to Martin. Look at what you're going to do to Malcolm. Look at what you're going to do to Mandela.

Dr. Blanche Penn, 2207 Century Oaks Lane said I am Dr. Blanche Penn, and I come to you today, because there is a problem that we have to have solutions. We all want solutions. You see all these organizations, businesspeople, in this room, young people too. Now, we all understand what it is that we're doing, but there is a problem here, and it's homelessness, no housing, but nonetheless, I was at church with a Pastor at Rockwell, and he said, "You don't know, and you don't know that you don't know," but guess what, you need to listen, and that's part of your problem. You don't listen. You listen to whom you think is going to give you what you need. I am a senior, and nonetheless, I look good, but here are some actions for you. The City, two toilets, c'mon ya'll. I see ya'll use money for a whole lot of other stuff that we need to change. These restrooms, now you know I've got to the bathroom my darn self-right about now, but I want ya'll to remember one thing. One day, you might be homelessness, and what would you want us to do? I don't care nothing about you're AMI (Area Median Income), your homeless or home, but I'm going to give you this. Give them a house, a home, and guess what, you've got one. So, let's work on helping them too. Peace and blessings.

Micah Belong, 1344 Green Oaks Lane said my name is Micah Belong. I'm a minister to those left on the outside of the church, and I wanted to say to Councilman Bokhari, but unfortunately, he is not here, that taking the native lands was on the books. Slavery was on the books. Sexism was on the books. Homophobia was on the books. I hope you can hear me, Representative Bokhari, because on the books does not mean what is ethical or what is required of a people who try to be a city.

Now, I walked in on my youth, my beautiful youth, talking about where Jesus would live in Charlotte, North Carolina, and when I did so, they said that he would live in the South, because there is the nature, and he loves nature, and so he would go down and he would be amongst the nature when we had to flee away. Another, said that he would live near Lake Wylie, because that is where the Sea of Galilee is for our community, and he would go out with the fishers. Another said that he would live in NoDa, because that's where it was cool, and this kid remembered back when that was where the sex workers and artists hung out, and that's where Jesus would belong. Then, my youngest youth said to me, "No, Jesus lives on the corner of Tryon and Trade, and he sleeps on the bench there." Now, whether or not my youth was confusing my friend Paul with somebody else, or if he was literally saying that every one of those people is Jesus, he was right on the money, because Matthew 25 tells us that what you do for the least of these, you have done it also for me, which means that every one of our homeless neighbors who is out here, is the very embodiment of the God of Love. If we fail to love God there, who are we? Who are we? Because whether or not you believe that our homeless neighbor is literally God, the most important thing we can do as human beings is love, and that is what I call you to do.

Sandy Kindbom, 5808 Maylandia Road said and boy, I sure do not relish following that. I broke the law coming in here today. I drove down 77, and I was driving 70 miles an hour in a posted 65-mile zone. I was pretty sure I was okay, because the police have discretion on who they pull over. If I'm going 90 or 95, I hope they stop me, because I'm a danger and I'm causing trouble to others on the road. I work Uptown and have worked Uptown for 24 years. I have seen a young girl on Tryon Street carefully crawl behind the bushes of the First United Methodist Church, obviously embarrassed, because she needed to pee. She was very circumspect. If I hadn't been looking right her way, I never would have seen her. I saw a man standing on 6th Street right outside of Discovery Place with a blanket over his head covering him completely in the middle of summer, and I thought what in the world, until I saw a stream of water running down 6th Street, where shortly buses were going to let kids off to go on a field trip at Discovery Place.

I had so much sympathy for those two people. That's what I remember, was my sympathetic feeling toward them. I'd like to commend everybody who's spoken here today about the work they're doing to solve our social problems, and particularly for the people who have overcome their disabilities and their circumstances, and a couple have spoken here today and it's been really amazing. Having said that, I've worked Uptown for 24 years. My office has a door right out to the sidewalk. I'm not in an upper floor of a secure building. We put a dog bowl out every day, so people can walk by and their dogs and visitor's dogs can have a fresh sip of water. Twice in the last year, we've had a gentleman, I use the word advisedly, walk up in front of our big windows and urinate in our dog bowl. I'm just going to ask you what should be done about that?

Arnold Garcia, 426 West 9th Street said thank you. I come here to talk to you just as a resident of Uptown Charlotte, Fourth Ward, to be exact. I'm just going to state what I've seen over the last couple years and how things have changed and progressively gotten worse. In front of my place, I've seen people congregating, getting in fights, arguing with each other, threatening each other's lives, starting things on fire, and naturally putting things at risk. I've also gotten my property damaged. I've seen people try to walk into my home, and those are things that have made me nervous about what's going on. It's not an anti-homeless account, but this is just what's happened. So, this is a safety matter. We call the police, they've got a lot of other things going on, nothing happens, and by the time they get there, things could've gone really wrong. I've seen a medic come by and try to help somebody down there, where people have been passed out, and I don't know what the causes are, but that's some of things that we've seen. Something's got to change.

I'm not here to tell you solutions, because that's not my job, and I'm not going to try to do somebody else's job, but it's a quality-of-life situation, where we live here. Not everybody who's been talking up here lives here, but the ones that do, appreciate it one way or the other, something's got to be done. I don't know the answers to that. I just know that I'm just giving you the example of what I've seen and what scares me, to tell you the truth. Not just for my own safety, but for the safety of others, everybody, not just the people that are homed, the houseless also. These are dangerous situations, and something's got to be done. I don't know the answer to that, but again, I'm just here to give you a statement of what I've seen and how some things have to be changed here.

Unknown said your discomfort doesn't allow [inaudible].

Kate Murphy, 5735 East W.T. Harris Boulevard said hi, my name is Reverend Kate Murphy. I'm the Pastor at the Grove Presbyterian Church. Just this past Sunday, a woman walked in our congregation, and I could tell she was in great distress during worship. I asked her what she needed, and she looked at me with tears in her eyes and said, "I just need a place to rest. Is there just somewhere where I can sleep?" We let her. We brought her to a place, a quiet room, while services were going on, and while we have our after-service gatherings and Sunday School, but after that was over, we had to make her go out on the street, because your Fire Marshall told us that if anybody is living or sleeping in our building, you'll disconnect us from the electric grid. I am glad that people are upset. I am glad that there is a sense of urgency about the fact that

people have no place to live in our community. The problem isn't that people have to see how hard it is to be unhoused. The problem is that people are unhoused.

It should not be illegal to rest in our community. It should not be illegal to have a digestive system and a body in our community, and I'm sorry, I appreciate the thought of delaying these ordinances by two weeks, but what is that going to do? We think that there are people who can magically house themselves in two weeks, and do we think that it's a deterrent of being arrested that's going to magically make housing available to the people who are the most desperate in our community? When I sit around [inaudible] tables in my church and I ask people, make conversation, where are you from? The people who show up are people who are born and raised and grew up in Charlotte, and they have seen this city change and unimaginable wealth, and they have been left out and displaced, and their place is not a jail cell, a jail cell which is not free, a homelessness court is also not free. The solution to homelessness is housing. We need to house people. It's that simple. This will never go away until that happens. So, I ask you, please, to vote against these ordinances. We need the problem to be visible, because that's the only way we'll all want to solve it.

Mina Epikpe, 7325 Pebblestone Drive said hi, my name is Mina Epikpe. I'm a Public Defender here in Mecklenburg County, and I really wanted to highlight something I think hasn't been spoken about too much is that, there really is a cost and a burden placed on community when people are arrested, especially people who are experiencing homelessness, who may be experiencing mental health or substance use disorders, encounters with police could potentially be deadly. Jail is deadly. Jail is not a solution to housing. It's not an emergency or temporary shelter. Also, people who are frequently arrested for, even low-level offenses, it can take a lot of time and lot of court dates for those cases to ever be resolved. As you can imagine, people struggling with homelessness sometimes find it very difficult to make all of those court dates. When you miss court dates, you get rearrested for missing court dates, and they do start to compound over time, such that, I personally have clients who have spent days, weeks, months, in jail on low-level offenses, for which, if they had been convicted, they wouldn't even be able to serve as much time. People who take pleas just so that they can get out, because they have such a long history of missing court, and then being rearrested, encountering with the police, spending more time in jail. These are all things that take up time, take up resources of the system, and really overload our court system with these low-level offenses that do, over time, start to have real impact on people's lives, as other people have spoken of people that have these really long criminal records that are just made up of all of these quality-of-life "offenses."

I heard a City Council person say that funding alternative solutions while criminalizing these issues is a win-win solution, but really, it's kind of just working with one hand while the other hand is actively undoing all of the work, and really not allowing these community-rooted solutions to actually function and operate.

David Foulser, 516 Living Way said thank you Madam Mayor. My name is David Foulser, and I'm here to speak against the topic of recriminalization. We've learned since George Floyd, others before him and others since, that some encounters with the police can escalate, and become harmful or deadly. As recently as November 2023, we had Bojangles in play, who was beaten by the police, because of a police stop that escalated. The state was correct to decriminalize these behaviors. You should continue on that path. So, I understand that people want someone to call when they see these things happening. More than likely, it'll be a call to 911 and the police. Rather than giving the police more tools, in terms of criminal citations, we need better systems in place so the dispatcher can send somebody else. You got a fire, you don't send the police. I hoping to hear the police today come and speak out against this as well. I kind of figured that the CMPD would say they have better things to do, and that they would welcome a solution that's sends other responders to these calls.

So, I learned about this topic about a month ago, and I'm here, because what I heard then, was that not enough people like me came to speak against this topic. As somebody who's adequately housed, who's been fully employed, I'm still asking you to

address this problem in a way that doesn't invoke a criminal mentality and doesn't bring that to bear on a small subset of Charlotte's population. So, on a personal note, I have experienced the difficulty of finding a toilet in Uptown. In November 2023, I was encouraging people to vote in the Overstreet Mall, and I'll tell you, you cannot find a toilet in the Overstreet Mall. A retired white guy in a vote t-shirt cannot find a public restroom. It's a tourism problem, as well as a neighborhood problem. We have a tourism fund that taxes hotels and restaurants, \$75 million a year. Surely, we could dip into that.

Cameron Holtz, 529 North Poplar Street said hello, my name is Cameron Holtz. I'm a Fourth Ward resident and have been for almost 25 years. I raised my children there. I've been very active in my faith community and the neighborhood and volunteering with many of the groups here talking about the homelessness issues, including Roof Above, the Crisis Assistance Ministry, and others. I absolutely agree with their position that we need more wraparound services, more facilities for our unhoused neighbors. We take that very seriously, and it's always been part of Friends of Fourth Ward's agenda to make that a welcoming community, and when I began to understand the opposition to reinstating these ordinances, I was frankly confused, because most people that I have seen violating what these ordinances would control, have not been unhoused neighbors. They have been rowdy sports fans, they have been day drinkers, they have been people coming from various festivals, they have been unbelievably rude people of every stripe, who urinate in the park next to me, who deal drugs on the street in front of my children, who have made it unsafe for my children to walk to their after-school activities, because of their presence in our parks and on our streets.

I really implore you to think about, when someone says quality-of-life, it sounds so trite, but if we can't live in these neighborhoods safely, if we can't move about safely and with health and with confidence that our children are also going to be okay, an awful lot of other things become big problems. This is not an either/or. This is not taking care of these people or these people. This is a take care of all of these issues. Please, please, continue to put the resources into the services our unhoused neighbors so obviously need, and give our Peace Officers the tools they need to make this a healthy environment.

Kenny Robinson, 6203 Rockshire Drive said my name is Kenny Robinson, and I am the Founder and Executive Director of Freedom Fighting Missionaries. I am, of course, here in opposition for obvious reasons, increased workload for our organization by individuals being criminalized for their circumstances and their circumstances being homelessness. I would like to put a name to some of what we call homeless, unsheltered, unhoused. There's a man who has been living there on the corner of Trade and Tryon for many years, who lives at the bus stop there. He has a name. Many of us in this room know his name. Those in the healthcare field know his name. CMPD knows his name. His name is Larry Marine, and if you employ the CMPD on Larry Marine living out there outside of Bank of America, it will not be a friendly confrontation, because Larry Marine has been allowed to live there for many years. He believes that that is his home. He uses the bathroom right there. He eats right there. He panhandles from there. I went there today in the rain to visit Larry Marine to ask for permission to use his name. He said, "Use my name, brother." He's not coherent, he can't speak, but he suffers from severe mental illness. He suffers from the disease of addiction. He suffers from being born black in the United States of America and residing in Charlotte, North Carolina. He suffers from that, and his name is Larry Marine. Say his name, because there's a good chance that when CMPD confronts him, it will not be a nice situation. So, remember the name of Larry Marine as you make this decision, because you're subject to see it again on WCNC or some of the other news stations.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, it's a matter of how homeless are you? We work in homelessness. I serve on the Continuum of Care Board for homelessness. I'm a Chairperson of the Equity and Inclusion Committee. I got the data of 3,000 homeless people, and if you invest \$1,000 into the 3,000, that's \$3 million dollars, so we're far away from addressing this issue. Thank you.

Peter Wherry, 7103 Strawberry Fields Lane said good evening, Madam Mayor and Council. I have very little I could add to the passion and genius I've heard tonight. I don't have the power of persuasion and love as much as I would like to have, as these giants who run organizations, who minister to our homeless, unhoused neighbors. I have a mandate from Jesus, who fraternized and lived with those people who were unhoused. I have church congregation who has tried, and still tries, to respond redemptively to our unhoused neighbors in this City. I've watched young people fall out on the bus stop, because of exhaustion, working jobs more than they can handle, and still can't afford a place to live. I've read recently something that confirmed a bias for me. It was that the building boom in South Charlotte is coming to a slowed-down place. I believe that this is a great city, but I would hate for us to be characterized as people who, on the backs of those who cannot help their station, have decided to take a route that will comport with our own interest. I'm Baptist. That was the fastest two minutes I ever heard.

Mayor Lyles said Revered Wherry, you know I wouldn't want to interrupt, but thank you.

That is the completion, Madam Clerk, of our speakers list. So, now, I think the time is the deliberation by the Council. I'd ask you to continue to be as respectful as people on this body address this issue. Believe me, every person on this Council, you may not see what they feel or do, and I know it's kind of hard to think about it, but I do believe that everyone on this Council has the values that they would like to see us do something that's really good for our community, and we struggle with this all the time. I would ask you, please, to respect the voices that you hear around the table, so that we can have the discussion of what's going to be a really difficult choice, if it is a choice. So, thank you. Alright, so we have a substitute motion. I'm going to ask the Clerk to read the substitute motion, and then my thinking is that we would go around the dais, because everyone is likely to want to speak, but if you choose not to, that's fine as well. So, she will read the motion again.

Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk said the substitute motion is, number one, to restore criminal enforcement as an option for all sections identified in Agenda Item No. 7, except for Section 15-7, unauthorized persons on parking lots, and Section 15-23, loitering for the purpose of engaging in drug-related activity. Item two, and to establish an effective date of March 1, 2024, for the effective date of the proposed amendments, rather than upon Council adoption as currently shown for Item No. 7.

Mayor Lyles said alright, everybody has heard the motion, again. It has a motion and a second. I was going to go around. We have to vote on the existing substitute motion. Mr. Baker I thought said.

Mr. Baker said yes, rule 14-J speaks of the substitute motion, and there's no reference in rule 14-J that says, multiple substitute motions can occur at one time, and I would recommend that that not be the case.

Ms. Johnson said okay, so what about an amendment then?

Mr. Baker said an amendment is a separate matter, and if you're going to amend something, then the Council has to vote as to whether or not that amendment is going to occur. So, the first vote would be whether or not there can be an amendment. Now amendment is covered under rule 14-H. So, if you're going to make a motion to amend, then you'll need a second, and then the Council will vote just on whether or not to amend the substitute motion. So, it's not a substantive decision in that one vote. You'd have to do it twice, but you'd need six votes to amend a motion.

Ms. Johnson said okay. It's worth it. I'd like to.

Ms. Mayfield said Mayor, may I ask a clarifying question of the attorney?

Mayor Lyles said please.

Ms. Mayfield said so, Mr. Baker, right now, we're working on an amendment. If this initial substitute motion does not pass, we go back to the original motion. At that point, a new substitute motion can be presented, correct?

Mr. Baker said correct.

Ms. Mayfield said so, to my understanding versus an amendment, since the amendment will take everyone, let's get through this first one, and then, since you didn't make your motion before the first motion was made, get through this first, it either goes up or down, you still have the ability to make a substitute motion, because right now we can't have three.

Ms. Johnson said if the amendment passes, then what? If Councilmember Ajmera's motion passes, then what? Is there an opportunity?

Mr. Baker said so, if you amend Councilmember Ajmera's substitute motion, then there won't be Councilmember Ajmera's substitute motion. It will be whatever the amendment was that six of you passed.

Ms. Mayfield said that wasn't the question I just heard. She asked the question based off of what I just stated. Councilmember Ajmera's motion goes through yea, nay, whatever happens. Does Councilmember Johnson have the ability, at that point, to submit a substitute motion?

Mr. Baker said yes, if it fails.

Ms. Johnson said but if it passes it's all done.

Ms. Mayfield said so, where is the space for the conversation? Because you had two separate Council members that had a motion that they wanted to submit this evening. There has to be space in this conversation around this dais, according to your understanding of our legal ability, where both conversations can be had. So, where is that?

Mr. Baker said so, you have Mr. Bokhari's motion that's been seconded. You have Councilmember Ajmera's substitute motion, which has also been seconded, and that's where we are.

Ms. Mayfield said where in this space does an additional Council member, out of the 11, that also had a motion that was different than motion A or motion B, where does that conversation happen?

Mr. Baker said you would have to take a vote on the substitute motion, and then if that substitute motion failed, then you go back to the original motion, which is also subject to another substitute motion.

Ms. Mayfield said so, the only way that you get a third voice in this conversation is if this substitute motion fails. If this substitute motion passes, then the additional motion that Councilmember Johnson has, does not get to move forward?

Mr. Baker said correct.

Mayor Lyles said right, but I think the question is, everyone has an opportunity to speak to that issue and make a decision on how they persuade their position across the 11 that would be voting. So, now we're prepared to start with our substitute motion. I was saying that it might be best if we just came around the dais, so that everybody will have an opportunity to speak, if that's the way that the Council would choose to do that.

Ms. Johnson said if I want to make an amendment, now is the time to do that?

Ms. Mayfield said only way the amendment would work is if you get a second.

Ms. Johnson said the reason why I want to make an amendment, I want to put it on the table that Council members, show your hands, show your position. I want to make a substitute motion.

Mayor Lyles said we will have that. You'll have to vote.

Ms. Johnson said but I want to make a substitute motion. If you're saying I can't, then I want to amend the motion. If Council doesn't wish to hear the amendment or pass the amendment, that's on each Council member in response to the public, but I want to make an amendment to Councilmember Ajmera's motion.

Mr. Bokhari said so, in order to make an amendment, you have to say it. It has to be seconded and without any discussion, non-substantive as he said, then you have to get six or more votes.

Ms. Johnson said that's fine.

Mayor Lyles said alright. Councilmember Johnson would like to be recognized for an amendment.

Ms. Johnson said yes, I'd like to amend Councilmember.

Ed Driggs said no, no. You have to say you want to propose an amendment, we have to decide whether we want to hear the amendment. So, you just make a motion that I would like to make an amendment, and we vote on that.

Ms. Johnson said well, that's what I'm doing.

Ed Driggs said don't say what the amendment is. That's the point.

Mayor Lyles said wait, wait, wait. That's why we have the Attorney to do this in a way. Let's go ahead.

Mr. Baker said I'm just going to read 14-H. It's very simple. An amendment to a motion must be pertinent to the subject matter of the motion, but it may achieve the opposite intent of the motion. A motion may be amended, and that amendment may be amended, but no further amendments may be made. So, if you have an amendment, it's not so much, can you amend, you'll have to speak the amendment in, because it has to be pertinent to the subject matter, and the only way to find that out is for you to state the amendment.

Ms. Johnson said to state the amendment, exactly, thank you.

Mr. Driggs said you just said we have to vote on whether or not there will be an amendment, and then we vote on the amendment.

Mr. Baker said after she states what the amendment is, you will decide whether or not to amend in accordance with the motion.

Mr. Driggs said that's not what you just said.

Mayor Lyles said and it's not a discussion. It is just the amendment, raise your hand.

Ms. Johnson said thank you. I think from hearing from our public, I'd like to make an amendment that we only enforce rules 15.8, which is trespassing on motor vehicles, and 15.82, masturbation in public, effective March 1, 2024, and that we hold off on the others for six months, to allow these wonderful resources and strategies, these nonenforcement strategies to work.

Mayor Lyles said you can't debate the motion. You're stating your opinion about the motion, and I want to go and make sure that I think you just have a motion.

Ms. Johnson said I'm sorry I'm being stifled.

Mr. Baker said if everyone understands that the motion to amend is pursuant to that.

Mayor Lyles said it is pursuant to adoption of 15.8 and 15.82 and March 1, 2024, [inaudible] time.

Mr. Baker said you need a second to that motion.

Amendment to the substitute motion was made by Councilmember Johnson, and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to (A) Only enforce rules 15.8, which is trespassing on motor vehicles, and 15.82, masturbation in public, effective March 1, 2024, and (B) Hold off on the others for six months.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Brown, Johnson, and Mayfield

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

Mayor Lyles said alright, now we go back to the main item, which is the substitute motion from Ms. Ajmera. Alright now, I just want to make sure that we have the opportunity for people to speak, and I thought we would just go around the dais, but would the Council prefer a different way? Okay, we'll start, and if you choose to speak, speak. If not, we will go to the next.

Ms. Ajmera said so, this has been a very difficult decision, and this just has been a difficult conversation all along. Hearing some of the stories today, it's really been heartbreaking. Hearing stories about homelessness, stories about dignity, respect, has really been heart touching, because this brings back the memories of a family of five living in a motel room, because we didn't have anywhere else to go. So, I want to highlight the work that committee has done that is truly holistic. There are temporary solutions, long-term solutions, and I hear loud and clear that we need to tackle affordable housing crisis. Fifty million dollars is not enough, and this is perfect timing as we have our Budget discussion. Earlier today, City implemented and installed two temporary restrooms near North College and 11th Street. We are also exploring more permanent solutions while working with nonprofits and Mecklenburg County. We have agreed, in partnership with Mecklenburg County, to evenly split the cost for Hope Tank.

Many of you who work in this homelessness, you probably have heard of the program called Hope Tank. It's a large truck that's operated by a local nonprofit that has two full bathrooms and three washers and dryers, and this is about dignity and respect. We are working with the county to acquire and operate two Parkland Loo's, and that's a more permanent solution, that's connected to City water and sewer, and our work doesn't stop here. As part of the holistic work that committee has done, we're also working on Street Outreach. In fact, Shawn Heath and his team are finalizing a contract with Hearts For The Invisible, to have a new Street Outreach team that'd be working with our homeless neighbors, and there is access to rental subsidies and supportive services. I can go on and on and on about a lot of the work that we are doing, that we have done and will continue to do, to tackle our affordable housing crisis, but some of these things don't get called out in the news or you don't hear us talk about. This work happens at the committee level that we have put in months and months of time to do.

We are involved in Home For All effort, and that's in collaboration with Mecklenburg County. In addition to that, we are working with nonprofits to work on emergency rental assistance, legal aid for eviction prevention, landlord recruitment and retention to expand the number of property providers willing to accept vouchers. In all of this work that we have done, I don't think committee, or the staff alone can take the credit. This has been a result of the direct import from nonprofit organizations, such as Roof Above.

I talked to Liz Clasen-Kelly earlier today, and Robert Dawkins with Action NC (North Carolina). He was the one who asked us to do something about mental health support. Your City Council approved and dedicated a pool of funding just for the CARES team, but our work doesn't stop here. We are going to continue to expand the program. Blanche Penn and others, who presented stories and talked about some of our homeless neighbors, these are really heart-touching stories, and I think my substitute motion, it's the removal of two ordinances that's consistent with the recommendation of our City Attorney, Mr. Patrick Baker, and his team, and Jessica in our City Attorney's office. This acknowledges the constitutional concerns that's highlighted by some of the speakers. So, I encourage my colleagues to continue to invest in our affordable housing crisis and tackling our affordable housing crisis, while supporting the substitute motion, that will move the needle in the right direction. That's all I have. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Ms. Mayfield said so as Vice Chair of the committee, when we had the meeting last week, unfortunately Councilmember Johnson was not able to attend in person, because of illness, so she attended online. We spoke last week to an idea that she had that I support. Unfortunately, the information was not shared via email for all the Council to preview it prior to today, but that conversation was, "Let's implement all the programming first. Give it six plus months before we implement the additional language regarding law enforcement." Yes, Councilmember Ajmera went over what we are doing. We have two different conversations going on. Housing is an issue across the nation. It's not just an issue here in Charlotte. It is across the nation, housing is a concern. Homelessness is not just a concern for Charlotte. The challenge that I have, and where I am disappointed, that our system created a space for there to be one motion, when there were two very separate conversations happening regarding an amendment to the initial motion, is we just had another incident last week. We cannot continue to not have real conversation regarding judge, trial, execution, that is happening. We've got to have a different conversation. It is very difficult, and for clear transparency, all of our meetings are on Facebook, as well as YouTube. I motioned for us to move it out of committee last Monday for us to get it to full conversation, knowing that I was still gathering additional information. I raised my hand in support of the amendment, which I wish had been the initial alternative motion. We did not get the six votes. It takes a minimum of six, so that we are very clear.

The challenge I have is, whatever we do, honestly, it's not going to be enough, but here's reality. We don't have the money. We're working with the county, as was mentioned. We're going to get what they have in Portland, which is stabilized facilities. Well, why can't there be 25? Those things are extremely expensive. So, we're starting with two. Two is better than what we have right now today. We had two porta-johns that were instituted today. Why not 15? Two is more than we had last week. We've got to work with our partners. Block Love and others, ya'll are doing the work. We have funded you. Do we need to figure out more funding? That's a different conversation as well, because at the end of the day, the more funding we need, let's have a real conversation about it, we're going to have to talk about tax increases. That's a different conversation. No, no, we don't get to talk back. So, that is a different conversation, but these are all conversations that we have to take into consideration as your elected body.

I cannot support us moving forward with the amended version of my colleague, nor can I support the initial full language, because I cannot in good conscience, based on everything that I have seen throughout my entirety, but much less the last six months, to leave it to the discretion of CMPD. It is very difficult for me to even entertain that, because I am still grappling and praying daily, because I keep seeing the vision of the freaking video of the gentleman who, yes, you robbed the grocery store and you had two bags of groceries, but instead of getting you connected to the services that we already have, that ended in your execution. So, now we have created levels of trauma between those children, that spouse, and that community. So, we've got to figure out something different. I appreciate what our staff has done in partnership with the county and partnership with our partners. For me, I supported the recommendation that Councilmember Johnson attempted to introduce to everyone, and that is, let's implement all of the programming first, and then look at this enforcement, because there

is a reason that a lot of this enforcement was rolled back. We already know, we heard it from our Attorney as well, there are legal cases that are already being presented based on interpretation of the language. Let's work on addressing the issue versus the additional enforcement, because we've still got a lot of training and a lot of work that we need to do within our law enforcement. That is what I wanted to share.

Councilmember Brown said tough subject for me. So, it was a no for me in the committee. I came into this space with it being a full no, but I know that we have to work together, and so, the ordinance is a no for me, but I did do, and tried to work with my colleagues on, an amendment that failed. So, I want everybody that sent me these hateful emails, that said, "I hate the police." Clearly, they don't know that Sheriff Garry McFadden is one of my best and closest mentors. I go in the jail; I work every day. What is not going to happen to me, as the newest member on the block, I'm not going to be bullied. We already know how people feel about people that are formerly incarcerated. They think we're not worthy, that we don't deserve to be here, and it goes without saying that I'm a woman of color.

All of these phenomenal people that have come in here tonight to speak, I value everybody. Judge Elizabeth Trosch, Peter Wherry, Rodney Sadler, Greg Jarrell, Rebecca Yarbrough, excuse me if I say your name wrong, Jake Sussman, Tim Emry, Dr. Sara Kinny, James Lee, Judy Seldin-Cohen, Meko McCarthy, Ron Clark, Deborah Phillips, Jessica, won't even pronounce your last name Jessica, but I know who you are, Harper Ellis, Joy Patterson, Laura, same thing on your last name, I don't want to butcher it, Malia, Michelle, Liz, LeeAnn, Chris Connelly, Carol Pearsall, Kristen Smith, Cedric Dean, Dr. Blanche Penn, Sandy Kindbom, Micah Belong, Arnold Garcia, Kate Murphy, Mina, David. We had Kenny Robinson, and that last phenomenal man that came behind Kenny, I didn't catch your name. If I left anybody out, it was a slip of heart, not of the mind, but I have something to say. As a formerly incarcerated black woman, I was elected to this seat. I have the same right to sit up here. My vote matters, just like all of my colleagues. I didn't get my constituents to send hateful emails. It appears that that is what happened to me, and for the record, if you don't know, the emails are public record, and I will use them for that reason. Don't send me hateful emails, don't call me out of my name, those things are hurtful.

It goes back to what everybody was saying in this list. When you think about being homeless, I can speak on it, I've been that. When you think about sleeping in the park, I didn't have to, only because someone stepped up. When you think about what it's like to be in these people's shoes, they're humans. We need to learn how to restore humanity, and that's something that we're missing. I go back to what Councilwoman Mayfield said. She said initially, she said yes, and then she gave you reasons why she couldn't stand behind it. My reasons for not standing behind it from the beginning, even though I came into the committee late, and the reason why I came late is because I'm the newest member to the Council, but I want you to know, that the constituents in District 3, not only did they want me here, but I won every precinct in that district, in the general and the primary elections.

When you start to think about all of these wonderful people that came up here with all these degrees and all these resources, and the things that they want to do, including Robert from Action NC, what are we really going to do? We can say all day on this Council that we care about people on this Council. Action is a verb. People need to see that we care about them. What you're going to get from me, because we're 11 different individuals. What you're going to always get from me, is transparency. I'm going to stand in my truth, and when you try to get me to do something different, you're going to see that I'm going to stand in my truth. I respect everybody, and I do things differently, which is why I acknowledge the beautiful children that are outside, and you don't want to see people playing with their intimate parts. Nobody wants to see that. I have a grandchild, but did you ever think about what if it were you? What would you do? I say this every time I speak. I feel like I don't belong, but it's a good thing that 10 other people don't get to tell me where I belong. It's the constituents that put me here. At the end of the day, when it's all said and done, I give the same respect to the developers that want me to see their plan, that I'm going to give to the homeless people that don't

have a plan. We have to create the plan for them. I am going to be a part of the solution. Thank you. It's a no for me.

Mr. Bokhari said I'll start by saying I agree with something Councilwoman Mayfield said a minute ago, "We need a different conversation." I mean, I think there's probably no single statement that could summarize where we are better than that. We need a different conversation. Tonight, folks have been asking us to solve the root causes. We know better than anyone else around this dais, we've done that. It's not working. We've put record-breaking money, record-breaking dollars into the Housing Trust, into services, and there's a laundry list staff can talk to us about, about everything we've been doing there, and things are worse today than they were two, three, four and five years ago. So, we need a different conversation, that's for sure. I think a false choice is being presented to the community and to all of us in this conversation, a choice between criminalizing homelessness or accepting that defecation and urination outside our homes, in the eyesight of our children, is an either/or statement. We have to figure out which side of that argument we're on, and I refuse to accept those are the only options before us. We've been asked tonight as well for a complete wholistic approach to homelessness. We need resources that are equipped to deal with the situations that are being faced on those streets, and just adding bathrooms is a Band-Aid. That isn't the wraparound services that are ultimately needed to have a successful outcome. It is a first step along the way towards a destination, that for some reason, we can't seem to get there, no matter how much money we throw at it.

So, I'm supportive. Again, I want something else. If folks want to do all those things, which I think I can read the room. If that's not the case, then let's take an incremental step together. I think taking it up a level, there are three steps that have to occur in parallel, and I believe everyone can get a win to make sure that we're doing what the community ultimately needs. Number one, is implement all the ordinances plus identify additional ones to make sure that we have what we need. Number two, I believe in the concept of the homeless court, and it's not criminalization. In fact, the homeless court at its root is the opposite of criminalization, in my mind. It's the place where the people who know best, are able to route folks to the organizations that have the correct services to them. Number three, and this is the part that I'm as committed to as the ordinances, and those of you who know me know that I live this stuff, create a triage approach, like they do on a battlefield, where when we do all of those steps at once, we make sure that when there are stacked up people in front of these organizations who serve our community so well, because there isn't room, because there isn't the resources, and the things that are needed, we figure out how to fund and support those organizations, because we're going to do that in a much more passionate and timely manner when there are folks stacked up out front of those places trying to get service.

I believe that there is some middle ground in there, because nobody wants people to be on the street, to have to do these things. They just want to be sensitive of the unintended consequences of the steps that we take along the way to that path. So, I really believe in my heart that those, while oversimplified, are three steps, that if we committed ourselves entirely to them, we could solve all angles of this issue.

Councilmember Molina said thank you, Madam Mayor. There was so much passion in the room today, and this is a very, very tough subject. I love using the word human. I use it all the time, because absent that word, we really don't identify with our fellow community member. When you say human, you step outside of the context of the things that separate us. In this particular instance, especially when we think about what God would do, or where God would be even, or our responsibility as believers, I think we all bear that burden. In my eyes, what I feel like we have in front of us, is not an either/or. I think it's a both/and, and the reason why I say it's a both and, is because many of the community members that are in this room, that do the workday in and day out, I know you. I know who you are. I know what you do. I know how you touch humans every day. I know the services you provide, and I don't think that this is an opportunity to say to you that those things are going to stop. If anything, I think it's an opportunity to say, "How do we empower you to be more impactful, so that you can continue to partner with Government." Law and order is one of the greatest responsibilities that we have,

protecting our residents, making sure that we ensure their safety, and that all communities feel like they belong, it's important.

So, like I said, this is a delicate balance. A lot of the resources that are needed in order for this to be a full exchange, are not actually within the purview of the City Council. We are hard services, so that's fire, that's police, that's infrastructure, that's waste management, water. We're hard services. That's what our budget is intended for. We have colleagues, who I know who are equally passionate, who administer services that are health and human services related, that are also in conversations with us about how do we create the best outcomes for all of our residents. There was one person who spoke, in particular, Pastor Murphy. We had her before us last year, and I will never stop talking about the warrior for God that you are. We need to duplicate you across the City, because that's a person who's putting their resources where their mouth is. She's saying, "I have a church. We have land. We want to develop. We want to provide services for our unhoused," and we haven't gotten to a point yet where we can assist her in doing what she'd like to do, and the congregation that serve with her, would like to do.

So, we have work to do. This is absolutely imperfect on so many different levels, and that's what makes a decision like this hard. I don't expect it to be absolute, all of a sudden. There's one other human being that I want to lift up in this room, who I've known for many, many years, and that's Ms. Judy Seldin-Cohen. She is a dear, dear friend of mine, and I know where her heart lies. She lives dead square in the middle of District 2, but she's also a warrior out here doing the work. So, how do we then balance the need for the safety that's needed Uptown, the enforcement that's needed Uptown, and empower the community members like you all, many of you all, who are doing the work every day? I think there's a way for both/and. I don't think the conversation ends here. I think it starts here, and then it continues with implementing resources where we can continue to empower the community leaders that are in the trenches doing the work.

So, I feel like that's an additional conversation, but tonight, as far as what we have in front of us, at the recommendation of our Chief, at the recommendation of our staff, despite the differences, I am in support of the six that we intend to push forward, and not only am I in support of it, I still feel like that there's more work that we have to do to support the community members and businesses that are touching these residents. There's no such thing as complete resolution to any of this. I'm sorry, you cannot speak while I'm speaking, and I do not mean to be disrespectful to you, but that's just not our rules. So, this is just simply, like I said, a very tough decision for all of us. I don't think this is one of those things where someone says they want to criminalize what would be unhoused. I think it's just enforcing some behaviors that, actually aren't our unhoused all the time. I think our unhoused get blamed for a lot of stuff that they don't do. I think some of what we're hearing about, are not even our unhoused community members. Some of these community members visit Uptown, and they don't practice responsibility when they're Uptown and in various parts of our city. So, I look forward to continuing the conversations around how we can be of greater support to the community members who are willing to be a part of the solutions. How do we make that possible for the community members who have the heart, the resources, and have their mind set on being a part of the ongoing solution. I'm here for that, and so, that's where I stand.

Mr. Driggs said I think it's really unfortunate that this topic has become a flashpoint that has created this sort of sense of adversity among us here. We're all on the same team. I am struggling personally with a couple of issues, based on what I heard tonight. For one, a lot of what has been said suggests that the behaviors that are prohibited by these ordinances, are synonymous with poverty or homelessness, and the fact is, there are a lot of people who are homeless who are not in any way responsible for this, and there are people who aren't homeless who are. We're talking about the behaviors. So, I think it's actually unfair to homeless people, who do not commit these behaviors, to be included, in terms of who is being victimized by the idea of criminalizing this. We are talking about behaviors.

The other thing I think is sort of remarkable is, it sounds as if everybody thinks that we are having to choose enforcement versus engagement, and that in fact, we aren't engaged, that we are sitting here contemplating enforcement and we have no care at all and we don't engage. The truth is, the engagement of the city is, and has been, huge, tens and hundreds of millions of dollars, programs, ARPA funds. We are racking our brains trying to figure out how to solve this, what to do about it, how to protect people who don't want to be confronted by certain things, how to be kind and supportive to those who are genuinely helpless, as opposed to badly behaved. We're trying to figure it out, and we have been for a long time, and if you think about all of the City's efforts in this area, the county's efforts, the federal government, housing programs, churches, nonprofits, people like you, there is a huge enterprise underway, which by the way, all of us support, to try and address these issues, but it's a tough problem. There aren't any easy answers, and those of you who work on this, I think, have seen that. You've seen difficult cases that don't respond to your efforts.

So, we haven't figured it out. It doesn't mean that we don't care. It doesn't mean that if we feel there is a need to have a last resort opportunity to intervene, and that's what this is. The ordinance simply says, all of the engagement, we've tried everything. We're continuing to try everything. I expect, as a result of this conversation, that we will step up. We will look more, harder for new ways to engage, and the porta-potties, all the things, if you've got ideas, let us know what they are, but this group has not sat around and been indifferent to the plight of those people. We have worked hard, and we have invested large amounts. We will continue to do so. The thing on my mind, though, is that enforcement's not going to fix this. I don't think anybody imagines it does, but I do think that enforcement sends a message to a large segment of the community, that is not in this room tonight, that we don't think it's okay. It's not okay if you have to kind of deal with seeing something out there. So, we hope that we never have to use it, or that we use the final last resort arrest option as rarely as possible, but we have to be able to tell a lot of people out there that at the end of the day, if we aren't successful, with everything else we do, when it comes down to somebody masturbating in the street, that is not going to be tolerated. There has to be something we can do about that. That's all it is. I wish we weren't kind of confronting each other like this, because we're all on the same team. You've got ideas, let's hear them. I'm sure this Council would invest. We're prepared, I mean, look at this group. This is not a bunch of people that don't care.

So, personally, I feel for the benefit of the people who want some assurance from us, that we draw a line somewhere when it comes to what they have to see, that we should pass this, and that will be my position on it. I just wish that we didn't find ourselves in this kind of an atmosphere of confrontation. Thank you.

Ms. Johnson said so I have some questions. Can Mr. Heath come up, please?

Mr. Bokhari said are we questioning staff at this point?

Mayor Lyles said I'm not sure [inaudible].

Mr. Bokhari said just say what you're going to say.

Ms. Johnson said that's okay. My question is, we talk about the resources that the City is proposing, and I wanted for the public's consumption, could you name some of those resources, the nonenforcement strategies that we're proposing?

Shawn Heath, Assistant City Manager said yes, I can. As it relates to public restrooms, there have been some references today, that today there were two porta-johns installed around North College and 11th Street, as a starting point. I also have a list of other City-owned property up and down Tryon, kind of bookended between 277 on both ends. So, I'm evaluating with General Services. I'd like to find one other location, at a minimum, to have additional porta-johns installed before the end of the month. I recognize that's a very small step, but it's a step. That's in collaboration with the county, because the county has agreed to have the porta-johns that I just

mentioned, that were installed today, installed on their property. The Hope Tank is another mobile facility that has two showers, it has two full restrooms along with three washers/dryers. So, in collaboration with the county, we've agreed to invest in the refurbishment and repair for that truck, and that will be up and running hopefully within the next couple months. Then, third, the county last week agreed to co-fund a couple of Portland Loos with the City of Charlotte, which we've talked about in multiple meetings here prior. It's a design that's based out of Portland, Oregon, and just so happens the name of the company. The name of the product is Portland Loo, and it's specifically designed to address some challenges associated with public restrooms. So, the idea would be to have the porta-johns in place for a limited period of time, we recognize those are temporary solutions, and then remove those once the Portland Loos have been installed.

Ms. Johnson said were there more wraparound services, or what else are we doing?

Mr. Heath said yes. So, we are also in the midst of establishing a contract with Hearts For The Invisible, to have a dedicated Street Outreach team devoted primarily to Uptown Charlotte. So, this is the notion of having clinician's that are engaging the unhoused population on the street, and that's something that we're looking to invest up to \$500,000 in having that in place for a year. Then, we're also, of course, doing a number of things related to tenant-based rental assistance, which is something that we do each year. This year, what we're doing a little different is, we're carving out a piece of that to devote specifically to members of the unhoused population that are referred to us from Center City. Then, finally, there have been multiple references to A Home For All. There are a number of homelessness prevention features in the A Home For All plan that the City is supporting in FY (Fiscal Year) 2024 and will continue to support in FY2025. Then, there are bigger questions that are being asked around things like emergency shelters, and the like.

Ms. Johnson said okay, thank you. So, other than the tenant-based rental assistance and the Home For All, these are new initiatives, right, the porta-johns and the Portland Loos and the expanded Street Outreach team?

Mr. Heath said that's correct.

Ms. Johnson said right. So, that's why my proposal, and keep in mind, Medicaid was just expanded in December 2023, and the homeless advocates know, that for 12 years, this state withheld mental health treatment from individuals with mental health or who weren't approved for social security, and we know also, social security takes years to be approved. As a matter of fact, the Hearing Officers on the website post the percentage of denials, as if it's a badge of honor to deny our most vulnerable. So, we know that there were individuals with no income, no insurance, that were forced into homelessness. Also, and I'm educating folks, that half those folks whose data have a history of a brain injury. So, these are our most vulnerable residents. My motion was simply to enforce the most egregious ones, because we do recognize that we serve the entire City. So, the most egregious, be public masturbation and the trespassing on vehicles, and I didn't say, let's not pass the other ones. I simply said, let's wait." Let's wait until these wonderful resources are implemented, but that was shot down. So, I'll move on, but I just want that for the record.

My next question is for the audience. How many, just raise your hand. I want to keep everything in order, but how many of you used the bathroom today? How many of you used it more than once? How many of you, it was one of the first things you did when you woke up this morning? Now, would the threat of an arrest have diminished the urgency of that? So, if you're sleeping outside, and you have to use the bathroom outside of public business hours, if a business will let you in, but if you're older, you might have to use it before businesses open. So, what's a person supposed to do? We also know that, and I work in reentry. I mean, I wish Meko was here. I don't know why she called me out. I go hard for the vulnerable population, we know that. I've had a reentry organization since 2009. I've had two reentry houses. So, I don't know what that was about, I'd love to talk to Meko, and I have also had 10 opponents. So, I'm not sure

what that was about. I'd love to talk to her, but I want you all to know that I advocate publically and behind the scenes. I walk my talk, and I know that a criminal record is a barrier to housing. I don't understand how we can vote for this. This exacerbates the problem. It exacerbates the problem. You'll have a criminal record. I mean, it exacerbates the problem. So, when we arrest them, and the jails are overcrowded, and the courts are overcrowded, then we're just exacerbating the problem. We've heard from judges, we've heard from pastors, we've heard from advocates. This is just not the thing to do.

We also hear one of the members said that "This was on the books before, and although, there may be some constitutional issues, we should just do that." I mean, that's the most non-compassionate thing that we're going to hear, in a second chance city. Remember just on the news a couple weeks ago, we were a second chance city. So, this is just the opposite of a second chance city. Another thing that I wrote down, oh, also in the news, if we're in a different side of town, or if you can pay \$8.99 for a cup, public drinking is called sipping and strolling.

The last thing I want to talk about is the CARES team. Our CARES team was created through the wisdom of City Council. CMPD confirms that this first response model works well and is superior, or more appropriate I'll say, to criminal law enforcement response for the concerns of the community. Instead of a widespread criminalization of ordinances that ask CMPD to have more interaction with individuals who we know are likely suffering from mental health, let's create a plan that scales up our CARES response model in a way that it's appropriately responsive to the concerns of the community. So, I think that we, as a Council, also want to work with City Manager, and make sure that we extend or expand that model and have more CARES workers. How many are there now? Are there two CARES workers? There's two and a supervisor, that work 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., I believe. Let's expand those as 24 hours. Let's really commit to that.

Unknown said and that should come from CMPD's budget.

Ms. Johnson said so that's one of the things that we should do also, and it should be in a department of its own.

Mayor Lyles said alright, please. The councilwoman is speaking. Please allow her to complete her [inaudible].

Ms. Johnson said thank you. We also heard that things are worse now. Even though we've put so much money into resources, things are worse now, because housing costs continually are increasing and people are continually being displaced, and right now, we don't have any rental assistance. You all probably know that as well. So, that's why things are worse now. There was another comment, "It depends on how homeless you are." That is so true, because there's a number that there are, I think, 288 unhoused, but how many people are truly, truly homeless. You live in a shelter, you're couch searching. Those are the homeless folks that need help. We have to use those real numbers, the real numbers of children who are homeless, and not this number that's this cute little number of 288 folks who are unhoused. I think that's all. I'm an obvious no to the original and the motion. I understand. I work with these folks. I've been on the reentry partners group, and Councilmember Brown and I work with these individuals. Somebody said, "The Council needs to listen."

Ms. Brown said I am one of them individuals.

Ms. Johnson said yes. Somebody said, "Council needs to listen."

Ms. Brown said I said that.

Ms. Johnson said okay, and I think Dr. Penn did too, someone else did, but we are on the front lines, and we are here, we're saying this. The pastors, the advocates, the activists, the doctors, the judges, are all saying the same thing. So, I think the Council

members should really consider that. We should allow the services, a nonenforcement. I just think it's ridiculous that we would do anything to increase and encourage interaction between those we know are suffering from mental health, brain injury, and the police. It's not what's best for our officers. It's not what's best for our public. We can look at the last few police shootings. I know Keith Lamont Scott, his wife was saying, "He has a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury)." So, we need to look, and we need to protect our officers and protect our public. This is not the right thing to do, and I will not be supporting either motion. Thank you.

Councilmember Graham said let me first start by thanking each and everyone of you for coming out tonight on both sides of the issue. I have the opportunity and the responsibility of representing the citizens of District 2. This past weekend, we had a District 2 Townhall meeting, where a number of neighborhood leaders throughout the district came together to talk about issues of concerns. Last April 2023, the Friends of Fourth Ward approached me about issues that they were seeing and viewing and experiencing in Uptown Charlotte, in which I represent Uptown Charlotte, it's in District 2. I share it with my colleague, the Mayor Pro Tem. I was not surprised by what they told me, what they showed in pictures and video, because over the last two years, there have been a number of public safety concerns in Uptown Charlotte, and they have expressed that. We've been working with the Neighborhood Associations and property owners and small business owners in Uptown Charlotte for the last year to address public safety concerns, which led us to where we are today.

Let me first say that I clearly understand the views of many of the audience that expressed tonight. For me, public safety, no matter if you live in Mallard Grove or Prosperity Church Road or NoDa or Ballantyne or Uptown Charlotte, should be our top priority as a community. We all deserve to live in an environment that is safe, that is clean, that we know our neighbors, that we have the ability to walk our dogs or walk our children throughout the community and feel safe about what we are and who we are as a community. For me, this is not about either/or, either we put the ordinance in place or not, either we provide wraparound service or not. I wish that what we do here, and I've been doing this for a long time, it's never black or white. It's always the grey area that we have to deal with. The grey area for me is the real concern of public safety for all residents in Uptown Charlotte, housing, homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction, to what degree Mecklenburg County will support our efforts, and they have done a tremendous job. They have all the resources to deal with addiction and mental illness. We don't have those resources with the City of Charlotte, and many of the nonprofit organizations we work with, that do the workday in and day out, boots on the ground.

So, we have to have a holistic approach, and we have to understand as a community that this issue of homelessness, it's not a 100-yard dash. We're not going to solve it tomorrow. It is a marathon. We've come a long way from Tent City. We've come a long way in terms of providing the type of community support, in terms of our nonprofit organizations, Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, corporate entities, all working together to come with a comprehensive community strategy to address housing and homelessness that [inaudible] A Home For All rests with United Way, and there's a strategy in place that we all have to provide some type of community resources, community input, to get to the finish line, which is miles away, because homelessness is all those issues I just addressed earlier.

I support reinstating the ordinance, because it's the right thing to do to protect the public safety of our community. I also support additional support for Street Outreach. I support Hearts For The Invisible, and making sure you get the resources necessary to do the boots on the groundwork. I support Deb and Block Love Charlotte. I support our county partners that are really doing the nuts and bolts work every day to address this issue. Two restrooms, two porta-johns is simply not enough, and we have to provide a comprehensive strategy, working with Center City partners and others, to find out how do we provide an environment where we can get more, work with our corporate entities in Uptown Charlotte.

As a Council, we have the opportunity to really put gas in the car during our Budget cycle for A Home Alone program, and making sure we have the resources to back up what we said we want to do as a community. This issue of homelessness is a critical issue for this community that I take seriously, but I also take seriously the public safety of our residents. Not only have I walked the street of Uptown, and talked to the property owners, and talked to those who are our guests living in hotels and their experience when they're in Charlotte, I just talked to a young man and his wife at the Hornet's game this past Saturday, and they told me that they were staying in Uptown and how they couldn't wait to get to the arena, because they were accosted by two or three people on the way to the arena to go to the game, looking for money. When they said no, they were continually bothered, and they followed them all the way to the arena. So, we have an opportunity to address the issue, and it's not either/or. It's really about ensuring that no matter where you live, that you feel protected by your government. That's what it is.

So, I really support all my neighborhood leaders. When neighborhood leaders have come for a wide variety of issues, we've always listened to everybody. Not only did I listen to them, but Robert Dawkins and Deb. I called Deb in January 2024, and we spoke, and we talked to Liz two weeks ago. So, I get it. I think I'm 98 percent in agreement with everything that you guys need and want to make sure that those who are unhoused get the resources that they need, but we also need to make sure that public safety is first and foremost throughout the City.

Ms. Brown said for everybody.

Mr. Graham said no doubt about that, for everybody, no matter where you live. I support that, and I think this Council supports that, and I think putting the ordinances in place, is a small step forward, that we should do it. I agree with the substitute motion, and that we pivot towards, Mr. Manager, working towards those other issues that are more long-term in nature. So, I'm ready to vote when the other speakers have spoken, and I will be supporting the substitute motion.

Mayor Lyles said please, please. Okay, it's the same guy. The young man with the t-shirt and the glasses up there at the top, if you would just. Yes, I'm talking to you. If we can have some kind of eyes on this, that we can actually allow people to speak, then we'll be okay. If not, we'll just see where we have to go with that.

Councilmember Mitchell said I think you've heard comments from all our colleagues, just like we sat here and heard your passion about this tough issue facing our community. A lot of times, I would like to think when citizens come here, they look at the City Council as a body of hope. That we will make the right decisions, and the right decisions for all our citizens in Charlotte. We're not trying to create two Charlottes, but everyone who lives in the City of Charlotte feel comfortable and proud of our City. So, I find myself today feeling like we're choosing winners and losers, and we never should be in this situation. It is tough for us to sit here on one end to ignore what's occurring in our neighborhood, on the same time, understanding the passion of Liz Kelly, who does this work with a passion, Block Love, who does it out of goodness of her heart, and all our ministers who use scripture to tell us we should take care of the least of our citizens.

So, it is going to be tough when you leave here tonight, and you're going to feel like the City Council let you down. So, let me share what I would like to do. I would like to be that ray of hope, that after today, I continue to work with Liz, Block Love, and the ministers, how we put in a permanent solution, so we don't criminalize our homeless community. How do we make permanent solutions, and so they will not have to use our park and do things that are not good for our community. You hear the story of a young lady who lives in Fourth Ward, and what her kid was exposed to. None of us would want that for any of our citizens, our children or grandchildren. So, tonight, a lot of you all are going to leave here upset, but I say stay engaged with us and stay engaged with me. I look forward to building a better City of Charlotte for tomorrow with your help. I will be supporting the substitute motion that was given by Councilmember Ajmera, but that is not a permanent solution that I want to have for the City of Charlotte.

Councilmember Anderson said I too, like my colleague Mr. Graham, want to thank all of you all, because so many people that spoke tonight, and I can look out and just see, so many of you are on the front lines, whether it's through direct services or through your faith-based organizations, or just being community leaders and active community participants. I want to assure you that this entire Council, we're all Charlotte residents. We all very much care about the City of Charlotte. We all very much care about the City of Charlotte residents, and the state of the City, and we have been in the position to be a caretaker of how the City grows and thrives, for every single resident, not just one, not if you live in District 1 or District 7 or on the North Side or on the South Side, for every single resident. So, with an issue like this, it's not a one and done. The outcome of tonight is not going to solve the entire problem. It is going to be one particular aspect of that challenge of that problem. As has been mentioned by my colleagues, this is a multifaceted issue that is an issue across the entire country. If there was a best solution or a best practice, that we could point to and identify inevitably, that is what a couple of other cities have landed on and it has absolutely solved this issue, believe me, our staff would have brought that to us. We would have researched that, and we would be putting that forth tonight, but rather than a one particular solution, it is a multipronged solution that will encompass Street Outreach, additional investment to so many of you all who do those direct services, not only from the City of Charlotte, but from our partners at the Board of County Commissioners.

The example of the CARES team, I think is one that is a phenomenal one, because we had conversations last term around. This is a challenge, and as so many of you know, and Hearts For The Invisible will tell you, Jessica will tell you, this is not something you just go out on one interaction, and you get trust and faith. It's a repeated interaction with our unhoused community, and we're invested in doing that. We're invested in doing that as a Council. I too, also agree with one of my other colleagues, who said that this is a direct one-to-one issue with the unhoused. I know that it's not a direct one-to-one issue. It is an issue for the unhoused, but we have residents who are not unhoused. We have people who come Uptown and other parts of the City, and they don't conduct themselves as if they're in their own neighborhoods where they live. So, I have listened. I have gone out, listened to the residents of all Four Wards. I represent First and Second Ward. Mr. Graham represents Third and Fourth Ward. We've had listening sessions. We've talked with our hospitality leaders and our tourism leaders that have a high concentration Uptown, and we've talked to many of our advocates in this room. We understand that we don't have the best solution, but we have a multipronged solution that we are going to invest in, and we're going to stand up and we will measure it, we'll track it over the next nine months, 12 months, 15 months, to see where we need to invest or pull the lever in other spaces to ensure that all Charlotteans feel like Charlotte is a safe place that they can live and thrive and enjoy the City, and just go to work and go home, and kids can go out and walk and everything is okay.

So, I just want to say that this is a hard issue, it really is. It's not one that I am not unfamiliar with. I've experienced housing insecurity. I have been unhoused as a child, and if it wasn't for a friend, not even a family member, a friend, to step up and allow me to have shelter and security, I would be in the same place. So, I understand. I've literally been in those shoes, and so I understand the issue. I think as we move forward with this vote tonight, we have to continue to move forward with that continuum of care, and also hold individuals accountable for behaviors that they exhibit that otherwise they wouldn't exhibit if they didn't have the permission. The opportunity or the act of inaction, is a statement within itself, and it actually promotes similar behavior to occur, because then in turn, you'll have people who would have otherwise acted correctly and not have broken these ordinances, but if everyone else is doing it around them, what's precluding them from not doing it. So, as Mr. Mitchell mentioned, please continue to work with all of us. Please continue your level of engagement. It's not lost on me. I know how important the work is that you do. I know how gut-wrenching it is, and the stories and the humanity that you exhibited today, to put face to this challenge, will not go away. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said I think every Council member has had an opportunity to speak on this issue. Now, we're going to call for the vote. So, we have a motion on the table that the clerk has read. Does anyone need to have that motion read again?

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

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

NAYS: Councilmembers Brown, Johnson, and Mayfield

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. I want to say and add to this that, we really appreciate what has gone on here tonight, and as much as I've said, "Please behave and respect everyone," I think we did a terrific job, because this is a very, very difficult subject, one that many of us have worked on for many, many years, and it's not going to stop or start with this recommendation for these ordinances today. Thank you.

This is how I look at this, and I think every member of this Council, we have to work together as a group to do something that's going to be significant for our community. We know what these issues are, and we've been dealing with them since, I can't even remember how long. So, what has happened, I believe, has been the idea that we actually can talk about this openly and express all of these concerns, because there was a time when it was just basically, we're going to build a few houses, it's going to be 50 units over here and 50 units over there, but the real issue behind this, is homeless, unhoused people, people that deserve some place to live. So, I want to first recognize, Councilmember Mayfield is going to begin an initiative around faith-based housing, and she is going to work with the Clergy Association to try to determine how we can increase the supply of housing, and you should expect that we will participate in that.

The second part about this is that mental health is an issue. Now, I'm going to tell my age, but Ronald Reagan closed every community health center that we had, and said he would open more, and there are not. The library became our mental health center. That is not what we have to do. There are many other places in this world that actually treat people with mental health issues with dignity and respect. I don't know that we've gotten that, and I would love to have the hope that Charlotte could be one of those places where that could happen, but that requires all of us to continue to participate, the City, the county, the families, and all of you. We understand the consequences that occur as a result of people not having sufficient housing, and we've understood it for a very long time, but we've not given up. I believe that we should have some opportunity to continue this dialogue, and I think that Mr. Mitchell said, please contact him, but I think we need a little bit more structured way to do this. I think we need to talk about the people that are really making the difference, and saying, "What do we do?" Since we started out with things like, as simple as trying to get people into a group home, much less having them have the opportunity to have all the services that are necessary that we now identify with. So, thank you, for those of you who do this work and do it with diligence. Thank you to our faith community for stepping up and starting to talk about how they can be part of a solution. Thank you to Ms. Mayfield for willingness to take this task on, but it's not the only task.

We're going to have a bond referendum coming up pretty soon. So, every person in this room that talked about what we need to do, needs to support the tax-based ability for us to have a way to do it, and that's what we need. This is a community of great faith, great wealth in so many ways. Let's figure out how to make this better for everyone and not just those who can provide for themselves all the time. We want to be the city that continues to grow in hospitality and success for our kids, especially. There are lots of things that we can do. Again, let's think about this, your ideas are valued and important to us. So, as we step out getting ready for A Way Home, and all of those things that we're trying to do, there's an email that you can send in. There are opportunities to participate in dialogues with all of the people on this dais. Please, don't let this be the only experience that you have, as we can make a difference. So, thank you, and I expect that you'd probably like to say goodnight to us. So, thank you very much for being here and for what you do.

Ms. Johnson said good night, everyone. Thank you for coming.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 66, at Page(s) 561-565.

BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 8: 2024 CITY BRIDGE INSPECTION CONTRACT

Motion was made by Councilmember Molina, and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to (A) Approve a contract for \$1,044,756 with WSP USA, Inc. for the inspection of bridges that qualify for federal funds administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, (B) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to inspect 188 city-maintained bridges and culverts in the amount of \$1,044,756, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance 721-X appropriating \$1,044,756 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for bridge inspections.

Councilmember Johnson said I have a question. Have we used this company before?

Mayor Lyles said I don't know the answer to that.

Ms. Johnson said Marcus, do you know?

Mayor Lyles said Debbie's coming.

Debbie Smith, Transportation Director said good evening, Mayor and Council. Debbie Smith, Department of Transportation, and Councilwoman Johnson, yes, we have used WSP before.

Ms. Johnson said okay. Was this the company that worked on the Hawthorne Bridge?

Ms. Smith said no, ma'am, no it was not.

Ms. Johnson said alright, okay. That's all I wanted to know.

Ms. Smith said okay, thank you.

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

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 66, at Page(s) 566.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 55, at Page(s) 052.

The following persons submitted written comments regarding this item pursuant to S.L. 2020-3, SB 704. To review comments in their entirety, contact the City Clerk's Office.

John Webb, John.connor.webb@everyactionadvocacy.com

ITEM NO. 9: NORTH CAROLINA 911 BOARD GRANT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Molina and carried unanimously to adopt Budget Ordinance 722-X appropriating \$198,769.10 from the North Carolina 911 Board to the Emergency Telephone System Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 66, at Page(s) 567.

ITEM NO. 10: TYVOLA CROSSING APARTMENTS PHASE I LOAN EXTENSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Molina, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried unanimously to (A) Approve an extension of the city's affordable housing loan to DreamKey Partners, Inc. for Tyvola Crossing Apartments Phase I, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate, execute, amend, and renew any documents necessary to complete the transaction.

NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Lyles explained the rules and procedures of the appointment process. We go to the nominations with the exception of nominations for the Charlotte Business Inclusion Advisory Committee which will be presented later this month.

ITEM NO. 11: NOMINATIONS TO THE ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term for a Real Estate Development Industry Representative beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2024:

- David Walters, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint David Walters by acclamation.

Mr. Walters was appointed.

ITEM NO. 12: NOMINATIONS TO THE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending December 31, 2024:

- Juan Contreras Juarez, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Juan Contreras Juarez by acclamation.

Mr. Contreras Juarez was appointed.

ITEM NO. 13: NOMINATIONS TO THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following nominations were made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending April 28, 2024, and a three-year term beginning April 29, 2024, and ending April 28, 2027:

- Nate Hogan, nominated by Councilmembers Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

- Clara Lilly, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Brown, Graham, Johnson and Mayfield

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Nate Hogan by acclamation.

Mr. Hogan was appointed.

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a three-year term recommended by the Black Chamber of Commerce beginning April 29, 2023, and ending April 28, 2026:

- Charlene Henderson, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Charlene Henderson by acclamation.

Ms. Henderson was appointed.

There were no nominations made for one appointment for a three-year term recommended by the Certified SBE-Hispanic Contractors Association beginning April 29, 2023, and ending April 28, 2026.

This appointment will be kept open until the next Business meeting.

There were no nominations made for one appointment for a three-year term recommended by the Latin American Chamber of Commerce beginning April 29, 2023, and ending April 28, 2026.

This appointment will be kept open until the next Business meeting.

There were no nominations made for one appointment for a partial term recommended by the LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2026.

This appointment will be kept open until the next Business meeting.

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ITEM NO. 15: NOMINATIONS TO THE CHARLOTTE INTERNATIONAL CABINET

The following nominations were made for one appointment for a partial term for an Education / Non-profit category representative beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2024:

- Rona Chen, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Destiny Crawford, nominated by Councilmember Brown

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Rona Chen by acclamation.

Ms. Chen was appointed.

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term for a Charlotte Regional Business Alliance category representative beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2025:

- Akofa Dossou, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Akofa Dossou by acclamation.

Mr. Dossou was appointed.

ITEM NO. 16: NOMINATIONS TO THE CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG PUBLIC ACCESS CORPORATION

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2025:

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2026:

- Faye Barnette-Shell, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mitchell, and Molina

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Faye Barnette-Shell by acclamation.

Ms. Barnette-Shell was appointed.

Nominations will be kept open until the next Business meeting.

ITEM NO. 17: NOMINATIONS TO THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD

The following nominations were made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending May 15, 2024:

The following nominations were made for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending May 15, 2026:

- Charlitta Hatch, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Chad Hullett, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- Joshua Loyd, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs,

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Charlitta Hatch and Joshua Loyd by acclamation.

Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Ms. Hatch and Mr. Loyd were appointed.

ITEM NO. 18: NOMINATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The following nominations were made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending March 9, 2025:

The following nominations were made for two appointments for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2025:

The following nominations were made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending September 30, 2026:

- Pamela Barclay, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- James Bello, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- Felicia Brown, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- Juanetta Covington, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- Willie Holley, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Diane Lynn, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Lana Sheikha, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Charris Torrence, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Willie Holley, Diane Lynn, Lana Sheikha, and Charris Torrence by acclamation.

Mr. Holley, Ms. Lynn, Ms. Sheikha and Mr. Torrence were appointed.

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ITEM NO. 19: NOMINATIONS TO THE HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending July 16, 2026:

- Charlie Miller, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Charlie Miller by acclamation.

Mr. Miller was appointed.

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ITEM NO. 20: NOMINATIONS TO THE HOUSING APPEALS BOARD

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a three-year term for a City Within a City Tenant category representative beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2026:

- Pamela Beckham, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Pamela Beckham by acclamation.

Ms. Beckham was appointed.

ITEM NO. 21: NOMINATIONS TO THE KEEP CHARLOTTE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE

The following nominations were made for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2026:

- Kelsey Shuster-Dutcher, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Elizabeth Winebarger, nominated by Councilmember Brown

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Kelsey Shuster-Dutcher by acclamation.

Ms. Shuster-Dutcher was appointed.

ITEM NO. 22: NOMINATIONS TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING GRANTS FUND

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a partial term Recommended by City Manager beginning upon appointment and ending July 31, 2025:

- Madison Dugar, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Madison Dugar by acclamation.

Ms. Dugar was appointed.

ITEM NO. 23: NOMINATIONS TO THE PASSENGER VEHICLE FOR HIRE BOARD

There were no nominations made for one appointment for a Hospitality / Tourism Industry category representative for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2024:

Nominations will be kept open until the next Business meeting.

ITEM NO. 24: NOMINATIONS TO THE TRANSIT SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a Neighborhood Organizational Leader category representative for a three-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2027:

- Juanetta Covington, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Juanetta Covington by acclamation.

Ms. Covington was appointed.

The following nomination was made for one appointment for a Suburban Employer Served by Charlotte Transit category representative for a three-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 31, 2027:

- Leroy Fields, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayfield, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Leroy Fields by acclamation.

Mr. Fields was reappointed.

There were no nominations made for one appointment for a Vanpool Rider category representative for a three-year term beginning February 1, 2022, and ending January 31, 2025.

Nominations will be kept open until the next Business meeting.

ITEM NO. 25: NOMINATIONS TO THE WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The following nominations were made for one recommendation for a three-year term beginning March 1, 2024, and ending February 28, 2027:

- Michelle Coffino, nominated by Councilmembers Brown and Mayfield
- Sheila T Etheridge, nominated by Councilmember Ajmera
- George White, nominated by Councilmembers Graham and Mitchell

This appointment will be considered at the next Business meeting.

ITEM NO. 26: NOMINATIONS TO THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The following nominations were made for two appointments for a three-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 30, 2027:

- Lingyi Sun, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mitchell, and Watlington
- Marshall Williamson, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mitchell, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Lingyi Sun and Marshall Williamson by

Ms. Sun and Mr. Williamson were reappointed.

The following nominations were made for two appointments for an Alternate Board Member for three-year term beginning February 1, 2024, and ending January 30, 2027:

- Kimberly Brooksbank, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- Michelle Coffino, nominated by Councilmember Brown
- Wes Davis, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington
- Gary Young, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Bokhari, Brown, Driggs, Graham, Mitchell, Molina, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to appoint Wes Davis and Gary Young by acclamation.

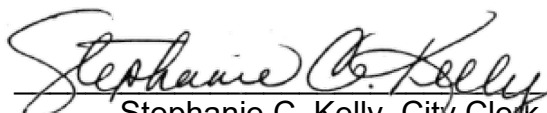
Mr. Davis and Mr. Young were appointed.

Mayor Lyles said before we all leave, I want to say thank you to our Attorney, to the Manager, to Shawn and the work that the ACMs (Assistant City Managers) do to make all of this possible, and I just want to recognize that this isn't always easy, but what you guys do is stand steady and that makes a big difference. Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.


Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 4 Hours, 9 Minutes
Minutes Completed: October 17, 2024