



CHARLOTTE

City Council Committees

Chair Updates

March 1, 2021

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In addition to the Committee report outs, meeting materials and summaries can be viewed on the City website at:

<https://charlottenc.gov/citycouncil/committees/Pages/default.aspx>

Committee Members: Ed Driggs (Chair), Julie Eiselt (Vice Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Malcolm Graham, and Renee Johnson

Committee Purpose Statement: The committee reviews and recommends policies to ensure the city has a strong and sustainable financial plan and maintains operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Committee Chair Update: Since the last Strategy Session, the committee met on February 16 and discussed the following:

- **Census Data and Redistricting Considerations**

Committee discussed the delay in delivery of census data and the constitutional requirement referred to as one man one vote. The requirement says that all districts need to be approximately the same size to allow for proportional representation power. In North Carolina the discrepancy in size between districts should not be greater than five percent. After a census, municipalities are required to redraw districts to remain compliant to this requirement. Charlotte has not redistricted since 2010 and exceeds the plus or minus five percent district size requirement. In 2019 the city was able to have elections since there had not been a census or annexation that involved a significant population change.

Although the 2020 Census was conducted, the data for that will not be available until the end of September. When the data is received, the three-month redistricting process may begin. The filing period based on new districts may not commence until three days after the districts are finalized. The options are to defer the election or have the election with the current districts. If deferred, our general election would occur at the same time as the primary for 2022. Patrick Baker, City Attorney explained that ultimately the census data should be received which would require the city to redistrict prior to election. There was discussion on if there would be anything to prohibit at-large Council members from having an election. Deputy City Attorney, Lina James responded that any change would require a change in the charter language and going to the General Assembly. Baker said that language was created in 1991 to address delays in that census but the delays weren't as significant as they are now. Committee discussed how a deferral of elections would provide additional time for consideration of an 8th district and that there is also a need to be on odd-year cycles. Options were discussed for having an election based on the existing districts referring to 2019 or deferring, redistricting and holding the election in accordance with updated census data. This Committee needs to reach a consensus to bring this report to the full Council for their consideration. It was noted that moving forward with the elections without redistricting could present legal challenges. James highlighted that the date by which Council would need to adopt a redistricting plan is July 21.

- **Storm Water and Water Budget Outlook**

Charlotte Water Director, Angela Charles shared the One Water philosophy which includes integrated planning, leveraging resources and managing all water; water, waste water and storm water, for the long term sustainability of the community. Charles noted that Water and Storm Water are still two distinct enterprise funds.

Manager Storm Water Services, Mike Davis shared Storm Water's progress of prior year initiatives and where they're heading in the FY 2022 budget. Davis also shared the impacts of COVID-19 on Storm Water Services. There has been a \$700K impact between Storm Water charges and revenue collected. Pertaining to financial efficiency, Davis explained Storm Water has \$86M invested in capital improvement projects while sustaining AAA bond rating. Davis projects fee increases of 3.6 percent or less year over year from 2021 to 2026. The final recommendation for fee increases will come from the City Manager.

Charles explained that Charlotte Water serves 1.2M people and has not had a loss of service during the pandemic. Water maintains its AAA rating and has \$280.7M invested in capital improvement projects. Charles emphasized that capacity for growth must be closely tied to regulations, since both water and waste water are heavily regulated. A \$7 – \$10M impact to revenue is anticipated. In a normal pre-COVID month, we would expect approximately 3,000

disconnects per month. Currently there is an excess of 16,000 accounts eligible monthly for disconnection. With the criticality of supporting public health efforts, Water has chosen to continue the disconnection moratorium. Water has implemented a one year payment plan for those who need it. Disconnects will not resume until October 2021. They have also created a customer care team that has contacted 9,000 delinquent customers to avoid disconnection due to non-payment. Finally, in order to help Charlotte Water customers outside of the city limits who need assistance, Water is working to create a Charlotte Water Foundation using Louisville as its prototype. Water has aligned its FY 2022 rate increase recommendation with the long-term fiscal plan. Charles noted that \$3.6M of the \$50M CARES Act funds has been allocated for this.

- **March Budget Workshop Agenda**

Strategy and Budget Director, Ryan Bergman shared the proposed agenda for that next Budget Workshop for input from the Committee. The proposed agenda includes:

1. Capital Investment Plan Priorities
2. Future of Solid Waste Services
3. Americans with Disabilities Act Consultant Report
4. Arts and Culture Funding
5. Water and Storm Water Budget Outlook

The committee accepted the proposed agenda to be utilized at the March 3 Workshop.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 16.

Current referrals:

Topic	Policy Question
Census Data and Redistricting Considerations	<p>What should our decision-making framework be for assessing census data and plans for redistricting?</p> <p><i>Charge: Based on delayed release of census data, review and evaluate the city's options for proceeding with or postponing elections. Develop principles and options for redistricting and decision-making available under the law for consideration by council so the city is prepared for next steps when census data comes in. (made Feb 8, 2021)</i></p>
Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance recommendations	<p>What recommendations from the Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance should be adopted by Council?</p> <p><i>Committee recommendation made to discuss with full Council options for consideration of four-year staggered terms.</i></p>
Virtual Meeting Options	<p>Are any updates recommended for full Council's consideration around the provisions for virtual meetings?</p> <p><i>Since State of Emergency is still in effect, Committee recommended to consider options for revisions to the Rules of Procedure relating to virtual meetings at a later date.</i></p>

Committee Members: Malcolm Graham (Chair), Braxton Winston (Vice Chair), Tariq Bokhari, Julie Eiselt, and Victoria Watlington

Committee Purpose Statement: The committee reviews and recommends policy related to comprehensive initiatives designed to create affordable housing and provide opportunities that align with creating great neighborhoods.

Committee Chair Update: The committee met on February 17, 2021 (*Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt was absent*) and discussed the following:

Nuisance Abatement – Non-Residential Building Code Update

The Committee received an update on the status of updating the Non-Residential Building Code. Community meetings are scheduled for February-March to provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on potential changes to the code. Staff will bring final recommendations to the Committee for consideration in March.

Fair Chance Housing Update

In November 2020, the Committee directed staff to survey landlords and gather other data to determine current best practices and scope of the problem locally, develop and enhance education opportunities for the court system, landlords, and people involved in the justice system, and consider additional recommendations. Staff updated the Committee on this work at the February meeting. The identified path forward includes:

- Continuing to investigate complaints as they are received,
- Updating education and outreach materials to incorporate fair chance housing best practices, translation to other languages and implementing education and outreach locally,
- Expanding existing and creating new partnerships to increase landlord education and tenant awareness including for those currently incarcerated,
- Identifying the magnitude of the problem particularly as increased education leads to increased awareness and fair housing complaints,
- Working with North Carolina's Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice,
- Continuing research of other states for best practices, and
- Monitoring evolving changes at the federal level.

Periodic updates will be provided to the Committee

Source of Income Discrimination (SOID)

Council referred this item back to Committee at their February 8th Action Review meeting. At the February 17th Committee meeting, the Committee continued discussing the recommendations, including:

- Adopting a policy requiring mandatory acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) and other forms of rental subsidy in all City supported housing;
- Encouraging and monitoring changes to the HCV program at the federal level;
- Creating a Council appointed ad hoc Advisory Group to develop HCV program enhancements and process improvements. The timeline for the work of the ad hoc group was shortened to cover this calendar year only; and
- Considering amending the fair housing ordinance if HCV program enhancements and process improvements are not successful.

Based on the Committee discussion and motion (below), staff recommended holding off on convening the ad hoc Advisory Group until the outcome of the legal discussion is completed.

MOTION AND VOTE. Council member Winston made a motion to accept staff recommendations as outlined and

amended, in addition to making a recommendation to full Council to enter a closed session to confer with the City attorney about legal implications regarding a source of income ordinance. Council member Watlington seconded the motion. The vote was 3:1 in favor of the motion (Graham, Watlington and Winston voted in favor of the motion, Bokhari voted against)

SOID Update from February 22 Council Business Meeting: Council gave direction to move forward with staff recommendations to:

1. Adopt a policy requiring mandatory acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) and other forms of rental subsidy in all City supported housing.
2. Create a Council appointed ad hoc Advisory Group to develop program enhancements and process improvements to the HCV program, including representatives from:
 - INLIVIAN
 - Private sector landlords
 - Property management professionals
 - Greater Charlotte Apartment Association
 - Subsidy providers
 - Tenants

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2021.

Current Referrals:

Topic	Policy Question
Nuisance abatement and residential impact policy	<p>What should the city's policy for addressing opportunities, challenges, and consequences in conducting nuisance abatement for residents be with consideration of mitigating any resultant housing displacement?</p> <p><i>The Great Neighborhoods Committee received an update on this during their September and November 2020 committee meetings and directed staff to review the Non-Residential Building Code (NRBC). Review of the NRBC is in process. Recommendations for revising the NRBC is anticipated to be ready for full Council consideration in April/May 2021.</i></p>

Committee Members: Tariq Bokhari (Co-Chair), Braxton Winston (Co-Chair), Larken Egleston, and Matt Newton

Committee Purpose Statement: The committee reviews and recommends intergovernmental relations policies and relationship-building activities in the state and federal legislative and executive branches.

Committee Chair Update: Since the last Strategy Session, the committee met on February 15, 2021.

State Legislative Update

Staff and the city's contract lobbyists from Kilpatrick Townsend provided an Information Item on the work of the General Assembly that convened on January 13. The presentation covered the balance of power between the two parties in the House and Senate, leadership's legislative priorities, key House and Senate committee leadership and House and Senate bill drafting and filing deadlines.

Federal Legislative Update

Staff provided an Information Item on the work of the US Congress. The presentation covered the results of the city's 2020 legislative agenda, 2021 city legislative priorities and the Administration's priorities in the areas of emergency relief, infrastructure, climate change, immigration and racial equity and social justice. Staff reviewed the highlights of the Biden administration's proposed \$1.9 trillion emergency relief measure and the contemplated \$2 trillion infrastructure measure.

Staff is working on scheduling delegation briefings to review the City's 2021 legislative priorities with the City's Congressional Delegation the week of March 8.

Committee Discussion

Going forward, there will always be a state and legislative update on the agenda for this committee through June 2021. Committee requested the legislative agendas of Mecklenburg County and towns.

Upcoming Opportunities

March 3, 2021, 5:00 pm, Virtual NCLM Town & State Social

March 7 – 10, 2021, Virtual NLC Congressional Cities Conference

Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2021 at 2 pm.

Current Referrals: none outstanding

Committee Members: Larken Egleston (Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Renee Johnson, Greg Phipps, and Victoria Watlington

Committee Purpose Statement: The committee reviews and recommends policies to make neighborhoods safe, healthy and inclusive; including policing, fire protection, and the environment.

Committee Chair Update: Since the last Strategy Session, the Committee met on February 2nd and discussed the following:

In response to an inquiry regarding violent crime year to date statistics, Chief Jennings reported that at the time of the Committee meeting there had been 8 homicides since January 1st. For comparison, there were 7 homicides at this time last year. The demographics of the victims were: 7 black males, 1 white female, ages 21 – 34 years, all involving a gun except for the female, who was intentionally hit by a vehicle. In forecasting violent crime, Chief Jennings noted that the main spikes occurred in June and July of 2020, which averaged 15-16 homicides each month. The Chief also noted that that more detailed information is available to the public through the CMPD crime mapping system, as well as through the City's dashboard recently created.

Family Justice Center Referral

To address a recent request for City funding and the referral from the Mayor to the Safe Communities Committee to determine how partnering in the establishment of a Family Justice Center in Mecklenburg County would advance the City's violence prevention efforts, details on the concept and funding request were provided to the committee by:

Spencer Merriweather, Mecklenburg County District Attorney
Andrew Oliver, CEO, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center
Sherrill Carrington, Jamie Kimble Foundation for the Carolinas (JKFFC) Executive Director
Karen Parker, Safe Alliance CEO

The guests explained that the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Family Justice Center is being developed as a private-public partnership to ensure sustainability. The building cost estimate is \$30M. An additional \$5M will be raised to support an operating endowment to cover the common expenses shared by the organizations in the Family Justice Center. The Steering Committee is asking that both the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County consider an investment of \$10M each. The group explained how the model has been successful in other cities including San Diego and Greensboro and noted that further details are available at the charmeckfamilyjusticecenter.org website.

The proposed center would be called *The Umbrella Center* and bring all practices together in one location with a single, simple intake process. The model has been deemed a best practice by the U.S. Department of Justice and replicated in over 130 communities. The collaboration desires the use of a 100,000 sq. ft. facility near uptown. The space will accommodate over 150 core staff, as well as visiting service providers. The proposed service partner providers include:

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecutors
- Medical Providers
- Social Workers
- Victim Advocates

A Survivor Resource Center in the Children's Family Center is opening in mid-February. The temporary location will inform the planning of the full Family Justice Center.

ACM Johnson stated that staff would work to analyze the numbers and how the Center fits into the SAFE Charlotte, violence interrupters, and other City programs. Per the Committee's request, a future meeting will include

information on the analysis and what the City’s service model could look like, how it fits into the overall City budget, and how the City can partner in this endeavor.

Next Meeting: The next committee meeting is March 2, 2021 at noon to be hosted virtually.

Current referrals:

Topic	Policy Question
Violence Prevention Strategy	What is an advanced and holistic violence prevention strategy for Charlotte?
Family Justice Center	How would partnering in the establishment of a Family Justice Center in Mecklenburg County advance the City’s violence prevention efforts?

Committee Members: Julie Eiselt (Chair), Larken Egleston (Vice Chair), Ed Driggs, Matt Newton and Braxton Winston

Committee Purpose Statement: The committee reviews and recommends policies to implement a comprehensive mobility network and advances strategies to create a livable and connected city that embodies our environmental sustainability and resiliency goals.

Committee Chair Update: Since the last Strategy Session, the committee met on February 22, 2021 and discussed the following:

Charlotte 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Comments received to date on the draft Comprehensive Plan document and the place types mapping process were shared.

Over 259+ comments to date have been received through these venues and from Elected & Appointed Officials, staff, and the public. Comments have been around community-based vision, equitable growth in the planned transit/transportation corridors, and mitigating vulnerability and displacement. Policy framework comments have centered around more public spaces and possibly creating a public space master plan and funding strategies. Additional policy comments have been about neighborhood preservation, the 10-minute neighborhood and how that will work and how it will be achieved. Questions have also been around how the plans will work, the Comprehensive Plan vs. the UDO, and how will they work together. Staff has been putting together graphics and simplifying the message around place types and how we will move forward with the community planning approach.

Of the 10 plans goals established, the second goal of Neighborhood Diversity and Inclusion was emphasized by the presentation. It's important to note the Comprehensive Plan is not specifically about housing, but about connecting those neighborhoods to goods and services and amenities to housing and employment opportunities as well as improving our business and economic vitality. Policy language for this goal will allow duplex and triplex housing units on all single-family housing lots and require conformance with residential lot size requirements and setback requirements. Fourplexes will be allowed on lots fronting arterials where single family detached dwellings are permitted when key city priorities are advanced and community benefits provided; such as affordable and/or workforce housing or allowing more diversity within the neighborhoods while fitting into existing character of the neighborhood. Stakeholders noted that this middle density variety of housing is missing in our community. The Plan responds to the concern of residents to have housing options.

Six community listening sessions have been completed with 184 comments coming out of those sessions. Additionally, there are ongoing Community Conversation Speaker Series in the months of January, February, and March. To continue telling the story of the Comp Plan, residents and ambassadors will be equipped with toolkits with ready-made messaging available on the website about single family neighborhood zoning and recommendations within the Plan. Other tools have been and will be created like animated videos and a social media campaign is being developed. The use of innovative technology to engage the community has been developed through a Virtual Open House. The Virtual Open House provides an interactive virtual experience with the ability to view and comment on the draft Plan and is accessible to the public 24/7 and is available in over 100 languages.

After Plan adoption, complete mapping of future place types will start in the summer of 2021 and wrap up in the fall, with UDO adoption also in the fall of 2021, UDO mapping in 2022, and beginning community area planning in fall of 2022.

Taiwo Jaiyeoba informed the Committee about a citywide townhall being developed. The Public Hearing is scheduled for March 22nd and April 26, 2021 is the Plan adoption date.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)

Laura Harmon provided an update on the Unified Development Ordinance, including the schedule for community input and adoption, and the UDO Zoning approach.

The UDO is the primary regulatory tool for implementation of the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The UDO will align all development regulations and include best practices and revised development standards. The UDO is being developed to:

- Consolidate development regulations in a single document with all regulations related to a specific topic in one place,
- Create a more user-friendly ordinance that will simplify terms and create common language across all development regulations,
- Increase the use of graphics to create a user-friendly ordinance, and
- Comply with new North Carolina 160D legislation.

The Comprehensive Plan is the vision and foundation of many components of the UDO:

- Implementing the Comprehensive Plan through regulations and ordinances in the Unified Development Ordinance,
- Putting all ordinances into a single source, and
- Creating one document for regulations from the City of Charlotte for our jurisdiction and the ETJ.

Three major components of the UDO are:

- zoning; the subdivision streets and infrastructure component,
- storm water and natural resources, and
- the UDO administration and approvals.

The lead consultant for the UDO is Camiros, and Arista Strungys is the project manager. Legal support for the UDO is from Parker Poe. The interdepartmental Team is made up of City departments and County agencies that give input prior to drafting the ordinance, assist in reviewing sections of the ordinance, participate in community engagement events and will support City Council in the adoption process and implementing the new ordinance.

The UDO Advisory Committee is made up of 30+ volunteer community members; half who represent neighborhoods and sustainability interest and the other half represent the design and development sector. The advisory committee provides advice and feedback to staff on the draft ordinance.

Accomplishments during 2019 included the initial phase with new TOD districts, rezoning for TOD, new sign regulations, and a tree ordinance update. We are currently in Phase 2 of developing the full UDO, and are now in the drafting and ordinance stage, the advisory committee review stage, and moving to the Community review and adoption stage later this year. Implementation will take place in 2022 and 2023 with customer and staff training, zoning district translations, alignment rezonings, and clean up text amendments as needed.

Phase 3 begins in May 2021 with ongoing Ordinance Advisory Committee meetings. In phase 4, June – August of 2021, will consist of having opportunities for community engagement on specific components of the UDO, continuing until September, and in October with the final draft UDO for adoption.

After adoption of the UDO there will be user training: City Council informational sessions, translating new zoning districts, and alignment of the rezonings.

During the zoning implementation process, after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, the adopted Place Types

will be mapped city-wide, replacing the Land Use Proposed mapping. In January 2022 after UDO adoption, a date will be established when new zoning districts will go into effect. After adoption, all existing conventional zoning districts will translate to one of the new UDO districts.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 22, 2021 at 10:30.

Current Referrals:

Topic	Policy Question
2040 Comprehensive Plan	What planning and development components are critical as we shape the future of Charlotte?
Unified Development	What is the holistic approach for development and related considerations and criteria?
Short-term Rentals	What are the options if the city is to regulate short-term rentals?
Mobility Committee Recommendations	What recommendations from the Mobility Committee should be implemented?
Rezoning Process Improvements	What changes are recommended to further enhance our rezoning process to meet the need to increase community engagement? What are the options for zoning decisions to address traffic congestion?

Committee Members: Tariq Bokhari (Vice Chair), Dimple Ajmera, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, and Greg Phipps

Committee Purpose Statement: The committee reviews and recommends policies to create a thriving economic climate where businesses are connected to highly skilled talent and technologies.

Committee Chair Update: The committee did not meet since the last Strategy Session.

Next Meeting: The committee will meet again on March 1, 2021 at Noon.

Current Referrals:

Topic	Policy Question
Opportunity Zones and Corridors Policy alignment	Integrate workforce and business development policies within the Opportunity Areas
Workforce Development Plan to reduce high unemployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development policy (criteria required for when city funding is included) • Strengthening workforce development within Diversion program • Youth Employment Policy 	Identify policy options for the city to reduce unemployment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop processes to promote workforce development opportunities through city funded programs • Develop options to advance Workforce development in diversion programs (This could apply to all programs from transit to housing). • Recommend a holistic approach from training to job placement for our youth