



Charlotte City Council  
Housing, Safety & Community Committee  
Summary  
May 23, 2024

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### COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

1. Community Safety Framework Referral- Youth Crime (Action)

### COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Victoria Watlington (virtual), LaWana Mayfield (virtual), Tiawana Brown (virtual), Renee' Johnson (virtual)
<b>Committee Members Absent:</b>	Dimple Ajmera
<b>Other Council Members Present:</b>	Marjorie Molina (virtual)
<b>Staff Resources:</b>	Reenie Askew, City Manager's Office Shawn Heath, City Manager's Office Rebecca Hefner, Housing & Neighborhood Services
<b>Meeting Duration:</b>	3:00 – 4:30 PM
<b>Video available online:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23eUBf9I5cw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23eUBf9I5cw</a>

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### MEETING MATERIALS

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

1. Presentation: Policy Referral, Youth Crime

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### DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

#### **Policy Referral- Youth Crime**

Rebecca Hefner reviewed the policy referral and timeline, reminding the committee of what has been reviewed by the committee previously. She shared details and insights from the youth engagement that has taken place, and preliminary recommendations that incorporate Council priorities, what youth shared in the engagement process, stakeholder feedback, and insights shared by colleagues at the UNC Charlotte Violence Prevention Center. The recommendations intentionally build upon Council's existing investments in SAFE Charlotte and partnerships with Mecklenburg County and the Office of Violence Prevention. Preliminary recommendations for Committee consideration include:

- Expand inclusion of at-risk and justice-involved youth in workforce and employment programs
- Expand and scale youth programs in CMPD and pilot efforts in the Corridors of Opportunity
- Expand community-based investments in "what works"
- Establish clear goals and measurable outcomes and evaluate impact of city programs and partner investments
- Investment in a youth behavioral health care facility

There is not a recommendation for a specific youth violence prevention center, but the range of recommendations include components of this as a starting point that will provide a future opportunity to look at a more formal structure and partnership over time. The recommendations are scalable; the funding Council chooses to invest will determine the component pieces that can be advanced. As it relates to specific youth-serving organizations, looking at additional capacity for grassroots organizations is included, but it is premature at this point to identify specific organizations that could be served by that funding. The recommendation for the city's youth workforce development programs is to broaden and revise the programs to be inclusive of all youth, with added components around programming and case management. None of the recommendations includes staff and personnel costs.

Shawn Heath shared a summary of key stakeholder feedback received early in the process from community agencies and partners. He also shared an investment opportunity for the Katie Blessing Center, a proposed youth behavioral health facility. There is some time sensitivity associated with the Katie Blessing Center investment opportunity, considering that activating the vision for the center is dependent upon the center securing sufficient fundraising commitments.

Highlights of what City Council members shared included:

- Consider ways to track the housing status (unhoused or in unstable housing) of youth that have been involved with the justice system, including youth that are aging out of foster care.
- It will be helpful to know where specific organizations can fit into the recommendations.
- There is a need for workforce development/jobs for at-risk youth.
- Backgrounds can hold youth back at an early age; background checks in youth workforce programs should not be a requirement, and if it is a current requirement in city programs it should be removed.

Council member Brown shared for the record that the Katie Blessing Center should have stipulations on how the city's investment will move forward.

MOTION AND VOTE. Council member Johnson made a motion to allocate \$2.5 million to support the fundraising efforts of the Katie Blessing Center. Council member Mayfield seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will occur June 3, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.