

# Social Districts

OCTOBER 9, 2023

## What is a Social District?



*Social Districts* are areas where people can walk around with open, to-go containers of alcoholic beverages. Beverages must be purchased from a permitted bar, restaurant, or other establishment, and consumed within the boundaries and hours of the social district.

- ▶ Charlotte City Council adopted an ordinance allowing the creation of social districts:
  - ▶ Established legal requirements within City Code
  - ▶ Authorized the creation of a *Standards and Provisions* document
  - ▶ Allows the City to consider community proposals for Social Districts
- ▶ CDOT published the Final *Standards and Provisions*
- ▶ Pre-Application/Application are being accepted

# Social Districts in Charlotte



## How is Charlotte Different than other North Carolina Jurisdictions?

- ▶ Multiple interested areas
- ▶ Requested outside of the Central Business District

The Charlotte approach empowers and enables community driven proposals

# Standards and Provisions

The *Standards and Provisions* document provides guidance to applicants and staff for establishing a district:

- ▶ Application
- ▶ Management and Maintenance Plan
- ▶ Community Engagement
- ▶ Public Comment



  
CITY OF  
CHARLOTTE  
SOCIAL DISTRICTS  
STANDARDS AND PROVISIONS

March 2023

# Social District Approval Process



## Application Requirements

### Application Components:

- ▶ Boundary Map/Signage Plan
- ▶ Management and Maintenance Plan
- ▶ Documentation of Community Engagement

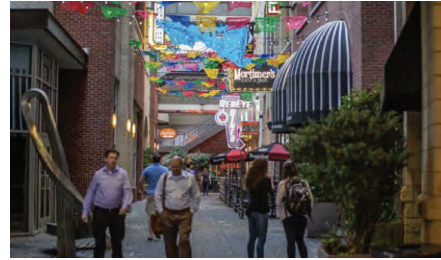
### Community Engagement:

- ▶ Petition indicating support of at least 51% of property owners within the proposed district
- ▶ Community Meeting
  - Can be held virtually
  - All residents notified within ½ mile of the district
- ▶ Letters of Support

# Who's Interested?

## Pre-Applications have been received for:

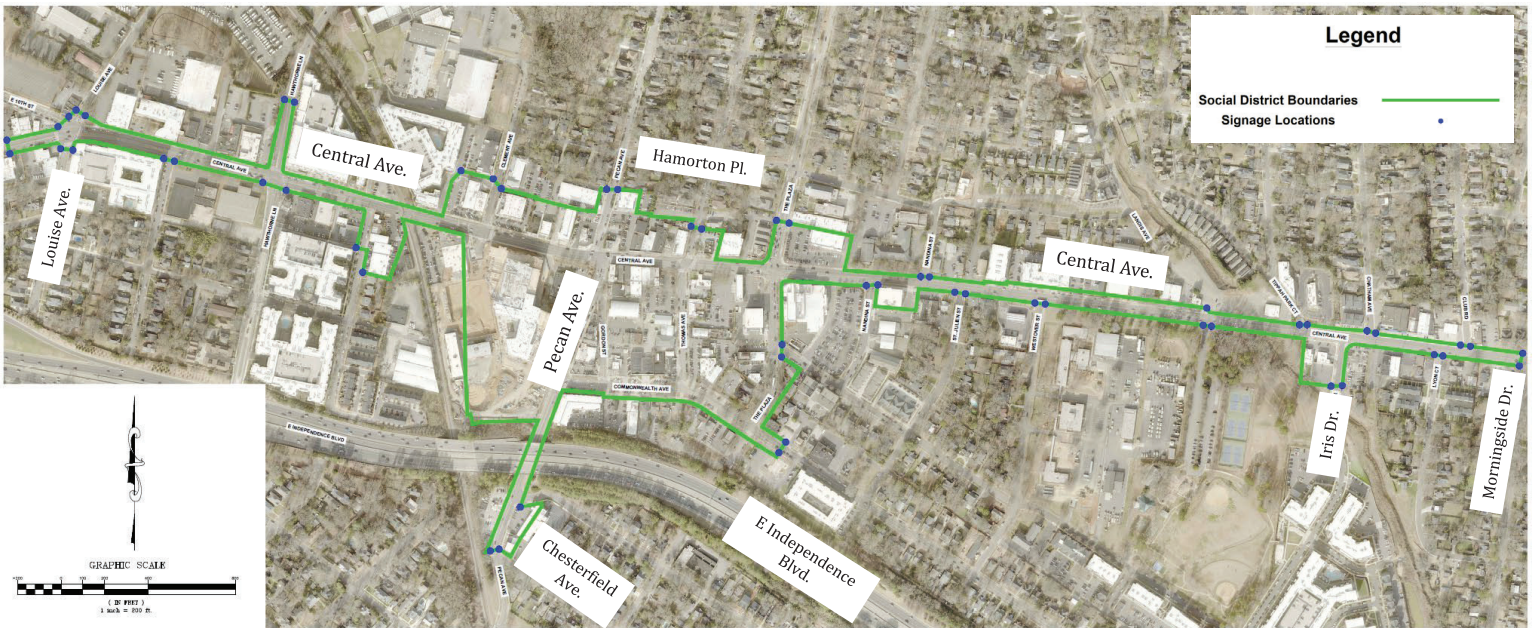
- ▶ Plaza Midwood Merchants Association
- ▶ Gilde Brewery
- ▶ Crescent Communities
- ▶ Angry Ales/ Brazwells
- ▶ The Goodyear House
- ▶ Rosemont Market/ Wine Bar
- ▶ Charlotte Center City Partners
- ▶ RSVP South End/Fairwood 226
- ▶ The Bowl at Ballantyne
- ▶ Carmella's Pizza Grill



**One application has been received to date**

# Proposed Plaza Midwood Social District

# Proposed Location



Note: Map courtesy of the Plaza Midwood Merchants Association

# Summary of Application



- ▶ Applicant: Plaza Midwood Merchants Association
- ▶ Operating hours: Monday-Sunday, 10AM-10PM
- ▶ Management and Maintenance Plan:
  - District funded
  - Establishes a committee for oversight
  - Provides boundary and business signage
  - Reusable stainless-steel cups
- ▶ Community Engagement:
  - Petition provide with greater than 51% support
  - Virtual meeting on June 1, 2023 with ~75 attendants
  - Letters of Support from Commonwealth-Morningside and Chantilly Neighborhood Associations
- ▶ This application has met minimum City and State requirements

# Department Comments

- ▶ Office of Sustainability: No objections
  
- ▶ Attorney's Office, Planning, CDOT, and Solid Waste Services: No objections pending minor revisions to the Management and Maintenance Plan
  - Clarifications related to citing applicable N.C General Statutes and City Code
  - Clarifications related to trash and recycling responsibilities
  - Removal of language related to the permitting of vendors or special events
  
- ▶ CMPD: No objections pending the opportunity to enhance public safety in the following areas
  - The addition of intentional signage for excluded or opted out locations providing participant clarity and reducing confusion
  - Continued conversations regarding the district boundary and potential impacts to surrounding residential and commercial properties
  - Clarifications related to providing a committee liaison to work with CMPD

## Next Steps



# Questions?