The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 5:35 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Rob Harrington presiding. Council members present were Dimple Ajmera, J.D. Mazuera Arias, Ed Driggs, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, Lawana Mayfield, Joi Mayo, James Mitchell, Kimberly Owens, and Victoria Watlington.

ABSENT: Councilmember Danté Anderson

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Mayor Harrington said we now call the meeting to order. Good evening, and thank you all for joining us in person here and those watching online for our August 24, 2026, Business Meeting. Now, we'll begin with introductions around the dais.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Watlington gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by all.

Mayor Harrington said before we move to voting on consent items, I want to take a quick moment, because we have a representative from Anson County, who I think has a special message and recognition for some of our City staff. I'll now recognize Chairman Caudle of Anson County.

Jamie Caudle, Chairman of Anson County said so, good evening, Council. Good evening, Mayor, staff. Thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight. My name is Jamie Caudle. I am the Chairman of the Anson County Board of Commissioners. I call it a neighboring county, we're just a few miles east of here, but again I appreciate you letting me speak tonight. I just want to address a situation that we had in Anson County. Back on July 7, 2026, Anson County experienced a county-wide water system loss. So, we had a complete depressurization of our water system across the entire County. Ninety-five percent of our citizens were without drinkable water at that time. The next couple days after that line break, our focus was to restore water service for the basic principle of fire protection to all residents and businesses. Once that was achieved, our focus then became on restoring quality drinking water to all the citizens of our County.

During that time, it became apparent that our utility staff was going to need some help in getting that restored. So, we began to reach out to our neighboring municipalities, neighboring counties, and the City of Charlotte being one of those. I'm here tonight to tell you thank you for the assistance that you provided to our County during that time. I want to thank the elected officials, I want to thank the City staff, and most importantly I want to thank the men and women who had boots on the ground who helped us restore that service to all of our citizens in our county. We are all North Carolinians, and that's what makes us the greatest state in the Country to live in, is North Carolina.

When we need help, we always lend a hand to our neighbors, and that's exactly what you did for our county in Anson County. Your willingness to lend a hand, or in this case several hands, just shows the type of character that you as leaders exhibit, and also your staff. You sent nine to 10 highly skilled and trained crew members each day for two or three long days, and I want to specify long days, that worked diligently to help us restore the water service. I can't name them all, but I do want to especially thank Mr. Marion Sanders, and I know he's in the audience behind me here. He is truly a remarkable person and a true leader in that department, and so he was on site with us in our EOC (Emergency Operations Center), and Mr. Sanders was there every day, and I just want to thank him personally, but also the staff. Also, I have not met this person yet, I did not physically talk to her on the phone, but I was on the phone conversations with her, Ms. Angela Charles, at your water lab, and she may be here tonight, I wouldn't know. So, Ms. Charles, she did whatever was necessary to get our water samples fixed

and tested. She offered extended hours on dropping off water samples, accommodated us, our County, in whatever way she could do. She provided technical support on obtaining the water samples, that way we could lift our boil water advisory, and our citizens could go back to consuming the water. Most importantly, she gave our citizens a trusted resource that they could believe in, the water sample was passing and was able to be consumed. So, I want to say thank you to Ms. Charles, Mr. Sanders, and all of the staff. Like I said, I can't name all the staff members, there were way too many people coming into that building that day.

So, tonight I just want to present you with this plaque in grateful recognition of your invaluable assistance, extraordinary partnership, and unwavering support provided to Anson County during the July 2026 water emergency. Your dedication to public service and commitment to helping our community during a time of need exemplified the highest ideals of local government and emergency response. So, with sincere appreciation and gratitude, on behalf of Anson County Commissioners, Anson County staff, and most importantly the Anson County citizens, we say thank you for your partnership.

Mayor Harrington said thank you, Chairman Caudle, and thank you to all the staff of Charlotte Water for your hard work helping our neighboring community in their time of need. That's a wonderful way to start the meeting, so thanks again to everyone that's involved from Charlotte Water, and to the Chairman.

I'd like to thank again all of you for joining us on behalf of the entire City Council. I ask that audience members be civil and courteous while in the chamber. We want to ensure that everyone has a positive experience while attending this meeting.

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ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mayor Harrington said we will start our meeting items with consideration of consent agenda items. Before we take the vote, are there any for comment or for a separate vote? We will vote on the items not pulled first, and then address any item pulled for a separate vote later.

Councilmember Ajmera said Item No. 20 just for comment.

**A complete copy of the Council Agenda Q&A is available in the City Clerk's Office.

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ITEM NO. 2: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 13 THROUGH 32 MAY BE CONSIDERED IN ONE MOTION EXCEPT FOR THOSE ITEMS REMOVED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER. ITEMS ARE REMOVED BY NOTIFYING THE CITY CLERK

Motion was made by Councilmember Watlington, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Item No. 20, which was pulled for comment.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 13: Alarm Registration and Management Services
(A) Approve contract extension #2 for a term of one year to the contract with Central Technologies LLC, dba Superion, LLC for false alarm registration and management services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract and this extension were approved.

Item No. 14: U.S. Department of Justice FY 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant
Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Mecklenburg County as a law enforcement partner through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 658-671.

Item No. 15: Construction Engineering Inspection, Utility Coordination, and Utility Relocation Services
(A) Approve unit price contracts for construction engineering inspection, utility coordination, and utility relocation services for a term of three years with the following: Colliers Engineering, RK&K, STV, Volkert, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to one, two-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 16: Pavement Marking Materials
(A) Approve a unit price contract with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Crown USA, Inc. for the purchase of pavement marking materials for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to one, two-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

The complete Summary of Bids is available in the City Clerk's Office

Item No. 17: Hydro-Excavation Services
(A) Approve unit price contracts for hydro-excavation services for a term of three years with the following: Cuevac, LLC, NG Companies, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 18: McAlpine Creek 54-inch Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 2 Change Order
Approve change order #1 for $1,797,204 to the contract with Insituform Technologies, LLC for the McAlpine Creek 54-inch Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 2.

Item No. 19: McAlpine Creek Preliminary and Primary Treatment Facility Rehabilitation
Approve a guaranteed maximum price of $39,892,315 with Garney Companies, Inc. for design-build construction services for the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary and Primary Treatment Facilities Rehabilitation project.

Item No. 21: Professional Engineering Services for Various Storm Water Services Projects
(A) Approve unit price contracts for professional engineering services for a term of three years with the following: Ardurra Group North Carolina, ESP Associates, Inc., LandDesign, Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 22: Utility Billing, Payments, and Related Services
(A) Approve a contract with KUBRA Data Transfer Ltd., A REPAY Company, providing and implement utility billing, payment, and related services for a term of two years, (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to approve additional purchases as needed from time to time to optimize utility billing, payment, and related services.

Item No. 23: I&T Research, Advisory, and Consulting Services
(A) Approve the purchase of information technology-related research, advisory, and consulting services from a cooperative contract, (B) Approve a contract with Gartner, Inc. for the purchase of information technology-related research, advisory, and consulting services for a term of three years under National Association of State Procurement Officials Master Agreement #DPC-1428523190-SA-21-PASS_ITRAC, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for additional terms as long as the cooperative contract is in effect at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contact.

Item No. 24: Software and Technology Services
(A) Approve the purchase of software and technology services from a cooperative purchasing contract, (B) Approve a contract with Carahsoft Technology Corporation for the purchase of software and technology services under General Services Administration (GSA) Multiple Award Schedule Contract #47QSWA18D008F, (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for additional terms as long as the cooperative contract remains in effect, at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contract, and (D) Authorize the City Manager to purchase maintenance and support for as long as the city uses the products and services.

Item No. 25: Staffing Augmentation and Recruiting Services
(A) Approve contracts for staffing augmentation and recruiting services for a term of three years with the following: 22nd Century Technologies, Inc., AppleOne, Inc., Apptad, Inc., ATHENA Consulting LLC, BAYINFOTECH LLC, Beatty's Services, Inc., Buzzclan, LLC, Capital Consulting LLC dba Tharseo IT, Core Recruitment LLC, Cynet Systems Inc., DatamanUSA, LLC Info Labs Inc., Infojini, Inc., InstantServe, LLC, iQuasar, LLC, JW Affinity IT, LanceSoft, Inc., ManpowerGroup US, Inc., Midtown Personnel, Inc., Rose International, WinMax Systems Corporation, Zencon Group Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 26: Vehicle and Equipment Welding Services
(A) Approve a contract with Bondo Innovations, LLC for vehicle and equipment welding services for a term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, two-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 27: Meeting Minutes
Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk’s record as the minutes of: May 18, 2026, Budget Adjustment Meeting, May 18, 2026, Zoning Meeting, May 26, 2026, Business Meeting, June 1, 2026, Budget Straw Votes Meeting, June 8, 2026, Business Meeting, June 15, 2026, Special Meeting, June 15, 2026, Zoning Meeting, June 18, 2026, Special Meeting, and June 22, 2026, Business Meeting.

Item No. 28: Set a Public Hearing on the Freedom Manor at Reedy Creek Voluntary Annexation
Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for September 28, 2026, for the Freedom Manor at Reedy Creek voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 672-673.

Item No. 29: Set a Public Hearing on the Kings Grant Voluntary Annexation
Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for September 28, 2026, for the Kings Grant voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 674-677.

Item No. 30: Set a Public Hearing on the Taylor Grove at Mallard Creek Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for September 28, 2026, for the Taylor Grove at Mallard Creek voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 678-680.

Item No. 31: Set a Public Hearing on the Yardly West Towne Voluntary Annexation
Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for September 28, 2026, for the Yardly West Towne voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 681-683.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 32: Property Transactions – Farmway Place 6500, Parcel # 2
Resolution of Condemnation for 804 square feet (0.019 acres) in storm drainage easement and 1,196 square feet (0.028 acres) in temporary construction easement at 6600 Woodfield Drive from Monteise Charell McKay and Yolanda Renea McKay aka Yolanda Renea Hutsona for $5,950 for Farmway Place 6500.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 684.

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ITEM NO. 20: NUTRIENT HARVESTING AT MCALPINE CREEK WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

Motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, and seconded by Councilmember Driggs to approve a guaranteed maximum price of $3,200,000 with MEB General Contractors, Inc. for design-build construction services for the Nutrient Harvesting Facility at the McAlpine Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Project.

Councilmember Ajmera said speaking of Charlotte Water, I just want to highlight Charlotte Water again. They are a champion of the circular economy, and Angela Charles and her team do an excellent job of meeting our SEAP (Strategic Energy Action Plan) goals. We have seen that when they unveiled Renew Group, and Item No. 20 is just another example of how we recover our valuable resources, like phosphorus and nitrogen from wastewater to support a circular sustainable economy, and this is going to result in almost $2 million. So, let me say that again, sustainability and economic development and cost saving go hand in hand. So, Angela, thank you for your leadership in helping us meet our SEAP goals, as well as our Sustainability Department. Thank you for your leadership.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Harrington said now we move to open public forum. I'd like to thank you all for joining us on behalf of the entire City Council. I ask that all speakers and audience members be civil and courteous in their use of language. Speakers are encouraged to address Council and should refrain from responding to audience members. Likewise, audience members should be courteous of each speaker and not yell out or interrupt speakers. We want to ensure that everyone has the chance to be heard tonight. Since there are more than 10 speakers, each speaker will have two minutes to address Council.

Immigration Enforcement

Manolo Betancur, 4405 Central Avenue said good evening, Mr. Mayor. Good evening, dear friends of our City Council. I had a very nice speech 24 hours ago that I wrote for all of you, but everything changed 24 hours ago when Greg Bovino showed up at my parking lot at the bakery. He's the person who brought sadness, darkness, and hate to our City this past November 2026. I'm the baker, I should be baking, selling cakes and bread. I shouldn't be [inaudible] this person to show up in our City. I'm here to ask you to be extraordinary people. Extraordinary people are the people who create a good change in our society and ordinary people are the ones who live our daily lives. Our City is full of extraordinary people. I saw that this past November 2026, when everybody show up in my bakery, when everybody showed up on Central Avenue and brought love to us, but eyes are still on Charlotte. Every single day they are taking people away from our street, our business going down. Our children are going back to school tomorrow. They're in trauma. They are sad. They are worried, and nobody is raising their voice. I've been baking for 29 years, and this is worse than COVID, this is worse than 2008 recession. We all can combine and create solutions. If we feel proud to be big city companies from another state and feel so proud that fortune 500 company came to Charlotte. We should feel proud for them, we take of our small businesses and our minorities. So, I'm here to invite you to create solutions. Thank you so much.

Model Cities Initiative

Daniel Oria, 4322 Hubbard Falls Drive said hello, Council. My name is Daniel Oria. I live in District Two. During a recent conversation that this Council was having about the Model Cities Initiative, there were concerns brought up about flock cameras and similar technologies and potential expansion of use of that technology. During that conversation, another Council member commented about that and said the following, "The last portion of what I'll say is connected to this technology piece that we've talked about, because just a short while ago, we approved red light cameras that are going to track vehicles and other things that come within its purview, and we have 621 cameras on intersections all throughout the City of Charlotte." The reason this was concerning to me is because it made me realize that some members of this Council may be catastrophically misinformed about the issue of surveillance technology. This is hugely concerning to me. The ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) described what was going on with flock this way recently. "The cloud automatic license plate reader company, Flock, is building a dangerous nationwide mass surveillance infrastructure." They go on to say, "If your community adopts this technology, you need to know it's doing more than just recording what car is driving where and at what time." I also would like to follow up and say that Axon is another company that is doing a similar thing. Their technologies are developing and growing at breakneck pace. If this Council waits another year to confront this issue it will be too late. I call upon the Council to do three things. Ask CMPD (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department) about their current use and planned use of technologies from Flock, Axon, and other surveillance companies; gather information about this topic to ensure you are educated; and three, have an open discussion and make deliberate decisions about where Charlotte is going to draw the line to protect our rights. This is a critical issue, and I urge the Council to please address this issue as soon as you can. Thank you very much for your service to the City, and I look forward to action on this.

Workplace Training and Safety

Achantae Williams, 1046 McQuay Street said good evening, Mayor Harrington and City Council members. My name is Achantae Williams, and I am an Unaccompanied Minor Escort at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport servicing American Airlines passengers. While I'm trusted to help keep the airport's most vulnerable passengers safe, I was recently put into a situation where I wasn't given the training I needed to do the job safely. I stepped in as a wheelchair attendant during a staffing shortage and was expected to push two passengers at the same time. I had no help, no guidance, or any idea how I was going to push them both through a crowded airport. I made one mistake that was a security violation. Because of that mistake, I paid a hefty price. I didn't know I had to do security too. Nobody told us these things. My airport badge was suspended for 67 days, and it's because I had poor training. When Charlotte Airport Security

reinstated my badge, they said that my employer, Prospect, gave me insufficient training. For nearly 70 days I went without pay, my bills piled up, food was limited, and I had to fight for my life to survive.

Stories like mine happen when workers are overworked, understaffed, and being asked to fill gaps without proper training and the support that we actually need. When you add bottom of the barrel benefits and low pay that doesn't allow us to support our families, you have a recipe for disaster. I love my job, and helping people travel safely, but the airport workers at CLT (Charlotte Douglas International Airport) deserve better. Mayor Harrington, Charlotte City Council, the new airport lease at CLT can change things for the better. Give the public 45 days to review the lease, and require airlines and their contractors to publically report their training and staffing data, so we can improve airport services, and stories like mine don't happen again. Thank you.

Curfew

Alesha Brown, 2209 LaSalle Street said very well. Good evening, Mayor and members of the Charlotte City Council. I am Alesha Brown. I'm the Founder and Executive Director of For The Struggle, and the managing partner of Justice in Action Law Center. I'm speaking tonight, because what we've heard from the community with respect to this curfew is that criminalization is not the answer, resources are in fact the answer, and the fact that investing in resources to alleviate this problem was not the initial response is concerning at least. Let's be honest, you all have heard and we've already acknowledged that this ordinance with have a disproportionate impact on black and brown children. That is something that we already know. We know it's happened in the past, and we know what will continue to happen even with this particular ordinance. What's even more concerning is criminalizing parents for children engaging in children activities and children behavior. We work with parents every single day, low-income parents struggling every single day, and the idea of criminalizing a parent for a child's activity is not only concerning, but it shows me that whoever wrote this ordinance is completely out of touch.

We do not support a blanket 9:00 p.m. curfew as proposed. If an immediate measure is necessary, it should be temporary, and the attorney in me needs to say, it needs to be narrowly tailored and evaluated alongside non-criminal alternatives. After speaking with our youth, again, criminalization under these circumstances is unrealistic and it's not the answer. You've been offered alternatives. We've seen the City pay astronomical amounts for studies to come up with solutions. Well, this is the time to employ your community experts and impacted communities to come up with a real solution. The scope is far too broad. This in practice, again, will criminalize children who are not engaging in any criminal activity. My problem even further is that, again, it will have a disproportionate impact on black and brown children. Thank you.

I-77

Rev. Dr. Janet Garner-Mullins, 1014 Comstock Drive said good evening, Mr. Mayor and Council members. I'm here tonight to respectfully ask you to stand firm and maintain the six-vote position opposing the current I-77 South Toll Lane proposal. This issue is about more than transportation. It's about public trust. Residents attended meetings, submitted comments, contacted elected officials, and made their views known. After hearing those concerns, this Council voted to oppose the project. The question before you is simple. What has changed? The transportation needs have not changed, the concerns raised by residents have not changed, and the burdens that toll roads place on working families has not changed. What appears to have changed is the pressure on local government to revisit decisions that are already reached through public engagement and careful deliberation. Let me be clear, we all want transportation improvements. We want safer roads, reduced congestion, and better mobility throughout our region, but working families should not be asked to pay twice, once through their taxes and again through tolls used on roads they've already paid for in the beginning. For some residents and neighborhoods, this proposal is not merely about traffic patterns; it's about the potential disruption of established communities, families

losing their homes they've worked for, for many years, and sometimes generations to build. Charlotte residents deserve transportation solutions that are affordable, transparent, accountable to the public. So, tonight I urge you to hold your position. Continue advocating for transportation solutions that reflect the needs, values, and voices of our people, because roads can be rebuilt, budgets can be revised, but once public trust is lost you can't get it back. Thank you.

Youth Protection Ordinance

Nathan Hoffman, 127 North Tryon Street said good evening, Mayor and members of the City Council. My name is Nathan Hoffman. I'm an Uptown resident, resident of Friends of Fourth Ward, and a member of the Center City Safety Task Force. I'm here tonight in support of the Youth Protection Ordinance. I understand some of the concerns surrounding the ordinance. A curfew alone will not solve the challenges facing our young people. We absolutely need greater investment in youth programming, mentorship, safe places for teens to gather, mental health resources, and opportunities for young people to thrive, but I don't believe we have to choose between these investments and giving CMPD a reasonable tool to protect young people and our community. This ordinance creates clear expectations and, importantly, allows officers to intervene before a situation escalates, not simply after a crime has occurred or someone has become a victim. Used properly, this should not be about criminalizing young people. It should be an opportunity to engage them, reconnect them with parents and guardians, identifies those who may need additional help, and connect families with resources.

As an Uptown resident, I've seen how quickly large, unsupervised gatherings can change the environment for residents, businesses, visitors, and the young people themselves. This is why implementation matters. It must be fair, consistent, compassionate, and accountable. Pair this ordinance with visible policing, youth engagement, community partnerships, safe youth spaces, and meaningful resources, and I believe we create something much more powerful than a curfew. We create a proactive preventive strategy. On behalf of the residents of Uptown and all those across the City, I respectfully ask Council to support the Youth Protection Ordinance. Thank you.

Curfew

Jamal Snow, 7717 Shalom Drive said Mayor, Council. We need to be honest about what this ordinance actually will do. If we already know black and brown youth face disproportionate harm during police encounters, why would we pass a policy that guarantees even more encounters, and why criminalize parents when the system is already stacked against them?

First, the curfew increases police/youth contact, especially for black and brown teens. Charlotte's own data shows 1,532 juvenile-related incidents this year, only 30 percent happen after 8:00 p.m., so why create a policy that affects 100 percent of teens for 30 percent of the problem? Cities like Baltimore, Chicago, Minneapolis, Nashville, Raleigh, and my hometown of Fayetteville, have already learned its lesson. Curfews don't reduce youth crime, but they do increase police interaction and communities of color. Charlotte cannot afford to repeat those mistakes.

Second, criminalizing parents will hit families already under strain. Under the current ordinance, parents can already be charged with contributing to delinquency of a minor, a Class 1 misdemeanor. We know exactly who will bear the brunt, black and brown parents, single parents, families already struggling economically. A misdemeanor means fines, court fees, missed work, even jail time that destabilizes housing, employment, and family structure. Criminalizing parents doesn't solve root causes; it deepens generational harm. I urge the Council to remove/revise this section.

Third, we need alternatives that actually work. If the goal is safety and protection, then invest in strategies with a proven impact. For example, [inaudible] by analysts, so we

know where our youth gatherings are happening and can target solutions instead blanket curfews. Fund community organizations already trusted by youth. Credible messengers, violence interrupters, neighborhood peace teams, these models work in Baltimore, New York, Chicago. Create a youth hotline. Replace criminalization with support, and provide safety technology, such as doorbells, motion alert sensors for families in hotspot areas who need help keeping their kids safe at night. Charlotte has the talent and the organizations and the leadership to build something real, sustainable and rooted in trust.

Jamaiyah Pittman, 2209 LaSalle Street said, good evening, Mayor and members of City Council. My name is Jamaiyah Pittman. I'm a [inaudible] student and a young person connected to the Charlotte community. I do not believe an earlier curfew is the best solution. Young people gathered together does not automatically mean we are causing trouble. Sometimes we are simply spending time together after school, work, or an event. A curfew could also affect jobs, transportation, family responsibilities, school activities, and social lives. Young people who are not causing trouble should not be punished for the actions of someone else. Instead of focusing mainly on enforcement, I am asking the City to invest in safe places for us to go, reliable transportation, mentors, positive activities, and entrusted adults, who will help conflict when it begins. Having someone who will listen in a calm situation could stop a problem before it becomes worse. Before making a decision, please listen directly to young people who will be affected. If the curfew is changed, make it temporary and publically review whether it actually makes Charlotte safer, and whether it's being applied fairly. Young people are a part of this community too. Our experience and opinions should be included in decisions about our safety and freedom. Thank you for listening to my voice.

I-77

Robert McCutcheon, 330 South Tryon Street said good evening, Mayor Harrington and fellow City Council members. My name is Robert McCutcheon. I have the privilege of leading the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. Over the past several months, you've heard many passionate voices about I-77 South, but I want to speak tonight for some of the people you haven't heard from, because while they may not be in this room, many of them are sitting on I-77 South right now. They're coming home from work, picking up their kids, heading to an evening shift. They wear suits and scrubs and steel-toed boots. They teach our children, stock our shelves, build our homes, drive our trucks, and serve our meals, and they share two hopes, spend less time in traffic, and make sure every neighborhood in Charlotte has the opportunity to succeed. These are not competing values, they're Charlotte values.

The debate over I-77 South has too often become about winners and losers, but what if Charlotte can do something bigger? What if we can reduce congestion for hundreds of thousands of people, and reconnect communities divided for generations? What if we can improve mobility and bring a meaningful investment and opportunity to neighborhoods that have waited for decades for it? This isn't choosing one Charlotte over another. That's choosing all of Charlotte. Council, you represent the people in this room, but you also represent the parent trying to teach daycare before it closes, the nurse driving home after a 12-hour shift, and the worker losing an hour every evening to traffic, and you represent communities that deserve investment, opportunity, and reconnection. Their voices matter too. History rarely remembers whether leaders choose the safest path. History remembers whether leaders choose the future. Let's choose a Charlotte that moves, a Charlotte that connects, a Charlotte that invests, a Charlotte that leaves no neighborhood behind. Thank you very much.

Sagar Rathie, 601 South Tryon Street, Suite 800 said good evening, Mayor, members of Council. My name is Sagar Rathie. I'm here in support of regional growth, and as a resident of District Seven. I'm here in support of moving I-77 forward. Three key things I want to reiterate. First, I drive this corridor every day, to the airport, to South Charlotte, into Uptown. It is unreliable now, and it's not getting better. I don't think anyone here would argue otherwise, and it's not just my experience. This is honestly one of the most traveled corridors we've seen in any major metro in the U.S. It's not

meeting the needs today, and it's not changing anytime soon. Our region is growing, and this problem only gets worse the longer we wait.

Second, I know there's been a lot of discussion regarding tolls, and whether they're useful, beneficial, or helpful, and in this instance, I think there's something pretty unique about how we're funding this structure. Right now, the way tolls are set up, we actually get the benefit of over 40 percent of the people paying for it coming from out of state. That's not a tax necessarily on our community, that means everyone pays their fair share. If this were to change to some sort of tax-funded alternative, that means everyone else here in this room is paying for it. That's a challenge.

Third, I want to be clear, this vote coming up, what it does do and what it doesn't do? It doesn't finalize anything; it only keeps our progress moving forward. We have been talking about trying to advance and improve 77 for over 20 years. Now is the time to try to make a stand and make something happen. The work that's been done over that time period has been really to drive the growth that we're living and seeing every single day, and it's not slowing down, so let's not stall it, let's advance it and keep working towards it. Thank you.

J.Q. Freeman, 1829 Lombardy Circle said good evening, Mr. Mayor and Council members. My name is J.Q. Freeman. I was born and raised in Charlotte, and I'm a proud graduate of West Charlotte High School. I'm here to speak about the proposed I-77 toll lane improvements that are currently on hold. I own a property that's being directly impacted by the proposed improvements being made to I-77 South. We all know that I-77 is currently broken. It's getting worse every day, and it must be improved. However, Council's rescinding support for this project has effectively wiped out the marketability of every property that will be impacted by I-77 improvements, because the project's now on hold. No one is willing to purchase a property that could be subject to condemnation by NC-DOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) in the future. Furthermore, I have a loan on my property, and I'm sure many other property owners in the same situation as me have loans on their property. With the looming condemnation in front of us, banks are unwilling to refinance properties.

We are suffering under this cloud of condemnation, because the project was announced, then project was approved, and then the improvement plans and subsequent property condemnations were initiated with people like me. In City Council member's own words, you don't want to kill the project, you just want to change the proposed design, but the design is only 10 to 15 percent complete. The concerns raised about this project can be addressed as the design progresses through the same public process that produce caps and stitches and community benefits already on the table. By putting this project on hold, City Council members are hurting the very communities and residents they hope to protect. There are many property owners and homeowners like me who are now living and working under this cloud of condemnation, causing us more and more financial damage every day while we wait for the eventual conclusion. While you delay, we suffer. The public's with you if you vote to move forward. A July poll of Charlotte's registered voters found that 52 percent support moving ahead with the I-77 South expansion. Thank you.

Damian Smith,124 Lakewood Avenue said good evening, Council. Many of you already know how I feel about this. You've heard from me plenty over the last year. Now, the fact of the matter is, is that many of us on the West Side, we share their concerns about wanting people to be able to get to their homes, we share concerns about congestion. What we've said the entire time is that the solution that has been proposed does not work, and that is supported by the data, both economic, engineering, and it's been shown for 80-plus years that toll lanes and highway expansions don't work. Conservative publications, like The Economist, say that they don't work and that they are a bad use of public dollars, even if they're public/private partnerships. That you should invest in mass transit and alternative transit, and providing people freedom and options of how they get to and from their jobs, to see their friends, to see their family, to pick up their children from school. Maybe, here's a brilliant thought, allow your kids to be able to walk and bike home from school, or take the bus because we provided safe

infrastructure, because that's how most children got to and from school until the last 30 years, and those investments for biking infrastructure and things like that have a 10 to 25 percent X return. By providing residents of Rock Hill, and providing residents from Mooresville, and from Gastonia, and from the region, other options than getting into a car is what we need. It's what's going to actually address the needs of the region. As a West Side resident, we do need investment.

Rob Nanfelt, 4127 Wright Avenue said good evening, Mayor, members of Council. I'm Rob Nanfelt. I'm the Executive Director of the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition, also known as REBIC. I'm here to ask you to reconsider your rescission of the I-77 project. I was actually on I-77 on Saturday night, 6:00 p.m., going to visit our in-laws, and hit two backups on the way south, and the poor folks coming north were in a huge backup, as you reach the South Carolina state line. I will tell you, that's a Saturday night. Clearly, I think everybody knows something has to be done. My request to you is to reconsider your vote, because if we do keep this on track, it gives an opportunity for a lot of the concerns that have been raised during the course of this to be addressed. There's new money apparently that could be used for benefits. There's also mistakes that were made on the northern section that can be reconsidered for the southern section. There's caps on tolls and other benefits that can also be associated with that. So, I ask you to reconsider and consider moving this forward, because in the next month or so, if a change is not made then this will eventually come off the state list of plans for projects, and once that happens, it could be a decade or more before we can go forward with this project, however it looks. So, I'm asking you to get folks back to the table, so that we continue to have these discussions, because if we don't it'll be many, many years before this can be put back on the table. So, it's obviously a problem. We've got different ideas on how to get to that solution. Get back to the table so you can get to a solution, because right now it's going to be a long ways off if we don't. So, thank you for your time.

Joseph Williams, 1778 Dunkirk Drive said alright. I was not expected to get off of the wait list, so let's see what Chat GPT says? I live in the Wilmore neighborhood. Wilmore is a neighborhood that would be drastically impacted by the I-77 South project. I think some things to consider are there's 35-plus homes, that's 35 neighbors who live in Charlotte who aren't sitting on I-77 every day to get to Uptown to get to work. Wilmore is an overburdened neighborhood. We've been living next to the Pipe Foundry, we've been living next to this wonderful thing, I-77. North Carolina widened it in 1994, didn't put a nice sound wall in for us even though it was required. The law says that they should have as a temporary project, "We're going to come back to this thing soon." Here we are 30 years later. As you guys know, we are still talking about this project. So, really, I think that keeping this project rescinded, and I know Mr. Hall up there is going to disagree with me on this one, while this is a great opportunity to reconnect the corridor, and I think we should take advantage of that, let's pull this thing off the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program), let's go back to the state with our priorities known. I understand Councilmember Watlington, I love your idea about an independent study. Let's really go back and re-look at this project. What makes this successful for Charlotte? How do we set up our corridor to be successful for the next 50 years? Not something that just solves a short-term problem. Let's make this a long-term fix, and let's protect our inner-city neighborhoods and not bulldoze them. This is not the 1960s. It isn't the 1970s. We can, we should do better. We need a better project. We need a better partner with the state. Appreciate it. Thank you for the time.

Transportation

Connie Proctor, 2222 Selwyn Avenue said good evening, Mayor and Council. My name is Connie Proctor. I have spoken to you before and asked you to envision a better city, a city where people of all ages and abilities have mobility choices, a city where children and older adults have the autonomous mobility they need and deserve. Expanding an urban highway is not a way to achieve that vision. Expansion will divert precious resources from achieving it. We like to talk about how we do not want to become Atlanta If we add just 10 more acres of highway right-of-way within a mile of Uptown, we will overtake Atlanta. We have been chasing quicker commutes since the

1950s. We have thrown trillions of dollars at that problem. What do we have to show for it? The same average daily commute time. We literally haven't saved a second.

I asked you to envision what the General Assembly is trying to force us to build. The year is 2086. You're standing in Frazier Park below the I-77 flyover, the elevated toll lanes are crumbling, and they will soon be handed back by the private toll company to the public for maintenance. Doing nothing is literally not an option, because pieces of the lanes are in danger of falling off. Now the choice must be made whether to dismantle or repair them. You were 10 in 2026. You are now 70. You wonder why anyone thought building them was a good idea. They never did reduce traffic.

This is not the future I want for either of my children. I urge you to stand firm in your rejection of this plan, because not even the full $300 million in community benefits can make up for the damage already done to our community. I have said it before. The only way to solve traffic is by providing viable alternatives to driving. Let's work to make those viable alternatives possible, so we can actually reduce traffic. Thank you.

Mayor Harrington said that brings to an end our public forum. I thank everyone who participated, including those who had no idea that they would actually make it off the waiting list, but thanks everyone for participating and thanks for the audience's attention.

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PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM NO. 4: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF PETE BROWN ROAD

Mayor Harrington declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, and seconded by Councilmember Owens to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt a resolution and close a portion of Pete Brown Road.

Councilmember Mayfield said I have shared once before, but since our Manager is joining us tonight, I am sharing again that I have a concern when we have both a public hearing opening, as well as an adoption of a resolution to close whatever the public hearing is on, on the same evening as an A and B action. If we're opening a public hearing this, like a number of other items, should be us identifying a public hearing date, not for us to open a public hearing, and because no one showed up tonight, to have action B be to adopt the closing of a portion of Pete Brown Road. So, I wanted to make sure that I share the concerns that I have, when it seems like we're trying to fast track certain conversations versus going through the process of setting a public hearing date.

Mayor Harrington said thank you, Councilmember Mayfield. I want to defer to the Manager and also to the City Attorney to the extent there are any responses about process of this particular item.

Andrea Leslie-Fite, City Attorney said Councilmember Mayfield, thank you for the comments. Just as a reminder for the public, this item was referred to BGIR (Budget Governance and Intergovernmental Relations) Committee, and it was taken up today during a special call meeting under the leadership of that Committee, Chair Graham, and at this point the Committee will continue to explore the concept and make recommendations back to Council. The other thing that I would note about the specific statute that governs this road closure, there is notice by publication for four consecutive weeks ahead of the item being placed on the agenda, and it's by publication in the local newspaper, and so just for transparency to the public, those notices are made available

so that people can be aware of the public hearings that are being scheduled four consecutive weeks in advance.

Councilmember Mayo said I was just going to acknowledge what the Attorney said, before she said it, that that is something that the BGIR Committee chatted about today in our meeting and will be talking more about in September 2026. So, thank you for continuing to raise that concern so that we can address that.

Ms. Mayfield said for a follow-up, and I appreciate the fact that BGIR had an additional meeting to have this discussion. I want it to be very clear that what I am suggesting is that we have a hearing date separate from the decision. I don't even know how many people actually have a subscription to a newspaper today. So, to say that we have the information posted in a paper is the equivalent of someone getting a divorce today and putting it into the paper, and now we've got to worry about that person challenging it. So, we use social media for other things. I'm asking, just like we have other items where we are setting a hearing date, suggest be consistent, set a hearing date, and not just say, well, we have listed it in newspaper, when newspaper is not the main form of communication for a lot of residents today, and we can see that by the fact that unfortunately we just had another one of our local channels close down. So, I would just like for us to be clear that what I'm asking for is a separation of a hearing date, and then later an actual decision on that, so that those who are able to watch us online or attend in person, also know that this information is happening in their neighborhoods.

Councilmember Graham said again, we had that conversation today. I chair the Committee. We looked at a wide variety of options, not wanting to debate the Committee meeting right now, but your point has been taken, and it's under consideration in terms of how we move forward, or if we move forward. So, it's still out for debate.

Councilmember Johnson said so this item went to the Committee to discuss potential improvement, or change to the policy, is that correct?

Mayor Harrington said so, just to be clear, I think the item that went to the Committee is an overall item, not the particular motion that's on the table for tonight. It sounds like there's a discussion to be had in Committee about process, but that's not in the motion that's for tonight, just to make that clarification.

Ms. Johnson said so, Councilmember Mayfield, you brought this up at least two or three meetings. I would think that we would hold off on moving forward with that current process if we're debating potential improvement.

Mr. Graham said again, we are looking at the process question in Committee. One Council member brought it forward. The Committee is discussing it to see if it's appropriate, if any changes will be made at all. The Committee's still discussing it, so it's still on the table.

Ms. Johnson said right, I understand.

Mayor Harrington said any Council members who have not been heard? I just want to make sure that there are other Council members that've been heard, because I think we're sort of debating process instead of this particular motion.

Councilmember Ajmera said so Councilmember Johnson, just so that I understand your question. Why are we sticking with the existing process if the conversation is in the BGIR Committee? So, from what I understood from the Attorney is that until the new process is adopted we have to continue with the existing process, am I correct?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said yes, that's correct.

Ms. Ajmera said so, I know that this is going to be coming in front of the BGIR Committee for a follow-up next month, and this month the BGIR Committee had two

meetings, and this was second item on our agenda earlier today. So, it's being prioritized, to your question.

Ms. Johnson said so, point of order. Are we not able to seek clarification or follow up on our questions?

Mayor Harrington said you can seek clarification or follow up on the question, but we're still going to at some point call the question on this particular motion. So, one more round of questions on your question about process, and then we should move on I believe with the motion, but if there's a question.

Ms. Johnson said so last month if I'm correct, didn't we defer because there was more than just one Council member who was concerned about it? So, is this a process that we have to move forward on, or was this a choice to put this on the agenda? Because if it's in the Committee, and we're looking at improving a process or changing a process, I would ask or hope that we kind of hold off, because all we're doing is just digging a deeper hole, or doing things opposite of what the Council is desiring to do.

Substitute motion was made by Councilmember Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to defer the action to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt a resolution to close a portion of Pete Brown Road.

Ms. Mayfield said I have a question of clarification. The way this is presented, it is presented as A and B. A is to close the public hearing, B is to adopt the resolution. I do not understand how we are attempting to close the public hearing, when you still have B on this item, which is what triggered my original question, because to close the public hearing, by default, adopting A and B, A to close the public hearing, and B to adopt the resolution to close the actual portion of the street. So, please clarify that.

Substitute motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Substitute motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to defer the adoption of a resolution to close a portion of Pete Brown Road.

Councilmember Owens said if I can ask the City Attorney, the way I had understood in our conversations earlier today, this was something that was brought by a resident, is that correct, how this particular motion came forward? Can you describe that to Council how we got where we are, and what this particular motion is?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said sure, so the property owner has requested to close a portion of the driveway on Weona Avenue, and notified the adjacent property owners to see if there was opposition. Apparently, there was no opposition, and so this is the property owner's request, and it has not been challenged.

Ms. Owens said so, Mayor, if I may, I will not be supporting a motion to defer, because I find it inefficient to do so in circumstances such as have been described, as I understand this motion. It is right for determination on this evening. Even though we have had the public hearing in the same context of the meeting, I think that this is a right situation.

Ms. Ajmera said so Madam Attorney gave us legal guidance earlier today at the Committee meeting. So, what I'm concerned about is, if we impose a different process and take it out when we have not adopted a new process, I'm concerned about the legal challenge. So, Madam Attorney, if you could speak to that?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said certainly, Councilmember Ajmera, 160A-299 does provide an appeal mechanism to Superior Court for any decision that's made by Council concerning one of these public hearings, and at this point without opposition there could be opposition to that via appeal to Superior Court.

Ms. Ajmera said that's all I have.

Mr. Graham said and I'll be voting against that as well. I think, Council, if you will allow the Committee to process the request that you made. We don't know what the Committee's going to recommend. We don't know what the Council will eventually vote on. What we have done is start a discussion, and we have to keep the rules as they are today, and they may or may not change tomorrow. So, I think we need to plow forward and allow the Council and the Committee to process the work that you asked us to do. It is not ready. It's been prioritized. We'll be talking about it again in two weeks. I think we need to move on. We're having a debate about having a debate.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Mazuera Arias, Johnson, and Mayfield

NAYS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, Graham, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, and seconded by Councilmember Owens, to adopt a resolution and close a portion of Pete Brown Road.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, Graham, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmembers Mazuera Arias, Johnson and Mayfield

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 635-638.

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ITEM NO. 5: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF WEONA AVENUE

Mayor Harrington declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mayo and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to close the public hearing.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Mazuera Arias, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmember Mayfield

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, and seconded by Councilmember Mayo to adopt a resolution and close a portion of Weona Avenue.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Mazuera Arias, Driggs, Graham, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmembers Johnson and Mayfield

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 639-642.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 6: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Marcus Jones, City Manager said as we discussed previously, we have the police chief here today to utilize the time for the Manager's Report to give you an update on the Youth Protection Ordinance, with no action, just more information, answering some of the questions that you provided. Mayor, before I turn it over to our police chief, there is something that Mayor Pro Tem would like to provide.

Councilmember Mitchell said we have one of our Deputy City Manager's, who after so many years, has finally decided she's going to start another career. This young lady has made me a better public servant over the years, and in particular Council, we had to stand up an MPTA (Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority) process, with Councilmember Mayfield and Councilmember Driggs, and this young lady worked tirelessly to make sure that we had a process in place so we could select our candidates. So, I would like to give a special recognition to Deputy City Manager Liz Babson for your outstanding leadership and dedication to make Charlotte a better city. Liz.

Chief Estella Patterson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief said good evening, Mayor and members of Council. As we continue this conversation concerning the Youth Protection Ordinance, I wanted to be sure to address the questions you raised at our last Council meeting on August 10, 2026, and also to highlight a few points and provide some updates concerning this ordinance. I have been listening attentively to the comments today, and even those that have been brought to me by other community members, and we want to be sensitive to that, because we know that there is concern on both sides.

So, since our last meeting, I had a meeting with seven civic and community leaders, along with a number of residents who have had general questions as well. So, I'd like to share some of them with you. I'd like to start off by saying, first and foremost, we have gotten the question repeatedly, "What are we trying to solve or what are we trying to do with this ordinance?" I will tell you very plainly that we are trying to reduce the number of teen takeover events, where there is crime, where there is property damage, and where we have seen harm to the community. We want to make sure that we are also being cognizant of victimization of our young people. We want to minimize that as much as possible. Now, we know that an ordinance is not the save all, be all, in doing that. We know that there still is going to be victimization, we know there's still going to be victimizing, but we want to mitigate it as much as possible, and so this modification to the ordinance gives us one more tool for law enforcement to be able to create safe spaces for our youth and also prevent or reduce victimization.

I want to reiterate what I've heard repeatedly, and even tonight, that this ordinance change or modification is not intended to criminalize our youth. We do not want to create pipelines to prisons, or where our youth are just doing things that youth do and be subject to the criminal justice system. In fact, in a little bit, I'm going to ask Attorney Battle if she will talk about the process if someone is cited for youth violation under this ordinance. Also, with the implementation of this ordinance, if passed, one of the things we want to do is make sure that we're working very closely with community partners. I've already started those conversations. CMPD has always been good about working with the community and different groups in that regard.

So, a couple things I just want to reiterate and highlight to you is, first, the recommendation. The overall recommendation is that we modify the curfew age to include all minors 17 and younger, and also that the time will be 9:00 p.m. every day of the week. Also, a lot of conversation has been had about the exceptions or the exemptions. Many people have stated that this is a blanket curfew, that there are no exemptions. We want to be clear that they are. We spoke of this last time, but I think it's worth mentioning again, especially with CMS (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools) starting tomorrow, it is important that we understand that youth who are going to and from football games, or other sanctioned youth events, by schools, religious, or recreational events, that are accompanied by an adult or that are supervised by an adult, those individuals will be okay. They will not be subject to the curfew. Additionally, those who are running errands by their parents, or their guardians, at their direction, they will not be subject to the curfew. Will this mean that an officer may not stop this person or talk to them? Of course not. We want to make sure that the youth is safe; however, we will not be taking that youth into custody or such or do a juvenile arrest. Additionally, exceptions exist if there's an emergency. Also, if that youth is traveling to and from work. One of the things that I have gotten conversations about, or I've gotten questions about is concerning a 17-year-old who is in college. I want to reiterate, again, we understand that individuals like that are in school. They're doing the right thing. We are not going to have a curfew police. We're not going to have our officers patrolling the streets of Charlotte looking for individuals and trying to determine their ages, so that we can do a juvenile arrest or that we can take them into custody. That is not the intent of this. Again, we are trying to have a tool that when we have teen takeovers, we have these mass gatherings, we're able to address them effectively, and in a way that prevents harm to our youth.

One other question I wanted to make sure that we were addressing and to update you is concerning some of the studies related to curfew. In the document that you should have received we outlined some studies in there. We found where there were three studies in support of positive impacts for curfews, there were four that were mixed impacts, and certainly I know that people have found studies that suggest that curfews are not effective. What I would say is that many of the studies that have been used or we have looked at are not current studies. They do not address the issue of teen takeovers, which we have seen. It's a phenomenon that's new that we have seen probably in the last year, year and a half, mainly this year, that we have seen in Charlotte. So, because of that, I will suggest that we look very closely at our data, that we would move forward with this so that we can gain data. We can work with some of our local universities to be able to capture the proper data for our community, and then we can know whether or not this is something that is effective, that is meaningful for our community.

One other area that we wanted to address, and one of the main reasons for the modification that we're looking at, is because we want to reduce or prevent the victimization of our youth. I believe it was Dr. Watlington in the last meeting, asked us if we could break out the youth victimization numbers to show the different timeframes. So, we were able to do that so that you can see that particularly at nighttime, outdoor juvenile victimization is still driven primarily by firearm and aggravated assaults. When we look at the charts, you can see in the different timeframes. So, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., we saw an overall 431 victims of crime in our community. This is youth that are outside or in those open spaces. If you look at that, also we see that ages 16 and 17 are roughly 30 percent, and the majority were ADW (Assault with a Deadly Weapon), or assault with gun cases, or victims. Also, looking at the demographics, 91 percent were youth of color. We broke it out between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and you can look at the numbers there. They go down slightly, but we still see victimization happening throughout those hours and throughout the early mornings. The percentage of our brown and black youth that are victimized is still in the 90s, which is concerning to all of us. Having raised two African American males in my household, that was always a concern that they would be a victim of crime, or that they would be out doing something innocently and end up hurt. So, it is a concern, not only for me, but I know it is for many parents and those in our community.

One other area, an update I want to provide, in speaking to community members the question arose repeatedly concerning juvenile arrests. What does it mean if we enforce this ordinance? What does it mean for our youth particularly? Does it mean that they are going to be arrested, they're going to be placed in handcuffs? Do they go through the criminal justice system? There's a lot of conversation even tonight that we're criminalizing our young people. We want to be very clear that that is not what happens necessarily. I'm going to ask Attorney Jessica Battle if she'll come forward to talk a little bit more, but I do want to emphasize the point that, with a juvenile arrest most of the times those youth are returned to their families. We call their parents, their guardians, they come and they take possession of that youth. At no time are they going through the Sheriff's Department or going to the jail or anything like that. There's instances in which there is criminal activity that occurs that necessitates them being in the criminal justice system, but the majority of these juvenile cases of curfew are not what we're finding. So, I'm going to ask Jessica if she'll come forward to talk just a little bit more about the process, so that we can understand that a little bit better.

Jessica Battle, Sr. Assistant City Attorney said good evening. Jessica Battle with the City Attorney's Office. As Chief stated, if there is probable cause to charge a juvenile with a violation of a curfew or any particular charge, officers would have to make an on-scene decision about whether or not they were going to charge that juvenile. They look at many different factors including the severity of the crime, the juvenile's behavior on that particular encounter, and also their full juvenile history of any charges, investigations, or arrests. One of the first factors that officers will consider, after they look into the juvenile's history, is whether or not diversion is an option. Diversion would mean sending that juvenile to some sort of youth program in Charlotte to look at their behavior and look at the sort of overall wholistic view of that juvenile to make sure that they stay on the right track and complete that program in order to avoid any juvenile charges. So, they will review their arrest history, and that's for six-year-olds through 17-year-olds; those are the ages that are subject to juvenile law, and they will look at those prior arrests. Per CMPD policy, if the juvenile has a history of any prior arrest, they would not be subject to seeking a diversion program based on that policy. However, whether or not CMPD officer's were to divert the juvenile to a youth program, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Juvenile Court Counselors in the court system could still send that juvenile to a diversion program prior to it getting to the courthouse. Let's say that the Juvenile Court Counselor chooses not to send the youth to a diversion program, the District Court Judge in Juvenile Court still has the final decision to decide whether or not they will send that particular youth to a diversion program as well, and that applies for curfew violations or any sort of violation that is not divertible.

When we talk about the particular juvenile arrest process, and again this is a general overview, not just related to curfew, one of the decisions or things that an officer will have to determine, is whether or not they need a Secure Custody Order. You'll see that abbreviated as SCO, and that means that the juvenile would be taken to a secure facility, like a juvenile detention facility. Officers would need to seek a referral from the Juvenile Court Counselor to get that Secure Custody Order if the crime is a felony, if it involves gang activity, or weapons, or if it involves an aggravated assault. So, if any juvenile committed one of those particular types of crimes, they could not be sent by the officer through a diversion program, and the officer would seek that Secure Custody Order with the Juvenile Court Counselors. Let's say that it is an option for officers to divert. They will do the police report to enter the facts and information of what occurred, and then send that juvenile through the diversion program, or else, if it's a crime that can be diverted, but based on that particular juvenile's history, the officer does not divert them, that juvenile would then enter the juvenile court process by way of a petition. This is governed by Chapter 7B of our North Carolina General Statutes and would involve that child going to the eighth floor of the courthouse where a Juvenile District Court Judge would hear that particular matter. It's important to state here that these charges would not automatically initiate a neglect case against that juvenile or their parent; however, I will say that the Juvenile Court System takes a very global and wholistic look at each juvenile, and there could be any sort of crime before a Juvenile Court Judge where that matter could end up in a case where the family has an open DSS (Department of Social Services) investigation for abuse, neglect, or any sort of thing. It

does not automatically flow from a curfew charge, or any particular charge. Our officers, our Juvenile Court Counselors, our District Court Judges, all have a duty to report, and if there were to be something in the factual circumstances of, for example, a curfew charge that required reporting to DSS, then that would open a file, but it is not an automatic part of the juvenile arrest process.

A big thing people think that when juveniles are arrested it means automatic handcuffs, as the Chief said, that they are taken to the Sheriff's Office, they are not. General speaking, with a juvenile arrest, the parent or guardian of that juvenile is called to come and get them, and from there diversion and petition decisions are made about whether that case will go to court or be diverted.

Now, sometimes when detained, officers do have legal authority to use handcuffs on juveniles, depending on the particular act committed on that date and other factual circumstances, but the juvenile arrest generally involves the juvenile's parent or guardian being called to pick them up. If there's a Secure Custody Order, then that juvenile would be transported to the secure facility after that juvenile arrest. With that, I will turn it over to Dr. Stewart to talk about our spaces for youth opportunities.

Raquishela Stewart, HNS Director said good evening, Mayor, Manager, members of Council. Raquishela Stewart, Office of Youth Opportunities. I wanted to take a moment to share some things that I shared in our previous meeting on August 10, 2026, as it relates to what the Office of Youth Opportunities has been doing as it relates to third spaces. So, we were a little bit ahead of the game, as we have been working with third spaces for over a year. We've had a great partnership with the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association), where from June 2026 to December 2026, we were able to provide 200 passes to all of the Y's across Charlotte, and then this year we were able to create a great partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation where we were able to provide 250 passes to the Rec Center and we're working on expanding that. I also want to share that Chief Patterson and I, on last Tuesday, had a great meeting with the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the Y, and her team, to discuss what we can do to partner to reimagine third spaces for our youth. So, we left out of the meeting feeling very good about some opportunities, and my team and I are now working on ideating a pilot with the YMCA to offer third spaces over the next 10 months.

Some of the additional things that we're doing as it relates to third spaces is, I did mention we have a partnership grant that we are working on finalizing. So, once I have an opportunity to get that to my leadership, the goal is to have that out before the end of September 2026. This will give us an opportunity to work with other partners across the City to create additional third spaces for our youth. Lastly, we have already started working with CMS and other partners as it relates to teacher workdays, because we understand it's not just the weekends that the youth need something to do, it's not just after school, it's anytime that they are left alone. So, the great thing about the Office of Youth Opportunities since its inception is we have looked at the child as a whole. So, we're not just looking to give them somewhere to go and play. We're looking to give them programming. We're looking to give them exposure. We make sure that our partners do provide wraparound services and provide mentorship. So, we will definitely keep you posted on our pilot, and we will let everyone know when the grant opportunity becomes available. So, I will turn it back over to Chief Patterson.

Chief Patterson said thank you, Dr. Stewart. One final thing I would note is that for the implementation of this youth ordinance, if you so desire, we will make sure that we do a full-scale education campaign regarding this. We would want to make sure that first and foremost, all our officers will be informed that, again, this is just a tool to help us to ensure that our young people are safe and they're in safe spaces. Additionally, any interaction that our officers would have with any member of the youth, as is our policy right now, they have to wear their body-worn cameras. So, we would be able to track information to ensure that this is applied fairly, equitably across the City, and again that those exceptions that are in place would be considered and would be part of this ordinance. So, with that, I will open it up for any questions that you may have of us concerning any of this.

Councilmember Watlington said Chief Patterson, if we could go to slide three, I want to make sure that I understand what the numbers are telling us here. Can you walk me through what is the story that the data is telling here? What is the hypothesis based on that?

Chief Patterson said yes, ma'am. So, the story that it's telling us is that we have youth victimization happening from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in the morning, and when we look at the percentages, one, I think we should note that 91 percent throughout the night and into the early morning are people of color, our black and brown children, which from what we hear is a concern. So, how do we get this number down? How do we work to get it down?

Ms. Watlington said so, I'm sorry, I just want to make sure I'm clear. This dark blue is total victims. This light blue, that says ages 16 to 17, is that victims or offenders?

Chief Patterson said these are victims.

Ms. Watlington said okay.

Chief Patterson said this is all victimization, yes ma'am. So, if I could just break it down for you. So, from 9:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m., we had 431 victims; these are actual victims, of crimes during that time period. From 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., the number shrinks a little bit, but we had 300. Then, from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., 266 victims.

Ms. Watlington said and so from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., 127 of these total victims are ages 16 to 17?

Chief Patterson said yes, ma'am.

Ms. Watlington said and then at 11:00 p.m., that number is 77. So, basically the difference between 122 and 77 is what you're saying you're hoping to reduce victimization?

Chief Patterson said yes, ma'am, and then that percentage as well, trying to get that number down as low as possible to protect our youth.

Ms. Watlington said and just a quick followup, can you then help me understand? The reason I'm asking this question, because I think about the Alternatives to Violence work that we're doing, and so my immediate question, especially as I see ADW and gun here, is how many of those are addressed through that retaliatory violence piece versus through the curfew? I'm still not quite clear on the mechanism that's changing.

Chief Patterson said so, our goal is that we get that number down. The number of victims of crime, as well as offenders of crime that are youth. So, I think for us it's just knowing that when youth are out, the theory is when they are out, then they're being victimized, and some are also causing victimization. So, we would like to reduce both of those. The curfew we believe would help us to do that, because when youth are out then they're getting in trouble, but when they're not out, they're not victimizing.

Ms. Watlington said and then just too, quickly, and I asked this last time, but I'm hoping that maybe we can dig into it a little bit deeper here. Right now, the sun sets somewhere between 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. We know in the wintertime it's going to be somewhere between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. What is the thought process during the wintertime of how this applies? Tell me what your thoughts are?

Chief Patterson said so, we want to be reasonable with the time that we set this curfew, based on what our data shows us. At 9:00 p.m. you have more victims. So, we certainly felt like 8:00 p.m. was unreasonable. We looked at other cities, what they're doing just to benchmark. I believe firmly that if we go with a 9:00 p.m. curfew, that is enough time that if youth start to gather, if they start to congregate, we can dismantle it, we can prevent them from having harmful events, or being engaged in something that where

they victimize, or they can be victimized. I don't know if I'm answering your question fully.

Ms. Watlington said well, for the summertime, sure. In the wintertime, that's four or five hours where youth would still be permitted to be out, but it is also dark, and people are likely inside. So, I'm just curious as to how we're thinking about how this applies during the winter months.

Chief Patterson said sure. I think in the winter months, as you've stated, people tend to be inside more. I think there's more opportunities to have events for our youth, meaningful events, things that they can do so they are not outside, they're not out during that time.

Ms. Watlington said okay, and then just finally, are you suggesting as part of your proposal, a pilot to gather data, or are you suggesting full on implementation at the start?

Chief Patterson said we would like an implementation. I think a pilot is something that could be considered, especially if we want to get substantive data, I think that's an opportunity for us to do that.

Ms. Watlington said thank you.

Mayor Harrington said thank you, Dr. Watlington, and sort of thinking time, that was three to four minutes. If we could try not to be too repetitive, redundant, but also keep our comments somewhere in that range, I think we can have a good discussion of an important issue.

Councilmember Mayo said I've asked that the map be shown for District Three, and I'm sure some of my colleagues may want their district maps shown as well. I think this is really good data. This is something I've been talking about probably, almost 10 years, since I first moved to Nations Ford. I know this is an all city investment, but I just want us to be thoughtful wholistically, particularly when we're talking about young people. We want to equip you with everything that you need in order to decrease victimization for our young people, but how can we also encourage our County counterparts to help do their part. Mr. Manager, are we able to get that up there? We talked about it earlier. Okay, should ya'll come back to me?

Mayor Harrington said okay, we'll come back to you.

Councilmember Ajmera said thank you, Mayor Harrington. You're doing an excellent job keeping track of all the hands that've been raised.

Mayor Harrington said ya'll are helping.

Ms. Ajmera said first, Chief, thank you for your leadership. I understand that you are asking for a tool in the case where there is a teen takeover that could turn violent. I certainly appreciate and respect your leadership. I would like to see if we can do a pilot to gather data, and then based on the data, it will tell us whether this is something that will work in our region or not, because your department and alongside Dr. Stewart's office, gave us studies, and I appreciate that it was objective. It wasn't all pro-curfew, it wasn't all anti-curfew, it was somewhere in the middle. We had some studies that showed mixed results. There were some studies that showed it works. So, for us to really not have an objective study done, I think our data can tell us whether this will work or not. So, my question to you is, would you be willing to do a pilot program and see whether we are able to see improvement in teen takeovers that turn violent?

Chief Patterson said yes, ma'am, and thank you for that. I would be willing to do something like that. I think it is reasonable and it allows us, in real time, to be able to see is something that will be effective here in Charlotte, especially based on what we're seeing. I don't think that we can, as I stated before, just rely on the studies. They're in

different parts of the nation. They are 20, 30 years old. I think we can get real data if we look here in Charlotte and do a pilot.

Ms. Ajmera said I appreciate that. I would like us to explore that alternative, so that we are looking at real data that is local. Also, Dr. Stewart, I appreciate the report that your team put together. I appreciate how Office of Youth Opportunities has touched over 5,000 lives, and I know that we are not going to stop here, we are going to continue to increase our investments. I just want to give kudos to you and your team, because I know this is relatively a new team that was part of our last year's budget. So, I appreciate the work that you do. Myself, alongside Councilmember Watlington and Councilmember Graham, were at a civic engagement event last weekend, and this topic had come up, and I met two youth members who have participated in some of our programs and they had great things to say. So, thank you for all the work that you are doing. That's all I have.

Councilmember Owens said thank you, Chief Patterson, and I appreciate the presentation. I had a conversation over the weekend with a constituent, who may or may not be one of my three children, about the curfew, and his question to me was one I could not answer. He said to me, "Why don't ya'll do what they do when we go on spring break, and they've got rules that are focused on the size of a congregation, they're focused on a gathering, they are focused on enforcing curfew against a mass, and depending on what number perhaps we settle on, so that we're not potentially putting at risk kids who are out on a date, and kids who are coming to and from events?" Can you address that? I haven't had an opportunity to do my own research on whether some of these things that you see, or some of the destinations where people do congregate, where they are effectively able to break up large masses of unaccompanied minors. Can you speak to that?

Chief Patterson said I will try. I'm not sure totally that I'm understanding.

Ms. Owens said the question would be that it would be a curfew that was tailored more against a congregation. I've heard you use the phrase congregation and gathering. It feels like to narrowly tailor this, so that we're not just not enforcing it against kids, the face of this would enforce it against people on a date and a movie goes long. You're saying to me that you would not expect your officers, nor do you have adequate officers, to enforce that as a curfew police. Can we more narrowly tailor the curfew such that it wouldn't apply to two couples who are out on a date versus a group of 10 individuals who are under age, so you're really targeting more the congregation aspect than just the age.

Chief Patterson said sure. So, if I understand you correctly, so we're saying that if you have youth that are gathered in a particular area, the Uptown perhaps, just focused just in that area, is what you're saying?

Ms. Owens said I wasn't specifically speaking of that area, although that's another way of narrowly tailoring it, if you wanted to have it on certain areas of the City that are more frequently occupied. I was speaking more to say, you've got 10 youth together. Your officers are going to ask them what's up and enforce the curfew versus a couple kids on a date, and go see a movie that lasts past 9:00 p.m. I personally couldn't answer the question that was raised of me, as to are we exploring all ways that we could narrowly tailor this, and have it address what we're really trying to get at, which is gatherings?

Chief Patterson said sure, yes. I would say that in the beginning stages of this, we thought about locations where we tend to see the teen takeovers. The problem with that is they're all over, they're everywhere, and if you try to just narrow it to one location, if we put all our resources say in the Uptown area, then we've seen where they would go to the University area, Northlake area, Huntersville, Frankie's, all these various locations where these youth like to hang out. So, we want to be able to have a tool that wherever they go, we're able to go there and start to break that up and make sure that we don't have incidents as a result of it. So, I don't know that narrowing it down to just one particular area would be effective in trying to prevent them in the first place kind of thing.

The other part that you said, looking at congregations or areas, I think I understand you're saying that if we were to just focus on a particular group, are you saying to violate those individuals [inaudible]?

Ms. Owens said so, I'm saying that I've asked our staff to look into, and I would ask you to also have folks look into, what destinations that frequently are able to disperse large gatherings of unaccompanied minors are doing that is not putting at risk folks who are otherwise just doing the things that kids do in couples or in small groups of kids. There is a big difference in my mind between someone going to see a movie or coming back from whatever they're coming back from at night, and they happen to be alone. I would like to not have them have an interaction with the police for no reason, and I appreciate that you've told us that that is highly unlikely to happen, because you just don't have the officers to do it. I'm asking instead, could we look at tailoring this curfew, so that that isn't even an issue, so then unless you're in a group of 10 people, out as a minor, you're not going to have that interaction with a police officer?

Chief Patterson said sure, that is something to consider. Now, I'm understanding what you're asking.

Ms. Owens said my apologies for not articulating it well.

Chief Patterson said I understand what you're saying, and certainly if they're in a group together, they're in a safe space together, then we would not want to enforce it necessarily. That is something that we can consider.

Ms. Owens said thank you.

Ms. Mayo said we're ready, yes. I just really wanted to highlight the map, and actually having the entire Charlotte region is really helpful I think to see gaps, not only in District Three, but in District Six and District Seven and Five. When I think of, when you all mentioned partnering with the YMCA, I know that Steele Creek lost its YMCA maybe like three years ago. So, I mean I don't know who you would necessarily partner with when there's no Y there, and even when you look more closer. Can you tell us more about what you would do with the high schools, because I saw your dots in the high schools. Are you doing programming in the high schools? Just curious what that looks like.

Dr. Stewart said so, with the high schools, it's more of the teacher workdays, but when you speak about the gaps, those are the things that we're looking at. So, that's why it's taking us a little bit of time to put the grant application together, because we want to make sure we're leveraging not only where there is a lack, but that we're leveraging CMPD data. So, we really wanted to be intentional.

Ms. Mayo said no, I really appreciate that. As a former teacher, I love data, always one of my favorite things to look at, teaching math. I just want to encourage all of our various partners, particularly the County. They know I get on them quite a bit, but I see some gaps, and I hope that our residents will have some conversations with their County Commissioners about investment. I'm just going to be very frank with that, because it's not something you all can do by yourselves. That investment needs to occur everywhere so that our young people have things to do and not getting in mischief. So, just want to put that out there. Excited to see the work that ya'll were doing. I think that ya'll were doing work and very appreciate of it. I guess my only concern is when we talk about giving passes to young people, there's nowhere for young people to go in some of these districts for those passes, and that's why we really have to get to the root of the issue, which are the gaps.

Dr, Stewart said so, I just want to say, so that's difference with the partnerships. We're not looking at just handing out passes. We're looking at being intentional. When we met with the Y, we looked at their map to see where they had locations. We bounced that off Chief, to talk about different things that were happening in those communities. So, just

know that we are being more intentional. We're not just passing out passes, and we definitely want to make sure that we're addressing the need.

Ms. Mayo said thank you.

Dr. Stewart said you're welcome.

Chief Patterson said and if can just add to that, we've had a number of nonprofits. We've had business community members coming to us saying, "We want to be a part of the solution, finding those third spaces for our youth." So, I think all the conversation we've been having about this has really garnered some good responses.

Ms. Mayo said very excited. I know Ricky Singh was supposed to talk today. Unfortunately, he was not here, but he had some great maps to show as well, and excited for him to share those, so that we can see the solutions that you all are working with with your various partners. So, I'll stop talking.

Councilmember Mayfield said Chief and team, thank you for the information. I have a number of questions. One, I'm going to encourage a pilot where we actually talk to our youth versus adults coming up with what you think is the option. Last week, I had the opportunity to attend an event at Sparkhouse, where they basically had a teen takeover, and one of our CMPD law enforcement officers was there where youth came up with basically a mini shark tank where they came up with different opportunities. I have concerns with the possibility of this, because what I cannot discount is that it was one of our youth officers who is an adult, that while on school property, interacting with the youth, slammed a child on the ground. It has been our officers that we have had multiple conversations with over years, with interactions with adults that has resulted in a number of lawsuits. So, I'm definitely concerned about how you interact with children. Without hearing a number, I personally don't think that number is 10. If we're seeing hundreds of children are gathering together, out of those hundreds of kids, we have 12 to 15 that unfortunately cause a challenge, what is that number? Is it 25 young people together, is it 50 young people together, that's going to trigger someone to interact? I'm concerned as far as these exceptions. So, what are we saying, they have to walk around with a pass? That gives me quite a bit of concern. I think about, unfortunately since both of my parents had passed when I was young, I was working at a young age, so 9:00 p.m. wouldn't have worked for me to get home. So, what type of information are we asking them to provide moving forward with a 9:00 p.m. time versus actually working with Sparkhouse, working with some of our other groups that already have successful programs, where they're engaging with three to five hundred youth first is concerning, not having the youth at the table to help identify. I learned evidently young people like pickleball. I thought that was for old people, but evidently that is a thing that young people like as well, and there's a whole group that's out there. I agree that we need to be working with the County with Park and Rec with access. You mentioned some of the locations where young people have gathered, if they gathered at Frankie's. When was the last conversation at all if we had with Frankie's, as far as those passes being available? It was mentioned that we passed out 200 passes here, 250 passes there. We said we have 300 to 500 youth that's gathering. So, exactly who are those passes going to, and are the passes going to the same youth? Because if they're going to the youth, that's through GenerationNation or through our current program, that's not the youth that's out in the community. So, what is the real connection and interaction? I am really hoping that versus saying that 9:00 p.m. is the number, that we really look at expanding the programs that are led by teens, for teens, and we already have the partnerships that are doing that work, and that goes beyond the YMCA. Because as was mentioned, unfortunately they have closed a number of their offices, but also that's a targeted group of young people that go into the YMCA. There are other groups out there that are doing amazing work on the ground. There's a two-week program that happens at Johnson C. Smith every year that directly invites young men into the space. Young people should be the ones that's leading this versus adults thinking what we need young people to have access to. A 9:00 p.m. time period to punish the majority for the incidences, which are real, and the loss of life is very real, I don't think more enforcement and trusting cameras, when we have had to have arrests of own law enforcement, is the answer. I

think it's more communication with the community that's being impacted to say what they would support and what they would like to see. Thank you.

Chief Patterson said Mayor, I was wondering if I could just say one thing to the Council member. I agree wholeheartedly with you that we should not be making these decisions alone, that we include our youth. I will share with you that earlier this year in March 2026, after the incidents in Birkdale, members of our team, our Community Services Bureau, met with teens under the Safe Summer Charlotte Initiative, where we heard from youth what they wanted to get some ideas from them, and they had about 15 meetings, the last one being in May 2026. So, we are trying to seek the voices of the young people. I was very impressed with the young lady who spoke tonight. I believe that that is a critical component. We do need to hear from our young people. So, that would be part of what we would do with this ordinance as well.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you.

Councilmember Mazuera Arias said thank you, Chief. Thank you, staff. Really appreciate the effort and always the broader goal at hand, which is to keep our residents safe and to keep our youth safe. Chief, I appreciate our candid conversations, although different perspectives, but that is what this is all about, to make sure we come to a comprehensive solution that works for everyone. I had a few questions, and I looked at the memo before the Council meeting tonight. I noted data indicating that across the different times, 9:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m., there is little to no net change in overall criminal activity involving 16- and 17-year-olds. If anything, trending slightly lower as the night progresses. How would you expect the 9:00 p.m. curfew to change that data? We saw 30 percent for 9:00 p.m., 30 percent for 10:00 p.m., and 29 percent for 11:00 p.m. What do you expect would change with the curfew?

Chief Patterson said yes. I think as we educate people more, as we talk about it, we will see that number go down to below what it is now. Twenty-nine percent is still, I feel, significant, because if it's my child and they're part of that 29 percent, I would not want them victimized. So, our hope is the more we educate, the more we're out, the more officers are talking to people about this curfew, that that number would go down. victimization would be reduced.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said thank you. So, when I was looking at the memos, looking at the studies, and I did just a quick Chat GPT AI, and those were the same studies reiterated to me through Chat GPT. I would love to see if there's any more comprehensive studies out there, and particularly not just positive and mixed, but also the negative studies. I want to get a whole picture. I'm a data-driven person. I want to see what works, and I understand your concern. This is specific. I agree with my colleagues that perhaps we look at local data and see what works and what doesn't work, but I really would like to see more studies that are available out there, rather than those that are popular with other cities. On that topic, while studies suggest that curfews often lead to an increase in arrests, overall crime rates largely have remained static throughout. So, if overall crime doesn't drop, but juvenile arrests go up, do we think this is going to be an effective or proactive public safety strategy? I think when you're measuring success, let's say, if a pilot program does happen or the curfew is voted upon this Council, what do you think is the indicator of success there, arrests or a drop down in crime?

Chief Patterson said success for us looks two ways. One, a reduction of victimization, less juveniles being victimized, and yes, less crime period, that are juveniles are creating or anybody across the City. I think I've spoken repeatedly that we want to make Charlotte one of the safest, largest cities. We want to reduce crime, whatever that looks like that's getting the crime numbers down. So, I think it's two-fold, victimization and crime.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said thank you. Two more, sorry Mayor, I know you said two to three minutes.

Mayor Harrington said you're close.

pti:pk

Mr. Mazuera Arias said got it, and thank you. With the current proposal creating uniform rules, and the statutes our current ordinance is when it comes to the exception groups, there is still age tier interpretations there. So, I think we might have to revise that, if this Council so decides to do this curfew, because right now one of them was like the errands, running errands. There's a certain curfew for 13-year-olds for running errands, and then there's a certain curfew for 17 and under. So, I just want to make sure that we're consistent. If it's a blanket curfew for 17 and under completely, that it also would apply to those exceptions as well.

Chief Patterson said sure.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said then, my last question would be, how much conversation has been had with Center City Partners as we've seen they've taken an approach when it comes to food trucks, which I certainly disagree with, but given that a lot of this activity is happening in their footprint, according to the memo that we just read, not to say that it's not immune to just that area? I would like to see what prevents business districts or private/public partnerships from sharing that load or enforcing localized safety in that way?

Chief Patterson said I think we have that interest there already. I haven't spoken to Center City Partners specifically about it, but we've had conversations with other partners, like Bank of America, Fifth Third Bank, who have asked me specifically, how can they help and what kind of youth programs can they provide or support towards. So, I think we have it in the private sector.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said gotcha. Thank you, Chief. The last thing is, I mean I have my 18-year-old sister who wanted me to ask the question, but if she gets stopped by an officer, how are they going to believe that she was at work? She works on volleyball courts at 9:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., 9:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m.? Kids are getting misjudged for being part of these teen takeovers. How is CMPD going to promise that they're not misjudged for being on the road after work?

Chief Patterson said so, I think we approach it the same way we do with any other interaction we have with the public. We can do a voluntary contact, where we go up to the person, talk to them, and then just try to determine/ascertain what their age is, and also to call their parents, whatever the case may be. If we cannot determine the person's age, then we can't violate them. We cannot say that they're in violation of the youth ordinance. We do our best to try to determine that information, and quite naturally, if a youth is telling us they just got off work and we look in the car, or we see that they have an apron, maybe coming from work, and they say, "I'm going home," our officers are very reasonable. We have that discretion to be able to say, okay this person is doing something meaningful, they're not out getting in trouble and that they're headed home. Again, I don't think I can say it enough that we are not going after youth who are doing the right thing. We are trying to reduce victimization. We are trying to reduce crime across the board. So, we will take every measure we can do to do that, and educating our team I think is really important to make sure that that happens.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said thank you, Chief. Last thing, Manager, I saw that map of youth opportunities. We have a big gap in District Five, so we should talk about that. Thank you.

Mayor Harrington said obviously, if there are additional questions, Chief, I assume you would take questions that are made offline in writing or not.

Councilmember Johnson said thank you. Mr. Jones, or Councilmember Mayo, I'd like to get a hard copy of that map, that would be great, thank you. Chief, thank you for your presentation, and thank you for the intent to reduce violence and stop the teen takeovers. Since we've been talking about this, has there been any reduction in the teen takeovers?

Chief Patterson said yes, ma'am. We have had a reported 40 teen takeovers, and three of them we were able to prevent, to get ahead of, and so we are starting to see where that number is going down. I think the word is getting out. I think parents are hearing what we are talking about, and they're encouraging their young people not to be in those places, or they're making sure that they're not part of teen takeovers.

Ms. Johnson said okay. So, there has been a reduction, and the point of this curfew is to reduce those teen takeovers, right?

Chief Patterson said yes, ma'am. There's been a reduction since we have been talking about it.

Ms. Johnson said okay, great, thank you. Is curfew violation probable cause for a traffic stop?

Ms. Battle said thank you, Councilmember Johnson. So, in order for an officer to conduct a traffic stop, they would have to have reasonable suspicion. That means reasonable, articulable, and specific facts along with the inferences from those facts that a crime has or is about to be committed. So, in order to determine whether or not there are facts that the curfew is about to be violated, the officers for example would have to see a juvenile out and try to make a visible assessment of their age. For an example, if the age is changed to 17, if they appear to be a minor, that would be reasonable suspicion for an officer to pull that car over.

Ms. Johnson said okay, thank you. Kind of off topic, and is the smell of marijuana still probable cause, even if it's legal CBD, it's still probable cause to search the car?

Ms. Battle said yes, the sight and the odor of marijuana is still probable cause to search, and there was a new case law. Forgive me for not recalling that name right now, but there was a case as recently as last winter that the North Carolina Court of Appeals affirmed that sight or odor of marijuana is probable cause to search, even with the existence of legal CBD and hemp products.

Ms. Johnson said okay, alright. Next, I would agree with a pilot. I'd like to see us taking more action. I spoke to someone today. Thank you, Dr. Stewart, for the work you're doing. I spoke to a community partner who's going to, I think, be running the School's Out Charlotte program, and so I think we need more programs like that. I'd like to see this going to the Intergovernmental Committee so we can bring County partners, CMS partners to the table, perhaps putting a date of birth on the children's ID, and then we can look at more graduated curfew if we needed to. Another thing, a youth summit. Councilmember Brown, we know that she had a great youth summit. I think this would be a great time for us to bring youth together, and maybe Dr. Stewart's department manage something like that.

Dr. Stewart said already in the works.

Ms. Johnson said okay, good.

Chief Patterson said already in the works.

Ms. Johnson said good, yes. We need that right now, thank you. There was a youth that spoke today, she'd be great as well. Yes, I'd like to see a pilot program before we implement the curfew. Let's look at more partnership grants, Intergovernmental Committee, more opportunities for third spaces, a youth summit, and bringing youth on board perhaps to volunteer to look at social media, because we don't want this to impact the students who are trying to work and date and do normal teenage stuff. I think that they would be on board in helping us. So, they could get involved through that youth summit, through volunteering, and reporting where these teen takeovers are being held. We could have a tip hotline or tip website, or something like that. I think this is the time to engage the youth and really help us. We have heard that just talking about this and addressing this, the teen takeovers are already reduced. So, I think more

outreach and engagement with the community is our solution through a pilot program, and then let's revisit after there's been some reestablished baseline data, before the pilot, and perhaps report back after six months on juvenile violent incidents, arrests, teen takeover events, repeat offenses, and just overall activity. Thank you, that's all I have.

Councilmember Graham said thank you, Mr. Mayor. I didn't have a 9:00 p.m. curfew, I had the streetlights. So, I would be on the tennis court, and I'd be riding that bike as fast as I can to get home, because I knew if I didn't make it there was accountability at the end of that ride. So, I want to thank you for your leadership and bringing this forward. This is a part of a crime reduction strategy, big picture, going back Councilmember Watlington, when you and I met about two years ago in my basement when there was a shooting on New Years Eve. We've been looking at a wide variety of ordinances to update, to enhance, to ensure that we are doing everything possible to curb crime, and this is yet just another example. For the record, there's already a youth ordinance, I think we should say that. This is nothing new, we're just amending it to reflect current environment of what's happening on the ground.

I agree with my colleagues that it should be a pilot program, narrowly tailored, youth led. Secondly, there are a wide variety of organizations in the community. I see Shawn Kennedy up there, does a great job bringing 300 kids together. KMarie is doing this Charlotte Soul Fest September 5, 2026, family oriented for youth, mothers, fathers, grandmas, grandfathers, all coming together, a safe environment, great activity. I'm doing a tennis camp for 80 kids, September 12, 2026. So, there's a lot of people in this community that would love to work with you, Dr. Stewart, to ensure that there's balance between the ordinance, narrowly tailored, youth led, pilot program, which is again pilot. Your work is ongoing, and it can't be done when there's an issue on the table. It has to be done when no one's looking, in terms of being very intentional about working with our youth.

We solved the problem about proximity. We have a school in every district in the City, in the County, middle schools, high schools. On weekends when football season is over, the gyms are empty, the fields are empty, the track is empty year-round. There has to be a way for us to rally around this community getting the resources necessary to do proper program throughout the year for our kids. So, we can't do it when there's a shooting or a stabbing. We can't do it when there's a teen takeover. We've got to do it because it's the right thing to do. So, I just encourage us to move forward parallel with working with Dr. Stewart to ensure that we're doing everything that we can to include others, churches, nonprofits, the school, Mecklenburg County because they have Park and Rec, they have Rec Centers, but more importantly, boy there's schools throughout the County, high school, middle school, that on weekends are empty. Thank you.

Councilmember Driggs said Chief, takeovers are a problem. We asked you to do something about it. You're proposing this. I think our strong inclination should be to back you up. You're the expert in these matters. We are making you responsible for success. So, I certainly want to see us proceed with a curfew. I will say that some of this comes down to how you imagine it's going to work, and I believe that some people are painting a criminalize, and they're painting a really difficult picture. In practice, what I imagine happens here is that young people kind of go about their business, they probably fall under some of these exceptions. They're not going to be accosted and stopped on the street, because they will be kind of presumed to be out legitimately. You can't judge a person's age just by looking at them, and so not only do you not have the resources, I just don't think it's your intent to go around and challenge every individual, and I'm willing personally to trust that. So, that means that on the other hand, when you see something that your officers recognize as being something dangerous that could be taking shape and they want to go up and do something about it, they can't just walk up to those kids and say, guys, please go home, and the kids just stick their tongue out. So, I envision this as a way of the officers, if necessary, requiring somebody who isn't cooperative, [inaudible] the ordinance to go home or to leave. So, that's kind of a question of how you expect it will work.

I have thought also about the pilot idea, and I agree that something like needs to happen. My only issue about a pilot, as you think about this, is how long? So, if you realize that over the span of a year, there's a cycle. There are different conditions in the different seasons. So, do you do a pilot for a year, that sounds like a long time, or do you do a pilot for six months? Not sure. So, one possibility I thought of is, we go ahead, we implement this curfew, and then we just get ongoing reports, we listen for complaints or for feedback from the community. At any time, we can change it. This Council has the authority at any time if we don't like the way it's going to just change it. So, it may not be that the pilot working. I'm not at all opposed to it. I'm just saying in practice I wonder if we should just start down this road and sort of see how we go. I do think that we can get the kind of information that was suggested from you. We can hear about how many instances there have been, or how many of these takeovers were averted. Is it working? The problem with data is, this is not very scientific. I think the data from another community with a different mix and different circumstances and at a different time before takeovers became vogue, is not going to be a good guidepost for us. The best guidepost for us is what happens as we start here, and if there's a backlash immediately and we get a whole lot of reports of kids saying, oh my God, I was in handcuffs because I'm 16, I'm sure that would cause a lot of us to think again.

So, please keep working on this. I look forward to how you process what you heard tonight. I just want you to know that I do support what you're doing and the idea of a curfew. Thank you.

Chief Patterson said thank you, Councilmember Driggs.

Mayor Harrington said Chief Patterson, do you have any other comments? Then I don't want to invite any other discussion, because I think everyone who has asked to be heard has been heard. I want to make sure there's no other business from Council, but Chief, do you have any other comments?

Chief Patterson said yes, I will just close by saying that I've listened to everything that Council members have stated. Thank you so much for your input. At this time, if it's agreeable to you, we'd like to explore specific provisions of a pilot, and also talk about the partnerships that would become as a result of it. So, if that is okay with the Council to proceed in that manner, we would like to do that.

Mayor Harrington said anything from Council? Okay.

Chief Patterson said thank you.

Ms. Mayfield said clarifying question. When you want to move forward with the pilot, is that moving forward with this 9:00 p.m. time, or we're saying separate we're moving forward with the pilot first, to start that conversation, or are you interpreting the yes from this Council as changing the current 11:00 p.m. curfew time down to 9:00 p.m.?

Chief Patterson said yes, I'm interpreting that we move forward with a 9:00 p.m., so that we can gather data on a 9:00 p.m. curfew.

Ms. Mayfield said then I am a no. I am fine with us moving with a pilot. I am not supporting under any circumstance us moving that time down to 9:00 p.m. as we're going back into the school time, because a lot of what we have seen has happened over the summer, not during the school period. So, to even move forward with it, it is concerning.

Mayor Harrington said so, we do not have an action item tonight. As I understand it, Chief, you will make the suggestions that you've made just now? You'll make those proposed changes. It will come back to us for an action item. At that point, they'll presumably be a vote on a motion. So, I think we are finished, and Chief, is there anything new?

Ms. Johnson said I don't think she's alone in her interpretation.

pti:pk

Mayor Harrington said but I think we've got a time for a motion on that and a time for an action item there.

Ms. Mayfield said but, Mayor, we're not talking about a motion. What the Chief just asked for is a nod from this Council for her to continue down this path that she started on. What I am sharing is the concern that I have is the path that she has chosen is a dual path of first adding the 9:00 p.m. and looking at a pilot. We've heard multiple variations of that conversation. So, in order to be clear, since it is the Manager's responsibility to implement Council's objective through staff, I am not saying that I am signing off on this staff member to institute a 9:00 p.m. time. That is what I just asked for the clarification of, if your interpretation is to move forward with both 9:00 p.m. and a pilot.

Mayor Harrington said there is no action from this Council tonight, based on what's before us now. There presumably will be something further that's presented to us. Perhaps at that point, there'll be a motion and then there'll be a discussion of that if there's a second. So, I think for tonight, what we've had is an information session, and I presume the Chief will come back to us and propose some type of motion that we'll take up at that point, and we'll have a full discussion of the merits of that item.

Chief Patterson said yes, sir.

Mayor Harrington said okay. With that, thank you, Chief. We appreciate your presentation.

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ITEM NO. 7: CHARLOTTE STREETS MAP AND CHARLOTTE STREETS MANUAL AMENDMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, and seconded by Councilmember Driggs to (A) Adopt a resolution approving amendments to the Charlotte Streets Map, and (B) Adopt a resolution approving amendments to the Charlotte Streets Manual.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Mazuera Arias, Driggs, Graham, Johnson, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmember Mayfield

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 643-650.

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ITEM NO. 8: PARKING ON SIDEWALK ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Graham, and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to adopt Ordinance 1185 approving an amendment to Chapter 14, Article IV, Section 14-130 of the City Code as recommended by the Budget, Governance, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

Councilmember Mayfield said I have a question for staff. I want to get clarification on this sidewalk as far as where does the policy language land when it comes to these scooters and these other forms of transportation that are currently blocking sidewalks, and if there is a bike lane you're starting to see them show up in the bike lanes as well.

So, exactly how does this no parking on sidewalks help an area and in community where sidewalks are now seeing other forms of mobile transportation?

Lisa Flowers, Assistant City Attorney said thank you, Councilmember Mayfield. Lisa Flowers with the City Attorney's Office. So, scooters and e-bikes and regular bicycles are allowed to park on the sidewalks. There are permit requirements for our e-bike and e-scooter providers that require them to educate riders of where to park. They're supposed to leave a four-foot space for pedestrians. If they get a complaint, they're supposed to remove that scooter or move it within an hour. We also have provisions that allow the Director of Transportation, Debbie, to revoke a permit if we get lots of complaints or reduce the number of bikes and e-bikes, e-scooters that they can have in the right of way. So, the scooters and bikes can park and can ride on the sidewalks. This just addresses the driveways and impeding the sidewalk at driveways, where vehicles cannot block the sidewalk.

Ms. Mayfield said so, we're really looking at mainly residential areas, and I had mentioned previously that we are building smaller units and also shorter driveways, but we're also allowing development happening on much more narrow streets. So, there's no on-street parking, the driveway itself is a short driveway, so part of the vehicle may be blocking the sidewalk. So, I'm thinking of the individual that's in the motorized wheelchair, and when they're trying to get exercise, go out through their own community, how that's actually going to be enforced with the number of neighborhoods that we have, and the number of neighborhoods that we keep improving, how effective this is going to be when our policy language has created shorter driveways and vehicles are blocking the driveway. I just want to understand how enforcement would look on that.

Ms. Flowers said we did look into driveway lengths. So, we have a minimum in the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) for driveways. They have to be a minimum of 10-feet-wide and 20-feet long, and that was done specifically to avoid the issue of vehicles impeding sidewalks. Cars of course have gotten larger, but it still will cover a full-sized vehicle. Smaller vehicles you may be able to fit two. Most two-car garages are going to be at least 20-feet-wide and the driveway's going to also be that wide, so that provides more, but the bottom line is that it's an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) violation to block the sidewalk. The issue with the scooters and things like that, it would be a separate type ordinance that we can certainly look at making it an ordinance instead of in our permits, but right now our ordinance provides an exception for bikes and e-scooters and e-bikes.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you.

Councilmember Johnson said thank you for that information. If it's an ADA violation, does the exception in the ordinance excuse the violation?

Ms. Flowers said no, no. Again, our permit requirements are that they should be educating their riders. We can look at what they're providing on their app to make sure that they're doing that. They also are to provide 24/7 support, so anybody, rider, nonrider, the City can contact them when they see something that's not right, either parking or somebody speeding, driving recklessly, that sort of thing, they can report that.

Ms. Johnson said who is them, report to whom?

Ms. Flowers said well, they can call 311, but they can also call, there's provisions on the app, I forget who it is, Debbie's here, who we have, for instance Lime. They should have something on their website that provides a number for a rider or nonrider to report, and then in the app they also have those provisions where you can report a problem.

Ms. Johnson said are you talking about scooters?

Ms. Flowers said scooters and e-bikes.

Ms. Johnson said oh, e-bikes, no, okay. So, no, my concern, you talked about residential driveways needing to be 20 feet, the same information from Sarah Hazel, the full-sized car is 16 to 18 feet. So, if the garage is closed, or they don't have a garage, only one full-sized car can fit in that driveway.

Ms. Flowers said that's correct.

Ms. Johnson said so, we just can't have it both ways. We just don't get to have it both ways where we're building so much density, shorter driveways, no parking on the street, density, and then not allow residents to be able to park in their driveway without a code violation. So, I won't be supporting this for that reason. This is a very expensive city. Sometimes more than one person or one family live in a home, and they have cars. So, I think we should be more focused on scooters on the sidewalk. My husband almost got hit by someone riding a scooter on the sidewalk. So, I think that's a priority and I get the whole ADA violation. I don't know what the solution is, but I won't support fining individuals who are parking in their driveway when we know our ordinance only allows for a minimum, or is it maximum? Is this maximum?

Ms. Flowers said there's a minimum.

Ms. Johnson said minimum, and some developers are only building minimum standards, one car in the driveway. So, that's my comment. Thank you.

Mayor Harrington said I would ask you to clarify one thing. You referenced the ADA in there, and just how does the Americans with Disabilities Act fit into this discussion, because I don't know if that was clear?

Ms. Flowers said right. So, sidewalks are one of our program services and activities that we provide. If we provide a sidewalk, we should be making sure that those sidewalks are not obstructed, and the current ordinance gave an exception for parking in driveways. So, we had a disconnect between the two, between 14-130 and 14-216, as 14-216 deals with illegal parking, 14-130 is more about operation, but it also says parking. So, vehicles could not drive on the sidewalks or park on the sidewalks under 14-130 unless they were in a driveway, which made it difficult for CMPD to enforce.

Councilmember Ajmera said thank you for that clarification in terms of why this ordinance needs to be amended, because I have received some complaints from residents where either they are pushing a wheelchair or are on a wheelchair, or trying to push a stroller, but they don't have access to safe sidewalks, even though sidewalks are built, but they are obstructed by a vehicle. So, this helps us address those concerns, especially those with special needs, and families like mine who are trying to make sure that we are using the infrastructure that is there without having to get outside where there might be moving traffic. So, I'll be supporting this.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Mazuera Arias, Driggs, Graham, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmembers Johnson and Mayfield

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 70, at Page(s) 209-210.

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BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 9: YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute a revenue interlocal agreement with Mecklenburg County through which the City will receive funding to support youth diversion programming.

Councilmember Ajmera said yes, this is a no-brainer, the Youth Diversion Program. I mean, we talked about the opportunities for our youth. What I wanted to highlight with the Youth Diversion Program, this program has served more than 5,000 young people, and more than 90 percent have stayed out of trouble in the following year. I mean this is great, and this tells me that prevention can work. So, I will be supporting this, and I appreciate the work that's gone into this.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 651-658.

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APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Harrington explained the rules and procedures of the appointment process.

ITEM NO. 10: APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The following nominees were considered for two appointments for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2028:

- Terry Carmichael, nominated by Councilmembers Mayfield and Owens
- Zachary Claywell, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Johnson, Mayo, Mazuera Arias, and Watlington
- LeShanda Davis, nominated by Councilmembers Driggs, Graham, Johnson and Mayo
- Malen Destinasse, nominated by Councilmember Graham
- Alexis Hilling, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Driggs, Mayfield, Mazuera Arias, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington
- Cedric McCorkle, nominated by Councilmember Mitchell

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, and seconded by Councilmember Watlington, to appoint Zachary Claywell and Alexis Hilling by acclamation.

Councilmember Watlington said yes. I just wanted to bring up, congratulations to Dr. Hilling for her pending appointment. I do want us to look at what it takes for City staff to be on boards and commissions. Certainly, there are residents who wanted to participate. I would not want to discourage any staff member from simply attending these meetings at any time. So, Mr. Manager, I would love to kind of just talk about what we can do to make sure that we're encouraging and enabling that, certainly understanding that we want to create equal access with everyone in the community, but I love to see staff wanting to be a part of these boards. I think there's a way that maybe we can beef it up and enhance how that works. So, thank you.

Councilmember Johnson said I agree, and I sent an email in writing, is that appropriate? I think we should have a policy on City staff on boards and commissions also. I think that there is opportunity for influence and impact, so that's just my thought. It's nothing against Alexis. I think she does a phenomenal job, but the fact that she is an executive level employee, I think there could be some concern from the public. So, I'd like to see a policy on that as well. Thank you.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Anderson, Mazuera Arias, Driggs, Graham, Mayfield, Mayo, Mitchell, Owens, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmember Johnson

Mr. Claywell and Ms. Hilling were appointed.

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ITEM NO. 11: MAYOR AND COUNCIL TOPICS

Mayor Harrington said in order to ensure that all Council has the opportunity to speak, we will go around the dais once, one by one. I ask that each Council member try to keep their comments and/or questions to three minutes. I would also note that we have a closed session scheduled for tonight, so it may be all the more important that we try to keep our comments to three minutes. Staff will respond to questions or topics with a written report to Council prior to the next Business Meeting. If that report is sufficient to address the question or issue, that would ensure that our meeting time and agenda items are focused on upcoming decisions, rather than just report outs. This will help ensure effective meetings and discussions. Should a Council member feel that an action is needed, or further discussion is required with the entire Council, the Council member would then make a request to add the item to a future strategy session agenda. I will ask if there is any objection. If there are no objections, staff would schedule the item for the future meeting. This approach will create a framework to help keep meetings running smoothly. As a reminder, rule 4D of the Mayor and Council's Rules and Procedures provides for adding items to Council meetings and not committee meetings.

Councilmember Mitchell said I just have two quick ones. One is a thank you to C-DOT (Charlotte Department of Transportation), and to the City Manager. We just had a very successful ribbon cutting with our Digital Kiosk Pilot Program. We started off in District Two with Councilmember Graham, and would like to thank staff for working so hard making sure we put them in a right of way. We're going to roll out a total of 30, and they'll be in six Corridors of Opportunity as well as our MSD (Municipal Services District). So, kudos to you, City Manager, and to C-DOT.

Secondly, my next townhall meeting will be Saturday, September 26, 2026. The title of it will be Forward Together, as we're talking about how we're going to empower our SBE (Small Business Enterprise) businesses in the City of Charlotte, and let know we're still behind them, and we're going to make sure they can still be successful in our community. It starts at 11:00 a.m.,11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Of course, it's my favorite, lunch and networking, and we should wrap up around 2:30 p.m. here at the Government Center on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

Councilmember Owens said I have two comments. One, a comment of gratitude, and second, a somber recognition. First the gratitude. I want to lift up the City staff and community partners and first responders, all of whom have worked tirelessly and quickly to support cleanup efforts after the storms from this past weekend. We had multiple trees down in District Six, and I'm sure that was the story across our districts. We had no fewer than 23,000 outages of power recorded in Mecklenburg County. We had 88 requests for trees impacting roads over the weekend. James [inaudible], Ricky Gaither, Michael Cruz, and Director Rodney Jamison are all to be commended. This is work that will be ongoing over the next several weeks to clean up the trees. I'm particularly appreciative, there were many, many diversions of routes coming from Uptown, and I heard from a lot of my constituents who were concerned, but very grateful to have immediate storm cleanup efforts.

I'll pivot then to a somber recognition. I'd like to lift up the fact that Dr. Gina Navarrete was unfortunately a victim of a fall in Chile last week and lost her life. Gina Navarrete

ran for District Six back in 2019, and I lift her up in large part, because I think any of us who serve the community deserve recognition, but particularly folks who serve so tirelessly, and really advocate for so much of what makes Charlotte, Charlotte. Dr. Navarrette was an advocate for racial justice, for women's rights, advocated consistently for the underdog; during COVID, was a real force of nature and a presence out in the community, letting people understand our mask mandate and helping hand out masks. More than just running for the City, she showed up for people and was part of a small group of folks who did the first women's march here in Charlotte. I reached out to several of her friends. I had the opportunity to just see her speak on occasions, and then also I had the great foresight to have voted for her myself. I mention her because I think that those of us who do serve in these capacities, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and particularly in my district where there was a change of leadership. She was one of those first people who made it feel possible that particularly a Latina could run in Charlotte, and I believe she may have made a path for Councilmember Mazuera Arias who we enjoy so much up here. Her friend wrote to me that Gina was an inspiration in the activist community. She loved and cared for her friends and pushed for a better world. All are struggling to process the sudden heartbreaking loss and to accept a world without her in it. We hold her son, Alex, especially close in our hearts. Gina's husband died a year ago, and now with Gina's passing, Alex is alone, and I just would suggest that this community continue to love and support him, and I do just wish to just have a quick moment in silence in recognition of the contributions of Dr. Gina Navarrette.

Councilmember Graham said I'd like to take this opportunity to give a shout out and make an announcement. The shout out is to Steve Bagwell and the men and women of the Charlotte Regional Business Authority for doing an outstanding job last week in hosting the 41st Annual Stellar Awards. The community really came out, and shelled out over 14,000 tickets that were sold, which was a sellout for the event. I want to thank the host committee who did a tremendous job. Each had very difficult tasks to do, as it relates to performance and talent and working with churches, getting folks there. Certainly, want to thank all the local sponsors, Mecklenburg County and others, who kind of invested in the show. A lot of people are asking, "How can I see it?" Well, it will air August 30, 2026, at 8:00 p.m. on WBTV. They'll be doing a one-hour preview show on the red carpet. I think, Mr. Mayor, you may have walked that carpet.

Mayor Harrington said pretty quick.

Mr. Graham said pretty quick, yes. Mine was quick too. So, they'll do a preshow at 8:00 p.m., and then 9:00 p.m. will be the performance, as well as it's airing nationally on BET the same night, Sunday, August 30, 2026 at 10:00 p.m. So, if you didn't get a chance to go to it, you can watch it from the comfort of your living room on August 30, 2026, on WBTV as well as BET networks.

Pivoting to that, I also will be hosting a townhall meeting to kind of talk about the economic impact of travel, tourism, sports and entertainment, Tuesday, September 22, 2026. It's called Destination Charlotte, and we'll talk all things, like I said earlier, travel, tourism, sports and entertainment. A lot of great interest from our partners in the community, CRVA (Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority) for sure, Panthers, Hornets, the Atrium, the Politics of Medical Tourism, with The Pearl, all these doctors coming for visits and training, all add to Charlotte's economy as it relates to travel and tourism. So, if you're available, Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Bojangles Complex.

Councilmember Driggs said I just want to point out that South Charlotte Partners will be hosting the South Charlotte Transportation Summit again this year. This is quite a significant event. It's attended by 150 to 200 elected officials, government and business leaders, and members of the public. It goes far beyond just South Charlotte. It's an interesting event to take stock of what's going on, and what the views are of the business community on transportation. That will take place starting at 7:30 p.m. on September 29, 2026, at the Piper Glen Country Club in my district. Thank you.

Councilmember Mayfield said Manager, I have a question. I believe a number of us have received emails regarding Center City Partners' new food vendor, street vendor language. What I want to know is basically who gave them that authority without conversation coming through Council? I want to understand if that was part of the MSD, and if so, does that mean that all of our communities that have an MSD, whether that's University or SouthPark, if they also have the same authority to identify a cutoff time? Because community members are reaching out to us. I didn't necessarily have a response to it, because I read about it in the news as well. So, I would like to know what, if any, language we have signed off on that gives that authority, and if not, what should that process have looked like?

Also, want to just check in on referrals. I had asked for a referral to our Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee to add in the conversation around co-living spaces, based on a number of emails we've received from residents. That's not something new in the community. It's actually been happening for 20-plus years, but it is starting to have a different challenge as more corporate entities are moving into that space, as well as I think it will be helpful to, in Housing and Neighborhood Services, along with Transportation, to continue the sidewalk discussion. Meaning, if we're shortening the driveways, and we know that we have co-living spaces where we can have multiple vehicles at this one property, what is our policy language in our UDO saying to keep up with the growth that we're supporting and we're encouraging, and how that grow is impacting new neighborhoods as well as current neighborhoods.

Last, this is for all of our Charlotte Crown winners, congratulations to our UPSHOT league, our very own Charlotte Crown won out of the league of four teams. It was your Charlotte Crown that had its first member to actually be tapped for the WNBA going to Indiana, Michelle, but your Charlotte Crown will be playing in the championship on Saturday in Jacksonville. So, what does that mean for those of us at home, Bojangles, thank you Steve, thank you, Shawn. They are going to be hosting a watch night party here at the Connector. So, they're going to be sending out promotions starting tomorrow, but wanted to make sure that everyone knows, come out, support your women's basketball team. They have a wonderful record. Already again, we made it to the championship. The game is Saturday night at 7:00 p.m., and there will be a watch night party that will be open to the community for you to come out and support your hometown team.

Mayor Harrington said go Crown, and glad we were able to get that connection work with Bojangles.

Councilmember Mazuera Arias said I just want to take two to three minutes for quick District Five updates, and a broader thought. So, we recently celebrated five completed, and soon to be completed, fully funded, strategic investment area projects in the Far East, delivering long overdue infrastructure, pedestrian connectivity, and safety improvements. So, thanks to this Council and the previous Council, and my predecessor for really funding these needed investments in the Far East of Charlotte. We also celebrated Project 658's new community dental clinic in East Charlotte, expanding access to care for immigrant, refugee, uninsured, and underserved families. I'm incredibly proud that District Five went the entire month of July 2026 without a single traffic fatality, which I think that's huge progress, and we're going to keep working toward safer street with collaboration of my colleagues here, and there's plenty more coming. Starting September 2026, thanks to some inspiration from my colleague in District Six and in District Seven, I will be launching Cafecito with J.D. every Friday, so informal opportunities to grab some coffee, sit down with myself and talk about what's happening in your neighborhood, so more to come on that. To my constituents, for Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., I'll be hosting a joint townhall with State Representative Jordan Lopez at The Grove Presbyterian Church on W.T. Harris Boulevard. We'll talk about what's happening at both the City and State level, how we both interact when it comes to zoning, housing, public safety.

I also want to leave us with one thought as we continue conversations around youth curfews, restrictions on street vendors, and now restrictions on food trucks. I think we

need to tread lightly whenever we expand government control into our communities, food trucks, street vendors, young people gathering, and the lively nightlife, are not inherently problems to solve. I think they're a part of the culture and energy that make a big city feel alive, especially as we continue to grow as a city. Of course, we have a responsibility to keep people safe, but we can make Charlotte safer without shutting Charlotte down. So, I don't believe more restrictions should always be our first answer.

Finally, to compliment what my colleague in District Six, Councilmember Owens, mentioned, I do want to recognize the passing of Dr. Gina Navarrete, a Latina leader who ran for City Council in District Six, and was among those who helped pave the way for Latina representation in the City. I may have had the privilege of ultimately making history, as Charlotte's first Latino Council member, but history is never made by one person. There are people like Dr. Navarrette who open doors before we ever get the opportunity to walk through them. So, tonight, I honor her and her son for being one of those people and a family. Que descanse en paz, may she rest in peace.

Mayor Harrington said thank you both for the recognition and remembrance of Dr. Navarrete.

Councilmember Johnson said I want to thank Councilmember Graham for your leadership with the Stellar Awards. You're being modest, but I know it was a heavy lift in the City. So, thank you, it was a fabulous event. So, thank you.

Mr. Graham said thank you.

Ms. Johnson said I'd like to know, Mr. Manager or Mayor, with the market changes and the interest rates going up and development slowing down, does the City have a plan for projects that are halfway completed? There are some in my area that are blighted properties, code enforcement. They are safety hazards where people can gather, there's some pools that are half filled and we're getting some complaints. So, there's several half-finished developments. So, I'd like to know if there's a plan or if there's a minimum time before the City gets engaged, or what is that plan if we start to see more of this, because we want to avoid blighted buildings?

Also, referral tracker. We talked before about a referral tracker. I think I received a link, but is that open to the public, and if not, can it be open to the public? I'd like to see dates added to that referral tracker. There is a referral that was sent regarding infill development that we talked about in 2023, and it's a grey area if that was actually addressed. I think Planning staff would say it was not. So, I'd like to see that on the tracker, along with the date that it was referred.

I will be holding a meeting in the University City area. I want to thank the City Attorney's Office for being willing to come to talk about University City data centers, specifically. I know they're outside of the moratorium, especially the large one, but I invited the current and future state representatives, because we know there are some things our state partners can do. So, I want to recognize that State Representative Elect Veleria Levy was here today, and Jordan Lopez was here also.

Councilmember Mayo said just want to invite everyone to attend my townhall September 17, 2026, The Ripple Effect, Light Rail housing and investment. As we've seen with the Blue Line, it has had a tremendous positive and negative impact on legacy residents. If you've been there five, 10 years, you can see the change that South End has had, and how that continues to impact going further down with the Blue Line. So, we'll be hearing from different community groups, talking about how are they working with development, even along the Blue Line. We know right by Yancey Road, there is a rezoning for 15 acres that will be happening soon. This is part of a larger issue about continued investment as a result of Light Rail expansion. I'll also be talking about the Silver Line, which is another part of my District. So, there are a lot of pros and cons, and really just trying to help empower the community to get ahead. So, how do they have a seat at the table. We'll be hearing a case study from a project that Transforming Nations Ford is doing, where they are hoping, finger-crossed, to have an

impact on the request for proposal regarding the project. So, that's a five-year in the making strategy, which I think is how we're going to have to handle things as a community. If you want a seat at the table, we also have a build your own table, and be part of that conversation, and that is something that they have done, and excited to share about that. So, it will be September 17, 2026, at CBI Community Center, right off of Old Pineville and Yancey Road, so right off the Blue Line. People can get off at Scaleybark and walk. It's about a seven-minute walk from there, but a great opportunity to really start thinking strategically about how do transportation investments impact future residents and legacy residents, and how do we work together to make some of these pain points not so painful. So, hopefully, people will join us, and looking forward to chat more about that.

Councilmember Watlington said so firstly, I just want to say thank you to staff and to all of the AC professionals that participated in my townhall a couple of weeks ago regarding healthcare and data centers and the impact that that infrastructure has on our labor, has on our materials, and the broader community needs. So, we appreciate you bringing your time, your talent to the room, because that's what it's going to take, as we deliver these policy solutions.

These public forums are always my favorite meetings, because I love to hear from the residents, because I truly believe that it takes all of us, and I believe in personal agency to change your environment. One thing that struck me today, as I think about 77 is, it's clear that we agree on the problem. People want congestion relief. People want mobility. People want their neighborhoods preserved and connected to amenities. Those are things that we can agree on. I think where I hear the voices diverge is on what the solution actually is, and so I am hopeful that we are able to, from all sides, take a good faith effort at trying to back up and say, who are we trying to be? We spent a great deal of time implementing our 2040 Plan years ago, and I believe it's our north star, whether it's I-77, or transportation investments, whether it's data centers, whether it's housing, or whether it's public safety. That has to be our grounding document, and we should be producing policy and a suite of policy that works together that's better than sum of its parts to deliver that vision.

So, I'm hopeful we'll be able to take a step back and really understand where we're trying to go, so that we can develop a solution that works for everyone. We've got to lean on our partners at the State. We know that to do the work correctly, and to have the data and the ability to assess alternatives, not just design alternatives, but true alternatives to the approach that we're going to need more time. So, I would implore all of you who came out tonight to reach out to NC-DOT, to reach out to Governor Stein, to reach out to your legislative representatives, because what we know that we need is, in order to make a quality product, we need to be able to invest the time to do it. So, I look forward to continuing down the path on that one to actually deliver something that we all want to see. I hope that everyone recognizes that this is just one example of policy work that's going to require a shift from incremental improvements to truly revolutionize and how we view our community and how we view our policy that delivers our future. That's it for me.

Councilmember Ajmera said I have four things. First, I also want to honor Dr. Gina Navarrete. Thank you, Councilmember Owens, for honoring her. My heart goes out to Alex, and her extended family and friends. I've had an opportunity to work with her, and I certainly appreciated her passion that she brought to the table, and I loved how she would go through trash cans and pick out all the cans at almost every event that I have been to where she was there. So, my heart goes out to her friends and family.

Second, I just want to thank staff, like Councilmember Watlington said about townhall. I had my townhall last week. Councilmember Watlington as well as Councilmember Mazuera Arias were there; thank you for coming. We had more than 150 residents who joined us for my Annual State of our Environment townhall, with a focus on data centers, water, energy, and Charlotte's future. We heard from the industry, neighborhood advocates, from City staff, environment advocates, and I heard five things very clear. First, protect our water, protect our water grid, protect our neighborhoods,

and make sure growth pays its own way, and give residents a voice before decisions are made, not after. So, as we go through this process, I certainly look forward to ensuring that now we turn this feedback into action in coming months.

Next, I want to talk about Uptown street vendors. I know some of my colleagues brought that up. I support what CMPD is trying to do, which is to keep our Uptown safe, but I'm having a hard time understanding how limiting the hours of small businesses will result in reduction in violent crime. So, I would like the Manager and CMPD to come back to us with data behind these decisions and alternatives that allow us to protect public safety without unnecessarily hurting small businesses, because if the problem is crime, then let's target crime. I'm not convinced that a small business or a few small businesses should be collateral damage, and that's what's happening right now.

Last, but not the least, I want to raise the issue of predatory towing. Andrea, thank you so much for your memo. I know we have had an opportunity to chat about this. I would like to refer our towing ordinance to our Safety Committee, and ask staff and the City Attorney to bring us options to strengthen protection against predatory towing. What I have seen from our residents, and even our communications sent us an email last week, where residents are being charged an inconvenience fee for calling 911, and that should never be the case. People have a right to call 911, and they should not be charged an inconvenience fee for calling law enforcement. That's unacceptable. I know, based on Andrea's memo, there are other towns and municipalities that have taken stronger protections in place to protect our residents. Currently, we have $100 flat penalty that doesn't account for repeat offenders. So, I would like us to look into that to increase, escalate it for repeat offenders, especially for bad actors. So, my scope that I would like us to examine, escalating penalties for repeat offenders, protection for nighttime towing, because I know we have different protections for daytime, and not protections in place for nighttime, and that's where a lot of predatory towing happens, stronger disclosure requirements. I know there are certain bad actors that the Attorney General's Office is taking an action against them. If we can create a pathway for us to refer some of these bad actors to the Attorney General's Office. So, that's all I have.

Mayor Harrington said on the referral request let's, if necessary, talk a little bit more on that just to make sure that we know exactly what's being requested, and can try to frame something.

Ms. Ajmera said yes, I think the Attorney knows, because it was in her memo she sent that out last week, and then she also sent out an updated memo to my answers with a list of all the cities and alternatives, and she provided us with options.

Mayor Harrington said great. Let's see if we can try to frame something.

Andrea Leslie-Fite, City Attorney said I'll forward that to you, Mayor.

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ITEM NO.12: CLOSED SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

Motion was made by Councilmember Mazuera Arias, seconded by Councilmember Owens, and carried unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the City Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney in the matter of Melissa Bowlin vs. City of Charlotte, Claim No. W004095294.

The meeting was recessed at 8:31 p.m. to move to CH-14 for a closed session.

Mayor Harrington said thank you to everyone for being here and staying with us throughout the evening, appreciate it.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. at the conclusion of the closed session.

Billie Tynes, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 2 Hours, 56 Minutes
Minutes completed: September 22, 2026

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