

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Dinner Briefing on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 5:22 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Al Austin, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Greg Phipps, and Kenny Smith.

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DINNER BRIEFING

Marcus Jones, City Manager said tonight I want to start off by acknowledging that tonight will be Ron Kimble's last business meeting, and there are going to be some special remarks teed up in the chamber this evening; however, I think as Mayor and Councilmembers do realize that Ron is going to take a very short break and then come back starting March 1, 2017 and continue to work with the city part-time. We are very appreciative that Ron has decided to continue to work with the city that he loves so much. I would like to make two introductions to two new members of the Executive Leadership team. First, there is a new Deputy City Manager, Sabrina Joy-Hogg. Sabrina has 25 years of state and local government experience. She served as the Chief-Deputy City Manager in Norfolk, and before that she served as the Budget Director for the City of Norfolk and then she spent a good deal of years at the state, working for the governor's budget team, as well as having collaborative efforts with the Legislative and Executive branches of government, so I am very pleased to have Sabrina.

I would also like to introduce to everybody, in a new role, Assistant City Manager, Kim Eagle who is known to many of you as Doctor Eagle. It is interesting, when I left Norfolk, I think that the community was okay, but when Sabrina left Norfolk, the community was in outrage from losing Sabrina, so I want to have a little bit of fun with Kim. Kim passed being the first female professional-football player in order, which was her dream, to dedicate her life to public service. You didn't know that I knew that did you? I will say in all seriousness, Kim has over 20 years' experience in this city. She is just a jewel. Prior to this appointment, she too served as the Director of Budget, as well as being a Deputy Director for Charlotte Water, so it is great to have this wealth of knowledge and experience for the Executive Leadership Team. We are very fortunate to have them both in the team. Thank you, Mayor and members of Council, for allowing me to make that introduction, and Mayor if it is fine with you, I can turn it over to Kim.

Councilmember Fallon said Sabrina, the best comes from Queens.

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ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS

Kim Eagle, Assistant City Manager said we had no questions submitted during the day.

Mayor Roberts said Item 18 I guess has been pulled, so it is Item 19 through 32. Any questions for staff on any of those consent items? Those of you who have a printed agenda item, we are actually making a little change to that.

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ITEM NO. 2: FISCAL YEAR 2016 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXTERNAL AUDIT

Mayor Roberts said the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and audit will be covered during our regular meeting downstairs in the chamber, and now we are going to hear an update on soccer and the stadium.

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UPDATE ON MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

Marcus Jones, City Manager said Mayor and members of Council, I know that there has been a great deal of discussion in the community about the merits of major league

soccer, so I know that Ron and staff have been taking with you over the last week, and what we thought would be important today is to take into account some of the questions that are circulating and try to present those to you this evening, so that you could have a better feel of the landscape of what is happening around major league soccer. Prior to tomorrow, I know that there will be a community meeting related to it. So, we wanted the Council to have as much information as possible prior to tomorrow. If it is the will of the Mayor and the Council, I will turn it over to Ron.

Mayor Roberts said that meeting tomorrow is at 3:00 p.m.; is that correct?

Mr. Jones said 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Roberts said will it be in the Chamber?

Ron Kimble, Deputy City Manager said in the Chamber.

Mr. Kimble said I am pleased tonight to come before you and deliver as much information to you as possible in a short time, because you also have the Economic Opportunities Task Force Update that follows, and we want to make sure that you have the chance to hear both of these presentations tonight. It is my pleasure to be here tonight. We have before each of you a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, together with a two-page summary that was sent to you on Friday and also the detailed matrix that became the concepts that were negotiated recently with the perspective owner of a Major League Soccer franchise here in Charlotte. This is a very time sensitive issue. You have heard that. I do want to say that it has been tough on you, not to hear information until the night. This will be the first time publicly that the information has been given about this at a public meeting. We want to share as much as we can. Our purpose tonight is to share the expansion intentions, to outline why Charlotte-Mecklenburg is a strong contender for a major league soccer expansion. We want to outline the potential public/private partnership. Many of those deal points are in the materials that are in the back of your handout. We want to give you some new information about financial and economic factors, debt capacity of our funds that are in restrictive funds, that are used in the hospitality, tourism, and cultural categories, and then we want to discuss a possible path forward and next steps with you tonight.

There are, as you have heard, 20 active teams in MLS. I am going to show you on the next slide who those are, but they are adding Atlanta and Minneapolis in 2017 to go to 22 teams, then Los Angeles and Miami are in expansion development, and that would make 24 teams. Major League Soccer's intent is to establish a 28 team league, so they put out information to cities across the country to become the 25th and the 26th franchise. These are a listing of the current MLS team locations, with the current expansion cities of Los Angeles and Miami at the bottom.

The MLS expansion process that you have read a lot about and heard a lot about, they surprised all of us. You, us, the rest of the cities, on December 14, 2016, they announced franchise expansion opportunity for teams 25 and 26. They also announced at that time that bid applications are due January 31, 2017, about six and a half weeks of time to put together what had to be submitted in a bid package, and listed next is what they asked for to be included in a bid package: a committed ownership group with a passion for soccer and resources to build sport in the market, strong fan support for soccer matches and other sporting events, with a desirable geographic location attractive to corporate sponsors and television partners, and then also thirdly, a comprehensive stadium plan that insures that the team has a proper home for players and fans. That is what they asked in the bid packet for each of the 10 cities to propose to them on or before January 31, 2017. A humongous task for any city that would be in the hunt, us included, and we have been under this particular time frame since December 14, 2016, and we have been crushing it to try to get as far along as we could so that we could share information as early as we could with you. As part of this, they announced that any ownership group in any city, must commit a \$150 million franchise fee commitment with the proposal and then they also talked about additional monies that would have to be allocated upfront by that particular ownership group upfront for risk protection in the first five years of operation of a franchise, so there is a very heavy commitment and heavy responsibility on the part of any perspective owner in Charlotte

or the other nine cities. So, who were all of the cities? This is in your packet; it has been broadly reported: Charlotte, Cincinnati, Detroit, Nashville, Raleigh-Durham, Sacramento, St. Louis, San Antonio, San Diego, and Tampa-/St. Petersburg. We do believe that a south-eastern city is going to be on the list of number 25 or 26. You see it is Charlotte, Nashville, Raleigh, Tampa/St. Petersburg, are all on this particular list. We do not know geographically how they are going to allocate any perspective franchise allocations, but we are convinced that they want to locate one in the southeast, which makes our competition pretty stiff with those that are on this list.

I wanted to talk about why soccer and why now, because that is a big, big question that I think has to be asked and answered first. The rise of soccer has been just a rocket ship. It is the world's most popular sport according to totalsporttech.com, and it would increase the city's international presence and exposure. I think when you see the World Cup on TV and you see the cities around the world that are hosting this, there is talk now of the World Cup expanding from 32 to 48 teams and you are going to see even more growth of the sport of soccer across the world and across this country and across this community. It is the second most popular youth sport in the United States, behind only basketball. We have the sources listed here. It is growing exponentially in terms of youth and engagement of youth in communities across the country; 2016 was the third consecutive record increase in major league soccer team's average game attendance, and the average game attendance across all 20 teams now is 21,692 fans per game. A major league soccer team in Charlotte provides opportunity for greater engagement of youth soccer in all areas of our city, and that is what this is attractive among other things for us at this particular point in time.

Why major league soccer in Charlotte-Mecklenburg? It can expand our economy and increase our international presences and exposure. It can grow jobs for all, including opportunities, because this would be in this proposal, a county owned, county-built stadium, and there can be great minority, women, and small-business enterprise goals. We are working on the apprenticeship piece and making sure that we include that in whatever we end up with in a development agreement with the perspective owner, and youth employment opportunities, because we know from the county and the City Council's perspective that these are very important ingredients that you have talked about in the last year, and we have suited these up for conversation early on with the perspective owner of a major league soccer franchise. We also know that we can grow youth soccer inclusion opportunities, and on the next slide I am going to tell you a little bit about what has been happening in Charlotte on the youth soccer front. Soccer is also an attraction for talent, for entrepreneurs, for millennials, and international residents who really love Charlotte, coming to Charlotte, and soccer is a hook that brings all of these cultures together. It is a festival type atmosphere and a soccer match and a soccer game, and we are also going to show you later in this presentation some of the other events that could come as a result of having a stadium here in Charlotte. It also is going to grow recreational opportunities and cultural opportunities when you can bring this many people of different backgrounds, ethnicities, races, religions, together in one place, and there is great opportunity to expand these opportunities together. Again, soccer in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the American Youth Soccer Organization, AYSO is gaining momentum quickly in Charlotte. It is a national organization. It is predominantly geared towards disadvantaged youth, who otherwise could not afford or be available to play soccer in some of the academies that choose a higher elite type player, and there is a ground swell of support with AYSO in this community today. They have started about a year ago, and they are looking to grow soccer, as not only a sport, but a character of dignity, of respect of opportunity to have role model figures, volunteer coaches, volunteer referees, and officials, volunteer people who would line fields, they are engaging Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools for the open fields that they have at their high schools and middle schools. They are engaging Mecklenburg County Parks and Rec Department to use the fields when they are not being used by others, to grow the volunteer engagement of our youth, especially in our underserved neighborhoods in Charlotte, and they are gaining momentum. I know that they will be at the meeting with the county tomorrow to talk about exactly what they are doing on this front, but AYSO is a movement and a force. They got a grant from the Charlotte Rotary Club, leveraged by

international Rotary Club a Rotary Foundation that is helping them jumpstart the engagement in all of the communities throughout Charlotte.

We are also home to six prominent youth-soccer clubs, 12,300 members in six soccer clubs, with local clubs that host over 20 terminates in 30 camps annually, and the Charlotte Soccer Academy CSA, is one of the largest youth clubs in the country, and it is located right here in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. You also know that we started some FC Barcelona Futbol Camps. They are here in Charlotte. They did a camp in Charlotte, a camp in Richmond, a camp in Raleigh, one in Cincinnati, and one in Louisville last year, and they are growing soccer in Charlotte and in all of these other places, but then they also brought the FC Barcelona Futbol Academy here, which is a yearlong program, and they have 205 youth in their first program, and they want to grow it to 400 or 500 as time goes by. You also know that there has been growth needs for new and expanded facilities, such as the Twelve Field, and you know we talk about futbol and they are called pitches, not fields, but in America we call them fields. At the Mathew's Sportsplex, you know that the demand for the fields is overwhelming, and we do not have enough fields and enough playing place for all the kids who want to play soccer in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. We have a prominent USL United Soccer League Charlotte Independence presence, which is growing the sport of soccer on the minor league basis. We have had successful international soccer in Charlotte. Starting in 2014 with Liver Pool versus A.C. Milan, with 69,000 fans, direct spend of about \$8 million, economic impact of about \$16 million' and then we had Chelsea versus Paris Saint-Germain, 61,000 people; Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago in 2015 there were 55,000 attendees, and these events were 10 days apart, in Charlotte. We had almost 116,000 people in Bank of America Stadium over 10 days and then we had Bayern Munich versus Inter Milan in 2016, and there is a high interest from a potential ownership group to bring a MLS group here to Charlotte.

As you know, we have talked a lot about potential sites in a six and a half week period, and we did a review of sites in and around the Charlotte area, mostly uptown, but we did not discount any site. There was quite a bit of conversation about Eastland Mall site as a potential site for a stadium and/or a soccer village that would go along with that. It really did get a good look by the ownership potential group that wants to bring a team to Charlotte. They sent about five days working through the possibilities at the Eastland Mall site. They also talked to Major League Soccer; they talked to us. They talked to national and local developers to see what could be put together on the Eastland Mall site. In the end, what they came back to with us about Eastland Mall was three concerns and questions: accessibility, competitiveness of the site, and timing, and because of those three variables and those three factors, they did not feel comfortable that within this time frame, which is a time frame that is dictated by Major League Soccer, that there could be an ample vetting of all of the issues around the Eastland Mall site, so for that reason, the Eastland Mall site was taken off of the table. It doesn't mean that it was a bad site; it just means that it was not as high of a potential site on the list as the one that ultimately was identified, which was Memorial Stadium. I will tell you however, in this last bullet, that conversations about Major League Soccer at Eastland have really energized the opportunities I think that exist for the current plans at Eastland. There have been more conversations around city, county, YMCA, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and private development as a result of what we did in the five days that we talked about Eastland as a site, because if it is not the site that we would ultimately choose as a new MLS stadium, it sure could be a site that can be complementary to soccer; it could be complementary to growth and development and developing a destination on the east side of Charlotte, which we want the Eastland Mall site to be, so it has really ramped up conversations around the Eastland Mall 69 acres.

The Memorial Stadium site, we know how challenging it is because it is a historic site, but the opportunity to enhance two important community assets, the Memorial Stadium and Memorial Stadium property and Independence Park rode high on the list of how this might become the site that would could rally around. We know that there are concerns in the neighborhood about parking about traffic about lighting about noise about updating an area plan and getting a stadium design that would orient itself to Independence Park. We know that it honors veterans and we need to make sure that we preserve that honoring of veterans, and with county participation with the Elizabeth

neighborhood, as well as other nearby neighborhoods in order to make sure that we do this in a way that respects those neighborhoods, respects Independence Park, preserves and enhances Independence Park, as we look at Memorial Stadium. Also in this scenario, Memorial Stadium and Grady Cole Center would be demolished and historic elements of the stadium, such as the stonewall and the ticket booths, would be reused, and certain architectural elements would be emulated in the new stadium, and in addition, the history of memorial stadium would be archived and a certificate of appropriateness would be sought and received from the Historic Landmark's Commission before we proceed down this path. It is hard. Memorial Stadium is a historic site. We know that FDR, in the 1930s, spoke there; we know that it was open in the early 1930s and became operational in the mid to late 1930s. We do know it has historic significance, and there have been conversations among the team that has been assembled to engage the neighborhood, engage the Historic Landmarks Commission and try to make sure that we are doing the right things if we choose this site.

Major deal points: these are included in your packet. You have the longer version in the matrix. It talks about what the team's responsibilities, city, county. I also did a two-page summary that appears on top of that matrix deal point that is included in your materials, but it is in the end a negotiation that results in a proposal of a \$175 million stadium cost; \$87.5 million would come from the team owner. It would be in the form of \$12.5 million upfront and \$4.26 million dollars per year, over 25 years, with a total net present value of that revenue stream and the upfront money being \$87.5 million, then \$43.75 million would be placed into the construction by the county, and the proposal was for \$43.75 million for the city to be infused into the construction of the stadium. Ours would be one time money, one time for 25 years with the MLS stadium, and it would come from tourism one, which is hospitality and tourism taxes, which has restricted uses, no funding would come from the general fund, again funding would come from restricted revenues, and I will walk you through which pot in the restricted revenues that would be, and we are going to show you some debt capacity numbers. Randy may join me up here, because he has been working on those with me over the many weeks. Randy Harrington has been at the table with me during all of the meetings, along with Michael Smith, Tom Murray, Dena Diorio, and Mark Foster, who is one of the Assistant County Managers for Mecklenburg County.

The tourism one funding source, after you would commit if you do, \$43.75 million to the Major League Soccer stadium, there would still be a debt capacity in the fund of \$46 million. There is sufficient funding to do all of the things that we have currently planned out of this bucket of funding, which is restricted, and we have the ability if you were to choose that path, to infuse \$43.75 million on a debt capacity basis, 20 year debt, certain interest rate to the county for construction of the stadium. It would be an interlocal agreement between the county and the city to flow those funds to the county. The county would have the ultimate-development agreement with the team. The development-agreement is like the NBA agreement that the Hornets have with the City of Charlotte. The city owns the arena. We built the arena. We maintain the major capital improvements. We each put money in on an annual basis to keep the buildings fresh and the Hornets have the operations, the marketing, the booking and the operational responsibility for any losses in the arena. The same model is being used here with the Major League Soccer perspective owner. The county would own the land and the facility. It would be a master lease by the county with the team owner. The team owner would be responsible for operations and any operating losses. The city and the county would receive up to 20 free rent use days in the facility each year, and the county and team owner would be responsible for capital expenditures on an annual basis.

Media analysis of stadium partnerships, we have a lot of data. We summarized it here. The Washington Post on August 23, 2013 reported that examining the dedicated soccer stadiums and the Major League Soccer world, that the average portion of public investment was 50.2% at the time in 2013. Some stadiums have been 100% private funded. Other stadiums have been 100% public funded; they range all across the board. I will tell you that in the past, a franchise for Major League Soccer team was in the \$70 million to \$80 million that a franchise owner would have to put up. It is now rising to \$150 million for the 25th and 26th team, and it is going to rise even more for the 27th and the 28th team, and it will become even more tough to land a Major League Soccer

team in the future if we bypass this window of opportunity, and we may choose to bypass this opportunity. It is up to you, but we feel it is an opportunity that was worth exploring and one that has great opportunities for bringing our community together of international community, of disadvantage folks, of MWSBE, of opportunities for apprenticeships for jobs and for youth employment. The Star Tribune, which is out of Minneapolis, May 19, 2015 reported that the average public input for MLS stadiums across the country, was 47.8% in 2015. So, it is pretty much confirming that is the average. We know that we would like the best deal possible for us. We negotiated as hard as we could, and we wound up with the deal points that we have in front of you.

Other stadium uses, 20 MLS games, including the preseason, 17 regular games, 3 preseason, we could also host women's and men's college soccer, high school soccer, friendly matches, US women/men's soccer games, Battle of the Bands, which would be a great opportunity to put into this stadium. Other community and hospitality tourism uses as part of county/city free use days, remember there are 20 and then the county also requested that the team developed a discounted rate for non-profit usage of the stadium, because it would be more expensive to operate and to have an event in this stadium than it would be in the current Memorial. We want to make sure that it is affordable for non-profit use.

So, Charlotte restricted revenue sources, extremely complex, not easy to explain, not easy to absorb. We have been doing this now since 1985, and I want to walk you through the history of each of these taxes, because it is important for you to know the capacity that Randy is going to talk about. In 1985, we established a convention and visitors bureau for the first time. It was in 1985 that we went to the Legislature and received a tourism tax of three percent occupancy tax. That is to be used solely and only for general tourism support, plus facilities that attract visitors, including stadiums. This is the same pot of money that we also put money into BB&T Ball Park in Uptown Charlotte. Also, we added to this the 11/2% rental-car tax that goes back in time, so this fund, the tourism one fund consists of the 3% tax and 11/2% rental car tax. In 1991, when the new convention center was being envisioned and moved from Uptown at College and Fourth Street, over to its new location, this community rallied and went to the Legislature and got a second 3% occupancy tax and a 1% prepared food and beverage tax. Those moneys, from 1991 all the way through 2013, were restricted solely and only for convention center purposes. Upgrades, construction, operations, including marketing, but many of you were around when we had the Bank of America Stadium Improvements that we became a partner with the Panthers. We know that we went to the Legislature to try to get them to help, and we ended up getting some help. The help that we got was in the form of expanding the potential uses of the convention center funding, and they allowed us to stretch the uses to include Bank of America Stadium and amateur sports. I know that many of you know about it, because you were on Council, but others have read about it, and that is what happened in 2013. I will contend that us doing that, funding \$75 million in Bank of America Stadium and \$1 million in maintenance and 250,000 in traffic control, per year for 10 years, was our ability to fashion a 10 year agreement that kept the Panthers in Charlotte, and all I need to say is look what is happening in Los Angeles today, because that was what we feared, and I think it was a tough decision to make. This community had a tough decision to make then. It is going to have a tough decision to make in the future, when the 10-year agreement runs out on Bank of America Stadium, and we are going to be doing something all over again, and you are going to want as many partners as you can. The city, county, and the State of North Carolina to be in there with you, if we are going to continue to host NFL football in Charlotte, North Carolina, which is a smaller market and it takes more heavy lifting in order to keep that team here in Charlotte forever. Jerry Richardson has said that he will never move the team, but that doesn't mean that when he passes away, that a new owner isn't going to come in and ask you for a partnership deal or move the team, so what we have got to do is make sure that we are positioning ourselves well for that.

In 2006, we competed in the NASCAR Hall of Fame, and it was for the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex. There is a 2% occupancy tax, and the specific language on what that 2% has to be used for is construction acquisition, financing, maintenance, and repair of the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex, and the complex includes the Hall of Fame, the

Crown Ballroom, that you have enjoyed by sitting in many different functions in the Crown Ballroom, which also makes itself available to the community at large and the parking deck that sits below the Crown Ballroom. It must be used only for those purposes. There are restrictive uses on each of these buckets of funding. The last one was in 2007. We call it the tourism two. It is when we build the Levine Center for the Arts, and we had to go to Raleigh to ask for permission for a 5% add on to the rental-car tax. It became known as the You Drive It tax. It taxes almost the same way as the original rental-car tax, but it is different on gross vehicle weights of trucks, and it became the You Drive It tax, and 4% of the 5% went to the Arts and Cultural Center, the Levine Center for the Arts, and \$31.6 million for Discovery Place and then it also, according to this Council's decision in working through it, 1% of the 5% went to Pay Go for road planning, and I think those of you who are on the Council or on staff would recognize how tough a negotiation that was back in 2007, but it has to be used for the cultural facilities that we have used it for, and we have debt financing that has obligated us to use it in this fashion. Those are all four of the pots of money that are restricted uses, must be used for the purposes that are set out here, and I wanted you to know that ahead of time, because the one source that we are talking about using for a perspective Major League Soccer team, is the tourism one bucket, which has sufficient debt capacity in it. I am going to ask Randy to come up and talk about the debt capacity in the funds and spend a quick moment. Tom Murray is here also to talk about economic revenue flow back to us, if we were to move forward on the recruiting and Major League Soccer team to Charlotte. Then I will come back and finish up what the next steps might be.

Randy Harrington, Chief Financial Officer, said the purpose of this slide is to answer two questions: one, is there sufficient capacity to make it a \$43.75 million allocation for the purposes of an MLS stadium? The answer to that is yes. The second component to this slide is to help answer the question, well what would the future look like in terms of projected or estimated growth in those various four buckets of capacities, that could be used in the future for other Council priorities or community priorities around facilities related to hospitality and tourism components. If you look at the first key row, looking at the tourism one row, you see if the \$43.75 million were allocated to this project, what you would have remaining is \$46 million of current debt capacity in tourism one, and you would also see, if you project that out three years as well as six years, what the estimated capacity would be. One of the things that I do want to emphasize is that this is estimated at a very conservative manner. Staff has spent a lot of time analyzing this along with using our external, highly rated and respected debt modeling consultant to help us check our figured and our numbers. That has all been reviewed as part of this analysis. If you look at the bottom three buckets, the tourism two, the convention center, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame, in these particular buckets I will just note that there is no assumption for particular projects, but we want to show you just what that would grow during that course of three to six years if it were just to grow on its own. Again, there is sufficient capacity in those other buckets, funding for other high-priority projects and with that, I think that is just a general overview of the capacities, debt capacities in those four particular areas. With that, I am going to go ahead and invite Tom Murray with Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority to come up and speak a little bit about some of the anticipated economic impact, as well as what we have seen from some reports from other cities who have studied this area.

Tom Murray, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority said I am here to talk about the projected new revenue flows from MLS presence in our market. Out of town visitors attending these events hosted in the stadium will infuse the city with new demand generating significant economic impact, and visitors spending adds to new jobs, incremental demand on local businesses and generates new tax revenue, From an incremental visitor direct spending on the first year for the annual impact money, direct spending only, is \$41.5 million; over a 25 year period it will be \$1 billion, \$038 million. For the total economic impact, which includes the indirect and induced spending, it is \$70.4 million in annual economic impact over the 25 year person is \$1 billion, \$760 million. The project will generate 597 new jobs based on these figures, and that is expected to be maintained over that 25 year period; the project also will generate back to this community, incremental tax revenues of \$2.3 million a year or \$57.5 million in tax

revenues over that 25 year period. There is also one time construction economic impact of \$300 million. We used a very conservative methodology when doing this, not unlike what Randy does for managing the funds. We also use a third party, highly respected organization implant and we use their model, and we have often been in front of you using these models over the last five years and felt very confident in the models which are the excepted models in the industry.

Other cities have also presented their economic impact. Other cities also count their economic impact in different ways because of different taxation rates, different deal structures, and different municipalities. So, when these all do not look like ours, they do give us confidence that our numbers are in the appropriate range. In Orlando, over a 30 year deal, they created 390 jobs, \$710 million in direct spending. We do not have their induced or indirect spending, and \$9.1 million in tax revenues. In Sacramento, they have \$1.24 million of economic benefit from the region, so their economic impact over a billion as well over 30 years with an annual economic impact of \$30.5. An additional \$2.2 million in taxes for the region, 130 to 220 incremental jobs created, according to their calculations, and St. Louis, over 33 years and \$24.5 million in tax revenues returned to the state, and that number also is adjusted for their assumed tax credits for \$40 million, and they also put forth a \$1.7 billion dollar economic impact on the GDP of their state. In San Jose, their total new incrementally impact ranged from \$50 million to \$63 million annually. They say that they had even more jobs between 14,080 to 18,060 full-time jobs created, and they generate back to the community \$1.5 to \$1.7 million dollars in taxes.

Mr. Kimble said again, what we are doing is giving you the overview. We are prepared to meet with any of you to go over these numbers. We have backup data for all of the stuff that we have done in terms of the debt capacity, in terms of the economic return for us. We can go and talk to these other communities but we are taking their data and just seeing how it matched up with the actual number crunching that we have done, and it lines up pretty well. We know the time is rough for all of you and all of us and this community. We know that economic opportunity is what we really want to focus on, and we believe that the next presentation that you are going to hear focusing on that, also can relate back to soccer, not just as a sport but as a character building, as respect, integrity, role models, father figures, opportunities for our community to come closer together and to find ways in which all parts of our community that young people can experience the same kinds of life that some get to and some don't get to. We feel that soccer is the sport of the future and the opportunity to grow that kind of reach to all youth in our community. Also, the volunteerism spirit can really come shining through if soccer is blossoming the way that we see it today, and the sky is the limit on what soccer can do for this community. Tonight, we are here, January 23, 2017, Monday in the city public session. Mr. Jones has commented that there is a county public meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. in the chambers that will be televised. You are invited to attend. It is a meeting hosted by the county. They have announced it as a public meeting where soccer will be on the agenda and folks can come from the community to talk about soccer and talk about the issue of a Major League Soccer stadium, prospectively for Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The County Manager has indicated that as of this moment, she intends to call for a vote of the County Commissioners; on Thursday, they are having a retreat here in Charlotte-Mecklenburg and she has indicated that she intends, if things go as planned after the public input session, asking the county to consider their vote up or down on Major League Soccer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, and the reason is a hard one. The reason is if we are going to submit a bid, the bid has to be submitted by January 31, 2017. We do not have control over that. We have asked is it going to be extended. The answer that we have gotten so far is no, it is not. So, we have to act upon the presumption that that date is not going to move. It is a bid; it is an intent. It is not the development agreement. It is the conceptual terms, and it is the overview that you have in your hands, but a full development agreement will have to be put together by Mecklenburg County, with the team, and an interlocal agreement will have to be put together between the city and the county, and those two documents together ultimately will form the agreement, if one is ever to be struck, between the team, the county, and the city flowing funds to the county, and you would only be voting to submit a bid, if that is what you were to choose to do, and we could make it contingent upon a full fledged

development agreement at a later time that also would include the agreement that you would get to see between the county and the team and the interlocal agreement between the city and the county.

We know how pressure packed this time table is. I have made apologies in distribution to you on Friday. It is the plan, and the time table that has been given to us by Major League Soccer. We are either in or out. That is where we are today. We know that you have a retreat in Raleigh. It would not be good to have discussions and have a vote in Raleigh. Raleigh is one of your potential competitors in a Major League Soccer bid, and also you are in Raleigh, not in Charlotte, and any votes on Major League Soccer should be cast in Charlotte.

One opportunity, one potential is do not adjourn your meeting in Raleigh, continue it to a date and time certain on Friday afternoon, back here in Charlotte if you want to consider a bid vote at that time. That is up to you. It is not up to us. We are simply trying to find alternatives for how we can bring this forward, in the proper way, under a time duress, under time constraints that are serious and do it in the best way possible.

Mayor Roberts said thank you Mr. Kimble and team for the presentation. We do have another presentation for this portion of the meeting. There will not be time for Council questions, but we do have questions, so who is the person that we should email questions to get those answered for Friday?

Mr. Kimble said Randy and I would be answering questions on behalf of the City of Charlotte.

Mayor Roberts said are you still going to have a city email?

Mr. Kimble said yes but it is probably Randy, because technically my last day on the job is tomorrow, so you probably should email Randy, but I will be in close communication with Randy.

Mayor Roberts said so, if there are questions about any of the details presented here-

Councilmember Kinsey said the Council needs to talk about this as a group. We do not need to be picked off one by one. I do not know when that is going to happen. I do not see it happening before this proposal has to be submitted. I do not know if I go to Raleigh if I will be back in time. If I do not go to Raleigh I will be here, so that is a problem. I also am concerned that we would not be allow to decide ahead of time whether or not we even wanted to submit a proposal, and this exactly is the way that we have been treated before. You have told us Ron. You are great at this. You have done a great job at salesman, but you have done us this way before, where you said this is not the final answer, you will have another time to vote no, and yet we do not. We are led down that past, and my feeling is, if we are not in, and I am not in, then we all let the county know right now that we are not in. The county, if they want to go ahead with it then they can fund it as far as I am concerned. We need to talk about it as a group though, not one by one or in the halls when we meet each other.

Mayor Roberts said okay, we will send email questions to Mr. Harrington, and we will have time on Friday afternoon if the county proceeds and everything happens according to that, to have further discussion. I think that we are being transparent in that there are two bodies that need to vote. If two bodies are going to be contributing any funds, and I think that the county owns the property they are going to go first, but we will have more time to discuss that.

Ms. Kinsey said we also need time for public input. That should have already been done, and it has not been done. I am getting too many emails saying don't do it. Don't spend the funds. They need to have an opportunity to have public input.

Councilmember Mayfield said I just need clarification on Friday. What time does our retreat end?

Mr. Kimble said noon.

Ms. Mayfield said this is saying that we are going to end the retreat earlier to drive back from Raleigh to get here to have a discussion or are we saying that we have to make sure that we end it right at noon and then drive back and try to be back here by a certain time?

Mr. Jones said the latter, yes.

Ms. Mayfield said I am not supportive. I was just wondering.

Mayor Roberts said it might be 4:00 it may be 5:00. We can talk about that that last day of the retreat and see what happens with the county on Thursday.

Councilmember Driggs said I just wanted to know, is it expected that on Friday we are going to be able to vote on this, or what is the time table on the actual decision by council?

Mr. Kimble said I think that as a decision best left to Council. We are engaging you. We see the time crunch, and it is within your purview to decide how we move forward. We are simply trying to suggest; we are not trying to push. We are trying to find out if there is a possibility for submission of a bid.

Councilmember Smith said it is not about anything up there. Procedurally, the ownership entity decides that they want to participate, at what level was the decision made that the city wants to even entertain it? I think that is what you were getting to. Was that made at the staff level?

Mr. Kimble said I would say that for the last three years we have said in many public settings that soccer is growing; soccer is an issue, that if we do not take advantage of we are missing an opportunity, and nobody has been bashful about saying, and our goal is to seek a Major League Soccer team for Charlotte-Mecklenburg. This opportunity surprised us, and we had to react very fast, and that is just saying it like it is.

Ms. Kinsey said the answer to the question is staff did it. You are beating around the bush again.

Mr. Kimble said the conversation is to what we could bring to you.

Mayor Roberts said we will have more discussion for sure, and there will be public input tomorrow, and we can also decide to have more public input from our perspective.

Councilmember Fallon said isn't Mathews in Mecklenburg?

Mr. Kimble said it is.

Ms. Fallon said don't they have soccer fields down there?

Mr. Kimble said they have 12 soccer fields. Is that what your question was? One of them is like a 4,000 seat stadium, as the main one.

Ms. Fallon said but they have room down there to expand, if I recall, because you took us down there.

Mr. Kimble said Mathews wouldn't be a location either that would meet MLS expectations, mainly for the same reasons, maybe that Eastland wouldn't.

Ms. Fallon said you were aware with around the stadium that we did it; that land is all owned by CPCC.

Mr. Kimble said not all of the land, there is land on Elizabeth Avenue.

Ms. Kinsey said yeah but it is owned by somebody else too.

Mr. Kimble said right, it is owned by Novant.

Mayor Roberts said these are all questions that we can submit. There are a lot of questions to answer. This is the first time that we have publicly heard the proposal, and it is very unfortunate timeline, because it is very rushed, and I think that that was

something that MLS put upon us. All of the other cities has the same restrictions and challenges that we have, so any of those kinds of questions about how does Central Piedmont feel about it, all of those, please email those, and we will get those answered as quickly as possible, and again the discussion is not by any means over, but we just don't have time to do anymore tonight, because we have another agenda item that is a very important agenda item on the update on the Opportunity Task Force.

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ITEM NO. 3: CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG OPPORTUNITY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Debra Campbell, Assistant City Manager said that is a tough act to follow, but we are going to do our best. I would just like to take a couple of minutes to introduce the speaker for tonight that will update you on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Opportunity Task Force, the work of the Task Force. You may recall, last year at your retreat, Dee O'Dell came to present on the work of the Opportunity Task Force, and at that time, they had not made a whole lot of progress in terms of really drilling down into the work of the Task Force. They were in almost a discovery phase. They were learning about this really, really major issue for our community, so tonight staff of the Task Force will be providing you and update on their work. They will be linking a lot of what is being done to your letter to the community, the Community Action Plan, and the work that you all have commissioned city staff to work on, so I am especially grateful that we have Ms. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, who is also the Co-Chair of the Task Force. In addition to serving on the Task Force, she is a physician and Senior Vice President of Community Outreach at Novant Health, and Ms. Brown if you do not mind, if you could stand. I really appreciate you being here. We also have Brian Collier, who serves as Executive Vice President for the Foundation for the Carolinas, so without any further adieu, I am going to ask Brian to come up and also for you all to note that a similar presentation will be given to the Board of County Commissioners at their retreat this week as well.

Brian Collier, Foundation for the Carolinas said if any of you want to have individual conversations, I would be happy to talk with you about that. This is also presentation that in large parts we have been doing with faith sector leaders, business leaders, things like that just to start of talk about this issue in the community. Let me just ground you back where we started. The slides are going to be a little bit off because of the way that we formatted them. Most people think that the work started with the task force, which started in May 2015. It actually started with a New York Times article in July of 2013, Pat Rogers of Roger's Building brought to me and said did you see this article in the New York Times where Charlotte is being held up as an area of low mobility? Essentially, what the article was saying was does every child born in the United States of America have equal access to opportunity, regardless of where they are born? This is a gentleman who has become sort of a celebrity within the data world, Raj Chetty. Raj Chetty did a survey of the 50 largest communities across the country; found that Charlotte was 50th of 50. This was the map that we show and as you can see, Charlotte was ranked 50th of 50. We are not much worse than the others that were at the bottom of the ranking, but I do believe that our community was done actually in a weird way, a service of being 50th of 50, because if we were 43rd of 50, I am not sure that you would have had a community rallying quite the way that we do when we say that we are the bottom of the list. What it is showing on this chart is that the dark areas mean low mobility, and as you can see across the entire southeast is an issue but particularly bad here in Charlotte. One of the things that we are also looking at is what are the reasons behind this? We actually did another survey that followed this up. Mecklenburg County, a lot of times we think this is a Charlotte issue, but what he also said is that Mecklenburg County ranked 99 of 100 counties. Baltimore County was 100. So again, this is not just a City of Charlotte issue. This is a county issue and even bigger than that, a regional issue. By the way, one of the things that I want to ground you on, what was he measuring when he did this? What he said was how likely is it that a child born into a certain zip code or city would move from the bottom 20th percentile of income all the way to the top, in other words, the American dream? We have also done other research to say how likely is it that they would move up one bracket or two brackets in the middle income. We have also confirmed that Charlotte actually ranks poorly there. We have

also confirmed that once you get into middle income in Charlotte, it is difficult to stay there, especially if you are an African-America family.

When Professor Chetty looked at this, he said I cannot tell you what causes mobility, but I can tell you how to predict it. What he said was, if I look at five predictors, they will tell me in large degree whether a city has mobility or not: segregation by race and income, income and equality, school quality, social capital, in other words how are our networks how are cross-racial boundaries and things like that and then finally family structure, teenage-pregnancy rates, single-parent households, unintended pregnancy rate and by the way, one of the things that he said that was most highly correlated was family structure. We give a couple of examples. For people who are unfamiliar, I know this body is extremely familiar with these charts, but this is just one to show you how we are separated by race and ethnicity. The dark blue area obviously is south Charlotte, highly white and affluent. We have our other areas, what many would call it crescent, things like that where you see minority. If you look at this chart, you will see not only are we separated by race, but we are highly separated by income. This chart is showing you by poverty areas, darker meaning higher poverty areas. It is interesting that wherever we have gone around the community, these charts have actually been illuminating wherever we have gone, because people don't see this when they drive up and down the streets to a large degree. One of the things that I would like to tell everyone though is that this is not a Charlotte issue solely, and it is not only an issue for the ones that are at the bottom. Almost every community in the United States is looking at this issue, even the ones who are at the top are concerned about whether they will remain there, whether their kid is born today. By the way, the other thing to remember is that the way that he did the study was that he measured children born in 1980 to 1982 and then pulled them forward 30 years and said, what is the income of the child now, versus the family that they were born into? So, you can imagine many of the communities at the top of the chart are actually thinking about what do they look like now? So, what I like to show is, not only is this a Charlotte issue, we have the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation looking at this. We have the St. Louis FED, who have been leaders on this issue. The UK is looking at this from a United Kingdom issue, and whenever someone tells me that we can't have a bipartisan approach to this, I tell them that AEI and Brookings have come out with a plan on mobility and opportunity that has a lot of great information and things that we have learned from. The other thing that I would like to tell everyone is it is not just a story about research and objective. I do not know how many of you have read this book and if you haven't I would highly recommend that you read *Hillbilly Elegy*. It is a book that I have actually underlined almost every line in the book, which is pointless. Let me tell you two quotes that I have pulled out of this. One he says, "When I look back on my life, what jumps out to me is how many variables had to fall in place in order to give me a chance? What does that mean to me? What that means to me is that no one program, no one strategy is going to solve the problems that we have and that we have gotten ourselves into.

The second thing is, basically he says what I also realized was how I almost squandered all the things, the gifts that I have been given, until the handful of loving people rescued me. Again, what we are going to try to tell you is that we have some programmatic solutions and some recommendations, but at the end of the day, it is how does our community demonstrate to people that we care about their lives, that they matter to us as citizens and that therefore once we show them that they matter they have a reciprocal obligation to give back to the community. To me, it is about how do we get people in their lives, by the way I am going to quickly address one issue that a child told us, because we were talking about tutors and mentors. He said I need a life navigator. I need someone in my life who is not going to just give me platitudes about what I can be when I grow up and dream big. I need someone to literally tell me how to do certain things, what a profession looks like, give me an internship, things like that. This body gets this, but sometimes I have to tell people why this really matters. It is wrong to live in a community, especially as wealthy and prosperous as Charlotte, where people have to make decisions between basic services, but even if you say, well people make bad choices and things like that, children feel the impact most acutely, so we have an obligation. Secondly, if you are not wowed by that or if you think yeah but what does it cost our community? Think about what it costs us in terms of expenses around

criminal justice and things like that. We know when a lot of bright, high achieving low-income kids aren't lifted up, we lose talent; we lose potential customers. One thing that Professor Chetty came out, because most people think that it is about redistribution of wealth or that the pie just gets cut up in a bunch of different places. One thing he found out was a rich child is 10 times more likely to be an inventor and have a patented than a poor child. That does not mean that the rich child is smarter; it means that they have access to capital, referrals, references, and things like that. This is about how do we potentially expand the entire economic pie and then if we do not address this we know that there is this. I am not going to tell you and simplify this and say that this is all about economic opportunity, but we do know that some people said I do not feel like you value me; I do not feel heard. I do not know that the American dream applies to me in quite the way as others. Again, I do not mean to simplify it, but we know that that was said.

So, this was the task force that was put together back in May of 2015. Lots of people that you know, probably few that you don't know, very diverse, as far diverse we could get with 20 people, because we didn't want it to be 50 people: race, gender, age, ethnicity, industry. We have three members of very different houses of faith, things like that. It is led by Dr. Garmon-Brown and by Dee O'Dell. Our partners have been the city and county. I cannot say enough of Debra's support to us, Leslie Johnson, Anthony Trotman over at the county. These are the people who have helped us financially as well as support staff. We have now met 29 times since May of 2015. I know that it sounds like you have spent a lot of time looking at an issue, but I can tell you, even when they met last week, there is almost a separation anxiety for this group, because they have learned so much. They have grown so much together, and they know there is still so much work to do, because each of these issues takes you down 20 paths. Every time you think about, well let's think about Pre-K, well there are all of these things that go along with Pre-K. What about family formation? What about criminal justice? All of these things take you down a variety of ways. We have thousands of residents that have been engaged through the process. Not only that, but Charlotte has become a leader in the country when it comes to thinking about mobility. We all know basically what to do. What they are very interested in is how did you do this? What process did you implement? Who did you bring to the community to help educate, things like that. So, these are all great leaders that we have brought, the latest being, if you attended our session with John Powell, the idea of targeted universalism. What he would tell you is, don't set a low barrier for the community. Don't set a low hurdle. Let's look at the issue of literacy. We know that our literacy rate in Mecklenburg County is 39%. Within that, we know there is a difference between white girls, and African-American boys, but even white girls are at about 65% efficiency rate. That should not be acceptable. We should set a target that is universal for everyone to achieve and then have individual strategies that go behind those.

Basically, everybody asks me the same question. Tell us who is doing it right and let's bring it to Charlotte and get it done. What I can tell you is, no community in the country has done it right intentionally. They might have lucked into it because of housing patterns or industries that came to the community, things like that, but no one set out 30 years ago to have a high opportunity trajectory, so a lot of communities are looking at what we are doing here and trying to figure out how can we learn. The other thing that they are asking, if you ask them what they are doing in some of these other communities, they will tell you they have scholarships for low-income kids; we have a literacy program. We are talking about a lot more than that, and we are talking about how they all work together. So, a lot of what we have is all of these ahah moments along the way. One of them was that people tend to come to the table with a philosophical answer of what they believe mobility happens. A lot of times it is because they say it is the failure of the system. It is broken. It doesn't work. There are gaps in the services, things like that, then you get another end of the spectrum where people say nothing can be done about this issue. People made bad decisions, all of these things that we have heard in the community.

What I am here to say is after all of our work, there is a little bit of everything that we all have to sort of put on the table and say don't think about it in the way that you thought about it in the past. Don't bring a stereotype. Let's think about it in terms of a complex system and how things work together. To show you why it has taken us as long, I am

not going to go through all of this, but this is how we started. We said, how do you think about an individual in the middle and all of the supports that has to be around that individual to help them be successful and then we have gone down the path of looking at all of these things over the last 18 to 20 months. Another thing that we have looked at is this is strivers chart. They think about in terms of trajectory. One of the things that was really interesting was when we started the work, most people said if we can get jobs for 17-24 year old kids that are disenfranchised, we will solve the problem. Let me tell you something that Professor Chetty said, he said that if you look at the data, what happens if a child is born in Charlotte and moves to a city of high mobility, what he found was if that child moves before the age of 10, they will likely take on the trajectory of the place where they moved to. If they move after the age of 10, they will typically retain the trajectory of the place where they were born. What does that tell you? Again, what it is telling you is that you have got to invest early, and it is not about nine-years old. It is about living in an opportunity-rich environment over a number of years, but it starts at birth. We are actually going to talk about maybe even a little bit before that.

What the task force said is what is our task. Our task isn't to go stay on this forever and ever. We are going to help develop what is the problem and then what are the pathways. We are going to look at the problem being the inheritance of intergenerational poverty. How do we break the inheritance and its impact on the life trajectory of children, but we know that there is a heavy issue that we have to deal with, which is it impacts most directly by race. The other thing is, we also said what are the determinants? What are the things that are most likely to impact the life of a child? We also came up with these things that we call cross determinants. These are the things that impact everything, race, racism, implicit bias, the criminal justice system, and it may not fit in the same category for some people but transportation. If we lived in a community where jobs were next to homes, it wouldn't be an issue, but we know that we have got to look at this issue of transportation. These are the determinants as we have sort of established them right now. I give you this information. We are in the process of putting together a report, putting together recommendations, things like that, so it will change a little bit between now and when we issued the report. I will tell you about that in a minute. This is where we are right now. Early childhood development, family stability, reducing the impact of segregation, college and career readiness, increasing social capital and family formation. I do not have enough time to go into detail, but let me just show you some things that people said. Some people said, what about public schools? What we have learned from the community, teachers, and experts is that our schools are overwhelmed with issues that the environment and neighborhood and things like that are coming to those schools, so let's give the schools a chance to do things like Lyft and Beacon and other things, and let's really focus this effort on this community. The other thing that people have said is, what about health? Why isn't healthcare one of your key determinants? What I will tell you is it is extremely important, but the research is a little bit mixed on whether health is an outcome or a determinant. I think what Dr. Garmon-Brown would back me up, is a lot of this is when a doctor sees someone, much of what they are dealing with are environmental issues, stress, choices, decision making, things like that that we are hoping we can help with.

This chart, what I am showing you here, people have called an atom. They have called it all kinds of things. What I am showing you here is at the end of the day; don't think about any of these things as solely responsible for moving mobility. If anyone tells you that education is the answer. I would say, it is a part of the answer, but if that child is not ready to learn by age five, if there is not a family structure that supports that child, if that child doesn't have social capital and references or tutors or mentors, the impact of the education is going to be minimized. Let me give you an example of how we think about this in a complex way. What if we thought about child care in a different way? We know that the CEO group has authorized the study of ramping up Pre-K in a big way, but what if instead of just thinking about slots, what if we also thought about how much do we pay child care workers? Right now they make 10 to 11 dollars an hour. What if we thought about that? What would the cost be to our community of doing that? What if we thought about having a two generation model so that when the kid is being helped, the mother or father is also being helped? What if we also thought about making these programs attractive so they are diverse, so we get social capital started? Those are the kinds of

things that we are thinking about. I am going to go through a couple of examples. Early childhood, likely to tell you and tell the community that we have to massively ramp up affordable Pre-K and child care, we know wherever we go the issue of social and mental health has come up, with the family, with the parent, with the child. We already have early literacy initiatives moving forward. Within family stability, we are thinking about things like we know that the research shows that an involved two parent-caregiver house hold, that child has a much different trajectory. By the way, a lot of this might sound paternalistic. It is not about that. It is about telling people what the research shows and then allowing people to make a choice and just saying if you choose not to do certain things, you are going to have to find ways to augment, to fill those gaps. We know that two-parent households and caregivers make a big difference. We know that we have a lack of engaged fathers in some areas, so we have to really help build up that. Housing, by this I mean the quality and quantity of housing. Later, I am going to talk about where it is located. Here in the impact of segregation, we know that the community is segregated and there is no way tomorrow that we are going to chance that, so we have to figure out strategies to minimize the impact of that, like mixed-income housing and where it is located. We also know people want to live where they want to live, so in some cases we have to make sure neighborhoods are bolstered. We also know that the issue of the schools of concentrated poverty is a big issue that we have to tackle as a community.

College and career readiness, one of the things that we have to do, let me show you something here and see if this works out. One of the things that we have to avoid is thinking about today's problems and solving them with today's solutions. We know that if we just teach kids a certain path today, that there are a number of jobs in our country that are going to be automated and out of existence in the next several years. We have to develop a new workforce, in some cases, what this chart is telling us is if you make less than 20 dollars an hour, there is an 83 percent chance that that job will be automated out of existence in the next 10 to 20 years. By the way it says four percent if you make over 40. Actually, people in the financial service industry and legal service industry that they think that number is very low, like it should be much higher, so what we have got to do is we have to show kids different paths. One of those is that we have to de-stigmatize the pathway of apprenticeships and internships and other certifications. Right now, most people kind of think well rich kids we push those to college, high achieving, low-income kids that is for apprenticeship programs. The world is changing, and we have to show people that there are amazingly good paying jobs that you don't need a four year college diploma to get and we know places like Red Ventures and Siemens and others, but we also know that the business sector is looking at ways to ramp up this in a massive way. We also know that guidance counselors are overwhelmed, the numbers and the information that they have, so we have to help them. Just know that our friends at the Chamber have actually agreed to take on certain aspects of this college and career readiness, along with other members of the community.

This is the one that I think would be a game changer for us if we get it right. I do not have a plan for you yet in terms of how to do it, but we know that people feel disenfranchised from the community. We think by targeting the faith sector and other leaders and by this body's demonstrated efforts, we need to develop a culture of caring in this community where kids feel like they care about them. One thing I have thought about is what if every decision we made, as a foundation, as a City Council, County Commission, what if every decision we made we said how would this decision impact the opportunity trajectory of our children and adults in this community? It may say what doesn't or may say it is irrelevant, but like a stop sign. Sometimes a stop sign can or sidewalk can have a massive impact on someone's ability to get to a certain place or to do a certain thing. I just think that if we could do that, we would set a standard for the whole country.

Most start cradle to career. We have actually said that the intentionality of pregnancy, in other words helping people understand that people should wait until they are financially and emotionally ready to have a child, and if you do that it is much more likely that the child will have a successful trajectory. We also have a plan around tackling this issue,

and once you are pregnant, let's help you get into services to insure you have a healthy birth.

So, just in summary here, if we can do all of this, we have helped a child. We have helped a parent as a parent. We have helped a parent as a worker returning to work because we are giving them child care and other services where they feel safe and feel like the child is taken care of, now they can return and we have helped our community in a number of ways, not to mention that we have a community where people feel valued, and they feel like they have an obligation to help make this city better. So what we are doing, we are working right now to finalize the plan. It is our goal to launch this at the very end of February beginning of March. It is likely that we will move into an implementation structure. Everybody wonders what comes next? We would like to create a public private partnership that is a partnership for opportunity modeled in some ways on what we are doing with Read Charlotte, but we will come back to you with ideas about that. We are also working on a communication strategy, a campaign plan, to make sure that we go out into the community. It is not just a press event. It is something where people can engage. They can volunteer; they can do different things. Whenever someone says you can't do anything about this, I can probably flood this slide with 50 other organizations that have already changes their lens, because they said; wait a second this opportunity idea gives me a different way. Many of these have been very candid about the fact that they have focused on outputs not outcomes. I will tell you with the story that I have told a number of people, my daughter who is 11 asked me one day, could you please tell me what you do for a living, because I cannot tell people. I can tell people what lawyers do. I can tell people what bankers do. I can't tell them what you do. I say, well what do you tell people? She said well, I tell them that you meet with people all day and sometimes things happen. I said well, that is close. So, I told her, and she said do you think you are good at your job? I said I don't know. I am standing here in front of City Council, I guess I am okay. She said well, if you are so good at your job, why are there so many kids in poverty? Why are there so many schools that don't look like the school I go to? I think if we sort of all looked ourselves in the mirror and say are we actually accomplishing what we think we are accomplishing when we do things, including Foundation for the Carolinas? We would have a very different community. These organizations plus this body, plus others, have said we are willing to go with you on a journey and perhaps even own certain parts of this to change the trajectory of the community and of our kids going forward. Very rushed, I apologize about that. I would be happy to talk to any of you individually, and I cannot say enough about the work about Dr. Garmon-Brown and Dee O'Dell and their support. Thank you for letting me go a few minutes late.

Mayor Roberts said if there are additional questions, what is the best way to follow those through?

Mr. Collier said yes, we will get the PowerPoint presentation to you and please email me at the foundation, and I will route them to anywhere that we need to go.

Councilmember Mayfield said what we just heard is proof positive of what the county needs to be looking at investing in our community and not having a conversation of \$43 plus million on a soccer stadium.

The meeting was recessed at 6:40 p.m. to move to the Council Chamber for the regularly scheduled business meeting.

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BUSINESS MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for a Business Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 6:52 p.m. in Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Al Austin, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Greg Phipps, and Kenny Smith.

Mayor Roberts said before we get started, I want to make note of a sad event in our community, someone who has sat behind this dais before on the County Commission and someone who has served us in the state legislature. Ruth Samuelson passed away this morning, and I just want to take a moment for us to appreciate and to remember her service to our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, who are here in Charlotte. Her parents are here in Charlotte with her husband and children, and we just appreciate so much her service and her legacy will live on. We will just take a moment of silence. I actually was in a sorority with Ruth Samuelson in college. Our meeting goes on and the decisions that the city has to make go on.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Driggs gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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ITEM NO. 7: SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMEMBER DIMPLE AJMERA, DISTRICT 5

Mayor Roberts said Councilmember Ajmera, you are going to join me in the front here as we swear you in. I want to let the audience know that we had a technical swearing in with the Clerk this past week, so that Councilmember Ajmera could go to committee meetings, but this will be her formal swearing in. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

Mayor Roberts administered the oath of office to Council member Dimple Ajmera.

Mayor Roberts said welcome to Charlotte City Council. I want to recognize all of her family and friends and among them we have an elected official from Morrisville, Mayor Pro Tem Steve Rao. Welcome to Charlotte. The rest of the family and friends can stand to be recognized.

Councilmember Ajmera said very quickly, I appreciate your support throughout your year long journey of this appointment, and I thank Council, Mayor, and Mayor Pro Tem for your support and for your unanimous vote for this appointment. I look forward to working with you for District 5 of this great city that we call home, Charlotte. Thank you.

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RECOGNITION OF RON KIMBLE, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

Mayor Roberts said in the spirit of comings and goings, we have a new Councilmember and we have a city staff member who is getting ready to leave us. Although, we understand that he will still be working with us in a part-time capacity and that is Ron Kimble. Ron Kimble, this is the last Council Business Meeting for our Deputy City Manager, who was our Interim City Manager, who is retiring this month, but he is not leaving Charlotte, and he is going to be helping us moving forward after he takes a little break. Ron has had over 30 years in public service and has been with the City of Charlotte since 2000. Prior to Ron's 16 years with Charlotte, he served as City Manager in Greenville, North Carolina. He is known for having lead major city initiatives, like the Bank of America Stadium improvements, BB&T Ballpark, the US National White Water Center, the Levine Center for the Arts, Spectrum Arena, NASCAR Hall of Fame, the Metropolitan, Mosaic Village, and many more that we are not naming tonight. He has been the lead staff member for several Council Committees, including Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations. He had a retirement party last week, and he was recognized by elective officials, city colleagues, and community partners as a builder of community, an optimist, and someone who inspires all who have the pleasure to interact with him. He has been devoted to the betterment of our community, a member of local, national, and international civil groups, Rotary, United Way, and more areas and Safe Alliance, which is very important and near and dear to his heart. He and his wife Jan have also provided vital civic leadership to the Jamie Kimble

Foundation for Courage. They established the foundation to stop domestic violence before it starts, in memory of their beloved daughter Jamie.

On behalf of this Council, city staff, Ron I know I speak for everyone to say that we will miss you in a full-time capacity where we always had your ear and always had you around the corner ready to help do the heavy lifting on so many of the things that we have accomplished in this community. We are relieved and reassured to know that you are not going far and that you will be able to continue to offer your wisdom, energy, and passion to Charlotte. With that, I have a gift. It is a sky line of the city, and this will be good for about another year before we build more buildings, then it will be a different city.

Ron Kimble, Deputy City Manager said thank you so much Mayor Roberts and members of City Council, Mr. City Manager, Mr. Attorney, and the City Clerk. It has been a great 16 and a half years in Charlotte, and Mayor I have been in local government, I am older than I look; I have been in local government 41 and a half years, and I have enjoyed, I really mean this, every day of my life in local government and public service. You have very tough jobs, and I admire all of you greatly. There have been great City Councils over the years in Charlotte. We have exemplary leadership at all phases of the elected level, and I am just so proud to have worked with you. I do want to say that I also have had the pleasure to work with the greatest teammates in America, our staff of the City of Charlotte. They are second to none. They are excellence through and through, and I get a chance to interact with them on a daily, hourly, weekly, monthly, annual, semi-annual, bi-annual, 16 and a half years in Charlotte. I am proud to say that my wife and I, as we retire and enter another phase, we will be Charlotteans for life. We are going to reside in this great community, because we love it, and we are going to contribute to it in as many ways as we can, with you to make it continue to be the greatest city in American. Thank you for the honor and the pleasure to have served for with you over all of these years.

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CITIZENS' FORUM

Hate Crime Hotline

Andrew Fede, 774, North Davidson said I would like to first congratulate Dimple and congratulate the former City Manager on his retirement. I am here tonight to speak about the continued calls for the improvement to the Citizens' Review Board that you guys promised the improvements to the improvements to CMPD, the changes that were requested by numerous organizations. It has been over four months since the Keith Lamont Scott shooting. I have emailed you guys numerous times. We have had numerous press conferences asking for reforms. We haven't seen anything. We have also asked you all to pass a resolution to protect immigrant families, protect Muslim communities, like other cities like New York; Chicago; Durham, North Carolina; L.A. They have all passed to protect these communities from some of the policies that have been coming out of the White House. We have also asked you all to create a Hate Crime Hotline. We haven't really heard anything about that. I am working with the NAACP, a number of community leaders and faith leaders around the City of Charlotte, and we have come up with the proposal to ask you all to suspend your Mayoral campaigns and your City Council campaigns. We are calling on a black-history month campaigning moratorium, until you can address the issues that the African-American community has brought to this Council. You all have done numerous town halls over the past four months. You have received over 121 letters with suggestions and recommendations. As of today, zero has been acted on. I know many of you, and we have worked together. I want to thank Al Austin and Vi Lyles; they are the only ones on this Council who have met with me on these hate crime issues. I really appreciate that, and I encourage you all. You may not agree with me, but you are going to have to meet with people that you don't agree with. You are going to have to listen to your concerns. That doesn't make your concerns less valid. I want you all to think about your legacy here. We are living in a situation where we are number 50 out of 50 in upward mobility. Children in Detroit, Mississippi, Alabama, Baltimore, Ferguson, are going better than our

Children here in Charlotte, and I know you all are preparing to pass a \$100 million soccer stadium bill, but I want you to think about these underserved communities that have been under served and under represented by our leaders. Most of you have been in government for yours, 50 out of 50. I am asking you to really think about the things that these communities are asking for. I do not like coming up here. I really do not like bothering you all, but I really want you to act on some of these policies to help people in these communities and just not think about developers and focus on some of the social issues that can help people.

Mayor Roberts said this is one of the issues that I am going to take a minute to respond to. Again, typically we do not respond but we have heard quite a bit about a Hate Crime Hotline specifically, and in the interest of following up on that, there have been a lot of conversations. I want the audience and public to know that anyone who feels that they have been a victim of a hate crime should call 911 and report this to CMPD. Hate crimes are unacceptable. They are heinous. They will not be tolerated in Charlotte, and we are going to work very hard to make sure that we are letting the community know that we are following up and that we are accounting for those. I understand that there might be some legislation coming through at the state level, and we are going to follow that very closely as well. I want everyone to know that we are the community on the need to make sure that the community knows that hate crimes are not acceptable, and we will collect information and work to prevent them. I would like to ask the City Manager to evaluate the benefits of a dedicated hotline for hate crimes, and Mr. Manager is that something that we are able to look into?

Marcus Jones, City Manager said yes.

Mayor Roberts said we are absolutely going to follow up on that. We are also going to work with the state, because there is an interest in doing it state wide. We agree.

Councilmember Lyles said that is one of the issues that we have been asked by a number of people in the community to work on, so Manager I would actually ask you to look at two additional issues that have been raised and they are items around getting data collection that we can use to better inform what we are doing in the community with our Police Department. The two that I would like to add, in addition to the hotline are, can we do some data collection around the type of stops that we are making, detention, our stops, frisks and searches, just to say who is being stopped and where are they being stopped, so that we can use that for training purposes and also research? The other item that the community brought to us is to actually look at the use of force policy and again to collect data around the use of force, and it was more than just the discharge of the fire arm, but the community has asked us to look at when Tasers are used, when there are other types of physical actions taken against citizens and have a report on that. I think that along with collecting the hate crime data and how we operate will be helpful to inform how we can have more trust in our community and have better police and community relationships. So, I would like to ask if you could do some research on those as well.

Mr. Jones said definitely.

Mother's Bank Safety Deposit Box

Howard Brown, 510 Winston Street said I am in here on my mother's behalf. I need help. Lawyers won't even touch it. That is just like holding somebody while they take a beating, so to say. What I am trying to do is put closure. My mother had a World War II bond. I am trying to get a duplicate of that bond that the Bank of America just took from me. It isn't anything but a symbol. That is all that it is. It isn't anything, but it is just the principle of it, and I want to get that bond back. I want to. I have a post office box, and if anybody can give me the information of how I can retrieve that bond, I would like to get that. I am not going to let them get away with it. No, they cannot have it, post office box 80190. I mean it is comical with the stuff that goes on in here that is even talked about. Some of that stuff you leave it to God.

Extraordinary Event Ordinance

Sebastian Feculak, 3232 Williams Station Road, Mathews said I would like to thank you for opening up the floor for us, and I also want to congratulate Dimple Ajmera for being appointed to District 5. This day, January 23, marks the fifth anniversary of the enactment of the Extraordinary Events ordinance, and reading the minutes from various meetings, this ordinance was supposed to act only for three or four events at most, especially actually going back for the DNC as well. It was acknowledged that this ordinance came from concerns from other cities that host a similar large event. In my research, I seem to have not been able to find a similar ordinance that opens the door to stop and frisk like policy. For instance, how do I know what is designated as an Extraordinary Event perimeter if I am walking through the city during an event? What line or block visually designates where I abandon my Fourth Amendment Rights? Will a police officer come up to me and notify me that this is an Extraordinary Event area and that I may not bring my back pack for instance, or will I be searched and possibly arrested without a warning? What happens to our legacy of democracy in this instance? Of course, here in North Carolina our history with racial justice and civics, we are only too familiar of this heritage. The Greensboro four in 1960 when they protested segregation at the Woolworth Department store; that is not different than a call for justice when dozens of activists set in at the Panther's/Viking's game. These individuals requested justice for Keith Lamont Scott and police reform for communities of color. It seems that we are following the wrong precedent, where instead of working towards justice, we enforce our institutional prejudices for this ordinance. Instead of protecting our community, it limits the efforts everyday of activists that fight for gender and racial equality, criminal justice reform, affordable housing, immigration, or climate change action, yet I have seen nothing to demonstrate the suspension of normal constitutional safeguards is warranted. The protections surrounding football games and other events already exist. We do not need to be forfeiting our constitutional rights and opening up the opportunity for racial bias, which we have witnessed as well. So, let's put it into context. Imagine you are at the woman's march on Saturday where folks were holding signs, many others wearing pink hats, except now, because you have a pink hat or sign the police officer walks up to you and searches your bag or purse; however, they find mace on you that you keep around for protection. Under this ordinance, you are liable to be arrested. Further, the broadness of the ordinance does not specify a time period ahead of the event that it must be invoked by and how it has to be publicized so that individuals know that they are forfeiting their Fourth Amendment rights on this occasion. Finally, the power to deem an event Extra Ordinary is left up to one person, the unelected but appointed City Manager. Therefore, I do request that the Public Safety Committee review the terms and applications of this ordinance and move toward its repeal.

Mayor Roberts said our Manager has asked to say a few words on this item, again because of the number of folks that have expressed concerns who have signed up.

Mr. Jones said because there are a number of individuals who have signed up tonight, I thought it was important to mention to you that when I became City Manager back in December, I was asked to sign one of these declarations, and at that time I asked the purpose of it and its effectiveness as a public safety tool. I have asked staff to examine how it has been used and once again whether it has been effective and is there anything that we should do to change or not have it? I am committed to bring back to the Council next month staff recommendations based on a history of the tool, whether it has been effective and whether or not the recommendation should be for us to continue to use it so thank you.

Extraordinary Event Ordinance

Sarah Linn, 2219 Sarah Marks Avenue said as you know, I am here to speak about the Extraordinary Events ordinance. I am a 25-year resident to Charlotte. I would like to bring your attention to the Extraordinary Events ordinance enacted five years ago today. It was enacted in response to the occupy movement and in preparation for the 2012 Convention. To quickly review, during an Extraordinary Event, citizens passing within the broad and unmarked boundaries of an event can be stopped, questioned, and

searched for a long and vague list of prohibited items, without normal constitutional safeguards and position of even ordinary items, which would include this Sharpe. This constitutes a criminal offence and is grounds for arrest. As noted, the power to declare an Extraordinary Event resides with the City Manager, and I understand that that was so it could not be considered political, but I think that the expectation was that City Council would exercise supervisory authority. I found no mention of this ordinance or of any declaration of it in the minutes of the City Council at any point since the DNC final report four years ago. So, this invites question as to whether Council is exercising its supervisory responsibility. I wonder whether Council is aware just how dramatically the application of this ordinance has increased. It was envisioned as applying to the DNC and three community events, Speed Street, Fourth of July, and New Year's Eve. In the past year, we have been subject to this ordinance for no few than 19 days, due to no fewer than 10 Extraordinary Event declarations. The three initially contemplated, plus the MLK Parade, a Panther's playoff game, the multi-day CIAA tournament, the multi-day Pride Event, the Panthers/ Viking's Game, the Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Belk Bowl. Yes, the local Thanksgiving Day Parade, an annual event since 1947 and a college football game are now considered Extraordinary Events, and a city spokesperson announced last February that most Panther's games are considered Extraordinary Events. The frequency with which Extraordinary Events declarations are made directly contradict the very title of the ordinance. It was difficult for me to compile this list of declarations, coupling together city announcements and media mentions. I finally realized why. The ordinance does not prescribe when, how, or even that the public be given notice of a declaration, nor does there seem to be a meaningful pattern. At the time that the ordinance was adopted Councilmembers suggested sun-setting it or requiring that it be reviewed after a year.

Pro-Choice Charlotte

Lelia Forbes, 3726 Providence Road said I am here on behalf of Pro-Choice Charlotte. We are a grassroots organization that provides safety and education resources to those seeking reproductive services in Charlotte. Six days a week, anti-choice protesters from in and around Charlotte come to the clinic on Latrobe Drive. They harass, intimidate, and shame patients. They use giant signs. They step in public streets. They block streets. They make it hard to gain access. They lie to women. They try to trick them onto vehicles. They are stopping women from exercising their legal rights. We at Pro-Choice Charlotte are asking that City Council step in and reach out to CMPD on our behalf so we do not have to police our own streets. We pay taxes. We want the government to help protect its citizens that are just trying to exercise their legal rights. Very recently, some members of our organization reached out to City Council members and we saw some improvement, but that was recently. Members of my organization are being assaulted. Patients are being bullied. Even I was assaulted. I immediately reported it to a police officer. Officer [inaudible], badge number 3274, and he replied that he did not care. As a woman of color, a tax paying citizen, and a member of this organization who recognizes that I am legally entitled to protection and so are the women who are trying to access care at our clinic, we need City Council to step up and ask CMPD to represent all of our citizens in this community, especially the citizens that are legally trying to exercise their rights. As I said before, I would like to think the Councilmembers who have attempted to help. We have seen some improvement, but it is not enough. Recently, we had a march that blocked the clinic. Women were not able to gain access. Over 4,000 people. If there had been a fire, a truck wouldn't have made it through. If someone had been sick, an ambulance would not have gotten through. Lives were in danger. During the Black Lives Matter march with Charlotte uprising, CMPD had no problem arresting anyone if they stepped off the curb. All I am asking is for CMPD to be held accountable, to treat every citizen the same way. Everyone who gets the same protection and easy pass to a football game should definitely get the same type of protection and assistance and easy pass to a clinic. That is all I need City Council to do, is to help hold CMPD accountable. We have seen what great things happen when you use just a little bit of your influence.

Citizens' Police Relations

Jason Banicki-Critchlow, 8316 Paces Oaks Boulevard said I come here tonight as somebody who moved to Charlotte just four and a half months ago, just after the Keith Lamont Scott shooting. I come to you with a very interesting background for what I am about to say. I spent five and a half years back home working for my sheriff's department, both at the county jail, the juvenile detention facility, at the courthouse, and inmate transportation back and forth to prisons, and yet I come here to say that this city, like the city I come from, does not do nearly enough to support the development of police officers into becoming active, engaged parts of their community. There is talk of spending \$100 million on a soccer stadium, when we know all of the research tells us time and again that wasting tax payers' dollars on professional sports teams is exactly that, wasting tax payer's dollars on sports teams that will never pay back. If we take a fraction of those dollars and use them to be a training tool and a training fund for our police officers instead, we can help them learn about things and train them on things, like implicit bias that they do not understand. There is no coincidence that black and brown people get pulled over and arrested at a much higher rate than white people in this country. It is not that officers who put their lives on the line everyday are doing this because they want to impact them intentionally. It is an implicit bias that they do not know or do not understand, or haven't been taught about, yet the people who pay for this are people of minorities who are then disproportionality sent to prisons for, in this country, up to lifetime sentences now for non-violent offences, because we want to fight a war on drugs, instead of a war on poverty. If you look at the neighborhoods in this city that have the highest rates of crime, I guarantee you if you had the numbers, the highest rates of arrest are going back to the old red line neighborhoods, so we can go look back to federal law impacting the impact of who gets arrested and who has a negative outcome. It is on this city to allow and create the opportunity to train the officers better than they are currently getting, because trust me, no officer goes out trying to make a bad decision, but we have to give them the tools and the training to support them so that we stop oppressing individuals who have done nothing wrong besides wanting to go home and be safe like everybody else.

Extraordinary Event Ordinance

Ray McKinnon, 5720 Brookfield Pointe Drive said I am a citizen of Mecklenburg County and a United Methodist Minister here in Charlotte. I consider many of you at the dais to be friends of mine. I especially want to congratulate my friend Dimple Ajmera on her historic appointment. Five years ago today, this body voted to pass the Extraordinary Events ordinance. This ordinance was deemed necessary so that our city would, from the reading of the minutes, be in the best practices of other cities which hosted large-scale events like the DNC. As you know, the ordinance vests the authority to declare an extraordinary event, solely in the office of the City Manager. Neither the Mayor nor the Council are consulted prior to a declaration, nor required to be informed after the declaration. The City Manager has never denied, from my research, a request from CMPD to declare an event an extraordinary event. That to me is extraordinary. Further, with the increase in frequency with which events are declared extraordinary, comes the likelihood of abuse. The broad powers which this ordinance extends to CMPD. Folks like Catharine who was standing up here today who protested at the Panther's game following the demonstrations in September relayed to me that bags of certain groups were searched for band items for seemingly questionable grounds with an apparent racial and physical bias. This might have been an isolated event, but this is the problem with an ordinance like this. It is fraud. It opens citizens up to the possibility of Fourth Amendment violations. A deputy chief of the CMPD was quoted in the Charlotte Observer in 2015. He said we already watched people carefully as part of our job. We have to figure out if people are friend or foe. In this case, he says, we have just a little more broader power to say what do you have in your bag? This is a clear violation of a person's Fourth Amendment right. With respects, it seems like the broader power is the power to violate folk's constitution of protected rights. Rights I might add that do not get a time out. So, at the minimum, I request that the Public Safety Committee review these terms and to ask the question not whether or not what we are saying is valid but whether this ordinance is valid and whether or not it is effective, with due respect is the wrong question. Should the CMPD be given broad powers to violate

our rights? That is the question we must ask and the answer I believe is no, Constitutional rights never take a time out.

Extraordinary Event Ordinance

Lula Dualeh, 2425 Pruitt Street said I wasn't expecting to speak tonight. I was told that I wouldn't be able to, so I didn't prepare anything, but I am here alongside everyone else who is here to look into repeal the Extraordinary Events ordinance, alongside Ray and Sebastian and Sarah Lynn with the new south progressive. This is something that we are looking to repeal. It is something that the City Council passed years ago, and this is something that we are really working towards to repeal, and we have a number of people here who are in support of that. It is something that we are looking, the City Manager as well as the City Council looking to repeal. I am here alongside individuals who came here to repeal this. Please look at this closely. Please work with one another, as well as the City Manager to repeal this. Please look at this a little more closely. It was passed because of the DNC and Occupy here in Charlotte, and I understand that it represented that time, but we are now in 2017, so this is something that we need to look at a bit more closely and say does this represent all citizens? I live on the west side of Charlotte and I know that individuals who look like myself, black and brown communities, it affects them in their everyday life and this is something that I really want to work towards repealing, so please look at this a little bit more closely and consider repealing it.

Global Poverty Crisis

Caitlen Sellers, 1431-R Briar Creek Road I am a political affairs intern with the Borgen Project. We are a national campaign working to end global poverty and hunger and doing so by bringing it to the attention of our congressional leaders and making it a focus of US foreign policy. A couple of things that we do, we advocate. So, we meet with US leaders to build support for the international affairs budget and US programs that impact the world's poor, and we mobilize people across the country, locally behind efforts to make poverty a political priority. We also build awareness of global issues and innovations in poverty reductions. Today, I would like to just ask everybody to get involved. You can either email or call your congressional leaders, a very important piece of legislation that we are working to get passed right now, the Education for All Act has passed the house and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and went in front of the Senate but the session ended, so it will be coming back up. Currently, 59 million primary school age children globally do not attend school, while 250 million do not have access to quality education. Gender discrimination in school contributes to the illiteracy of over 500 million women in adulthood as well. These issues, along with frequent global conflicts and attacks upon schools, undermine the benefits of education. The Education for All Act is a low-cost bipartisan initiative that will further advance quality basic education for all, while also protecting US national security and interests by building up underdeveloped and impoverished communities around the world. You can support this and ask your congressional leaders to cosponsor by going to Borgenproject.org and clicking on act now. You just plug in your information, your congressional leaders phone numbers will pop up as well as emails.

Save Our Children Program

Rodney McGill, 17065 West Boulevard said first thing that I want to do, I spoke to you all on the 26th, and it was a little bit rowdy in there. I remember you had a hard time Mr. Smith. Thank you for contacting me back Ms. Mayfield. What I came here to do, I came here to represent the children in Charlotte, the underprivileged children. I have a few of them with me tonight. There are some guys that live in West Boulevard and City View, the guys that I see every day. We are in communities all over Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and we have a program. The program is called KEFA. We read Charlotte's 2020 Center City Vision real closely and we love it. We see all for the things that are going on in this city. We remember the Odell plan and how the Brooklyn neighborhood was torn down, so what we are doing is we are looking ahead to 2020 and seeing that we do not make the same mistakes, and we know that there are a lot of things that go on, and we feel everybody's issue, but we are speaking up for those who

do not know how to articulate their issues. I have a 501c3 that is very active. We have 13 doctors that can come in here to talk to you all to run our education program. Our program is based off of karate education food academy, and if Charlotte is going to move into the league of the big cities, they are going to have to deal with the under privilege areas, and for all of the programs that Charlotte has in the 2020 Center City Vision, to get those children in this program there will have to be people on the ground. We have a lot of people with us that own barber shops, hair salons, people who have businesses who are self-employed and they are all the mentor. They are the village, so instead of money just being thrown around the buy buildings and say what we did here; we have something that we have been doing every day for the past three years. Wells Fargo has already donated to us a building. We are talking to funders as usual, but our everyday job is to point these children in the right way, because after everybody hollering and screaming on the 26th, the children still have to go home and eat and deal with the abuse in their family. I do not want to go over my time, and I did not come here to do a whole presentation. Of course I did not know that I was going to be able to speak today, so what I will say is that we plan on coming back here again, and we have already sent some of you some information. Like I said, thank you Ms. Mayfield for responding back to me. I just love what the 2020 vision looks like. To me, I just feel like as an older person it is kind of like Moses, and these young people are going to take this on to the next level. That is where we are at with it. Again, thank you all for the creative plan. You all have a 144 page document that anyone can pull up and read for every area, town, tell you what is going to go on if you care about the children like we do. We want to make sure that they are included in these plans.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Phipps, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented, with the exception of Item Number 18, which was pulled by staff.

Item No. 19: Roadway Improvements Reimbursement Municipal Agreement

(A) Authorize the City Manager to execute a municipal agreement in an amount not to exceed \$1,830,000 with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for roadway improvements along John Kirk Drive, and (B) Adopt a resolution for the North Carolina Department of Transportation to use North Carolina State discretionary funds in the amount of \$500,000 for roadway improvements along John Kirk Drive.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 812.

Item No. 20: Rocky River Road West Improvements Contract Amendment

Approve contract amendment #1 for \$238,603 with STV Engineers, Inc. for additional planning and design services on the Rocky River Road West Improvements project.

Item No. 21: Waterproofing Services

Approve unit price contracts with the following companies for waterproofing services for a term of three years: Strickland Waterproofing Co., Inc., and Watertight Systems, Inc.

Item No. 22: Landscape Maintenance Services

Approve landscaping maintenance contracts with each of the following vendors: West District A Median: A-1 Services and John Todd Landscaping, \$275,340; North District B Median: Pristine Properties of NC, Inc., \$63,804; West District B Median: A-1 Services and John Todd Landscaping, \$340,860; East District A Median: The Byrd's Group, Inc., \$391,274; East District B Median: Champion Landscapes, Inc., \$247,390; South Corridor Infrastructure Project Area: Taylor's Landscaping Service, Inc., \$134,082, West Elmwood Cemetery Grounds: Roundtree Companies, LLC, \$315,000; East Elmwood Cemetery Grounds: Pristine Properties of NC, Inc., \$186,600; Center City East District Grounds: Taylor's Landscaping Service, Inc., \$183,300; Central District Grounds

Maintenance: Pristine Properties of NC, Inc., \$377,520; and CATS South Tryon Bus Facility Grounds Maintenance: Roundtree Companies, LLC, \$41,262.

Item No. 23: Greenhaven Lane and Pierson Drive Storm Drainage Improvement Project

Award a contract in the amount of \$1,516,698.15 to the lowest responsive bidder B&N Grading, Inc. for the Greenhaven Lane and Pierson Drive Storm Drainage Improvement project.

Summary of Bids

B & N Grading, Inc.	\$1,516,698.15
Blythe Development Company	\$1,833,654.68
Carolina Cajun Concrete	\$1,844,651.60
Hall Contracting	\$2,074,089.60
OnSite Development LLC	\$1,967,292.80
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$1,640,183.60
United Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,571,792.75

Item No. 24: Information Technology Hosting, Managed Services, and Associated Professional Services Contract

(A) Approve a three-year contract with R&M Computer Consultants, Inc. d/b/a rmsource to provide application hosting, website hosting, managed services, and associated professional services, (B) Authorize the City Manager to approve up to two, one-year renewals of the contract 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; (C) Authorize the City Manager to approve expenditures for the provision of future project implementation services; (D) Authorize the City Manager to purchase hosting and managed services for as long as the City uses the hosted websites and applications, and (E) Authorize the City Manager to purchase such additional hosting, managed services, development, and other professional services as needed from time to time to optimize the City's use of the hosted software and systems.

Item No.25: Standby Power and Electrical Improvements at the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant

Award a contract in the amount of \$1,307,565 to the lowest responsive bidder Hall Contracting Corporation for the transport and installation of a City-owned generator to the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant, and appropriate interconnections to the plant's electrical control system.

Summary of Bids

Wharton-Smith *	\$1,206,450.00
Hall Contracting Corporation	\$1,307,565.00
Harper Corporation	\$1,430,000.00
Gilbert Engineering	\$1,590,750.00

*Wharton-Smith failed to meet the established SBE goal and Good Faith Effort; therefore, their bid was deemed non-responsive.

Item No. 26: Wastewater Odor Control Chemicals Contract

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Evoqua Water Technologies LLC for the purchase of Calcium Nitrate for up to 16 months, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 27: Checked Baggage Inline System Parts and Software Maintenance and Support Services

(A) Approve the purchase of Allen-Bradley brand electrical control parts, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G.S. 143-129 (e)(6), (B) Approve a contract with McNaughton-McKay Southeast, Inc. for the purchase of parts and software

maintenance and support for the term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 28: Refund of Property and Business Privilege License Taxes

(A) Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessor error in the amount of \$4,982.34, and (B) Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of business privilege license payments in the amount of \$1,721.47.

The resolutions are recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 813-816.

Item No. 29: Resolution of Intent to Abandon an Unopened Alleyway between E. 24th Street and E. 25th Street to Close

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon an unopened alleyway between E. 24th Street and E. 25th Street, and (B) Set a public hearing for February 27, 2017.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 817-819.

Item No. 30: Meeting Minutes

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of: December 12, 2016, Business Meeting and December 19, 2016, Zoning Meeting

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 31: Aviation Property Transactions - 3401 Stafford Drive

Acquisition of 38.47 acres at 3401 Stafford Drive from Charlotte Board of Education for \$4,500,000 and all relocation benefits in compliance with federal, state, or local regulations for Airport Master Plan Land.

Item No. 32: Property Transactions - Arrowood/Nations Ford Road Intersection Improvements, Parcel #5.1

Acquisition of 8,890 sq. ft. (.204 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement at 9001 Nations Ford Road from OSEI Enterprises, LLC for \$23,400 for Arrowood/Nations Ford Road Intersection Improvements, Parcel #5.1.

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PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM NO. 9 PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN

Norman Steinman, Transportation said this is a 25 year, multi-modal comprehensive plan. Obviously, I am not going to get into details, but I will be a little repetitive to get this done quickly. I am here to talk about the Transportation Action Plan (TAP). We are going to present some of the highlights of the content of the TAP. You are obviously here primarily to hear from the public about their comments. This is part of a series of planning initiatives that over the past 20 years have been based on the centers, corridors, and wedges growth frame work. Specifically, tonight I am here to talk to you about the Transportation Action Plan. You are going to receive comments on the Transportation Action Plan. Also tonight, you will hear about the Charlotte WALKS Plan, which is the plan for pedestrians. It supports the Transportation Action Plan. In about two or three months, you will be hearing information about the Charlotte Bikes Plan, our plan that also supports the Transportation Action Plan, but this time for bicycle travel in the city.

What is the TAP? In one document, it represents the city's vision for transportation, the city's goals, policies, strategies, programs, and in some places projects for transportation. The TAP was first adopted in 2006, was updated in 2011, and we are here tonight to present the results of the update of 2016. How do we update the TAP in 2016? We work very closely with the Transportation and Planning Committee. We had a series of six meetings throughout the year. We are not going to mention the specific

items that came up at each meeting, but basically what we did is we brought information to the committee, had discussions, answered questions, made revisions, and proceeded on to the next set of topics. On December 12, 2016, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that there be a public comment period on the TAP, and that is why we are here tonight. One of the themes of the 2016 TAP, the one that I want to really highlight right now is the one about growth. Growth has been a constant factor in Charlotte. It is almost relentless, ongoing growth, and what is truly impressive is that it is predicted to continue for the next 25 years. Why is growth such an important factor in the TAP? The US census has reported as to the five cities that have grown the fastest over the last few years in the United States, cities that are already having a population of over half a million people, and Charlotte is in that group. Four of those cities are in Texas and the fifth one is Charlotte.

How has the TAP kept Charlotte moving since 2006? With the revenues that came with the adoption of TAP in 2006, there have been at least \$530 million of funding provided to create projects for arterials, intersections, sidewalks, and bicycle facilities throughout the City. First, to implement the Centers, Corridors, and Wedges, growth frame work, organize land uses correctly. Second, create efforts of complete streets that are good for travel by motorist, bicyclist, pedestrians, and transit riders, and third to work with local and regional partners including NC-DOT, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, CMS, and private developers, in order to create the programs and projects that are recommended in the TAP. Fourth is to communicate with the public, provide information as to what we have achieved and what are the challenges in front of us. The fifth goal is to seek the funding that is necessary to implement the TAP. What will the tap do? It will increase access to jobs, education centers, parks, and other key destinations, and it will increase transportation choices around the city.

There are eight types of investment strategies recommended by the TAP. I will mention a couple of these. Safety is one of them. Place making and also making sure that we maintain the assets that we own. The TAP is not just about building. It is also about operating and maintaining. We are recommending over five billion dollars in investments over the next 25 years to care the city forward to the year 2040. I am not going to mention all of the numbers that are here, but included in that is the continuation of building sidewalks, building bicycle facilities as well as providing a variety of projects.

In the recommendations in this TAP are approximately \$3 billion to create 100 arterial projects, 40 multi-modal intersections and to make sure the bridges are in good conditions and do a variety of other types of projects around the city. How have we been getting feedback? Well, we have been getting feedback throughout the entire year of 2016 in a variety of ways. We have had workshops, popup events, and transportation fair. One of the things that we did in 2016 is to have the survey that we do every two years, to get information from households in Charlotte about what they think regarding transportation.

One percentage that I would like to highlight here and this has been a constant for many years, about 85%, 86% specifically said that streets should be designed for all users, motorist, transit riders, pedestrians, and bicyclist, and what have we heard in other ways? Well, when we can hold conversations with individuals, it is clear to actually be able to understand what they are interested in. One of their concerns has to do with growth, and growth in traffic and traffic congestion, but they are actually reassured when they find out that the city does have a plan, a long range plan that comprehensive and multi-modal plan that is going to provide more transportation choices to deal with the growth. What are our steps going forward? Tonight, you will be receiving public comments; on the sixth we will come back to Council as part of the workshop that is scheduled for that night, then on the 13th we expect the Transportation and Planning Committee to consider a recommendation for the TAP, and based on that recommendation, come back to you on February 22, 2017 for Council action.

Councilmember Lyles said I just wanted to follow up for the Council. The TAP Committee has three plans that are under review and you are hearing about two of them tonight. The first one is the Transportation Action Plan and then our second one is the Charlotte WALKS Plan, and in the next three to four weeks we will be back with the

Bike Plan. All of these plans together come up without comprehensive, how do we move people around the community. We are starting out with two. Our Bike Plan will be here soon, but those multiple modal options, transportation options for people is what we are looking at to create a safe, walkable, bikeable, and a way that people can get from home to work in a good way. I just wanted to make sure that Council knows there will be three action plans; we have two for public hearing. Those comments come back from the citizens to the Transportation and Planning Committee for review.

Councilmember Mayfield said with thinking about how we are reaching out and engaging the community, on page seven of the presentation is the map. It would be a little more helpful to actually break that down either by interstate or neighborhood areas to help us identify, because I see on here 250 miles of new sidewalks, new bike facilities, traffic calming, and 150 traffic calming projects. It would be helpful to know exactly what projects we are talking about when we are going into the community, because I am still waiting to get an update from last year, when unfortunately we had yet another loss of life crossing West Boulevard, because it is state maintained road we have been working with the state representative, with C-DOT, as well as NC-DOT, without getting an update, so if TAP is moving forward, it would be helpful to know where the areas break down to find out are we in those discussions, because I also have not seen whether or not we have gone into the West Boulevard Corridor to speak to the 18 neighborhoods that are in that corridor in order to hear from them outside of sidewalks and bike lanes, because that is not the answer for all of the communities. What is it that they are looking for for traffic calming? That is mainly Mayor because unfortunately the way West Boulevard was developed, the streets do not connect. So, you will have a street and half a block will be another street, so we cannot put street lights up to try to slow down or create speed humps, but I need to know what we are doing to give an update to the community.

Mr. Steinman I would be glad to provide more information here or at the workshop. West Boulevard is one of the active arterial studies that we are doing right now, we have not gone back to the community, but we have initiated the study of what might be feasible on West Boulevard.

Ms. Mayfield said it would be very helpful for the community to be at the forefront of that conversation appose to staff identifying what they think is needed for the area, so I will look forward to the update.

Councilmember Eiselt said Mr. Steinman, I have a question. We were out in Seattle last year, and their Council was telling us how they were getting ready to vote on a levy for \$50 billion for their transit system over the next 25 years. Their region is roughly the same as ours. So, when I look at \$5 billion in 30 some years, my question is, is that the bare minimum that we need that we think we can get away with? What really are our needs?

Mr. Steinman said let me provide two parts to that answer if I could. This is the overarching plan for transportation. The \$5 billion that I mentioned here are specifically intended to be spent on arterials, signals, sidewalks, bicycle facilities. They are not including the transit component of this. The \$5 billion do not include spending money to build more rapid transit lines or to operate the buses and the rapid transit system. Those would be additional funds necessary. Also, we are not making reference to any of the projects on the freeways and interstates that belong to the NC-DOT. I can come back with a comprehensive total set of recommended amounts, which will still probably not equal what has been recommended in Seattle or even in Los Angeles.

Ms. Eiselt said that would be great.

Councilmember Fallon said question, when we do this and we put sidewalks in, are we going to put lights in places where they can be put in, because we do not have enough lights in this city. It doesn't detour crime when it should. People are afraid to walk in the dark, and if we are spending the money, wouldn't it be [inaudible] to start putting in the street lights at the same time?

Mr. Steinman said we have a program that is intended to provide street lights along the thoroughfares, the ulterior in Charlotte, so our intent and I can come back with specific information of as to how many miles we had left to install street lights on thoroughfares, but that is our goal.

Ms. Fallon said so the ones that are there already that are out all of the time?

Mr. Steinman said that is a separate problem, because that is more of an operation issue.

Ms. Fallon said that was the state, but we took it over, especially on I-77.

Mr. Steinman said no, that still belongs to the state.

Ms. Fallon said but we did it, because they were not doing it.

Mr. Steinman said we try to encourage them to do the installation and maintenance faster.

Francine Patton, 5118 June Furr Road said I would like to thank Mr. Phipps in District 4. I am the Property Manager at Mayfield Memorial Apartments, and this is one of our residents here, and we are here to let you know how we are appreciative of Charlotte WALKS in our community. At Mayfield Memorial Apartments, we take pride in our facilities for the elderly and disabled. The key to independence and quality of life for most of our residence is the ability to walk. Our residences enjoy a variety of activities from community events, guest speakers, fishing, conversations, and of course walks. Walkability is key for their endurance and health, for their heart and mind. Access to safe sidewalks and walk ways with proper signage is important for our whole community of seniors. The majority of the residents here rely on public transportation to get to the store, doctors' appointments or to simply get out and enjoy the views. On Oneida Road, there are not any accessible walkways for the residents to walk to the corridor for Graham Street. With the help of Gregory Phipps and Scott Curry, with the Charlotte Department of Transportation, we were able to get enough signatures to get access to sidewalks being built there. Here I have one of the residents here with me. She walks daily on the streets, in the street, to get to and from the bus stop, so I do think of her daily, and I asked her to come out with me here tonight just so that you can see the face of people who walk in the street, because there is no sidewalks. It is very dangerous. There are accidents, but we have had improvements. We have had signage put up. We have had the speed taken down, and people do know that there are individuals walking here. It could be your grandmother or father; it could be your aunt or uncle. So, 2013 when I started working at the property and seeing a lot of the residence and community individuals walking in the middle of the street just to get to the store or to catch a bus, I just thought it was very dangerous, so I reached out to Mr. Phipps, and he came out to the property. He assessed it and we walked the property and streets, and I am very appreciative of this opportunity, and we thank you from Mayfield Memorial Apartments.

Ms. Lyles said it is always good to hear.

Meg Fencil, 5124 Shady Grove Lane said I am the Program Director at Sustain Charlotte. We have been following the development of the Transportation Action Plan and Charlotte WALKS at your monthly Transportation and Planning meetings. We are proud to offer our endorsement and support of both plans. I would like to draw your attention to some of the key and important statements for the 2016 TAP. First, establishing mode share goals, we can't keep widening our streets, so we need to support safe and convenient ways for Charlotteans to travel by modes, other than by driving alone in their own cars. We encourage you to support ambitious goals for measuring and increasing the percent of people who bike, walk, and ride transit. We understand that there is a separate plan for transit, and I will also speak later about the Charlotte WALKS Plan, but I want to talk about bikes for a minute. Let's become a city of people on bikes. The TAP includes \$100 million over 25 years, or about \$4 million per year, for 80 bike/ped connections, 250 miles of bike ways or more, but we need to get ahead of the curve in order to meet the needs of new and current residents who want and need to be able to get around by bike. That funding needs to come from a committed and constant source. About 49% of people who ride bikes to work earn less than \$25,000 a year, yet they often lack a safe route. Well designed, protected

bike lanes, those are lanes that are physically separated and separate motorist from cyclist with some type of a vertical barrier, have been shown to dramatically increase cycling participation rates in other cities. Traveling on foot or by bicycle should not require an act of bravery, yet all too often it does. Secondly, we need to become an 8/80 city, simply put that cities that work for 8 year olds and 80 year olds are cities that create great public spaces and transportation opportunities for all people. Third, we need to embrace vision zero. Every week, we hear stories from residents who are fearful for their safety when they walk or bike. We hear it from residents who have been hit by cars or who know someone whose life has been shattered or altered by a collision with a car. Vision Zero, an element of the TAP policy is the simple but profound concept that the only acceptable number of lives lost on our streets year is zero. In closing, I would like to thank you on behalf of Sustain Charlotte for supporting a bold and aspirational long term transportation plan for Charlotte. Above all, remember that the quality of life and the very lives of our residents depend on your follow through and future budget, zoning, and policy votes in alignment with the TAP's vision.

Laura Park-Leach, 704 Louise Avenue said I am the Senior Vice President of the Metrolina Association for the Blind, and I am a specialist who teaches travel skills to people who are visually impaired. Today, baby boomers are aging into vision loss, combined with Charlotte's extraordinary population growth; we foresee the doubling, even tripling of people who are blind. These citizens will seek instruction on how to walk with a cane or a dog guide, how to use public impaired transit, and how to use ride sharing options, such as Uber and Lyft. Former motorists experiencing visual impairment will become multi-modal commuters. Visually impaired citizens will rely on 250 miles of new sidewalks and 150 traffic calming projects to access to work, shopping, and key destinations. To remain safe on older sidewalks, trimming tree limbs will help avoid head injury, and repairing sidewalks that are raised up or broken by roots will reduce the risk of falling. When they reach corners, they will require detectable warnings and mats to alert them that they have reached the end of the block and to stop before proceeding. The five hundred new intersections equipped with accessible pedestrian signals mean that they will have the information necessary to know when it is time to cross the street. Accessible pedestrian signals, combined with Leading Pedestrian Intervals will provide our blind citizens with early audible queues to begin the negotiating intersections. A significant challenge of our population when crossing streets is to maintain their line of direction. Excessive crossing distances make it more likely that they will veer outside of the crosswalk and not reach their destination before the light changes. For those with some vision, well maintained, brightly marked crosswalks will help guide them. Charlotte investing in street maintenance will reduce the blind pedestrian's chance of entering a pothole or poorly maintained curb, which will increase their time in the street. Many of Charlotte's blind citizens use LYNX and transit, having well marked paths on the LYNX platform insures they remain safe. Shelters, benches, and waiting pads in highly lit environments create basic comfort while waiting for buses. Improvements are still necessary. I have witnessed clients waiting for buses in perilous circumstances such as standing close to a busy thoroughfare with no sidewalk, a bus stop located with a deep drop off just behind the waiting area and holes filled with muddy water, situated where the pedestrian would board the bus. Improving these facilities and providing additional routes within a quarter mile of homes encourages our citizens to use public transit, for these reasons and many others, I ask you on behalf of the Metrolina Association of the Blind and our growing population, to adopt the Transportation Action Plan.

Sherri Thompson, 1600 Mainline Boulevard said I know that if you live in this city and you are involved in this city, you love walking in this beautiful city. I love living in a city where there are shops, restaurants, sporting activities, and other street activities and museums that are connected by safe sidewalks and walking trails and biking trails and public transportation. I label myself as the pedestrian, a professional pedestrian, because I do a lot of walking, and I am on public transportation. I really appreciate the fact that I can get out here and walk and go to different places. I like the fact that I can walk to the grocery store, because there are areas of Charlotte that are walkable, and I get to be in one of those areas, so I am able to walk to the grocery store or take public transportation, which both go hand-in-hand. I also can go to my doctor's appointments. I can go to volunteer activities. I can also work and do other things by walking or with public transportation, but as you know, there are frustrations. There are many parts of Charlotte that do not have sidewalks or they

have obstacles in the sidewalks, or the broken sidewalks, so that causes a lot of hazards. We also have areas that are walkable, but the speed limits are very fast, which is very dangerous. We have issues with drivers that pull into pedestrian walkways, and that puts me out into the traffic, because I have to go around these cars. We have drivers that ignore the yield to pedestrian's law, which is rough. It is very rough crossing some of these streets. With Charlotte WALKS, I feel that we could move forward and make Charlotte a walkable city if we all work together. So, please help me and other pedestrians and bikers move Charlotte more toward a walkable city, because we can transform this city into a walkable city, which will give us a good quality of life and the independence to be able to live freely.

Douglas Welton, 5601 Murrayhill Road said I am the immediate past President of the Madison Park Homeowner's Association. Madison Park is located south of town, near Park Road Shopping Center. It is a lovely collection of about 1,700 homes atomic ranches. The area is boundried by Park Road, Woodlawn, Tyvola, and South Boulevard. I am here to voice my support for the proposed pedestrian plan, because I believe that walkability is an essential tool for building community. Over the past several years, I have met and developed relationships with scores of my neighbors, while I have been walking my dog or taking my son to the park, or walking over to Pinewood Elementary to vote. We interact at a human speed. We see into each other's eyes. We laugh when our dogs smell each other's butts. These are not things that you can do at 55 miles per hour in traffic, on an arterial road designed to accommodate the maximum number of cars during traffic time. This pedestrian plan puts forth three key ideas that I believe would have an immediate and beneficial effect on Madison Park and other communities in my part of town. First of all, Madison Park is surrounded by roads with non ADA compliant, back of the curb, sidewalks. Walking on these streets is not fun, but fortunately we also have our share of new development, and at these locations, developers have put in wide planning strips and wider sidewalks. It is amazing how pleasant it is to walk on the road when you are not fearing for your life because a car is whizzing past you at 55 miles per hour, just a few feet away. Secondly, Madison Park, we are near a lot of fun stuff, but we need to walk there safely. In July of 2015, Urban Design Associates produced a report about the Park Woodlawn Corridor. The document reads that the current pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure shows a network with many missing pieces. Sidewalks frequently dead end, making it even more difficult to navigate around some of the already large blocks that comprise the neighborhood. All we want is to be able to walk safely. Third, Madison Park is located adjacent to one of the city's most iconic retail joints, Park Road Shopping Center; however, if you live in Maddison Park and you like to walk there, you will have to cross Park Road and Woodlawn, few words, good luck with that. This intersection leaves no doubt that the car is king. Many of us don't want to get in our car and drive a fraction of a mile to the shopping center, you know, eggs, milk, bread, that sort of stuff, but if you walk at the wrong time, it is like death race 2000. Honestly, we can do better than this. Charlotteans of the future deserve a better pedestrian environment than we have now. With this plan, we will take a step in the right direction.

Eric Zaverl, 946 Hawthorne Bridge Court said I just want to clear some things up, because I know that some of the speakers have been talking about Charlotte WALKS and TAP. I am on both. We didn't know that they were going to be separated, and I believe that Sherry as well spoke on walks, just so you are clear about that. Some of you I have known and worked with in the past, but today I am here as a volunteer, as an advocate, a recent graduate from UNC-Charlotte. That is why you haven't seen me for a little while, with my Masters in Urban Design. Before school, I was heavily involved as President of the South End Neighborhood Association, so that is why I know Sherry; she is a resident of the South End Neighborhood. I work with Scott Curry from C-DOT, and we did some really good work. A lot that we advocated for and worked on is in the Charlotte WALKS Program. All of that hard work has paid off. It is now in a written document, and I know that the TAP has been around, but I think that you really need to look into the Charlotte WALKS. It is a really big change in how this city looks at transportation for people on foot and then the bike program as well. That will be coming in a couple of weeks, will change how Charlotte and how people move around. The draft makes sense. It is a simple, no-brainer, and we have to get working on it as soon as possible. It sets a solid foundation for a walkable city, and I believe that Charlotte is a little bit behind other the US cities, in terms of walkability. We need to start working on it and keep checking back on it frequently. The TAP is also a great start. It is multifaceted. The one thing that I have noticed in the TAP Program is how cohesive the

folks at C-DOT were, from Scott and his team doing walks and then the team doing the Transportation Plan, you can tell how well they work together. The one part and the biggest part missing is transit, and since it is a Transportation Plan, transit needs to be included and they need to have that cohesiveness to work together as a team. They are not separate things. I know they are; that is how they exist currently, but I think that maybe looking at how that is divided up and how they work together would be worth the look in time. As transportation is concerned, transit, walkability, and much better bike facilities will be the only way that Charlotte makes it through the next couple of decades of growth. Roads, highways, car centric focus will not work any longer, and it hasn't worked for other cities as well, that have also focused on those methods. I know you have a variety of important tasks; we have heard them tonight early; however, waiting any longer to act on TAP and WALKS will only put Charlotte into another difficult situation. Let's act now and build a better future for everyone in Charlotte.

Juddson Rupp, 5415 Kathryn Glair Lane said I live in South Charlotte; as a resident of Charlotte, I work for RR Donnelley, and I volunteer as the Chair of the American Heart Association State Advocacy Committee. I applaud Charlotte's work with updating the Transportation Act Plan and Charlotte WALKS Pedestrian Plan. Communities that are safe and built with walking, biking, and other physical activities in mind, are correlated with both lower body weights and reduced cardiovascular disease. This plan shows the department's commitment to creating a healthier Charlotte and a world-class city. We have had a little bit of PR this year that we probably have not wanted, and this is a great way to get back that PR that we lost this year, with having an incredible city that can walk wherever they want and bike. It is just like the Sugar Creek Greenway for instance, which is magnificent and Four Mile Creek, which is down south where I live. We applaud the city's transportation goals, especially those that increase access to employment, education, parks, and shopping. We also appreciate the priority of enhancing our transportation network and creating many ways to get around the city, which will improve our quality of life. When a new street goes up, for instance, we would like a sidewalk to automatically be included in those blueprints for that neighborhood, rather than having it taken out by the builder or someone in the county. We suggest that the plan include more specific language, about exceptions to complete street infrastructure, to make sure that we are making the strongest effort to increase walkability and bike access in all projects, unless there is a good reason not to do so. We also think that the plans should create a way to prioritize projects in low and moderate income communities. Finally, the incredible progress of these plans makes it clear that Charlotte is ready to take the next step and codify a complete street's policy and bring national recognition to the city. It is like putting money in the bank as I like to say. It definitely would increase value in your neighborhood, no doubt, and the low income as well as moderate income. Why am I here? I am a cardiac arrest survivor, from working out at the YMCA, if you can believe that. My heart got to be so bad. I had not exercised in probably five years, until a year and a half ago when I had a heart transplant, so exercise is very key for me and my family and so many people around here, and having bikes and access to biking on a road, like on Rae Road in South Charlotte near Colony Road, near where I live. There are great bike paths now on the road as well as sidewalks, and it is very vibrant. You can see a vibrant community driving home from work daily, because of these bike access routes on the road, as well as the sidewalks.

Eric Seckinger, 6726 Lancer Drive said I am a transportation professional and a resident of the City of Charlotte. I am here tonight to speak on behalf of my colleague Greg [inaudible] in support of the Transportation Action Plan. Greg could not be here tonight, but many of you know that he is also a transportation professional and the Chair of the Charlotte Chamber's Transportation Committee. Recently, C-DOT presented the TAP to the Chamber's Transportation Committee, and he is in favor of it for the following reasons. First of all, Charlotte is a rapidly growing city that must continue to invest in roads, intersections, bridges, sidewalks, signals, and bikeways if we are going to keep pace with growth. Secondly, the TAP calls for over 100 new road projects, 40 major intersection projects, hundreds of miles of new sidewalks and bikeways, and better maintenance. These are all investments that are important to our community today and for decades to come. These improvements also help foster our economy and improve access to jobs, education, and opportunity for all residents in our community. These investments help keep our residents and businesses moving, and the TAP is a comprehensive plan that recognizes our existing

and future challenges and opportunities. Finally, transportation is a top priority for this committee, and we look forward to working with you to implement the TAP for years to come. Again, although I am here speaking on Greg's behalf, I am also a member of Greg's committee and a Charlotte resident as well, and I am in favor of the TAP for those very same reasons.

Tony Lathrop, 100 N. Tryon Street said I have been asked to speak on behalf of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, and I would just like to express the Commission's support for both the Transportation Action Plan and the Charlotte WALKS. The Commission has been engaged in dialoged around these plans, attending TAP Committee discussions, and most recently we received a detailed update from the C-DOT staff at our January 9, 2017 work session. Our interest in these plans is because we know that they will serve a vital role in shaping the built environment and the quality of life of Charlotte, in concert with our land use policies and development policies. Both of these plans reinforce the adopted land use and development policies of the city and the planning commissions recently adopted livable principles, in particular the one to create state of the art transportation systems that equally provide for the health and safety of pedestrian, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists. To that end, we applaud the multi-modal emphasis embedded in these plans with specific and measurable goals, including 100 multi-modal arterial projects, 250 miles of sidewalks, 250 miles of bike facilities, and 150 traffic calming projects. These would also be beneficial for economic opportunity and economic mobility here in Charlotte. We support these goals. As a commission, we are committed to providing leadership and creating innovative and separated i.e. protected bike facilities, as mentioned earlier tonight, and walkable streets that are safe and inviting for pedestrians. We encourage your continued support and appreciate your continued support and leadership on these plans. As a commission, we will support their implementation through our ongoing efforts, including the development of the coming Charlotte Unified Development ordinance and the place type policies that are going to be a part of that. Thank you very much for your hard work and your support for these great plans.

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ITEM NO. 10: PUBLIC COMMENT ON CHARLOTTE WALKS

Scott Curry, Charlotte WALKS said I am an Urban Designer with C-DOT, and I Manage our city's Pedestrian Program. I am pleased to be with you all tonight, to talk about Charlotte WALKS, which will become Charlotte's first pedestrian plan. The purpose of the presentation is to introduce Charlotte WALKS for public comment. I want to recap our public outreach process briefly, summarize the key themes and action items in the plan for you, and then we will receive any additional public comment.

First of all, I want to remind you that we have had a Pedestrian Program since 1999 in Charlotte. As you all are aware, there are several coordinated and concurrent planning efforts going on right now in the city, including the Transportation Action Plan and the Unified Development ordinance. The Pedestrian Program's role in that effort has been to lead the public outreach and development of the Charlotte WALKS Pedestrian Plan. With Charlotte WALKS, you are going to see a plan that is a clear extension of the Transportation Action Plan. It is a deeper dive into the implementation tools that we have to meet our walkability goals. It also offers three key action steps that I will describe in just a moment. Really, Charlotte WALKS is the next step in the evolution of Charlotte toward walkability and complete streets. We may have chosen to put the automobile first in the past, but we know that our history is grounded in walkable communities. We got away from that history for a few decades after World War II, but since 2000, we have been making difference choices. We have chosen to focus on creating complete streets. We have chosen to require sidewalks on both sides of all new streets. We have chosen to invest in a robust public transit system. We have chosen to develop connected neighborhoods and street networks. Those choices have added up to a much better pedestrian experience in Charlotte, and we see the Charlotte WALKS Pedestrian Plan as the next important choice in that series of choices. The result of those key steps is that we are supporting more transportation choices in Charlotte today than we ever have before. For example, we have installed over 60 new

pedestrian crossings in just the past two fiscal years. Through Pedestrian Program funds alone, we built 98 miles of new sidewalk since 2002.

There is great work going on all across the city, CATS, Engineering and Property Management, Planning, Mecklenburg County Greenways, Bee Cycle. There are many different organizations and agencies working to extend our pedestrian network in Charlotte, and we are very lucky in the Pedestrian Program to be able to collaborate with those folks, but we know that we still have a long way to go. We will have a legacy of auto oriented development that makes many places in Charlotte very difficult to walk. I also want to remind you all, that we are all pedestrians. Walkability is an important social equity issue. It is something that affects every Charlottean. For some of us, sidewalks and greenways are the only way that we have to get around. Our best estimate is that over 250,000 Charlotteans do not drive. That is about 30% of our population, and it includes residents with disabilities that prevent them from driving, as well as those who simply choose not to drive. Whether residents are choosing to drive or not, they are telling us that they want better transportation choices. Norm mentioned to you that 86% of Charlotteans believe that our streets should be designed to serve all users, including those with disabilities who depend on our sidewalks and greenways; 76% of Charlotteans are telling us that they would like to walk more and you just heard from some of those folks a moment ago. So, we asked the question, what would happen if we built a city of transportation choices through things like the Transportation Action Plan and Charlotte WALKS, that made it possible for each of us to drive a little bit less. What if we all took just one less trip by car each day? The average Charlotte resident takes about 3.72 trips per day in a car. What if we just trim that down to 2.72? What we discovered is that an incremental change like that can be extremely powerful. For example, we would have about 500,000 fewer car trips on the road every day. Collectively, we would save \$1.3 billion in fuel costs, vehicle maintenance, and time spent in traffic. That is about \$4,200 per Charlotte household. We would improve our air quality and prevent fossil fuel emissions and organic compounds from leaving our tail pipes. You just heard a little bit about how improving walkability helps to improve blood pressure and obesity. That is the kind of city that we want Charlotte WALKS and the Transportation Action Plan to help us build.

I want to talk a little bit about how we got to where we are today. We kicked off the public outreach process for Charlotte WALKS back in February of 2015, with the TAP Committee. From February 2015 to September of 2016, we had ongoing public outreach and began to develop the draft plan. This past fall we had an interdepartmental review of that draft plan with folks within the city and then we presented that draft plan back in November to the TAP Committee, published the draft plan online to begin collecting public comment, and now tonight we are bringing it forward to you all for public comment, and now tonight we are bringing it forward to you all for public comment and to begin the adoption process.

I want to show you what some of the public outreach looked like. We talked to all kinds of people from all across the city about what walkability means for them and their families. These are pictures from some of our pop-up meetings and walk audits, and a few of these pictures are from a Youth Sustainable Transportation Fair that we helped to host with some of our friends from Sustain Charlotte. Throughout all of that public outreach, we heard all about the details of comfortable sidewalk dimensions, trees, and lighting. We heard about how important buffers are between moving traffic and sidewalks. We also heard about what walking really means to our residents. We heard about how walking for our residents is about access to jobs and schools and stores and transit. It is about health and independence and interacting with their community. Two of the clearest and most consistent things that we heard are that walkability is not this. It is not gaps in our sidewalk network, and it is not sidewalks that are squeezed right against moving traffic, right up against the back of the curb; 80% of Charlotteans believe that sidewalks against busy thoroughfares should be buffered from cars by a grass strip with street trees. With the support of the TAP Committee, we have met twice now with our development community to talk about these issues. We know that it needs some context sensitive amendments to Chapter 19 of our city code to deal with them; those amendments wouldn't apply in all instances, so we are specifically concerned with the busy thoroughfares. Unfortunately, we have had instances where a loophole in our code

has created developments along busy thoroughfares that remove an existing back of curb sidewalk, completely clear and regrade an entire site and then put in a new sidewalk right at the back of curb again, without and kind of buffer from fast moving traffic. That is the kind of redevelopment situation that we are most concerned with. Again, 80% of Charlotteans in a statistically valid survey said that they think that sidewalks should be buffered from moving traffic, especially along out busy thoroughfares.

We also know that situations like this are a big problem in Charlotte. Pedestrian crossings on busy thoroughfares are a big concern and a big focus of the Charlotte WALKS plan. We have a lot of busy high-speed roads and too few places for pedestrians to cross, so those three issues were mentioned over and over again during our public outreach, sidewalk gaps, back of curb sidewalks, and a lack of pedestrian crossings. Since February of 2015, we have talked to over 1,000 people at 30 different public input events to figure out what walkability means to Charlotteans, and those conversations, as I mentioned before, have resulted in three key themes and action items.

Here are the three key themes: people told us that throughout all of this public outreach, they are looking for a walking experience that is safe, useful, and inviting. Those are the three main themes that you will see organized in Charlotte WALK'S draft plan. To get toward that vision of walkability, we have three key action items. First of all, we need sidewalks. We need those sidewalks to be buffered from moving traffic, and we need more pedestrian crossings for people to be able to get to where they are trying to go. In the plan, you will also see a lot about what our residents want written by themselves in their own voice, so we included stories that our residence sent to us about what walkability means to them and their families. You will see how their stories and all of our public outreach were translated into action items and policy updates that set the stage for improving walkability across Charlotte, and just to recap the three key action items that we want to work on through the Charlotte WALK's plan are addressing back of curb sidewalks, filling gaps in the sidewalk network, and installing more pedestrian crossings.

This schedule mirrors the schedule that you just saw for the Transportation Action Plan. In December, the TAP Committee unanimously voted to bring Charlotte Walks forward for public comment. In the coming weeks, we want to continue to work with Council to refine and ultimately we hope to adopt the plan. The last thing that I will mention is that on our project website right now, the draft plan is up and available to the public. There is also a survey online that the public can fill out on the draft plan; that URL is on your screen, www.charlottenc.gov/charlottewalks.

Meg Fencil, 5124 Shady Grove Lane said I just want to reiterate Sustain Charlotte's support for the Charlotte WALK's Plan. We are really excited that Charlotte has its first ever Pedestrian Plan, and we just really encourage you to align your support with it and to keep in mind two key things. First of all, just remember that vision zero element of the TAP; no loss of life on our streets is acceptable. Secondly, that policy of becoming an 8/80 city, ask yourself a question. Do you feel safe allowing a young child or your grandma to walk across a busy thoroughfare to buy some groceries at the grocery store? If the answer is no, we still have work to do. Let's roll up ourselves and make it safe for pedestrians of all ages and ability levels to use our streets.

Laura Park-Leach, 704 Louise Avenue said on December 3, 2016, a 26-year old man named Shannon Williams walked to work on a sidewalk beside a busy thoroughfare, using his white cane for guidance. He came to a driveway and heard a vehicle approaching from a parking lot. The vehicle slowed to a stop making Shannon believe that the driver saw him and was yielding the right of way. In reality, the driver was not aware of the pedestrian. He was looking the opposite direction to determine when there was a gap in traffic so he could enter the street. The driver moved forward to enter the street and struck Shannon with his vehicle. The truck spun him around on impact and broke his leg. Shannon feared that he would be thrown into traffic. Luckily, he was not. Charlotte WALK's Pedestrian Plan will create a city where it is common for drivers to see pedestrians and thus become more vigilant. Injuries like Shannon's should decline. I have countless stories of people I have instructed who will benefit from Charlotte WALKS. For example, I had a middle school

student, who was extremely frightened to walk on a back of curb sidewalk, next to loud cars passing by. She now has the hope of an 8-foot barrier being installed to protect her and others, and that will help her feel safe. A Myers Park High School student is already benefiting from a hybrid beacon paired with an accessible pedestrian signal. It has given him the tools to make a four lane, mid-block crossing so he can go to his favorite restaurant near his family's apartment. A recent UNCC graduate remained safe during her four years crossing highway 49, between her apartment and the campus. C-DOT installed accessible pedestrian signals and applied traffic calming measures and shortened the crossing distance. The median refuge island also served as an opportunity to course correct during navigation. Thank you on behalf of one of my elderly clients who walk miles for pleasure and health. C-DOT filled in a sidewalk gap to improve useability and safety. The examples that I have shared with you this evening clearly demonstrates the need for streets and neighborhoods to have safe, useful, and inviting infrastructure; with the actualization of this thoughtful plan, Charlotte's pedestrians will have safe access to their destinations.

Yvonne Walker, 7129 Linda Lake Drive said I would like to speak on behalf of AARP and our 85,000 members living here in the City of Charlotte, expressing support for Charlotte WALKS, the city's first Pedestrian Plan and the update to the Transportation Action Plan. Charlotte is like most communities, in that it has not been designed with an aging population in mind, but within 15 years, one of four people will be over age 50. Within 27 years, boomers, Gen Xers, and millennials, will all be receiving social security at the same time, right here in Charlotte. When the boomers are long gone, we will still be an older society. There are even more millennials, 82 million. So, this aging country and our young City of Charlotte, will be older in perpetuity. In 2014, AARP and Governing Magazine surveyed communities across America and found that only 16% of communities said that they were prepared for the aging demographic shift. Roadways are often without sidewalks and crosswalks. Public transportation is often inaccessible because of a lack of walkable routes. That is the bad news, but there is also some good news. All generations want to live in places that are walkable. All generations want to get around easily. All generations want to be part of a community and economy that enables opportunity. That said, what is good for older residences and people with disabilities also tends to be good for everyone. Crossing the street safely to catch a bus is just as important to a young parent with a baby stroller as it is to a senior citizen. It is important to note that the boomers are very different than the older generations that preceded them. They are living longer, have more options, and have a greater desire to be connected to their community. Since coming to the Queen City in 2013, AARP has worked with C-DOT and other city and county departments on walkability issues and exercises. We are encouraged of the inclusiveness that the city has shown to help insure that people of all ages and abilities are accommodated. We are very supportive of this city getting the tools it needs, such as this Pedestrian Plan to implement needed changes. AARP will continue to be a part of efforts to make Charlotte and age friendly community.

Amy Anderson, 3017 Westerwood Drive said there is a grim reaper lurking around my city. There is a grim reaper creeping around the west side neighborhood. This grim reaper loves the West Boulevard Corridor. You will never know when he is going to strike next. This nefarious entity comes in the form of poor roadway design, lack of walkability, safety measures, lack of visibility, speeding, and distracted drivers and too few crosswalks. They are taking the lives of our children, the elderly; they are taking lives. I am going to introduce my son. He is going to tell you a little bit about a couple of special friends of his that have been affected directly.

Aaron Anderson, 3017 Westerwood Drive said I am 10-years old, and I am in the fourth grade at Tuckaseegee Elementary. I am also an entrepreneur and a news reporter. I live in Westerwood Neighborhood, and I have a story to tell. Two siblings were walking down the street when there were very few safety rules in the street and not that many crosswalks or anything like that. A driver wasn't paying attention, and it was an older guy, he was the brother and he was in his early 20's and the car was speeding or not paying attention and ran him over, and his younger sister who was 10 years old Anna Marie, he pushed her out of the way and they are both up and running. They are perfectly fine. He did not break anything or anything. I support the Charlotte WALKS Plan, because we need better

sidewalks, more safe ways to cross busy streets. Kids all over Charlotte need to be safe when they walk to school, to visit friends, and play outside. We just need more safety rules.

Mary Fryar, 2304 West Boulevard said my 11 year old daughter was hit and killed on July 13, 2016 by a car in front of our house. We live in the West Boulevard Corridor. Her crossing the street is something that she did every day, on a daily basis to go up the street. The store is right across the street from our house. I support the Charlotte WALK Plan, because we need better sidewalks and safer ways to cross the busy street. On July 13, my daughter Ti'Asia Young was crossing the street in front of the house when she was hit and killed by a car. A very close friend of hers was hit a few months after her accident. Thank God that accident was not fatal. These two are not the only pedestrian accidents that have occurred in this area on West Boulevard. I witness people attempting to cross that street, people that live in the neighborhood, people just trying to go to the store; they have a hard time crossing the street. The most dangerous time of the day is rush hour, between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. It could take up to 20 minutes just to cross the street. I am here not just for my children but for all of the children all over Charlotte. Children need to be safe when they walk to school, to visit friends, and when they play outside. My neighborhood is divided, because we have no safe way to walk across the street to visit our neighbors, even just to go to the store. If my neighborhood has more safe sidewalks and street crossings, my family would be able to utilize the neighborhood resources, such as the library and the park, which is very close to our house, but because of the street, we are afraid to cross, especially after what happened to my child. Thank you guys for making the Charlotte WALKS Plan, so people who walk in Charlotte will be safer. I expect you to do what you have said that you will do in this Charlotte WALKS Program. Thank you for listening to me and you all are invited to join us on the walk around in my neighborhood or to discuss more about what it is to walk there, again thank you.

Joe Padilla, 7727 Compton Court said I am the Executive Director of the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition. On behalf of the hundreds of homebuilders and developers who are representing the City of Charlotte, we want to express just a little bit of concern about one of these proposed policy changes in the plan. The first action item identified by your staff calls for an expansion of city policy to require all by right development projects to replace existing back of curb side walks with new sidewalks that are buffered from the street from an eight-foot planning strip. That is total right of way dedication of about 14 feet. Nobody questions the importance of sidewalks and pedestrian safety, but I think that our community needs to start to weigh the cost of these wide planning strips against other competing priorities that we have identified as a city. For the past four months, we have talked quite a bit about the critical need to expand the cities supply of affordable housing, by at least 5,000 units over the last three years. This ambitious goal comes even more challenging when the city continues to add costs to developers and property owners for additional development initiatives such as this one. It is important to remember that this new requirement involves more than just the dedication of an additional right away. Depending on the topography and grade, additional linear feet may be lost beyond the 14 feet called for in the policy. The additional grading could also require trees to be taken out, which could limit the ability to retain our 50% tree canopy goal. Again, we support the goal of making Charlotte a more walkable city. It helps everyone's property values. It helps draw economic development jobs and new residents here. We are just asking that we weigh each one of these competing priorities in light of the tradeoffs that are required. We ask that you look carefully, possibly at some sort of an exemption for affordable-projects or something that will help mitigate the impact of that cost on an affordable-housing developer.

Councilmember Driggs said my constituent; Charles Breitbart has been campaigning for a couple of years for some relief at an intersection of Route 51 and the Park Road Extension. He lives in the Park Ridge neighborhood, and I would just like to take this opportunity to highlight the issue there. Again, it is a large neighborhood that is cut off from any kind of shops or anything by Route 51. That intersection, if anybody has been there, is huge. You do not want to be crossing that on foot. There are many times when you cannot get out of the intersection in your car because of the traffic, so we have been to NC-DOT and to C-DOT. Pineville is involved also, because the Town of Pineville is on a couple of sides, but I just hope that we can get this particular location on our list of priorities for walkability, because it is a very tough spot.

Councilmember Fallon said can we get a list of where you are going to put in sidewalks?

Norm Steinman, Transportation said has a list of the priorities for the next ten years.

Mayor Roberts said so the answer is that we will get the list for the next 10 years.

Ms. Fallon said is there going to be a timeline on it?

Mr. Steinman said yes, and obviously one of the ... is the funding to be able to implement that.

Mayor Roberts said so the time line and the funding will be talked about.

Councilmember Lyles said I would also like to ask the staff to give us a list of those areas where in the past five years we have had pedestrian fatalities that are related to what the staff would assess as design of our roads or not having the ability for sidewalk or even the development that has occurred around residential, just to get us an idea. I went to a program, and it was Jacksonville, Florida who was having a lot of pedestrian fatalities, and they just made a decision that they were going to change their rating from whatever it was to something that they could be more proud of or be more safe. I wonder if we have actually begun to think about are there crisis places that even in our list of priorities, that we need to look at for pedestrian crossings and where we have had incidents occur. I am sure that that happens and the assessment is done from where we are. I think that as we get ready to talk about a \$5 billion plan or the numbers of miles of sidewalk, it is really about accelerating and the funding and priorities and who is going to do what. I know that what we have to do is really look at this and say where are we going to put our money, because that is what is going to drive change and that is what is going to save lives. I appreciate all of those who spoke, and the next action step is to actual send this back to the Transportation and Planning Committee for further review and discussion and report out to the Council prior to adoption, and I think that the staff work from the comments and requests for information being made by the Council should be included for the committee, as well, for us to discuss as well as being distributed to the Council.

Mayor Roberts said I appreciate the work of the Transportation and Planning Committee to get this far, and we will look forward to having that back to vote on.

Councilmember Phipps said similar to what Ms. Lyles was talking about on this this thing. Over the last five years of traffic fatalities, I have noticed that even today, in looking at media reports, it looks as if we had three fatalities today within the city, of pedestrians being hit. I am wondering, even on those roads that are state maintained roads, I know that every time that they have one of these fatalities they do an investigation to determine what might have been the cause or factor, if it was a design flaw in terms of walkability or if it was someone darting in front of traffic and suck, but as a part of the listing that Ms. Lyles is requesting, could we get some sort of a summary to as a result of the investigations, can they determine if there was any causative factors there that contributed to some of these accidents, if there was something, a spontaneous action on the part of the pedestrian or was it some design flaw in terms of if there was no street crossing signals or something. That would be helpful also to be able to do, because I know that some of these streets are city maintained. Some of them are state maintained, so I do not know if it is a state road, do they share that information with us since it is in the city limits, or is it one of these unilateral type of investigations that they investigate, and they keep it with their purview or do they share it with the city in terms of trying to make decisions or how we can advance and priorities certain road intersections and roadways and things like that?

Mr. Steinman said we will get the information for you.

Councilmember Smith said not a question, more of a statement. We get in District 6, and it is probably throughout town; we get a lot of folks who are in the medians on incredible busy roads panhandling, and from a safety stand point, I know that I get concerned from my constituents as people are zooming through the Fairview intersection, which gets about 75,000 cars a day. This is more for CMPD and follow up but just for some enforcement

issues as we are working on city safety and trying to make sure that folks are not in the medians, because Fairview people are going 45/50 miles per hour, and having folks in the middle of the medians can be sort of alarming and a safety issue.

Mayor Roberts said one thing that one of the speakers mentioned is Vision Zero, and that is a traffic safety project, which basically has the goal to have zero fatalities, and it started in Sweden, and there are some principals that they use, and I think that it will be interesting to see if our committee can recommend that we adopt that as a vision, as a principle that we have Vision Zero, that we want no traffic fatalities from pedestrians and bicycles.

Councilmember Ajmera said I was actually at one of the community events when Scott was gathering feedback from the neighborhood, and I truly enjoyed the exercise that you have had us do, and I appreciate how your sort of strategically gathered everyone's feedback and incorporated that into your plan. I am very pleased with that, and I appreciate that. In fact, when I moved here six years ago to Charlotte, everyone would ask me why did you move here from Southern California and what do you not like about this city. I said well, I wish I could just walk everywhere and when I attended your session at one of the neighborhood meetings about how this is going to connect people to jobs, I was quite pleased with it. I am looking forward to seeing this in action. Thank you.

Councilmember Mayfield said I just want to make sure that as we continue to have the conversations again, I need to make sure that the West Boulevard corridor. We have 18 neighborhoods. We have been having this conversation for the 6 years that I have been in office. I am not putting it all on you. It is a state-city collaboration, but I need to make sure that the conversation is happening in the areas that we are seeing the most impact and that the residents have the opportunity. We cannot be at every meeting, but we need to know that things are happening so that I can make sure my neighborhood leaders know in order to get it out to the community. Just keep me posted on it.

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ITEM NO. 11: JELD-WEN, INC. BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT

Mayor Roberts declared the public hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Austin to (A) Close the public hearing; and, (B) Approve the City's share of a Business Investment Grant to JELD-WEN, Inc. for an estimated amount of \$438,106 over five years.

Councilmember Smith said we are going to vote to approve this, which is rare, but with everything that has been going on with HB2 and some of the PR hits, we have two companies that are willing to make strong commitments to the City of Charlotte, and I am going to be supportive, but it is against my general nature, and as many of your know, this may be the first that I have voted at the dais. We have had some in closed session that haven't made it here, but I do. In light of that, I am going to support both of them.

Councilmember Driggs said I am going to respect the heroic gesture of my colleague and also vote for it.

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

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ITEM NO. 12: LENDING TREE, LLC BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT

Mayor Roberts declared the public hearing open.

Councilmember Smith said Lending Tree truly is a company that could have gone anywhere in the county. It is a technology based company. They are Charlotte's

success story. When they started here, their growth and ability to reconfigure their business after the recession that hit the mortgage industry pretty hard was really impressive, but this is the type of company that could have left the City of Charlotte, but they could have planted their flag in a Portland, Boston, cities that we compete with on a daily basis. So, thanks Lending Tree for staying committed to the City of Charlotte, and Ed, I think they may be moving out of your district to my district.

Councilmember Driggs said I like the fact that we are sorting an existing business here. There are times when we give grants to companies that come to Charlotte, and that undermines people who may be in the same business who are already here, so it is good to have an occasion where we can take someone who is already demonstrated their commitment to Charlotte and support them.

Mayor Roberts said 314 new jobs, hired locally for over five years.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Austin, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing; and, (B) Approve the City's share of a Business Investment Grant to Lending Tree, LLC for an estimated amount of \$245,064 over five years.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 13: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Marcus Jones, City Manager said there was a presentation that we had cued up initially for the dinner briefing that we moved to this period of the agenda. I would like to recognize our Chief Financial Officer, Randy Harrington as well as our Finance Director Robert Campbell, and I also believe that Teresa Smith, the Assistant Finance Director is here tonight. I try to begin with the end in mind and you start to think about the finances of the city, and we have a city that is a AAA bond rated city, so it is the gold standard. That takes years of just dedication and discipline. Along with that is our comprehensive, annual, financial report, which also expresses how we ended FY16. I am happy to say that based on staff's diligence that the external auditor has given us a clean audit for FY16. All of the funds finished within budget, but I think that what is most important, while we have one finding which was basically one transaction recorded in the incorrect fiscal year, a very minor finding. It just shows that it is dedication, and I love hearing the Mayor and the Council talking about the incredible staff that we have, and that is this type of dedication that gets us a clean audit. I think it is important to note that is 31 consecutive years of having the Certification of Achievement and Excellence and Financial Reporting. We are going to apply for the thirty-second consecutive year, so if you will Mayor and Council, we would just like to get Randy and Robert and Teresa to stand and just congratulate them for work well done.

Mayor Roberts said we also got a big booklet that has a detail report in it as well. That is available online as well. Anyone who wants more information on that stellar financial report can see it online.

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ITEM NO. 14: PASSENGER VEHICLE FOR HIRE ORDINANCE

Councilmember Eiselt said the Community Safety Committee has been reviewing the Passenger Vehicle for Hire ordinance, and the staff has worked really hard, Thomas Powers in particular, looking at the revisions and listening to stakeholder groups, and while it is not always perfect and there are still some things that the stakeholders would like to discuss, we did vote to move it to the full Council, the Committee did to take a vote. We would like to reach out to talk to our stakeholders. We would like to go ahead and ask for an approval of the ordinance, and then we would like to have the opportunity to see how the changes go and to even come back next year to make some changes if need be.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt and seconded by Councilmember Kinsey to approve the Community Safety Committee's recommendation to adopt Ordinance No. 9019, a Passenger Vehicle for Hire ordinance, with an effective date of July 1, 2017.

Mayur Khandelwal, 1541 St. George Street said when I signed up to talk; I did not know that there would be so little contention about it. I just wanted to say that I represent Crown Cab, and we have over 100 employees and contracted drivers, and the state's new regulation has made it very difficult for us to operate. The city and staff have worked very hard to; as Councilmember Eiselt pointed out, try to rectify these two different disparities in industries, one that has been around for almost 100 years, and one that has been around for less than 10. It is not easy. The staff is taking a great first step. We have asked for a lot of things. They have listened to everything, and as you consider this and you may have not considered this as much had I not chosen to speak, but as you consider this, just recognize that it is tough. The city's office has worked hard to recognize that there are some levers and things in place, which are onerous, and they have worked to remove that without adding risk, which I think is a tough thing. Driving a car is one of the most dangerous things that you do in the county, and it is easy to just throw the baby out with the bathwater, but we hope that with continued discussions we could iterate and move forward and make changes as we see them down the line. I just want to say thank you. I think as a stakeholder, we are pleased with the process and the results so far.

Councilmember Austin said I just want to recognize staff again for their tremendous work on this. The whole effort was to try to create an equal playing field for our other entity, the Transportation Network Company, so they are obviously being regulated by the state, and we wanted to try to have an opportunity for our cabs to make a living. This is an effort to do so. I think that they have done a great job in that, and again the feedback, no feedback I guess is good feedback. I am very supportive, and I will be voting for it.

Councilmember Smith said I want to thank staff for working exceedingly hard with some suggesting that came out of the committee level with some advertising requirements and stuff for cabs, and they did, which Khandelwal worked with them. I want to point out one more historic event for the night. If this passes unanimously, my colleagues are joining me in a move towards free market, so I appreciate everybody. Staff did work really hard on it, and there were some tweaks and curve balls thrown.

Mayor Roberts said I think that it is also very timely to hear the comment about driving and needing to be safe while driving. As we heard tonight, we need to make sure that drivers are all very alert.

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

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at pages 512-536.

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ITEM NO. 15: AMEND THE 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Kinsey, and carried unanimously to approve an amendment to the 2017 City Council Meeting Schedule: The North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference rescheduled to September 20-22, 2017, Greenville Conference Center; and, add October 23, 2017 Citizens' Forum and Business Meeting, Meeting Chamber.

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BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 16: DISCOVERY PLACE SCIENCE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Kinsey, to (A) Approve an allocation of \$950,000 to Discovery Place to fund a Facilities Master Plan, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9020-X appropriating \$950,000 from the Cultural Facilities Operating (Tourism II) Fund for the Discovery Place Facilities Master Plan.

Councilmember Fallon said that money is not tax money; it is hospitality tax money. Make sure the public knows that that money is not from the tax payer. It is dedicated funds from the hospitality tax that can only be used to improve things that I guess we own.

Councilmember Driggs said I just want to reiterate what I said in our last discussion on this, which is I have a concern about the general process through which we commit a million dollars to what we know is going to be a big ask for an investment later, and we do not know what that is going to look like. We will have made this first step and invested these funds, and the request for other money will come along and we will have to choose between agreeing with that or potentially tearing up the work that was done here, so I would be more comfortable with this if we had some idea of where it is headed and what sort of a capital request might be made. We are in the midst of a bunch of capital commitments related CRVA funds. We do not have much detail about where the assessment, that we have capacity, comes from, and so I will stress that I absolutely support Discovery Place, and I think that it was a great community asset, but I do not like the way that this is being done; therefore, I will not be able to support it.

Councilmember Eiselt said I just wanted to mention that it is a big ask, and when I reached out to Discovery Place and Catherine Horne helped me walk through it again, even after we had our presentation, it reminded me that it is a complicated deal, because you have Discovery Place spread out over two or three buildings, across streets, and it is a little bit more complicated and therefore is going to require more engineering assessments. I am going to support it. I am in favor of supporting our assets that we already own, that are already producing revenue. Discovery Place is 70% funded by earned income, so we know that this is one of the top tourist destinations facilities in the state. We know that it is a good asset that brings a lot of enjoyment to tourist and residents who exist here, and importantly, it is filling a void with our school children as they are missing out on field trips; they are missing out on science and exploratory type education, and it is filling a void. I am going to support this even though it is a big ask.

Ms. Fallon said the whole point of it is to spend this money so they can tell us what the ask will be in the end.

Mr. Driggs said very briefly, I think that CRVA needs to make basic decisions about allocating resources. These guys will be able to work much more affectively if they had some concept of the budget that they were working from instead of a clean sheet of paper. We do not know if it is \$20 million or \$50 million.

Ms. Fallon said that is why we had asked during the meeting, but she explained that they had to do this to be able to tell us how much. I think that we were concerned bout how much money it would cost and where was it going to come from.

Councilmember Mayfield said as difficult as it is to say it out loud, I definitely understand and share some of the concerns of my colleague, Mr. Driggs regarding the study, but I also recognize with every opportunity I have to travel, the asset that we have in Discovery Place. I had the opportunity this past weekend to be at a conference in Philadelphia, and everywhere that we have an opportunity to show up to represent our city, I look at what they have in the form of arts and science and connecting not only the youth but the young people. I am not a fan of the amount that we are looking at for the study, but I definitely understand the importance and the reason that we need it. I

just hope that when it is all said and done, we realize it is not going to be as expensive as we are possibly anticipating. I will be supporting it, but I need us to keep in mind the big picture of what is a world class city. Medical center, we do not have yet. Discovery Place is up there. We think of the sports and the entertainment, but it is really those educational, hardcore services and then having a top university like University of North Carolina, there are some things that we do not have that we can work towards. Discovery Place is something that we have that I just believe that we need to continue to support.

Councilmember Smith said it is a primary tourist destination for the Smith family. I have three kids under eight and we have, between Huntersville and down there, we have spent countless hours learning about science and engaging them in activities that are educational, and I can remember as a child taking the school bus over from Selwyn Elementary and sticking my hands in the touch tank and getting to touch the star fish and some of the other stuff, and it left a lasting impression on me as a child, and to know that they have been able to survive for that long and continue to offer the quality service to our community, I think is important. We know a bigger ask will come, and we know that we are going to have to rally the corporate community and some private philanthropy dollars to make it there, but at one point, Discovery Place if you had gotten married in Charlotte and had people coming in from out of town, it was the only destination you could send people to. In a lot of ways, it is great that we have grown so much as a city, but they have sort of been there from the start. I am supporting it. I think that they do good work down there, and I look forward to it. It is just hard driving to Huntersville for the other one. It is a great resource.

Councilmember Kinsey said I do have to say that those of us who grew up with the Nature Museum probably remember that we have a planetarium. The planetarium has reopened. Go visit.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Eiselt, Fallon, Kinsey, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell, Phipps, and Smith

NAYS: Councilmember Driggs

Mayor Roberts said we look forward to seeing that study come out and then we will look at the next stage of how we continue to improve our science museum that is visited, not just locally but regionally and people across the state and South Carolina.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 537.

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ITEM NO. 17: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS

Councilmember Smith said for our Councilmember Retreat, everybody you have your Retreat Handbook here. We are going to commence at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday. They call it the Midtown; it is the old North Raleigh Hilton on Wake Forest Road. We have got I think a strong agenda of a lot of good things that we can help, some issues to tackle and I think that we will come back from this energized and excited to leave the city. We are going to have some interactions with our state delegation, which should prove to be beneficial. We are going to have the demographer that we have spoken about. We are going to continue to talk about our Community Action Plan, from the events in earlier fall. I am really excited about that. I wanted to take a minute to highlight our staff members that are still here that put a great deal of work into this, Alban, Katie, and Kim. On December 18, 2016, our committee threw a curve ball to go out of town so we could spend more time with the Manager and build relationships with Raleigh. On the 18th we have no agenda, no speakers, and no venue. On Wednesday, we have a venue, our first choice of moderators and speakers, and it is going to be a great thing. Tip of the cap to you guys and look forward to everybody's participation.

Councilmember Mitchell said I want to thank the Committee Chair, because we had a lot of discussion in our Retreat Committee, and one person who is not here who we

have to give kudos to is Dana Fenton. Dana has done a lot of heavy lifting to reach out to the delegation, so I just want to thank Dana as well.

Councilmember Mayfield said thank you for giving me a great segway. I want to also thank Dana Fenton. He had a meeting late last year with Congresswoman Adams and her team that lead to a conversation that we were able to have here luckily, and I want to thank Ms. Pam Wideman as well as Tom Warshauer and their team, because we had a great conversation here at the Government Center, looking at how we can create a stronger relationships specifically around food deserts and how we have a greater impact in our communities, and I definitely want to thank Congresswoman Adams, who is our 12th Congressional District Representative, for taking a time out and leading the conversation and coming to Charlotte to the Government Center to have the meeting. I also want to extend my apologies, because this week I was supposed to be speaking at the Clanton Park Neighborhood Association. Staff will still be there. The intentions were for me to bring an update to the community, but as we talked about the Retreat, I forgot that the Retreat actually starts Wednesday afternoon, which means that I will miss. I have sent an email to the neighborhood president, but I also, in case anyone was watching tonight, wanted to ask for forgiveness and to blame it on the head and not the heart, that I mixed up the scheduling dates, but as was mentioned, we are going to be heading out for the Retreat. I will not be at the Clanton Park Neighborhood Association speaking, but staff will still be in attendance.

Councilmember Phipps said I am probably going to defer to Councilmember Austin that will probably make the announcement on tomorrow night's meeting on one of the affordable housing petitions that we had in his District that straddles my District that has created a lot of community interests. I will leave that up to him, but meanwhile, I would like to congratulate one of my extinguished constituents in District 4, Ms. Natalie English, who is leaving the Charlotte Chamber to head up the Wilmington Chamber here soon. I certainly applaud her for all of her work here in Charlotte, and I wish her well in her new venture heading up the Wilmington, North Carolina Chamber.

Councilmember Lyles said it is with a lot of sadness but yet joy in a way, I just wanted to say to the Lowrance family, Sally, who was President of the Charlotte Junior League, she is a Queens Alumni and one of my classmates who has come home from Duke University Hospital, and I want to say that Fred you are a great husband, father, pastor, and lawyer. The lawyer part sometimes doesn't fit. To the three of the kids, Fred Jr, Shannon, and Sally, I send you all of the love that we could possibly do from this community to a woman who tap danced a lot and did a lot for this community, and just to say how much we appreciate Sally Lowrance at this time.

Mayor Roberts said last week I had the honor of representing Charlotte at the US Conference of Mayors. Sorry I missed the Zoning Meeting. I wanted to say that Charlotte was well represented. A lot of Mayors wanted to meet with me and talk about what we are doing. We have a good reputation for doing a lot of innovative things in Charlotte, and it was interesting to hear the common thread of concerns from Mayors around the country as we change administrations but also determination to continue work on the things that cities need to work on and that is supporting diverse populations. There was quite a bit of discussion on immigration and supporting folks who are in communities and contributing, also quite a bit of discussion about transportation and really continuing to grow and to keep safe our roadways and our railways and our ports. There are quite a few costal Mayors there as well. Also, a discussion about local control, again cities are very interested in continuing to protect their own citizens and to determine the best way to govern their citizens in collaboration with state and federal governments, but making a determined effort to talk about the unique needs of the cities. There were also some conversations about poverty, youth STEM education, and apprenticeships and internships, which is a key theme in cities around the country as that we recognize that we need to adapt our workforces for the future, that we need to be more nimble to get our young people and young adults into the jobs that are not just there but the ones that are coming, because there was a lot of talk about technology, and it gives me hope for our country to see all of the great people across our country working very hard to make all of our cities a great place to live, work,

and raise our families. Again, Charlotte did very well on that mix, and we will continue to well represent a number of the groups on the task forces that I will be working on.

Councilmember Fallon said tomorrow night it will be Coffee with the Cops at the McDonalds at Northlake Mall. It is at 7:00.

Councilmember Driggs said I wanted to thank everybody in District 7 who attended our Town Hall meeting on Saturday morning, and it was a very good discussion about growth issues in Charlotte, about affordable housing, traffic, our planning policies, good participation. I particularly wanted to thank Kim Oliver, great job. The panelist, Ann Clark, Scott McCully from CMS, Debra Campbell, Ed McKinney, Danny Pleasant, Pam Wideman, and contributing editor Warren Cooksey from NC-DOT, five members of the North Carolina General Assembly attended; Mayor Roberts thank you for being on hand to greet, and Manager Jones, also my colleagues Vi Lyles and Julie Eiselt. It was great occasion and a good effort by everybody, thank you.

Councilmember Austin said tomorrow night, myself and Councilmember Phipps will host a meeting of the residents living in the West Sugar Creek/WT Harris Community. We had an affordable housing rezone a couple of months ago, which we approved, and it is a good project. We have 120 units; however, the community kind of wanted more information about the area plan and what we are planning for the area. That is going to be at the University City United Methodist Church. That is at 3825 W. WT Harris. It is at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. I also want to invite members of Council to come out to an indaba. Indaba is a West African word for the great meeting. It is going to be this Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at Grimes Lounge, on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University. We are going to be talking about the City LYNX Gold Line, the Opportunity Task Force, and Historic West End investment. Please come out. We should have about 150-200 people there who live along the corridor.

Councilmember Ajmera said it is my first day official. I want to thank all of the staff for doing an amazing job in helping me through the orientation and helping me get settled. Also, I want to thank the colleagues here who also helped me to insure that there is a smooth transition. I would really like to thank you all. Also, all of the great neighborhood leaders, I stand on your shoulders, especially the neighborhood leaders in east Charlotte, for their continued support in inviting me to all of the neighborhood meetings. Yes, I will continue to be there, without a doubt; however, my email is set up for the city. It is my first name dot my last name at charlottenc.gov. Feel free to send me an email. I am ready to hit the ground running, and I am ready to serve you. Please allow me to work for you.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.



Emily Kunze, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 4 hours and 3 minutes
Minutes Completed: February 20, 2017