

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Dinner Briefing on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 5:11 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Dan Clodfelter presiding. Councilmembers present were Al Austin, Michael Barnes, Ed Driggs, Claire Fallon, David Howard, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

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ABSENT: Councilmembers John Autry and Patsy Kinsey

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ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS

Mayor Clodfelter said I think we have everybody here that's going to be here tonight. John and Patsy of course are not with us tonight. Let's see if we've got any other items that need to get some staff work while we're talking at dinner.

Councilmember Mayfield said I have a general question that staff can answer for me at a later date. I'm looking at the In Rem Remedy that we have and I would like to get an update on the total number of In Rem's that we've had within three years and how many of those have translated into new development because we are removing the property with the hope of new development coming in the area and I want to know how successful we are becoming in that opposed to just becoming a vacant lot.

Mayor Clodfelter said you want a three-year look back on demolitions?

City Clerk Stephanie Kelly said Councilmember Smith pulled Item No. 28.

Councilmember Smith said I pulled it for a separate vote, no questions.

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ITEM NO. 2: CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME FIGHTING STRATEGY

Police Chief Kerr Putney said first of all I appreciate the opportunity to have a conversation, a deeper dive into the crime discussion based on what we've seen over the last few months in comparison to the last year and that's what sparked this conversation. The conversation was sparked obviously by the increase year to date versus last's year's numbers index crime offences. You have a handout that shows you exactly what we're talking about, how we ended the third quarter. My goal today is to add context to that conversation. I think it's deeper than the conversation around numbers and actually we should be talking about drivers, precursors to crime and what we can do to change those things.

Again, starting with the handout you can see that we ended or so far this year we're at 10.6% up in index offences compared to the same time last year. Violent crime is up 17.5%. In particular what's concerning is the about 47% increase relative to homicide numbers; keeping in mind that last year we were at a 30 year low year to date. Also we want to talk about home invasions robberies which have increased by almost 50%. Just to give you the context and to talk about behavior and how we can work to prevent some of these issues. First of all with homicides, just to give you some context, 17% of them were drug related, 25% of them involved domestic violence issues and then 64% involved known associates so it was people who knew each other. How can we break that cycle? If you know something is going on; if you know somebody is in a toxic relationship you need to say something. You need to bring it to our attention so we can involve resources to change those outcomes. As I said almost 2/3 of the people who were victims of homicide year to date knew the person who killed them.

Along those lines, talk about home invasions; so far this year we've had 123 and 68 of them or 55% involved drugs. Many of them involved marijuana but 55% involved drugs. To get to where we are you can see the crime slide that I have here giving you just a three-year average
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snapshot over time. Back in 2008 we did a deep dive into staffing and we came back and presented to the Council at that time the need for about 250 additional officers. When we received the 125 that we got you can see the dramatic reduction; a 30% reduction from 2009 to 2011. The officers requested in 2008 started coming on in 2009 and you see a dramatic reduction. During the past five years we've also had a residual decrease I think of about 10% over that time period. Crime, like most numbers is cyclical but crime increase is always unacceptable. I want to talk about some specific strategies that we are using, one of which was decentralization. We moved the resources from the Headquarters Building down into the neighborhoods at the neighborhood level. We created a sense of urgency about how we respond to crime. If you were here in 2007 and 2008 you remember the spike in property crimes; the response was to make sure we are more responsive to our crime victims of all types and now talking about the sense of urgency around those responses, if you are a victim of violent crime we are going to be on scene the day of obviously, and then we are going to follow-up within 24-hours just to make sure we got all the evidence; just to make sure if you have additional memory of what happened that might give us some deeper understanding so that we can help resolve those cases, we do that within 24-hours. For the victims of property we are going to be on the scene; we are not going to take the report over the phone, we are actually come to your house and we are going to take that report and respond to you within 72-hours. That just shows you how responsive we are going to be as it relates to trying to meet our mission of preventing that next crime.

Councilmember Phipps said you just mentioned coming to the residence and investigating the crime; does not include larcenies from auto too?

Chief Putney said yes, anytime a victim wants us on scene we are going to go to that scene to take those reports.

Councilmember Fallon said we went from 250,000 people to close to one million now; how many extra policemen have you put on?

Chief Putney said we asked for 250 in 2008; we got 125.

Ms. Fallon said and that is it?

Chief Putney said since 2008, yes mame.

Ms. Fallon said how big is the force compared to when we had 250,000 people here?

Chief Putney said I don't know how far that goes back, but I have some knowledge and some information that gives you from 2008 forward. That is in my presentation.

Ms. Fallon said we really have basically not added police as we've added people?

Chief Putney said correct. Since the increase that we got in 2008 we have not added additional officers.

Mayor Clodfelter said we were at 250,000 people back in the late 70's so there have been at least added between that time and 2008.

Chief Putney said I can't speak to the 70's but since 2008 is what I can focus on.

Mayor Clodfelter said I didn't want to leave anyone with the impression that that is the only addition that has happened since we were at 250,000.

Chief Putney said I would not hope sir, I doubt it. I know we've increased since I came on in the early 90's.

Ms. Fallon said but we have not added in relation to the number of people that have come down here.

Chief Putney said I will get to the growth but I can tell you since 2008 we've added 125 officers. The other thing as far as context is keep in mind that trend upward slightly from last year is happening nationally. We had a number of comparison cities just to give you context. What we looked at are those who have between a half million and a million, just under a million people and we looked at the crime rate per thousand residents. What you see is that Charlotte is about in the middle; we are second lowest in overall crime; we are second lowest for property crime and we are about in the middle as it relates to violent crime. The cities that we compared were San Jose, California, Austin, Texas; Indianapolis, Indiana; Jacksonville, Florida; San Francisco, California and Columbus, Ohio.

Councilmember Howard said are those this year's numbers; last year's numbers; what was the year on those numbers?

Chief Putney said this is all of 2014.

Mr. Howard said one of the things I think I've seen in national reports is that crime is going up in a lot of metropolitan areas. When you get together with other Chiefs are they contributing that to any one thing that their numbers are saying; homicides by people they know? Are we trending the same way?

Chief Putney said yes sir; that is about the industry standard. Those connections, those behaviors, those precursors to crime and those crime types are pretty consistent.

Mr. Howard said I'm sure you will get to why you think that is at some point because I would love to know what you think of the economy and other things that are contributing to that.

Chief Putney said again as I said it is multifaceted; I wish it was just as simple as a sound bite that I can give you but it is a bit more complex than that. Economics plays a part, education plays a part, region of the country plays a part, yes sir a lot of factors.

Next I want to talk about the issue about growth. As you can see there are a lot of things that have happened in the City that have been good over the last five to seven years. My recommendation is we need to look at public safety as infrastructure. As we grow in the area of light rail; a greenway that is basically going to be a marathon from one end of the county to another. High density apartment construction, especially in the uptown area, business/commercial/residential development and connectivity. As we finish I-485 loop now that circles our whole City; as we look to make more connectivity in our road system moving forward we need to think about all aspects of infrastructure including public safety. We've got to think about how we invest our money determines how safe we want to make our City and we have to be intentional about those thoughts. Obviously with growth comes increased workload and this touches on what you were asking me about Ms. Fallon and what I can tell you is since 2008 we are over three-quarters of a million calls for the whole year and so far this year we are in excess of 1.2 million 911 calls. Population has increased about 8.2% and we project just in the specs that we have by the year 2020 we are going to be just under a million people. What we can also tell you is during the daytime population we are already there. It swells about 20% and we are just under a million people in the Charlotte region in our jurisdiction during the day time. That is not layering on the special events that are part of this workload in the heightened level of safety and security that this community has come to expect. There are a number of events; we have another park coming on board. We have Romere Bearden and now we have First Ward Park that is about to open and the draw that has. We have a lot of major special events such as CIAA, Speed Street, the Fourth of July Festivities; each one of those require between 200 and 300 officers that we have to pull to maintain safety. As we move forward thinking down the road we see what is going to happen in 2020 based on population; also in 2017 we are going to have the MBA All Star Celebration which is a weeklong.

Councilmember Mayfield said I'm going to jump forward a little bit; I hope at the end of this since we are getting ready to go into our next budget year you give us an idea of knowing that in the next five years we are anticipating almost a million, what is that number since out of the request of 250 we gave you 125 so that was half. Do you have an idea and I'm hoping you are

going to give us the number we need to start considering for our budget discussions that are coming to be coming up.

Chief Putney said I am working on that number; I don't have it tonight, but to give you context we ask for 250 in 2008 and we are at 2015 so we are going to allow for growth, but also as I said before, thinking about infrastructure we are working through what that looks like over the next several years.

Councilmember Smith said I wouldn't mind seeing a follow-up and see which bucket each service call falls into; I'm sure that you have for the 1.2 million service calls I'd be interested in the nature of how each call is broken down and how many are for door to door party calls. I'm sure you have an internal code but that is something as a follow-up I would love to see; where the officers are going and the nature of each call.

Ms. Fallon said I think you ought to tell the public also that we got 150 felons from federal prisons given to us without jobs, money, and a place to live last week.

Chief Putney said yes mame; we got initial indication that we would have about 150 to 200 released. The actual number right now was about 44 of whom we have vetted and are talking to our federal partners about what that re-entry should look like. We are also reaching out to partners who can allow for assistance around re-entry, but yes mame, that is going to be a concern for us over the next couple of years. Luckily we didn't have the whole 150 initially, but still 44 who have criminal histories, we want to make sure that we give them an opportunity to come in and abide by the law and if not we want to be prepared for outcome. Right now it was 44 initially.

Ms. Fallon said and you have assigned officers to that?

Chief Putney said yes mame our officers are going to help with the re-entry; we are going to be having conversations, making sure people make good choices.

Another topic that is so closely related to our ability to fight crime in right now we are in what is called the Post-Ferguson Era. Rightly so there is increased public scrutiny around everything that we do. I'd be remiss if I didn't talk about the impact that that does have on our officers on the street; it does have an impact. There is an increased level of accountability and transparency that is expected. You guys had the forethought as a Council and the Mayor to approve \$7 million again an investment in infrastructure with body warn cameras to add a layer of protection, not just for the community, but also for our officers and it makes both segments safer. Some of the other things we are doing because of the scrutiny we are getting is we are reviewing our internal processes. We have a couple of advisory teams an internal/external advisory Council; the internal I'm most proud of because it is our cops on the streets, it is our Detectives and it is a few Sergeants who are helping us think through thoughtfully and deliberately what the impact of these policy changes that we are making is going to have and also weighing in on what those policies look like. The external advisory team is community leaders and this process is being led by the Lee Institute to review professional standards; Internal Affairs process, the recruitment and retention, our ability to not only to go out and get the best people but to retain them once we get here as we see after about three to five years of experience we lose some of our good talent. Professionally developing and training and educating our people; topics around, as you might be aware implicit bias and unconscious bias mitigating those kinds of things but also making sure that that delicate balance of awareness and safety is not sacrificed on behalf of our officers.

Councilmember Austin said did you say we are losing some of our good officers in three to five years? Is that because of salary or the work environment or what do you contribute to that?

Chief Putney said yes sir, but another big thing is we are the training ground for our federal partners; it is good to be partners but they steal your best people. They can pay them more; they have more of an opportunity to give them ability to travel and do other things in other areas, but we are a training ground because of how well we operate here locally that some of the feds come in and try to get our best talent.

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Councilmember Driggs said I was wondering if you think there is any connection between the change in crime rates and the relationship between the police and the community all around the country because the increases in crime rates have been noted I think in all major cities and some people suggest that there isn't any connection and others suggest that there is. Can you find any connection between the public attitude and your officer's ability to do their jobs?

Chief Putney said I would love to address that question. Absolutely it has an impact. We've seen it statistically here locally. When something happens anywhere in the country, for instance what happened in North Charleston there was a dip in our proactive work and luckily our officers are resilient and they know that every region is different. They recover within 30 to 45 days, we see that level of proactive work go back up to the same level if not more, so yes it does have an impact, but I think we'd be a bit shortsighted to say that is what is impacting us all over the country because what I can tell you is our level of engagement is superior to most agencies across the country and again about investment and infrastructure, we are making an investments now in the community for trusts and legitimacy because without the public trust we can't police. The community gives us the authority so we are making those investments so we can make it safer for our officers on the back end. Body worn camera makes the work safer because people talk about accountability and transparency on us; it is mutual and it goes both ways. Our people can now more effectively have some defense against some frivolous complaints.

Mr. Driggs said specifically recruitment and retention; is there a noticeable difference there as a result of kind of the national mood?

Chief Putney said we can always fill a class of recruits; our struggle is in the recruitment area. When we go out and try to bring in some of the better talent they are going to weigh us against everybody in the county. If you look at some of the sister cities that I mentioned they are going to look at the total package and if there is a change in benefits here it impacts our ability to draw some of that talent. The other thing is our emphasis in local talent; we want people who are already from the Charlotte region because they know us, they know our culture, they know our history and they already have buy-in, but again, kids today, and I call the kids because they are in their 20's and I'm not; but the younger people today are much more into the research and they are going to get the most competitive package and we are competing against that does hurt us sometimes.

Mayor Clodfelter said what percentage of your officers live outside Mecklenburg County?

Chief Putney said it fluctuates; generally between 40% and 60%.

Mayor Clodfelter said between 40% and 60% live outside of Mecklenburg County?

Chief Putney said yes sir; and outside meaning within 45 miles.

Mr. Smith said Chief in the Post-Ferguson Era that you described, we often have our officers going into hostile environments with people ... in some ways bating them and I assume a much higher stressful situation than Pre-Ferguson. I know that we do some training because we've passed some ordinances here in the past year for profile and other biases. What do we have in place to help our officers as we move forward into this new generation of crime stop and I know the cameras help to some point but from a standpoint of composure and how to help folks react in such a stressful situation, are we able to assimilate any of those type of environments at the Academy? I feel like you can't go a day without going on the internet and seeing an officer being surrounded by people with a camera up and trying to bate them into a situation.

Chief Putney said let me try to answer it this way; a couple of things, I defend my people for doing right for the vast majority of the time. Again I do that publicly, including right now. What we forget in that conversation sir is the disproportionality of our victims. We talked about disparate impact of minority youth that we encounter, how we disproportionality stop minority youth, blacks in particular; let's call it what it is and what I say is my officers are doing exactly what I tell them to do. The strategies that I talk about with priority offenders, priority locations are because it is statistically driven. I would demand that they go into neighborhoods and deal with people who are victimizing at a disproportionate rate, blacks in particular. So when they
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feel underappreciated I want them to know that even though blacks make up 35% of the City they are 52% of all victims of crimes that are reported in this jurisdiction. I'll go deeper; 62% of violent crime victims, so people are intentionally targeting blacks in particular and I say blacks because disproportionately it is African American people. Latinos in particular, or people of color, Latinos it is right between the know between 10% and 15% and they make up roughly 12% of the City. Even going further with property crimes which is still startling sometimes when you think about it; 48% in particular were residential burglaries are black victims. I tell my people I want you to go where people are being targeted where people feel unsafe or people are calling 911 expecting service. What I say is we go where the demands for our services are and that as you say disproportionately victimizing minorities and that is a piece of the conversation sir that I wish more people would understand and appreciate because of the heroic work that our officers are doing. Sometimes things minimize by the in your face I-phones. I'm okay with those encounters being recorded but I wish we could celebrate the vast majority of that are uneventful. That is not the case but I will talk more about that in my next slide as well.

Ms. Fallon said as Chair of the Public Safety Committee I get the calls and the e-mails asking me are we keeping the dash cameras beside the body cameras.

Chief Putney said yes mame and you say?

Ms. Fallon said I say I will find out and I think you and I talked about the fact that the cost of them; is that excessive that we couldn't keep both?

Chief Putney said we've been doing research and we just got back from a conference that we looked at what the Taser is doing and we will have more conversations about that. There might be some opportunities, right now it is so new, the new dash-cam technology that the price has quite a bit of flexibility. We don't have a firm cost yet; I'm a fan of dash-cams as well as body cams. I think the more we capture the better because again it makes our officers safer.

Ms. Fallon said talking to the officers they like that idea, but the public too feels that they are getting that extra that the body camera doesn't pick-up.

Chief Putney said nothing will, but two layers are better than one, but it is a cost factor that we are yet to determine. That is still being investigated; trust me the City Manager will know what that looks like as soon as we can get some firm numbers.

Mr. Phipps said I don't see anything in this report that would address clearance rates with respect to violent crime. Can you speak briefly about how that is going?

Chief Putney said that hasn't changed much over the years; what we do see is anecdotal and is incident driven. Everybody remembers Labor Day and our issue to get information then, but our clearance rate at the time was around 63%; now it is closer to 80%. Just homicides in particular and again we are making progress and it fluctuates as I said but any homicide is unacceptable and people think we are doing – I heard one time which is funny and I'm sorry if I laugh, that people think I'm going soft on crime. Well I'm not the soft kind of Chief. I try to make sure that everything I do is intentional. We are going to go after the right people at the right time in the right way. If you are a career criminal who is committing felons and targeting disproportionately certain minority segments of the community you can expect we are going to pay close attention to you intentionally, but we are not just going to throw net wide and see what we get, which is kind of what you see when it is portrayed to you as stopped data. It is not random, it is intentional, it is strategic, it is thoughtful, it is just what this community expects. The clearance rates are to give you more data, I don't have to give them all to you specifically, but for the most part it is trending as it has over the last few years.

The last slide and then more conversation hopefully. Just to touch base on a couple things that I've already talked about; pillar one, and these are from the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. This is where we should be going and I'm proud to say we are well on our way as an organization in the City. Building Trust and Legitimacy; most of you have already been to some of our community engagements, Cops and Barbers and otherwise. Right now I call that Cops and Barbers 2.0. Shawn Corbett, my buddy and I are in schools and we are going to
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make our rounds in every school. The Principals are rolling out the red carpet and giving us access to the very demographic that we are trying to reach. The disproportionality by stops and the people that we need to be educating are the people that we are touching so we are well on our way on Pillar number 1 with more work to do and to face as we move forward. Legitimacy, as I said before, that is based on the level of trust. You are only legitimate and being able to police a community who allows for it based on the trust that you have established. Pillar #2 Policy and Oversight; you all were a part of that work with the Civil Liberties Ordinance so you've been a part of that work as well and as I touched on before there are internal and external advisory committees who are helping along those lines. Technology; obviously social media is how the younger people communicate so that is our outreach. As we talk about recruiting we are trying to get more intentional about how we touch there, but also victimization around technology; people are doing a lot more on the internet, they are exposing themselves to crime that generally cybercrime that we wouldn't think of normally so we are trying to move some of our resources in that direction. We are not trying; we are actually doing it, especially the first of the year.

Ms. Mayfield said Chief, can you give one or two examples of the cybercrime that you are starting to see?

Chief Putney said yes, skimming at ATM's and just people trying to get your identity, stealing your identity.

Community Policing; this is what we do and this is all we know. I was one of the first 100 Community Police Officers that we got in the early 90's. This is the philosophy of our organization and this hasn't changed; we are unflinching in that. The other thing I think we are pretty good at is crime fighting. We say crime reduction and crime prevention which is our mission and what we are going to do now is double down on those efforts. Priority offenders, people who constantly prey on members of this community; we are going to go after them, also we are going to balance that because 74% of respondents in this county say low level first offenders need a second chance. I'm proud to say Chief Foster, who is here, heads up our efforts along those lines. We divert about 1,000 first time low level offenders who are young kids every year and that work is going to continue. People ask how does that prevent crime; well our mission is to prevent the next crime. If you commit this one we are going to partner with people like Urban League to give you life skills and employment opportunities to keep you from further offending so that is a huge thing that we are doubling down on. Training and Education go without saying and I just say I think the President's Task Force was confused; they should have put education first because education is career long. Training is what people talk about as a sound bite; education is something you invest in year-long year after year after year and that we are doing as an organization.

Lastly, I touched on it briefly and I want to spend a little bit more time just to give you some context. Officer Wellness and Safety; in this era Post-Ferguson era, it is a constant struggle to make sure we give our officers sometimes the benefit of the doubt. I'm not going to say my officers are guilty of something until I get all facts. The reason for that is in 350,000 citizens' contacts last year; 350,000 times they encountered you all, 205 resulted in complaints. I'm not a mathematician, but that is pretty low. What we are not doing is celebrating that 350,000 plus, we are not celebrating that as much as we are focused on the few that go astray. Our officers are being held to a high standard and I'm all for that, but let's be thoughtful and balanced in how we approach that because 71% of that 205 complaints were officers policing themselves. They will bring other people who misbehave to our attention and I applaud that; I'm proud of that fact. The other thing that we keep talking about and I hit on it a little bit earlier is the increased demand and increased workload and the increased scrutiny does have a cost. We talked about the need for more resources and I can't go away from the work that was done in 2008; that work still is legitimate. The assessment we are doing now proves it; I just think we are going to have to be thoughtful and consider ourselves infrastructure that really contributes to the safety of the City as we move forward and that is what I ask you guys to do as we move forward.

The last thing I will touch on is morale and everybody keeps asking me, Chief what is the morale like in your organization. First of all I'm honored to be in a position where you can ask me that question. Had you asked me three or four years ago I would have said mine is in the toilet too so I assume everybody else's is. What I can tell you though is a personal experience; the masses
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get it. Are we hurting as a City and organization? Yes. We are our City, we are this community so we are divided in a lot of areas but we are making improvement. My internal advisory committee holds me to task, they ask tough questions and they make sure our policies make sense and that we are balanced. I'm proud of that. If we are going to be a model in the 21st century as it relates to policing we need to put our money where our mouth is and invest in the best possible people we can get, give them the best possible training and resources which you guys are already supporting so that we can recruit and select the best because that is what it is going to take.

Councilmember Lyles said thank you for that; I have a lot of appreciation for all of those pillars and to end on morale is really important and I'm going to go back and ask a question. You talked about seeing police as infrastructure and we've also got these areas where we see the increasing crime and as you said the victimization so one of the questions that I wondered if you could give either some time to think about it, if you said what infrastructure does the city provide to make a neighborhood safer for the people that are victimized as well as the officers, what infrastructure needs to do we have for those neighborhoods to become more safe? I believe everybody in this town would like to close their eyes and be able to open to them a safe neighborhood and infrastructure plays a large part of that so in your review with your internal or external folks I'd like to have your thoughts on what do we connect in terms of sidewalks or opening of streets, those kinds of things that we do ordinarily as a community. What would make the biggest difference in the neighborhoods where we have the greatest amount of victimization and what should we be doing there?

Chief Putney said I agree the thought about infrastructure. What I'm saying is we are infrastructure. I think what is going to benefit those communities is when we think about sidewalks and street connectivity; when we think about higher density and light rail extension we think about public safety. The officers who we are selecting and educating and training are the very people who make those connections that you are talking about to proactively go out and do work in the areas that we designate to have a positive outcome and improve the quality of life. The infrastructure investment sometimes is in our people and I'm saying especially in the area of public safety.

Ms. Lyles said I would like to actually have your officers review that and make recommendations for us in our capital investment, what should we be doing. If you say there is a neighborhood where the sidewalk ends instead of connect should we connect that sidewalk. If there is a need for a connection of a street how do we do that? People have to be safe in their physical space; the officers need to feel like they can create the opportunity for that safety. I'd like to actually ask your recommendations to do that.

Chief Putney said that is part of what we are going through now and what we say is as we grow, grow all segments of infrastructure including public safety, but that is a part of what we are going to present to you when we are done with that analysis.

Mayor Clodfelter said what is your timetable?

Chief Putney said mine is always yesterday, but I'm learning other people need to catch up. I will have these firmed up by the end of the year at the latest.

Mr. Howard said I want to build on that for a second; I'm a native and I don't think I've thought about it the way you were just talking about it and this is probably more for you Mr. Manager. If you find an area where you have crime as an issue how do you as a City deal with those areas, not from just a public safety standpoint, not from just sidewalks but investment in school programs and investments in whatever you are doing and whatever you are talking about; it is almost what you have to do is do some type of assessment to figure out what is missing and what can make it better. It is almost like doing a neighborhood ... not just an apartment complex, but looking at the whole community and looking where are those tract areas, what are those convenience stores that may be contributing, what are those things that are contributing to it in a holistic way. I'm not sure I've ever heard the City do that before now that I think about it.

Ms. Lyles said I think when you look at a neighborhood and you see people being victimized, and I've heard you say this; if I've got a senior citizens that can't walk out of her door, maybe we just need a light there, maybe we ought to be talking about how we light some of our neighborhoods or make some visual or real impact in what we can do so that people don't feel like they've got to hide in their houses and people come into the area with ill intent know that there is going to be more eyes around on the street. I think we have some design issues to deal with.

Mr. Howard said but it is the physical plant but it is actually the services as well. I'd just never heard now that I think about it and maybe it happened some other place but the City and holistic review of what makes a neighborhood good and what makes it bad. The one thing I know from my work at the Housing Partnership is that when we go into a neighborhood it is never the whole neighborhood that is bad. We've always worked with the police and you know this from your time on our board. In Genesis Park we find those three or four places where the crime houses are and you get rid of them and crime goes down almost overnight. There is some more intentionality to embracing these neighborhoods where the concentration is but I would like to see us try to go across the department horizontally and not just kind of put it on the Chief's back to figure out.

City Manager Ron Carlee said I think both of those points are really important; we have a really great Police Department that is doing some phenomenal work but they can't do it by themselves. It takes more than just a police response in order to deal with the crime issues within a community and so to points that you are raising, just a couple of examples as Councilmember Austin knows, we are bringing a very multi-disciplinary interdepartmental approach in Beatties Ford Road where we are bringing everybody to the table. We've got some crime issues there but just having more patrols is not going to solve that so we are looking at lighting and trimming trees and services and a whole host of other areas; likewise as Councilmembers Phipps and Barnes knows, the hotels up on I-85, once again we are bringing multi-disciplinary approach there to try to clean up some of the areas and support the police. We had the tragic death of the seven-year old down in the Springfield Neighborhood and we have put together an inter-disciplinary team there actually led by Neighborhood and Business Services with a strong facilitation from Community Relations because what we find in the Springfield Neighborhood is that we don't have a neighborhood that has come together. We don't have a crime watch program, we don't have people to connect with so our first line of response working with the Police Department is to bring a neighborhood watch program and try to connect the community with itself and then bring in services. We have a park down there that has essentially been abandoned; it is not in a good place but there is another park nearby that basically has had no investment so we have Parks and Recreation at the table. We have essentially no library services there so it has got to look beyond just programs that are in the City, but also those that are in the County as well, the responsibility to try to really build a community response to keep us safe. I think the single thing that CMPD has been doing that is having the biggest impact is building those community relations. We are actually leveraging the community relations that CMPD has built basically in all the neighborhood meetings and the ad hoc kinds of meetings they have done, even meetings in the street as Councilmember Mayfield knows from the work in Springfield where you bring a food truck in and you bring people in where there is no real physical infrastructure to get people together out in the community in the street talking to each other. Ultimately as important as everything the Chief is talking about and we do need to invest more in Police, they can't do it by themselves and we've all got to come together.

Mr. Howard said we used to have community action groups that got together on a monthly basis when we had a more focus on City-Within-A-City conversation. Sometimes those old things work just fine and that is what we called them back then; they were community action plans.

Mr. Carlee said all of our Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program plans; we are doing all those on a multi-disciplinary basis now. We are bringing all the departments to the table and really thinking; we are trying not to just do projects, we are trying to really build community and bringing together that multifaceted approach.

Mr. Howard said it would be nice to define that as the same thing and have the same approach no matter where you go, you knew where the action plan was, you knew would be at the table, the neighborhoods knew what to expect; they had ownership because it was predictable.

Ms. Mayfield said I have a couple of questions and the one that ties in with this particular conversation is as the officers at out also looking at where we have bus stops where we have a lot of traffic because we don't have really good lighting in that area because of where we have the stops. Since we are having conversations right now with CATS regarding changing some routes, creating new routes that would be another way for us to look at this more comprehensive neighborhood discussion that we are having. I know that CMPD has a diversion program and you mentioned it briefly when we were looking at the pie charts. When you bring the report back to us as far as how many officers are needed as we are looking into the 2016 budget discussions, it would be helpful to get an idea of what is CMPD's role financially with the diversion program and knowing that we have new persons coming into the community that is going to need additional assistance, what is the strain potentially going to be and how much more do we need to look at in order to make sure that we are doing our part through Neighborhood and Business Services or City Manager through CDBG funds to help. It would be helpful for Council to receive the same information as far as what numbers are really needed to help you all be as successful as possible. This last piece is a question for you; when we look at this pie chart of victimization do you have any suggestions on how we change that dialogue so we stop blaming the victim? You and I have had this conversation and we talked about the fact that let's look at Little Rock, so the community wants to be upset and complain about a shooting that happened on Little Rock, not recognizing that you had a young mother who was a victim who did everything that she could possibly and physically do to remove herself from a violent situation and the person she was involved with still found her, came to her home, committed the crime that ended in the loss of her life. There has to be a way for us to change this conversation when you are looking at these real numbers. Any suggestions that you have for us and really for the media that is here of how we stop blaming the victims on these crimes that are happening.

Chief Putney said absolutely; I think the whole point of it is what is missing in that conversation is why we are going to those areas in the first place. The big piece is somebody has seen some indicator; the case you mentioned, all cases that we can highlight where something was amiss in a relationship where we knew the relationship had been toxic at best and violent at worst so that we can start breaking the cycle as I said, so we can intervene and we get her the support she needs to get out of those relationship and then build that protection. As it was said earlier, it is more than just us but we can be the conduit and facilitator for that service, but you are right we've got to know. I say to those communities constantly if I don't know about it the hope for transparency and accountability goes away; it starts with knowledge. We've got to know, we've got to be informed.

Mr. Smith said you made mention a couple of times on the new officer request; whatever that number is what percentage of new officers would be allocated towards more response to crime versus proactive measures. We've been dancing around a lot of subjects here and I think it goes deeper than street lights and I think we have societal issues but lack of male role models and other issues that cross demographic lines that help contribute to these crime rates according to an article in the Wall Street Journal in the last two weeks suggesting that. If we bring in another 250 and I know that is not the number, how many of those do we put into going into communities and trying to proactively nurture and give somebody male leadership roles that kids in the community can turn to and have a figure in their life versus an extra 50 officers to pull speeders and respond to smash and grabs?

Chief Putney said it is a matter of prioritization and the other thing is I don't want to leave the conversation thinking I'm just asking for more cops. I'm with you and I'm saying in that infrastructure there is support and we are out of whack with civilians that support some of the work that offload some of the administrative work that officers are doing so officers have more time to be proactive and engage, make those connections, build on the success we've had and making those partnership that we can trust and lean on so that the other part of that equation of being proactive and preventing that next crime and getting people out of the pipeline of criminality and into more productive work. It is comprehensive; all of that are factors that we look at when we talk about this number, but also giving us the support that is non-sworn, the
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civilian staff that we are going to need to make sure our officers can be proactive and go out here and do more than just do more traffic enforcement. That is exactly how we are looking at it in our formula.

Councilmember Barnes said Chief, thank you as always for meeting with us. I thought that your fourth slide is the beginning of addressing a number of issues, the growth and development slide. When I asked the Manager about this topic a couple weeks ago, a number of issues I was talking about the concerns of the infrastructure and density issues, I also asked about the full staffing of each police division. I wonder whether the crime stats in any given division track the shortage of officers in those divisions so at some point if you could respond either in writing or however you can.

Chief Putney said I can tell you briefly right now what we look at is a staffing level for each division and it is based on the idea that if we had our wish list and then it is a percentage that is consistent across the City so we are staffed to say that we are not appropriately staffed in one division isn't accurate. We've already put a lot of factors into it such as density, road mileage, cost of service and some proactivity that we factor in so that then we are a level playing field given the geography. So that is one of the factors that we look at. What I'm saying is we need to keep pace with growth and the last few years we haven't been able to.

Mayor Clodfelter said Chief thank you for that and I'm sure the conversation will be on going and continues all you are doing.

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ITEM NO. 3: U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LADDERS OF OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Mayor Clodfelter said I want to give a special shout out to Holly Eskridge for the really great work she did on kicking off Charlotte's participation in this initiative from US DOT and I think it is fair to say that some of the feedback we've gotten from DOT is we've put some really great effort into this and helped them build a program that they really just had the roughest conception of. We are actually giving it some real meaning so thanks to the team and I wanted to acknowledge Holly also even though she is not presenting tonight, as a member of the team so thank you for what you have already done and let's hear what you have to tell us.

Assistant City Manager Debra Campbell said I am going to take just a few minutes to give an overview of what this presentation is going to be about. Actually the Mayor kind of stole my thunder because I really wanted to thank Holly for all the work that she has been doing to kind of convene this group. We have been fortunate, we being the City of Charlotte, to be selected amongst six other communities to participate in the U. S. Department of Transportation Initiative called the Ladders Program. Danny Pleasant and Ed McKinney are going to give you a deeper dive in terms of the actual program and what we are doing, but let me just say explicitly that this is a technical assistance program. There are no real dollars that have been promised to us; the focus is technical assistance and the focus of our effort is the City LYNX Gold Line and particular Phase 2. With that I know we are pressed for time I will ask Ed McKinney to come give you the details of the program.

Interim Planning Director Ed McKinney said what Danny and I will do is provide you with a little bit of background on what the program is about, what it means for us as a City and what the next steps are and some of our ongoing efforts. Just to reiterate a couple things that Debra has already mentioned, the background on this; this is a recently initiated program from US-DOT which is really about insuring that the transportation investments that we are making are strengthening the opportunity economic, the sort of physical mobility, but also the economic mobility of the communities that we are providing those investments in so the notion was how could we attract and really focus private and public resources to the investments that we are making in transportation in our community. As Debra has mentioned we are very lucky to be one of seven total cities to be selected. We've been working with NC-DOT since the early spring to shape and what it would mean for us as a City. Part of that discussion we've been having with US-DOT is what would be the focus effort for us at the City? We chose the Phase 2 efforts for the Gold Line Streetcar, again that we could focus the technical assistance to the

programs, the investments we are already making, insure that we could bring together a pretty unique range of public and private partners that I will talk about in a moment, that are already involved in this corridor. Then we really created some great momentum defining some very specific work programs and some steps that we are already beginning to move forward with and Danny will talk about a couple of those in particular.

Just to give you a little bit of geography and a focus to help you understand the geographic focus and what we are proposing; we've highlighted here on this map the Gold Line Streetcar, you can see in the darker orange is the existing line that is currently operational; the lighter yellow is Phase 2 so the phase that connects us ultimately to Johnson C. Smith University and the Phase 2 that connects into the Elizabeth neighborhood. What we have focused on is the Beatties Ford Road/West Trade Street area so the Phase 2 that would connect from uptown to the West End essentially. The notion here is there is a number of really unique things we could help move forward and accomplish; making sure that we create a stronger linkage to the momentum and the efforts and the investment that is happening in uptown and all the opportunities and potential that connection can be made once we get to West End. It supports the economic development efforts that are ongoing in West End and will be more strengthened and catalyzed by the investment we are going to make in the Gold Line and then insuring that we are doing and have the work plan that involves sort of short-term and long-term ongoing efforts that really gives us a game plan to keep moving on short-term projects and also some bigger picture, long-term things that we think are important. That focus was important I think in the discussions we were having with US-DOT to make sure this technical assistance program is really tightly focuses on efforts that could have some real momentum and success in the short-term.

Just to say a couple things again about the focus area and a little bit of the logic behind it, given both the investments we are making in this geography and the partners that are involved. We have listed hopefully most, if not all of the partners, that we've been engaging since the spring to think through what this effort could mean so includes both of our public and private partners, the University, Historic West End Partners, City Center, Knight Foundation, our Housing Authority, but then the national technical resource team that has been here several times already working with us includes HUD, the Federal Transit Administration, the Highway Administration, Development Partners like national ULI and Smart Growth. They have already brought those technical resources to us and have helped us shape what this program could be about and what the investments might mean. As you know and just to reiterate, the pending investment that we've already committed to, Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, the recently announced grant we've gotten for the investment to be made in the Gateway Station, the Knight Foundation's announcement of funding essentially a staff person to help move forward some of the organizational things in the West End and certainly all the work really dovetails to the work that has been ongoing with the Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program for West Trade and Rozzells Ferry. Through all of that so those partners, those programs and efforts we spent some time in the spring working together to map out what we thought that program could be. This is essentially an outline that talks about economic developments and making sure we are focused on some of the development opportunities in that geography and that corridor, specifically housing and how can we make sure the investment we are making supports rehabilitation and sort of strengthening and preservation of housing. Organizational efforts, again the Knight Foundation's grant effort is a good first step to that and I will end and kind of Segway now to Danny to talk about another component of this which was capital investments, thinking about both the Streetcar and the Gold Line as an investment, but what are other things that we should be doing to help strengthen that connection and reinforce the investments that we will make.

Director of Transportation Danny Pleasant said as Ed has explained we sort of have this powerful synergy of projects and efforts that are already underway in this area from looking at bringing in the City LYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Extension that will let us realign Frazier Avenue, address the Five-Points area that Johnson C. Smith University has brought to us and said they would like to have a University Square in that area, a place that is focused on academics and urban design, enhancing the I-77 underpass and really bring those stations to life; Gateway Station is there so there is a synergy that the Ladders of Opportunity have allowed us to think about as sort of a holistic system of improvements and efforts in this particular geographic part

of the City. We can do that in cooperation with the US-DOT the State DOT and the City of Charlotte as we move through that collaboration.

This is a type of a map that we call a figure ground and like any diagnostic that you might have; if you go to the doctor sometime you will get an X-ray and sometimes you will get an ultra-scan; this figure ground type of mapping helps us understand certain elements of the landscape that pop out and we can take a look at. In this particular case this highlights the public network of streets and infrastructure that is there; the lighter gray are the buildings, the landscape or the green are the parks, the red is the corridor area that we are focused on with the Ladders of Opportunity. What this is intended to do is really show you profoundly the footprint of the I-77 interchange with West Trade Street and Fifth Street in this particular area and you can see that when we call it a barrier we really mean it is a barrier between the activity that happens in the Center City uptown area and that that is happening on the west side. We would really like to address that because there wasn't always a barrier there; there was a seamless City that flowed between the Center City and the west side area and this is a historic shot to help give us some context and some memory of how things were and how decisions were made along the way as we did this. This is a two-minute video and shows the corridor but for the sake of time and respect of the time we have together I'm going to go ahead and slip by that one, but we will have that available if you would like to see it later on.

This is how the interchange looks today and this is giving us an opportunity to have an audience in front of the US DOT, the State DOT to figure out, maybe we can do something there that will trim down the size of that interchange somewhat and slim it down a bit. This is one possibility out of probably many possibilities and if you look at the red lines on the map those are ramps that we could take away and eliminate to free up a little bit of additional land there. The issue we have of course is this barrier, the interstate, is not only a visual barrier in that you have to go under basically a tunnel as you are traveling along West Trade Street, but the sheer distance between the part of it that is in Center City and the part of it at West Trade Street, it is more than one-half mile so walking a half mile through an interchange, even though it may be nicely landscaped, is a little frightening and if it is dimly lit underneath it doesn't really create that viable walking, bicycling, even transit connection under there so we want to address that. Part of addressing that is actually narrowing the interchange itself and then we can do lighting and we can do some landscaping, we can do some wider sidewalks and bike lanes so we are looking at all the things we can possibly do to do that. We've done this before; this was the interchange of South Boulevard and Caldwell Street over I-277 as it was before we actually did some work on it. So we were able to slim that down and you have had conversations during your term about disposing of some land that was freed up that the City owned and has bids on and have developments coming out of the ground in that vicinity because we are able to slim down the interchange a bit and retrieve some land. We also have done this at McDowell Street and here is a good example of how we've refreshed the underpass so that we get wider sidewalks, we get better lighting, we get some interesting things to look at that visually narrow that barrier and that barricade. Then above ground, this is Fifth Street where we were able to go and do a bit of a road diet and accommodate walking and bicycling and some nice landscaping in there to try to narrow that gap and we did some road dieting on South Tryon Street across I-277 as well to make that a much nicer part of our City.

Mayor Clodfelter said what was the cost of the Brevard/I-277 redesign?

Mr. Pleasant said the Caldwell South Boulevard?

Mayor Clodfelter said yes, what was that cost?

Mr. Pleasant said it was a while back but I'm recalling like \$20 million.

Deputy City Manager Ron Kimble said all in, admin, indirect about \$24 million.

Mayor Clodfelter said \$24 million and when we finally get done with the disposition of all of the surplus we are going to get about what?

Mr. Kimble said \$37,000 million or \$38 million.

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Mayor Clodfelter said I know in that case the state gave us that land as a contribution in effect; we were asking for cash but we got land instead, but if the state had used that land value that offsets and self-finances the cost of the redesign. Is there a possibility to explore that kind of self-financing concept with the state?

Mr. Pleasant said we will be looking at any and all possibilities; this is a little bit different texture because the land that was part of that interchange at Caldwell and South Boulevard actually was in City ownership before and we transferred that to the state and they transferred it back. Effectively there is little bit of proceed sharing in that deal I believe. This particular interchange right-of-way was acquired in the more typical way, picking out bits and pieces and parcels here and there so legally you have to go through a process to identify the previous owners and give them first right of refusal so it is a bit more complex, but we will explore every possibility to bring that back into productive use.

Mayor Clodfelter said what I was asking was whether or not we could use that same technique; it would be more complicated I guess.

Mr. McKinney said to wrap-up we bring this slide back up just to remind you and reinforce what Danny just described is just one component of kind of a full grown work plan that we've developed with our partners and we will be working on all aspects of it as we move forward. In terms of next steps we are going to continue the kind of collaboration we've had; we've already had some very specific discussions with US-DOT and NC-DOT on some of the things Danny just described; we are going to continue those kinds of efforts on all of the things we've talked about in our work plan and as they mature we will be bringing those back to Council for update and discussion into the next year.

Councilmember Driggs said if I understand it right the Federal Government will provide consultants or how does that collaboration work?

Mr. McKinney said it has been a variety of things and still sort of on going to define based on the specific projects that we've identified so a good example is what Danny just described as they have already brought together some of their partners nationally and from the state to talk about the kinds of improvements at the interchange. They also have links to development partners nationally so some of the economic development opportunities, they've got a network of folks nationally that can help us think through some of the opportunities, look at other national models and help further those discussions locally. It will mature essentially and be tailored as some of our discussions become a little bit more detailed and some of the next steps become easier to define.

Mr. Driggs said do you think any investments will come out of this that are not already included in a plan that we know about and approved? Is all of this within the CIP or could it be that new capital needs arise as a result of this?

Mr. McKinney said yet to be determined. I would suggest as you saw the investment that we are already making, I think one of the big goals of this is to really insure that the investments we are making are truly catalyzed into things that we want to see happen so we are making a lot of investment in the corridor now. The Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program for example for this geography, the recommendations and the shape you saw of that work program was really defined in many ways by the work that was already going on so we really have an opportunity to take the initiatives and discussions we've been having in the community and using the investments we've already programmed to make those things happen.

Councilmember Fallon said so they are going to come and talk but they are not going to send money, right?

Ms. Campbell said they are not going to send money yet and we haven't asked for any money. I think what Ed is conveying is that we are taking a very intentional holistic look at this corridor and at the time that there is a request we will make that request, but we are not to a point where we are asking for.

Ms. Fallon said [inaudible] money when they do this?

Ms. Campbell said as part of this pilot program they have not included financial assistance, only technical assistance to date.

Mayor Clodfelter said I think we ought to look at the value of this as something more intangible that keeps us front of mind and connected and they are thinking about us all the time and our staff has developed deep partnerships with the ongoing permanent staff at US-DOT so whatever political change occurs here or there we've got people who know each other and are comfortable working with each other and that pays off down the road when it does come time to ask for the money, we've got friends and we've made friends through this kind of working relationship. That is the real value of doing it and it is really part of lobbying in one sense.

Ms. Campbell said it is valuable to them in terms of establishing a much longer term relationship with them, but it is valuable to us because we are doing I think some really good critical thinking; we are doing a lot of collaboration and I think it is going to pay off for us in the long-term; not that I think, I know it is going to pay off for us.

Ms. Fallon said I hope you are right.

Councilmember Austin said I can't imagine another time when my residents have been more happy; it feels like something is coming and it is going to be good for their community from a community that has felt like they have been overlooked for quite some time for many, many years and I could go on to say many decades so I'm excited about this announcement, I'm excited about the work that we are doing with CNIP so thank you to staff for all you are doing. I know it has been tough because I have a lot of strong residents in the area who have many different opinions and have many groups in the area so thank you guys for not stepping on land mines that are everywhere.

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ITEM NO. 4: PROPOSED 2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Councilmember Driggs said Dana Fenton is going to present the Federal Legislative Agenda recommended by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. The Committee met in September and October ... issues in Washington and considered what our priorities are and then voted unanimously on October 19th to recommend this agenda to Council. The members of the Committee are Councilmember Fallon who is Vice Chair, Councilmembers Howard, Mayfield and Smith and there will be an opportunity if any member of Council wants to modify this agenda, to do so up until November 23rd when it is scheduled to come up for a vote. I will also mention that Ron Kimble was the staff resource for the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Senior Executive Assistant to the City Manager Dana Fenton said I am pleased to bring you the proposed 2016 Federal Legislative Agenda. In just a few more months the Congress will actually come back for their second session. Right now they are trying to get some things finished up like a [inaudible] budget package for federal fiscal year 2016 and believe it or not they are also working on a surface transportation reauthorization package. There are two Bills, one passed by the House and one by the Senate; it's been sent to conference so I am very pleased that they have gotten that far with it so we could very well have a surface transportation program renewed for a long-term period before the start of next year. The Federal Legislative Agenda proposed looks a lot like the current year's Legislative Agenda. The first one is the Airport Control Tower; that is to continue working with the Congress and the Administration to commission the new Airport Control Tower. This past week you received some good news from the Airport and in their talks with the FAA they announced that a contract for construction will be awarded sometime in the near future. We are probably looking at the time period between January and March of 2016 and with a commissioning in late 2019 or early 2020. There will still be a need to keep this issue in the forefront; we may need the help of our Delegation at some point in case things drag out a little bit longer than we hope.

The second issue we are bringing to you tonight is the Applied Innovation Corridor; this was a new issue and I think it will be a multi-year issue just like the other issues in the program. This is to explore partnerships with private and not for profit sectors and colleges and universities and identifying and securing federal resources for the development of the applied innovation corridor. We will try to bring all the resources or all the partnerships we can together to try to tackle the issue. You received a briefing on the corridor last month and this is something that is still in the beginning phases, but our intent is to try to look at these partnerships and to explore those resources that may be available for it.

Continuing to the next page, the Surface Transportation Program, I just told you that a Bill is in conference right now between the House and Senate and I would really like to be able to inform you all in the next month or month and a half that they have enacted a program and there will not be a need to include the Senior Legislative Agenda, but right now I can't say that but I am keeping my fingers crossed. The final one is the 2030 Transit System Plan and this is to continue working with the Congress and the Administration to secure federal resources for the build out of the 2030 Plan. This includes funding for the Blue Line Extension, for Phase 2 of the City LYNX Gold Line and recently we were informed for the federal grant for Phase 1 of the Charlotte Gateway Station.

Mayor, that is all we have to bring to you tonight. We will be back before you and the Council on the 23rd for adoption and of course the Legislative Agenda will be used as a basis for your briefings with the Federal Delegation in March at the National League of Cities Conference and this is a summary of the key dates.

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ITEM NO. 6: CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and carried unanimously to adopt a motion pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to go into closed session to consider the confidence, performance, character, fitness, compensation or other conditions of employment of individual public officials or employees.

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BUSINESS MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for the Business Meeting on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:01 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Dan Clodfelter presiding. Councilmembers present were Al Austin, Michael Barnes, Ed Driggs, Claire Fallon, David Howard, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

ABSENT: Councilmembers John Autry and Patsy Kinsey.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Driggs gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ITEM NO. 7: GLITTER PRINT PAINTS CHARLOTTE PURPLE DAY PROCLAMATION

Councilmember Phipps asked Jennifer Mackens, her parents, Gwen and Larry Mackens, along with her sister Tracy Jones to come to the podium. Mr. Phipps read the following Proclamation:

mpl

WHEREAS, Glitter Print achieves this mission by providing a scholarship fund to a student with Epilepsy and an annual gala to raise funds for the Epilepsy Foundation to help find a cure; and

WHEREAS, Glitter Print envisions that the lack of awareness and underfunding for the 66 million affected and the 50,000 that die yearly from Epilepsy will decrease; and

WHEREAS, Glitter Print held its first gala in December 2014, to help raise funds for a cure; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2015, Glitter Print will raise funds for epilepsy and their scholarship fund while honoring two individuals they call Epilepsy Conquers who fight this fight every day and still excel in the community:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel G. Clodfelter, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim November 19, 2015 as

“GLITTER PRINT PAINTS CHARLOTTE PURPLE DAY”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

Jennifer Mackins, Glitter Print said I would like to thank the Mayor and the City Councilmembers and the City of Charlotte for awarding Glitter Print with this Proclamation. My name is Jennifer Mackins and I am the founder of Glitter Print and I also have epilepsy so this passion runs very deep for me. November is Epilepsy Awareness Month and purple is our epilepsy color so let me give you some quick facts about epilepsy. Epilepsy is a seizure disorder that affects your nervous system; you have to have two or more to be known as epileptic; it affects 66 million people with 50 million dying annually. Two hundred thousand new cases come about each year; although it is the largest neurological disorder it is the most underfunded. One in 26 people have epilepsy; one in 20 children have epilepsy; one in 10 people will have a seizure in their lifetime. Epilepsy can affect you at any age; one-third of the people who have epilepsy their seizures are not under control; we need your support. We have an annual gala each year and our next one is November 19th at the Palmer Building on 7th Street at 7:30. I do extend my invitation to the whole Council. The purposes of our gala is to help raise funds for the Epilepsy Foundation of North Carolina to find a cure and Glitter Print scholarship where we are showing each child just because you have epilepsy your dream is not deferred. Please come out in support and for information you can go to our Facebook Glitter Print or on Instagram Glitter Print and help us support epilepsy awareness in Charlotte and surrounding areas and help us all to be conquers and take away the stigma.

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ITEM NO. 8: NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Councilmember Mayfield read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Native Americans have shaped our city’s character and culture; and

WHEREAS, many local Native Americans have resiliently fought to maintain their tribal traditions and culture for centuries; and

WHEREAS, the tireless efforts of numerous local Native American tribal members in conjunction with the Metrolina Native American Association continue to enrich our Community; and

WHEREAS, our city wishes to formally honor the original peoples of what is now Charlotte:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel G. Clodfelter, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim November 2015 as

“NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

Jesse Jacobs said thank you very much; it is a pleasure to receive something like that from Charlotte. It has been a longtime coming and we work hard here in Charlotte to have a good relationship with the people in Charlotte. The Metrolina Native American Association and Commission of Indian Affairs as well as the United Tribe of North Carolina would like to thank everyone around here for working with us and being with us through our times.

Sean Greeson said we brought a small gift for you Mayor; it is a pheasant feather and the way that works is you start a fire, you take the pheasant feather hold it until the fire is at its peak and then you toss it in; watch the fire extinguish and at the end pheasants within my tribe have a power that helps steer creativity and before the next moon cycle you will have an enlightenment or feeling that will reveal to you your next creative path and adventure so thank you for all you've done.

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ITEM NO. 9: THE CHARLOTTE CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED DAY PROCLAMATION

Mayor Clodfelter asked Councilmember Lyles, who is a member of the Charlotte Chapter of the Links, to read the following proclamation:

Councilmember Lyles said I want to say thank you and the ladies of the Charlotte Links Chapter I would love to stand and I particularly want to recognize Yvonne Evans who was one of my sponsors in this Chapter who sponsored my Chapter years ago; thank you so very much:

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated founded in 1946, is one of the oldest and largest volunteer service organizations of women who are committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African-Americans and other persons of African ancestry; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is an international non-profit corporation consisting of nearly 14,000 professional women of color in 281 chapters located in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated chartered a chapter on December 3, 1955, in Charlotte, North Carolina and 14 women who were charter members of the Charlotte (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated took the oath of friendship and service; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte (NC) Chapter of The Links has implemented programs in the community through five facets including Services to Youth, The Arts, National Trends and Services, International Trends and Services, and Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, The Charlotte (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated will continue its chain of friendship and purposeful service in the community and beyond, serving as civic leaders, mentors, role models, tutors, activists, and caring volunteers:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Daniel G. Clodfelter, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim
November 13, 2015 as

“THE CHARLOTTE (NC) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED DAY”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

Dr. Daisy Walker said thank you so much for recognizing and proclaiming the Charlotte Chapter of the Links, Inc. We are 68 members strong in Charlotte of 68 fine illustrious women who are not only friends, but more importantly we give back to the community and we've been doing that for 60 years and with a smile and a warm heart. We thank you for recognizing us and we hope for 60 more years that we continue to do more because we realize as we do more there is more to do.

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Chairperson Johnson said I am the Chairperson of our 60th Diamond Jubilee we are celebrating Friday, November 13th. We are one of about 85 Chapters who have reached 60 plus years so we are very appreciative of this Proclamation helping us celebrate 60-years of friendship and service.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Howard, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item No. 28 which was pulled for a separate vote.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 17: 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program

(A) Authorize the Charlotte Homeland Security Director (Charlotte Fire Chief) to accept a sub-grant for \$125,000 from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of the North Carolina Emergency Management received through the United States Department of Homeland Security 2014 Homeland Security Grant Program, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 6080-X appropriating \$125,000 in Homeland Security Grant Program funds.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 604.

Item No. 18: Rapid Extraction Water Sampling System

Approve the purchase of a rapid extraction water sampling system for Charlotte Water Laboratory in the amount of \$129,995.95 as authorized by the sole source exemption of G.S. 143-129 (e)(6).

Item No. 19: Bicycle Suitability Mapping

(A) Approve a contract for up to \$150,000 with Toole Design Group, LLC for Bicycle Suitability Mapping, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 20: Utility Tree Removal Services

(A) Approve a contract with Carolina Tree Care for tree removal services for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for us to one, two-year term.

Item No. 21: Land Purchase for Tree Canopy Preservation Program

(A) Approve the purchase of 45.79 acres located west of Belhaven Boulevard, near Lake Hill Road (parcel identification numbers 035-103-08, 035-102-20, 035-101-14, 035-101-16, and 035-101-17) for \$643,390 from multiple property owners, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to sign a Conservation Easement with and made a one-time stewardship payment of \$13,700 to the Catawba Lands Conservancy.

Item No. 22: Scaleybark Development Agreement Amendment

(A) Approve the third amendment to the General Development Agreement and the seventh amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Scaleybark Partners, LLC, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to execute any additional documents necessary to implement the amendments.

Item No. 23: Municipal Agreement for Tuckaseegee, Berryhill, and Thrift Roads Roundabout Project

(A) Adopt a resolution to authorize the City manager to execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Tuckaseegee, Berryhill, and Thrift Road Roundabout project, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 6081-X appropriating \$1,847,000 for the construction of the Tuckaseegee, Berryhill and Thrift Road Roundabout project.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 69-70.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 605.

Item No. 24: North Summit Avenue Storm Drainage Improvement Project

Award a contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Husky Construction Corp. in the amount of \$260,778.10 for the 325 North Summit Avenue Storm Drainage Improvement project.

Summary of Bids

Husky Construction Corp.	\$260,778.10
Zoladz Construction Co. Inc.	\$338,800.00
DOT Construction Inc.	\$347,870.00
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$367,850.73
Onsite Development LLC	\$481,496.40

Item No. 25: Reedy Creek Stream Restoration Project

(A) Approve \$260,000 for the purchase of approximately 21 acres of Conservation Easement located on Tax Parcels 105-11-107 and 105-15-401 from Mecklenburg County, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to comply with the terms of the Purchase Agreement.

Item No. 26: Media Buying Services for Charlotte Water Educational Media Campaign

(A) Approve a contract with The Agency Marketing Group for media buying services for an initial term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to one additional, one-year term with no price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 27: Sewer Rehabilitation in the City LYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Corridor

Approve a contract with Frazier Engineering, P.A. in the amount of \$236,962 for the final design, bidding phase, and construction administration services associated with sewer rehabilitation with the City LYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Corridor.

Item No. 29: LYNX Blue Line Light Rail Vehicle Spare Parts

(A) Approve the purchase of light rail vehicle parts, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G. S. 143-129 (e)(6), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Siemens Industries for the purchase of light rail vehicles spare parts for the term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for us to two, one-year terms and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 30: LYNX Blue Line Grade Crossing Repair

Award a contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Bullock Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$776,953 for the repair of the South Boulevard North grade crossing of the LYNX Blue Line.

* The complete Summary of Bids is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Item No. 31: LYNX Light Rail Vehicles Replacement Wheels

(A) Approve the purchase of light rail vehicles wheels, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G. S. 143-129 (e)(6), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Penn Machine for the purchase of light rail vehicle wheels for the term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for us to two, one-year terms and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 32: CATS Safety Systems Maintenance Services for Maintained Facilities

(A) Approve the purchase of safety system maintenance services from a cooperative purchasing contract as authorized by G.S. 143-129 (e)(3), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Tyco-Simplex Grinnell for the purchase of safety system maintenance services for the remaining term expiring on April 24, 2017, National Joint Powers Alliance cooperative purchasing contract, number 031913-SGL, and (C) Authorize the City manager to renew the contract provided Tyco-Simplex Grinnell is awarded the National Join Powers Alliance Cooperative contract with the same or more favorable prices and terms than those offered under the current contract.

Item No. 33: CATS Bus Alternator and Starter Repair Service

(A) Approve a unit price contract with American Auto and Truck Electric for bus alternator and starter repair services for the term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for us to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 34: Airline Training Facility Design Services Contract

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$159,130 with LS3P Associates, LTD for design services for the Concourse # American Airlines Express Training Facility, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 6082-X appropriating \$159,130 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 606.

Item No. 35: Airport Main Data Center Utilities Upgrade Design Contract

(A) Approve a contract for \$217,850 with DAS Architecture, Inc. for design services of the Airport's main data center utilities upgrade, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 6083-X appropriating \$217,850 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 607.

Item No. 36: Airport Lightning Detection System Upgrade

(A) Approve the purchase of a TWX Lightning Alert System, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G. S. 143-129 (e)(6), (B) Approve a contract with Vaisala, Inc. for the purchase of a TWX Lightning Alert System, (C) Authorize the City Manager to approve the purchase of maintenance and support for as long as the City uses the system, (D) Authorize the City manager to purchase additional upgrades, services, hardware, and software licenses as needed from time to time to optimize Aviation's use of the system, and (E) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 6084-X appropriating \$349,261 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 608.

Item No. 37: Airport Vehicle Maintenance Facility Design Contract

(A) Approve a contract for up to \$1,267,488 with Bergmann Associates, Architects, Engineers, P.C. dba Gantt Hubermann Architects for design of a vehicle maintenance facility, bus wash facility, and site work, and (B) Adopt Budget No. 6085X appropriating \$1,267,488 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 609.

Item No. 38: Airport Baggage Screening System Design/West Terminal Expansion Contract Amendment.

Approve contract amendment #1 in the amount of \$291,975 with BNP Associates, Inc. to the Checked Baggage Inline System for additional construction administration.

Item No. 39: Resolution of Intent to Abandon Two Residual Portions of Brixham Hill Avenue.

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon two residual portions of Brixham Hill Avenue, and (B) Set public hearing for December 14, 2015.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 71-75.

Item No. 40: Resolution of Intent to abandon two Unopened Alleyways between East 16th Street and East 18th Street.

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon two unopened alleyways between East 16th Street and East 18th Street, and (B) Set a public hearing for December 14, 2015.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 76-80.

Item No. 41: Public Auction for Police Unclaimed Property.

(A) Adopt a resolution declaring specific equipment, and other miscellaneous items as surplus, and (B) Authorize said items for sale by public auction on December 5, 2015.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 81-82.

Item No. 42: Meeting Minutes

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of September 21, 2015 Zoning Meeting and October 15, 2015 Workshop.

Item No. 43: In Rem Remedy: 501 Frank Drive

Adopt Ordinance No. 6086-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 501 Frank Drive (Neighborhood Profile Area 271).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 610.

Item No. 44: In Rem Remedy: 1937 1, 2 Terrybrook Lane.

Adopt Ordinance No. 6087-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 1937 1, 2 Terrybrook Lane (Neighborhood Profile Area 10).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 611.

Item No. 45: Sale of Property: 1915 Vernon Drive

(A) Adopt a resolution proposing to accept the offer from Ross Allen Customer Builders Inc. to purchase approximately 0.82 acres of vacant land at 1915 Vernon Drive (Parcel Identification Number 181-021-84) for \$221,000, and (B) Authorize the advertisement of the proposed sale for upset bids in accordance with the Resolution and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the sale of the property in accordance with the resolution.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47 at Page 84-86.

Item No. 46: Property Transactions – 10th/Central/Louise Pedestrian improvements, Parcel #3.

Acquisition of 1,667 square feet in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 3,540 square feet in Temporary Construction Easement at 1011 Central Avenue for \$56,000 for 10th/Central/Louise Pedestrian Improvements, Parcel #3.

Item No. 47: Property Transactions – Briar Creek Relief Sewer Phase III, Parcel #123.

Acquisition of 25,581 square feet in Fee Simple at 6811 Somersworth Drive from Endrian A. Woldegiorgis and Haregwoyin a. Dentamo for \$115,000 for Briar Creek Relief Sewer Phase III, Parcel #123.

Item No. 48: Property Transactions – Nevin/Gibbon Road Sidewalk, Parcel #29 and #30.

Acquisition of 479 square feet in Fee Simple plus 1,789 square feet in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 2,833 square feet in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 21 square feet in Utility Easement at 2740 and 2734 West Sugar Creek Road from Gary Waldon Puckett for \$39,989 for Nevin/Gibbon Road Sidewalk, Parcel #29 and #30.

Item No. 49: Property Transactions – South Tryon Street Sidewalk Improvements, Parcel #23.

Acquisition of 1,531 square feet in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 721 square feet in Slope Easement, plus 3,067 square feet in Temporary Construction Easement at 5023 South Tryon Street from Santos Adalberto Hernandez and Marnely D. Hernandez for \$10,000 for South Tryon Street Sidewalk Improvements, Parcel #23.

Item No. 50: Property Transactions – Baucom Road Connector, Parcel #2

Resolution of condemnation of 6,921 square feet in Fee Simple plus 375 square feet in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 404 square feet in Slope Easement, plus 3,887 square feet in Temporary Construction Easement at 2301 Keaton Avenue from Fairfield Mallard I LLC for \$47,350 for Baucom Road Connector, Parcel #2.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 83.

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ITEM NO. 28: CITY LYNX GOLD LINE STREETCAR VEHICLES PARTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Howard, seconded by Councilmember Lyles, to (A) approve the purchase of streetcar vehicle parts as authorized by the sole exemption of G.S. 143-129 (e)(6), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Gomaco Trolley Company for the purchase of streetcar parts for the term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Austin, Barnes, Howard, Lyles Mayfield, and Phipps.

NAYS: Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon and Smith.

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ITEM NO. 11: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Ron Carlee said no report tonight.

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ITEM NO. 12: APPOINTMENTS TO THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for an unexpired term beginning immediately and ending April 28, 2017:

- Laurence Bibbs, nominated by Councilmembers Autry, Fallon and Lyles.
- Mary Boyd, nominated by Councilmembers Howard and Mayfield.
- Amanda Brown, nominated by Councilmember Smith.
- Mark Freitch, nominated by Councilmembers Barnes and Driggs.
- Nathaniel Lewis, nominated by Councilmember Phipps.

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

- Laurence Bibbs, 5 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Barnes, Fallon, Lyles and Mayfield.
- Amanda Brown, 3 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Howard and Smith.
- Nathaniel Lewis, 1 vote – Councilmembers Phipps.

A second ballot was taken between Laurence Bibbs and Amanda Brown and recorded as follows:

- Laurence Bibbs, 1 vote – Councilmember Austin
- Amanda Brown, 6 votes – Councilmembers Barnes, Driggs, Fallon, Howard, Lyles, and Phipps

Amanda Brown was appointed.

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ITEM NO. 13: APPOINTMENT TO THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY GROUP

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for an unexpired term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2017:

- Daniel MacRae, nominated by Councilmember Phipps.
- Robert Padgett, nominated by Councilmembers Autry, Barnes, Howard and Mayfield.
- Kimberly Rothwell, nominated by Councilmember Driggs.
- Eric Sanderson, nominated by Councilmember Fallon.

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

- Daniel MacRae, 3 votes – Councilmembers Lyles, Mayfield and Phipps.
- Robert Padgett, 3 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Barnes and Howard.
- Kimberly Rothwell, 1 vote – Councilmember Smith.
- Eric Sanderson, 2 votes – Councilmembers Driggs and Fallon.

A second ballot was done between Daniel MacRae and Robert Padgett and recorded as follows:

- Daniel MacRae, 1 vote – Councilmember Phipps.
- Robert Padgett, 6 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Fallon, Barnes, Lyles Howard and Smith.

Robert Padgett was appointed.

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ITEM NO. 14: APPOINTMENT TO THE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a Community representative for a three-year term ending June 30, 2018:

- Delores Reid-Smith, nominated by Councilmembers Barnes, Fallon and Mayfield.
- Teresa Sandman, nominated by Councilmembers Driggs, Phipps and Smith.
- Carrie Cook, nominated by Councilmember Austin, Autry, Howard and Lyles.

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

- Delores Reid-Smith, 1 vote – Councilmember Mayfield.
- Teresa Sandman, 4 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon, Phipps and Smith.
- Carrie Cook, 4 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Barnes, Howard and Lyles.

A second ballot was taken between Teresa Sandman and Carrie Cook and recorded as follows:

- Carrie Cook, 4 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Barnes, Howard and Lyles
- Teresa Sandman, 4 votes - Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon, Phipps and Smith.

Mayor Clodfelter said we will have to carry this one over to the November 23rd meeting.

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ITEM NO. 15: APPOINTMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING GRANTS FUND REVIEW TEAM

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a Neighborhood representative for an unexpired term beginning immediately and ending April 15, 2016:

- Ryan Deal, nominated by Councilmembers Autry, Driggs, Howard and Smith.
- Lucille Frierson, nominated by Councilmembers Barnes and Phipps.
- William Hughes, nominated by Councilmembers Austin and Lyles.
- Frank Kretschmer, nominated by Councilmember Fallon.

Shannon McKnight, nominated by Councilmember Mayfield.

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Ryan Deal, 1 vote – Councilmember Howard
Lucille Frierson, 2 votes – Councilmembers Barnes and Phipps.
William Hughes, 2 votes – Councilmembers Austin and Lyles.
Frank Kretschmer, 1 vote – Councilmember Fallon.
Shannon McKnight, 1 vote – Councilmember Mayfield.
None of the above, 2 votes – Councilmembers Driggs and Smith.

A second ballot was taken between Lucille Frierson and William Hughes and recorded as follows:

Lucille Frierson, 3 votes – Councilmembers Barnes, Phipps and Smith.
William Hughes, 4 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Fallon, Howard and Lyles.

Mayor Clodfelter said we will carry this one over to the November 23rd meeting also.

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ITEM NO. 16: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS

Councilmember Smith said I would like to congratulate all my colleagues that were victorious this past week and congratulate the folks that I have enjoyed working with that will be rolling off Council.

Councilmember Lyles said I would like to thank the Freedom Coalition for a wonderful celebration of our veterans this morning and I would also like to announce that Friendship Missionary Baptist Church will host a Military Benefits Information Fair for veterans on Saturday, November 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Church Conference Center which is located at 3400 Beatties Ford Road. The organizations that have participated in this have actually benefited with over \$100,000 in veterans benefits that were denied, being appealed and then awarded. I would love to have any veteran or family member of a veteran please come out and get some advice. There will be representation by the Mecklenburg County Veterans Affairs Office, The Charlotte School of Law and many social service agencies in appreciation for your service and your support. We want to support you so come out and be supported.

Councilmember Howard said Ms. Lyles just reminded me that I should remind Council that you got an invitation today for an event that the Housing Partnership is doing tomorrow opening up veteran housing in an effort to help provide affordable housing for our veterans. We actually added on some additional units to an existing property. The Mayor is going to join us and we invite you all to join us tomorrow at 2:00 as well as the public. The second thing I think we would be remiss not to point out that we have a guest in the audience, Tony Jessup, the Regional Administrator for GSA, a friend to Charlotte. He is commuting back and forth to Atlanta right now but you know him from being in addition to Mel Watts' office as well as Deputy Director for the Host Committee for the Convention. I just want to thank him for his work.

Mayor Clodfelter said for those of you who can't make the Housing Partnership event tomorrow we will informally announce tomorrow that Charlotte has met its goal of the Housing our Heroes Program to House Homeless Veterans by the end of this year. We have met the goal and gone beyond it; it is not an official announcement because we have to wait for the White House to certify that, but we will do that at your event tomorrow.

Councilmember Fallon said congratulations to all my colleagues who won their election.

Councilmember Driggs said I wanted to acknowledge the presence of John Powell here in the Chamber. John ran for City Council, worked very hard in order to try and serve the City. I think his campaign reflected the soft of decency and inclusiveness that we would like to see more of in politics, didn't quite make it, but John welcome to the Chamber.

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Councilmember Austin said echoing congratulations to all my colleagues, but also wanted to lift up Mayor Dan, Michael Barnes and David Howard for running great races for Mayor; thank you so much for your willingness to do that and step out there and you will be missed.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Barnes, seconded by Councilmember Fallon, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Emily Kunze, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 2 Hours, 20 Minutes
Minutes Completed: November 23, 2015