

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Special Meeting and Workshop on Monday, October 2, 2017 at 4:15 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Carlenia Ivory, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, James Mitchell, and Kenny Smith.

Absent: Councilmembers Claire Fallon and LaWana Mayfield.

Absent Until Noted: Councilmember Greg Phipps

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SPECIAL MEETING

ITEM NO. 1: COMMUNITY LETTER ONE YEAR LATER

Marcus Jones, City Manager said one of the things that we wanted to do for the Council today is give you an update based on the Letter to the Community. I remember when I started that one of the things you wanted was you wanted to stay involved in the information that was shared with the Council. Tonight, we have an update that captures a lot of activity that has been occurring over the last year. I will turn it over to Debra Campbell to give you that update.

Debra Campbell, Assistant City Manager said thank you for the opportunity to come and update you on the One Year Later Report. A couple of things that we have before you, we have the PowerPoint presentation that I'm going to go through very, very briefly, and the second thing which is quite frankly, you know how you talk about at dinner, the main course, and before I go into a whole lot detail in terms of the numbers I have to stop and thank Charlotte Communications staff Ashley Simmons, Sabrina Colón and her whole team, Sandy D'Elosua for their excellent work that they did on this report, as well as the website and on this PowerPoint presentation. Also, I want to acknowledge and recognize that we have a lot of department representatives that are affiliated or associated with the four pillars of the Community Letter, and if you have more detailed questions today, they are here to answer those, and they know I will not hesitate to come to them to respond to a question that I may not know. Also as you all know, I don't usually make these presentations alone, but for the sake of time I'm going try to go through this very, very quickly. Another thing I want to say before I get into the detail of the presentation is, we know that the issue around economic disparity and social disparity is a communitywide issue, and it is going to take a communitywide effort to address it; however, this evening we are going to focus on some of the City led initiatives again around your pillars of the Community Letter and one last thing the overview of the presentation, I will start with reflections, which will set the kind of historical lookback and how we got here. The commitment, which is a focus on again City led initiatives, and then some of the stories, and we are so fortunate to have some of the people that are here today that reflect the impact, the things that you can relate to in those four pillars and how they have impacted their lives. We are going to have them come up and speak for just few minutes and that again the last of the stories.

So the reflection back, we had a study that was done by some really, really smart people through Harvard and Berkeley that we were [inaudible] to some of us there was shock and to other it validated what they already knew in November. That was in [inaudible]. In September 2016, the police involved shooting that resulted in the penning of the letter and then the Opportunity Task Force and actually a group meeting around opportunity Council.

A short video was shown.

Ms. Campbell said the context for our work is like in many other urban areas. These challenges are structural complex, and they are embedded; and essentially what that means is this issue around economic disparity are decades, almost century old, and again it will take the work of the community; it will take the work of local government,

including not just the City of Charlotte but Mecklenburg County to address some of these structural complex and embedded issues. Expectations are extremely high for us as a community. We've been told that we can be a model for other communities; particularly facing this one year later issue head on. We didn't run from it; it is something that happened in our community, and we have collectively come together to try to resolve and address it. Our approach as you all may not even remember that these words were a part of your letter, to be collaborative, to be focused, and to be people centered. That is what we hope that one year later document demonstrates what we have been, as it related to the pillars of your Community Letter, as well as hopefully what you will hear from the people that will be speaking very shortly.

Your pillars, we will start with Safety, Trust, and Accountability. If you are following along in the One Year Later Report, I believe that section starts on Page 2, and it is the most lengthy, most detailed piece of the document, for obvious reasons, because a lot of the concerns that were expressed were around Safety, Trust, and Accountability. I think it also is reflective not only of the issues that were identified, but actually the amount of work that the police and their partners have been doing over this past year. Their focus was around positive youth development, personal responsibility, and relationship building. What you will find are a lot of numbers, because again the amount of work that CMPD has been engaged in, not just last years but years before that, so it had a good beginning, and it has even expanded and picked up a lot of the work, and so definitely the Chief should be commended for a lot of meetings and hard work. Again, I'm not going to go through a whole lot of numbers, but we highlighted them; 1,900 additional body worn cameras, the amount of youth that have been impacted through transparency workshops, and you will hear tonight from the Police Foundation their review of the work, and that has been initiated and completed in terms of looking at how CMPD responded to the event. A quote that I've gotten from Jamal Tate essentially tells us again that our work isn't done but that we are making some progress.

A short video was shown.

Ms. Campbell said the next pillar is around Quality and Affordable Housing, and again if you are following the report it is on Page 10. The commitment was to provide access to safe, quality and affordable housing to Charlotte residents. The areas of focus were around accelerating the creation of 5,000 workforce and affordable-housing units within three years, instead of the five-years that had originally been adopted and collaboration across agencies to support affordable-housing efforts. As you can see, there has been tremendous progress being made. We have reports from the Enterprise Foundation that says we have a long, long way to go but we are making progress, and I think to be at almost 60% within a year's time speaks volumes to this Council's commitment and staff's commitment to achieving the goal of 5,000, but we realize that there is a lot more we need to do and that we will do to address this issue. Your action on September 25, 2017 was the most profound and most significant units that you have achieved and one action was around 769 units.

A short video was shown.

Ms. Campbell said the next pillar is Good Paying Jobs and assisting those with barriers to employment. These are the kind of the focus areas, and I want to add when we started on this effort, we looked at the Community Letter and actually every one [inaudible]. These are areas of focus related to good paying jobs, offer training and remove barriers, connect youth employment, mentoring and promote equitable economic development through community connections. Again, lots of numbers that I could go through, but I think the most important ones are out of 102 individuals 80% graduation rate and 75% job placement rate, paid internships, youth received job readiness training. Thousands of kids participated in Career Discover, and we could go on and on, but I want to just pause here and have some of our guest come up and tell their story, and I would for Reginald Coleman who is a graduate of Project P.I.E.C.E to come up, and I also want to recognize Mr. Price with Shea Homes.

Reginald Coleman said I expected questions.

Mayor Roberts said tell us your story.

Mr. Coleman said pretty much before Project P.I.E.C.E, I worked at Red Lobster as a server just searching for different opportunities, seeking a career, and I spoke with someone from the P.I.E.C.E Program, and they gave me a contact of who I should talk to, so I called and scheduled an interview. I talked to them. Ever since then, they lined up everything and mapped out what I needed to do. I just followed every direction they gave me, and here I am today. I say that it is easy, because they mapped out everything; I didn't have to do anything but listen and apply myself. I started the Program in June, and it was a six weeks class; everything was hands on. They are on you every day; they keep you straight and know what you need to do. Even after I graduated the class, they still check on me. I'm recommending the program to my friends and family. They had supported me, and they have been working with me.

Mayor Roberts said tell us your current job with Shea Homes.

Mr. Coleman said I am an Assistant Superintendent. I came into the program with no experience in construction. I got the job with no experience, except what they provided, and they are working me, and I hope this Project P.I.E.C.E helps a lot of people.

Councilmember Driggs said thank you for being here. Can you talk about in what way the program was most helpful; like what obstacle did it help you overcome, or where did you perceive the greatest value from being involved?

Mr. Coleman said I wasn't sure what I wanted to do; I wasn't sure where I fit in, and they told me to explore your options. They gave me options and told me to explore them. Like I said, it is hands on, and they were on top of everything. They made sure I could apply what I learned, because it started in books, and we volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and we went out and actually helped them build houses. I took everything that I learned from inside the class and applied it out there.

Mr. Driggs said did they help you identify what the opportunities were and helped you to pursue one?

Mr. Coleman said yes.

Ms. Campbell said I have one other speaker from the Mayor's Youth Employment Program. I also want acknowledge Goodwill Industries.

Mary MangHauCing said I am originally from Myanmar, a country in South East Asia, and I just graduated from Independence High School. I am currently a freshman at CPCC, this summer I was an intern at Bank of America, and thank you so much for giving me a chance to be an intern, and I was Digital Ambassador. So, I was mainly connecting and talking with customers and dealing with customer issues. One of the main things that I learned from my internship was to treat people equally and try to understand their points of view. Sometimes customers are upset, and they would get mad and yell at you, and the reason is they have something going on either with the family or their job places. Also, my coworkers and my managers taught me how to have compassion to solve the customer, because we have some that are kings and queens that give us jobs. If they stop coming to the bank the bank, the banks will close, and we will lose jobs, so that was one of the important things that really opened my eyes, also another thing is that it really gives the exposure of how to work in a professional industry and professional work. As a high school student, I was just like in a box; I had never been exposed to that outside world, because I was afraid to talk with people because my English is really not good, and my self-confidence is really low. My internship really boosted my confidence and really gave me hope and an opportunity. As much as I try as a sales person my hard work will one day – My sharing experience I would really like to thank Mayor Roberts and the City Council for giving me this opportunity. Thank you so much.

Mayor Roberts said I don't think you have problems speaking to people now.

Ms. Campbell said now we are going to the Community Engagement which is the third pillar of your letter and that section of the report begins on page 18. Our commitment was to provide opportunities for community engagement on actions outlined in the Community Letter, as well as offer ideas for future work and partnerships. As you all know, we have had lots of opportunities for our community to come together and partner with Community Building Initiative and any entity that is willing to partner with us. These are just snapshots and highlights of some of the numbers, but I would bring your attention to [inaudible]. The first one 7,865 one on one community letter conversations, that means that someone actually sat down with another person and talked about this Council's Letter. We also had lot of conversations with 311 over the telephone but 7,865 were really those conversations that were more personal and direct. I would also bring your attention to the third bullet, which is from CMPD and Community Outreach Initiative activities. I said that the Chief has been busy, but to have reached 127,000 people through its outreach is just absolutely phenomenal, and we definitely appreciate all the efforts and the partnerships that he has been able to garner over the last year or so. Also directing your attention to the fourth bullet, which is 549 interviews with residents on the vision for Charlotte's future and not only where have we been and what your opinion is about the about the Community Letter, but what is the community that we want to become. That number is low, because we only started that in about July or August, so we will continue to have those kinds of conversations. Also, something that is coming up is, and I believe the City Manager talked to you about this Meet and Eat, where we are going out to the community. I believe our first one is tomorrow, and we will be having an opportunity for people to come in, look at our services and talk about things that concern them about our community. There is another quote from someone who is from our Civil Leadership Academy, which the Neighborhood and Housing Services has. I won't read it since you can read it for yourself or at your leisure.

Our fourth pillar, which isn't really talked about a lot, is around City Operations. It is about the type of employer you want this organization to be and our commitment for moving barriers for economic opportunity by looking at existing City services, programs, and policies, and we don't have a lot of opportunity to talk to you about this particular initiative, but a couple of things that we have done is create an internal team to work on this. Karen Whichard is spearheading, reviewing City policies and services through the lens of economic mobility and racial equity, and in fact the week of the anniversary of the police shooting, we actually had GARE into our community and the hardworking of about nine different types of services that we deliver to the community, and again we are using that equity lens to make sure that we are giving every person in this community the opportunity to access City services. Then our accomplishments in terms of a snapshot are a number of the things that you all rather be done through your general fund budget and your capital budget.

Lastly, I think from Larry Mackey and from most of you know Larry; he is One Charlotte, and he is really, really a tremendous spokesperson for our organization, and again it was great opportunity to work with other employees outside of those in my department. The leadership of this City is listening to the people who work here and live here to make Charlotte a better place.

The reason that we brought in just a couple of people, we had a number of different quotes from people, is because this isn't about the numbers represent people. This isn't just about numbers; it really is about are we truly with those numbers making a difference, and I think if we had more time we could have brought more people, but I think hopefully you will see that what you are doing is making a difference. We know this is only the beginning, but it is setting, we think a good precedent for years to come if we focus and if we commit our talents and our efforts toward accomplishing something.

Mayor Roberts said I think this is a terrific report and update, and it is great to see all the stories and the different parts of the Community Letter included. There is a separate website that the public can go to as well.

Ms. Campbell said charlotteoneyearlater.com

Mr. Driggs said how are we monitoring whether or not the things we are doing are being appreciated by the people that we want to connect with? There is a risk that we take certain actions and that the perception in the community doesn't change, so can we observe that?

Ms. Campbell said we are in a number of ways. I think in a lot of the quotes that we referenced, there were a number of people who said I appreciate you all doing it. We've done it with information from 311, and we are trying to gauge whether people feel that their experience is positive. Again, most people feel there is a lot more to do, but they are very, very appreciative of what has been done to date. That is what we are sensing and we are collecting the data to verify it.

The meeting was recessed at 4:47 p.m. for dinner.

Councilmember Phipps arrived at 5:00 p.m.

The Council reconvened at 5:03 p.m. for the Workshop.

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WORKSHOP

ITEM NO. 2: POLICE FOUNDATION CRITICAL INCIDENT REVIEW

Mayor Roberts said I want to welcome the folks that are here from the Police Foundation; we have Chief Frank Stroud, Blake Norton, and Reverend Jeff Brown. They are here to give us a summary of the draft report that they have. We appreciate your being here this afternoon.

Frank Stroud, Police Foundation said I am the Director of Strategic Studies for the Police Foundation. I have been with the Foundation for about two years and prior to that I had 31 years in federal, state, and local law enforcement. My last position was the Chief of Police in Spokane, Washington. Since I have been with the foundation, I have worked on a number of federal reports and projects, [inaudible.] I've also worked on collaborative reform, a North Charleston Police Department [inaudible] to be here in Charlotte. I want to thank the city government, the police department, Chief Putney and his Command Staff and his tremendous officers and this tremendous community for giving us the opportunity to conduct this Critical Incident Report. In addition to myself, with me tonight is Blake Norman; Blake is Vice President with the Foundation, and she is also our Chief Operating Officer. Prior to joining the Police Foundation, she spent seven plus years with Council of State Governments, where she lead national police and criminal justice technical assistance projects. Prior to that, she was with the Boston Police Department for approximately 20-years, where she was the Director of Community Affairs, and she worked directly with the Police Commissioner. Also with me this evening is Reverend Jeff Brown. Reverend Brown has a national reputation, regarding gang, youth, and urban violence, as well as coalition building. Reverend Brown cofounded a partnership [inaudible] as well as rebuilding every city around peace. He is also probably the most known for being the co-founder of the Boston Point Coalition, which is responsible through a collaborative process of working with police, criminal justice agencies, and faith based leaders [inaudible] of 79% in the 1990's. Reverend Brown continues to work today.

Before I begin the PowerPoint presentation, what I want to emphasize is that this is very much a draft report. Typically, our process is that we conduct our analysis, our strategy we prepare a draft report and then we send it to the city, we send it to the police department and all their individuals to review and comment on. As you all know because of the public access laws here in this state, we provided the draft report to the City, the City in fact for the sake of transparency, for meeting the requirements of the access laws made this report public. You have to understand that most probably there will be information that needs to be added, timelines that need to be correct and

adjusted, information that needs to be addressed to insure the accuracy of the information that is reflected in the final report. Again, this is an iterative process, one that we produce the report. We send it out and meet with the stakeholders and then go back and make sure that we accurately reflect their comments into that and the actions that were taken in response to those events as they occurred.

A little bit about the Police Foundation, we are an independent, non-partisan, non-profit, and non-member national organization. It was founded in the 1970's and made ways when we were founded through a Ford Endowment Grant to deal with issues that face this county in terms of the findings in the 1960's. The Ford Foundation at the time believes that it was necessary to advance policing through innovation and science and to increase public safety and strengthen communities in direct response to the turbulence of the 1960's. As I mentioned before, I and the Police Foundation colleagues have been involved in a number of independent and comprehensive reviews of this nature and we have a report of a pulse terrorist's attack that will be coming out soon. We are working on the Orlando Fire Department response. We are looking at demonstrations in Washington, D.C. around the Presidential Inauguration, and we have completed reviews regarding the Kalamazoo Uber driver shooting, the Minneapolis Police Department's Occupation of precinct and demonstrations surrounding it, the San Bernardino Terrorist Attack, the Christopher Dorner Shooting, Stockton, California bank robbery and hostage situation and the Vaughn Prison riot.

So what was our mandate? We were asked by the City of Charlotte to review the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department's response to the protesting demonstrations that occurred roughly in a time period of September 20th through September 22, 2016. We were to engage the community in that process; we were to provide recommendations and following the provision of those recommendations to engage the Police Chief and the City to provide technical assistance to support implementation of our recommendations.

Our Process, we interviewed more than 100 people from city government, CMPD, the community, business leaders, and we did that through individual meetings, focus groups and listening sessions. We reviewed national standards, model policies, and best practices on mass demonstrations. We reviewed open source media and social media and conducted gap analysis to determine what additional information we needed to fill in the blanks.

What did we find overall? We found a City administration, a police department, and a community that was very committed to the goal of ensuring that Charlotte is a safe place for all. Our police department and its Police Chief is committed and working to improve those relationships every day, a community who wants to be engaged in co-producing public safety. The report is organized as you can see under six pillars. In many ways we followed the 21st Century Task Force on Policing that was put in place at the beginning of the Obama Administration, so we followed that methodology and organized the report in six pillars.

The first pillar concerns itself in policies, protocols, and strategies. We believe, through our analysis, that CMPD's response is consistent with policies and procedures in national best practices. CMPD implemented the emergency mobilization plan in a timely and appropriate manner. The civil emergency unit had planned and trained for demonstrations; however, in this situation they encountered unforeseen and unique challenges in the University District. Based on this pillar the policies, procedures, protocols, and strategies. We made in essence three primary recommendations. One, that the department should promote effective dialogue between the department and the community. That doesn't mean and I want to be very clear, but it is not being done now. We believe that the Chief, his Command staff and the entire department need to continue to bring the community together, to share information, to partner, to move effective dialogue forward. As the previous speaker talked about, many of those issues and factors are being addressed and there has been tremendous effort between the police department and the community. Identify opportunities for the community to be involved in the development of policies and procedures. Speaking a head a little bit, that is being done. Many members of the community have been involved in this

transparency workshop. Many members of the community stepped forward and helped the police department build this constructive conversation. We encourage the department and community to continue in that direction. We also encouraged the department to review the civil emergency unit and train to account for the evolution of demonstrations. What we found here in Charlotte, as we've seen in other cities across the country, is that the demonstrations here were highly mobile. There were a number of different leaders within groups that demonstrated. They moved around the City. Typically, where it happened in the past in many cities historically was that there was an outreach for the demonstrators to police or police to the demonstrators, asking them what route they wanted to follow so the traffic could be blocked and the demonstrators could be protected. Were there individuals who wanted to be arrested, and if so how would we know as the police who those individuals were and then the process for those arrests were explained in detail so that everybody, both the energy members that were demonstrating and the police officers that were engaged knew how things were going to proceed. There were discussions about this might be a safer route for you; this might be route that gives you more exposure, and so those traditional lines of communication pre-demonstration didn't really happen in this case. In fact, what we saw is multiple demonstration sites taking place in different parts of the City, different community leaders, some interacted well with others and some didn't. Some that were interacting with the faith community; some were interacting with the police community; some that chose how to react or interact with any group whatsoever is to chart their own course.

Pillar 2: Training and De-Escalation: It is really important to know that the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department exceeds state mandated training hours. They have 171 hours of additional academy training. In addition to their academy training above and beyond what the state requires, you also note that the department typically exceeds the training that is required for in service of officers that are already on the police department. Prior to the 2012 Democratic National Convention here in Charlotte, the department went through mobile field force training so every officer was trained to deal with demonstrations and civil arrest. Since 2012 some of that training had dropped off, so one of our recommendations is that again CMPD revisit that issue and seek to provide at least base-line training for all officers [inaudible] that civil arrest or demonstration patrol officers and others who may be first responders have some of the basic skill sets to create dialogue to de-escalate the situation and assessing the situation to bring appropriate resources to the scene, versus being dependent on specialized units. We believe that as the Chief and his Command staff has already initiated, the things to continue working on building increased hours in your in service training and also advocating for the state to bring more hours into the training around dialogue and de-escalation training. We also think it is important, as I talked about earlier, to engage the community in this training process. A very, very robust training goes on with constructive conversation, because it shows the philosophy, the emotion and energy of the community. That energy, that emotion those learning tools create opportunities for a police department to explain to the community and the participants in training, why they do certain things and why they do them a certain way and why they may tier their response in a certain way. So, it creates then another opportunity for effective dialogue.

Pillar 3: Equipment and Technology: There is clearly throughout the country, not just here in Charlotte but it is incredibly challenging balance between the deployment of officers in personal protective [inaudible] less lethal devices and [inaudible]. What we see and what we saw here in Charlotte was a tiered approach for the officers out in their formal work uniform and have them supported by officers in personal protective equipment to have them supported by officers that have specialized training in less lethal devices. It is very interesting when we talked to some of the officers who were at the initial scene, the officer involved shooting scene. A number of them talked about how they recognized his balance that as the number of community members grew and some presence of individuals from outside the community grew, as tensions started to occur between the community members and the officers, they recognized that they need to bring civil emergency unit officers to the scene, but they also recognized that by doing, so they were increasing tension points between the community. They tried to de-escalate that situation; at one point they tried to move those officers off scene in a bus.

That became impossible for a number of factors, and so even though they felt on one hand that moving those officers, they also understood and recognized that the presence of those officers was creating tension. I talked about deployment of officers and equipment in tiers; there was clearly much tension around the release or the decision not to release the body worn camera footage from the original incident that took place under a difficult circumstance. The policies and procedures were still in transition; the law in this state was still under transition, and so the Chief and others wrestled with how do we get this material out and how do we make it available to [inaudible] point of the story. At the same time they were also bound by restrictions by when that information could be released, and so the Chief, the Mayor, and other individuals tried to wrestle with that and provide information that would have torn the community, but at the same time be respectful of the prosecutor and the laws of this state. We would recommend that a committee be established with the community to review and give input on the current body worn policy so the community understands the technology of the body cameras, their pluses and minuses, their capabilities and their weaknesses and also why policies and procedures were created the way they were, what restrictions and what opportunities the police department operates on regarding the body worn camera policy. We would urge the department to continue to deploy resources in tiered structure during mass demonstrations. We would also urge that officers assigned to the civil emergency unit in particular be equipped with body worn cameras during their response to demonstrations and incidents of civil unrest.

Pillar 4: Social Media and Communication: It played a huge role in the events here, and they continue to play a huge role in communities across the country. The demonstrators the individuals that were involved in many ways control the narrative, and in some cases in incorrect ways and in ways that were injurious to the community. In many ways handicap or handcuffed the police department's ability to respond, so we are encouraging the police department and the City and they are working very aggressively in this regard to look at social media as an opportunity to proactively put out information in the [inaudible] force of business, but certainly in these heated moments, these difficult moments. We would also recommend that they monitor social media, so if incorrect or any inaccurate information is put out they have the ability to respond immediate to it and to explain what is going on and why the City and why the police department is responding or acting in a certain manner. We also recommend and this is something that we recommend in discussions with the City and the community and the police department is greater engagement around messaging so there is a unified poll that is working to make sure that the community receives the proper and accurate information and receives it in a timely manner. That is very much going to work that is already being done in the City around creating a clear and detailed media strategy and policies, again greater coordination between the City and the police department and really all of its emergency agencies are in tuned to these events. Table top exercises, training so that when an incident does occur, whether it is a natural disaster or a manmade disaster everybody is understanding of each other's roles, works collaboratively to get the job done and that is where we are referencing there in terms of increased coordination prior to, during and after a critical incident. Again, as I talked about using social media to engage the community to correct incorrect information and ensure that the appropriate information is being put out so the community understands what is happening and why it is happening.

Pillar 5: Transparency and Accountability: I again recognize the tremendous load that the Chief and his Command staff have done around transparency workshops, again, opportunities to engage the community with the community to talk about how they can see this going on in the police department. How do complaints get processed; how do they get finalized? What state laws; what local laws govern how police investigations are conducted? They are multiple boards, committees and processes; in fact, you would say here in Charlotte they are many more boards and committees than there are in many other cities; there is a high level of transparency. They engage the community. They engage elected officials; they engage the police department. They engage the community more broadly. The Police Chief, his Command staff, his department, and the City are supportive of the acquisition of subpoena power and the Civilian Review Board. The legislature at this point won't allow the City to pass [inaudible] legislation

around this issue, because of Dillon's Rule and the City continues to work with its representatives in the State Legislature to move that process along. Again, we encourage the department and the City to develop and continue to develop opportunities and strategies to educate the community on transparency and oversight effort particularly in and around when these tragic incidents occur. What is happening, why it is happening? What is the process and procedure that we have to follow? Obtain, analyze and public community satisfaction data, having the pulse of the community on a very regular basis, and the department is moving very aggressively to ensure that it is timely, that it is accurate and it is easily accessible on its website [inaudible].

Pillar 6: Police Community Relationships: This department has a very strong history of community relations going back several years. Chief Putney has continued with his Command staff that position of being a national model for community policing, a national model for interactions and engagement with the community that it serves. I think in all honesty we all felt and I think the department expressed this, I think that many people in the community expressed this; there was a level of surprise that the City of Charlotte and the police department had gotten consumed in the frustration that was actually occurring around police actions. I think that is an area that the Chief is [inaudible] and continuing efforts and continues to reach out and to understand the frustration so the embers don't burn below the surface or when they come to fruition and constructive dialogue, there was an opportunity to deal with the issues versus people feeling frustrated and un-listened to. Interestingly, the vast majority of the community members that we talked to, regardless of the position they took or the role they played in the demonstrations, want more time with the police department, want more access to the Chief. I think that is amazing that it talks about the strength and the character of the City of Charlotte, that even though there was this disruptive event that occurred or a series of events that occurred can we end that and in many ways the community was asking to be heard, have access to the Chief, to have access to the City officials, so that those embers don't burn and those issues can be addressed and then the police and the community can coproduce public safety and shoot for that hole of constantly working to make Charlotte a safe community for people to work and live in and to come and visit. Again, we strongly encourage, and we recognize the tremendous work being done by the Chief and his department to continue to engage the community to ferret out and look for other ways to create opportunities for increased community engagement between the police department and the community they serve.

Mayor Roberts said thank you for that overview, and we appreciate the fact that you stressed that it is a draft. I think it is a good start, and there are some, I think as you mentioned timeline issues that can be corrected. I guess my first question would be what will be the process going forward if there are specific aspects that we want to have more input into, etc. What will be that process going forward?

Mr. Stroud said it is critically important that we [inaudible] with you a report and get their comments. If there are the points where the timeline might be inaccurate or statements of observations that we made are inaccurate, that those be brought to our attention. We are working to make a City now where we are getting that draft report, and they are very happy to report, but in the course of reviewing it, they have partially reviewed by committee, some of it is very small but you could have used this word or you could have used this word, even it is a coma. Some your timeline was off by minutes or hours or whatever, others more substantive stuff that we wouldn't have known if it didn't come up in interviews or didn't come up on document review, and there wasn't any [inaudible] we never had the opportunity to be privy to that information. So, we will go through a process with the City and the police department where we will have you all go through the report line by line and then communicate to us what you are believe are appropriate changes, if it is information added or timeline correction.

Mayor Roberts said so Mr. Manager, you will work with the process to help people have input?

Mr. Stroud said absolutely.

Mayor Roberts said my other question and then I will open it up to others, in terms of broader issues and I will give some examples like the interaction between CMPD and the National Guard, State Troopers, state of emergency, declaration curfew and that communication, and I have a number of issues that didn't seem to meet youth engagement, jail diversion, which talked about in our One Year Later, it is a great success story and a great way that we are engaging and again getting in front of some of the community issues, wasn't covered. So, I guess the other question I would have is technology is another one that again best practices other cities in terms of camera usage and any new technologies and software that is helpful. What I would like to see is there are two cities mentioned, but what cities did you look at for some best practices that we could really adopt and maybe we are the best practices? In terms of bigger issue, best practices for video release policies and that kind of thing, best practices for press conferences, I guess I would like to see a little more meat in some of the recommendations. I don't know how far your initial scope was in terms of the way it was communicated, and certainly we want to make sure we end up with something that is really helpful.

Mr. Straub said again we agree with you [inaudible] Again, this is a draft, and the purposes of the draft is to have this exchange, as well as the ability for you and others to makes specific recommendations on the information that is in here, information that you would like us to look at and then we will come together with you, the City and come to a decision in terms of how best to proceed with the final report. Again, had it not been in this state, we would have been there before the report went public.

Councilmember Driggs said I share some of the same concerns; I do appreciate your recognition and endorsement of the Chief and CMPD. They are an incredibly important resource in our community, and they deserve to be acknowledged like that, but at the same time, all of this conversation is taking place in the context of a national situation where there are tensions between police departments and social groups, and as I read this, a lot of it sounds like kind of do more of what you are doing or on social media for example, yeah, we know it was a mess. The question is, will the remainder of your work come to a point where you are saying here is something you did this way, and here is a better way to do that? Can we get something a little more tangible in terms and I think a lot of people are watching and hoping for that, not to find fault with anybody but to say these are the ways that the things that were done could be improved on, and one thing that comes to my mind is I believe that Mayor and Council were not prepared for a situation like this and that collectively, we didn't really know what kind of messaging was indicated or whether to have a special committee that convenes or how that works. It felt like we were kind of making this stuff as we went along, and personally I got up a couple times in the morning, and I had to go and look on a website to find out, not a City website, somewhere else to find out what had happened during the night. I think more tangible recommendations are actionable and based on again best practices elsewhere. This is what somebody else did about social media. What did they do? Did they create a website, did they get on Facebook? We did actually have a response; we created a communication center, and it was done kind of hastily, and it was playing catchup with a lot of what was going on. I'm not sure, for example, when I hear that advice that we are going to be able to counteract the noise in the social media, so we can put our message out, and there is still going to be this roar, and these days the factual basis for a lot of what is in social medial is irrelevant frankly. We kept hearing the narrative about the Justin Carr shooting and questions about whether there was a gun or not a gun and so on, and it was like shouting into the ocean. I was interested too on the subpoena power are you saying that you think it is a best practice that our CRB have that?

Mr. Stroud said we are not taking a position on that. Some CRB's have it and some CRB's don't, but what we wanted to note is that the City and the police department have supported the community's request for subpoena power. There are cities that will tell you, and I won't mention the Cities, the police department has been very deliberate [inaudible].

Mr. Driggs said right, but there for example, when you talk about what different cities have done and how they came out in different places, for us to know which group we

should belong to, it would be nice to know a bit more about that. Particularly because of our relations with Raleigh, I want the reasons they had for not agreeing to do this, to be understood. I want us to have kind of a meaningful policy conversation in which we take on board some of the concerns they had about the potential impact on civil lawsuits and other things and see how all that fits into the context of the way the decision was made in other places. Broadly speaking, I think Mayor; I'm kind of in step with you in terms of wanting to see slightly harder edges and more specific advice.

Councilmember Smith said I want to echo some of Mr. Driggs' comments. I'm sure you all have an opinion over subpoena power for the CRB. The Police Foundation, do you all have opinions on that? I think information like that is we are trying to work with our State Legislators and their dynamics in place, having you guys weigh in in those arenas I think would be helpful. My questions are around the narrative and the social medial side, and I think it was interesting. I would be curious, and I guess it looks like we probably had two or three people dedicated to the social medial team and yet hundreds of people in the street. I would be interested along with the Mayor and Mr. Driggs what are best practices for a city our size? Do we need three officers, five officers, six people and have an understanding of what tools we need in place? I do think a lot of the narrative on social media drove the events for the whole week. I was out in SouthPark one day, and I did a Facebook live and got like 9,000 views, because I had seen so many rumors on my page, and I just guys if you don't hear it from me don't take it for the gospel, but there was so much misinformation out there, and while I think Mr. Driggs is correct cutting through some of that noise may be hard, but I at least I want to know that we have the tools in place to make that attempt. Then too, I noticed that you mentioned in here around the Justin Carr shooting, and I took special note of this, that there was some members of the faith community that also believed or helped push the narrative that he was shot by an officer. I'm assuming that if you took time to mention that you found that to be an important element based on how we trust the clergy. What role and is this part of the follow-up, what role did the faith community play in escalating that situation? Two, as I look through our communications and our policing strategies and I may have missed it, but I don't think I saw a whole lot on how we can work better with the clergy to make sure we are pushing out information to people that is more accurate. That is a lot wrapped in that, so my question is faith community and escalation, because I noticed that was mentioned and then is there a recommendation coming or is there a thought process on how we can better use the faith community in a larger perspective to get the correct narrative out to folks?

Mr. Stroud said I think it is important to note first of all that the clergy played two general roles, one was being extremely supportive and collaborate with the police department in terms of wearing yellow arm bands, getting members of their congregation to come out with them to walk if you will in between the police department and the community to plot an opportunity for translation. There were also others members of the clergy who may have put out incorrect information around the shooting that took place at the EpiCenter. I think of the things we are seeing and a number of you have referenced this because of the national bound thing, and I touched on it a little bit in the beginning when we talked about how demonstrations occur and how civil unrest unfolds now. I think the police typically went to the traditional leaders in our community, the people that are always there for us, the people who have a proven track record of helping us resolve issues of various natures in the community. It was community leaders as well as faith based leaders. I think one of the things that happened here in Charlotte and is happening across the country is there are so many different voices emerging. There are so many different visions that are emerging; all of which need to be recognized and included but sometimes it becomes difficult to identify those voices or the source of those voices or the source of those concerns, and then even when they are identified how do you build an effective dialogue with those individuals. I think the Chief and the City acknowledge that almost right from the beginning that there were members in this community that wanted a voice and wanted to be heard and weren't for a variety of reasons. I think the Chief and the Command staff in this City will generally recognize that, and that is why you are seeing such proactive efforts now being made to be inclusive to identify individuals at all levels of the community to give them a voice. I think it is a national

phenomenon; it is a local phenomenon, but I think the department is doing some very good things.

The other thing I will say is you are right, all of you in terms of [inaudible], but one thing I think you all have to be proud of the City and of the Police Department that overall and there was a question about what are some of the best practices. There are a lot of best practices regarding police and community relations and policing generally in cities that as I said earlier have gone on for many, many years here in the City of Charlotte. One example that jumped out of this was the work that Major Campagna did with members of the community to build those constructive conversations on an area that we were emphasizing further in the final draft. Again, many of the tactical responses, if you will, with the Police Department followed best practices and in fact many of the national best practices were based on much of the work and history of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department. I would hope that even in this draft that the community and the elected officials and the police department and its officers would come away from this proud of the assets and what took place here and what is beginning to take place. One of the things I think that I [inaudible] about Charlotte is many cities we give that report, and they say thank you; that was great. You earned your money, and we appreciate it. Part the original contract with the City was to provide tactical assistance, so this wasn't just a document that would be given to you and walked away, but in fact it is a living document, and we had the opportunity to work with the City, with the Chief, to continue these efforts and to ensure as much as anyone can that there they are sustainable. I give you that complement as a City as a community, as leadership, in both the police department and elected officials.

Mr. Smith said I think we are proud of the work the Chief did and the work that they are continuing to do. I have been to several events recently where we have Cops and Kids, and kids were tutoring our officers in Spanish and doing all sorts of good stuff in the community, so don't misconstrue us wanting a little more meat, as taking a shot at those guys. I think for us there are some of these things that a deeper dive just helps us as a body as we move forward. Hopefully, nothing like this ever happens again, but having the tools in place, we were reactive and having tools in place to be proactive if this should arise again.

Mr. Stroud said didn't take it that way.

Councilmember Eiselt said we've all read the report and I think a lot of us concur that that we want to see the next step and I do want to emphasize that that you pointed out that the report follows the pillars of the 21st Century Policing Task Force, and our police department was very involved in that report before this ever happened, so they were working on the pillars. We have been reporting on the progress of the pillars in the Community Safety Meetings, and I think you made a really important point that this is addressing those embers that we knew were burning underneath, and they continue to be so they are not always the most obvious points that the community sees, but we know those embers are still there. A lot of the results are not obvious right away, but this particular report it does pretty closely follow the 21st Century Policing Task Force, and I can't emphasize enough how much more we do want to get into addressing community issues as a City, not just the police department, but as a City, that we know are unique to Charlotte in the sense that they haven't happened before. For some reason, we continue to be the epicenter for a lot of activity. We hopefully have staved off a group coming here in December, because it was made on social media that they are not welcome to bring the kinds of things they wanted to bring here, so that is really important. We need help with what is unique to Charlotte in a way that we can say we can always do better; it is an indictment of anybody, but we can always do better and we are eager to find ways to do better whether or not we are setting the standard, which I think we are in a lot of cases. You looked at what happened tragically in Las Vegas last night, and my first reaction is wow, now we are going to think all over again about the way our police need to respond, the way we need to respond, and there is probably going to continue to be examples all the time. We want help with what we need to do in Charlotte. I join my colleagues in saying we really want some things that are unique for Charlotte that we can all do together.

Councilmember Lyles said I will echo several of the comments; I do think we are dealing with this national narrative, and we've got to be prepared to deal with in a better way. I agree and I think Ms. Eiselt expressed this very well; we will have the issues of race and economic divide in our City, and I often think that police have been charged to do so many things that we have to figure out what else can be done, not necessarily within police, but how do we actually begin to deal with some of these things. The report focuses on a lot of the social media and protocols and policies and training, and if those things are still in place we still have a problem making our community feel safe. I hope you have had a chance to look at the list; I think there were over 150 demands made of us at a Council meeting by various community groups that ranged in all kinds of ways from what should we measure differently; what makes us effective? There are lots of words in here that I think if this report is to stand, we've got to address beyond some of the things here to get us to be able to have a presence in this community that allows this report to be, not only valuable within the department but valuable in building or changing if there is ever an incident going forward. I'm very interested in connecting that social media as a strategy to the things that were requested by the community. A number of groups, and how do we respond to those, because that is what our public is going to ask? They are going to say have you implemented measuring stops where they are, who is the gender, what is the race? They are going to ask the questions that came out of this, and I'm reluctant to say this, but I would hope that you would make some recommendations in the technical portion of this, because I think we need them because we need to know where we stand and make a choice of where we want to go. Without some recommendations around best practices or what we are doing and know numbers, we are not going to be able to do that. We need not just a qualitative report but one that is qualitative, quantitative, and responsive to the community.

Councilmember Phipps said I want to go back to pillar one, the third bullet point under overview; it seems like the statement that is presented there talks about the training and planning for the Central Business District of Uptown, but you indicate that the University City Division offered certain challenges that probably didn't benefit from some of the training that might have been conducted in the uptown space. We have I guess 12 or 13 divisions within CMPD, so are you saying that we need to institute some sort of training in the other division precincts as well, not using the uptown as a proxy for training for all of the divisions or should we be looking at specific training in other division precincts as well?

Mr. Stroud said I think what we are saying is the traditional focus area for civil disturbance of unrest demonstrations focused on the uptown area of the City, and that was for good reason. This the economic center of the City; this is where government buildings are and in many ways this is the natural space where you would have demonstrations, not in some of outlying areas of the community. It made perfect sense for the police department to focus on working with demonstrators, working with individuals that wanted to address their first amendment rights within the confines of uptown because that is typically and historically where events occur. What is unique about this is it didn't occur in uptown, so the geography physical statement was very different than what we typically found here. Again, it wasn't a planned demonstration where there was dialogue between the department and the demonstrators to make sure that everyone was safe and still able to voice their First Amendment rights. What we are saying is this isn't really just specific to Charlotte this is part of a national discussion that there has to be greater awareness in the community of the voices that need to be heard. There has to be greater opportunities for those voices to be heard and to be recognized that we have to recognize that city officials that demonstrations, expressions of First Amendment rights can happen anywhere, and you have to be prepared to respond to those. I think as many of you have said from first the City level what does that look like for the City and how do we ensure that people are given an opportunity to voice their First Amendment rights in a way that is safe for them [inaudible] events that are occurring and then how does the police provide their mission of peace within that concept? That is what we are talking about here is that there is movement to share in terms of where events take place, who organizes the events and there is a resolution. We argue they are probably in my 35 plus years now of being involved in law enforcement; this is probably the most aggressive period of evolution that I've

witnessed, in terms of mass acts of public violence, careless acts of demonstrations and demonstrations that are performed by so many different political and socio economic ideologies and philosophies. We are in these incredibly tumultuous times and challenging time [inaudible], but we as cities and we as police departments have to realize that these environments can be constantly looking up policies [inaudible] host of issues to try to keep operating and anticipate where these issues are going.

Mr. Phipps said the report doesn't make mention in significant detail that I see about the impact and influence of outside parties in dealing with the unrest in Charlotte. Do you foresee any attempt during this draft revision phase to address that at all or do you have any comments in regards to the impact of outside influences on the actual civil unrest in Charlotte?

Mr. Stroud said yes, we will expand on that, and yes it played a very significant role across the board. Interview of community members were surprised, government officials were surprised, the police department was surprised by the speed by which outside influences got here and dynamic [inaudible] outside influences and in some cases positions that they took which were diametrically opposed to the way people in Charlotte wanted this to go.

Mr. Phipps said my reading of the report, it seemed like it was generally positive about the way unrest and disturbances were handled, which leads me to wonder out loud, despite our best efforts and intensions, our training, our procedures, despite all of that, if all the stars really aligned are we more or less generating false expectations to believe that even with that that this would have stopped this particular situation? Despite all of our good intensions, could we have avoided this in the first place, or would this happen anyway?

Mr. Stroud said I don't know in all honesty that I can 100% answer that question. I don't have a crystal ball, but I think as I said we are living in such dynamic times that it is very difficult for communities, as you very well know and police departments, can't give you a specific reason to access a multitude of issues that confront and challenge and provide opportunities to us every day. It is truly a 24-hour a day, seven day a week, 365-day process and even then [inaudible], and so I can't give you a specific answer I think there are things that maybe if folks had reacted quicker and mobilized resources faster maybe it wouldn't have grown the way it did, but on the other hand there was no way to necessarily understand and be able to predict what was happening. Who would have imagined that people within hours in Charlotte and a lot of the communities with an agenda to drive violence in the City? Until they started showing up and until they started to have an impact the day became reactionary. As you well know once you react to something [inaudible].

Councilmember Ivory said thank you for your report, and I also want to applaud CMPD. I wasn't here last year when I guess they approached you guys about doing this report, but from what I'm hearing there were 69 homicides, maybe 70 as of today, and there were maybe three or four police shootings. Is that correct? The majority of this report appears to be based upon that. Your title is Police Foundation Advance in Charlotte, well my question and I'm not sure if this is the place or if it is Community Safety, but I'm going to broach it anyway, is there is a bigger issue, and what about the other 66 and when are we going to move that from under the table to on the table and address that? Because every day I wake up there is violence in this City, and I don't see in this report I don't know, I see where you have Reverend Brown who gang, youth, and violence. Are we investing money in that, where it declined by 79%. You are asked where are the ministers; who is standing up in the pulpit addressing that? I'm not diminishing the three or the four that have happened; I think that is important for us to have that discussion, but it is also important for us, for Mr. Driggs' you not to be afraid to address it. I shouldn't be afraid to address it, but we've not to put that issue on the table, and we have a Community Relations Department but is it fully staffed. Where are the funds? We can't run out of funds to address that issue, so I don't know if that comes under your department, if it comes under City Council, but I know that every citizen, City Council, County Commissioner, mental health and all of us. We are talking

about, and like I said please do not publicize that I'm making or trying to diminish the fact that we've had those homicides and they were police related, but we have a bigger issue and we need to put it from under the table on the table.

Councilmember Mitchell said thank you for the report and just a couple of questions, one a lot of community leaders were part of the interviewing process, so I guess the first question I have how are you going to assimilate this report to them or were you planning on making a presentation available?

Mr. Stroud said tomorrow in the stakeholders meeting that is planned [inaudible] reach out to the community to let them know about [inaudible] go through this process and [inaudible] the report with them and then as part of the technical assistance the police department and the City will continue to engage and clearly prior to the final release of this, as I said in the beginning we may ask individuals who [inaudible].

Mr. Mitchell said so at the stakeholders meeting tomorrow everyone will get a copy of the draft, so they will have time to review it themselves?

Mr. Stroud said it think it has been released to the City and the media.

Ms. Eiselt said yes, on the website.

Mr. Mitchell said there is a difference; everyone does not go to the City website to look at our information unfortunately, so how are we assimilating it? Do we have e-mails of every one?

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy City Manager said we sent the report to the stakeholders.

Mr. Driggs said I wanted to pick-up on what Ms. Ivory said. In fairness, it wasn't within the scope of this particular project that they tackle that, so I think to that extent the report is operating within its intended bounds; however, I do agree with you that a lot of what you are talking about that we should be discussing is behind the issues that are being addressed in the report and contributes to community relations tensions, and so a wider conversation would seem to me to make a lot of sense. I do want to say to you that I think one way I'm thinking about this is when you go and talk to the stakeholders or if they read the report are they going to feel that you heard them. If you take all of the allegations that are made and I would like to emphasize by the way, I'm immensely proud of CMPD; I was before the report. I think they do a fantastic job, but we are dealing with a situation where some people don't feel that way, and I'm wondering if they read the report are they going to feel like their concerns however legitimate were acknowledged and that you are responding to them? That was really the purpose of this to say okay you said this; we thought about it, and I think if it is not responsive then it won't really have achieved what we had in mind for it. I would just invite you read it again and put yourself in the position of some of the critics of CMPD and see if their concerns appear to be acknowledged there.

Mayor Roberts said good point Mr. Driggs. So, the City Manager will devise a way for us to get more input and feedback to you and sort of fleshing out this draft to become the final report, and hopefully that timeline won't be too long. I would encourage Councilmembers, we've got a couple folks missing tonight, so I would encourage Councilmembers to connect and compile your thoughts and concerns and corrections, because some of the things do need correcting to make sure that we get those included so when we have a final document it is accurate and again helpful according to our best practices so that we can continue to improve. I agree, I think there are a lot of things that Charlotte is doing very well, but we always want to be better, and there is a great need to include the community in all of that. Thank you very much, we appreciate your travel here, and we look forward to keeping in touch as we go through on technical assistance.

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ITEM NO. 3: CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to GS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with attorneys employed or retained by the City in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege and to consider and give instructions to the attorneys concerning the handling or settlement of Crystal Eschert v. City of Charlotte, 3:16 cv 295; and Timothy Scott Bridges v. City of Charlotte, 3:16 cv 564.

The meeting was recessed at 6:09 p.m. to go into closed session in Room 267.

The Council returned to open session at 6:54 p.m. in Room 267.

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OTHER BUSINESS

Marcus Jones, City Manager gave an update on the patrolling of extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). The County ended ETJ patrols last spring. The Legislature has said a jurisdiction could patrol its own unincorporated area like Huntersville. The Board of County Commissioners are looking at options that the sheriff could patrol Charlotte's ETJ. I've said to the County Manager, Dena Diorio that Charlotte would like to patrol its own ETJ. The revenue associated could go with the police force; \$17.9 million in the current fiscal year and if you were to take all of the jurisdiction it could come down to \$15.1 million.

I believe we should be given ability to police our own ETJ; if you pulled out those jurisdictions, not including Charlotte, about \$15.1 million is left. If Charlotte were to police its own ETJ with the current revenue that is being generated is about \$14 million. If we were to move forward with that as a base line, it would be what would be a good calculation going forward to grow off of that. I think what is important is if principal, as you had said Ms. Lyles previously, if a principal is that there is no tax rate increase in order to continue Charlotte policing its own ETJ as well as any other jurisdictions that would like Charlotte to police it, you would be at about \$13.9 million to \$14 million floor. We believe that if we move forward with that as a floor and come up with some predictable growth going forward because over the last three years the payment increased by 30% in the ETJ. So, there is something there about a discussion, so I would hope that Council is fine with us continuing to talk with Dena about Charlotte policing its own ETJ as well as any other jurisdiction with that base line being \$14 million, not doing a one-year deal, but having a deal in the future three to five years that has some predictable measure of growth going through, and I believe something that probably makes sense as a starting point, and I've talked to Dena about it, is any growth in the ETJ above that base line. If there is new tax value added capture that new tax value and the 21.4 cents would still stay there for those individuals who were currently paying. I didn't want to be out there having discussions and not at least talk to the Council.

Mayor Roberts said this would not be for the current budget year.

Mr. Jones said this would be for starting July 1, 2018 and beyond.

Councilmember Driggs said the tax rate would stay the same; we get growth because the base increases, but they don't have to raise their tax rate. That is what they like about this; it is not a great deal for us, but we should do it because we are in kind of a blind alley here and this is [inaudible].

Councilmember Lyles said are they contracting with the Sheriff's Office by each district? To your point, the Sheriff's Department is supported by the County, and if the Sheriff is just going to add and it is going to be on the County tax payer, that is our tax payer. The question that I have is the costs isolated so that the Sheriff's Office isn't

using the existing base from the County but just like we are having to do to isolate that costs.

Mr. Jones said if I understand you Ms. Lyles, the Sheriff would not be policing our ETJ at all.

Ms. Lyles said if Huntersville decides to contract with the Sheriff's Office is that from the base or is it just from the ETJ just like we are?

Mr. Driggs said those people in that ETJ; if the problem was charging 20 something cents –

Ms. Lyles said I know what the problem is; I was just saying I just want to make sure we are not putting it in the County tax rate.

Mr. Driggs said no, no.

The meeting was recessed at 6:59 p.m. to move to the Meeting Chamber for the regularly scheduled Public Forum.

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PUBLIC FORUM

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for a Public Forum on Monday, October 02, 2017 at 7:08 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Edmund Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Carlenia Ivory, Vi Lyles, James Mitchell, Greg Phipps, and Kenny Smith.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, and LaWana Mayfield

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Mayor Roberts explained the rules and procedures for the Public Forum.

Carport on His Property

Allen Lunn, 1948 Dietrich Lane said on the 25th of August, this year, I received a notice from the City of Charlotte Zoning Enforcement Code telling me that I had to remove a carport that I had erected in my driveway and had been on my property since July of 2016. This is a blatant violation of my constitutional rights, because property ownership is a right, not a privilege. With all due respect, I do not have to ask permission to erect a carport on my property. That is one of the benefits of owning a home. If I rented a home or participated in any homeowner's regulations, then I could see it. If my carport was a safety violation or interfered with anybody's property, disturbed city utilities, or the foundation on which it was erected, then I could see it, but none of these situations apply or are relevant in my situation. As you can see from the photos provided, this carport was professionally constructed and installed. It is a sturdy 14 metal gage, was not an eye sore on my property, was bolted down on my driveway, had not budged an inch in over a year and was purchased to protect another major purchase of mine, my vehicle. The fourth, fifth, and fifteenth amendments of the U.S. Constitution secures the right to be left alone and not be subjected to arbitrary decisions made by the city or state, with regards to one's own property. Arbitrarily is exactly what these zoning regulations are. Allow me to reiterate, property ownership is a right, not a privilege. As a Supreme Court justice Louis Brandeis said, "The Fourth Amendment secures the right to be left alone. The most comprehensive of rights and rights valued by civilized men." As a few of you know, I have reached out to you several times through letters and emails and was never contacted or responded to with any sufficient reason of why I should remove this carport. The constitution is not up for interpretation. It is crystal clear and in black and white. I have the right to property and the right to do as I wish on my property unless it infringes on the rights, safety, or livelihoods of others,

in which case, none of these apply. It is definitely unconstitutional to require someone to apply for a hardship or permit to build on their own property. As a veteran, homeowner, and a tax payer, I do not need permission to erect a carport on my property. This is still the United States of America, and our government is not free to do as it pleases while requiring citizens to act only by permission. It needs to be reminded that the U.S. Constitution is a limitation on government, not private individuals. This carport was a sound structure, and no sufficient reason has been provided by any of Charlotte's ordinances that require me to take it down.

Supremacist Group Planning to Rally in Charlotte

Nicholas Crook, 835 Scaleybark Road said as you are probably already fully aware of, there was a white supremacy rally in Charlottesville earlier this year, which quickly turned violent, resulting in loss of life. That same supremacist group has made intentions, plans to rally again, in Charlotte this year, on December the 28th. They had originally intended on holding this in Marshall Park; however, that particular plan has fallen through. We do not know what their current plans are or what their agenda is, but they have not given up. They have stated to their members to bring guns, gear, armor, and banners. They have stated to their members to bring torches, so they can have a torch rally. These are really possibilities at this point. I would like the City Council to at least pass a resolution to condemn this rally and that these people are not welcome in Charlotte, that if they apply for any permits, that these permits be blocked or at least subject to scrutiny. Also, if these white supremacist arrive, there will be counter protesters. I would like the City Council to issue a statement saying what they would do to guarantee the safety of these counter protesters, as well as the safety as Charlotte in general. There are a lot of people who do live in Charlotte, who do commute here for work purposes, a lot of people who come for pleasure and recreation. It is a large city, which brings a lot of people from its neighboring sister cities. They also, to some degree, would call Charlotte home and would not want this type of a rally to occur here either. At the very least, I would like to see a resolution to condemn this rally. We do not know what their intentions are. At this point, that is really all that I have to say, and I really hope that you take this to heart and are able to do something to put the hearts and minds at ease of the native Charlotte people.

Opposition to Development of Tiny Houses

Kim Gilmore, 129 Woodlyn Drive said I come to you tonight as a concerned resident of resident of Coulwood Hills Community in North West Charlotte. Last month, Mayor Pro Tem Lyles and Councilmember Mitchell, Fallon, Ivory, Ajmera, and Phipps were all there. The bottom line is I did want to share some concerns I have. The reason why I am speaking to you tonight is the developers motive for building these tiny houses that are going up in Coulwood Hills Community leaves more questions than answers. As I understand from the public record, the first house that was built and is now being used as a model homes, was issued a permit to be built when the developer did not have an active contractor's license. The public record shows that the developer got a permit on February 19, 2016, with an expired license. Contractor licenses must be renewed each year by December 31, and the contractor for this development had not renewed their license, as required by North Carolina License Board of General Contractors. It is to my understanding that due to this error, the North Carolina Licensing Board of General Contractors had filed a complaint against him regarding the permit and this house. Also, I have not been able to confirm that the developer has been taking 4,000 dollar non-refundable deposits from the people willing to purchase a home. Since the developer only has the approval for the zoning board to build three homes on the property that was purchased, any non-refundable deposits over [inaudible] would be fraudulent. Since I do not have access to the [inaudible] records, I cannot confirm that information. Finally, the developers are showing on their website that it plans to build 56 homes, if you would look at the handout I gave you. It is my understanding from the meeting last month that was held with many of you there, and by the way, I do appreciate your serves to our community, all of you. The concerns is that from the discussion with the Assistant Director of Planning, Ed McKinney at that meeting is the developer does not have zoning approval for any such development other than the three lots over on Kathy

road. Again, what is this developer's motivation for selling property that has not been zoned? Moving forward at this time without these questions being answered and without more study on the financial impact of Tiny House Development inside the city limits of Charlotte would not be wise.

Parking Signs on Latrobe Drive

Lydia Stern, 712 Louise Ave said it has been a year since I started volunteering with Pro Choice Charlotte and just under six months since I last spoke to you about the need for no parking signs on Latrobe Drive. A conclusion was reached last April that the signs would not be installed but that there would be increased police presence to help alleviate the issues. At Pro Choice Charlotte, we were confused by the decision, as we did not feel that the signs could hamper anyone's sign to free speech. It seems like a cannot hurt, might help type of a scenario. Although disappointed, we were trying to be optimistic about the increased presence of CMPD, and we were hoping that it would help. We thought that at least now, citations would be issued when there were obvious infractions. Not much has changed for the better in the last six months. The protesters that gather around the clinic on a daily basis have increased in numbers, citations are rarely issued. The noise level is still loud enough for the patients in the waiting room to hear, until the police arrive, at which it is turned down, until the officer departs. Both RVs are still out most days. Pregnancy Resource Center runs into the street and flags down cars. They lean into the vehicles to keep them from moving after they stop them in the middle of the road. The second RV is still parked right in front of the clinic, blocking the view of the driveway for cars entering and creating a blind stop on exiting. Some cars do not even stop, because they do not want to be thrust at them. Just last Saturday, we witnessed many infractions while police were present. I could clearly hear the protestors on the mic, even though I was way above the curb in the road. I was surprised to learn that no citations were issued that morning and was told that the police were on clinic property at the time of the infraction. In closing, it seems that a few signs could make a big difference and perhaps save some of our police resources. We have been accused of wasting police time and money, and we are there in response of the pro-birth harassment. If they were not there, the police would not need to be there, none of us would. As long as they are allowed to hold parades and get sound permits, Pro-Choice Charlotte will be there to hold them and the police accountable. Let's rethink a few well-placed signs, if nowhere else, at least in front of the clinic. It would be so much more cost effective and help stop the chaos, while protecting our right to choose without intimidation.

Extreme Hardship

Elissa Mullis, 7917 Hood Road said I am here to ask for more time to rezone and get permits on my property; 11 years ago, when my husband Gene Mullis and I started doing garden weddings, to help Charlotte citizens, we were informed to just register our business name, because there were no restrictions at our county address, in unincorporated land. Across the street from me are B-2(CD) such as: Serco Engine Repair, Propane Gas Filling Station, cell phone towers, cemeteries, and one mile down the road is 1932 Barn Weddings at Hodges Dairy Farm, but now I need more time to fix my problems in zoning and permitting. I am exasperated and vexed to apply for a B-2 (CD) or R-4 to sell out to a developer. I need more time to raise the money to apply for rezoning, but you have taken away my rights to earn a living. Now, I stand to lose my home, business, and my job because of an anonymous complaint of me operating a business in a R-3. Yet, I have checked with my neighbors left and right of me and across the street and asked if they have complained. They have all said, "No," we like you or we did not even know that you existed. If I could know who complained about me then I could do my best to correct the situation, but I do not even know my accuser, is that right? It is very odd that the complaint came just two weeks after appealing extreme high property tax, an unfair burden that a zoning violation letter was received on or about April 1, 2017. I have been doing weddings for 10 years without complaints. Why now after appealing taxes? I have been here at 7917 Hood Road for almost 20 years. My husband Gene Mullis, who built the house, a tradesman and plumber did plumbing for the City of Charlotte, FBI, Police Department, Panther Stadium, and lots more, died

of pancreatic cancer. I am a Charlotte-Mecklenburg School retired Home Economics teacher of 29 years for CMS, and now the City Zoning Department plans to run me out of my home, job, and business. Why now? Why would you not want to have a plantation home representing southern history and architecture for citizens to enjoy? Think how Deerpond Plantation can benefit the City of Charlotte. Omega Phi's have had charity drives there. Please help me. I need more time to come up with a plan that will work and meet your expectations, requirements, and expenses. I have been here for almost 20 years, and you have given me six months to correct everything. I am asking for more time, 12 months to correct zoning and permitting problems so that I do not lose my home, job, and business, and I will be most grateful to each of you. Thank you.

Parking Signs on Latrobe Drive

Mary Fiorillo, 4216 Poplar Grove Drive said I am here to bring continued awareness to the issue of placing no parking signs along Latrobe Drive, specifically in front of the Preferred Women's Health Center, in this area where clinics are being shut down or their operations are being severely curtailed by laws intended only to prevent women from attaining a legal and safe medical procedure. Something as simple as putting up no-parking signs to help diminish the daily protestor presence would send a positive message to the women of Charlotte and the surrounding area. In the past 10 months alone, Charlotte has repeatedly made local and national news of its incidents of protestor activity outside of the clinic on Latrobe. Creative Loafing, Charlotte Observer, Huffington Post, Cosmopolitan, New York Times, Salon, and even a documentary from Rewire that was released nationwide this past summer. Again, Charlotte has made the news and not for the better. I know of no other procedure that garners the type of vitriol that abortion engenders, but I also know of no other procedure where that type of hostility would be tolerated. Unfortunately, the City of Charlotte has shown a great deal of tolerance and in fact complicity with those very behaviors. As you know, the City of Charlotte has granted parade permits to the group Love Life Charlotte in December, June, and September. Each of these parades consisted of at least 1,000 congregants of area churches, gathering on these specific Saturday mornings and targeting the women's health clinic on Latrobe. These parades incorporate not just marching but swarming into the street by marchers effectively preventing patience from being able to make their scheduled appointments. I do not think that swarming is too extreme of a description, as the photos provided can attest to, but this sort of protest is not confined to a few times a year. Six days a week, protesters place the graphic signs in the street on cars parked on the side of the road. They park not one but two fake health care clinic RVs and harass patients trying to make their way to the clinic. I find it hard to imagine the City of Charlotte would tolerate if someone was accidentally injured at one of these events where this type of activity is acknowledged by the law enforcement and now everything has been done to minimize potential harm to participants. As you drive down Latrobe, you will encounter the huge RVs parked on either side of the road. One of them has a pop out section, further narrowing the road for vehicles. As you maneuver to avoid them, four or five people, one in a wheelchair, run or role from these RVs towards your car, you are focusing on not hitting anything. After bypassing the RVs you encounter confusing masses of people, marchers, children, daily protesters, with shocking, gruesome signs that they hold or have propped up on cars parked on the side of the road, further diverting your attention away from safely maneuvering your car away from hitting someone. I am respectfully asking the Council to vote in support of installing no parking signs around Latrobe Drive, near the Preferred Women's Health Care Clinic. It is one small measure to help prevent Charlotte citizens on both sides of this issue, from being accidentally injured at a city permitted event.

Protesters Outside the Preferred Women's Health Clinic

Tracy Intihar, 1711 Hoosac Drive, Waxhaw said I am here to advocate for the placement of no parking signs on Latrobe Drive and route to the Preferred Women's Health Clinic. Six days a week during clinic hours, vehicles are parked on both sides of Latrobe and people are lining the streets. Protesters obscure themselves between vehicles out of sight into oncoming traffic. As a car approaches, one or more of them will unexpectedly step out onto the road off and into a driver's path. There are no speed

limit signs on Latrobe, and according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the limit is 35 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. Driving at 35 miles per hour and having multiple persons step out onto the street in front of you is jarring and one's first instinct is to slam on the breaks and/or to swerve. This is not safe for either the vehicle's occupants or those walking into their paths. Approaching the clinic, it becomes even more difficult to maneuver through the increased number of protestors and vehicles. A large RV is parked in front of the clinic, and it is a struggle for one car to get through and nearly impossible when two cars are going from each direction. Already, confused, bewildered, and shocked, the driver must now attempt to navigate around crowds of adults and children, some of which are holding large, grizzly signs and others are pushing pamphlets against car windows. Some are hurling insults through a microphone, and this is on a normal week. Multiple times a year, the City of Charlotte issues parade permits to various local anti-choice groups and 100s of people come marching down Latrobe. They gather in front of the clinic and the often yell and insult women trying to enter the clinic. I was there for one such march. It was the Thousand Man March, and it was absolutely mortifying. If there is one way that you can insult a woman for her right to choose, it is to bring 1,000 men down the street, while she is holding that right. I am asking again to please support women by adding no parking signs. Something as minor as that will not only help women with the right to choose, it will also keep residents safe. This includes the protestors, police, and many, many children they bring along with them to these protests.

No Parking Issues on Latrobe Drive

Elijah Boyer, 1707 Caroway Street said I have come tonight to talk about the issue of parking outside of A Preferred Women's Health Center, because what we are talking about is a four lane road, and the people pushing for the no parking signs park on the street themselves and are consistently caught on video entering the abortion mill parking lot at a speed that greatly exceeds the speed limit. The issue is not one of safety; to say otherwise is a gross misunderstanding. The issue is with those labeled as pro-life protestors standing out on the sidewalk of a Preferred Women's Health Center, the place where 150 to 200 children are violently murdered every week in this city. The handout I gave you is a small sampling of testimonies of women who came for an abortion but who instead chose life as a result of the actions of these so called protestors. You will notice that the over-arching theme of these testimonies is that these women came to the abortion mill, because they felt as though they had no other choice, and when they came to the abortion mill, instead of being met with the screams of hateful, misogynistic men, they were met with love, care, hope, and help that they needed to not take the life of their innocent son or daughter. One of the moms came to the abortion mill homeless, and she is not homeless anymore. One mom, who I personally talked to, came to the abortion mill because of an abusive relationship. You understand the abortion industry paints itself as liberation for women but often time qualifies as an opportunity for men to have sex without consequences. Her body, her choice, her problem, and that mom that I spoke of came to us in tears, but left our mobile ultrasound unit not in tears but with a face glowing in joy. In fact, time and time again, the faces of those leaving the mobile ultrasound have smiles, while the faces leaving the abortion mill doors, after the child has been killed, are filled with tears. As for the care that these women receive from the abortion mill, the security guard states, "those women made their choice." By the grace of God, not only have we been able to help women before an abortion takes place, but we have been able to ministry his great mercy and forgiveness to post-abortive moms as well. So, leaders of our city, the decision that you have to make before God is, will your political legacy be one of protecting the helpless and innocent or that of silencing those who seek to help the helpless and innocent, for a few extra votes? For the record, I also invite you and ask you to come down to Latrobe Drive to see what is happening. That invitation was made by the pro-choice people. I ask you that you come speak to them and us as well.

Unsafe Working Conditions at Charlotte Douglas International Airport

Bobby Kirkpatrick, 2732 Watson Drive said I have been working at Charlotte Douglas Airport for 37 years, since 1981. I am here today to represent myself and my coworkers.

I work in a catering truck without air-conditioning. During the summer months, it leaves us exposed to extremely high heat. When driving a truck, I have to deliver food and beverages to the aircraft. We have to arrive before the airplanes get there, and that means that we have to sit in extremely hot heat for a number of minutes. This leaves us exposed to extremely high temperatures. When delivering food and beverages for flights, we have to arrive at the ramp before aircrafts. That means our trucks wait with heat and sunlight. There is no escape. This summer, we look a nationwide survey of 286 LSG Kitchens drivers and driver helpers of 15 airports all around the nation, including Charlotte. Over 63% of all workers reported feeling dizzy or sick working in the heat. Here in Charlotte, I took a survey. Of 9 of my coworkers, every single one complained of feeling sick or dizzy during the summer months. We also found out that in Phoenix, Harbor International Airport, a driver actually crashed while passed out, because he was so dehydrated driving a truck with no air conditioning. I am very concerned of the risk of driving and passing out and crashing here in Charlotte. We should do everything that we can to prevent an accident from happening. We are not asking for a luxury. We are not asking you for CDs in a truck. We are asking for a healthy, safe, environment in the airport.

Keith Scott and Silent Sam Monument in Chapel Hill

Larry Brackett, 5633 Murrayhill Road said I have two topics, and they are related. Mr. Dellinger vs. Silent Sam, Sam is a historical monument that offends civil rights. Remove Sam from the campus at UNC Chapel Hill. Attorneys are famous for political correctness. Case and point is the prosecutor from Durham and the Duke Lacrosse team. That prosecutor of the law is a lap dog for his meal ticket. He knows who butters his biscuits. Like the slave market in Charleston, Sam is a historical fact. Would Mr. Dellinger sanitize the slave market? As for the prosecutor and Mr. Dellinger, bronze the lap dogs, and call it biscuits. Stand biscuits in the door way to the law school so every wood be attorney stairs biscuits down every day. It is the object lesson. History is made on the street. It stays on the street unsanitized. It is the object lesson. Perception is everything. Order is heavens first law. We the People do not look to the Mayor to rationalize the behavior that is out of control. Ask OJ. He is fresh out of the showers. No one walks a gun into Novant hospital. Zero tolerance, one size fits all. Keith Scott walks a gun around a parking lot and pulls it on a police man, out to lunch and out of control. Mr. Scott was free to make his choice. He owns it for eternity. What does race got to do with it? Now, we have arrived on the street, individuals out of control. The Mayor and other politicals who rationalize would by more of the same. What is more of the same? Two sisters killed in a bar downtown to the Panther's stadium, one 24 and one 34 years old. Each of them has 6 kids on AFDCs. How many crack babies is this? How many babies with multiple developmental disabilities, more of the same? What does race got to do with it?

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to adjourn.
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The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Emily A. Kunze, Deputy City Clerk, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 3 Hour, 20 Minutes
Minutes Completed: October 10, 2017