

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Special Meeting on Monday, May 15, 2025, at 2:28 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Council members present were Danté Anderson, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, Lawana Mayfield, Marjorie Molina, and Victoria Watlington.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Dimple Ajmera, Tiawana Brown, Ed Driggs, and James Mitchell

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Mayor Lyles said [inaudible] everyone. We are here to have an opportunity to hear from people who would like to be a member of our City Council, and we're going to do this in a way that I believe will be easy to get to, but I know that it can also be sort of a little bit of like tension around it. What I'd like to do is begin with our staff having introductions, so that you know who they are, and these are the folks that help put this together, so that we could have this meeting.

Billie Tynes, City Clerk said the applicants that we received, the deadline was Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. We received 12 applications. Out of the 12 that we received, using the North Carolina Board of Elections website, we were able to verify that nine candidates are eligible. When I say eligible, to be eligible a candidate must be a registered voter in Mecklenburg County, be at least 21 years of age, be a registered republican, and reside in District Six. Again, we were able to verify that nine of the 12 of those applicants were eligible. So, today we have four people that signed up to speak. Each person will be given five minutes, and the Council will have 10 minutes to discuss or ask questions of the candidate.

Lina James, Deputy City Attorney said Mayor and Council members, I was just going to share, with respect to the three applicants who we've deemed ineligible. For two of them, the party affiliation does not match what the law requires, because you have partisan elections. In Charlotte, it requires that the person appointed to fill a term has to be of the same party, and so that did not match for two of the applicants. For the third person that we deemed ineligible, they needed to have an address that reflects District Six, and in this case, we didn't have that, based on verification through the Clerk's Office and the North Carolina Board of Election site. So, just wanted to share that context for the three ineligibles.

Mayor Lyles said alright. So, as you've heard, there are some people that were not judged eligible, and then we have several that have been judged as eligible. Does our City Attorney have any questions or comments?

Ms. James said I was just going to add, it's our understanding from the Clerk's Office that one of the candidates who is not eligible, who may be present in the room, I'm not sure, but to the extent the public forum is intended to be for candidates who are eligible to be appointed to the position, I would say that would be four applicants.

Mayor Lyles said alright, thank you. Do you want to read out the list of those that are not judged eligible?

Ms. Tynes said to clarify, those that are not eligible, Madam Mayor?

Mayor Lyles said yes, go ahead Billie.

Ms. Tynes said the ones that were not eligible were Grayson Sandlin, Asherdee Welby, and LaReshia Poore. Those three candidates are not eligible.

Mayor Lyles said alright, thank you very much. So, now we can move forward to those that are eligible that asked to be able to speak this afternoon. So, our first speaker is Sary Chakra. Mr. Chakra, you can come to the podium. There's a microphone up there. You'll have five minutes, and then Council will have some time if there are additional

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questions. Alright, thank you very much. We won't even start the clock until you get up there.

Sary Chakra said good afternoon, Mayor Lyles, Mayor Pro Tem, Council members, and fellow Charlotteans. My name is Sary Chakra, that's pronounced Gary with an S, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. It's a true honor to do so, to be speaking with the government officials who shape our Queen City. I'm a first generation Lebanese American born in 1991 right here in Charlotte. I've lived in Districts One, Four, Five, and now for the last few years, my wife Hannah and I, have made District Six our home. The City raised me, and I've chosen to build my life and future here. I work in the stormwater and infrastructure construction, where City policy becomes reality, and I manage properties, where I deal directly with budgets, code enforcement and quality-of-life issues that matter to everyday people. I've also served on my neighborhood HOA (Homeowner Association) board and worked hand-in-hand with residents to solve real problems. That's the kind of hands-on leadership I believe our district needs. I've spent the last two years following Council and committee meetings through the City's website and the YouTube channel, not just watching, but paying close attention. I believe local government is about service, not division. I support fiscally responsible policies, public safety, smart development, and affordability. I believe in a balanced growth that respects both our tax dollars and the unique character of our neighborhoods. Both Councilmember Driggs and Councilmember Graham brought important awareness to a key consideration, whether the person selected to fill the seat should also be someone who plans to run this fall. I want to be fully transparent with this Council and the public. Yes, I plan to run. I've been preparing to file in July 2025 regardless of this vacancy. I understand and respect the concerns expressed, including Councilmember Graham's point that character matters and that breaking your word would speak volumes. That's exactly why I'm being clear and honest today. I'm not here to take advantage of the process. I'm here because I care deeply about District Six, and I believe that I have the ability to serve now and in the future. My decision to run is not in conflict of my character, it's a reflection of it. Councilmember Bokhari served this District for many years, and I respect his contributions. I also want to wish him continued success in his new role as Deputy Administrator at the Federal Transit Administration. Before his departure, Councilmember Bokhari expressed hope that whoever filled his seat would continue to prioritize public safety and infrastructure, two areas I care deeply about. These aren't just priorities I talk about, they reflect the work I do every day, and the values I plan to carry forward with a purpose and accountability. Charlotte is my home. District Six is where I've chosen to serve. If selected, I'll bring a respectful and hardworking approach to this seat. I'll be a voice for our neighbors, and a bridge for this community. Thank you very much.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. Are there any questions for our applicant?

Councilmember Watlington said I've got a process question. Did you say we could wait until the end to ask questions, because I may have a question that I have for each one?

Ms. James said I think you could. I mean, I think if you want to hear from all the candidates five minutes each, and the idea was to have 10 minutes for Council to ask questions of each candidate.

Ms. Watlington said okay, I'll wait.

Andy Dulin said thank you, Mayor and Council members. My name is Andy Dulin, and I found over the years, over the several hundred neighborhood meetings and HOA meetings and church meetings I've gone to, if I let my heart be my speechwriter, it always comes out best. So, I'm down here this afternoon with nothing written down, other than what my heart is going to say. So, let's just spend a couple of minutes and see what it comes up with. As most of you know, I had a really wonderful run on City Council from 2005 and 2013. Great people, great work done. The work we did at the airport. I'm so proud of that airport we've built, and the economic engine that that airport has provided and will continue to provide for our community. Going as a Council

member on the district level in City Council District Six all those years, I know every corner and most of the front doors, because I've knocked on them all those years saying hello, for either myself or other candidates over the years. So, I'm intimately aware of where they are, who those folks are, and in most cases what their needs were and will be. I'm just thrilled to have the opportunity to come down here for a short period of time. I do not plan to run in the fall. What I'd like to do is to come and join Council again on the dais. You're five focus areas are good ones, and I'd really like neighborhood/community safety, transportation. I'm particularly interested in economic development to bring more folks. All these apartments that we've been zoning all these years, I drive around going, oh, for goodness sakes, where are these kids coming from? Well, we have to make a city, and we've made a city, we're growing a city, where people want to come live here. It's our job to make it a place folks want to come, to make it a place when they graduate from college and they move to Charlotte, their folks, whether they're in Ohio or where it might be, they're pleased that their kids are living in Charlotte, North Carolina. I'd like to come do that for a little while with ya'll, and help you move forward with what you're doing. City Council's working on some awfully big stuff now. Give me a chance to sit at the table with you again, and I'll work on the little stuff, the potholes. There won't be any potholes left in District Six when I'm done. We're going to fix the pothole problem. When I was on City Council before, the only telephone number on my business card was my cell phone number. I cut out the middleman, and people, if they had my number, they would call me and then I'd get started on it, and that way staff didn't have to worry about it. They would call me, and I'd say yes ma'am or yes sir, I'm coming over there to see you this afternoon to see what the problem is, and then we'd get started, and that's what I'd like to do for the next five, six months, whatever that number of months are. Thank you very much, Mayor and Council.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Mr. Dulin said how'd my heart do?

Mayor Lyles said it did fine. So, we'll see more, maybe the answers that your heart will make from questions at the end.

Mr. Dulin said we'll see how it does. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said let's see how that goes, so thank you.

Ms. James said Mayor, again, I'll just check to see if you have questions for Mr. Dulin, or if you want to hold until the end?

Mayor Lyles said I thought that we were going to do all questions later. Isn't that what your request was, at the end we'll come back? Do you have something right now?

Edwin Peacock said Mayor, Council, pleasure to be with you. My name is Edwin Peacock. I'm here before you today for three reasons. Number one, I believe that I'm qualified; number two, I have experience; and number three, and I think perhaps most importantly, I have perspective. I thought I'd take the next minute or so just to tell you who I am, and give you an introduction for some of the colleagues here who don't know me. I grew up in District Six, in a little neighborhood called Lansdowne, went to Lansdowne Elementary. My mother, before I was born, was a CMS (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools) Art Teacher, my father was a life insurance salesman, and when I was four years old, my dad was elected to the County Commission and served with distinction until 1980, and then he served from 1981 to 1983 on this dais. Part of the reason that I got infected with the service bug had a lot to do with my father and the example that he set for me. I went on to First Ward Elementary, went from there to Charlotte Country Day where I went to middle school, and I graduated. Then I went to the University of Georgia, where I thought my calling was to play baseball as a left-handed pitcher, but Coach Steve Webber did not agree with that, and I only got as far as the practice squad. I met my college sweetheart there, which I think was probably the absolute best decision I've ever made without a question, and I met my wife there. When we graduated, I chased her to Metro Washington D.C. I began my career not in

politics in Washington. I began my career as a mortgage loan officer, helping people to qualify, and to be educated about making the largest financial purchase that they would make in their life. Asterisk on that, I was always curious about my time and rolling up my sleeves with homeowners and looking at credit reports, and asking questions about income, but boy did that come in helpful when I got elected to City Council and we started talking about housing and the importance of that, and obviously where we want to see everybody in Charlotte. We don't want to see them just have shelter, we want to see them have a place that they can rent, but ultimately own, and build equity in the community. So, I left Washington D.C. with a one-month-old and moved back to Charlotte in 2003. Amy and I had our second child 16 months later, and then my ventures in service began in something called rotary. I joined the Rotary Club of Charlotte in 2003. At that time, I had no idea what this great, international service organization was. I was in the buffet line, and I bumped into, many people here know the former Executive Director, DeeDee Murphy from Leadership Charlotte, and she asked me, was I'm going to apply to Leadership Charlotte, and I had already applied twice, and I didn't get in. I told her, I said, DeeDee, I'm a baseball player, I take three swings at everything. So, I applied and I got in, and if anybody's been through the program, it gives you an incredible kaleidoscope view of this great community, and when we finish, you know that you're called to do something, and not many of my classmates thought to run for office, but I did, and that was what got me here when I was blessed to be elected in 2007 and served with you for four years. So, I'm back seeking the position for six months. I've indicated on my application that I don't intend to run for the seat or run for office. I hope that I can answer any questions that you all have about my background or experience that I've listed on my resume. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

James Federick Rice said well, hello. I guess I'm last, Tail End Charlie. My name is Fred Rice. I apologize, I woke up this morning and my voice was gone, and I'm not sure what that's about. I've been in Charlotte, not in politics in any way, since 1983. I moved here from Florida to be manager of a large medical practice. I got there by being born in Philadelphia and leaving when I was five. My father moved around a lot, and he was a part-time soldier. He took us to Florida where I started the first grade. That was my third move by the way by that point. He went off to war in Korea. He was gone for 33 months in combat. He kept volunteering to go back. When he returned, he was not the same man, and he decided to be a paratrooper of all things. So, we moved with the 11th Airborne to Fort Campbell Kentucky, where I spent, oh, I guess that was by then, the third through part of the sixth grade, and then he took a job in Miami. He always wanted to go to Florida, so off we went to Miami. That lasted for a few years. I spent another fifth and six and part of the seventh grade in Miami. The Korean war never left my dad, he never left the Korean war, and he and my mother divorced. I was in the seventh grade. My mother was looking for employment, and she moved her family at that point with my two younger sisters. We moved to a small town in Central Florida, I mean small, less than 5,000 people, where she could find employment, and that's where we were. We stayed in that small town where I did part of the seventh grade and then the eighth and ninth and tenth grade in a very small school. Each of the classrooms was one whole class. She moved to the next largest town, around 15,000 people, where I finished my basic education, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade. I graduated from Haines City High School in 1962. I was fortunate enough to get into the University of Florida in 1963. I'm a Gator, and my children are Gators, by the way, but I found out when I got there that, try as I could, I could not find a way to finance any education beyond my first year. I had managed to accumulate \$1,500 in debt at a local bank, there was no student loan back then, and with my mother's signature. I was 18 years old, pretty bright, motivated, but there's no money. So, I went back home, decided that I might as well go into the military and get it over with, and this was 1963, so things were quiet at that point. I went to see my high school principal. I'd always worked, I never had an allowance, never, it was always what I made, and when you're a young teenager that's mowing yards and stuff like that. He took me to see my local banker, local bank president, and he told me he wanted to interview me for an idea he had, and we did, we talked for three hours, and the three-hour interview resulted in him offering me a chance to, in fact, work for him.

Mayor Lyles said I'm sorry that we have to stop at this point, unless you have a closing statement.

Mr. Rice said I do, okay, sorry. I spent a career in banking in Florida. I came to Charlotte managing large medical practices. I was recruited by the Carolina Healthcare System as a Senior VP (Vice President) for a physician practice, acquisition, in 1993.

Mayor Lyles said so, you must have had a great experience in our City in healthcare. You've seen banking and healthcare. So, thank you very much for reminding us of how important some of the things that we do today.

Mr. Rice said my point there is that there are two things in our lives that are very important to us, our healthcare and our money, and I'm very experienced at managing both of those. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. Alright, now it's time to open the floor for the Council members. If you have a question, please direct it to the correct candidate.

Ms. Tynes said Madam Mayor, If I could interrupt just for a moment. So, we do have an applicant here, Ms. LaReshia Poore, who was able to show me the correct spelling of her name, and I was able to pull it up on the North Carolina Board of Elections, that she is a registered republican voter, which means she would be eligible to speak today.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for stepping up and making sure that that happens.

LaReshia Poore said thank you. Good evening. Again, my name is LaReshia Poore, and thank you to the Mayor and to the City Council for taking out the time to hear me introduce myself on the importance of this role and opportunity to be able to sit on the Council. I am a proud resident of District Six, Mecklenburg County, and of course, of Charlotte. I did not submit this application with light intentions. This application is submitted with pride, and I sought after the opportunity to share insight, collaborate, and to partner with the existing Council members to ensure that we are able to overturn disparities in our City. Yes, we have our five great points. For me, the one that stands out the most is having a great neighborhood. I take pride in my neighborhood where I reside. It's important to me, because I made Charlotte my home 19 years ago. I'm a transplant from Ohio. It is now a place where I can stand proud to say, I can recommend people to move here. As we know, monthly, several people are moving here, because of the wealth and the opportunity and the place of hope that Charlotte provides. My integral background that I have is to make a positive change with influence to be able to see the success of the initiatives and the goals that the City has already put into place in the first quarter, the things that you've already accomplished, to really make sure that we're pushing and thrusting forward, by making sure the information is shared properly and to all people. To make sure that people are aware that it's important to vote and to be a part of these meetings, just like this. I currently right now work for Mecklenburg County, which I take pride in working there. I work there, not only because I'm a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault, where I volunteered in this community, and this City helped me to get back to where I was, to stand proud in front of this forum. I go into schools every day through CMS to be able to share about the awareness of teen dating violence, and I hear young people share, wise beyond their years, of the challenges that one in three teens will experience dating violence. That's important to me in my City. How can we overturn this? How can we make sure that we're able to change that number and to turn it around for the good? It's because of conversations that are held right in this meeting setting. It's important that we continue to communicate prosperity and positivity in our community, because there's so many tragedies and things that are happening, but there's so much light and hope in this City, that if we all thrust forward in the area of that, we will be able to continue to tear down the things that have been trying to hold our City back. Our areas and communities need our support, and that's what I'm here to do. My dad raised me to have my boots on the ground. My first job in the Board of Elections in Ohio, making sure that I was aware of the House and the Senate, to make sure that I was a registered voter at a very young age, to make sure that I encourage people to vote. Our voice must be heard, and if

given the opportunity to be able to sit on the Council, I will continue to encourage people to let them know that their voice matters. The issues that happen, that are going on, that may be small to someone, could be brought right to this forum in things I've seen this Council overturn and make a difference. If given the opportunity, I do plan on running in the Fall, to be able to fill this seat and to run in it, and I'm excited, because I never thought that I would be able to have this opportunity to do this. Sometimes you think that the world has counted you out, or you've been knocked down. Being able to stand up flatfooted and know what you stand for and know what you're going to do, provides a positive influence and makes a mark on the stage of where our City is going. Look at us. The Umbrella Center is about to be built in 16 months. That's major, and the City of Charlotte is supporting that. Look at what we've done, not just with the airport, but all the laws and things that have changed to make our City a better place. If given the opportunity, I will support those things, and make sure my voice is heard, because my community is my voice. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. Alright. Does this close our portion of the presentation? So, we'll now open this to the Council members. I think if you could just have a question toward, and direct it to the person or the persons that you would like to.

Councilmember Anderson said thank you all for coming out and taking time out of your day to speak to us. I greatly appreciate that. I have a question for Mr. Peacock and Mr. Dulin, and if you could both go to the podium. Your unique experience of having served on this Council before, at different times and on different initiatives. I'm interested in any difference that you would bring to this seat representing District Six. So, based on your past experience, is there anything that we're missing on this Council as it relates to District Six or the broader City in general?

Mr. Dulin said yes, thank you, Pro Tem. It turns out, one of the things both of us would bring, and particularly since you're in your budget season now, it takes two years as you know during budget season to know how to open your book and to read it and to learn it and to understand it sometimes. One of the things I would bring is immediate awareness of the budget book and the agendas that come every week, knowing what tab to go to so I can start learning. I think the ramp-up for me, particularly in District Six, after having served it for eight years already, will be very small. They'll certainly be some ramp-up, because it's been a number of years since I've been down here. It's wonderful to walk through this building again, though. It feels like home. This room feels like home. So, I'm just excited about it. If ya'll would give me the honor and the nod to come back down and join you, my ramp-up will be very small. As a District Rep, you see every corner, every house. As an At-Large member, the At-Large folks are thinking on a more global stage, you know everything. Of course, as a District guy, we make decisions for zoning all over the City, but I am laser focused in District Six, and know those folks and know their churches, and would really have a good time going back and reintroducing myself to them again. I'm hearing positive things from all over the community already. It's come out in the paper and a couple of media outlets that I'm involved, and so the positive outlook for that would be great, and with y'all's nod, I'll come down here with my boots strapped up and tight and ready to go.

Ms. Anderson said thank you, sir, greatly appreciate it. Can we give Mr. Peacock an opportunity?

Mr. Peacock said alright. Thank you, Madam Mayor Pro Tem. Are you missing anything? I don't think you're missing anything. When I made my point about perspective, when I was here 14 years ago, and when you step away from the dais and you move away from, what I call, the fishbowl effect of 600 East 4th Street, you tend to notice first and foremost that obviously the smallest ripples in the bowl seem really, really, really big in the moment, but when you step outside of it, it really allows you the perspective to see, well, what is most important? During Andy and I's time here, you didn't know it when it was occurring, but we had one of those, what I'll call, lighthouse moments. We were at the lighthouse looking at a decision to use our half cent sales tax to expand Bus Rapid Transit, and then cut the line for the Light Rail. There was an enormous amount at risk the year that I was elected. We had members of my own party

who were against Light Rail, who were against a mass transit program. Then, Mayor McCrory was making some very bold decisions. He had all types of people angry at him, but he followed staff's recommendations, he bucked the trend of his own party, and our town had a referendum on that half cent sales tax. I think when you talk about what's missing, it's simply just trying to have perspective, because I know what it's like to be where you are, and to sort of feel that intense pressure, but between now and when this Council finishes, December 1, 2025, I don't think that you're missing anything. I would just say, perspective, keep your lighthouse up, and just realize that the small things that occur, it's natural on a small deliberative body, and the more that you can do to obviously work on the relationships between each other. One of the other perspectives that I thought about was something that my dad talked to me about. He said, "Edwin, I don't remember a vote. I don't remember a lot of these things that we would debate, but I do remember how my colleagues would make me feel," and it sort of comes back to something that my grandmother told me, which was, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Right here in this very room, in 2009, my mother got diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She was down in Wilmington at the time at the beach. Councilmember Turner, sitting right where you are, Ms. Anderson, he leaned over to me, and I told him what was going on, and all he did was just stop right there, and said, "It's not your mom's time, let's pray." I'll never forget that, never forget that. That went on with Councilmember Mitchell and other condolences and all kinds of things, just about what was going on. So, relationships, having that kind of lighthouse perspective I think is just so important, because again, this is tough work, and you all do something that very few people are willing to step in to do. So, I have great humility and respect for the position that you're in, and I think that I would do well.

Ms. Anderson said thank you. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Councilmember Molina said First of all, I just want to say thank you to every last one of you that decided to step up and come out today. I know from personal experience, and the Mayor Pro Tem also knows, what this particular experience is like. Also, I'd be remiss if I didn't comment on, my heart is my center. It is how I do everything. I don't do anything that my heart doesn't lead me to. It is my dealmaker and my dealbreaker, and I think what was evident from every last one of you, was the fact that it was demonstrative of your heart in the position, and that's what it takes to lead here. I'll go back to what Mr. Peacock just said, "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," and that's the core of what we do. The core of what we do is caring about the people that we have the honor to represent. So, like I said, I just think that that was demonstrative in each of you, and I think that's highly commendable. So, no matter what the outcome of this exercise is, I commend you and I ask you to continue to look for ways that you can serve in our City, because there's room for everyone. It takes a village to be a great city. It takes a village to lead, and everyone who leads doesn't sit at the dais. We need help at every angle. We need partners to do all of the things that we do, and I just encourage continued participation no matter what, just to be a part of the positive and how our City evolves. So, I was a volunteer long before I ever considered public office on any level, and those relationships are essential.

So, with that, I'll start with you, Mr. Peacock, and then I'll ask you as well, Mr. Dulin. I think it's important, especially now with the budget season underway, this is a very intense exercise, as you both know, but one of the things that I think is of particular emphasis right now is the one cent sales tax. Adjacent to what has happened in the past with the half cent sales tax, you sound to be adept at that particular milestone of the City's evolution, but can you tell me what you know about the current referendum, or anything that would affect, particularly the District Six residents, and having some compass of what their position would be?

Mr. Peacock said well, I've been on the record of being very much in favor of our Mass Transit Plan and our Economic Mobility Plan that are clearly a multi-modal transit plan. Part of that half cent sales tax discussion that we had in 2007, is largely proven to be exactly what ULI (Urban Land Institute) told us, clearly what the City staff planners told

us, about the opportunity for improvement, not only in reducing congestion, but clearly economic development, and you see that in 10-fold from there. As we approach the one cent sales tax, the one thing I've learned is that you can't take this for granted. We can't assume that what the consultants are telling you speak to the sentiment of what individuals are, and I can only speak back to other referendum attempts that were for different purposes, but one thing that I have noticed is that, of course, we've got election fatigue from last year. So, we have to have a Council that can communicate and communicate clearly and concisely in order to build the momentum necessary in order to get, I would call, general election support, to get behind this necessary tax to expand our Bus Rapid Transit, still the majority of the ways in which individuals travel in this City. Innovations are occurring in that, and then obviously, the Light Rail plans are a big, big part of it. So, I just would say that we can't assume that individuals are going to support this. In fact, you want to almost operate as if they've never heard of this, and I just think that's so important. Every single member of the Council will have to make their own individual decisions as to how much they want to get involved and being out front about it. It's going to be tremendously important, because you look at that decision that we made in 2007. If we didn't do that, where would we be now, and would we have experienced the type of growth that we've experienced now? I think the answer is, not as much, and I think there was an enormous amount within the business community, which I'd like to see come back and rally around what this Council is doing, and obviously partner with Mecklenburg County and our other elected officials as well too, because the thing about that referendum was, it was broad based. Faith community, business community, elected bodies, corporate community, people were really engaged, and I think that's so important. I want to see that energy return to the community to get behind a real transit plan that speaks to everybody and is also nimble enough to respond to. I think obviously the outliers that have their concerns, which are obviously the six towns, they're always going to be skeptical of something that comes from Uptown.

Ms. Molina said thank you. Mr. Dulin.

Mr. Dulin said yes, thank you for the question, ma'am. District Six is a unique district within the City of Charlotte. It's the only one that doesn't have an Interstate or Independence Boulevard or South Boulevard or 485. It is really contained in a somewhat urban environment. I mean, we don't have 277. That being said, though, and he makes a good point, District Six voters supported that referendum, and what would be helpful to Council and to the City, is to have a salesman like myself to go out and sell it at the HOA meetings and sell it at the churches when they get together. I used to get the list of every HOA meeting, and darned if I didn't go to 99 percent of them. So, that's one of the parts when I said that the City Council is thinking on a global stage, globally being the whole City. Well, District Six is this little enclave in South Charlotte that doesn't have a Mass Transit Line come through. We have bus service, and the buses have folks on them, because I look, but that particular question is something that I think I would be good at helping sell to the community.

Ms. Molina said thank you so much, and that's all I have for now, Madam Mayor.

Ms. Watlington said I've got a couple questions for two gentlemen here, and then I've got questions for the other three. I'll start with the other three. I have the same question for the three of you that have not spoken yet, for Sary, LaReshia and James. So, obviously, you all don't have the benefit of having served on Council at one time, but I don't want to take for granted that that is not also an advantage. So, I just wanted to give you an opportunity to speak to, why or why not your experience as it is, is a competitive advantage?

Ms. Poore said so, as you stated, and thank you for the question, no I have not served on an actual Council as of yet. That is my goal, but I do have a vast experience of going into the community and rallying together people to hear about the issues that are coming across the table. Whether that is at churches, within the community, when we're at the Domestic Violence Speaker's Bureau, I'm at community functions, town halls in District Six. I just recently went to one with our Senator Woodson Bradley, and we

talked about the actual one cent increase there. To be able to hear people in that District to be able to talk about that, and to see what were the reasons why, if they did or they did not want to approve it. So, what I bring to the table is a listening ear and then provide the benefits of why this is necessary. We are growing at an exponential amount here in Charlotte. We know that not everybody is going to be in favor of any rule or any bill that comes across the table, but the goal is to find out what are the pros and what are the cons of it? How is it going to benefit? How is it going to make it better? So, my influence that I've used throughout my work experience and my volunteering is that, we have to hear it out. We have to be able to have these discussions, and when you meet people where they are, and you discuss what is going on in their community, they're able to see it. When you're close on the ground talking to them or at that level in their sanctuary, at their place, they will be able to hear you out, and that's important. Now, what I do know is that, we're talking about the one percent increased sales tax, there's so many other issues that come across that may not be as big to some or small to others, but it's important that no matter what the issue is, their issue is going to be heard. Even if we can't give them an answer, we can still try to at least put it before them, and that's what gives the support of the community, whenever you're putting out a bill, is that people want to know that they can at least be heard, their problem/issue being heard. I have the emotional intelligence to be able to decipher, to be able to handle challenging conversations, and be able to dissect, this is the benefit, or this is how it can go against, and make sure people feel comfortable in making that decision, because that's what it's all about.

Ms. Watlington said thank you.

Mr. Chakra said again, Sary Chakra. I want to say, I believe somebody had brought up the Civic Leadership course through the City. I did apply. I also applied twice to it. I never heard back. I would love to get into it, of course. That was something that was supposed to prepare me, but knowing how difficult it was to get in, I followed very, very closely the YouTube channel, and the City of Charlotte's website, where you guys air all of your meetings and talk about community issues. So, I've really, really taken notes and been involved that way. I've come in a couple times in person, but more or less I stayed informed online. I want to help with the community. On District Six, we do face certain things. I mean, it's infrastructure issues, we're having population, a lot of people are moving there, also affordability. Affordability is a very big thing in District Six. So, I'm in support of affordability in that District. So, what I bring to the table, just from a personal standpoint, is from my job experience working with the City, doing roadways, working with City Government on that note, and being a property manager and working with small businesses and seeing their needs, and just dealing with issues of that sort. So, that's what I bring to the table. Thank you.

Ms. Watlington said thank you.

Mr. Rice said I would hold myself out as an example. I just celebrated my 80th birthday in December 2024. I've lived in Southeast Charlotte in the same house. I built the house in 1984. One of the things I'm interested in is who speaks for, what my grandchildren call, the Q-tips. I have white hair, and I'm called a Q-tip. I accept that. The problem we have is, I don't know that there's anybody who stands there and feels what we really feel, what we're bothered with. You may think of grandparents, but are you familiar with the term, unrealized capital gains? You know what that means, unrealized? I've got the game, but I haven't realized it. My house when I built it, my taxes were \$1,100 a year, city and county. Last year, they were almost \$5,000 a year, city and county, \$4,600 or so. The point being, and I'm told, "But think how much it's worth." The only way I can realize that gain is to leave or move. I'm fortunate enough to be able to afford it, but I hear it all the time, "I can't afford." I've watched some of the meetings contesting value. I remember two elder sisters, whom I'm sure by now are gone, one way or the other, gone, and they were taxed out of their home. It'd been their family home all their life, and the two of them were the only surviving members, and they had a tax bill that was like \$6,000 or \$7,000. They could not pay it. The only way out is to sell the house. I'm called every day, "Have you ever thought about selling your house?" No. I'm committed to staying there as long as I can, but I'm just one, I'm fortunate, and I believe that if we

don't find a way to address that, it's like, I watched the County just yesterday, a tax increase, and don't worry, the average citizen's only going to have a tax bill increase of \$3 a month or something like that. Yet, when you get the tax bill, it's a lot more than \$3 a month. Then the trap that you fall into is, it's only \$3 a month, it's only \$5 a month, and the next thing you know, it's too much. Now, put on my healthcare hat. The doctors in town cannot exist, Carolina's Healthcare system cannot exist, Novant cannot exist, if we don't have a significant number of Medicare patients. If you ever ask the question where it comes from, it's a huge amount of money.

Ms. Watlington said thank you, Mr. Rice. Absolutely. We appreciate you.

Mr. Rice said so my point would be, what I would bring would be somebody who's totally inexperienced who would say, you need to speak to some of the people.

Ms. Watlington said thank you so much, and then my last question is for Mr. Peacock and Mr. Dulin. So, as you all mentioned, you each have served on Council before, one in the District and one At-Large. So, given that your experience was, I think for both of you, over a decade ago, I'd like to hear how you perceive the District has changed, and what that means in terms of positions that you may have once held at the time, but given the current electorate, you may hold a different position?

Mr. Dulin said well, thank you. It turns out that Light Rail Line, the Blue Line to Pineville, we took a lot of flack for that back in the day, and sure enough if it's not a homerun out of the park, the development that's gone on. Two of my three sons live along the Light Rail and ride it down into town for football games and concerts and everything. Unfortunately, they say nobody pays for it anymore, they ride it for free, but that's a whole other subject. When we did the NASCAR Hall of Fame, and I was thrilled to be a part of that building, and the development that has gone along the road there, along 277, has been unreal. The partnerships we made with the state to rearrange the roads, those are things that I am really proud of. Like I said, the economic development piece of what I'd like to come help with, is something we can all agree on. As a minority member of City Council, there only being two of us, we have to go along, and I'll go along with the crowd, with the majority of the folks, but things like economic development, growing the lines out, the transit systems, those are things that we can all get along with, and I would hope have unanimous votes.

Ms. Watlington said and I may, forgive me, have missed part of the nuance in your answer, because I may just not be familiar with what your position at the time was, but I want to make sure that I'm clear. First of all, how your District has changed, and what is an example of a position that you held then that may have changed now, because the demographic of the District has changed?

Mr. Dulin said well, I was against the Streetcar big time, and quite frankly, I don't know if ya'll see the numbers of what the ridership is. I don't, but apparently, it's working out alright. So, whether it expands out through Plaza Midwood and onto, used to be Eastland Mall, we'll have to see, but I'm thrilled with the way the Light Rail is working, and then all the way, of course, to NoDa. So, I know that between now and next November 2025, we're not going to fix that problem, but I look forward to coming down and joining the dais and having a little bit of a say on it, and those are the kinds of things. I hope that helped.

Ms. Watlington said thank you. I appreciate it.

Mr. Peacock said Councilmember Watlington, I'd say the biggest thing that I've noticed that's changed in District Six, and I was pleased to read about the change in the Municipal Service District for SouthPark, to be able to be obviously a partner to University City and clearly Center City and the expansion to South Charlotte. For many people, District Six is sort of a bellwether for much of our tax base centers around the SouthPark Mall area, and the amount of high-rise development there, and the congestion that's continuing to build, will only continue to mimic the other cities that we've always aspired to be. I mentioned that I lived in Washington for almost 10 years,

great cities, like Washington D.C., Atlanta. You're quality-of-life is directly proportional to your commute, and that starts to erode just a little bit every single year, and if you've tried to drive from right where we are to try to get to SouthPark Mall, that could be 10 minutes, 15, or hey, 45 minutes, and there's not a wreck, so congestion, density. Then, the other piece that I'm so pleased with as well too is that we identified that there's a real walkability problem. It's not a pedestrian-friendly area. So, when we read in the Community Area Plans about 10-minute walkability, I argue that's the direction that we want to go. We want to try to recorrect some of the things are pretty hard to undo in the way that SouthPark was developed. Now, of course, as District Six continues, clearly, you have Providence Road. You've only got 70,000 cars coming down that every single day, it is a state road, but all the connectivity off of that, and the ability for this city to move people up and down there to get to our Uptown Center, this is extremely important. I read in the Manager's Plan, you've come out with a very balanced use of your capital improvements. You're trying to balance it out in that area. Arguably, it already has a lot of natural resources, as far as wealth and the money and the things that are coming into it, but you can't take for granted, obviously, the people that work there, the bus system there. Again, the ability to get to the Light Rail, Andy's so right, because what we've built down towards Pineville, that cuts right down to the other side, which is the South Boulevard line, which goes right down District Six as well too. So, you've got South Boulevard, you've got Park Road, you've got Providence Road, you've got all of our arteries that are coming into Charlotte, and they get an enormous amount of congestion. So, that is the biggest thing that I've noticed having grown up on that, is just commute time is going to be significant, and obviously, if we're encouraging more people to drive cars, there is no way we can build enough roads to solve this.

Ms. Watlington said thank you, and it may be an unfair question, because people didn't necessarily know. They haven't been spending time studying the electorate, especially if they weren't considering running or anything like that. So, I'll just say that one thing that's important to me, that as the City has changed so much, the people in the City have changed, and we know that the District Six, the District Three, the District Four, the District Two of decades ago, isn't the same as it was. So, I would be very much interested in whoever sits in this seat, their ability to connect with new residents, and really understand what their views are and how those views may be different from the traditional, but thank you so much. I appreciate your comments.

Mr. Dulin said may I have one last moment?

Ms. Watlington said I would defer to the Mayor on that.

Mr. Dulin said okay, one last moment. Yes, ma'am, and the large part there, young people coming back from college. I've got friends. Edwin's son just graduated from college last week, Friday, and I say to people all the time, I'm so glad they went away to college, please get them back to Charlotte, because we need their brainpower here. So, we're going to grow the City. Sometimes, every now and then when I'm in heavy traffic, I say, God Dog, who invited all these people to come live here, and then I'll go, oh yeah, I forgot it was me, it was us, it was ya'll. So, we're a growing city, and as I said before, we just have to make sure that it's a place where kids want to come and families want to come and grandparents want to come be near their grandchildren.

Councilmember Mayfield said thank you both Andy and Edwin. I don't have a question for you right now, but I'm going to ask Ms. Poore, as well as Mr. Chakra, to come back up. I do, as you're making your way back up, want to say thank you to all of you, and for those that may be watching that sent in an application, but were unable to join us today, for showing your interest in wanting to be of service. I want to just get some clarification with you, Ms. Poore. You noted in here, and you stated, that you're currently a Mecklenburg County employee.

Ms. Poore said yes.

Ms. Mayfield said so, just for clarification, to my understanding, you are not able to work for local government and serve within the area. So, if you work for the City of Charlotte,

you're not able to serve within Mecklenburg County. If you work in Mecklenburg County, yes, there's some rules around that. Like, say if you lived in Gastonia, but you work here, you will be able to apply there. Have you had a chance to speak with your leadership or with HR (Human Resources) to see if you were selected, if you will actually be able to serve?

Ms. Poore said yes, because I'm on an actual grant position. I work part-time at the County for the Domestic Violence Speaker's Bureau and LoveSpeaksOut, and yes, I have spoken with my leadership in regards to that.

Ms. Mayfield said also, you're more of a contract?

Ms. Poore said that is correct.

Ms. Mayfield said okay, thank you.

Ms. Poore said so, I'm a contract, so they identified it before I went to go speak with them, that it would not be a conflict of interest, because my contract is going to be up. It's going to be up in 2026, although, the grants could change, because it was delayed. I started in April 2025, so I've only been a month and a couple weeks into the role, as far as officially on the books on that contract.

Ms. Mayfield said I just wanted to clarify that, because I know we do have some language in place. So, if selected, I wanted to make sure that that wouldn't be a challenge. So, thank you.

Ms. Poore said appreciate you.

Ms. Watlington said point of order. I'm sorry. I'm very sorry to cut you off. The only reason I bring this up is because I noticed that we have dropped below quorum, and I just want to make sure, per our rules of procedure, we can continue to meet.

Anthony Fox, Interim City Attorney said yes, once you have a quorum, the meeting can continue despite the fact that a member has left. You still have the quorum. Thank you.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you, Dr. Watlington. I want to just get an understanding, because this is for a short period of time, so we're looking at potentially a couple of weeks. Council goes on summer break in July 2025, then we pick back up August 2025 through the end. I know you shared that you would want to make sure that voices are heard. I'm going to say for me, personally, what I am looking toward is someone that understands what City Council does versus the County's role, schoolboard role, and where we are in this process. So, help me understand, based on the meetings you have been able to watch, and in community, what do you see your role as, if you were selected, to fill out these few months with serving specifically on Charlotte City Council?

Ms. Poore said so, when filling in the role specifically for City Council, I do understand that the role is, one, it's a collective that we're working on issues that are specifically for the City separate from the County. I do know that. From what I've watched, I mean, one, it's detailed, and it's not something that's taken lightly. Each person, respectfully, has gone over different issues and brought things, but I have watched you, the entire Council, be able to go over each point, and to make sure everything is handled appropriately, and making sure that we're just not missing [inaudible]. So, it's very detailed, the process. I know that there is a major difference from the County. I am basing my role as volunteer. I only go to teach on awareness of domestic violence and on dating violence. So, this is extremely different from that actual role. The Council role, I know, is specifically for the bills and things that need to be passed to make our City more efficient, and to be able to make sure we're moving in a positive direction.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you. I appreciate you giving your response. Mr. Chakra, I would like to also hear from you thinking about the same question that I just asked, and

recognizing that I'm trying to be as transparent as possible, it's a short period of time. It's a lot of work. I tell people, even when they're campaigning, it is water from a fire hydrant, that is going to be excelled for this short period of time, but I want to hear from you what you see potentially as your role and hear your understanding of the role of City Council.

Mr. Chakra said yes. Honestly, I think the role is phenomenal. I think being able to speak with your counterparts, other representatives of the City that you live in, to come to conclusions and work together, get things passed for the benefit of the residents here in Charlotte. So, as I stated earlier, I did follow on YouTube and the City of Charlotte's website, just interaction and the different committees, and that's how I've kept myself informed. So, I see myself playing a role as a spokesman for District Six, going around to small businesses, church, any kind of event going on, introducing myself and seeing what people's needs are and bringing it to the table here. So, I just think I'd be phenomenal at it. I enjoy working with people. I think this is a very bipartisan kind of thing to do, role. I don't think political parties play that much of a big thing when it comes to local government. We're here to serve our people and work together, and that's how I see it.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you, both, and again, thank you all for taking the time to step in and offer yourselves. That's all I have, Mayor.

Mr. Chakra said yes, ma'am, thank you.

Councilmember Johnson said you two can stay up at the podium if you'd like. This question is for all of them. First of all, I'd like to thank you for your willingness to serve, and the courage that it took to step up. I know when I ran the first time, I thought, just me taking that step, I felt like I'd already won, so congratulations. I want to ask everyone, how do the residents of District Six benefit should the Council select you?

Ms. Poore said well, the residents of District Six will benefit by having me, if appointed by the Council as a member, from my authenticity, my transparency, my willingness to work under pressure to get it done, to make sure that they know that I'm going to stand in the gap for them. That's very important to be able to stand in the gap for someone, being the heartbeat of that area is important, because sometimes we have to be the voice in the boardroom. We have to be that person to be able to speak when people don't have courage, or they think that their idea or suggestion is going to be shut down. Although, I know for a fact, I've been in boardrooms and corporates settings for 26 years, I worked for a company, and I know what it is to be suppressed, and I know what the opportunity is of being let go, and released wrongfully, being unemployed. I know what that feeling is, and about being evicted. I know about the struggles of going through the City of Charlotte and using resources to overcome circumstance and be able to volunteer and then end up with a job after nine months. This is just recent. They will benefit from me being in this role to be able to let them know that, yes, it doesn't matter where you start, it's where you end. It's not where you fall, it's how you get back up, and being able to know that there's strength in District Six, that we can overturn and make sure our neighborhoods are safe from the local things that are happening, right there on South Boulevard last Sunday, the shooting, from things that are happening in apartment complexes. People want to be able to go back and forth to school and take their kids to the bus stop without problems, being able to be able to have a better commute to SouthPark and to other parts of the area, letting them know that there are real issues and there's real people in these seats. That there's not just people on this Council that are making decisions lightly, but letting them know that we're taking everybody's views and vantage points into consideration. So, they will benefit from me being in that seat by letting them know that they will have another set of eyes, another set of ears, and feet and hands to be able to support them in their efforts, and making sure that we're able to make sure our district rises to the occasion in a positive way.

Ms. Johnson said thank you.

Mr. Chakra said excellent. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to speak. I'm just going to piggyback a little bit off of what she said regarding hands, eyes, ears, just everything supporting those people. I think why people in District Six should select someone like me is because of awareness. I think awareness is a really, really big problem that we have within our City. Not a lot of people knew about this application process, even though it was discussed and it was on our City website and stuff. I feel like spreading the word and making people aware in District Six what's actually happening across places and areas in our City and within our District itself. I think I would do a good job. People would appreciate that. I would be there to communicate to them what's going on in our City, and I'll end it at that.

Ms. Johnson said thank you. If I can hear from the other gentlemen, same question. I do have the same question, but I want to thank you for the Blue Line, as the District Four representative.

Mr. Dulin said we took some fire for that bad boy, but it's working out just fine, and my sons are on it all the time.

Ms. Johnson said how does District Six benefit should we select you?

Mr. Dulin said well, as I said concerning the budget process that's going on, going to District Six and serving those folks again will be a virtual zero ramp-up for me, because I know their streets, I know their neighborhoods. Neighborhoods have ebbed and flowed over the years, as they do all over Charlotte, but I drive around and I'm just so proud of what we've built in District Six, and then around the SouthPark area, and around the City. My sons are so tired of me saying, yeah, I voted for that. Oh, yeah, I voted for that. They're just tired of it, but I'm proud of that, and so if I get a chance to come down and sit at the dais with ya'll, which would be a big honor, there's all kinds of things that I will continue to be proud of, and will add to the list of things I can brag about as we grow Charlotte.

Ms. Johnson said thank you.

Mr. Peacock said okay, thank you for the great question, Councilmember Johnson. Two things, experience and enthusiasm. I am somebody that realizes that you're serving District Six, but you represent the City of Charlotte. We're all part of a plan, and that plan is to advocate for this great City, and that is the mindset, I think, of a very effective board member. Councilmember Dulin was in many regards sort of my model for how do you do constituent services. I was an At-Large Rep, but I got the same questions, and I learned the Emerald System upstairs on the 14th floor, and how to be able to respond to a question about your water bill to, hey, we haven't had our trash picked up. So, I mean, those are constituent services things, but they're very, very important, so need to know how to be able to navigate how that works, and it's not something I shy away from. I take it very seriously. Two years is a long time to serve in order to do that. This is for six months. So, I feel like I can do it.

Ms. Johnson said thank you. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said so I have one question. How many people live in District Six?

Mr. Dulin said well, the Districts are made to be somewhere around 114,000, 116,000, and that number has gone up now possibly. So, Madam Mayor, I don't know the exact number.

Mayor Lyles said well, no, just kind of like in the range.

Mr. Dulin said yes, 115,000 to 130,000, something like that. These City Council Districts are bigger than the State House Districts. You serve more people. Quite frankly, I miss helping people. I really miss it big time and so getting to go do that again would be fun.

Mayor Lyles said okay. How many people? Yes, a question for each of you.

pti:pk

Mr. Chakra said yes, about 120,000, 115,000, I believe.

Mr. Rice said don't know.

Mayor Lyles said don't know.

Ms. Poore said I'm going to say maybe 125,000.

Mayor Lyles said okay, thank you. So, when you look at the way that the City has grown and the modeling of everything that we've had in terms of that, what would you say the thing that you would see that you would change most rapidly? What's something that you really want to see done differently?

Mr. Dulin said well, I mean I've got a great answer for that. As ya'll go through the zonings, there's always a traffic study, and the traffic studies always say, oh, it won't add but 300 cars a day. Well, the traffic studies aren't accurate. If you try to drive anywhere throughout the City, and I drive through SouthPark every day, there's just a whole lot of traffic there. We've built these beautiful buildings, and I've said before, we've built them on the backs and with the money of developers who have taken the risk to build them, and sure enough, if people don't come and live there, and that adds to the traffic. So, we can't make that go away overnight, and we're certainly not going to make it go away between now and next November 2025, but sitting at the dais with ya'll again, and discussing that. I mean, heck, I was out on Beatties Ford Road the other day and it was packed. I mean, traffic's everywhere, and I'd really like to help work on that some too.

Mayor Lyles said Edwin.

Mr. Peacock said Mayor, I would say, if I were to wave a magic wand for District Six, I would want to see more use of the bus, more people embracing that as a mode of transportation. I've always pointed to that as an area where the City of Charlotte could innovate. You can't look to the United States for how we go about moving people in and around. In many regards, you have to look globally, and I think right now the infrastructure and the encouragement of people riding a bus, is just not very encouraged now. When you go down Providence Road and Randolph, and even up to the edge of the District, to District Five, as well too, again, we have to continue to make it easier for people to come to these areas to work. We saw that with District Seven. We don't have Councilmember Driggs here, but I mean, it's a number one issue from the employer's standpoint, was getting people to Ballantyne and that big workplace area. So, I would love to see more people choosing to ride as the way to come into the City of Charlotte. I don't know how to do that magically, Madam Mayor, but I would certainly be willing to try.

Mayor Lyles said well, thank you. Alright.

Mr. Chakra said Madam Mayor, yes, I would say infrastructure and transportation in SouthPark. One of the biggest things we've noticed so far are like these new e-bikes, they are buzzing around everywhere, and despite that, there's been a lot of people on bicycles that are in that area. So, I would say that infrastructure, more safety for roadways, just even walking. I mean, we live by Phillips Place, and some of the sidewalks are in terrible condition. They're very old and small and very close to the road. So, just looking at community plans that focus on infrastructure around SouthPark, and District Six as a whole. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said alright, Ms. Poore.

Ms. Poore said well, I agree that we should make the buses more attractive for us to ride, but in District Six, along with that, we need to be able to provide for people who can't afford the bus. There's some people who can't even afford the bus to use it. So, maybe there is some way to extend the hours, during those work hours, to be able to support the efforts or even do maybe segments on social media or advertisement, like

going from Providence Road to SouthPark, to Pineville. Let them know, these actual routes go to your job, and maybe even get some of the businesses involved to let them know this bus line runs right to this office building. When I used to work at Charter Communications, there was a bus that dropped off right in front of the building, right in front of it, right off of Arrowood. So, definitely, if we had some way to make it more attractive and letting people know that this is a safe way to ride to work and back home with their groceries from wherever, it just makes more sense. People are visual. Everybody learns different. Everybody sees different. If they see it, see the opportunity, even on social media, things like that, people will start to ride it even more. So, that's my suggestion on making sure that will make a positive impact on the actual transportation, and also making it more well lit at those bus stops at night, that is another issue, because working from 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. as scheduled, getting off at that timeframe, the buses only run a certain timeframe in certain areas. So, if it's more well lit, people will feel more safe to sit at a bus stop, to use it at a later timeframe if they have a later job or shift in that area that requires them to have employment. We want the City to be full of employment and not unemployment. So, definitely by increasing those things, it will help to overturn that number.

Mr. Rice said well, I learned a long time that you need to go out and put yourself in somebody else's shoes, and don't trust like a traffic count. I know there are buses that are up and down Providence Road, but they always look empty to me. If I'm at Cotswold and I'm buying groceries at Harris Teeter, the bus doesn't do me any good on Randolph, because I have to get from Harris Teeter to the bus stop, and it's a quarter block, and there's traffic running back and forth. It's easy to say we have a bus that's there, but if I can't get to it, it doesn't exist for me. So, I'm just saying, walk a mile in their shoes. If someone says, we have plenty of buses, go ride that bus. Some of you remember Harry Nurkin, who was responsible for Carolinas Medical Center. When that tower was being built, he looked out of his office one day and they were framing out the sidewalks, and they were running around where the architect had laid them out. He ran down and stopped them and said, "Stop, don't put the sidewalks in," and their answer was, "But this is where they're drawn in." He said, "I know, but we have to find out where the people are going to walk before we build the sidewalks." So, in other words, he waited a year, and then he looked on the grass and he could see the paths and that's where he put the sidewalks. That's a big lesson, ride the bus, walk the walks, put yourself in their shoes.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. I believe that that is the conclusion of this special meeting. Thank you. I can't imagine, you have come in and want to be a part of this great city's operations and guidance, to give us guidance for everything. I believe that you've done a terrific job in presenting everything that we would have in this meeting. It's been great. Thanks to know every one of you, and we will do this. I want you to know that the City Council will be scheduled on Monday to vote on the new person to join D-Six. So, that's Monday next week.

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

Mayor Lyles said yes, please.

Ms. Mayfield said are you getting ready to entertain a motion to adjourn, or when do we have time for discussion prior to Monday?

Mayor Lyles said I think that we were having that discussion on Monday.

Ms. Mayfield said so, we're going to have our Council discussion right before?

Mayor Lyles said before voting. This is a little bit of housekeeping for everyone. You know how we do the boards and commissions. The City Clerk will have that early in the day, and then you'll have a choice, and I think that we would have conversations among ourselves, as well as if we need to have a meeting before the meeting that starts.

Ms. Mayfield said so, if I can make a recommendation, even though we lost a couple of members just because of time. I would feel more comfortable if we, as a body, have a chance to have a discussion prior to us just submitting, like we do with normal nominations and boards and commissions, where they say by 12:00 p.m. we need to submit it in. I think this is something where we deserve the opportunity for Council to come together and be able to have whatever discussion we need to have, because it would be better, if at all possible, for us to get to consensus, more than anything else. The only way that happens is if we have a chance to dialogue amongst ourselves. So, I don't know what that would look like, but I think that needs to happen prior to us just submitting our application.

Mayor Lyles said let's figure out if we can do that and make that possible. We'll have to figure that out.

Ms. Tynes said one more thing I want to add, just for the record. The City Clerk did send an email from Andrew Dunn, who could not be present tonight, with a video link of his presentation. So, just want to make sure that Council's aware and has an opportunity to look at that before Monday.

Ms. Mayfield said and he did email us, Madam Mayor, saying that they had a prior commitment, but I did not know that there was a video.

Mayor Lyles said alright. So, are there any other questions or comments from the Council? No, okay.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Molina, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.


Billie Tynes, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour, 26 Minutes
Minutes completed: June 9, 2025