



Charlotte City Council
Housing, Safety & Community Committee
Summary
April 3, 2023

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- I. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee (Informational/Discussion)
- II. Housing Trust Fund Tune-Up (Informational/Discussion)
- III. Low-Income Energy Efficiency Home Rehab Pilot Program (Informational/Discussion)

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee Members Present: Victoria Watlington (CMGC), LaWana Mayfield (CMGC); Renee' Johnson (virtual); Marjorie Molina (initially virtual, then joined meeting in-person at CMGC)

Council Members Absent: Tariq Bokhari

Other Council Members Present: Braxton Winston (CMGC)

Staff Resources: Reenie Askew, City Manager's Office
Shawn Heath, Housing & Neighborhood Services
Willie Ratchford, Community Relations
Rebecca Hefner, Housing & Neighborhood Services
Terry Bradley, Community Relations
Warren Wooten, Housing & Neighborhood Services
Sarah Hazel, General Services
Anna Schleunes, City Attorney's Office

Guests: Vanessa Clark, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee Chair

Meeting Duration: 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Video available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpO-JSp7YGw>

MEETING MATERIALS

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

- 1. Presentation: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee
- 2. Presentation: Housing Trust Fund Tune-up Implementation
- 3. Presentation: Low-Income Energy Efficiency Home Rehab Pilot

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

Community Relations Committee

Terry Bradley provided an in-depth overview of the 45-member Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee (CRC), including its subcommittees. The primary function of the committee is to provide authentic feedback on community issues; assist in the facilitation of communications between the committee, community and elected officials; provide civic opportunities, respect and understanding among all residents; and advocate for equity across Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Vanessa Clark shared that overall the work of the committee provides opportunities to address race and cultural issues. The subcommittees are still very new.

The committee shared the desire to connect the work of the CRC and its subcommittees to city polices and city departments, stakeholder engagement and neighborhood leaders, thereby increasing the effectiveness of committee. The committee also discussed the attendance policy for boards and commissions. Anna Schleunes shared that any amendments to the city's Boards and Commission policies, including the attendance policy, would need to be adopted by full Council.

MOTION AND VOTE: Council member Johnson made a motion that the Housing, Safety and Community Committee (HSC) recommend to full Council that the attendance policy for the city's boards and commissions be updated to include sub-committee attendance as part of the attendance calculation. The motion was seconded by Council member Mayfield. The vote was 3:0 in favor of the motion (Watlington, Mayfield, Johnson; Molina was absent for the vote and Bokhari was not present for the meeting). Council member Mayfield shared that the Budget, Governance and Governmental Relations Committee (BGGR) similarly discussed this item as a referral to the BGGR committee. The BGGR committee plans to develop a recommendation for full Council such that the item does not necessarily need to be addressed by the HSC committee.

Housing Trust Fund Tune-up

Shawn Heath introduced the topic and reminded the committee that the tune-up originated last year in anticipation of the 2022 housing bond referendum. The tune-up process also provided an opportunity for staff to consider opportunities for enhancements around the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and to make sure it is aligned with council expectations.

Warren Wooten reminded the committee that when the topic was last before the committee staff shared ideas for enhancing the HTF, and that this meeting would include a path forward for implementation. Mr. Wooten shared the recommended areas of improvement: 1) enhancing the application process, 2) strengthening value propositions of city investments, and 3) expanding avenues for innovation. He also shared two new requests for proposals (RFPs) that council would be seeing, including a rolling naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) RFP proposed to be released in May 2023, and a land acquisition RFP proposed to be released in June 2023.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Thinking beyond the Corridors of Opportunity
- Providing more incentives for households earning 30% of the area median income and below
- Ranking developments based on council priorities
- Rewarding developers that are seeking to help resolve the most critical community needs
- Prioritizing proposals that use MWSBE developers/contractors; exploring adding a MWSBE/CBI utilization component to evaluating proposals
- Creating city ownership positions in the developments the city supports
- Homeownership affordability in perpetuity
- The role that government plays in creating potential displacement scenarios following public investments
- HOPWA funds being utilized and people being served by HOPWA funds
- Opportunities for state funding

Low-Income Energy Efficiency Home Rehab Pilot Program

Shawn Heath and Sara Hazel provided an overview of a collaborative low-income energy-efficiency home rehabilitation pilot program with Duke Energy. The program, originally mentioned to the committee in December 2022, will be considered by the full City Council at an upcoming business meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will occur on May 1, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 pm.