

This City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Dinner Briefing on Monday, February 22, 2016, at 5:12 p.m. in CH-14 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Al Austin, John Autry, Ed Driggs, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, James, Mitchell, Greg Phipps.

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Councilmembers Julie Eiselt and Kenny Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS**

**Mayor Roberts** asked do we not have any consent item questions before we go into closed session.

**Councilmember Kinsey** said I am going to pull item number 17 just to make a statement, but I support it.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I want to pull 15.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **ITEM NO. 2: CLOSED SESSION**

|  |
|--|
| Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the City of Charlotte, including potential economic development incentives that may be offered in negotiations. |
|--|

The meeting was recessed at 5:14 p.m. for the closed session. The open session was reconvened at 5:24 p.m. There was discussion regarding the format for the business meeting. The Dinner Briefing was recessed at 5:45 p.m. to move to the Council Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for the Business Meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016 6:03 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were, Al Austin, John Autry, Ed Driggs, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Greg Phipps.

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Councilmembers Julie Eiselt and Kenny Smith

**Mayor Roberts** said I want to take a minute to send out thoughts and prayers to Councilmember Kenny Smith. His father passed last night. Mr. Smith is going to try to come in the meeting later, but we certainly want him to be with his family. Mr. Smith we send our thoughts and prayers to you and your family on the passing of your father, Ken Smith. All of our thoughts are with you. We are so sorry for your loss. We are also absent Councilmember Julie Eiselt who may be joining us later in the evening.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Mayfield gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

### **ITEM NO. 4: RECOGNITION OF CIAA BASKETBALL WEEK IN CHARLOTTE**

**WHEREAS**, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) will celebrate its 71<sup>st</sup> Men's Basketball Tournament and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Women's Basketball Tournament; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIAA has secured over \$20 million in scholarship dollars for its member institutions over the past 13 years, averaging \$1.5 million annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlotte will host the CIAA for the eleventh year with 22 games and tens of thousands of fans and guests expected to attend over a five day period; and

**WHEREAS**, this tournament provides an opportunity for the CIAA family to come to Charlotte to reunite with classmates, alumni, and friends in the vibrant atmosphere of Uptown Charlotte; and

**WHEREAS**, Charlotte is proud to be the CIAA Tournament Host City to showcase our world-class customer service and southern hospitality; and

**WHEREAS**, the CIAA tournament provides a positive impact for the City of Charlotte through economic benefits to hotels, restaurants, rental companies, services, entertainment venues and temporary employment:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jennifer Watson Roberts, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim February 22 – February 27, 2016 as

### **“CIAA WEEK”**

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

**Jacquie McWilliams, CIAA** said we are 104 years old. We have 12 member institutions. We have over 3,500 student athletes, 24 teams that are here in the city right now, 22 games that will start tomorrow, but two champions that we will crown on Saturday. This city has been an amazing opportunity for us to grow academically and also athletically. So, we appreciate all of the support that you have given us since we have even arrived here as now, Charlotteans. Our conference office now is here since August. So, thank you so much for the support, financial support, and just believing in the CIAA. We are going to turn this city out in a great way this week, and we hope that everyone can participate.

**President Dr. Ronald L Carter, CIAA** said thank you for making a dream come to fruition. A dream that I have had for a long time, one that we would extend the contract to host the CIAA here in Charlotte, and second, getting the head offices of the CIAA here to Charlotte. There is madness to all of this. My goal, my dream is that it will be here permanently because we in Charlotte know how to lift the CIAA up high. It is an opportunity of a win-win-win. Win for our fabulous students as they live and learn at their growing age. Win for the universities that demonstrate their brand and win for the city as we continue to have a strong impact on the economy. So, thank you all for making this happen.

**Tom Murray, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority** said I join the City Council and Mayor in welcoming you here. We worked hard to make it happen. We worked harder this year to get ready for this event, but we are so proud to be the host here of this event. It is the largest event we have on an annual basis. Like Dr. Carter, I have a dream that we will always have it here. It is so great to have the Commissioner, Jacqui McWilliams here in our community because she has already become part of our community, not just about the CIAA, but about Charlotte. That is really what she committed to do when she moved the headquarters here. We are so happy to have them as our fellow citizens as well. So, thank you very much as honoring us tonight.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CITIZENS' FORUM**

### **Charlotte Motor Speedway**

**Fred Mauney, 401 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street** said I had to put something down about the Speedway, but it is involving quite a few issues. One of them has been brought back up with some of the citizens is this \$15 million on the Eastland deal. Then also, two years later you all show up \$15 million short on the budget. I am a little bit concerned about what happened there. There are some flags showing up as well as some scuttlebutt going on that the city is in that the deal is to pay Bruton Smith the \$80 million he had in the highway out there. No one is knowing it. So everybody is wanting to know if that is going to show up as a \$80 million shortfall in the budget in another year or two? Furthermore, it seems to be a minor law suit between Barak Obama and you all back in 2011, which we had a rush of KGB News blackout of it, and there was a lot of corruption and fraud involved there which the city has come out and violated a number of laws that are on statute regarding business factors because of all its lies and fraud it did to present to the DNC to get the commission to come here. Also, because it wanted to get the \$50 million that comes with the grant. This was the fraudulent application to the federal government. So, a whistle blower law suit is being put together to sue the city, that it not only has to give the \$50 million back but also has triple damages which makes it \$150 million. I imagine the city tax payers are going to be really good to hear that they got to have their taxes raised when this comes about, but furthermore, this brings the US Attorney's Office in, which brings in a Grand Jury, and they will all be paraded down, as was past City Councilmembers, and who knows what kind of indictments might insure it you all and other legal stuff.

Furthermore, during this time it has come up under the statutes of willful failing to discharge duties, it seems like you all have been into a conspiracy to retaliate me out of the storage unit that I have at Penny Pinchers. So, as I was being retaliated by the manager, I knew something was going on and just had to do my investigation to find out what. Well, this manager went out and zoned industrial and no one lives there but she fixed up where her office is at and she closed in a couple of the storage units and made her like an efficiency apartment. I came down and talked to Charles Hogan to look up the property of the code office and it wasn't zoned the way it was and could not have it, and no one has ever applied to have a living space there from the management or anything. So, he sent an email and they sent me to see a Michael Hogan, North East Coordinator. He doesn't do anything. Then I end up meeting with a Mark Dowler out there, a supervisor, and they don't do anything. It seems to be a fraudulent thing going on, that there is a cover up, because since I am going to be evicted, and I have been there for six years that I would go down there and maybe be upset and all of that. This woman has a pistol, planning on shooting me down. There's another time that you guys have been in a conspiracy to murder in the first degree, and otherwise now it has gone through the process of theft by deception. A million dollars of my intellectual property or more out of that, so I came down to the County Manager's Office and said you guys have something going on with your city code people. They are not investigating a defendant misconduct going on. I needed that so I could go to the police department to site what else was going on.

### **Bicyclists' Exposure to Automobile Traffic**

**Maarten Pennink, 1712 Garden Terrace** said the following is a proposal giving bicyclists a more favorable status in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. As an extension, this presentation seems to fit well together with the arterial project as presented to you on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. To make Charlotte truly a bicycle friendly city, automobile drivers need to give bicyclist the right away as is the case in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Which in their bicycle friendly city in a period of six weeks and daily participating as a bicyclist, I have not seen a single accident and observed that drivers are extremely careful taking turns and making other maneuvers. There, the drive in the majority of cases will be liable when a collision occurs with a bicyclist. Now, knowing that cycling is healthy, and very environmentally friendly, and knowing that cyclist are very vulnerable in traffic, I propose that you as leaders will implement the following rule, in principal an automobile driver in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region will be liable when said driver has an accident with a bicyclist. When implemented this will change the general attitude towards cyclists and will encourage people to use bicycles for more than recreational purposes. Current laws and regulations: one, bicycles are required to give cars generally the right of way. This rule gives automobile drivers immunity, virtually from prosecution. I didn't see him. I didn't see her, is enough of a reason to dismiss the case and consequently drivers have no

incentive to be cautious or careful. Two, bicyclist can currently are seen on the road and on the sidewalk. Bicyclist belong on the road, sidewalks are for pedestrians. So, bicycles and cars need to share the road, both driving in the same direction. Three, North Carolina along with 43 other states require bicyclist to ride as far to the right as practicable. Now, this has bicyclists being squeezed off the road and may cause accidents. Bicyclists are far more vulnerable and need special protection. Bicyclists should be allowed to take an entire lane, unless there is a designated bike lane. Now, again, I propose that you as leaders implement the following rule to repeat. In principal, an automobile driver in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region will be liable when said driver has an accident with a bicyclist. When implemented, this will change the general attitude towards bicyclist and encourage more people to use bicycles for more than recreational purposes.

### **Mold Conditions in the Mecklenburg Public Housing**

**Tigress Sydney, 2217 Matthews Township Parkway** said you may have noticed my persistent cough. I have allergic asthma, and before I continue I will preface that with the following. I have a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural education and Environmental science with a specialization in Swine Husbandry and Wetland Bioremediation. I have a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, and again with a specialization in Wetland Bioremediation. I am a PHD candidate in Energy and Environmental Systems with a specialization in Economics, and again in Wetland Bioremediation, which in tales Biochemistry and Microbiology. To my surprise, this persistent cough is the result of the occurrence and recurrence of mold in my apartment. I am going to address this enumeratively. As a mom, number one, indoor air quality is of great importance to me. My son has been diagnosed with Eosinophilic Esophagitis. You may not know what that is, but basically he has an unknown allergen that is keeping his food from going down his digestive track and going into digestion. So, living in a home where there are issues like mold, or conditions that are conducive to mold, is a huge issue. As a scientist, this is one of my big platforms as it relates directly to city government; you should not merely take on the advice of mere consultants. Most consultants only have training, at best simple training, in my field. You have heard me expound upon my degrees so you can imagine the training that goes into that. It is very important that you speak with scientist instead of mere consultants, when considering legislation concerning mold. My apartment complex told me to just clean it with bleach. In my field, as I have already expounded upon, it looks like I might be an expert in my field and as it relates to microbiology, and mold, and spores, and microbial life. Bleach is not a remediation tactic. Lastly, as much as I would like the opportunity to speak more about this, but I think that your staff is well aware from your emails that I will be lobbying for the ordinance to change. I was told earlier today that City Council has no power to enforce any legislation to change the city ordinance. What appears to me then, is that this entire meeting is a facade. As I understand it, you are a legislative body.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said I have a couple of questions because one, I did not know what complex you are referring to, because the address that we have listed down for you is not an address within Charlotte-Mecklenburg. So, it would be helpful to know at least the complex, or if you have spoken directly to your district representative so that we can gets information regarding the complex that you are referencing. So, you do not have to give that information now, but that information would be helpful, and/or if you called code enforcement. Then there are some things that we can do, but the information that is in front of me right now does not provide me with the information to let me know exactly where you are located.

Ms. Sydney said I do not know what information you have. It has defiantly got to be outdated because I am a law abiding citizen, and my address has been updated when I moved here. John Autry is very familiar with this. I think that he would be the best person to speak about that. I have actually included you all, with the exception of the new mayor, in every email that I have sent now, that also has the EPA, and the Chief of the EPA as well.

### **Code Enforcement Officer Complaint**

**James Boulter, 3015 Walter Street** said I am a Charlottean and I have been here 65 years. I have watched West Boulevard grow from dirt to concrete. My problem was my vehicles. My neighbor called and told me that my vehicle had been tagged for junk. I hurried home and found out that the truck I had just driven and parked in my driveway had a tag on it for junk. So, I immediately called the code enforcement, and I said ma'am, I do not understand, why would you tag a vehicle



that I have just driven home and parked? She said well, it was just my opinion that it was junk because it was parked beside the rest of them, right beside my Jaguar, my Cadillac, and my van. So, I went straight to the office, and I said this is the vehicle that you tagged, and I left the tag on it; I said now, is this junk? I cranked it up and said, do you want to hear the radio playing? I played the radio for her, and she said well, I assumed. I said hold up, please give me some understanding. You are putting a burden on me because I have ten days to fix the problem, or move the problem or the tow man will come to get it. This is not junk. So, her supervisor, Mr. Greene called me and said that they would resolve this misunderstanding Mr. Boulter. I said that I would appreciate it. I do not know if there is anyone else in the city that had a problem like this, but I could not rest because it was an unjust. When you find an unjust, that means that there is a threat on justice everywhere. My brother told me to go down and speak and let your heart be free. I would appreciate it if someone would take the time when these code enforcement officers come out to at least knock on the door and say what the situation with the particular vehicle. None of my cars had flat tires; the windows were intact, nothing out of the ordinary. I am just a hard working individual trying to make it in this world, and I would appreciate it. I thank you for your time. The only thing that I can say is I do not have a master's degree or a PHD, but I do have common sense to even know to ask someone in the home, or find out before you put your tag on a car because if you have only ten days, they are going to come take it and you will have another bill to pay when you need to pay your light bill. So, thank you and I appreciate it.

### **Discrimination in Charlotte**

**Tamara Strong, 14932 Statesville Road** said I am here today because my rights are being violated. I have been under a eugenic program, and I am getting assaulted. I have contacted congress and sent letters and all of those who I have been in contact with have ignored my letters, and the situation has not gotten better. I feel that my life, my liberty, my justice, and everything the Constitution had to offer, my rights are being violated, and my life also. I am sick and tired of going through what I am going through. I do not appreciate my rights, liberty and my life being at stake when others come here, and they pretty much get what they want. I have been here all of my life, and I have had to suffer. I am here for justice. I am here that I will be heard. I am here that I am more than just an adopted person, but I am somebody. I am a Child of God. I am here because I feel that I am a targeted individual. Maybe I complained about the fluoride too much, I called and said something. I do not know what it was. I have always had to struggle all of my life because of the adoption and being taken, but I have been a woman of God, and I have tried to be a great person of servitude to the other people in our society. However, I am being injured. I think that I am being assaulted by radio frequency, and I am getting severely burned through whatever type of help, I do not know if I was entered into some type of research, but I do not consent to it. I have asked that whatever Social Security program I signed up for that entered me into this, whatever institutions have violated my liberties, I have sent off letters for these people to cut all contracts and relieve me of anything that they have put me in that have violated my liberties. I have contacted the state and pretty much, phones have hung up in my face. People are not responding; however, I am wanting things to get better as I respond and say that I do not consent. I am expecting things to get better. I had no choice but to try to come here today, for I feel that my life is at stake. I just want to be heard. I think that I am somebody. The State of North Carolina, I feel has ignored my rights, and I am being treated like nobody. I am just here today because I am somebody.

### **My Brother's Keeper Foundation**

**Omari Jibri Brunson, 11015 Carmel Crossing Road** said let this mandate be reflected on all records, by the record, and let the record reflect, I am here on my proper persona, and my noble title is Emperor Omari Jibri El Ra Bey. I have accepted the honorable present of Barak Obamas [inaudible] insuring a list of objectives to be able to execute for the administration based upon the My Brother's Keeper program. I am the head tribal leader of this organization in North Carolina, City of Charlotte, and Mecklenburg County. This is really a call to action and collaboration from my office to yours, with the full cooperation of the board that took oaths of office to protect and serve. The indigenous people will restore and reform the indigenous tribal government here in North Carolina, the nation state, City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, which we declared our independence since 1776 and are also reflected in the United Nations Proclamations with the aborigine indigenous people in Articles 1-50. On common law grounds, that we stand for as out legal terms and we are self-independent and self-government. Let it reflect on all records that states do not have rights. Only individuals have certain rights granted

to them through treaty law, nationality, social, or political statuses, so by the authority vested in me, I Emperor Omari Jabri El Ra Bey have enforced Article 1, section 10 in the corporate constitution that declares that no state shall have anything but gold and silver as legal tender as payment of debt. So, now here comes the alternative currency that I want to introduce to the second biggest in banking in the country, Charlotte, North Carolina is the issue by the international business trust with one gram of 24 karat, 999.9% gold bullion with the London Bullion Market Association having a purchasing power of 150 in exchanging Federal Reserve Notes or United States dollars in all trading platforms is priced by goods and services by the United States dollars of FRNs. Example, you can now go to the store and give a gold, one gram card for a cup of coffee in exchange is debt back and that is how we are going to exchange and reform the debt crisis that we are in right now. The royal office of the international business trust is based on treaty currency and exchange that is capable and willing to engage in private currency exchange for back indigenous dollars that would be free traded with the trans-pacific partnership and domestic trade without discrimination or limitation. Our office is able and willing to increase the state's budget and purchasing power by converting Federal Reserve notes into our gold cards for a medium of exchange. We ask for the full cooperation of the board.

### **Crime Prevention and Public Safety in Charlotte**

**Carrie Taylor, 1522 Downs Avenue**, said I am here to express my full support for the hiring of the additional CMPD officers that Chief Putney has requested. When the additional 125 officers came on board in 2008, we saw a consistent decrease in our crime rate for the six years following their addition according to Chief Putney. Former Mayor Pro Tem, Michael Barns who spearheaded the push for those additional officers ten years ago shared that there was a considerable decrease. However, in the last several months, we have seen a 10% increase in overall crime, and a 36% in homicides as our city has continued to grow. That is staggering and unacceptable; as I am sure you would agree. I have been a member of the Charlotte community since March of 2000. I believe it is incumbent upon me and my fellow Charlotteans to hold our leaders accountable to do the work for which they were elected or hired. So, that is what I will do. I do not need to remind you that crime has a direct correlation with economic development and population growth. If crime continues to increase, and Chief Putney does not receive the tools he needs and the officers that he is requesting, the growth that Charlotte now enjoys will quickly dry up. We need strong, visible leadership by those of you who say that you want to be a champion of public safety and crime prevention. With the deaths of both of my parents within the last four months, I have learned the importance of time and making the most of the opportunities that we are given. Words without action are empty and meaningless. If we lose sight, do not take action when the opportunity is before us, are not strong, visible, and deliberate advocates, we could be left with regret. You have the power now to do the right thing. Councilmembers Phipps and Driggs, I urge you to give Chief Putney's request thoughtful consideration. I want to thank you for your leadership during last year's budget process, and now I trust that you will provide Chief Putney with all of the tools and resources he needs to keep our community safe and to continue to move Charlotte forward. Chief Putney, CMPD, and our city deserve it.

### **U.S. Constitution**

**Allen Hoyle, 319 Poplar, Lincolnton** said I want to address to you about the Constitution of the United States and also the Constitution of North Carolina. As a Marine, for 23 years and retired, I swore on oath to protect the Constitution, and every person who takes the office of a public job and swears to the Constitution as well. Number 1 Article 1 Section 1 says that all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress. Congress has been given the duty for many things, but number 1 Section 8 says that to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof. So, it is the Congress that makes laws. I will remind you. Article 3 Section 2 says the judicial power shall extend to all cases in law and equality arising under this Constitution. I will remind you the word is under not over. Section 3 says that treason against the United States shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. So, the Constitution of North Carolina says that marriage is between a man and a woman. So, I warn you that anyone who takes their oath lightly, and they seek to destroy the constitution of the United States, which is declared to be the supreme law of the land of the United States, is a treason and a traitor to this country. So, no judge has the authority nor power to come to the sovereign state of

North Carolina and say that marriage is between any other sex than a man and a woman, thus declared by the people of the sovereign state of North Carolina. I warn each one of you, you better be thinking of the oath that you took because all of the people of the military swore this oath to protect the Constitution and anyone who does that is doing prudery when they go against the Constitution, and they are making themselves treasonous to the laws of this country and also to this state of North Carolina.

### **City Surplus Auctions**

**Phil Fortuna, 56 Franklin Street, Northport, NJ** said I was waiting for the old Mayor to give me a call, but I guess he isn't calling me back because he is gone. I never got a call from Chief Putney. So, here I am. I flew in from New York to speak. As you know, a while back I started questioning the processes of the auction that the city holds every year, twice a year, and there were some discrepancies that I questioned. The people in that department were very helpful in giving me all of the documentation that I requested, very helpful and polite; however, as I looked through the paperwork, I find that there were a lot of issues as far as the city got billed for. One in particular was batteries. Every auction the city is getting a bill for several thousand dollars for batteries. So, I requested to see an itemized list of all of the vehicles in question that the batteries were replaced, only to find out, when given the list, that I just happened to take a look at my list of the vehicles I bought. I bought approximately 12 vehicles, and out of the 12, 5 of them were on the list, which means that the vehicles I bought had the batteries replaced. I am a mechanic by trade with 35 years in the business. I opened the hoods of the vehicles and it is my professional opinion that the batteries were never changed. So, the city is getting billed several thousands of dollars for batteries, and I question whether the other car's batteries were change. I do not know because I did not buy the cars. The cars I bought defiantly, the batteries were not changed. So, that was one issue. The second issue I had is that I was told there was money allocated in the city budget to buy lunch for the auction workers the day of the auction, and when I read the contract, which I foiled, and you gave me the copy of the contract between you and the auctioneers. It clearly states that the auctioneer is supposed to be paying for the lunch. It should not be coming out of the city budget, and it is. That is another problem I guess. Lastly, I would just like to applaud you Mayor Roberts for taking the first small step towards changing leadership of the Police Department by changing the councilperson that was in charge of public safety. So, I applaud you for that.

### **Public Safety**

**Karen Jensen, 311 Baldwin Avenue** said I think that there are some people here in the audience tonight who care about civil rights. I do not know about up here. I know what you say you care about. I know what many of you say you care about, but I am astounded to be here again in front of this council and this mayor on the topic of civil rights which I have spoken about before. Last month I spoke about police abuse and retaliation for reporting misconduct by a police officer. I spoke about perjury by a police, covering up and violating internal affairs policies of this city, talked about police officers preventing criminal charges for violent acts because they are lying to magistrates and judges about things that you have seen on audio and video, things which have garnered many convictions in court, but which the city is still lying about and saying it never happened. The response at the end of that was for Mayor Roberts to say, well if we felt that that might need a response we will have staff follow up. I guess deaths threats and, perjury, and police abuse are not something that you feel need a response. Is that the case? I am guessing no one is going to respond to me right now, but no one has responded for an extended period of time. We are talking about assaults, rape threats, death threats, again on video, on audio that you continue to lie about. When I ask for my records and I ask for a change in this, what I get from the city is a legal threat to arrest me and sue me. This is not news to you; this is not new information. This is all documented. When I came to speak last month, just before my talk here, I got a call from you police captain at the behest of your police chief reminding me of your illegal threat to throw me in jail. So, I am here again. I am asking for my records again. I am asking for a correction to the things that I have mentioned in which you are aware of in detail, and I am asking for a stop to the crimes committed by the people who live next door to me and the other people that you are aware of including in the police department and other government officials. I have a little time left. So, I think that I will just say that this stonewall, the manager and the city attorney won't look at me, and I think that is because they are fully aware, as are all of you, of the false information given by city attorneys' as well as by people who are sitting up there on the dais. I would really like a response. I do not know how you wanted to talk about bathrooms and

showers and demand civil rights for people. I do not know if I need to wear a men's hat to get a response. I feel that rape, and violence, and beatings, and death threats to shoot me should illicit a strong response as well. If you do not believe me, ask the judges who convicted.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Mitchell, seconded by Council Member Austin, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Item Nos. 14, 15, 17, which were pulled for comment and Item Nos. 16 and 22 which were pulled by staff.

The following items were approved:

### **Item No. 18: Airport Construction Management Software**

(A) Approve a five year contract with e-Builder to provide a cloud-based construction project management software, (B) Authorize the City Manager to approve price adjustments and amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was awarded.

### **Item No. 19: Airport Project Construction Inspection Services**

(A) Approve a professional services contract with Talbert, Bright & Ellington Inc. for general project construction inspection services for a term of three years, (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two additional, one year extensions with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 7057-X appropriating \$3,640,570 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 748.

### **Item No. 20: Airport Parking Lot Lighting**

(A) Approve a contract with Duke Energy not to exceed \$750,000 to install LED street lights in a parking lot, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 7058-X appropriating \$750,000 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 749.

### **Item No. 21: Airport PSA Hangar Addition**

(A) Award a contract in the amount of \$1,255,650 to the lowest responsive bidder Encompass Building Group, Inc. for the construction of PSA Hangar Addition, (B) Approve a lease amendment with American Airlines for additional costs associated with construction of the PSA maintenance hangar, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 7059-X appropriating \$1,255,650 from the Aviation Discretionary Fund to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

### **Summary of Bids**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| EVS Construction & Development, Inc.*    | \$1,147,300.00 |
| Encompass Building Group, Inc.           | \$1,255,650.00 |
| Edison Foard Construction Services, Inc. | \$1,266,100.00 |
| Cadet Construction Company               | \$1,268,000.00 |
| W.C. Construction Company, LLC           | \$1,275,155.00 |
| Heartland Contracting, LLC               | \$1,320,000.00 |

\*The apparent low bidder, EVS Construction & Development, Inc. did not meet the established SBE and MBE utilization goals; EVS did not meet the minimum required Good Faith Efforts.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 750.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Item No. 23: Airport Mid-Sized Truck Acquisition**

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Hendrick Toyota Concord for the purchase of Toyota Tacomas for the term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year renewal terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Summary of Bids**

|                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Hendrick Toyota Concord | \$58,898.00 |
| Town and Country Toyota | \$62,168.80 |

**Item No. 24: Duke Hangar License**

Approve a two-year license with Duke Business Services for storage of helicopters in Group Hangar B-3 at Wilson Air Center.

**Item No. 25: Piedmont Advantage Credit Union Lease**

Approve a month-to-month lease with Piedmont Advantage Credit Union for rental space in the Terminal.

**Item No. 26: NC Clean Water State Revolving Fund Application**

(A) Adopt a resolution authorizing Charlotte Water to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan in an amount not to exceed \$21,000,000, and (B) Authorize City staff to take necessary actions to complete the financing, including making application to the State of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and obtaining Local Government Commission approval.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 228-229.

**Item No. 27: Mallard Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Polychlorinated Biphenyl Decontamination Services**

(A) Approve a contract with Synagro Central, LLC for decontamination services for a term of 395 days, (B) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract with Synagro Central, LLC for a term of 395 days with possible price adjustments as authorized by the terms of the contract, and (C) Approve a Budget Ordinance 7060-X appropriating \$10,785,000 from the Charlotte Water Fund Balance to the Charlotte Water Operating Fund. The Budget Ordinance will accommodate expenses related to PCB decontamination efforts.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 751.

**Item No. 28: McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Combined Heat and Power Improvements**

Award a contract in the amount of \$3,066,000 to the lowest responsive bidder State Utility Contractors, Inc. for the Combined Heat and Power Improvements at the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Summary of Bids**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| State Utility        | \$3,066,000.00 |
| Crowder Construction | \$3,095,000.00 |
| M.B. Kahn            | \$3,147,201.00 |
| Wharton-Smith        | \$3,612,800.00 |

**Item No. 29: Wilgrove Elevated Water Storage Tank Reconditioning and Construction Administration and Inspection Services**

(A) Award a contract in the amount of \$1,059,289.00 to the lowest responsive bidder Utility Service Co., Inc. for the Wilgrove Elevated Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation project, and (B) Approve a contract with DiCon Consulting, P.C. in the amount of \$230,000 for construction administration and inspection services.

**Summary of Bids**

|                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Utility Service Co., Inc. | \$1,059,289.00 |
| D&M Painting Corporation  | \$1,339,742.80 |

**Item No. 30: Septic Hauling Services for Wastewater Treatment Plants**

(A) Approve a contract with Terry Enterprises, Inc. for septic hauling services for wastewater treatment plants for an initial term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two additional, one year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 31: LYNX Blue Line Extension - Sugar Creek Pedestrian Bridge Railroad Agreement**

Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a bridge agreement with the North Carolina Railroad Company and Norfolk Southern Railway for maintenance and repair obligations covering the LYNX Blue Line Extension infrastructure in the North Carolina Railroad right-of-way.

**Item No. 32: LYNX Blue Line Extension - Construction Materials Testing and Special Inspection Services Contract Amendment**

Approve contract amendment #6 in an amount up to \$1,000,000 to the LYNX Blue Line Extension contract with Kleinfelder Southeast, Inc. for construction materials testing and special inspection services.

**Item No. 33: CATS Retired Buses Donation**

(A) Approve the donation of one retired CATS bus to Olympic High School, and (B) Approve the donation of one retired CATS bus to the Town of Matthews Fire Department.

**Item No. 34: CATS Bus Towing Contract Amendment**

Approve contract amendment #1 in the amount of \$45,000 to the CATS Bus Towing Services contract with Southern Star of Charlotte, Inc.

**Item No. 35: CATS Amenities Bus Stop Benches**

(A) Approve the purchase of transit bus stop benches, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G.S. 143-129 (e)(6), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Simme, LLC for the purchase of transit bus stop benches for a term of two years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three additional, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 36: Refund of Property Taxes**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessor error in the amount of \$48,686.38.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 230-231.

**Item No. 37: Resolution of Intent to Abandon an Unopened Portion of E. Worthington Avenue**

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon an unopened portion of E. Worthington Avenue, and (B) Set a public hearing for March 28, 2016.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 232-234.

**Item No. 38: Meeting Minutes**

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of: January 19, 2016, Zoning Meeting

**Item No. 39: Land Purchase for Tree Canopy Preservation Program**

(A) Approve the purchase of four contiguous parcels of approximately 71 acres located near Robinson Church Road and Plott Road in Charlotte (parcel identification numbers 108-112-03, 108-112-04, 108-071-13, and 108-042-10A) for \$884,295 from three property owners, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and grant a Conservation Easement to the Catawba Lands Conservancy.

## PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

### **Item No. 40: Property Transactions Mt. Holly-Huntersville 11810 Road Sanitary Sewer, Parcel #5**

Resolution of condemnation of 7,358 sq. ft. (.169 ac.) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 4,196 sq. ft. (.096 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement at 11725 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road from Elpiniki Karagiannis and Stantoula K. Drosinis for \$775 for Mt. Holly-Huntersville 11810 Road Sanitary Sewer, Parcel #5.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 235.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **ITEM NO. 14: POLICE UNIFORMS, RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES**

**Mayor Roberts** said a speaker signed up to speak on this item.

**Councilmember Lyles** said she is declining to speak Mayor.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, seconded by Councilmember Austin, and carried unanimously to (A) Award unit price contracts to the lowest responsive bidders (Galls, Inc. and Lawmen's Distribution, LLC) for the purchase of Police uniforms, related equipment and services for the term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two additional, one year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

### **Summary of Bids**

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Forum Direct               | \$ 406.64    |
| Lawmen's Distribution, LLC | \$43,182.42  |
| Galls, Inc.                | \$733,282.55 |

\* \* \* \* \*

## **ITEM NO. 15: TIME WARNER CABLE ARENA UPGRADES-CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK**

**Councilmember Driggs** said I thought that in part I should pull this because my colleagues, Councilmember Smith could not be here tonight, and I think that he would want to pull it. So, Kenny we are thinking of you buddy. I want to point out, as I have in the past, that I think our relationship with the team as it pertains to the arena is very one sided and therefor I express my unhappiness about that relationship, and even though I recognize that this is within an amount that has been appropriated and pursuant to a contract under which we have obligations, I will not support it.

Motion was made by Councilmember Austin and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to approve a contract with Rodgers Builders, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$18,000,000 for construction management at risk services for the Time Warner Cable Arena Upgrades to be performed between years 2016-2019.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Austin, Autry, Fallon, Kinsey, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell, and Phipps.

NAYS: Councilmember Driggs.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO. 17: SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND DESIGN SERVICES**

**Councilmember Kinsey** said I just wanted to pull it to let constituents know what is going on. There is some concern, including my own concern about the Coliseum Drive Extension, which is Commonwealth Avenue to the existing terminus Coliseum Drive terminus at the Claremont Apartments, and also the Waterman/Eastway Frontage Road. Those two items are in this particular consent item for planning only, not for design. I just want to make that very clear that nothing is going ahead except some planning services for those two items. For that I will move its approval.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kinsey, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve a contract in the amount of \$2,300,000 with American Engineering Associates - Southeast, P.A. for Southeast Corridor Infrastructure.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**City Manager Ron Carlee** said the three public hearings that are scheduled; Item Nos. 6, 7, and 8 were advertised for 7 p.m. which was the original time that this meeting was scheduled to start. We would ask that you pass over these items until the end of the agenda so that when you open and close the agenda they would be within the advertised time.

\* \* \* \* \*

**BUSINESS**

**ITEM NO. 9: APPOINTMENTS TO THE PRIVATIZATION/COMPETITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a two-year term beginning March 2, 2016, and ending March 1, 2018.

William Lilly, Jr nominated by Councilmembers Fallon, Kinsey, and Mayfield  
James Marascio nominated by Councilmembers Driggs, Eiselt, and Phipps  
Matt McDonald nominated by Councilmembers Driggs, Eiselt, and Fallon  
Warren Neff nominated by Councilmember Phipps  
Emmanuel Reid nominated by Councilmembers Austin, Autry, and Lyles

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

William Lilly, Jr., 2 votes – Councilmembers Kinsey and Mayfield.  
James Marascio, 4 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon, Mitchell and Phipps.  
Emmanuel Reid, 3 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Autry, and Lyles.

Results of the second ballot were recorded as follows:

James Marascio, 3 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon, and Phipps.  
Emmanuel Reid, 4 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Autry, Lyles and Mayfield.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously that the vote for this appointment between James Marascio and Emmanuel Reid be placed on the next agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*



#### **ITEM NO. 10: APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a three-year term of service beginning immediately, and ending January 30, 2019.

Nichelle Bonaparte, nominated by Councilmembers Austin, Autry, Mayfield, Mitchell, and Phipps

Scott Compagna, nominated by Councilmember Smith

Jessica J. Meyer, nominated by Councilmember Kinsey

Irving M. Schwebel, nominated by Councilmembers Driggs, Eislet, and Fallon

Results of the ballot were recorded as follows:

Nichelle Bonaparte, 5 votes - Councilmembers Austin, Autry, Lyles, Mayfield, and Mitchell.

Jessica J. Meyers, 1 vote - Councilmember Kinsey.

Irving M. Schwebel, 3 votes - Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon and Phipps.

Results of the second ballot were recorded as follows:

|   |
|---|
| Motion was made by Councilmember Phipps, and seconded by Councilmember Fallon to defer this appointment to the next business meeting. |
|---|

The vote taken on the motion was recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon, Kinsey, Lyles, Mitchell, and Phipps.

NAYS: Councilmembers Austin, Autry, and Mayfield.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **POLICY**

#### **ITEM NO. 11: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**City Manager Ron Carlee** said out of respect for all of the people here to speak on other items, I have no report tonight.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **ITEM NO. 12: NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE**

**Mayor Roberts** said we have had conversations on this item starting last year, for more than a year. We had a presentation and a vote last year. We had a presentation on February 8<sup>th</sup> of this year. We have materials on hand; Councilmembers ask questions after that presentation. I want to take just a minute to thank our city staff, our manager, and our attorney. They compiled research information in this folder right here. I have read all of the information in here which talks about other cities and many other questions that the Council asked at the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, and I really appreciate the time and detail that our staff has taken for that. We appreciate everyone's input and we know that opinions are strong and emotions are high. Those of you who have registered to speak will be given one minutes; this was announced several times.

We are here to listen. We cannot respond to individual speakers; it is not a dialog between you and us, but we are here and are listening.

**Sheryl Chandler, 4803 Crownvista Drive** said I have been a Charlotte resident for 30 years. In December, New York City passed similar legislation using the identical gender expression language that is in Charlotte's ordinance. It is now a crime, punishable by quarter million dollar fines to cisgender someone by calling them a pronoun that they do not prefer. LGBT leaders claim upwards to 85 varieties of genders, and it is ever evolving. Nano, a 20 year old from Norway feels she was born into the wrong species. She believes she is a cat and her psychologist agrees. Mr. Richards, a 57 year old from England has hundreds of colorful feather tattoos on his body, face, and eyeballs. He has had both ears surgically removed all because he believes he is a

parrot. I submit to you that soon Council you will be forcing business owners to install litter boxes and newspapers in bathrooms to accommodate this new trans species psychosis. Laugh if you will, but a few short years ago you would have also laughed at the idea of a man showering in a locker room with your daughter.

**Jeanette Wilson, 9216 Stonegate Drive** said this momma bear is back, and I am still angry. You have prostituted yourselves during your campaigns, and someone wants to get what they paid for. This ordinance is exactly what they paid for and you are going to push it down our throats. Real discrimination happened at a lunch counter in Greensboro in 1960. Discrimination based on genetics, not personal choices. Discrimination wide spread, and recorded, here nothing except your bias survey. How come their antidotes are evidence, but ours is only fear mongering? White woman identifies as black; 52 year old man identifies as a six year old girl; sighted woman identifies as blind; man identifies as woman. If we are going to throw out science and DNA who cares? I care. I want my children protected. Mayor, your community forum was a sham. You and other Councilmembers do not care to hear what we have to say. If this went for a public vote, it would be soundly defeated, and you know it, and that makes you the real bullies. This ordinance is fad for Charlotte.

**Nate Atwood, 2027 Emerywood Drive** said I am pastor of St. Charles Presbyterian Church here in Charlotte. I am the moderator of the 29<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of America. As such, I have had the responsibility for 150,000 human souls. The first rule of leading is that you do not waste your leadership capital. Today we learn from Governor McCrory that the state legislature will almost certainly overturn this ordinance if you pass it tonight. In other words, once again this City Council and you Mrs. Mayor, have divided the city, raised the passions and anger of many on both sides, and pitted the good people of this region against one another. After all of that, it appears that you will accomplish nothing. I agree whole heartedly with those who oppose this ordinance on principal, but I choose to speak to your failed leadership as a Council. Had I and both of the churches I have lead and produced nothing, the people I have serves would have had my scalp and deservedly so. Your stewardship of your trust is abysmal; save what little leadership capital you have left and vote no before those in Raleigh appropriately take you to the woodshed.

**Janice Covington, 1810 Furgerson Court** said I have come here today to present these letters from the Carolina Panthers, from the Charlotte Motor Speedway, and from the Charlotte Knights. After corresponding with them, they told me that they have no problem with me going there and using the facilities of my gender presentation and also the same with other transgender people. Since our Governor had the audacity to threaten our civil rights in the Council of my city, from governing in a fair and inclusive way, I must say that his personal bigotry and prejudice and jealousy is out of line. Pat McCrory is the worst Governor this state has ever had. He has stolen the rights of women and wants them back in the kitchen. He has allowed our grant water to be poisoned by allowing fracking.

**Jamie Smith, 11812 Creek Turn Drive** said what you will hear today is a bunch of comparison to civil rights and Jim Crow Laws. They will tell you it is just like how black people were discriminated against in the South, but as a black man raised in the South, that is a lie. Think about this, how many transgender people are being told to use the bathroom that is only for them where the facilities are broken, rusted, rundown, and almost unusable? How many transgender people are being told to receive their food from the back of the restaurant when other people can sit down because it is a straight person only restaurant? None, what they are being told is that they can use the restroom like every other Charlottean in this room, where if you are a male you use the male restroom, and if you are born a female you use the female restroom. For everyone who thinks this ordinance is a good thing, ask yourself this, do you want a man my size, 6'1, 250 pounds in the bathroom with a wig on with your little four year old girl that looks like this? I do not think so.

**Matt Hirschy, 3123 N. Davidson Street** said I am the Director for Advancement for Equality North Carolina. In my role with Equality North Carolina, my job is to work with the business community to increase statewide workplace protection policies. North Carolina is one of 29 states where it is legal to fire someone simply for who they love or who they are. This ordinance does not affect employment, right? It does go a small step in order to protect our citizens here in Charlotte. Many Fortune 500 companies already have these types of policies, and it is really important that city government keep up with those companies simply because we have to make

sure that those employees are protected the second that they walk down onto the street and that their families share those same protections. So, as a lifelong resident of Charlotte and somebody who grew up here and has really seen a lot of great things happen in growth for the city, I urge you to please support this ordinance and pass these protections to make sure that Charlotte is up to date with the rest of the country.

**Crystal Richardson, 2437 Reid Oaks Drive** said I am a local attorney and also the Director of Advocacy for Equality North Carolina. Charlotte City Councilmembers please vote yes for this ordinance. The summary of the 140 LGBT individuals reporting discrimination is a clear indication of what happens when some Charlotteans are left up to their own evil devices. There are a number of LGBT Charlotteans, particularly LGBT people of color, who have experience discrimination and violence with absolutely no way of reporting these issues or tracking the results of wrong doings. I know because I work with these people every day. If you do not pass the non-discrimination ordinance, you have left hard working, tax paying, and people with no mechanism of tracking discrimination. Where does this leave people that have experienced this type of discrimination? The opposition believes these protections are not necessary only because they do not experience it. We are all created divinely, and we are all worthy of respect and dignity. Council, I know that we can't change people's attitudes, but we can change laws to make things fair and equal. Please vote yes for this ordinance.

**Christian Canoa, 2437 Reid Oaks Drive** said tonight I would like to challenge all of our family, friends, and neighbors to put on your common sense hats for a while. I hope that this would allow us to separate the politics of pandering from our Governor and his political establishment on this issue. So, that way we can address real attacks on real religious freedoms. I challenge our neighbors to look to the past political hates, like my family went through in Texas, where signs like this were put up in front of bathrooms that say no dogs, no Negroes, no Mexicans allowed in these bathrooms. Our 2015 election cycle was very clear. We voted you in because we knew you would support this ordinance. The people have spoken, and we trust that you will vote and support this common sense update. I ask all of our neighbors to ask our government or demand from our government and his political establishment to send out the same emails to bring all of these people here when we talk about other issues like our poor, or undocumented neighbors, coal ash, and health issues. If you are truly a Christian, you will also fight for those issues as well.

**Elaina Smith, 6511 Windy Rush Road** said let me be clear, please. We are not saying that transgender people are predators, but we are saying that there are countless deviant men in this world who will pretend to be transgender in order to gain access to the people they want to exploit. The situation at Seattle Parks and Rec is proof and evidence that this can and will happen here in Charlotte. Our concerns are falling on deaf ears and we are being called fear mongers and bigots and haters. It is a manipulation and lie to say that we are fear mongering and being hateful simply because we do not want to open the doors for deceitful men. It feels like you the Council and those supporting this ordinance are saying that I have to accept this, or I am an unloving, horrible person. Again, that is manipulation. I am a very loving person, but I do not have to share a bathroom with you or take a shower with you in order to show that. The Charlotte Observer reported that a majority of voters oppose this expansion. So, why are we even here? We already voted. I feel for those that are confused, but a cross dresser's liberty to express his gender nonconformity does not trump my right or the right of my daughters.

**Lara Nazario 9028 Providence Colony Drive** said I am a transgender woman, and I am afraid to be here today. I am afraid of an opposition who is also afraid of me. They are afraid that I, or people like me are going to victimize children or cisgender individuals. This idea is opposite to the reality that I live in. Being assigned male at birth and dressing the way I dress can be dangerous. If I were to walk into a men's bathroom I would either be told that I am in the wrong bathroom, or I would be ousted as a transgender woman. This can often lead to violence or harassment, especially when there is no protection in place for people like me. When I am out in public, I am usually with my cisgender girlfriend. We walk into a bathroom together or into a less accepting part of town and then it is clear to me that we are not equals. Is it my height or my Adam's apple that makes me less of a human being? Is it my broad shoulders or my genitalia? I do not want special treatment, and I do not want to change anyone's beliefs or life style choices. I only want to be treated equally.

**JoAnne Spataro, 9028 Providence Colony Drive** said what is going on here? I thought we were there to add protections to an existing ordinance, which has been around since 1968. That is the same year that Elvis did a comeback special for all of you Elvis fans. This isn't a real discussion, just as what I said is not a real thing, okay? All I see are people holding signs, calling other people perverts. When I typed in the word pervert into Google the word automatically added of God on the end. Religion is a belief, which means it is a choice. That is great. Being transgender, lesbian, and/or gay, is not a choice. The choice is whether they feel safe to be themselves in public. That should be fine too. It is the duty of the City to hold all citizens equal. Transgender people, like my very brave girlfriend you heard, and queer people just like me should not have to endure people raging at them. We do not want special protections, only the same protections, but that would mean the people who do not agree would have to stop calling us perverts and start seeing us as people.

**Juli Ghazi, 1911 Central Avenue** said I am the owner of Pure Pizza, a restaurant with two locations in the city limits of Charlotte. I am a single mom, and I am a Christian, and I am here supporting the non-discrimination ordinance. Many here tonight are speaking out because of fear based, hypothetical, what-ifs, and I am actually one of the only ones of a for-profit private sector business that can speak to you from experience, not fear. That is because, at my restaurant on Central Avenue/Plaza-Midwood, we have a multi-stall, gender neutral restroom. It has received international attention for its inclusion. I am here to tell you what that restroom is not. It is not a place where perverts are drilling holes in the stalls to peep at people beside them. There has not been a single incident of a man dressed as a woman lurking to harm woman and children. There has not been any gay or straight sex initiated in the bathroom. There has not been a single transgender person who has exposed him or her sex to children. A gay person has not hit on a straight, and a straight has not harassed a gay person. There has been no deviant behavior of any kind, and we are a very busy restaurant.

**Kenn Huston, 633 Venue Place** said our current bathroom policy does not discriminate. Everyone now has equal access to a facility that corresponds with their biological gender. A male only, a female only law is objective and can be readily enforced and protect the safety of our perspective occupants. Gender mindset cannot be enforced. Blended bathrooms for the sake of less than 1% of our population will discriminate against Charlotte majority. We should in no way jeopardize our women and children considering the documented exposure cases that have occurred in mixed gender facilities. Keeping separate facilities validates the uniqueness of each gender. Male and female were created distinctly to fulfill vital roles in our society; therefore, a no vote tonight is imperative to protect the safety and sanctity of our men, women, and boys and girls.

**Matthew Craig, 708 Ellsworth Road** said my concern is that there is not a long-term view that is being considered here. The pattern seems to be ordinances like there are being put in to place, activists use these ordinances to target businesses who will not accept their agenda, and local and federal judges make those individuals and owners comply. Headlines from the last 18 months: fact, employer must pay \$115,000 for not acknowledging transgenderism. Fact, baker forced to violate his religious conscious. Fact, fire chief fired for religious believes. Fact, couple loses business and face finds because of gay activists. Fact, TV show canceled by threats. Fact, sport's channel host sacked because of threats of gay activists. Fact, tech giants CEO fired for his moral beliefs. Fact, Cisco fires Christian consultant because of his faith. Fact, Bank of America fires highly respected trainer because of gay activists. Fact, high honored Navy chaplain fired. Fact, gay activists set up an Army chaplain in order to destroy his career. Florida city wages Soviet style crack down. Shame on the City Council for bringing this here.

**Kristin McCora, 3714 Armitage Drive** said with only a minute to speak I do not have the time to tell you how dangerous this ordinance could be for all females. So, instead, I will just say that it is not discrimination to say that if you have a penis, you use this bathroom. If you have a vagina you use this one. It would only be discrimination to say that a person could not use either. It is not the true transgender person that we fear; it is there pervert. It is the perverted cross-dresser. It is the pervert who will use this ordinance to access women and then assault us either physically or electronically. As far as the other part of this law, it goes both ways. If you tell a Christian baker that they are forced to bake a homosexual promoting cake for a homosexual marriage, then you are also telling the gay print shop owner he must print signs and tee shirts for the Westboro Baptist cult that says that God hates fags. A person should be able to say no in both



of these cases, and Mayor Roberts, since you want us to love our neighbor, I am going to love you enough to say you need to repent from your sins, and turn to Jesus.

**Edwin McCora, 3714 Armitage Drive** said right now women have a right to an area away from men where they are vulnerable. If this passes they will no longer have that right. So, to give these transgender the rights that you are trying to give them, you have to take away the rights from women and children to have an area to use the restroom where they are very vulnerable. It is a bad thing because of men like Bill Clinton, Bill Cosby, men who hide cameras in heating ducts, sex traffickers, peeping toms, upskirt.com. Men assault women. They are famous for it. Women need a place to go use the restroom without worrying about men. So, to pass this you have to take rights from someone else. So, who do you take the rights from, the women and the children or men who like to dress up like women? It is ridiculous.

**Pam Burton, 4736 Kirkgard Trail** said I have been a resident of Charlotte for the last 18 years of my life. The residents of Charlottes voted for you to represent us. I just ask you to please see the hordes of people here tonight, and please do not discriminate against us. Do not discriminate against me or my children. You took an oath of office. You had your left hand on the Bible. The Bible says: Mathew 18, if anyone causes one of these little ones who trust in me to stumble it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and be drowned in to the depths of the sea. I just ask to you not take your oath lightly. I am certain that this proposition will be harmful to the children of Charlotte. I am not scared of transgender; that is not what I think that the problem is. Sexual predators are not good people. They do not do the right thing. They are going to see this ordinance as a golden opportunity for fresh victims, our children. My 16 year old daughter swims at the Y year round. I am not going to be able to confidentially continue to allow her to use that locker room if this passes. Crime was up ten percent last year in Charlotte. Shouldn't we be spending our time and resources to lower this, not open the flood gates to raise crime even higher? Again, I just ask to please not discriminate against me and my children. If one child even becomes a victim due to this it is a shame on all of you.

**Bethany Chandler, 4803 Crownvista Drive** said I was born and raised here in Charlotte. I believe by now, most has been said regarding the pros and cons of this ordinance. So, with my time I would like to make two appeals. First, to the Councilmembers in support of this ordinance, you are called to be the leaders of our city, stalwarts of justice. As a high school senior on the edge of adulthood, I am utterly disappointed and ashamed of you. You have acknowledged that the vast majority of Charlotte is against this, but to quote Councilman Austin, you just do not care. What kind of leadership is this? What messages are you sending my generation? You are abandoning objective truth in attempt to protect subjective feelings. I urge you to uphold justice as you each swore to do. Secondly, I appeal to the LGBT community. I know your hearts are filled with turmoil friends, but peace will never be found by perusing your heart. True freedom is only found in surrender to Jesus. It is the most beautiful paradox. I urge you; find true peace and joy in him and his forgiveness. Jesus was nailed to a cross to offer you this freedom. Please take it friends.

**Nathan Chandler, 4803 Crownvista Drive** said I am straight out of Charlotte. Do not pass this ordinance. Do the right thing and thwart this. In every way, it will be unhealthy. The predators will not have to be stealthy. Our feelings are nothing but vanity, leading us down roads of profanity. We need to follow only God's rules; without him we are just mere fools. Think of all that his would affect, to use the bathroom with the other sex, the danger and worry that it would create, it is called concern about safety not hate. I am not giving transgender a label, but a man wearing a dress is unstable. Your comfort level and feelings are untrustworthy, when you should be focusing on eternity. We should never forget propriety and always practice piety, but passionist will cause anxiety. Bathrooms were meant for one gender, not a variety. For true comfort, look to Jesus. Do not continue down this path of sin. Look up, repent, and turn to him. Do not look down on me because I am young. You all know I still have a tongue, and if you do not believe me look it up. It is in Timothy 1.

**Gabriel Rogers, 4712 Tuckaseegee Road** said I want to honor my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is an honor to be here tonight. I am here to adamantly disagree with this ordinance. I say first as a Christian male, I disagree. Secondly, as a black, Christian male I disagree. I will remind you that homosexuality is not the new black. Shame on you who are considering this as the same thing as black people sitting at the back of a bus; homosexuals have not been asked to move to the back of the Charlotte area transit system. They have not been asked to eat in the

back of the Capital Grill, or caused to drink out of an isolated fountain. So, I ask you tonight to not impose these values on us, and give us the right to disagree. We disagree. I am not a homophobe; I'm a theophobe. I fear God; Jesus is Lord, and that is my opinion. How will you police the perverted man that wants to look at someone's chest? You cannot police it, but at the end of all of this, I will remind you that the Council of the Lord will stand.

**Bill Montross, 7207 Firespike Road** said I work with business men, with small business owners, helping them to live out their faith in their work, running their businesses according to Biblical principles. This ordinance that you are considering tonight will make that impossible for them to do. They will have to make a decision of am I going to violate the law or violate my conscious, violate my principals. That is untenable. It has happened around the country where businesses have closed, economies have been impacted because of laws like this where activists target Christian business owners and file a lawsuit which brings the businesses down. We do not need that here in Charlotte. This ordinance is not fair, it is not necessary, and it is not what the business community of Charlotte wants; it is not what the people of Charlotte wants. So, I urge you vote no.

**Amanda Brown, 4600 Castleton Road** said disappointing is a Mayor who had a golden opportunity to demonstrate true leadership and bring two sides together, but instead chose to throw it away. Disappointing, are the four at large councilmembers who chose not to return my calls. Although you may not share my opinion, I am still your constituent. My opinion should matter to you. Disappoint is an ordinance that will not solve the problem mentioned in the ICYMI survey. This City Council, with the exception of Ed Driggs and Kenny Smith, has made it clear that I, as a conservative and a Christian, do not matter. In the words of Al Austin, the loud voice of 39,000 emails did not make much difference to him, truly and utterly disappointing.

**Mark Blackwell, P.O. Box 1154** said some of you probably remember me from the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with the human trafficking proclamation. Again, I really appreciate that. As you know, I work with victims of sex trafficking that are male, female, transgender, homosexual, all types, but this ordinance could really jeopardize our opportunity to offer a correct shelter. For example, right now we can have women that are in a shared shelter space that we would often times have to double up because of the limited funding and limited space, but a transgender or someone that just expresses himself as a female, that actually has a penis, we would have to obligate them, and accommodate them and have them share a space not just with any women, but women who have been raped and exploited and abused for months, and months, and months prior to this. Now, I understand that many of you think that you are doing this right, noble, courageous thing, but the way that the spiritual forces of darkness actually work is that they manipulate good to look like bad and bad to look like good. That is how they pervert things. So, understand that you may be under the influence of demonic forces, and all that I can do for that is just say Lord, please come into this room and just take over this meeting. Let us not be under the minds of corrupt man, but let us be under your wisdom. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear, and in Jesus name, amen.

**Jay Biles, 400 N. Church Street** said I am a Human Resources Executive with a large employer here in Charlotte. I have lived here for 26 years, and I love this city. I am here tonight to ask you to vote yes to expand the non-discrimination ordinance to include LGBT citizens. I am asking this for a number of reasons. First of all, I do not want Charlotte to repeat the mistakes of the past and be perceived as not welcoming all people. I stood in this very chamber in 1998 when the County Commission voted to defund the arts in Charlotte over a controversial play. The city looked ignorant, short sighted, and not accepting of others, and the decision was ultimately reversed. Two years ago, the state amended the Constitution define marriage between a man and a woman, that law has been changed based on the Supreme Court decision. Last year the City Council voted against this ordinance that is before you tonight. I am an out, gay, proud citizen of Charlotte. I expect and deserve the same rights and protections of other citizens, no more, no less. I ask your vote tonight to be yes.

**David Evans, 6209 Nealwood Lane** said vote no; the population of Charlotte is 800,000 people. You are considering the legislation that affects a very, very small group of people, but negatively affects a very large number of people. We went through all of this last year. Why is it back again so soon? If it gets defeated again tonight is it going to be back again next year? There is not a large public outcry in support of this. Are you listening to your constituents, or are you just listening to a few loud people and being pushed around by political correctness? Where folks go

to the bathroom is about their biology. It is about their body parts, not by what they think that they are. What you are proposing here in this bathroom is very confusing, and it defiles natural laws and common sense. So, in summary you are being pushed around by political correctness and the voices of a very loud few people. Please listen to common sense and the vast majority.

**Ann Hooper, 2127 Winter Street** said I am a lifelong Charlottean and proud member of the LGBT community. When fear and anxiety divide our city, it is then that we run too quickly and too easily to the safety of people who look like us and think like us. Too often we surmise the people who are different from us are in fact a danger to us, but that is fear talking, not fact. As elected officials, you have the opportunity, the responsibility, and our support to make decisions based on facts and to lead us beyond fear. The idea that protecting our trans brothers and sisters will somehow endanger us is simply bogus. Transgender citizens must have ready access to services and goods without denial or harassment. It is really as simple as all men are created equal.

**Ann Marie Lloyd, 4327 Poplar Grove Drive** said I have three points. Point one; there will always be special interest groups. This one is .03 percent of the population. Why should 99.97 percent of the population feel unsafe and uncomfortable? When using a woman's shower room young girls should have the right to not see male genitalia because a confused person feels like a woman. Point two, the cost of this ordinance is huge. How will police enforce such vagueness? Will Charlotte be the first city sued because a pedophile used this law to harm a child? My church will be unable to serve the homeless because of this ordinance. Point three, this whole ordinance is about feelings that change like the wind. How do you prosecute someone when the law says whatever you feel is okay? The feelings are the ultimate arbiter of truth, and I identify myself right now as a Charlotte City Council person who will be voting no tonight follow the lead.

**Alicia Mercer, 10606 Bere Island Drive** said I live in Charlotte; I stand with those who have voiced safety concerns with men using women's public accommodations. In addition, although the LGBT community talks about victimization, in other cities we know that the LGBT have targeted Christian businesses to induce a refusal of service so they can file a lawsuit. Lawsuits are their way of forcing us to accept their lifestyle. It is not the LGBT community that is increasingly experiencing attacks on their character and business and facing fines in exorbitant monetary judgments for adhering to constitutionally protected beliefs. Last year, Councilwoman Mayfield, president of the LGBT Local Officials made a statement dismissing the opinions of people who live just outside of Charlotte. HRC, MeckPAC, and other LGBT packs from across the country funnel money into Charlotte and endorse those who promise to support them if elected, but you want us to be silent, those of us who live in Charlotte and just outside. Looking pragmatically at what you are considering this amendment will cause many more problems than it resolves; you are considering an amendment that will result in people being fined hundreds of thousands of dollars and jail if they do not obey. You are forcing us to choose between obeying our Lord and obeying the law. If you care as much about liberty as you say, you will not pass this amendment.

**Alva Yandle, 2209 Archdale Drive** said I am a lifelong member of this community, and I am a voting, tax payer. I have grandchildren, and I am very much concerned about this ordinance, not for the transgender but for the people who would attempt to act like transgender. I have grandchildren that go to Ray's Splash Planet; they will not be going there anymore if this passes. I have friends that are members at the Y and they will not be going anymore because they will not put their children and grandchildren at risk to this. This is not about hate; I love all people. I told a friend of mine the other day that I would be the first one to come along side someone that was being discriminated against in being served in our city, but that doesn't mean that I agree with their life style, but I always try to say it in love and dignity. You guys, we have elected you to represent us, all of us. So, you all need to use wisdom in this. Righteousness exalts the nation and sin is a reproach to all people, and we have to answer for what we do in this life.

**Jenny Champion, 1613 Lombardy Circle** said I remember when I was a little girl and how shy I was and very protected if showering, dressing, or private times that a young lady needs. I remember being shy about changing clothes in the locker room, even around my friends who I knew so well. I could not even fathom the thought of dressing with a strange man present that may or may not be transgender, who knows, depends on that individual. As I continue, I am not stating that transgender are predators, but I am saying that I am not comfortable with that, and



Mayor, you based your survey of feelings of 15 incidents that were based on feelings. Well, my feeling is that I am not comfortable with this and, that is what the majority of this community believes. We do not want this. We cannot take a survey based on feelings that are unfortunate, but they do not constitute discrimination, vote no.

**Kathryn Mahan, 2127 Winter Street** said my first encounters with transgender people blew my mind because they were in the midst of a life experience I simply could not understand. Now, my transgender friends blow my mind because I see their courage and their determination to be their authentic selves and to leave this world a better place than they found it. They inspire me. My Christian upbringing taught me that to be companionate like Jesus we must not dismiss people because their life experience makes us uncomfortable. Discomfort is the hallmark of every social justice milestone. Every time we broaden the reach of inclusion and equality we make our community stronger, every single time. Please protect all of our citizens, even the ones who make us uncomfortable. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and yes transgender citizens deserve leaders who both strive to understand them and protect their basic human rights. Please vote yes.

**Dr. Karen Muehl, 1616 Cleveland Ave.** said a central value of America is that we do not discriminate against people on the basis of identity. This Council knows that every person deserves the right to eat at a restaurant, ride in a cab, or use a public restroom. Unfortunately, transgender people are being harassed, beaten, killed, and driven to suicide, in part because of the intolerance and discrimination that they face. They are regular people, healthy, productive members of our community. They should be admired for their courage to live authentically, affirmed, not assaulted. Some of you will feel uncomfortable with a transgender person in your restroom. Well, the freedoms we are afforded as Americans sometimes make each other uncomfortable. I have felt uncomfortable several times by the free speech that has happened tonight, but I am an adult. I am not asking the Council to protect me from this discomfort that is not your job. So, I can ask you to help protect the LGBT citizens of Charlotte from discrimination. Let's be true to our American values and pass this ordinance. Let's also know that you want him in the women's room.

**Dr. Holly Savoy** said I am a license psychologist in Charlotte and a founding member of the Charlotte Transgender Healthcare Group. The majority of my clients identify as transgender. Here are a few facts. In a recent national transgender discrimination survey, more than half of transgender individuals reported being harassed going into a public place, such as a restroom. Such harassment and discrimination can drive transgender individuals to attempt suicide at higher rates. A staggering 41 percent of transgender individuals attempt suicide compared to only 1.6 percent of the general population. One of my former clients, not only attempted, but died from suicide due to the discrimination she faced in simply trying to be herself and live her life. I count data from other cities with similar ordinances in place does not substantiate claims that the safety of women like myself and children will be at greater risk. I council and support individuals not currently protected in our city every day, and I urge you to take action and reduce the trauma in their lives by passing the ordinance.

**Keren Boyan, 1900 Kensington Avenue** said I have been a successful business owner in Charlotte for over 30 years. I must stand before you this evening and I think Martin Niemöller's famous quote says it all for me about discrimination and not speaking out. They came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak, for I did not belong to the Union. They came for the Jews, and I did not speak for I was not a Jew. They came for me, there was no one left to speak. It is my believe that anytime the government allows one group to initial discrimination towards another, we as Americans are stepping on to a slippery slope. We ask you to speak for those asking for equal rights or fold under the pressure of the loudest clanging bell. For me, the bottom line is LGBT community is made up of many facets. They are tax payers, they are voters, and they are citizens who make up a valuable fiber of this community. Many of you sitting on this Council tonight have serves on boards with us.

**Shane Windmeyer, 2226 Collingdale Place** said I am the executive director of a national non-profit organization based here in Charlotte called Campus Pride. We work with about 1,400 different colleges and universities across the country as well as area colleges here in Charlotte. I am proud to stand up here today to put our vote in favor of a fully inclusive non-discrimination ordinance. I am also a resident of Charlotte; I have been a resident for over 20 years. My husband and I got married legally right here in Mecklenburg County this past July, celebrating our 20 year anniversary. I think it is important more than anything tonight to know that our



words matter, our actions matter. All of you were elected, and if I remember right we had something called TurnOUT Charlotte, and you were elected to make this happen, to pass a fully inclusive ordinance. So, I hope we remember that. I hope we remember that there are young people out there who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and we have to send our love, out compassion, and our hope to these young people because the last time we did this we lost people in our own community to suicide, and I do not want to see that happen again. So if you are listening tonight, know that you are loved. Your God loves you.

**Sean Brinza, 1429 Seneca Place** said Jesus is Lord. By what standard are you considering this ordinance tonight? God's word or man's flawed reasoning? Will we be like Adam and Eve in the garden and decide morality for ourselves, or will obey God? Whether you accept them or not, Jesus is King over all, and he will judge you. As Christians this is not about a religious conscious. It is about what God says. If these folks are so delusional about their gender, perhaps bathroom destinations of penis and vagina would solve the problem. No matter the outcome to night, I speak for the true church in saying we must obey God rather than wicked men. Psalm 2 said be wise oh kings, be instructed you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the sun, lest he be angry, and you parish in the way when his wrath is kindled but a little. I plead with you to repent, and turn to Jesus.

**Councilmember Smith arrived at 7:44 p.m.**

**Erica Lachowitz, 15721 Castle Watch Avenue** said I have been in Charlotte for about 12 years now. I am a mother and as a transgender woman myself, I have got to tell you; I hear so much rhetoric about religion and how important religion is to everybody when making these decisions. The separation of church and state clearly doesn't apply south of the Mason Dixon. So, I have an issue and the issue really comes with understanding what discrimination is really like. I have had my ribs broken; I have had my face smashed into the ground; I have been denied the use of a restroom, embarrassed, ashamed, and made to feel like less of a person. Police response: well this wouldn't have happened if you were not dressing as a woman. I never knew how to be a boy. I told my mother when I was five. There was no Facebook; there was no way to communicate this. I did not make this stuff up, and I am tired of going to funerals. I am tired of going to wakes. It happens from the top down. City Council, pass this vote, please.

**David Greene, 5240 Carriage Drive Circle** said I am not going to lecture you on the importance of bathrooms or even talk about bathrooms. I am going to share my story. I am a native Charlottean representing HRC North Carolina. As a gay male who came out in the mid-90's back in Charlotte I can share with you that this was not an easy task. I can still remember the pain and the suffering to this day, the time that I was denied a rental property just because I was in a relationship with another man. We have come a long way since that incident happened, but the humiliation of that day still rings true to my mind. I asked the Council to keep this in mind as you vote tonight. Charlotte wants to be known as a forward thinking city. By not passing this ordinance you are not pushing us forward, but instead you are going to hold us back. Let Charlotte join the 225 additional cities around our nation that include protections for all people including our LGBT citizens. Please vote to pass this ordinance tonight.

**Corey Travaguni, 12606 Sitka Court** said Mr. Austin you said recently in support of this ordinance that Charlotte City Council was going to move forward with it because we are trying to show the world that Charlotte is an inclusive place. So, let me understand this correctly. We want Charlotte to be inclusive at the expense at sacrificing our children's safety, security, privacy on the altar of political correctness? With all due respect Sir, this is not an ordinance of inclusion but of confusion. The seeds this Council sows tonight in support of this ordinance in behalf of the most precious and the most vulnerable in our city. You may not see this harvest for a while, and you think what you are doing is right, but it is written that there is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to dead and destruction. Be assured you will reap what you sow here, personally, and in eternity. This local government was set in place to support the City residents, have our best interest in safety as heart, and this is agenda if I have ever seen one, and you will be held accountable for your actions. Please choose to do the right thing and not the popular thing.

**Stephen Waldner, 7011 Ravenscrest Drive** said there are many facets to this issue tonight: physical, mental, moral, physiological, traditional, legal, spiritual, cultural, and many others, but for tonight we expect you to make a fact based decision on one thing alone, on biological,

anatomical makeup. You ladies should never have to worry when you are at a restaurant with your kids about your daughter running face to face with an anatomical male, in the shower or in the restroom. None of you anatomical females have any right; you should never be in the men's restroom either, no matter how masculine you might feel. So, Councilmembers it doesn't really matter what you or I or anyone here thinks, believes, feels, or preserves that day, we expect that we will hold you accountable to make your decision on biological, anatomical makeup. Do not opt out for some third bathroom option either, that is a copout. It is an added expense for all business people. We expect you to vote no.

**Teresa Wilson, 9216 Stonegate Drive** said I have lived in Charlotte all of my life. I recently attended the community forum which was held to discuss this proposed ordinance. We broke up into small groups, and I was told that supposedly transgender people are being beaten in restrooms. This is obviously already illegal which brings me to the question, what is this anti-discrimination ordinance really going to do for the transgender people in the bathrooms? The more I researched this ordinance the more I realized that it is not meant to benefit the LGBT Plus people or anyone physically being abused in bathrooms. It was carefully created to target those who disagree with the beliefs and lifestyles of this community. It was created to give license to prosecute, harass, and destroy anything or anyone who hinders this agenda, whether personal, business, church or individuals or anything else that this ordinance can apply to. This ordinance will be used to silence those who disagree with the agenda, vote no.

**Robbie Wilson, 9216 Stonegate Drive** said I cannot honestly believe that the City of Charlotte is even considering making these changes. You all realize this does not make a bit of sense whatsoever. The only thing that makes sense is that you are not thinking about the bulk of the citizens, the businesses, and the visitors that come to Charlotte and work in Charlotte, but you are thinking of an agenda that you want to shove down the people's throats. This creates so much chaos for nothing. You think you are doing a good thing, to protect a select group, when actually you are promoting a bad thing that is going to bring so much harm to another group. The Scripture tells us that people are so wicked and desire to sin so much they will create new ways of sinning. You are helping them do that. In Isaiah 5:20 it says woe to those that call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. You are busted; you all are doing this exact same thing. Don't do it Charlotte.

**Jennifer Ratajczak, 2024 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street** said I am here on behalf of the Charlotte Transgender Healthcare Group. We are a rapidly growing group of medical and mental health clinicians holding over a dozen different credentials between us. Every day, we are faced with the aftermath of transphobia and legal discrimination. We see individuals who lose remarkable careers, can't find safe shelter, and even our youngest students are afraid to go to the bathroom at school. Grieving loss, after loss, of our promising youth to suicide illustrates how hopeless it can feel to navigate this community. At the end of the day, we are simply here regarding a civil rights issue that in many ways mirrors our histories past. Now is in the past, prejudicial agendas fueled by irrational fears, not based in fact have overshadowed the basic rights of a victimized and vilified minority population. As informed, medical professionals we can assure you that gender diversity is a natural part of human diversity. Charlotte is a remarkable city. So, let's not lose sight of the big picture and join the leading cities of this country by bringing our non-discrimination ordinance up to date to protect both the proud citizens and our great city.

**Connie Vetter, 6096 Chinaberry Court** said I live in Mr. Phipps's District 4. I am a lesbian, and an attorney, and a business owner. Tonight I am speaking for equality and civil rights for LGBT people and others seeking equal treatment. On Thursday, upon receiving the Julius Chambers Diversity Champion award from the Mecklenburg County Bar Association, the... position of these two nights is not lost on me. I and my lesbian, and gay, and bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters can leave here tonight and be denied service at a hotel, or a restaurant. My transgender brothers and sisters are being treated horribly, denied service, being assaulted. My clients call me for help against the discrimination they suffer. Transgender men are men; transgender women are women, period. We have a lot of work to do. Start tonight by passing this ordinance.

**Quinita Martin, 13206 Winslow Hills Drive** said thank you for the opportunity to exercise my First Amendment Freedom of Speech as a Christian and as a supporter of Jesus Christ. You are taking our city on a very slippery slope to require our citizens to affirmatively endorse and co-sign people's subjective perception of themselves with the City of Charlotte giving my full

retirement benefits if I was 30 years old and assigned the birthday of 1986 but I feel like, act like, dress like, and identify with being 70 years old. The answer is no because notwithstanding my feelings the facts are that I would not be 70 years old. Another issue is that this provision requires affirmative speech with which I specifically as a Christian disagree. As a Christian I shouldn't be required to make a tee shirt that reads I support gay marriage no more than a homosexual owner of a t-shirt business should be forced to make a tee-shirt that reads marriage between homosexuals is wrong. This ordinance is ill-advised, and I encourage you to turn from your intended course of action and vote no.

**Steve Knight, 420 E. 15<sup>th</sup> Street** said I am an Evangelical pastor at an Evangelical church here in Charlotte, Mission Gathering Christian Church. I am here to urge you to vote in favor of this non-discrimination ordinance tonight. I am speaking on behalf of the transgender members of my church and my friends in the community. I have heard a lot of people quoting the Bible here tonight, but I hear very few people quoting Jesus, except for the Mayor, who reminded us that Jesus said two things, love God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and the second greatest commandment is love your neighbor as yourself. Is it loving to fear our transgender neighbor? Is it loving to demonize them and discriminate against them. I think we know the answer. I think we know it in our heart of hearts. You have the binder; you have the facts. There have been very few facts that I have heard tonight other than let's get with it; 200 cities have already done it for decades Charlotte. Let's be a major city. Vote in favor of this ordinance.

**Amantha Barbee, 6233 Edmore Blvd** said I am here in support of the anti-discrimination ordinance. It deeply concerns me that some members of the Christian community are making this ordinance about their belief that being gay is a sin. As you are ultimately responsible for this decision, I say this to you as a member of the Christian community and a member of clergy in the Presbyterian church USA denomination. Being Christian means following Jesus, Jesus does not utter a word about homosexuality. In the Bible, it states clearly in John 3:16 that God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life, whoever. This ordinance is not about what Jesus does not talk about, but whether what is asked of you in Mica 6:8. As many of you are Christian, and it is possible to separate your civil service from your Christian service, the Bible states He has told you oh mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Justice means equality for all no matter what, vote yes.

**John Arrowood, 210 N. Church Street** said I have lived in, paid taxed to, and been involved in Charlotte since 1989. I am an attorney, a former judge, and a former member of the Vestry of St. Peters Episcopal Church. I rise tonight to urge you to vote for these amendments. Discrimination against members of the LGBT community is real. The rhetoric we have heard surrounding this ordinance is exhibit A of why these protections are needed. In this debate, we have seen the opponents focus on fear which has no basis in fact. Fear is what we use when we do not understand things and is a powerful tool used in many jurisdictions against the LGBT community. I am here tonight to ask you to vote your hopes and dreams of a fair and just city and not your fear of the unknown. Let's all continue to work together to make Charlotte a diverse and world class city for all.

**Diana Travis, 6904 Alexander Road** said as I was cleaning out my chicken coop this morning, I congratulated myself on finding a new use for my old vote against Amendment 1 signs. They make an excellent chicken poop catcher under the perches at night. This got me to thinking, has the demise of Amendment one hurt any of you here tonight? Has the fact that I was able to marry Mary Anne, my partner of 25 years, specifically hurt anyone here, gay, straight, or transgender? At the forum earlier this month a lot of us on opposing sides of this issue got together in small groups. In my group, I do not believe any minds were changed but we treated each other with respect and actually did find some common ground. At the end of the session, we all shook hands and realized we were seeing each other as human beings with real fears and hopes. For those of you that oppose this ordinance, my marriage to Mary Anne did not hurt you, and I think that you will find that your fears for bathroom safety and for your rights being trampled on also, will end up being baseless. I urge the City Council to approve this ordinance.

**Justin Reeder, 4816 Sirus Lane** said I have owned and operated a business here in Charlotte for the last ten years. I am in District 3 where Ms. Mayfield serves. I am asking that you vote no for this ordinance. We have already had a lot of challenges in our business that we have to overcome. This would just be another challenge that we would have to overcome. I believe you



are actually not protecting anyone. You are going the exact opposite by voting yes for this ordinance. We have seen in other cities where businesses have been targeted for their beliefs; why do we think it would be any different here in Charlotte? I love this city and the people in it, but I do not support all ideas or messages. I also have a wife and two children that I am called to protect. By allowing men to enter a women's locker room while my wife and children are in there is not acceptable. I will not allow them to be left unprotected by one of their most vulnerable times. Again, I please ask you to vote no for this ordinance.

**Marguerite Cooke, 1111 Mineral Springs Road** said I just want to first thank you all for serving on the City Council Madam Mayor and Councilmembers. I know you have a very difficult and challenging position. I do understand why male transgenders do not want to use the men's bathroom, and I really feel for their difficult situation, but I also relate to the people who are afraid that their children, especially adolescents and high school would be exposed to an opportunity for abuse of this ordinance. So, I too would ask you to vote against it. I hope and pray that you will have the Wisdom of Solomon and try to come up with some kind of compromise if at all possible. If not taking out the gender identity/gender expression words from the ordinance, perhaps require full floor to ceiling doors and walls in the bathrooms and locker rooms.

**Reverend Robin Tanner, 9704 Mallard Creed Road** said I stand before you representing the 68 faith leaders who are members of the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice. Although I am a minister, I will not quote scripture to you this evening. Instead, I would like to show from a different sacred document that we have in common. We hold it to be self-evident that all persons are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness. The Charlotte community has a moral compass that is grounded in a faith in humanity. It is a moral compass that can guide us beyond fear toward the better angels of our nature. Councilmembers, Madam Mayor, there are few moments in the history of the community when its leaders are afforded the privilege of voting into practice the vision of equality. Tonight is such a moment. May the moral compass of the Constitution guide you; may you vote in favor of the non-discrimination ordinances.

**Dr. Leon Threatt, 7910 Idlewild Road** said I have pastored here in Charlotte for 28 years; I have been honored to do so. I would like to encourage each of you to vote no for this city ordinance. This ordinance is not about hate; it is not about love. It is not about relationships; it is about bad policy and a bad law that will govern over this city. Those of us of the faith community, we have no hatred and no disregard for the people in the LGBT community, in fact if anything we are reaching out to them with a hand of compassion and love, but this ordinance is not good for our city; it is not good for our region. We would ask you to think cautiously and respect the profound impact this will have on this region is far reaching, and I would ask you to consider the long term judgment it has on all of our lives as certainly on your futures as well.

**Sahiba Chawla, 902 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street** said I am 25 and identify as a lesbian woman. Growing up in a very kind of different, traditional country like India, where being gay is basically a criminal offence, I was never given the opportunity of freedom to be completely myself, which is why years ago I just said well, I am going to go and find a better life for myself. I came to the United States which is the land of freedom and opportunity. It wasn't easy for me to come here and make a life, but I have faced a lot of discrimination and rejection from people, but ultimately I was able to overcome all of that and finally find happiness. I have just noticed that if you are giving people a chance that they do not against you; it is the best thing ever. All I just want to say is it is my personal plead to please extend anti-discrimination law to people like me.

**Andrea Hines, 6904 Troika Court** said I have been a Charlotte resident for 22 years. This bill will make what has been safe for females in their vulnerable moments, unsafe. If this bill passes, we females won't use or let our female loved ones used bathrooms or changing facilities outside of our homes unless they are locked private rooms. Council, this bill will impact you as well. Will you be comfortable with you using public facilities? How about for your loved ones? This bill will grossly negatively affect the economy of Charlotte, its businesses, tourism, parks and rec, conventions, sporting events, transportation. Who will want to have a layover in Charlotte? The tax base will tank. This bill will leave us females imprisoned within a small fear with which to travel away from our safe homes or leave us having to wear diapers. This bill is motivated by



distorted self-interest, a result of the moral chaos that is in this day and age. They do not consider the impact.

**Diane Troy, 9627 Penhurst Trace** said I live in District 6. I am a passionate, straight allies and a proud PFLAG mom. My son came out to me his senior year in college, and I was shocked and devastated. When I finally chose to reach out for help, I was greeted with an outpouring of support of love from PFLAG Charlotte and from my LGBTQ community neighbors. I learned how profoundly ill-informed and cloistered my life had been up until the point that my child came out. By opening my heart and mind to the experiences and challenges of the LGBTQ neighbors, I continued to experience profound personal growth and spiritual strength. Today I join with other PFLAGERS as we offer the same heartfelt support we received. We choose to pay it forward. Although everyone's journey is unique, despair, isolation, and fear are emotions experienced by every LGBTQ person and their families at some point. Tonight I implore members of the council with great emphasis on District 6 Councilmen Mr. Smith to pass.

**Krista Tillman, 809 Mt. Vernon Avenue** said I live in Charlotte, North Carolina just like everybody else here. I am here tonight representing the Straight Allies of the LGBT community. There are many of us and I am only one of many in this community, and I urge you to vote yes for this ordinance. I remind you that there is no credible evidence, none whatsoever of harm caused by passing such an ordinance. Cities as close to us as Columbia, South Carolina have passed this ordinance with no problems experienced or harm caused by this passage. No safety will be compromised. Our law will still protect all of us. I will also remind us all that there is ample evidence of discrimination, as represented unfortunately as some of those views in this room here tonight. Passing this ordinance would be good for all of Charlotte, straight and unstraight. It will tell the world, once again, how great we are in Charlotte.

**Jordan Frederick, 4100 N. Course Drive** said I am a native Charlottean and I teach high school English in Mathews. Every day I try my best to teach my students the meaning of respect. I hold them to high standards when it comes to their treatment of each other and they know that I expect kindness and consideration in all that they do. As we get closer to graduation, it scares me to know that I may be sending those bright, diverse, unique young people out into a world that does not share those same priorities. My transgender students are afraid to do something as simple as using the restroom? My gender non-conforming students fear persecution as they head out to the work place. My gay students feel they have to hide who they truly are. I am here to day to ask the City Councilmembers and Mayor Roberts to please pass the amendment to the non-discrimination act not for my sake, but for the sake of these children. They are our future, and they need our support.

**Lauren Alleman, 2237 Shenandoah Avenue** said I am a resident here in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I am also bisexual and trans gender. I transitioned here in North Carolina four years ago and at that time I can say that there were many challenges that a transgender individual will face here, even in this city. We like to pride ourselves on how friendly we are and welcoming, but even in a restroom where you think you have privacy, there is a challenge in just being able to use the basic facilities. It is funny trying to wrap up everything I have experienced and who I am in one minute, but for me this is a real issue. This is not hypothetical, this is my daily life. I am a good citizen; I pay my taxes; I volunteer; I work hard at my job; I take out my neighbor's trash when she hurt her foot. Do I not deserve the fact to be able to use the restroom?

**Jamie Hildreth, 4608 Somerdale Lane** said I am a resident of East Charlotte, and I am also the chairmen of Mecklenburg County LGBT Political Act Committee. I am here today to urge you to add the protected classes of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to your protected classes for public accommodation. I remember the first time that I actually spoke here in front of City Council. I spoke about how Charlotte was a safe and accepting city for me, and how I can be me, and how I could not go back to the small hometown that I was from and be who I was. However here, even in this city, some of the basic protections that I thought that I had, let alone the protections that our transgender community needs, they are not there. That is why I urge you to pass these protections so that we can make sure that Charlotte is the city that it wants to be and everyone wants it to be as well. A city that is safe and welcoming to all of its citizens where you can go out and be with your partner, who you love, be who you want to be. So, that is why I urge you to pass these protections for all of our community so we can move forward in unity together.

**Ryan Morrice, 2300 Overhill Road** said I am a born and raised Charlottean from City Council District 6; and I am a product of our CMS public school system. I came out as a gay man to my parents in high school and to everyone else my first year in college. I have been active in organizing for electoral and issue based campaigns since I was 17, and I can't think of a more salient issue in the fight for civil rights than the one before us this evening. I am sure all of you have received numerous hateful and ignorant emails from opponents of equality of this past week. My charge is to speak with you from experience. This ordinance is more than just the fears and doubts of those who would use our community as a wedge issue to turn out their voters. This ordinance is about real people who need your support to access their rights that they are guaranteed by the Constitution. We are tired of being discriminated against because of who we are. This common sense opportunity to provide the residence you represent with the protections they deserve should be an easy one to take. Teddy Roosevelt told us that aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords, and I hope you will join us in fighting for equality for all.

**Emily Plauche, 170 Allen Street** said I knew a girl once who was raped in a women's public restroom. The incident took place at a Charlotte bar around 7:30 in the evening after her drink had been spiked. This girl happened to be lesbian and the perpetrator happened to be a male dressed as a male in a female restroom. Rape of women and girls happens every day in and outside of bathrooms by males who do not need this ordinance or to dress as females to perpetrate their crimes. While there is no evidence to suggest that granting transgender people access to the bathroom of their choice will increase crime, there is insurmountable amounts of evidence of discrimination and hate violence perpetrated against individuals of the LGBT community. I am that girl who was sexually assaulted in a restroom, and I can tell you that rapists are already rapists and bathrooms are not. The oppositions contrived paranoia is not enough to deny me, as a lesbian, or my friends in the LGBT community the same rights as everyone else, in bathrooms or in businesses. I beckon the City Council to formally recognize that LGBT rights are human rights. Please vote yes.

**Alexander Peña, 2600 Kendrick Drive** said in 1933, Hitler enacted laws which created the Jewish populist of Germany as second class citizens. They lost basic rights; they were threatened and bullied into seclusion. In 2016, Sally meets the man of her dreams; she uploads a picture of herself kissing her boyfriend. She only thinks that she is in love and wants to share her joy. I on the other hand have to make a conscious decision to post a pic of myself and my partner. Will this get me fired? Will this cost me a future job? Is this worth the uncertainty? Today I could lose my job; there is nothing I can do about it. I am a second class citizen. My status further jeopardized by fear mongers and bigots, not unlike 1933 Germany. Charlotte is experiencing tremendous growth, trying to brand itself as a thriving modern city, full of opportunity. A vote no labels Charlotte as a smear from the past. Let us not let Charlotte be that city. I live here; I pay taxes, like all of you. So, remember let's define Charlotte by progress, vote yes.

**Natalia Diez, 7008 Turning Point Lane** said I am on the board of MeckPAC. I am also an immigrant, and although the struggles of immigrant communities differ greatly from those of the LGBT community, they have one fundamental thing in common, the need for equal protection under the law. Protection from discrimination brought on by fear and a lack of information and understanding. Often times, the people who most desperately need our protection are the ones that have the most difficulty getting it. You have the power to change that today. Charlotte doesn't need more discrimination stories; it needs stories of progress and unity. Let today be a day we choose inclusion and love by voting yes.

**Chris Turner, 6327 Kifsgate Court** said I am a resident here in Charlotte longer than I wish to admit. I want to thank Mayor Roberts and the City Councilmembers for allowing us to speak tonight to this issue. There are two documents that were created to guide this country, this state, and this city. The Bill of Rights and the Constitution, within those documents it states that all people are created equal and their rights are to be protected. Now, I am certainly no Constitutional scholar but I do not believe anywhere in those documents it says rights are protected except for LGBT and certainly not transgender. As an elected official, it is your duty to uphold the rights outlined in these documents. Despite all of the emails, the phone calls on both sides of the issue, I ask that you vote tonight to provide the citizens of Charlotte equal rights and protections by passing this ordinance as written, no amendments.

**Scott Bishop, 813 Hawthorne Lane** said I am on the National Board of Directors for the Human Rights Campaign. I am a citizen of Charlotte. I come before you tonight to urge you to vote yes on critical updates to Charlotte's city ordinances that protect certain groups of people from discrimination. We know you have a lot of fearful rhetoric from a vocal group of opponents to these updates, most of whom do not live here in Charlotte. What they are saying is simply not true. Despite what opponents say, sexual predators are not waiting for Charlotte City Council to pass a law just so that they can break the law. That is Ludacris. These ordinances will not be able to be used to cover to commit a crime. It is just not true. In reality, these anti-discrimination measures are already emplace in 17 states and over 200 cities around the country. This is not new stuff. The simple truth is these changes will make the City of Charlotte a safer place for gays and lesbians and transgender people to live, work, raise a family, and find opportunity. Tonight, we hope you are listening to the facts and not the fear. The 214 page report you received clearly presents the case to these common sense measures.

**Rosalind Gathers, 1739 Misty Vale Road** said one of the arguments that I have heard with this whole issue is that passing this ordinance is good for business. Since when has discrimination concerns been a deal breaker for companies to do business in North Carolina? Several companies currently pushing for this inclusion language are already here. The tax breaks and other incentives are more than sufficient to attract and retain companies in our beautiful city. Instead of bullying residents to accept this additional language, redirect your focus to holding law enforcement accountable to protect and serve all citizens. I love God, and I am a Charlotte resident. I do not want to see anyone mistreated for any reason. I do not support this change because it conflicts with my faith, and the protection already exists in the current ordinance. So please, don't do it.

**Melissa Morris, 9015 Inverness Bay Road** said I am speaking on behalf of the Charlotte LGBT Chambers of Commerce who is asking for this Council to support the updates to Charlotte's non-discrimination ordinance. From our major banks and corporate leaders to our service organizations and energy providers, Charlotte already has major support from corporate entities related to LGBT rights and inclusion, but without city wide protections, these businesses can only protect their employees while at work which is simply not enough. Today's vote is about much more than just non-discrimination in our city as it exists today. As Charlotte continues its tremendous growth and positions itself to become a global leader in business, we must lay the foundation to secure our future development. In a recent article called open for business, the economic and business case for global LGBT inclusion, a coalition of global companies supporting LGBT inclusions stated that open, inclusive, and diverse societies are better for business and better for economic growth. This report demonstrates that businesses thrive in tolerant societies and that the spread of anti-LGBT policies run counter to the interests of business and economic development. All residents should be treated fairly and equally.

**Jennifer Kant, 10608 Glenmac Road** said I am a teacher for CMS as well as a board member for PFLAG Charlotte. PFLAG is a national organization that has spent over 40 years acting as support, education, advocacy group for those who have loved ones in the LGBT community. At both my PFLAG meetings and my work with high school students, I have met many families, and often their biggest concern, especially with those that have transgender and non-conforming gender children is their safety. The opposition to this ordinance tries to manipulate fear in our community by claiming that some citizens would be made more vulnerable if it is enacted, which evidence has shown that the cities where these protections are already in place have not seen anything of the sort. It is the LGBT members of our community; it is these families that are vulnerable. When they experience acts of discrimination, their hands are tied. There is no law that protects them and their community has left them open for attack. It is the job of our cities leaders to protect those citizens who are most vulnerable. I strongly urge you to do your job well and pass this ordinance.

**Scott Saunders, PO Box 79071** said I have been here for 25 years as a business man, very active in the faith in the business community, and earlier today I sent you an email, hopefully you read it among the 29,000. I don't know if you got down to mine, but in it I quoted presidents, and I quoted North Carolina State Constitution as it related to God's Word in public square. The reason why I gave you a red race baton which you saw that I could not bring in here is because I want you to think when you look at that of the hundreds of millions of American's blood that they shed from the very beginning of our country up to now to uphold Biblical values. Even Queen Charlotte said in a letter to her brother that being queen sovereign of England is nothing



compared to that of being a Christian. I am not here to bash anybody. I can consider homosexuality a sin just like lying, stealing, and cheating. That is what the Bible said, but I am asking you two questions. One is who is your highest identity? Is it a Councilman? Is it a Democrat or Republican? Is it a Charlottean, or is it a follower of Jesus Christ? Because at the end of the day, if all of us, and there is two kinds of sinners.

**Tom Phillips, 17811 New Mark Ave** said I am a father; I am a grandfather, and I am concerned about this ordinance. The question I have is why is it coming back to Charlotte? It was dealt with last year and brought back. The question would be why? Why would we bring back something that could be a Trojan horse? I heard the situation with the pain of our LGBT community. My heart breaks for that; that needs to be dealt with, but we have seen in other states the degradation of small businesses after a situation like this was passed where they were targeted and then destroyed. We need to think about what we are doing here this night in light of the future. Secondly, there are basic human rights, but we are hearing and looking at a population that is very small and dealing with population that is incredibly large. The Bible says that it is the principle of life that if a mother or father does not care for their family they are worse than an unbeliever. You have heard parents tonight say care for my family; don't let this happen to my children.

**Pastor Nancy Kraft, 2321 Arnold Drive** said like many of those who have spoken tonight, I am a Christian. I am a student of the scriptures. It is my greatest desire to follow Jesus. I am grieved to hear so many who also call themselves Christians, speak and act in a way that to my way of thinking doesn't seem to be all that Christ-like and yet it does not matter if I approve of them or if I agree with them, if they offend me or scare the bejeebers out of me, like all citizens, they are entitled to be protected under the law. In the same way that I want to say to my Christian friends who disagree with me, it doesn't matter if you approve of LGBT folks or if you agree with them, if they offend you or the scare the bejeebers out of you, like all citizens they are entitled to be protected under the law.

**Reverend Debra Hopkins, 2611-1 Milton Road** said despite the arguments that we have heard tonight, I have got to speak from my heart. I am a transgender pastor, preacher, serving over at Sacred Souls Community Church, and I believe that God calls all of us to come together as one body to be able to live in harmony and humanity with man-kind, one with another. The rights for me to be able to have, to be able to go into a restaurant, to be able to go to the bathroom, to be able to walk down the street without discriminative laws against me but for me and with me as every other Charlottean here. I think that we all need to have those rights that we all need to be able to stand as one.

**Steve Triplett, 6939 Kuck Road** said I am pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church here in Charlotte; I am also the moderator of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of the Carolinas, representing many churches in North and South Carolina. This is the third time that I have had to come here and address this very issue. First it was the marriage amendment. Last year we were right down here on this very thing, it was defeated, and now here we are back again. I ask you why? Why are we here? I look to the leaders of our community. Mayor Roberts presented a very bias survey that she had undoubtedly done with a lot of the LGBT community and their president who is Chad Turner, one of his aliases. His name is Chad Eugene Sevearance of the LGBT Chambers of Commerce is a convicted sex offender, and for this to continue on and when I hear these things said about we don't have anything or any problems with it; I wonder about it.

**Christina Stritzinger, 1708 Dilworth Road West** said I moved to Charlotte six years ago to start my career after earning my degree in finance from the University of South Carolina. I am a proud member of the LGBT community here in Charlotte, and I love calling the Queen City home. I would like to quote for you some words from Abraham Lincoln about what I think government means. The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done but cannot do at all or cannot do well for themselves and their separate and individual capacity. So, Charlotte City Council, if you cannot protect me as an equal citizen I will leave before I start a family; I will leave before I start my business; I will leave before another LGBT person feels so discriminated against that they take their own life. I will leave before I call Charlotte my permanent home. I will leave. Mayor, City Council members I urge you to vote yes tonight.



**Julia Ballou, 4121 Sandcastle Court** said I am a resident of Charlotte. My question regarding this ordinance is who is going to distinguish between the men who actually quote on quote feel like a woman and the men who just want to harm women? Are we going to have someone waiting at the entrance at every single women's restroom to judge every man who wants to enter to make sure they actually qualify to go in, or are we just going to let every and all man in and hope for the best? If this bill is passed, we will be throwing the door wide open, basically saying we do not care, go right ahead, to those who commit horrendous crimes such as rape, voyeurism, and other sexual assaults. Furthermore, statistics say that only 0.03 percent of the population feels discriminated against by not being allowed in the opposite gender's restrooms. Is it worth compromising the safety of the rest of the population, the other 99.97 percent to make those few people feel better? According to the United States Constitution, the rule of the government is not to guarantee people feeling accepted; the role is to protect the people. This ordinance will do anything but protect the people. It compromises the safety of women to accommodate the feelings of a minuscule portion of the population, and it must be turned down.

**Geoffrey McIntyre, 6300 Holly Knoll Drive** said maybe you all have been drinking too much Kool-Aid. This ordinance is a non-starter. You all are thinking about passing an ordinance that might benefit what a handful of people or two and alienating 700,000 people. If you write an ordinance that allows men to enter women's restroom, facilities, and locker rooms then guess what is going to happen. Men are going to enter women's locker rooms, restrooms, and facilities. I do not think that anyone wants that really. It doesn't have to be a rapist or a mass murderer; it could be a voyeur or someone who gets a kick out of exposing themselves. This ordinance is a non-starter. I urge you to reconsider and what exactly is your agenda otherwise? It can't be that or reason or logic.

**Brandy Haynes, 1210-1 Green Oaks Lane** said I serve on a board of the ACLU of North Carolina, a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting civil liberties for all North Carolinians. On behalf of our nearly 10,000 supporters across the state, including many in Charlotte, I am here to strongly urge the Council to expand Charlotte's public accommodations ordinance in order to protect our city's residents from discrimination based on familial status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. One of Charlottes greatest strengths are diversity, passing this ordinance would send the message that we believe in protecting all members of our community, especially some of the most vulnerable. All people including out gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender friends, family, and neighbors have a right to be themselves, to be protected by the law, and to live without fear of harassment, discrimination, or violence. Among other things, this ordinance will simply allow people to use the appropriate restroom. It does not change the rules that govern behavior in the restroom; it offers basic protections for all of those using the restroom including transgender people. The ugly rhetoric from those who oppose these protections is simply not based on evidence; instead, it relies on fear to divide our city.

**Charles Walkup, Jr., 1926Edgewater Drive** said this ordinance is based on a false and dangerous assumption, that it is more important to protect individual discrimination, than it is to protect individual liberty. Liberty is the right to make our own decision whether anybody agrees with us or not. Our founders declared it a God given right, yet the human rights campaign specifically asked this council to deny this right when they stated that the goal is to protect people from arbitrary discrimination. Until individual discrimination becomes so wide spread that it denies liberty to others, government has no authority has no authority to address it. Council has no such evidence. The real evidence from cities that have this ordinance is that government is being used to punish, intimidate, and science opposition. Council your primary responsibility is to protect liberty for all of us.

**Councilmember Eiselt arrived at 8:31 p.m.**

**Roger Reeder, 10660 South Tryon Street** said I would like to simply stand before you. I have heard the word fear a lot tonight, but I would simply like to stand before you as a God fearing grandfather that has been around a long time that still believes that if you raise a child up the way that it should go, they will not depart from it. That is simply being that being a boy is a boy and a girl is a girl, which I cannot believe in my wildest dreams that I would have to stand before I group of elected officials and ask them to vote no in a restroom situation that allows boys to go in girls restrooms and vice versa, but there you are, and here I am. I am asking you to vote no to this ridiculous ordinance.

**Dr. Marsha Ford, 6836 Alexander Road** said I am speaking in support of the non-discrimination ordinance changes. Voting yes for these changes is the right thing to do because being accepting is part of who we are in Charlotte. I have lived here nearly 34 years and during that time when Charlotteans have confronted intolerance and discrimination whether it be to African Americans to members of the Jewish community to others, we have opened our community to be more inclusive. Members of the LGBT community deserve also to be included and be protected from discrimination, and consider this, a transgender man in the women's bathroom or a transgender women in a men's bathroom, which would occur if bathrooms were assigned based on gender at birth, would be far more disruptive than what this amended ordinance will allow. I urge and hope you will vote yes.

**Reverend Philip Benham, 761 Harris Street, Concord** said I am from Concord, North Carolina, and I want you to know that truly this isn't really about a bathroom thing. It is a battle between whose law is reign and who is Lord? That is what we are fighting here. Is God right or is God wrong, and your city council, the one that is stacked right now to pass this ordinance has raised its tiny little fist in the face of God saying we are God and we know that is best. We know that is a man and we know what is a woman, and we know what is trans, and I want to encourage you in Jesus name that God tells us that if we act this way and disobedience to him, he will turn us over to statutes that are not good and laws that we cannot live by and he will fill us with horror so that we will know he is God. We are going to be filled with horror at what you do and you are going to open the gates of hell for an enemy to come in to rob, to kill, and to destroy. I am asking you in Jesus name to repent of your hell bend way to just bring havoc to our children, in Jesus name.

**Mark Metzger, 300 E. John Street, Matthews** said I am a business owner and an employer here in Mecklenburg County, and I have watched and been involved over the last two years as you have brought up this issue. You have invited the human rights campaign to speak openly to you about this, to help you to craft this ordinance. You have given no such opportunity to the faith based community to do the same. We as a faith community know and understand well our duty to love our LGBT, and we will continue to do that, do our best, flawed as it may be, to show kindness to them; however, it will always be with tough love that speaks the truth that the Bible clearly condemns LGBT life styles. Tough love means they should not get any special treatment allowing them to live outside of societal norms at the expense of other's freedoms. Tough love means speaking the inconvenient truth that we do not get to be who we want to be; we must be who God made us to be. It is God's word that warns us that our hearts are deceitful and desperately wicked and that following our hearts is dangerous and destructive.

**Tami Fitzgerald, 9650 Strickland Road, Raleigh** said I represent the North Carolina Values Coalition, a statewide organization. I hope you realize this morning that Governor McCrory said if this Council approves the transgender bathroom ordinance that they can expect an immediate response from the state. I applaud Governor McCrory for having the sense to throw out this unreasonable and unnecessary ordinance. It is unconstitutional, and you know it. You have gotten bad legal counsel from your lawyer, Mr. Hagemann has told you that this ordinance would be upheld, and he is wrong, and so you are going to force yourselves to be subjected to other means, and if this passes tonight you can guarantee yourselves at least a lawsuit or the State General Assembly coming against what you have done.

**Daniel Parks, 8410 Pit Stop Court, Concord** said I work in Charlotte six days a week and as a concerned father, husband, and pastor, I along with the majority of the speakers last year have already voiced my concerned about this so called non-discrimination ordinance. It seems that this City Council under the leadership of Mayor Roberts has not only ignored and marginalized our concerned but altogether regarded them as extreme and bigoted. Of the concerned individuals you have heard and will hear from tonight who are opposed to this ordinance, not a single one is bigoted. We are genuinely concerned for the safety of the most defenseless in our community and the freedom to disagree with what the Bible calls sinful behavior. Under this ordinance, both will be in jeopardy, safety and freedom in your desperate pursuit to make Charlotte a progressive city through the lack of your reasonable consideration of the majority of responsibly minded people, if you pass this ordinance instead of a world class city, Charlotte will become a world class cesspool. I encourage you to vote no to this ordinance. It is not good for our city.

**Paige Dula, 332 Havenbrook Way, Concord** said I am from Concord, North Carolina and I would like to thank Don't Do It Charlotte, the Benham Brothers, and the North Carolina Values

Coalition for providing me with the words for my speech on how important these protections are. Here are some excerpts from their social media pages: if I caught someone with male parts in the restroom with my wife, there would be a butt stomping no matter what clothing they had on. I find a transgender male or anything resembling a man going into the ladies room where my daughter might be, and I will rip whatever genitalia that thing has off. I find a male going into the female room where my daughter is I will kill him; Taser, firearm, or a little pepper spray ought to clear out the offending party. If some dude went into the women's restroom when my wife or daughters were there I would go to jail for beating the heck out of him. So, tell me again, who are the dangerous people here tonight? I think you see them here.

**Randall Down, 1005 Apogee Drive, Indian Trail** said years ago in upstate New York, on the New York State Thruway there was a bridge that collapsed. Many plummeted to their death because they did not know of the dangers up ahead. Some stopped in time and the lives were spared, but those spared were the ones waving and pleading with others to stop. Sadly, some refused to listen; they kept on driving thinking that everything was okay. They drove a little further and they come faced with the grim reality that their choice of disobedience came with a consequence. As a car plummeted down hundreds of feet down towards death, and many of you on this council are traveling down a road much like the New York State Thruway, but the road you are going down you call anti-discrimination, equality, gender neutral. The road you are on with this ordinance may seem right to you, but according to God's Word, there is a bridge out ahead. The bridge out is represented from what the Bible says there is a way that seems right to us but the end leads to death. Spiritual death usually comes before physical death. God created all of us male or female; our gender is not self-prescribed but God prescribed, vote no.

**Marty DiGiacomo, 1017 Patricia Avenue, Harrisburg** said I work with anti-human trafficking organizations, local law enforcement, Homeland Security in preventing and fighting human trafficking and rescuing and restoring victims, sexual abuse victims. One thing that I really do not respect is anybody who brings lies and misinformation to a thing like this. One of the lies is that it does not allow for any kind of abuse, and that is wrong. If you look at all of the cities that have already passed this, one of the problems is District Attorneys are very reluctant to prosecute idiot, thugs, pedophiles, sexual abusers who go into these women's restrooms, locker rooms, swimming pools and expose themselves, and I have some pictures of these guys. They are very hard to undercover these stories because they are very well hidden, and they are very well documented, vote no.

**David Jordan, 3990 Shiloh Church Road, Davidson** said everyone keeps talking about fear, fear of this; this is not a bathroom bill. This is a bill that is going to promote perversion in our land. See there was a requirement for people in the leaders of the land back in the day that they had to have before they could take a position of leadership. It would behoove of all of you to know what that is. They had to fear God to accept a leadership responsibility role because that fear of God would keep them from perverting judgment. In the [inaudible] of compromise for other people's feelings you are going to pervert judgment today in the name of someone's feelings instead of standing on what the word of God, which does not change, says it right. We are here to stand on God's Word, and you need to do the same because every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus is lord, and it would behooves you people to do it this day instead of when you stand before him and give an account for your life in rebellion. You have no righteousness apart from Christ. You need to repent of your falling. This is madness.

**Ante Pavkovic, P.O. Box 2335, Davidson** said the HRC was founded by Terry Bean who molested and raped a 15 year old boy and that is who our City Attorney here has been working here with that wicked organization run by a pedophile. Your local guy, Chad Severance is also a convicted sex offender; you are working with two groups that are led by people that have committed crimes against people sexually. This is wrong. Are you getting paid Bob? Is that what this is? You got a secret account in the Cayman Islands? It makes me wonder, why are you working with organizations that are run by sexual predators? Are you all part of this? What is going on here? You have not consulted the people; we do not want this. Homosexuality is a sin. There is no such thing as transgender; these people are confused, and they need the help that only Jesus Christ can give them to set them free from their perversion and their lust. Vote no, you have aligned yourself with wickedness and something funny is going on here, Bob.

**Katherine Pavkovic, P.O. Box 2335, Davidson** said there are so many things that I could say, most of them have already been said. I have been thinking about things while I have been



listening. I thought of so many times when I was a mom of five small children, how I would go into a place and people would act like they didn't want me there. You know what I did? I just didn't go back. When I was almost 300 pounds, if I went to a bathroom that was too small for me, I just did not go back. I would find a place that had booths that were big enough to fit me. If there is a situation or a circumstance where you do not feel comfortable, just do not go back. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to the Father except through me, and I urge each and every one of you, please look to Jesus. Repent of your sins and make him the Lord of your life.

**John Kirwin, 9339 Cub Run Drive, Concord** said members of the high Council, my loyal subjects, I am King John the Merciful. I have heard the arguments of the LGBT community, how they have been oppressed and discriminated against because of their orientation... because all of my childhood I have felt the urge to boss people around. I have always known that I was born to be a king, over the hold world, but I have kept it a secret until today. Today, thanks to this movement I am coming out of my kingly closet, and I am taking my rightful place as your sovereign ruler. Today, I identify as gender royal. All of my life I have been offended because people do not bow to me and call me your highness. Everyone is king phobic, and since my sovereign word is law, I decree that anyone who does not bow and call me your highness shall be fined under hate speech laws. I hope my satire illustrates how breathtakingly ridiculous these LGBT arguments are and what a slippery slope they are, and how corrupt and illegitimate this Council has become for even considering this bathroom bill. You talk about decorum but you have made a mockery of your office Mayor.

**Heather Garofolo, 1052 Antioch Woods Lane, Weddington** said I am a small business owner servicing Charlotte. I have friends and family in the LGBT, and I love them. Every American, private business owner should be free to live and work according to their beliefs without fear of unjust punishment by the government. In 2015, The Pew Charitable Trust Organization identified the top ten states for job growth. Eight out of ten of these states do not have non-discrimination ordinances with sexual orientation and gender identity language. Charlotte is a diverse city. There is strength in diversity. There are many world views and work religions that are represented here. Equality means that everyone can speak their beliefs without being silenced. As a business owner, I am concerned about the adverse impact on labor, trade, and commerce that this will have. As a business owner, if I do not check my beliefs at the door then we will have to be forced to have contracts potentially canceled with the city. In that case, that is lost revenue; lost revenue could equal tens of thousands of lost jobs. Lost jobs equal hardships for families.

**Terry Oldham, 102 Castles Gate Drive, Mooresville** said I would like to make five quick points. One, there has never been an actual case of sexual discrimination in Charlotte, ever. So think about that, never. Two, to push forth an agenda in such a deeply religious area as Charlotte, where not a single main stream religion, be it Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, or Judaism supports homosexuality will only lead to discrimination in divisiveness, which will not promote a unified city. Three, forcing people to course to a standard they morally object to is destructive to one's conscious and to our community. This ordinance will only breed resistance and hatred. I am asking you to vote for what will best unify our city at large. Fourth, the HRC does not represent everyone in the homosexual community. I have homosexual friends who have told me they do not like what these activist groups are doing because they feel that they are creating an issue and making matters worse for them, not better. Finally five, I feel we are making a decision that will enrage many and compromise the safety of some, all for the sake of ...the angst of a few.

**David Benham, 1032 Riding Trail Lane, Concord** said I live in Concord, but I create jobs in Charlotte. I own substantial real-estate in Charlotte. So, this is very important to me. I just believe that we should not be forced to indorse or participate in expressive events or messages that are against our deeply held beliefs. It is not about discriminating against individuals. It is about ideas and events or messages. I would support a Muslim baker that refuses to bake a cake for a gay wedding. I support that. So, we should not be forced, as business owners, to be involved with expressive events or messages that are against our beliefs. It is not against individuals because we love all individuals as Christians.

**Adam Tennant, 520 Cherish Lane, China Grove** said Proverbs 29:2 says when the righteous thrive, people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan. All across America, people



like LaWana Mayfield and Jennifer Roberts have been placed in City Councils due to the efforts of the HRC. As a result, these wicked ordinances are getting passed, but this is not the will of the people. Women are being violated and the people are groaning. When the wicked rule, people groan. For the few Councilmembers who will stand in opposition to this ordinance, I want you to know that you are not alone. We have got your back; Raleigh has got your back. The HRC is going to try to bully you into submission, but I ask you to stand strong. You are doing the right thing, and you who will pass it, your seat is going to be taken. Once again, the righteous will thrive in this nation and the people will rejoice, and you will be laid low. I pray that on that day, you will turn to Jesus Christ, the only one that can save you from the wickedness that has invaded your wicked souls.

**Jason Benham, 11522 Riding Trail Lane, Concord** said I apologize, I misplaced my king outfit, but I can tell you, my sister David just went, my mother Flip just spoke a little earlier, and I have always wanted to play in the NBA; however, I wasn't good enough to play in the NBA, but then the WNBA was created, and my dream arose again. Then I realized, wait a second, I am not a woman. I can't do that, but then I thought, well if the laws could change and I could just declare myself a woman. I could guarantee you at 40 years old; I could go out there and create an amazing basketball team because my three-point shot is amazing. Now how ridiculous is that? It is the same type of thing we are talking about here today. It is absolutely ridiculous, but you know what ridiculousness is preceded first by denying God. So, I would tell you today to open your hearts to him. You have already made your decisions, but God can direct the human heart. Please give him an opportunity to do that.

**Thomas Dellinger, 1388 Wynnbrook Way, Concord** said I come to you once again as a frustrated business owner and a concerned, upset father. As a business owner who is in the process of opening a gym here in Charlotte, it is laws like these that hurt my business. Fortunately, the corporate offices of the franchise I have purchased have already seen this happen in their other franchises in other cities, and we are in the process of putting individual bathrooms in because our members, which are actually about 63% made up of women, do not feel safe using a locker room with a man. Ordinances like these damage my business, they threaten my income, and the ultimately put my members safety at risk. We love Charlotte, we love the parks, and we love the stadiums. I want to enjoy these things with my children, please do not take them away from me. Romans 13:4 says this, for the one in authority, which is you Council, is God's servants for your good, but if you do wrong, be afraid for the rulers do not bare the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer. Your God given civil responsibility is to protect us so please do not pass this ordinance.

**Jason Dellinger, 1064 Riding Trail Lane, Concord** said this morning I asked my four year old about what we are here tonight for. I said, is it okay for a man to walk into a woman's bathroom? My four year old answered shockingly, no. Why did my four year old say that? Because the law of God is written on his heart, and that same law of God is written on my heart and is written on you your heart. That does not mean you love Jesus, but it does one thing, it forces you to make a choice between what is good and what is evil, because the law of God is written on your heart. You have heard the law of God tonight. It says in Proverbs 23:9 do not speak in the hearing of a fool for he will despise the wisdom of your words. I would plead with you not to hate the words that you have heard tonight. Listen, if you have haven't noticed, the church of Jesus Christ has come out because there will be another ordinance just like this. Death and hell are never full; the eyes of man are never satisfied. It will happen again, but the true church, I am not talking about the false profits, the wolves in sheep's clothing that name the name of Christ and do not part from iniquity, but I am talking about those that are standing for truth, truly distinguishing between what is good and what is evil. Please do not do it Charlotte.

**Thomas Barry, 2686 Saddlewood Circle, Concord** said God tells us in Proverbs 29:2, when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice but when the wicked rule, they groan. I am not sure of how you can define wickedness any more clearly than taking your cues from perverted sex offenders who have been convicted, and we know homosexuality defiantly lands in the direction of pedophilia, it is a perversion, it is a departure from what is known to be right. There is something wrong with it. It was categorized as a mental illness one generation ago. Someone asked what Obama's opinion of marriage was in 2008 was one man, one woman, for life. What scientific discovery made him change that? This is a trend; this is a fad; this is wickedness, and I ask you all just to consider the fact that all mighty God is watching. He is looking on; he is

paying attention, and if you are being bought or you are giving into things or someone is blackmailing you, I ask you to repent and do the right thing.

**Jason Oesterreich, P.O. Box 2067, Concord** said Mayor Roberts, when we started this meeting it struck me that you instructed people to be conscientious of what you said because there are children in the room, and it struck me that here tonight you are conscientious of what children hear, but you are not conscientious of what the statute is going to do to them. You do not care about that, and it is very likely that we are going to have women standing in the locker room, young girls, naked and a man can walk in, and it is no problem, or we will have a man standing in the women's locker room naked and a 12 year old girl will walk in. Now, Mr. Hagemann said this would be indecent exposure and the law would protect against that. The law doesn't protect against somebody changing in the locker room and standing there naked, of course it doesn't. You would have to arrest every single person that went to the gym, of course that isn't going to protect our young children. Now, you have misquoted the Bible, you said the fore most commandments was love your neighbor and it is not. In Mathew 22:36 they ask him, teacher what is the foremost commandment and the foremost commandment is love the Lord, your God with all of your heart and all of your soul and all of your mind, and if I love Jesus, I love his will, and I love his Word, and if I love my neighbor as you had mentioned, I would not sacrifice them or their children to this agenda.

**Roberta Dunn, 153 Kenway Loop, Mooresville** said I am the Chair of the Carolina Transgender Society. Seven years ago I started meeting with the City Council, the Mayor, and County Commissioners about LGBT rights. Since we have made a lot of progress in equality, tonight we are at the crossroads of providing LGBTQ people the human rights that all citizens of Charlotte and the visitors to this great city should have. These rights are required for everyone to have and not to be denied. That is insuring all LGBTQ people will not be discriminated against here. February 1<sup>st</sup>, CBI held a forum providing an opportunity for people to hear and understand both sides of this issue. I am willing to continue these dialogs with reasonable people, but this is no reason to deny equality for everyone tonight. So, I am asking the City Councilmembers to be on the right side of equality and vote yes on this non-discrimination ordinance.

**Julianna Burgess, Boone** said this ordinance will negatively affect the owners of small businesses in our area. In Washington State, Baronelle Stutzman was approached by longtime customer Rob Ingersoll to do the flowers for his same-sex ceremony. In deposition testimony, when Ingersoll was asked what he wanted, he replied just some sticks or twigs in a vase. Although Ms. Stutzman agreed to provide any materials he requested, she refused to arrange the flowers for the ceremony saying that that practice would go against her Christian beliefs. For that, Ms. Stutzman was dragged into court and may lose the source of her livelihood. Legally, this is unjust. Socially, it is simply rude. The behavior that Ms. Stutzman has been victimized by is not correct, and there is no way that it can be rationally defended.

**Boo Fields, 8055 Bryson Road, Indian Land, SC** said Mayor Roberts you had said that we had heard from many people in the private sector, folks that are LGBT and non-discrimination is very important. We want to do what helps make people feel safe and included and accepted. In 2004, the Charlotte metro area ranked as the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the United States with almost 2.4 million people. In March of 2015, the Gallup poll surveyed this area and found almost 3.8 percent or almost 90 thousand people identified themselves as LGBT. If this ordinance is passed, I will not feel safe. I will not feel included, and I will not feel accepted. Is non-discrimination really important to this City Council? If so, represent the other 2,289,560 people or 96.2 percent of the population in this metro area that are not LGBT, vote no.

**Laura Levin, 14207 Delaney Drive, Concord** said I am a transgender pediatrician who cares for all kids, including those in the LGBT community, and I have heard the stories from my transgender kids and their families about being bullied in school, about parents being told by their pastors to beat it out of their children, and about physicals who handed them a Bible tract instead of medically relevant information. The victory all spewed by the opponents of the NDO today creates anxiety and depression in my kids and is responsible for a lot of the pathology we see in our kids. It gives children, who may not understand, the right to bully instead of the right to try to understand. Now this is Michael Hues. Michael Hues is a transman and he looks really out of place in a woman's bathroom, and quite frankly I get you may say that it is not discrimination to tell trans people to go to the bathroom in the gender in which they were assigned, but it is discrimination to tell him to use the men's room and me to use the women's

room. When you tell him to use the women's room you create the problem you are trying to avoid. Please vote for this non-discrimination ordinance.

**Noel Woolf, 6101 Bickett Ridge Drive, Monroe** said I am the proud mother of two young boys, the oldest of which is in kindergarten five days a week in the city of Charlotte. I came here tonight knowing that you were convinced that voting yes tonight would be a very smart political decision for yourself, but I ask you to consider do you want to take the career risk that only 10 percent of the mothers in this city will only turn out the next election. Do you want to take the career risk that it is going on record that you are using the survey prepared for you by a convicted pedophile who has served time in prison for molesting a young boy like my son. I urge you to vote no. Protect myself; protect my sons. Do not insult my intelligence. I am 40 years old, and I know what will happen in a bathroom if a grown man comes in.

**Brian Madeira, 6130 Ferncliff Drive NW, Concord** said you know I speak the truth when I say that any commissioner who votes yes is ignoring reason and common sense and your own inner sense of right and wrong. You know this is true, and God will hold you accountable. Jesus said, whoever causes one of these little ones to sin, it would be better for him to be drowned in the sea. To anyone here who considers themselves transgender or homosexual or anyone trying to figure it out, God is calling you to come to him. He has made a great sacrifice so that you can know him and be accepted by him, but you must turn to him. Turn away from everything and seek him in his word. Read the New Testament; it is only about one-fifth of the Bible. You can get through it, and Jesus said, if you truly seek him, you will find him, but you have to block out all of the noise and seek him for yourself.

**Kevin Griffin, 5107 Southpark Drive, Durham** said it is disgusting. It should only be done in private. It will lead to sexual assault and deviance. Those are all things that have been said about a woman breastfeeding in public. The woman who was breastfeeding in the room I was waiting in felt none of that. She was comfortable; she was accepted as an individual, and we honored her right to care for her child. We have to honor every individual, regardless of their orientation, regardless of their presentation, regardless of their origination. Every person is worthwhile; we have to honor them for that. I encourage and urge you to vote yes.

**Jacquelyn Keenan, P.O. Box 37331, Rock Hill, SC** said assuming the population of transgenders is between a half of a percent and one percent, this translates into one person in one hundred for one percent, or one person in two hundred for one-half of a percent. We are talking about a very small segment of the population. There is an orderly and established way of doing things that works to the benefit of all people. For example, all people in the south-bound lane of I-77 travel in the same direction; one person cannot simply turn around and begin traveling north. This would cause confusion for everyone, not to mention the danger. Highway Patrol would never allow it. There exists no inherent right of one person to cause chaos in the lives of so many. Wisdom, common sense, and courage dictate a vote against this ordinance.

**Will Bridenstine, 999 La Forest Lane, Concord** said councilmembers; I am opposed to this ordinance and urge you to vote against it as it affords no protection of religious freedom. The City Attorney stated on page five of their February 5<sup>th</sup> memo that protections and exceptions to laws due to religious beliefs can and have been afforded. They cite the Supreme Court case of *Burwell vs Hobby Lobby* which ruled that Hobby Lobby was not required to provide contraceptives as this conflicted with the owner's religious beliefs. No such protections are included in this proposal. It is well known that these types of ordinances have been used to force business owners to promote events and endorse messages that are contrary to their religious beliefs. By failing to include any protections for these situations, the Council is declaring that sexual expression and orientation is not equal to religious freedom, it is instead superior. Ironically, the current ordinance lists religion as a type of discrimination which is to prohibit, but by enacting the ordinance as written it will serve as a very mechanism for this very thing. I urge you to vote against this ordinance, thank you.

**Christine Evans, 590 Axton Street, Concord** said I just want you to not vote for this ordinance. I am just a simple grandmother out here and I want to be able to take my grandchildren out to dinner, out to lunch, to the gymnasium. I want them to be able to take swimming classes, be able to feel free to change in the gym. Don't open up this Pandora's box. You do not realize the evil that is going to come out of this if you allow this ordinance to go through. Please use common sense. Don't vote for this ordinance, thank you.



**McLean Faw, 225 Freemont Street, Matthews** said I would urge you to vote no against this ordinance; it is bad public policy. It is unfair and it is unreasonable. This ordinance is unfair to women and children, putting them at risk through sexual predators disguised as transgender persons coming into the bathrooms of which there are documented instances. This ordinance is unreasonable. Gender expression and gender identity are changeable and subjective. The color of one's skin is unchangeable. Public policy cannot be changed on subjective feelings. This ordinance discriminates against business owners who have faithfully serves the LGBT community but have a moral objection to participating in same sex wedding events. I urge you, vote no.

**Sam Miorelli, 4400 Alafaya Trail, Orlando, FL** said I am the co-chair of Siemens Energy Pride and Play Resource Group based at our headquarters in Orlando, Florida. Siemens employees 1,700 people here in Charlotte, and we are proud of our many LGBT employees in Charlotte and the LGBT employees amongst our 348,000 employees worldwide. At Siemens we believe that a diverse work force helps us bring ingenuity for life to the highest quality products and services. Unlike many other types of diversity in the workplace, you cannot readily see LGBT coworkers. We tried to change that in my group and remind everyone that they can bring their whole self to work, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. In collaboration with some of our major customers, Siemens is proud of the role it plays in promoting diversity and including, including for LGBT people throughout the energy industry. Orlando, where I am from, passed an ordinance very similar to this one in 2014. It makes Orlando a great place to live and work for everyone, including LGBT people. That makes Orlando a great place for Siemens to recruit the best employees from around the world. I hope you support this, thank you.

**Jesse Ryan, 522 Laurel Fork Drive, Matthews** said I am a mother of three elementary school age boys in CMS. Our youngest six year old is gender non-conforming, which means he does not conform to what society says you should wear, the toys you should play with, etcetera. While he loves his brothers and supports all that they do, he likes very different things, Barbie, dresses, anything pink. Initially, this confused us because it was different than what we expected after his two older brothers. What we realized very quickly is that these things are not defined by gender. We are all human beings that deserve to be respected, loved, and cared for while being out authentic selves. I love my boys. Each day we talk about using your manners, being kind, trying your hardest, and also every day when I am getting my six year old ready for school and I am pulling his hair back in pig tails and smoothing out his skirt I am role playing with him on how to handle mean, rude, or disrespectful comments about his attire, or the toys he likes to play with, or where he is going to the bathroom that day. My family is not alone. There are so many gender non-conforming children/youth in Charlotte and they need your support. I urge you to pass this ordinance.

**Rick Scot, 14001 Old Vermillion Drive, Huntersville** said I moved to Charlotte seven months ago from Los Angeles, California, probably one of the safest cities to live, one of the safest states. I have heard a lot of anger; a lot of vitriol, a lot of fear comes out of people's mouths tonight. It really disheartens me. As my friends post on Facebook, move back to California, why are you there? Well, I will tell you in the seven months that I have been here; I have learned to love this city. Despite what I have heard tonight, I continue to love this city and hope for change. I work for a very large company that protects me. If my husband goes out to apply for a job, he can be turned down because of who he is, because of who he loves, and I hope that tonight, you will vote in favor of this ordinance, that you will support non-discrimination for everyone, including the LGBT community.

**Levi Gray, 736 Washington Lane, Kannapolis** said I am going to put this succinctly. I am opposed to this ordinance, and I am concerned about many of the dangers that it presents. As others have said, there is a discrimination that comes from the government as a result of this regulation, based on the religious beliefs of businesses. There is the regulation of labor and trade, which violates Article 2 section 24 of the North Carolina State Constitution, and most importantly is the loss of privacy and security of women and children and the increased danger of their harassment. This ordinance appears to be another attempt to run the tolerance buzz saw through our culture, and I call it a buzz saw because it will try to achieve its goal of tolerance no matter what liberties, religious beliefs, or laws it has to cut down along the way. Don't fall victim from this buzz saw. We put out trust in you to up hold our liberty and our safety. We ask that you would not let this law destroy that and to fear God rather than to fear men.



**Ethan Metzger, 20392 Old Sandbar Road, Oakboro** said I am 15 years old. As a young person I am really concerned about this ordinance passing. I was raised to be empathetic, and I have seen first-hand how destructive sin can be. Bad choices bring difficult consequences. It is not that I do not feel bad about people who are confused about their identities; I do, and I feel ashamed to think that anyone would beat someone up as a way of disagreeing with them. That is called assault and it already breaks the law. I am definitely more concerned about my little brothers and sisters being at risk. I come from a big family and we do lots of fun things in Charlotte. My little sister Emily can tell the difference between the ladies room sign and the men's room sign; she is only three. Her sharing the same bathroom with a man is not okay. I am not sure you guys are thinking about the right group of people here. My dad taught me that women and children deserve our protection. This new law certainly won't do that. Please vote no.

**Jordan Roose, 3216 Lancaster Highway, Monroe** said I live in Monroe, North Carolina, and I run a business in the Charlotte area. I have a beautiful wife and four beautiful sons, and there has been a lot said here tonight and a lot of confusion. The sweet Psalmist of Israel said that thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. So, has been said in the Constitution in reference here tonight that all men are created equal, right? All men are created equal. It has also been referenced by both sides, what Jesus has said; even the Mayor herself referenced Jesus commanding us to love our enemies. I want to clear up the confusion by reading from the lamp, the light turns it on, helps us to see clearly. Here is what Jesus said, regardless of what side you are on. Here is what he said: have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning, God made them male and female. He said for this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall become one flesh. God made a man and women, be on God's side.

**M. Karpov, Monroe** said thank you for allowing me to exercise my democratic right of free speech. I was born in Soviet Union, and I know first-hand the tyrant of socialism. I now, a US citizen, and I wish that every native born person would take its history to test to learn the reason for the greatness of this nation, one nation under God, not goddesses like earlier it was said here. The founding fathers of this nation understood un-alienated rights and... rights given to us by our Creator rather than by the government. This emphasis on our Creator is because it shows that the rights are permanent, just as Creator is permanent, doesn't change. The vote tonight will be either for the unchanging, mortal values of Biblical heritage of this nation, or fabricated facts of worship and make men gods of LGBT agenda. Don't allow the sacrifice of our children on the LGBT alters. I ask you to choose wisely, and remember that one day we will all give account to that creator.

**Ruth Motley, 4590 Cochran Farm Road, Concord** said I reside in Concord; however, I frequently travel to the Charlotte area for medical purposes. I have a three year old daughter who has Down syndrome. There is no greater give that I have been given than the opportunity to be a mother of a special needs child, but this gift comes with a great responsibility. I share a dream with all parents who have a child with special needs and that dream is for our child to grow up and live an independent life, integrated as much as possible in society. We are starting to see this happen. Today, people with special needs, like my daughter attend typical schools; they attend college; they are active in sports; they participate in arts. They go on to be employees and some even own their own businesses and get married. With this progress vulnerability has emerged. Just a quick Google search can bring up multiple instances that people with special needs have been physically and sexually attacked in public restrooms and school gym locker rooms, and if these attacks are happening to the most vulnerable among us with the current laws of protection, we imagine what will happen if this protection is removed.

**William Wools, 6101 Bickett Ridge Road, Monroe** said I live in Monroe, but my kids go to a private school here in Charlotte. I love this city. We have lived in the Pittsburg Area, and we moved back, and we just love the city of Charlotte. I am a Christian and I believe that every transgender person should be treated with respect, and I understand that there should be laws already in place. Why don't we just follow those laws? If you make this law then you are going to have to make a law for every group of people. At the next City Council meeting are you going to make a law for Christians to protect us because we get assaulted, and we get discriminate? Are you going to make a different law for another group? I mean, where is it going to stop? We already have laws; let's just enforce the laws that we currently have.

**Virginia Feimster, 316 Greenwood Avenue, Belmont** said I am the state coordinator for PFlagg North Carolina, and I am a retired exceptional children, special needs teacher from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. I am a mother and a grandmother and a Christian, and I have not seen much Christianity today. I have seen a lot of signs, but I have been in the overflow room, and anything else I had to say has gone out the window because of the way the people in the overflow room who are not in favor of this have acted. I am for it. I was just making notes the whole time. People making fun, people laugh when other people would speak, when a lady minister spoke, she said she is a Christian and then when she said she wanted you to vote for it somebody said oh boy. Everything was like that. These people who profess to be Christians do not have my brand of Christianity, and the brand of Christianity that I am for.

**Annalise Metzger, Oakboro** this is not about discrimination. This is a gateway ordinance. It is pushing its way into schools, businesses, and the private lives of everyone. It will lead to the persecution of those in Charlotte that disagree with the homosexual agenda. That is not fear mongering; it is happening in every city that passes craziness like this. This is not about protection, if it were you would be trying to protect the ones most at right. You need to be protecting children. Keep the bathrooms biologically correct; honor their privacy. This is not about hatred this is about telling the truth. God created them male and female. Sexual immorality of any kind is wrong. Homosexuality is wrong. I didn't say it, God did, and each of you will be accountable to him for your decisions this evening. I don't believe you have any intention to really listening to the people that live and work and visit here. Most of you have already made up your minds, shame on you. Vote no on this ordinance, repent form your sins and turn to Jesus.

**Kyle Aichele, 2069 Burand Road, Fort Mill, SC** said my wife and I and four boys just recently moved here in this area. We were in Fort Mill. You guys probably heard this. In Seattle at Evan's Pool, a man in board shorts entered a woman's locker room and he undressed himself. He said the laws changed and he had the right to be there. Right now there is no specific protocol for how someone should demonstrate their gender in order to access a bathroom. Employees just rely on verbal identification or physical appearance, and this man offered neither. The police who were notified offered no help. This is not what we want in North Carolina. This law gives way to a loop hole that sexual predators can use to their advantage. This is also a contradiction to the indecent exposure laws of North Carolina which is currently in place for the protection of the general public. Are we going to start to change all of those laws after this? We cannot afford to erase laws that protect and create chaos in the name of inclusion.

**Brent Childers, P.O. Box 1176, Hudson** said I serve with Equality North Carolina, work here in Charlotte, and have many family and friends here. Last Thursday I met a young man transitioning, and he was in his third month of his transition. I met this young man at a church, a church like many others, who recognized the need to create affirming and safe spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender individuals. This person is somewhat vulnerable right now because of the transitioning process but because of the stigma and hostility that is a part of his social environment. That is why I could not ask him here to join me tonight. I knew it would not be a safe place. I believe you recognize the need to create safe places for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals, and I thank you for recognizing that need.

**Diane McMahon, 1411 Sarah Ann Stephens Drive, Huntersville** said I am here to encourage you to vote no on all parts of the non-discrimination ordinance. My family works, shops, and spends money in Charlotte, and I believe this piece of legislation harms our community and the people and the businesses in it. I find it unfair that the council would force private companies that want to contract with the city, to enact this same policy. This ordinance will also hinder economic growth in the greater Charlotte area, as it discourages people from getting out in businesses where they need to use public restrooms, locker rooms, and showers. I appreciate the city's desire to accommodate a minority portion of the community, but do not sacrifice the rights of the people of our city to believe and do business in liberty, to protect the preferences of a few.

**Steve Widdows, 1415 Depot Street, Iron Station** said Father I pray that every person in this room get the fear of the Lord. Pilate was playing around with the Son of God, and you are playing around with the Son of God. When Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, there came a messenger to him from his wife that said don't have anything to do with this righteous man, and Pilate knew he was righteous, and I am saying to you tonight, don't have anything to do with this ungodly wickedness that is put before you. You know it is wicked. It is not just the bathroom portion; it is the whole thing, it is wicked and it is putrid.

**Mayor Roberts** said I am going to let the Council speak one at a time, but I first wanted to thank the speakers. I appreciate your keeping your remarks to a minute. You were very eloquent and articulate in your comments. I also want to thank those who came from far away. We had folks from Raleigh and Boone and even someone here from Orlando, Florida. I just want to thank you for the careful attention to this issue and thank you for your time and patience this evening. I am going to let Council make some comments.

**Councilmember Austin** said you know the world is watching little Charlotte, North Carolina, my hometown. This time it is not for Panthers Football but is really to see what type of world class, global city we have become. The question is, are we a diverse city that is inclusive of all races, genders, religion, thoughts, perspectives, and orientations. Are we a city that celebrates our differences and realizes that we are stronger together, or are we a city that panders to fear and hate of those who wish to perpetuate in justice, discrimination, prejudice, and inequality? I say to you, not on my watch. There has been a lot of arguments on both sides of this non-discrimination ordinance. Many do not really make sense. People have been calling this a bathroom ordinance, spreading misinformation, half-truths, and all out lies. Sounds a little bit like the toll conversation we had last month. You know Council, the construct of our American society speaks of a foundation of freedom and equality, but our history tells a different story. Our history speaks of discovering America; however, I am sure that the Native Americans would say that they have already found it. Our history speaks of a race of people who were enslaved and proclaimed less than human to justify the need of a workforce, and this was supported by the Bible. Our history tells us of women being subjugated and denied full inclusion, or even being told how they can determine the uses of their body. Our current history details of the LGBT community fighting for the ability to marry the person that they love. History will note that we won that one. Tonight, the fight continues in little ol' Charlotte, North Carolina for America to live up to this foundation of freedom and equality. You know, members of the Council, LGBT people are not aliens that arrived on earth demanding rights. We have been here for a very long time; we are your sons; we are your daughters; we are your uncles, your cousins, your mothers, and your fathers. We exist in your families, your churches, from the pulpit to the pews. We are in your workplaces, in your schools, in your hospitals. We are not going anywhere, and we are not living in the shadows any longer. We will have equality. So, tonight I will be voting for the ordinance. Now, there was a lot of conversation about God. The God I know is a God of love. He is not a God or a person of fear or hate. God is love. Maybe we all need to understand that.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I want to emphasize first; I do not believe that anybody should suffer any kind of humiliation or abuse by virtue of gender issues. I think we should protect people who are exposed to that kind of abuse, but at the same time, I don't really think that is the issue here. What troubles me about this whole conversation is the way we have been put on the defensive about trying to hold on to certain traditional values when it relates to bathrooms, because we have been given a choice. Anybody who felt that parts of this was acceptable and parts are not acceptable was don't uh-uh this is how it has to be and there is absolutely no accommodation in here for all of the people that we heard tonight that object to this. Now, let's look specifically at the bathrooms because that seems to be the flash point. I want to emphasize there are other areas. I do not think a gay person should be denied service in a restaurant. If it was possible to have a conversation with my colleagues here on Council about passing that ordinance, okay, but no. Last time we came to vote on this thing, the issue actually arose of whether we would pass something that didn't cover the bathrooms but provided all of these safeguards in other areas, and that failed because a couple of people wanted the bathrooms in there. I believe they want the bathrooms in there because they recognize that if that is actually a different conversation. If you all are going to talk about the history of this country, and the history of civil rights, and you are going to make comparison between the experiences of African Americans and gay people, the comparison stops when you get to the bathrooms. There are three points that I particularly want to emphasize why I think that the bathroom portion of this argument really doesn't hold water. For one, in my mind and it has been said here several times tonight; this is not really about discrimination. The word discrimination is used because of its emotional power, but the truth is, everybody is required to use the bathroom that corresponds to their biological gender. You can't get more equal than that. What we are really talking about here is whether or not special accommodation should be made for people who find themselves in the wrong place. I have sympathy with them; I believe their life is difficult, and I think we should work to insure their safety, and to try to minimize their discomfort. I think the argument that they are being discriminated against by being told that they have to obey the same rules when it



comes to bathrooms is simply specious. They are the same bathrooms; they are in the same place. It is not the back of the bus. A speaker tonight actually did make that point, but we have to have that discrimination thing in order to fuel the kind of emotional argument. Let's talk about safety. Safety is something that has been highlighted both by victims of abuse of transgender people and LGBT people. It is also an issue that has been raised by a lot of opponents because they have fears about what will happen in bathrooms if the ordinance passes. In truth, the evidence that we have is not very conclusive. The supporters of the ordinance say that there is no evidence at all of any heightened risk to people in bathrooms, and what we have in our book here is 10 cities out of 200 that have passed the ordinance that say, well we haven't really had a problem. That is not very scientific. It is not much proof. I haven't seen any evidence to support the allegation that the safety of transgender people is improved by the passage of this ordinance. So, I do not think that there is a compelling objective safety argument; a fact based supported safety argument. I recognize before anybody objects, that there were many reported instances of abusive behavior towards transgenders. I do not deny that, but what I am saying is, specifically on the bathrooms what has occurred and how has the safety of transgenders been improved by passing this ordinance. The fact is, we already have laws that protect people from assault. Assault and battery, a felony offense which is much stronger than anything that we can legislate around the dais here. People also tend to be mean to each other. It is a fact of life. It is man's inhumanity to man. You get road rage, you get bar fights, you get all kinds of offensive behaviors of every which kind and we cannot legislate them all out of existence. Doesn't mean I think it is good, but I really think that to suggest that we could sort of eliminate bad behavior towards transgender people through the passage of this ordinance, is very optimistic. So, my feeling is the real issue here is a matter of comfort. What I mean by that is, we are talking about the comfort of transgender people being allowed to go to the room where they feel right, and the comfort of opponents of the ordinance who are afraid of some sort of safety issues of their children.

There is also a privacy question. We haven't really talked about that much tonight, but a lot of people would like to see traditional gender values maintained. They would like to see the old fashioned, this is where the boys are, and this is where the girls are. They have no thought of trying to put anybody at a disadvantage from the LGBT community. They were simply raised with a concept of this is where the boys are, and this is where the girls are. There is a lot of emotion and sensitivity around that, which I believe is being thrown under the bus in this conversation tonight. So, for that reason, I cannot vote for this ordinance. I can't support this, and it would have been nice to be able to have a conversation that was a little more inclusive of the views that we heard tonight, but what we are looking at right now is entirely on one side of this argument, and I think there is good reason to believe that a large portion of our community does not want this. One last comment I wanted to make was that the issue of Raleigh has been raised a couple of times and the governor was quoted in the paper about what would happen I think Governor McCrory cares deeply about Charlotte. He was mayor here for 14 years, elected 7 times. He has a feeling that he knows this city. He also knows the state of North Carolina. It is worth noting that tonight of our speakers, when we got to the speakers who were not from Charlotte, the balance shifted pretty decisively against the ordinance. It is a reflection of the fact that Charlotte is a bit different from the surrounding area, but we have to also be mindful of the fact that we have a great deal of influence that goes beyond the city boundaries. We are the core of a MSA of 2.3 million people, and I think what we saw tonight was that a lot of the people who do not live within the limits of the city are worried about coming here to shop or commuting here and represent a different attitude towards the ordinance and the people who live here. I think when the governor spoke out against it, he did out of his own personal conviction that traditional gender values deserve to be defended, and also his perception that the state in which we live and the people in our state government are not entirely with us on this thing. So, for him to point out the fact that since we are in a deal and rule state that the state legislature does control what happens in North Carolina. The City Attorney has argued that City Council has the authority to pass this even though that has been challenged by a member of the General Assembly. I would argue, yes, we have the authority because the General Assembly gave it to us, and they could take it away again. I bring up these issues in my capacity as the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee and as a representative of the party that has the majority in Raleigh but the minority here. We should be a little more thoughtful about trying to get along with our neighbors and in the context of our state. So, my main three points are: I do not think this is discrimination; I do not think the safety issue has been proven sufficiently to support the



decision we are talking about making tonight, and I think a lot of people who are only motivated by traditional values of gender are just being ignored.

**Councilmember Autry** said I am also a father of four. I am a grandfather, and I am comfortable with the language in this ordinance. My children are comfortable with the language in this ordinance. I am the father of a daughter who is a lesbian. Thankfully marriage equality is the law of the land now. My daughter and her partner, from the last 14 or 15 years, were married in September of last year. When I grew up, I had two uncles, and only one of those men was my father's brother. Those two were together since 1961, and they taught me a lot about life, a lot about compassion, a lot about love, and a lot about caring for each other. I hold all of those recollections very dear. So, I will support this ordinance this evening, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

**Councilmember Kinsey** said it would be easier for me tonight just to sit here, wait for them motion, and the second, then raise my hand to vote; however, I feel that you need to know why I am voting the way that I am. Now, let me give you a little bit of history. Shortly after I started serving my first term of City Council, back in 2004, the issue of domestic partner benefits came up. Now, if you are on this Council, you learn to count very quickly to six or seven, six because it takes that many votes to approve an action, and seven to override a mayoral veto. On the matter of domestic partner benefits, no matter how I counted, I could count only three votes, they came from the three women on Council. Nancy Carter, former City Councilmember elected from District 5, the late Susan Burges, and me. Happily, since that time, those three votes have grown into what I believe will be the votes needed to pass this amendment tonight. Now, I want my colleagues to know that I honor and respect their opinions and their feelings about this issue. I also honor and respect how they might vote tonight. This issue is a very simple issue for me however. I was taught from my earliest days in Sunday School at Allen Street Baptist Church here in Charlotte that we are all God's children and equal in God's sight. Now, I realize that there are days when I fall far short of that teaching, but I do not forget it. I truly believe we are all God's children. I have many friends in the LGBT community, good friends that I have had for many years. I also have a number of transgender friends, a very special one, Roberta who you heard speak tonight. So, for Nancy, Susan, and Roberta, my yes vote tonight is for you.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kinsey and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to adopt Ordinance No. 7056-X amending the City Code by adding marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to the list of protected characteristics in the commercial non-discrimination, public accommodations, and passenger vehicles for hire ordinances.

**Councilmember Fallon** said I voted last time for the ordinance that was presented to us then. I would vote for that ordinance again. I would vote for job protection, housing protection, taxi protection, and restaurant protection, but I cannot impose my will on people who are frightened and do not understand and have not been explained to what this is all about when we come to the third part, which is the bathrooms, and because of it I cannot vote for it until the public understands what this is all about and has a fair hearing. Tonight was not a fair hearing; it was one side but not the other side. We heard from LGBT and Equality, we never heard from the other side, and I will not impose my will on other people. My vote is no.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said religion aside, to me community is about learning to live together and respect each other, and sometimes that is not always very comfortable, and I acknowledge that. With this vote, we are going to define ourselves either as a city that legalizes discrimination or prohibits it, and I would just like to make a note about religion. If I think about this as a church, and I was visiting your church tonight, I would never come back. I support this ordinance. I support this ordinance.

**Councilmember Lyles** said it isn't a very comfortable thing, to face a crowd like this that speaks with such passion on such a different issue, but we got elected to do something that we thought would be correct, to serve this community, not just for today but for the future. I heard so much tonight about love and hope and faith as people talked about this ordinance. I also heard the Scriptures, the fear, and the uncertainty about how it will impact our everyday lives. The thing that I think most about though is all of us growing up in this Southern Community, I grew up in South Carolina, and I remember walking through neighborhoods and having to experience

different people and how they were impacted by being different. I know people often think about that in terms of race, but I am not talking about that tonight, I am talking about people that were called names, students that were ridiculed in school, and those are the things that I most remember and that is what causes my heart to look at this with honor and compassion because I truly believe this ordinance is about treating people with respect and dignity. When I campaigned I said I wanted to make Charlotte a place where people of all ages want to live, work, play, and stay here to raise their families. That is my commitment to this community and I think that we do that by being inclusive. I think that we do that by making certain that we can welcome people here, that people feel invited here. We talk about what is different about Charlotte. It is about when we go out and talk about recruiting businesses we say bring your employees here because they can live here with respect and dignity. We say bring your family here because there will be a place where they can live and work. So, I support this ordinance because I am committed to this community, not just for today, not just for the people today, but for our future, and I believe that this makes a difference for our future.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said thank you everyone for all of your emails and phone calls expressing your opinions on this issue important for our community. This is not an easy decision for any of us sitting down here at this dais. I think most of us try to focus on public service and what is good to make our city better, but I am not a fan of the word discrimination. I campaigned on the trail of if any incidents in our community where discrimination exists, I will vote to remove discrimination. So, tonight I will be supporting the non-discrimination ordinance because I think it would make Charlotte a better city and a better community.

**Councilmember Phipps** said this is an extremely divisive issue as demonstrated by the comments we have heard here tonight, the thousands of emails I have received for and against, and personal phone calls directed to my office. Like my vote last year on this matter, I will not support the ordinance that is before us here tonight. For me, the case has not been made that we do in fact need such an ordinance. The implications of which have not been fully evaluated and assessed. For such a radical departure from existing norms, I have not seen clear, pervasive, or systemic evidence of discrimination that would warrant justification for expansion of the ordinance as proposed. I cannot dismiss the concerns over safety expressed by the overwhelming majority of people who contacted me. I feel Charlotte is a very welcoming city with hundreds of new residents flocking here each and every month. New businesses choosing to relocate here, including many who have already voluntarily embraced the protections this ordinance seeks without municipal mandate or interference. For these reasons, I will not support the ordinance.

Mayor Roberts Councilmember Smith, before we hear your comments I just want to say how sorry we are for your loss and I appreciate your family for letting you come here tonight for this important matter and as soon as you vote you can go home. I appreciate your time here.

**Councilmember Smith** said I did not have to come here tonight because the outcome is already predetermined. The forum and in my opinion, this hearing is a sham. It would have been doubly easy for me to stay home because my father passed away last night, but I could not sit idly by without registering my opposition to this outrageous ordinance. Ed eloquently summed up a lot of my points tonight; I want to add to some stuff he suggested. While there's no evidence to suggest that transgenders will be made any safer with this ordinance, there is evidence all across the country that transgender men are showering in women and children's locker rooms. What this law will do is it will legally make our mothers, daughters, and our wives feel uncomfortable and unsafe in the bathroom. I am voting against this because I simply share the common sense of the majority of Charlotteans.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said I have heard from many of you this evening using religious interpretation this evening. Just for clarification, I did not campaign on religion; I campaigned on economic development, job creation, equity, equality, transparency for all people. There will be many votes. There have been votes in the past; there will be many votes in the future where some residents will be upset, such as when I attended honorable Minister Farrakhan's speaking event a few years ago in Charlotte. Just as when I lobbied and supported banning 287-G which discriminates against those that are undocumented in the Latino community. My vote this evening lies with all laws that have been created to protect the minority. Also, I have heard that, unfortunately, many do not acknowledge and even respect the transgender community, and that saddens me. Luckily, for a number of you there are amendments in place for freedom of speech and many of you have spoken. I personally pray for a day when this much participation is

enacted regarding the true pedophiles that we have seen in churches, that we have seen in schools, that we have seen in households, because unfortunately, statistics, and the laws do show that it is immediate family members that are in that case. I also look for a day when this much energy is spent to eradicate homelessness, poverty, and address the educational divide in low income communities, and most importantly a day where we have more than an eight percent voter turnout regarding how we govern and how we move forward. The laws are not created for the majority; they are created for the minority. I had some people call me earlier today to say I have a special interest regarding tonight's vote. Well, you are right; I have always had a special interest for anyone, and group, any individual that is ostracized, that is abused, that has little to no voice. As a female, which I am pretty proud of most days, a couple of times out of the month maybe not so much, but I don't have to worry about which restroom to use, but I do need to be concerned as an elected official about how others are treated. It is my responsibility to try, to the best of my ability, to create and support protections for as many people as I possibly can, for that I will continue as I supported the original non-discrimination ordinance that was a fully inclusive ordinance. I will continue to do so this evening.

Mayor Roberts said this is clearly an emotional issue on both sides, and regardless of tonight's vote, it is clear we need to continue to have community conversations and dialog to address concerns and questions that are raised there tonight. I appreciate everyone's point of view; I want to particularly appreciate my colleagues. I know they have put a lot of effort into reading, and by the way, this information was very balanced. We had Focus on The Family; we have Values Coalition information in here; we had both sides, but I want to appreciate very much the thoughtful consideration and the respect that my colleagues have shown for each other and all of you. We have listened to each and every one as is appropriate in a democracy. I have long been a supporter of social justice. As a council commissioner, I support non-discrimination for county employees and voted to extend domestic partner benefits to same sex couples. Discrimination is never right. Many in our business community understand this, and many large and small businesses have lead, as have other cities and counties in LGBT non-discrimination. Our community understands that to attract the best possible talent, we must be a welcoming community that values each and every person's contributions and values them for who they are. Charlotte is committed to being an inclusive and fair community where all people are treated with dignity and respect. I urge my colleagues to support this ordinance but even more, I urge all of us to remember that dignity and respect is afforded to each human being. Many of you have devout Christian principals, and in my Christian upbringing I believe that respect and dignity are very important. Please help us continue this conversation; please help us continue to work together to work for you, and with that we will take a vote.

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

YEAS: Councilmember Austin, Autry, Eiselt, Kinsey, Lyles, Mayfield, and Mitchell.

NAYS: Councilmember Driggs, Fallon, Phipps, and Smith.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 59, at Page 743-747.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **ITEM NO. 6: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF E. 17TH STREET AND AN ALLEYWAY OFF OF E. 17TH STREET**

**Mayor Roberts** declared the public hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Lyles, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing and to adopt resolution to close a portion of E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street and an alleyway off of E. 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 217-221.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AN ALLEYWAY OFF OF W. 28TH STREET**

**Mayor Roberts** declared the public hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, seconded by Councilmember Mitchel, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing and to adopt a resolution to close an alleyway off of W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 222-227.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF GREENWOOD CLIFF**

**Mayor Roberts** declared the hearing open.

A motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, and carried unanimously to continue a Public Hearing to close a portion of Greenwood Cliff to the March 28, 2016 agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO. 13: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS**

**Councilmember Mayfield** said I just want to remind you that the annual District 3 Airport Job Fair has finally arrived. We have normally had it in May; we actually worked with the Airport and our business supporters and we have moved it up. It will be this coming Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am at the CLT Center. If you are not familiar, that is the VIP parking location right off of Wilkinson Boulevard. We will have public parking available. Please come out; bring your resume. Dress for an interview because we will be doing live interviews at the time. So, we look forward to having you out again. I would love to thank staff because we have the most amazing staff in the city, and to thank all of the residents who came out this past Saturday for my first of four budget charrettes. We had a wonderful time, community had a great opportunity, and councilmember Eiselt was able to make it, our Mayor was able to be there. We had a number of our commissioners that were there. We really had a good conversation about the budget and how we as a council come to decisions on moving forward with our budget and our budget priorities. I look forward to seeing you at the next one. If you have not received my emails please contact Kim Oliver at [koliever@charlotte.nc.gov](mailto:koliever@charlotte.nc.gov). so we can get your contact information so that we can advise you of upcoming charrettes that are happening.

**Councilmember Lyles** said I would like to say thank you for the invitation to attend the robotics lab at the Charlotte Airport. I went out and saw teams of young people from elementary school up to high school building robots from Legos all the way to robots that would actually be capable of working in a manufacturing environment. Mayor, I would like to invite them to come down before the state championship so that Charlotte can see the kind of work that we are doing with young people. We do not brag about them enough, and I really enjoy that time and would like to have them come back.

**Mayor Roberts** said I want to again remind folks that CIAA is this week. Tomorrow morning Antrice Mitchell has put together a great program at the Extravaganza Depot. I will be speaking about our Business INclusion program and how the CIAA is working very hard to offer opportunity to small women and minority owned businesses. That is part of what we are focusing on, is trying to bring opportunity to all corners of our city, and the CIAA has been terrific in helping us grow our small businesses in the women and minority owned category, and I look forward to seeing folks at the Extravaganza Depot tomorrow at 9:15. Those of you who are visiting Charlotte, seeing your teams play in the CIAA tournament; we welcome you and hope



you have a terrific week. We are very glad to share the CIAA with you. Good luck to all of the teams.

**Councilmember Autry** said I just want to remind us again to please observe the posted speed limits on our streets and roads in Charlotte. I know it is becoming ... for everyone but it is a very serious matter that we really need to address one way or the other. Making it unsafe for us to move around this city whether we are in a car, bicycle, or walking is not the kind of reputation this city needs to have out in front of it. I would also ask us to please look around, pay attention to the littler. Pay attention whenever there is trash in the back of the truck and it is blowing out and making our streets look terrible. I know we need a lot of private investment in Each Charlotte, but I would ask our citizens to also be mindful that the way the city's streets and roads look has a lot of influence. If people think that we do not care about our own neighborhood nobody is going to pay much attention to consider making investments there. Please do not litter.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I just want to mention quickly at my Friday morning coffee meeting I will be talking about the bond offering that is proposed by the state of North Carolina, pros and cons, and people are welcomed to come. You have to get there at 7:30 which is the bad news, but I think it will be a very interesting illumination of why we would want to do this and why we might not. It is at Ballantyne Hotel and Resort on Ballantyne Commons Parkway at 7:30 on Friday.

**Councilmember Austin** said God is love.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.



---

Emily A. Kunze, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 4 Hours and 30 minutes  
Minutes Completed: March 21, 2016