

## SPECIAL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Special Meeting on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 4:08 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Councilmembers Ed Driggs, Justin Harlow, and Matt Newton.

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### ITEM NO. 2: AGENDA OVERVIEW

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said tonight, we are going to have three presentations, and the first one is a Community Safety and Crisis Intervention Team update, so we will have Chief Putney and the District Attorney Spencer Merriweather to bring us an update on that.

The Housing Trust Fund, last time we were together, I mentioned that we would provide in your packet late last week the four percent credit deals that are in play tonight. So, Pam Wideman will provide an update I believe that you received in your packet a new and improved, we hope, booklet that describes many of the projects. The concept is that there will be a vote on the 22nd, but again, tonight will be the first time to go into a bit of detail with each one of the projects.

Lastly, there was an item on the last meeting's agenda that was pulled. It was the Showmar's Lease Amendment, and Tony Korolos will provide an update on that least as well as take any questions that you have.

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

**Mayor Lyles** said are there any agenda items that Council would like to have a comment about on the Consent Agenda?

**Councilmember Mitchell** said Items Number 19 and 20.

**Mayor Lyles** said are there any items that you would like a separate vote?

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Item Number 15, which is the Showmars.

Mayor Lyles said it is on the Business Agenda.

**Councilmember Driggs arrived at 4:10 p.m.**

**Councilmember Newton arrived at 4:11 p.m.**

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### ITEM NO. 3: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM UPDATES

**Mayor Lyles** said thank you Mr. Spencer Merriweather for coming to visit us this afternoon. We have our Chief of Police here and we are really glad to have both of you.

**Spencer Merriweather, Mecklenburg County District Attorney** said first of all, I am grateful for this opportunity to speak to you today; it is a little bit unorthodox for the District Attorney to come offer an update to the City Council; however, it is a wonderful opportunity for us to really put into perspective some of the really great circumstances that our spike in violent crime has really confronted us with. I am especially appreciative to the Mayor

and Mayor Pro Tem for sort of posing this invitation to me in light of looking a little bit backwards, looking at the fact that Charlotte as a community has faced many of these problems before. As a matter of fact, in 2005 there was a Homicide Task Force that did some really good work as a community in making some of the recommendations that I believe we have together among our agencies made some great progress on.

Also, in 2008, Mecklenburg County as a whole in its Justice and Safety Task Force also did some wonderful things about paving the way around some great coordination to solve the problem of violent crime as it affects our community, but before we go there, I do want to put this in perspective; there are many who believe that certainly this issue of, the spike in violent crime in Charlotte, is unique to Charlotte. It is terrible. What we are finding is that jurisdictions across the country right now are facing similar issues.

**Councilmember Harlow arrived at 4:13 p.m.**

In 2018, we found that here in Charlotte as well, crime was trending down again after the kind of horrible year that we had in 2017. In 2018, we saw some relief from that. Some of you will be familiar with the Brennan Center Report that was just released last June, which indicated that, as a whole, crime was down in 2018, but if you dig a little bit deeper, and you start looking at cities like Atlanta and Jacksonville and Savannah and Memphis and D.C. and places across the region and across the country, you will see that they also are facing some similar issues that we have faced. I mention that because quite frankly, I look at some of the cities that maybe are not facing it, and I look to see what it is that they are doing, and I think across the board what you are seeing in cities that are actually having some success in combatting violent crime is a defused, community-based approach to the way that they are solving or approaching crime and the way that they are empowering communities to quite frankly empower their young people. It is no surprise to many of you that there are a couple of things that you are hearing about the types of homicides and types of shootings that we are seeing in Charlotte, and what you are seeing is some stuff over drugs; you are certainly continuing to see some issues involving domestic violence, which of course is an issue that I spoke with many of you about already, but you are also seeing disagreements among people over the simplest of things, things that would usually be resolved not in violence and certainly not in gun fire but that are being resolved that way in our parking lots and in our apartment buildings and all across places where we would have an expectation of feeling safe.

When we faced this problem before in 2005, there were goals that will sound familiar to you as potential options of a way of combatting some of these things. In 2005, we talked about expanding prevention. We talked about expanding mentoring. We talked about legislative action that reduced the availability of guns. We talked about problem solving courts. We have had some success there. Since the last time that we had this conversation, we have a whole array of problem-solving courts that have done great working rebuilding families, rebuilding our children, and it continues to yield great benefits for our community.

We also talked about increasing enforcement efforts when it comes to violent criminals, and I am happy to say that we are not where we were in 2005. We are not where we were in 2009 in the level of partnership between the District Attorney Office and its law enforcement agencies, that there are open lines of communications, open lines of figuring out how it is that we can make each other better. There was a time when you would think about the homicide problem in a particular community, and knew that the only people that were the eyes on the ground with that were your law enforcement agencies. Some of you in this room know that I am one of about 10 or 11 people in my own office who respond to homicides, because we believe that it is important that we are also at the front lines partnering with our law enforcement agencies making sure that people are held to justice.

I also can tell you in a way that we have figured out who our repeat offenders are. We receive a lot of that communication not only from law enforcement but from the community at large, and that has helped us identify and convict over 100 people who are repeat offenders and make sure that they do not do this again. That is important work; that is an important outcome, and yet, knowing that the District Attorney's Office has already

convicted four people of first degree murder at trial this year and four other people of other criminal homicides at trial this year, we still have 215 murder defendants pending on our dockets. We have 10 prosecutors that are dedicated to doing nothing but prosecuting those cases; 10 prosecutors is actually larger than a lot of District Attorney's Offices in North Carolina, and that is what we have. Those are the resources that we have. Now, the truth is, I could ask and I have asked and we have asked before for more resources and staffing, but frankly, we cannot do that just having the 115 prosecutors to make us equal with other jurisdictions our size. Right now, we only have 83. That would go a long way, but for some reason, we still have the number of judges dedicated to criminal court that we had 25/30 years ago. So, if you were to give me, the State was to give me, or someone else was to give me another 30 prosecutors, I'd have to figure out a place to put them somewhere. I have to make sure that they have a place to try those cases. There is so much about the way that we are constructed as a judicial system, not as a City but as a state that is built for small ball. It is not built for the type of city that we have grown into. So, when you go and you take a look at some of the other jurisdictions around that actually have grappled with these issues before, they do not have one-week commissions for their judges where that you are only able to use three days out of a five-day week, because after that, the judge has to go off to some other county and go somewhere else, which means that they people of Mecklenburg County have two unused days that they cannot do a thing to make their community more safe. So, if I have an ask, that is one of them, is to help me build a legislative will within our Legislature at the State level to make this change, to make them realize that just quite frankly, our community, our County of 1.1 million people and our City of almost 900,000 people is just not like a lot of other places, because we have a different set of problems and challenges to face.

The other thing that I will tell you is this. Again, I am one of 83, and generally people have to go and see me when they have something horrible that has happened to them. Something terribly invasive has happened to them. Something extremely serious has happened to them, and the center of how they deal with it is in 700 East Trade Street, and they have to come to me. Where I have seen successful models where prosecutors and folks from the City and law enforcement officials, they are out there in the communities where folks live. So, they are able to hear problems first where they arise so that when we know the breaking and entering that actually happen in the community, it is not just law enforcement that are hearing that first but prosecutors are hearing it too, and when everybody hears it together and that growing into the discharging firearm in an occupied property within about four or five months, we all know that it is tied together, and we can do something and combat how the community has tried to do something about it. That is a long-term vision.

I will end with this. The things that I have mentioned, quite frankly, they will not solve our violent-crime problem tomorrow. They are merely seeds. These seeds can grow into a positive strategy that can make a difference in violent crime. The most important thing that we can do is modeling good behavior, because what we are seeing happening in those parking lots and those streets when people are having these arguments over five dollars and lives being lost, that comes from how you are home trained. That comes from how we raised our children. The Mayor said it perfectly the other day when she had her listening session, that the Chief and nobody else and certainly not me can raise your children, but if we can develop better ways of how we respond to one another and not with anger but with civility and calm and peace, we model good behavior for our children, and that allows them to live. When we do not do that, we see statistics where over 65% of the homicides that are believed to have been committed in Charlotte this year are committed by people under 25 years old. We have got to take ownership. My ask of this Council, my ask of the community at large is that we all have to get together. We have got to find a way to charge our faith community, our corporate community in uniting and figuring out how we are going to get better at dealing with one another. For me, that is the single most instant thing that we can do to curb violent crime.

**Chief Kerr Putney, Police Department** said I don't have much to add. You have asked about data, and I give a lot of data. There is a lot of data there for you to consume. It talks about the explosive growth, which is a blessing to our City. It talks about how we as an organization have grown over the years, and you know what those numbers look like, but

I think that our District Attorney hit on it appropriately. The call is for people to step up and assist. We talked about the 2000 then the 2008 Task Force Recommendations, most of which have been, I think, still impactful to how we could do better in this City as a whole, but I can tell you this, if we are about arresting people or enforcing laws, we would not be having a conversation about an increase in violent crime, because our people are doing that as well as ever.

Just a few statistics of how this works, every week, we are reviewing crime data from the week before, and every day our executives are looking at the data to drive even deeper. They have the autonomy to move resources that they have. We call it our CRU, Crime Reduction Unit, our premier fighting units in ever Division across all 13 Divisions in the City. They have to be nimble. They have to be able to move to wherever the crime trend is, but what we see in our violent crime in particular and overall, we are up about 15% violent crime and four percent overall. The 15% is driven mostly by what you just heard about, the assaultive behavior, especially the homicides. It is no secret when people talk about the numbers. We had 60 already this year, and a year ago, we had 58 for the whole year, and I know, it is a big number. I can try to put context when we compare ourselves to other people, but I really do not do that, because I think that we are better than the number of 60. I really do, as a city.

We look at recommendations that talk about community awareness and education. How we try to contribute to that is every week we are talking about how our community can take steps to prevent crime, disorder, and violence. We talked about focusing on our repeat offenders, and I sound like a broken record, but I have got to beat this drum one more time. Until we get serious on those repeat violent offenders, we are going to deal with violence as a City, and I mean holistically across the whole justice system. We talk about reform, and we are always open and receptive to reform. We want to be better; we have got to be better, but the system must follow. Right now, we do not think that we have a consistent accountability and reform mentality across the whole system, so we have to really focus on more partners who need to help us focus on repeat, even chronic violent crime offenders. We talked about police visibility. We have implemented again more foot patrols across the City, in particularly in NODA, Beatties Ford Road on the West Side that were recent additions over the last couple of years. We talked about how we target and hold accountable our most violent. We have the Priority Offender Strategy Team, POST, which has been in operation since 2008. We continue to work with the DA's Office and our community corrections partners to continue to hold them accountable.

I was quoted as saying, "Electronic monitoring does not work." That is not a quote; the truth of the matter is it is being used as a condition of the release far too often for people who are far too violent. That should be the quote. Does it work? Yes, after somebody commits another crime, we can do crime scene correlation to determine who potential suspects are. Our mission is crime prevention. We want to prevent the next crime and build problem solving partnerships to do so, so in that essence, it is against our mission, although it is a successful program. Most people are deterred by committing more crimes. Our problem is those chronic, repeat, violent offenders seem to be immune from that same level of deterrence. That also touches on our prevention programs, reducing the availability of guns with another proposal. We have seized in excess of 1,000 weapons this year, over a thousand at the midpoint, so we are trying to reduce, but manufacturers make more. It is just the way it works. What I am telling you and preaching is responsible gun ownership. Every year, we will have about 600 to 800 weapons that are stolen from responsible gun owners; therefore, if 800 are being stolen, you are not being responsible enough. You need to lock up those guns.

The other piece of it that is pretty important is talking about supporting the victim families of homicide. We have a whole unit now that is expanding beyond just homicide, but homicide victims are a special victim. Those families are devastated, which truthfully are why I take offence when we talk about the number. Everybody focuses on the number, and indeed it is a big number for Charlotte at the midpoint; however, what we are minimizing when we talk about that, in my opinion, is the impact on families, social capital. We have at least 60 families that are devastated because of this violence that is truly senseless and preventable.



You heard about the young people who are most impacted by it. They are teens and 20's. I even say that 30's are young people; it is all relative, but those are the people committing and dying at the hands of those offenses that are committed more than anybody else. So, what are we doing? I talked about the gun seizures; our arrests are up by 10% already, so we are enforcing laws. We are trying to go after the right people the right way. Robbery clearance rate is twice the national average; our Robbery Unit has cleared over 170 cases so far, this year. Officers are being proactive; they have engaged over 100,000 officer initiated encounters. They also responded to 600,000 plus that have been dictated by calls to 911. About 100 cases so far are going federal from the work that we are doing with our federal partners, trying to take people off the street who are chronic, repeat violent offenders for longer periods of time. VCAT, Violent Criminal Apprehension Team has taken 228 violent offenders off the streets of Charlotte this year, almost 230 violent offenders that they have apprehended. I add, none of which escalated in violence. That is our premier de-escalation team, second only in my opinion, to CPCRT, and I will talk to those only a little later.

So, what is my ask? It is kind of how I started. My ask is that we take this as a community health issue, because that is truly what it is. It is not one strategy that is going to work; it is not a simple philosophy. Our philosophy of community policing remains intact. That is not enough to stop people from shooting to each other, resorting to violence over minor conflicts. You are talking about almost 20 of those 60 that were the result of an argument, people just exchanging words, and someone grabs a handgun to resolve that issue. We are doing work, if everybody knows, with the Community Relations Committee, to teach conflict resolution and mediation skills to our young people. This fall, we will be taking it to the schools across CMS. CPCRT, Community Policing Crisis Response Team that you approved funding for in the last budget year, has responded to over 640 calls for service already for people already with people in crisis, trying to proactively help people deescalate situations. They have also referred almost 230 of those people to service providers that they would not have encountered otherwise.

Community engagement, we continue to do the work, Bridge the Difference. Many of you have attended some of those forums. Youth diversion, we continue to divert hundreds of young people who had their first low-level criminal offense out of the system totally, and we like to talk about that, because it works. We are talking about roughly 90% of those people who complete that training do not recidivate. They do not commit another crime, so we are not only trying to turn the spigot off at the beginning, our officers are aggressively fighting those repeat offenders on the backend. Reach out, even those first-time offenders who are non-violent low-level offenders, and it reaches the level of felony, up until this year, out of 100 people who have gone through that program, only one has been rearrested. Unfortunately, that just happened this year. So, 99 out of 100 is not a bad statistic.

Lastly, our community empowerment initiative, we launched that in two areas over near Hidden Valley and also in Thomasboro. We continue to do that work holistically trying to heal families. As Spencer talked about, if you really are trying to get at the root of this issue, we have got to help families, we do. We have got to establish the ability to resolve minor conflicts in the household, because every year, about 10% to 15% of our homicides are domestic related.

Also, community policing is alive and well. Tomorrow, I was trying to get her here today, Promised Youth Development is a program that is on the east side that does fantastic work. She is a graduate of UNC-Charlotte so I would expect no less. She is going to get an award from the cop's office, the Department of Justice is going to bestow an award for community policing upon her as our partner doing this work. She does everything we are talking about, teaching young people how to resolve minor conflicts, how to be responsible, and we are also trying to help them get jobs. She is doing exactly what we are talking about, which is going to turn the corner on this violent crime issue. The issue is just as Spencer said; this is a long-term investment. What I see in every recommendation in 2005 and 2008 and 2010 and 2015 and the next one we do in 2019 and whatever you all do in 2020, it is going to show the same things. If we are not investing

in staying involved in young people, we are going to continue to talk about numbers that represent the devastation to families, and I hope and pray we are better than that.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said that is really a theme for me, and it has been for 11 years when the work that we did that led to the 2008 Criminal Justice Task Force was looking at all the silos of the criminal justice system and in our City, they were having a really hard time working together at the time. The CJAG, which is the Criminal Justice Advisory Group, came out of the 2005 Task Force Report, and the intention was for a lot of people. It was a pretty big group to be working together to connect these silos, and some of the recommendations that came out of the 2008 report from CJAG and that task force group that was led by Judge Fulton and I think Harry Nurkin, was Community Prosecutors, and Merriweather, you alluded to that that like community policing, it is putting prosecutors in the communities and working also with family courts, because then those Judges and prosecutors know the families that are in trouble are in crisis and need the help. Those were part of the recommendations, working with CMS, using the data on kids that we know are in crisis that are in families that are in crisis and working with them directly. That is really hard to do in our system of government, because we cannot go to CMS and say this is what you have to do.

So, I guess my question is, since then, in the past 11 years, you get a little complacent when things are better, but frankly, when things get worse you look back and say this is the same conversation that we have been having for well over a decade. So, of those pieces, you have mentioned that and Mr. Merriweather, you pointed it out, and we saw this years ago. Our court system statewide, I do not think that a lot of people know that you do not even have your own budget as a District Attorney, that the court runs that. When you want to order pencils, you have to get the Administrative Office of the Courts to approve it.

Mr. Merriweather said that is correct.

Ms. Eiselt said the City and the County at the time were told, we need to step up and help fix what is wrong locally, because the fact of the matter is the State will find ways to find line items to defund in the court system, and the general public really has no idea, and that impacts you directly, so I would like to ask for a recommendation for the CJAG, whoever runs the CJAG now, to tell us what is working and what is not working, and frankly, the City, the County, and CMS have to step up and work together and figure out a way to address some of these issues, because at the end of the day, it is all about the police. Why aren't the police out there solving these crimes? We know that the court system has a big role in it; your office has a big role in it. At the time, we were looking at the City would be funding a Business Manager for your office, then the recession hit and a lot of those recommendations went away, so I would like to see some kind of an effort that we are working with the County and the CMS and with CJAG to refresh some of those recommendations that you all signed off on to address some of the topics that you have brought up.

Mr. Merriweather said I would certainly support that; I will tell you that at least on one of those issues- We say community prosecution, and I was very careful when I say elements of community prosecution, because even the conversation around community prosecutors has shifted since 2008 as far as the types of things that work and the types of things that do not. One of the things that you will hear, which carries and element of community prosecution is neighborhood courts. That is something that has had some [inaudible] conversation within our Criminal Justice Advisory Group, but to your larger point, that level of coordination is critical. Clearly, the two of us serve and our agencies are represented on the Criminal Justice Advisory Group, as is the City Manager for that regard. So, I believe that I certainly will take back the recommendation that you have offered Mayor Pro Tem and voice that, and I assume that you would probably like to hear from someone at the home of CJAG sometime soon.

Ms. Eiselt said yes thank you.

Mr. Merriweather said one of the other things that I will mention, just as some demonstration as the type of coordination that we do have here, I was speaking with the

Chief earlier, and we were trying to talk about how it is that we can kind of address our young people, realizing that is where these issues are really going to get fixed. I have spoken with some folks in CMS to try to figure out how it is, for instance, our prosecutors can have a presence, because quite frankly, I do not think it is entirely fair that the majority of our 16-year olds, the ones who actually decide to put a gun in someone's face, do not realize that the moment that they do that, they are looking at three years in prison, and I feel like there is a constructive way to communicate that message and say please, do not do this to your life. I believe there is a role for the prosecutor in doing that. I have tried to make that connection with CMS, and I have been unsuccessful. In merely mentioning that to the Chief, the Chief invites my agency to say yes, there is some avenues for cooperation, because they already have a place in having those kinds of conversations with students in CMS, and that is the type of coordination that provide some opportunities where we actually can make a difference here.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I want to say, first of all, I really appreciate the willingness of two people like yourselves to wrestle with all of this stuff; these are incredibly intractable issues, and day in and day out it takes a lot and I admire that.

My question was, what is it that elected officials here or elsewhere can do to help like remove barriers? Is it a resource question? Is it a question of the ordinances and so on? Do we need to do programs? I listen to you, and I am thinking, okay, who is it in the General Assembly? Can we engage with our legislative agenda to try and focus more attention on it? What does it take? Is it mainly a resource issue?

Mr. Merriweather said I think to answer all of those questions is yes. I believe that yes, you can talk to the Legislature, and you can make a difference, as elected officials by explaining to them. I just met with a District Attorney from another county just this morning, and it is already bad for him when he only able to use three days out of a court week, but in this county, in our community, when we are facing the problems that we do and we have, those sorts of inefficiencies that are built in, that is crazy. So, yes, that needs to be communicated to all of our Legislative delegation so that we have something that we can change.

Mr. Driggs said Chief, you talked about the electronic devices. How does that happen? Are we controlled in that process by existing rules, or is someone making a decision about that that does not understand? Why does it happen that way?

Chief Putney said that is going to be a deeper conversation for Wednesday at the next CJAG. I have been invited to be a guest speaker at the CJAG meeting. It is the best of intentions. The whole point is, if you are going to get out anyway, you have been charged with a violent crime, at least as one of your conditions for release, we can now track where you have been. So, that is the whole purpose of the program. My issue with it is, some of the violent offenders that are getting out with that being the condition and they get out on electronic monitoring, I feel probably are not the right people getting out in the first place. So, that is the difficult conversation that we have to wrap our heads around, because I feel it has mutated from its original intent. Now it is more of a reason to let people out, and sense this is a condition band, here is the issue about whether or not they are going to come to court, and here is public safety. I think that the emphasis should be, my preference would be 80/20, but the law is more about 50/50. So, we have to make sure that we are getting the full 50%. Public safety is being weighed as much as whether or not you are going to come to court, and EM is just an actual deterrent that we can add to enhance your likelihood to do both, show up in court and not to reoffend.

**Councilmember Phipps** said a couple of weeks ago you did speak on terms similar to what you just spoke this evening about your frustration over arrests, rearrests, release. I am just wondering. Have you had that conversation yet with the Chief Judge, the Chief Magistrate, and if you have, is it anything that you can share?

Chief Putney said yeah, we had a good conversation actually. The follow-up is on Wednesday. A lot of things sound good. I just want to see what happens though, because to be honest, I had checked out of CJAG. I did not feel years ago my voice was being



heard as the Deputy Chief. I did not like the direction as much, and now they have a smaller executive committee that I get to engage with to bring this very issue to them to see what we can do to make sure both the mandate that you come to court and public safety considerations get equal value. I will not know until after we have the conversation on Wednesday and move forward with a potential solution to know whether or not that meeting that sounded pretty good bears fruit.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said two things that jumped out at me in both of your words up there, one, District Attorney, you said we were playing small ball. That resonated with me, because it does indeed feel we are approaching this in a small ball type approach, and we are the 16th largest City now. This is the big leagues. We have big league numbers to handle, and playing small ball is just not going to get it done. I absolutely like the thought of putting this at the top of our Legislative Agenda in going up there, but I think that the same notion applies that we cannot go up to Raleigh with an approach of small ball to try to get folks to understand well hey, there is a funnel here, and it doesn't matter how much we do here. If there is a funnel there everything is going to continually slow down. I think the element of small ball is the rural/urban divide that we are facing. A lot of these folks, we are going to have to go up there and really explain how this big-city challenge is really something that impacts the entire state, because Larken and I have been up there, and it is two different worlds between rural and urban right now. So, I think that we need to get a collaboration of all the heavy hitters together. When you go after a major league franchise to get out of small ball, all of the heavy hitters in town and all of those areas from the churches to the private sector, everyone that you mentioned jumps on board. I do not feel like we have that right here.

So, I guess that my observation one I would like for you to comment on is in relation to how do we go with a big-league approach to Raleigh to make sure that we articulate this challenge and what we need really well. Number two, Chief you said it is a community health issue. I think that really resonated with me, because we rarely find opportunities to work well with our partners at the County, yet this seems like there is nothing more important than this. How do we come together and especially make sure the County, given this is a community health issue, is right alongside of us?

Mr. Merriweather said there is a vast collection of knowledge in this room that goes far beyond what I know. I know criminal justice very well. That is where I have developed my experience, but I have to imagine that the lessons behind the relationship between urban communities and rural communities and suburban communities that the principles are still the same. What happens in urban communities within minutes will all of a sudden have an impact on what happens in rural and suburban communities. If you pick up the paper today, read the Shelby Star. They will tell you about their increase in homicides and violent crime. Read what is happening in Rowan County. Read what is happening in Iredell County. The headlines are starting to actually sound very familiar to the types of things that happen here.

Now, economies and scales, being what they are, certainly there is a difference. The fact is, if you do not actually get this right, and you do not actually empower us to be able to deal with these problems right, it will affect an entire region. That would be my pitch, and I hope that would be your pitch to our Legislative Delegation as well.

Chief Putney said as far as the health crisis, if we attack this the way in the 1980's and 1990's and early 2000's we attacked smoking, we would have a totally different conversation. Truly, if we made that committing violence over these minor offences with such a stigma that we attached to what we were doing that we knew was driving up the cost of health care for everybody, if we attached it the same way and attacked it the same way, we would have a much different outcome, because then the way you are measured, as a government even, is where you invest to break that cycle. The long-term commitment is more than just what next year's homicide numbers look like. It is really about graduation rates. It is really about employment for summer jobs for everyone until high school. It is about improving, they do not call them trade anymore. I am just old school; that is what I call them, but the opportunities there would be there. You have private funding who are also helping grant people scholarships to college. All of that is seamless if we get it right,



but right now, people are watching where we invest and holding us accountable, and right now, we are not investing in it consistently with a long-term vision. That is what I mean about the public health issue.

Mr. Bokhari said that is well said, and when we look at the track record of this community and we decide to do something big, when we decide to put a coalition together because we are going to build a light rail or we put a coalition together because we are going to raise a record breaking amount of money for affordable housing, it gets done. We need that coalition to say that we need to do this here, and maybe working offline together we can figure out who we have not pulled together over the is at 10 or 20 years who have made that already happen.

**Councilmember Winston** said I keep hearing this CJAG Criminal Justice Advisory Group name mentioned. Who all is on this group?

**Councilmember Mayfield** said why?

Mr. Winston said it is in context of Mr. Merriweather said, let's get together and change our community of bringing people to the table, which meant to me it seemed like the people are not currently at the table, but I am hearing about this group that is at the table, so that is why I want to know. Who is there, and who isn't there that should be?

Mr. Merriweather said you could put every agency here in the world at a table, but their impact on the community will be limited unless you are actually engaging right there in the community where people live in their neighborhoods. That is not a CJAG. That is a different level of community empowerment that I think needs to happen. Now, if people from the agencies need to be there with them, but to your question, there is no answer about who is on CJAG. This would include every single law enforcement agency within the County that is represented there, the District Attorney's Office is represented there. A number of people from different departments from Mecklenburg County are represented. The City Manager's Office is represented.

Chief Putney said I think that more importantly to me is who is not there, who I do not see, and is this a public meeting? I am going to get in trouble, because if we were talking about accountability, that is the group that I would like to see equal accountability thrust upon, because if you are leading and you are the expert in the area, the outcomes that we should be basing how we preserve you and how we measure your effectualness on those outcomes. That is who is missing. Who is missing in my opinion is a public view of what goes on in those meetings so that when we are talking about accountability, the public gets to weigh on what that should look like.

Mr. Winston said so, this is not a public meeting?

Chief Putney said I am not sure. I know that we will know by tomorrow. I asked that question earlier today. I am not sure, but I am sure that we will get that answer for you by tomorrow morning.

Mr. Winston said this CJAG has been around for a long time, so someone in this room should be able to have this-

Mr. Merriweather said the CJAG meets, in my opinion, and again I am just one lawyer, every other month. Now, the Chief has mentioned the Executive Committee meeting, which is a fragment of that, but as far as the Criminal Justice Advisory Group, it is my understanding that it is a public meeting.

Mr. Winston said are representatives from the courts there, judges, magistrates? Again, you did mention that as a community health issue; do you have people from the Mecklenburg County Health Department?

Mr. Merriweather said the Health Department is indeed represented on CJAG.

Please do not make me the expert on CJAG. I am but one member, but I think that there are people here who can probably give you a whole lot more information about the depth of the membership of it.

Mayor Lyles said I think that we can get that information for Mr. Winston.

Mr. Winston said I do have one question about the crime rate. One-year trend does not make and of course if this is an issue that we need to be attacking and we need to figure out solutions now and long term, but how does this fit in the overall trend of the past five or ten years? What is the per capita incident rate? Is this an issue of growth from becoming a bigger city, but we might be having less events per capital per person that lives in Mecklenburg County?

Chief Putney said that data is provided in your deck; I know that you got it just now, and it is a lot there, but we have the six comparison cities that you guys helped us come up with that has the per capita based on those that are mostly in the south east and how we compare ourselves. We are generally in the bottom third, but I still feel like that is an excuse. We should be better than that; we should be dead last, but that gives you the breakdown by ratio as well.

Mr. Merriweather said one thing I want to also tell you about is, a lot of times, the difference between a homicide rate and violent crime rate or the difference between a homicide or non-homicide is luck, where that bullet decides to strike, so from year to year, when people look at a homicide rate, sometimes we are just banking on prayers at that point, and we have to kind of have to admit that as well. A lot of people will kind of compare this to the 1990's. One of the things that has gotten better since the 1990's is emergent health care and the difference that makes as to whether someone lives or dies. So, shootings can often be like the number that is the best test, but even that has a little bit of wiggle in it. I do not think that I am surprising anyone here. When you hear the types of shootings that we have here and the stories behind it, that is what really appears to be galling. That is the thing that really makes all of us feel as something is going wrong here.

Mr. Winston said I would like a little more information about how we are using a beat patrols, people walking on the street. I do not know if that is an answer that can be given right now. I know that you mentioned we look at the Beatties Ford Road area and NoDa. Is that kind of a 24/7 thing or is this just during a certain period of time?

Chief Putney said we will give you a comprehensive look on what we do on beat patrol, but generally it is by peak hours. That is how we designate. I did not mention also Central Avenue corridor, but we will give you a total of five locations, and with how we overlay the crime issues and the peak times for that. That is not a 24/7 type of operation.

Ms. Mayfield said Chief; you presented us this information, which is really helpful, the City population and CMPD growth. You broke down the major cities first quarter comparison, can we have a comparison of their population and growth, because looking at our numbers in comparison, we are keeping up as far as the number of officers, but there is a gap in there, and I think that will be helpful as we are looking at future budgets.

Chief Putney said yes ma'am, and the other piece is those are allocated not actual, so we will make sure that you get both.

Ms. Mayfield said DA Merriweather, I wanted to take a moment to thank you, because there has been a big difference since you have taken over that office. I can speak specifically for areas within my District where you have come out and not only spoken to business owners but to community to help explain the role that the Magistrate and the Chief Judge as well as the challenges. The education is the biggest piece, community understanding that even though law enforcement may arrest, it may seem like we have people out before they can finish the paper work, and there is multiple layers to is, so I wanted to take a moment to commend your office on the work that you are doing and the fact that for you and for our Chief that you have created a very different relationship than what this community has seen in a long time with how closely your offices work together,

and that is noticed out in the community, so I just wanted to tell both of you thank you on that.

Mayor Lyles said I wanted to actually recognize the ambassadors that are attending for Bridging the Difference. I see some of you in your blue shirts, but I know that there are many of you that came because on both sides in our group. I just want to say thank you, because your support for what we are doing and what we are trying to prevent from happening makes a lot of difference, so I wanted to say thank you and let you be recognized.

I think that I saw our Chief Magistrate, Khalif Rhodes. Please stand up; I want to make sure that the people know you are there working with us, and we really appreciate that as well. Thank you much for being here tonight.

Before we conclude this portion and we go into our housing discussion, which I do believe is one of those monumental changes, we are doing a lot of background work, the Chief, the DA; all of us are doing work, and we are eventually going to have to pull this group together to say, how do we make the best choices? I think that is what this Council is looking for. Where do we make the best choices? One of our partners tonight, I am glad to announce our new partnership with the City and YMCA of Greater Charlotte, because starting today, we launched an eight-week program that provides a supportive environment for 400 Charlotte teens, the people that I think our Chief are talking about, not the 30-year old's but those who are in middle and high school. We are calling it Level Up Plus, and it offers free all-day access to the local YMCAs for students between the ages of 13 and 18. Now, part of this new program, the City is providing daily meals for the participants. One of the things that we talked about in the research in the summer is that sometimes kids do not have a place to eat and especially that age group. If we can get them into the YMCA, we can make sure that they have a meal that is hot that day and the City is funding that, and the YMCA is funding the remaining parts of this program.

I just want to say thank you. I want to say to Tom Warshauer, Pam Wideman, the Manager, all of the people who got this together when we learned that we were having an issue with not having enough recreation opportunities available in our City, and this we felt was something that we stepped up to do. So now, it is going to be Level Up Plus it is called, Active Through August 30th. What it means is that all during the week and especially during the weekends, there will be opportunities to workout, swim, play ball, whatever is necessary. More importantly, there is going to be an opportunity to figure out when young people are coming into the gym and to give them a healthy environment around relationships, meaning that we are going to try to insert some of our opportunities for de-escalation training and tactics and procedures into things that we can be there as adults to say, this is how I would handle a problem, because those things may come up at that time.

I want to thank especially everyone in this community that are doing something, because every little thing is going to build into something that will make a difference. Chief and our District Attorney, our entire court system from the people who volunteer to the people who work every day trying to make it work. I have always been concerned that we call it a system, because sometimes it doesn't work together. It seems like it pushes and pulls, but in Charlotte, I think that we can make the difference in making it a system that works best for our citizens, especially our residents that are now experiencing this violent crime and use of guns, so thank you very much, and we really appreciate that. Level Up Plus will have a goal of teaching some of the tools that we have for crisis intervention, and we are looking at this as something to do.

Chief Putney said I will introduce the experts. I think that Ebony and Stacy are going to really explain to you CIT, what it is, what it is not, what best practices look like and what we are structuring when we talk about the teaching that they are going to do to enhance our offices ability to deescalate.



**Ebony Rowell, Mecklenburg County Department of Public Health** said I am a licensed professional counselor; I work in the Trauma and Justice Partnerships Division, and I am the Coordinator for the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).

**Stacy Butler, Mecklenburg County Department of Public Health** said I am the Director for the Trauma and Justice Partnerships Program that includes our CIT as well as our Child Violence Response Program, Child Development Community Policing.

Ms. Rowell said thank you all again for allowing us the opportunity to speak with you this evening. Many of you have received emails from me inviting you to our classes and to our graduation. I would like to briefly explain to you a little bit more about Crisis Intervention Team to help you better understand what our mission and goals are, as well as help you understand what best practices are for our community, as well as what CIT International recommends.

We sent in advance a video slideshow with pictures and music. I hope that you were able to watch it. If not, I definitely encourage you to take the time to do so. That slideshow is a wonderful slideshow that we do each year to recognize the work that is being done in the community by CIT, our law enforcement partners, as well as our community to address mental health and related issues in the criminal justice system.

I would like to begin just briefly sharing this overview of what we are going to discuss this evening, including what CIT is, where we stand with our program, and what some of the offerings are that we have for our officers and what makes our program different and unique but also what we are doing to help bridge the gap on some of our challenges that our community is currently facing.

I want to start by just helping you understand how CIT began. In 1988, there was an officer involved shooting in Memphis, Tennessee with an individual who was experiencing a mental health crisis. After that incident, community partners from National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), as well as the law enforcement partners in that community got together to find a way to help train our law enforcement partners so that they could better understand mental illness and better understand how they could deescalate mental health crisis in individuals who are calling for help. Since that time, CIT has become an international program. It is not only in all 50 states it is also in multiple countries outside of the US. We have an annual conference each year, and we have been fortunate here in Mecklenburg County to be a part of that. Each year, we have a team that goes and presents on different aspects of how we can bridge the gap with mental illness and the criminal justice system, and that is another part of what makes our program so successful, is that we have been able to share some of the growing pains and things that we have found that work with the community at large.

The goals for CIT is to not only train our law enforcement partners and help them better understand how they can divert individuals when it is appropriate to divert from our jails but also to assist them in helping those in the community to prepare in advance. So, when we talk about the prevention piece, there are officers who are working diligently in our community to help individuals who are consistently experiencing mental health crisis to help prepare in advance for when there may be another crisis.

In looking at the Mecklenburg County program, we began our program in 2008. Since that time, we have trained over 14 law enforcement partners that include CMPD, who is our largest partner, but it also includes Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office, our six towns, three of our universities, probation, and I believe a few other local agencies, as well as some federal officers who have come through our program. We train law enforcement throughout the County, so not just here in Charlotte, but our work goes through to all of our partners in the community.

It is really important for us to consider what is best practices in looking at who is trained. The question I believe has come up multiple times at City Council meetings on who is trained and why more are not trained. Why isn't everyone trained in CIT. So, I would like to share with you briefly about some of the program aspects that we have from our CIT

International partners and what their recommendations are. For our program, we hold a 40-hour training class, which is part of what we call the Memphis model. That 40-hour training class includes approximately 17 segments that identify different types of mental health related issues, everything from mood disorders to intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use, traumatic brain injuries, adolescent development, and trauma.

We invite of course our City Council partners, including our County partners to share in that training. You are more than welcome to come. The training is specific for law enforcement partners. This training will assist them in not only understanding mental illness but also in understanding how they can deescalate a situation when mental health related issues can be a major part of the crisis. They also become familiar with community resources and where they can divert individuals who are experiencing crisis or how they can assist those individuals to get linked to services prior to a crisis happening, so we have six trainings per year of that 40-hour class, but we also have six advance CIT courses in which we do a refresher course for individuals who have previously taken CIT, and also a class for laterals who are officers that may have transferred in, been hired by for example CMPD, who previously took a CIT class and was certified in another state or jurisdiction. We also train our communications and dispatchers. They are our first line of defense, because many of them will receive those calls and need to recognize mental health symptoms in individuals that are calling and recognize that a crisis is happening and request CIT officers assist. Again, we also have training to support our law enforcement partners.

The biggest thing that I want for you to remember about CIT is that it goes beyond training. We train our law enforcement partners, but we do not want to just train them and leave them to their own devices and the resources that they took eight, 10 or so years ago. We want them to continually receive updates on what the mental health resources in our community look like and how they can assist individuals who are experiencing mental illness. So, through that, our CIT program has expanded itself so that we can provide additional technical support to those officers, to our detention officers, to our deputies, to probation, as well as other law enforcement partners within the community. We provide them with additional assistance. Once a month we have a debriefing with them to discuss difficult cases, insure that they have referral information, and provide them with some of the clinical support that they may need.

In addition, as you well know, the CPCRT team was formed to provide additional support for those officers who are going out and seeing crisis that are happening, not just in the moment but for those that are continually contacting 911, because they are going into crisis. So, our CPCRT team has been able to go out and engage with individuals who may consistently have interactions with our law enforcement partners and assist them in being linked to services so that it can reduce the calls for service that are related to mental health issues.

Finally, what is the recommendation from CIT International? So, when we talked about what CIT International would like, when they make recommendations, they say that we should go beyond just having officers trained. We want to have what we call a Specialist Generalist Model. Our Generalist will be those law enforcement partners who have received some type of mental health training. This may include something similar to mental health first aid or some additional trainings that are available. Our partners here in Mecklenburg County have been assisting CMPD in having their officer's mental health first aid certified, and there are officers who have gone beyond the general course and taken additional mental health first aid, such as mental health first aid for teens and mental health first aid for veterans. That would be the generalist model. For the Specialist, we encourage CIT. So, CIT is not for everyone. Essentially, we want officers who are dedicated to understanding mental illness and who have a passion for going out into the field and assisting those individuals who are experiencing crisis.

There are many different reasons why an officer may decide that they are not ready for CIT. I have seen officers come through our class who are experiencing their own set of difficulties and challenges within their own families, so for them it may be more difficult to be called on specifically to address the mental health concerns of someone else as they

may see themselves or family member in those that they are serving. It is also important to recognize that just as we have here, everyone comes with their own set of values, their own ideas, and their own personal experiences that may guide some of their judgement. We want those officers who are coming through the class to have a strong desire to promote the ideals of CIT. When they come into the class, I can tell you that many of them start off the class thinking, I am going to be sitting here for 40-hours, what can I do to make this go faster; however, as you look at the schedule, you will see that those two first days are very intensive. By Wednesday, they are not only attending site visits with some of our community partners, they are meeting individuals who are in the process of recovery. Hearing their stories and understanding their needs has helped create, for our officers going through this class, a symbol of hope, and they want to share that hope with others. So, we usually by Wednesday see our officers begin to open up and telling us their own stories, their own successes, their own tragedies, their own difficulties. By Friday, they always tell us that they feel as though they have been in class for a month but that it was the best training that they have received.

CIT International recommends that you at least train 12% of your officers; however, they also ask that you insure that you have enough law enforcement partners, officers if necessary, to cover the number of calls that you receive that require a CIT response. As we have talked about the growth in our community, we have to recognize that we need more than a minimum of 12%. CMPD has gone above and beyond that. As you can see, they have trained for their patrol approximately 49%. That is far above the minimum of what is needed; however, I can tell you that our community faces many challenges, just like many other communities. We have difficulties in meeting the needs of our community as far as mental health resources are concerned.

There are many individuals who will tell you that we are blessed to have a behavioral health system here that many other areas do not have, but I can tell you from experience and from meeting with our partners through Atrium and Novant that they will concur that it is not enough, and if you ask any of our other behavioral health partners or our NAMI partners and advocates in the community, they will tell you that it is not enough. If we have one million plus individuals in our community and we know that the CDC says one in five has a diagnosable mental illness, where does that leave our community? It leaves our community calling 911 to get the assistance that they need, so what we need is not only the support of our community in assisting our officers and helping them get the training that they need, we also need a community that is in support of the efforts that are being made to bridge the gap with all of our law enforcement partners to help bridge the gap between the justice system and mental illness.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for the presentation. I think this is where you see the County Health Department working with us closely to make sure that we are doing the right things, especially around this intervention team and training efforts for it. There are probably many more partnerships that we do not even know about, but we are going to continue to explore those.

Ms. Eiselt said that was really informative, and I think that it helps us understand why we do not have every officer out there getting trained. One question I have, I was contacted by someone on the Board of the Charlotte Resilience Project that really deals with childhood trauma cases, and I wondered when you talk about needed more community members help do this work, can you speak to that? Do you have a partnership with them, and how do you work with them? They were contacting us to say we would like to work more with CMPD. So, you just do not want to throw that all at CMPD. I would like to know how the eco system works together.

Ms. Rowell said again, because of the large scale of what CIT does, it is very important for us, for me because currently I am the only CIT employee. It is very important for me to be a part of what the community needs, and that means being a part of multiple committees within the community that work to address mental health and trauma related issues, and so I will tell you that we are a part of the Charlotte Resilience Project. We assisted them actually during the Charlotte Resilience Conference that was held last year, and together with our CMPD partners, we were able to assist them by doing a panel on



mental illness and the criminal justice system, but we continue that partnership through assisting them in presenting information throughout the community, helping others recognize that the higher the number of adverse childhood experiences and trauma that someone has, the higher the likelihood of involvement with the criminal justice system, the higher the likelihood of them becoming a victim of some type of violence and the higher the likelihood that they may have not just physical illnesses but also mental health related illnesses, so it is very important for us to be a part of those conversations and for which we are.

Ms. Butler said the focus of the Charlotte Resilience Project being early childhood adversity and violence exposure certainly has brought a lot of attention and emphasis on the problem in the last year or two, but I think it is very important to point out that for 24 years now almost, CMPD has been partnering with the County to address childhood violence exposure and has been putting child trauma clinicians in their police cars with their officers in a model very similar to CPCRT and going out into the community out to people's homes and serving children who have either been victims of violent crime or witnesses of violent crime, and the whole idea is that if we intervene immediately and early and often that we can prevent the myriad of potential negative outcomes that Ebony referenced like potential future mental illness or educational attainment problems or involvement in the criminal justice system, and there is a big crime prevention piece to it, but the biggest piece of it really is addressing the amount of human suffering in our community at its root, and that is what we have been trying to do on both the County side and the City side, and both organizations staff the program simultaneously.

So, the Resilience Project is fantastic, because we are really putting more resources and more emphasis on the problem, and it has extended far beyond the public health and police department; now we are getting everyone involved. We are getting the hospitals involved, and we are getting the school system involved, and we are getting corporate entities involved, which is wonderful, and the goal really is to build as much momentum as we can and keep that going, and a nice addition to that is the current recast grant that the County has received, but the County is really more of a clearing house in pulling together lots of local entities to look at further ways to address that problem of violence in the community.

Mayor Lyles said I also have heard Resilience, they have just done, the hospitals are pushing our population health with the pediatricians and particular questions to ask during the childhood examinations on a different level for each of those, so I think that is one of the ways that they are really working hard at that introduction.

Ms. Butler said the childhood violence assessments that we use and have been using for 20 plus years, the hospital systems are using something very similar now or are going to be rolling that out for well-child visits, which is phenomenal. We are going to be addressing and attacking this issue from every possible point in our community.

Ms. Eiselt said just the idea that the District Attorney brought up of neighborhood courts is really interesting when you talk about how do you reach these people? Often times the same family is in crisis for many different reasons, so neighborhood courts should be something that we are looking at.

Ms. Butler said going into homes and neighborhoods is the best-

Mr. Driggs said I am interested in the presentation to the extent that you are really focused on helping people with mental illnesses. I think the reason that this has become such a focus issue is because of the perception in the minds of a lot of people that CIT training would have helped to deescalate a real-time situation where an officer arrives, as in the Danquirs Franklin case. So, what is your opinion about how much difference the behavior of an officer would be who had had this training versus one who did not in a circumstance like that?

Ms. Rowell said I think that a portion of this question will be best answered by our law enforcement partners. So, I will defer this question to Chief Putney.

Chief Putney said it is just a matter of timing to be honest; here is what I will tell you, it is a split-second decision, and no training on earth is going to supersede your desire for survival. I cannot help but say that; however, what we are talking about too, and Councilmember Egleston talked about this, is going through this training changes your demeanor toward people in crisis. We are hoping that can help slow it down; there are no guarantees, but again a life or death situation, split decision, you are in survival mode. What we are trying to do is slow all of that down. What I told you too is 600 times, we have been proactively going out talking to people anyway; 230 referrals getting people the services so that it does not escalate in the first place, but again, that split second is a different conversation.

Mr. Driggs said I am just wondering if 40 hours of training, which is actually aimed at a much broader base of issues affecting a much larger population, is the most effective way to improve people's behavior in that split-second situation.

Chief Putney said we can all pray for the best; again, it is hard to say, because we train you for a year and a half trying to get you ready to avoid you getting into that situation, and we cannot control what other people do. That is the issue, but again, this is an opportunity for at least us approaching it with a mindset toward we want them to have the best possible outcome without it escalating, and when time allows, we have proof, 5,100 encounters that were armed people already this year. We have only had two officer-involved shootings. So, the mindset matters; the split-second though, I cannot guarantee that. You are in survival mode. It is a different mentality.

Mr. Winston said you mentioned that CIT is specific for law enforcement; is there any other model out there that includes training for other civil servants? I think about two areas that are within our jurisdiction here in the City, Fire. Often times, they are called for first aid calls or maybe when law enforcement should be called but is not or just dealing with fires and going into people's residences and having the ability to have someone on call who is able to analyze what is going on.

You said that there are two levels of CIT training versus mental health first aid for instance. Another department that I think about, this may sound a little bit out there, Solid Waste Services. They are the one department that touches every doorstep every week, and as an anthropology major, I can tell you that they teach close to the first day, you can tell a lot about people by taking a look at their trash. Is their other training where maybe you can see signs and see things about people and find ways to get them help before it has to be a law enforcement issue.

Ms. Rowell said there are two things that I would say, in regards to this, as well as the previous question. CIT is very specific in making sure that we never tell an officer to risk their safety when they are going through our training, so no matter what they are learning during our sessions, when we are talking de-escalation, when we are talking about all the things that they will need and to better understand, one thing is for certain, you will never come to CIT and hear someone say that those officers should put themselves at risk by changing what their training has taught them in that regard. For our partners who are not law enforcement, when I say that CIT is specific for our law enforcement partners, I mean that because during our CIT class for law enforcement, which we have designated as CIT for Law Enforcement, we are training those law enforcement partners; however, we have made contact previously with our medic, our fire, when we do our trainings for the dispatchers and communications staff we also train medic, fire, the Sherriff's Office, so we also train others, but our CIT for Law Enforcement classes are specific just for them. I will tell you that through CIT International, we have been given some guidelines on what we should be including if we are training our firefighters and paramedics. There are some programs that have specific teams similar to CPCRT that work specifically with medic and fire, because they will go out and do the work of those who are experiencing overdoses and work with them in a CIT capacity through their work as fire and medic. We do not have that program here; it is something that I hope someday we will have. Recently, in my meetings with the Fire Department, they have explained that mental health first aid is something that they are looking at to meet their current needs, so we

sometimes have individuals from our fire departments and from medic attend our CIT classes, but from my understanding, and do not quote me on this, I believe our fire partners are planning to begin training for mental health first aid for them. Additionally, there are lots of trainings that can happen for individuals who are in the community who are not law enforcement. Mental health first aid is not a specific class for law enforcement, while they do have a training that is specific for law enforcement. There is a mental health first aid for first responders and a mental health first aid that can be taken by anyone in the general public who would like to learn more.

There are also additional trainings that individuals throughout the community can take through some of the other partners, such as QPR, which assists individuals in learning more about how to ask questions and assist individuals who are experiencing suicidal behavior or More than Sad through the America's Foundation for Suicidal Prevention, so if there are individuals in the community who are wanting to learn more and wanting to learn how they can take some of these trainings, they are more than welcome to look on the CIT website for Mecklenburg County. We have a list of partners there, but they can also reach out to I think that it is Mental Health America through the Central Carolinas. They can also assist them in finding some of those trainings.

Mr. Winston said second question, about officers who are prepared to take CIT training and get CIT training, I am having trouble wrestling with this idea that we should not be creating an aspiration where we everybody should be able to be training in this, an expectation that we have, that we will get to a point one day. We are first responders, right? So, we do not get the choice to be second and to have a CIT trained person to show up. That could be the difference.

Chief Putney said that is an aspiration of ours without a doubt; however, I will tell you we are just wrapping our heads around all of the benefits, and you will also see that it is a personal readiness that plays into it too that we cannot even begin to quantify, but yes that is absolutely a goal. When I came in, they did not like me very much, because I said that I am going to mandate before you graduate rookie school that you have that extra week, and they are nice people. They did not do any name calling, but they did not care for the idea, and I had to be educated just like we provided tonight, because truthfully, the person has to be ready personally and professionally, and that is why right now, we are incentivizing. We are taking away the stigma. We are encouraging the people, and some of the people who have joined CPCRT are fantastic, real cops, and in due time, I think it will be the expectation without a doubt.

**Councilmember Newton** said thank you so much Ebony for your presentation and Stacey as well for all of your hard work. I have been honored enough to attend the last five CIT graduations and have an opportunity to speak. I am grateful for that opportunity as well. I think that what is really been impressed upon me is just how serious the officers take this training. At the same time, there is pride in it. Every officer gets a CIT badge that they wear, and they wear it, as I was mentioning, with pride, and I do think- I have seen videos where officers have called in CIT trained officers to take over a situation, and I do believe that the level of interaction and the compassion and frankly the patience. We talk a lot about de-escalation. That is precisely what occurs. There is de-escalation, and that is a byproduct of that patience that the officers exhibit. There is a real, real difference there. I do not know if those sorts of videos could be made available to us to maybe view, so these are lapel camera videos that I am talking about. This is precisely what we as a Council discuss on a regular basis when we talk about breaking down the silos. Routinely, during these graduations, roughly about half of the graduates are from the Sheriff's Department, so you see this collaborative effort occurring between our City and the County, the type of thing that we talk about often, and we are talking about breaking cycles too. Working over at the courthouse on the fourth and fifth floor, as I do often times, we talk about how defendants serve a life sentence one arrest at a time, and that is because they are not getting the help that they need in jail. Our jails are not mental facilities. Our jails are not substance abuse facilities, and there needs to be outlets for the folks that need that type of help, and that is precisely what CIT and CPCRT, these programs do.



I think that it is also worth noting, we have a number of officers over in the back corner over here who play integral roles in the programs, Lieutenant Veith and Major Bowling in particular. Thank you both for being here. I just wanted to weigh in on that. Thank you for all of your hard work. Thank you Chief. I know that since you have been our Chief, the number of officers trained in CIT have gone up dramatically, so some of us may want to see a goal of 100% someday. We only are where we are because of your dedication to this program into the community, so thank you for that too. As I was mentioning, there are videos, like the ones that I have seen, that can be provided to some of my colleagues to show that difference. I think that would be very valuable.

**Councilmember Harlow** said thanks for being here and walking us through the alphabet soup of CIT and CPCRT. Who makes the call to deploy the CPCRT? Is it the first responders? Is it the dispatcher over the phone who takes the 911 call? What is that process? After the whole interaction happens, give me a small snapshot of what happens afterwards.

Chief Putney said all of the above are triggers, however it comes in. Some of our dispatchers can hear signs and symptoms that they know they want to send them. Also, the officers respond, and they make that assessment and see someone in crisis, so they call a secondary officer who is CIT trained, then the officers and their clinicians who are with them are very proactive. They know repeat calls were people have been in crisis that are going even when they are not even assigned to calls. So, it is all of the above, and what happens is they get there, and a lot of times, it can be something as simple as encouraging someone to take their medication. They have established a rapport, because they have been in contact with someone so much that there is a level of trust there, and we have had instances on video, and we were talking about how we can show you more of that, were the person in crisis asks specifically for CPCRT officer, so it happens all of those ways. Once they get there, they are encouraged to take the service as provided for them so that again we can continue to de-escalate and prevent anything from escalating. All of those ways is how it is triggered, then the outcome is we leave someone satisfied that we helped them in their time of need, and they know exactly how to call us and contact us in the future.

Mr. Harlow said just a plug for Johnson C. Smith, we have training provided for all of the police departments and towns and colleges except for them. Let's get their 10 officers involved.

Chief Putney said that would be a question for Ebony.

Ms. Rowell said I have actually emailed them multiple times since I began as the coordinator, because I really do want to ensure that our Johnson C. Smith officers are also a part of our training. I have also visited campus a number of the times for wellness fairs to talk about the CIT program, and I have visited with some of those officers, so we are hoping that they will join and be a part of us. So, I hope maybe this will help.

Mr. Harlow said the ball is in their court.

Ms. Rowell said for individuals who feel they are in need of support and services when they would normally call 911, we want them to know that you can ask for a CIT certified officer. On the CIT website, which is on the Mecklenburg County website, you will also see a video. You can also find that on YouTube, which shows more information about the CIT program, how officers are trained, and also how individuals in the community can access a CIT officer.

Mr. Phipps said a couple of days ago, there was a story on NPR where Seattle was going through these issues with prisoner release after people served their sentences, and as Mr. Newton alluded to, a lot of mentally ill inmates are housed in prisons and are released out into the community. It is a good start that we have this many CIT trained officers, but has there been any analysis in view of what we expect to be significant outflows of inmates coming back into our communities, has there been any kind of analysis to determine what our CIT needs are going to be on a go forward basis?

Ms. Rowell said we actually have a large amount of data that we are trying to collect and analyze, and that includes data from our Sheriff's Office partners, which will help us better understand the needs in our jails. The truth is that as mental health agencies were being closed and defunded, a lot of individuals were released, for lack of a better word, and not provided with the supports needed within the communities to give them mental health treatment options to sustain and assist in their treatment, so what we have is a number of individuals who consistently cycle through the criminal justice system, and they have a mental illness. One of the things that we talk quite a bit about during our CIT classes are is that our jails and our prisons have become our new asylums, and that is the truth. It is not the place that people should be going to get treatment, but unfortunately for many of our community members, they get better treatment in our jails for mental health services than they do outside. When they leave our jails, they do not have access to care. They have a low access to medication and all the things that they need to help sustain them. You are going to talk tonight about affordable housing. If someone with a mental illness doesn't have affordable housing, we are looking at safety as being first, and mental health needs are not going to be the top priority for someone who is facing homelessness or dealing with housing issues, so again, we have to look at the entire system, and that is why CIT is looking at not only collecting that data from our law enforcement partners but also from our partners that deal with community support services and our hospitals and understanding what those needs are and how we can work to improve them, because unless we begin addressing some of these systemic issues, the problem will continue.

Ms. Mayfield said Ebony; you mentioned the recast grant; is there a line item in the recast grant, and if so, how much is going towards this CIT so that we know what the financial balance is? How much was the grant for?

Ms. Butler said the grant, that is way above my pay grade, the understanding of the funding, to be honest with you, but the grant is not connected directly to CIT. The grant, my understanding, is meant to be a community initiative, so it is going to be looking at where there are gaps in our community and how some of those can be addressed, so I think that it will absolutely support the mission of CIT. Where I spoke to the grant was in response to the child violence exposure and some of the community based efforts around that. The recast program is a [inaudible] based national effort to look at communities impacted by violence and how some infrastructure could be developed to support community based efforts based on the desires of community members themselves.

Ms. Mayfield said that was confusing, so basically bring that down and tell me if I am at least in the same book. A grant was applied to and awarded, but that grant is basically a research grant to see where the gaps are, but it is not a grant to actually help fund the program.

Ms. Butler said no, not research. I think that it will start as a community assessment in looking at what the community itself would like to see happen to address violence, really, I think at a neighborhood level in Charlotte, then helping to fund projects based on the communities identified needs and goals so that those projects can support those efforts and once the grant time has ended so that the community then has some sustainable out comes that they can continue to employ. It is very early in the process right now, and my understanding is that some focus groups have occurred, and some community assessments have started.

Ms. Mayfield said so, the recast grant does not really have a relationship with CIT.

Ms. Butler said not directly no. I think they support one another's missions, but it is not funding CIT. It is not directly related to CIT itself.

Ms. Mayfield said the City of Charlotte funds CIT, or is that funding through a partnership?

Chief Putney said the City is funding CIT to expand CIT trained officers, yes.

Ms. Mayfield said as we are talking about partnerships, there is also a funding question that comes along with any partnership, and looking at the impact of the City of Charlotte versus Mecklenburg County, not only in tax base within a County but also residence that are in our ETJ and making sure that we are not owning a larger part of this conversation where our partners have an opportunity to be much more participatory in funding to help offset these costs, since there is a larger area is being impacted and being serviced. I think that was really for the Manager, but since the recast grant was mentioned, I did not think that the two were tied together, but I just wanted some clarification.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much for the crisis intervention information and a better understanding and lots of great comments around it.

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#### **ITEM NO. 4: HOUSING TRUST FUND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Mayor Lyles** said year and a half ago about this time, we were looking at our budget with \$15 million for affordable housing, and we got it up to \$50 million, which 69% of the voters approved, and I believe that the work that we are going to be doing is all a result of the actions that we have taken, but every time I think about this, I get these letters, and I expect all of us do. I just have to read this to you.

“Dear Mayor, I am in dire need of a house to live in. I was working two jobs as a security officer. I am a cancer survivor still taking medicine. I became ill and had to give up one of the jobs that I have had, and I have not been able to buy my medicine for two months. I am on the Section 8 list, but I have been on that list for years. Please, I have worked 55 years. I do not want anything elaborate. I just need a plain, ordinary house to live in. I have lost my dignity, and I am pleading for your help. If you will just please get me a roof over my head so I can buy my medicine and live out the rest of my years. I feel my life is drowning. Please help me.”

Mayor Lyles said when we think about the work that we have done, I think that we have to really understand that this need is very, very real and that we can make this difference by looking at these recommended 950 units of affordable housing. I think sometimes we know that it is going to take us 18 months to two years to get these units up, and I know that the need is great now, but if we do not start, we are not going to get anything done. I also know that the need exceeds anything that we can possibly do to rehab or build our way, but I think we have to step back and celebrate sometimes. We forget how much we have put into this effort. I remember the retreat discussions, all of the negotiations with LISC, all of the things that we had to get through, the housing framework, the locational policy, so I celebrate tonight when we come forward. I know there are going to be lots of questions and opportunities, but really this is the first step that we are taking to move the City forward in a way that I think is unsurpassed.

When we were in Pittsburg on the Chamber visit, we talked to the Mayor and asked him about affordable housing, and he said Charlotte is the gold standard for affordable housing policy and practice now, so I want to say thank you to every member of this board. I want to say thank you to all of the folks that helped us get here. Many of you in the audience today, many of you are going to make a difference, from the staff that worked on all of this work to our community leaders as well as those who came in and said you have to do something differently. I think because of you, everyone one of you, we are beginning to take on something that I think is a beginning and something to be celebrated.

We still have one other agenda item, so the Manager suggested that next Monday for our Zoning Meeting, that following the Zoning Meeting that we have at noon that usually goes until 1:00 p.m., that at 1:30 p.m., we actually have a work session that is going to be available for anyone that has additional questions after tonight so that we can get all of this done, because we would have this on our June 22, 2019 agenda. So, I would say if we can do that and have that work session; make sure we get all the questions out tonight so the team can come back and be ready to do that. When I say team, I mean the

collaboration between LISC and the City staff and the many volunteers that have worked on this. I do believe this is the team that will be able to respond to these efforts.

**Pamela Wideman, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services** said as noted in the letter that I sent to you over the weekend, you are becoming the gold standard, and the Mayor just echoed that, so hats off to you the City Council. I also want to, before I go any further, thank the team as well and not just the immediate housing team, the LISC team, Ralphine Caldwell and Rusty Mills. I also want to thank the Housing Authority. We have a new innovative partnership that I will be talking about, Fulton Meachem and Connie Staudinger.

Also to the Housing and Development Committee that is Chaired by Councilmember Harlow and formally chaired by Councilmember Mayfield, then to City Manager and Deputy City Manager Sabrina Joy-Hogg, then to all the developer staff that you see here today. They actually do the hard work, and to the community groups that are represented here today.

I want to quickly remind you of the investments. All of the investments that you make in housing. We are going to talk about the Housing Trust Fund today, but in addition to the Housing Trust Fund, you all do lots of other work, so I also want to remind you to give yourselves credit for that so that we do affordable housing outside of the Housing Trust Fund. I am going to spend most of my time on the Housing Trust Fund. Just to remind you all, you have done a lot of work; in August of 2018 you approved the Charlotte Housing Framework, which these developments are based on. You also approved your housing locational guidelines, which was mentioned in your framework as something that we needed to redo, and you have also approved city-owned land disposition guidelines. We used all of that backdrop to frame the recommendations that we are bringing to you tonight. Also in your frame work, we talked a lot about community participation and how we needed to enhance that, so what I really want to spend time on is in addition to the community participation that the developers have to have with the surrounding neighborhoods before we come to you I am asking for funding. We also added a new component where we said we would meet with the advocacy groups. You guys have talked a lot about that. We met with them on June 25 to share the RFP process and housing locational guidelines. People want to understand how all of this works together, so we spent about two hours with them. When I say we, I mean the City and LISC staff, so it has really been a team effort.

In terms of the representation at that meeting, we had obviously the equitably community's groups that is led by Marion Pete Kelly. We had the Greenspon Center represented; we had the OneMeck organization represented. We had Carolina Justice for Justice for Jews represented, and we had the Housing Justice Coalition. We are not going to just stop there; after we have shared this information with you tonight, we are going to go back to that same group, and we have that meeting scheduled for July 18 to share them with the detail, and that is one of the promises that we made to the community, and we want to fulfill that. This is consistent with information that you have seen before. This just shows you our schedule. Tonight, we are at the action briefing, and as the Mayor has alluded to, we will be back before you on July 22nd requesting your approval.

You have also seen this new, joint-proposal process, and again, the red highlights where we are now. You have received information in your packet on Friday, and we are doing the Action Review meeting tonight and will be back in front of you on the 22nd. In terms of the criteria, you have seen this information before as well. What I do want to point to that is different, we have included, in terms of the development strength, each development has a minimum of 30% of the units serving households that are earning 30% or below. Also, we talked about the community engagement process. In terms of our review team, again it was joint. You can see the City staff that was represented here and also the LISC staff that was represented here, so we had underwriting criteria on both sides, myself and Miles Vaughn as well. So, we did a thorough review of each of these proposals.



Again, in terms of our approach, it was a dual-review process. It was data driven. Some of our guiding principles that we use is when we do this, we always want to think about creating mixed-income developments, achieving long-term affordability, then maximizing and leveraging all available resources, so not just the Housing Trust Fund but the Housing Opportunity Fund, our publicly and privately-owned land. We want to make sure that we are incorporating our housing locational guidelines, our interest-free debt, which is a new tool, then our project base housing vouchers, which is also a new tool that we have to use.

Again, tonight we are briefing you and we will be back on the 22nd for your approval. I think that it is always good to remind you where we are. We will know about our nine-percent awards that you all approved earlier this year in August. If we do the math here, we have estimated that we will spend \$8 million there, so that means without knowing for certain how much we have spent, we have \$30.3 million left at this point for you all to utilize for what is being recommended. Just a recap of our Housing Trust Fund bond allocation since 2002, you can see the breakdown there, and again, as the Mayor alluded to, \$50 million is monumental.

Now, the meat of the presentation and what we received in terms of submissions. We told you last time we received requests for 14 different developments; 12 of those are using trust fund. Three of those have requested the use of City-owned land; nine of those have requested the Housing Opportunity Fund and the reduced interest or the reduced interest. We have an overall leverage ratio of one to 11 and that equates to a total of 1,729 units. As far as the locational guideline metric, I just want to remind you what those are. We look at proximity, income diversity, access, and neighborhood change, and again just to remind you, we are doing these four criteria based on the feedback that we heard from you, what we know to be your guiding principles, and your priorities and also as a result of the feedback that we received in seven different community meetings that were held throughout this community as we were redeveloping the housing locational guidelines.

So, as far as what we are recommending, I will go through each of these individually, but you can see, from a housing trust fund request, we have recommendations of \$12.8 million. The Housing Opportunity request equal \$10.4 million. We have reduced interest request for \$4.9 million, then city-owned land request that equate to \$4.8 million, so let me dive a little bit deeper. Community outreach, you can see each of these had community outreach, as noted. The two that say N/A, those are existing developments. Those are Heritage Park and Wendover Walk. Those are both NOAHs. Those are already there, so we did not require that they have community outreach meetings.

In terms of your unit summary, we had 21% of the units that have units for households earning 30% or below. We have one percent for households earning 50%; 41% for households earning 60%, and 26% for households earning 80%. You will see that we have 11% for units that are market rate. That is what unrestricted means or above 80% of the area median income. That goes back to us trying to create mixed income communities so for a total of 950 units. This is a map that just depicts where the developments will be that we are recommending.

Let's dive into each of the developments. This is one that is using three other resources: your Housing Trust Fund, Housing Opportunity Fund, and City-owned land. This also involves the faith community, who is bringing a portion of their land that makes it possible for this development to occur. You can see the unit breakdown there, and what I want to point out is this has 35 years in exchange for the City-owned land. We are up from where we started with 20 years to 35 years.

This one is on Mount Holly-Huntersville Road, and that is in the City of Charlotte. You have a 30-year affordability period, which is consistent with what you have seen before. Evoke living at Westerly Hills, it also has a 30-year affordability period, and please note the locational guideline scores on these as well. None of these that we are recommending scored below a 22. Heritage Park, you all have received some letters about this one. This is a NOAH. We are able to go in and do some rehab there to help these continue to be affordable and address some long-term deferred maintenance. North Tryon Homes, you

can see the affordability period here, 30-years as well. Again, note the locational score. South Village Apartments at Scaleybark, we are all really familiar with this one. You can see what the proposal is here and note the locational score there. Tyvola Road Apartments, this one is unique. They are not requesting any Housing Trust Fund dollars, nor are they requesting any Opportunity Fund dollars. They are simply requesting the City owned land, and the goal there is to create a workforce development community that is near the VA Hospital there.

Finally, you have a NOAH. You all passed your NOAH guidelines. This is Wendover Walk Apartments, and you can see that it is consistent with your NOAH guidelines that you approved earlier, a 30-year affordability period there. What I really want to point out and I think that you will find interesting, the Mayor alluded to this a lot, is with our new partner and resources that we have in the community, our Housing Opportunity Fund, our interest free debt, our projects based vouchers, if you begin to use City-owned land, what you have essentially done is, you can see the math here, you have really significantly reduced what you would normally put into four percent deals. Not all of these are four percent deals, but we did two comparisons for you. If you look at what is truly a four percent deal, that 679 units, you have cut that cost up from \$30,421 down to \$17.9. If you look at all of them in totality, and that includes the use of the City used land, because I heard you say over and over that you want to get credit for that, you have still reduced your trust fund subsidy that you have to put in it. So, that is \$18,600, really good news story. You can see how all of the resources in the community are playing out to help.

The developments that are not recommended, I am not going to spend a lot of time there. I will address specific questions if you have those. I will just hasten to the end of the presentation, and this is a really important slide. You can see here where you are in terms of your remaining balances, and you all asked this question a lot, and it has really caused us to think a lot about it. If you recommend everything that you have here tonight or that is being recommended, you have a remaining balance of \$17.5 million. Mr. Harlow alluded to this I think the last time that we were together. He said, Pam, you want to go ahead and think about if we thought we were going to need \$8 million in January to do another round of 9%, if you do that math and subtract \$8 million from the \$17.5, you will have \$9.5 left going forward that you could do four percents with, in addition to what the Manager and you all approved to put in the budget this year, so you have a balance left, then if you think about what you could get through your next bond allocation, you could see how all of that math works out. I just want to remind you of again what was put in the FY20 budget for NOAH allocation, then your single-family acquisition rehab program, so that is a good news story to share.

Just in terms of next steps, we will be back before you on the 22nd, then LISC the Investment Advisory Committee, they will meet and do their approvals. Again, I cannot thank the Housing Authority enough for their commitment to do project-based vouchers. That involves HUD, but they have committed to go as fast as they can. The four percents will then be submitted up to NCHFA, the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency for approval, then developers can go to their closings, and they can do their design and preliminary permitting review and approvals, then the units will be delivered to us.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said just remind us on page 19, the rent range for our four categories, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 80%.

Ms. Wideman said yes sir.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Pam, it would be helpful to get an update in the non-recommended. The Evoke Living at Arrowood actually has the greatest number of units that are 30% and below, so example, the project that we have off of Freedom Drive is 185 units. The waitlist is over 200. Most of these projects that we are moving forward have less than 12 or 15 units at 30% and below. This had a much greater number out of 168 units, so it would be helpful to understand why the scoring was so much lower on that one.

Also, as we note through with the second Evoke that we have that is also in District 3, the Evoke Living at Westerly Hills, they did a really good job with showing the rent range, and they also have over 30 units. That rent range starts under \$380, which is the 30% and below, but I noticed on some of the other projects, the rent ranges are starting a lot higher, like even with Tyvola, even though it is just land. If we have eight units in there at 30% and below, that range should still not be \$900 and up. I want to make sure that we have consistence so that the community also understands what we are doing.

Ms. Wideman said good questions. They are not yes or no, so we will put them in the write up. We have very good reasons for the recommendations.

**Councilmember Harlow** said thank you to everyone, the LISC team, City staff and everyone who kind of got down and dirty on this. I understand that this has been a long process to get to this point knowing that we were constantly having new private-sector dollars coming in for the CHOIF Fund, and as you mentioned before, a lot more requests than what we could possibly allocate with our new bond. Some of these I will email; I actually went through this a lot last night when I got back in, but I will not take up too much time. To Ms. Mayfield's point, I had a similar question, and I look forward to the response in the write up. A lot of these non-recommended ones have the highest percentages of lower than 30%. She mentioned Evoke, but there are a few other ones, the Albemarle Crossing at Campbell Creek, the Barrington Apartments, then I marked the page on the Evoke at Arrowood as well. I guess my question has to do with the reasoning for that. I see that some of the ratios are lower than average of that one to 11, but a couple are above, like one to 13, one to 12. The leverage ratio of being one to five, one to eight, I can maybe understand that. We have a better opportunity to get the best leverage than we have ever had, so I get that point, but I will be curious of what the rational was behind that. You also mentioned about the locational policy score for all of the recommended ones. None of them had anything lower than 22, and I think that there were one or two that were in that same range, also with similar leverage ratio, so the curiosity really is why I say no. I understand that the dollars are limited, but just kind of some curiosity there, then there is one I am looking for, and it had to do with the City donated land, the ground land lease. I am not sure where it was, 980 ground land leases, no trust fund ask. Was that the value of the land if we were to sell it or the value of the lease itself?

Ms. Wideman said that is the value of the land, so everywhere you have City owned land, that is based on an appraisal of the actual value of the land.

Mr. Harlow said got it, so we are leasing it for the 20-years affordability for free?

Ms. Wideman said no, on that particular one, you will be getting an annual lease of \$1,000.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said could you go back to slide 29 where you have the comparison of a per unit cost for per unit? I see that the proposed is significantly lower. Where does the cost savings come from?

Ms. Wideman said that is because you have more partners, more skin in the game. You have your Charlotte Housing Opportunity Fund, that is private sector and philanthropic dollars that you didn't previously have. You have project base vouchers that you did not previously have. So, basically what this is saying is that because you have more partners, prior to these partners, the only subsidy was Housing Trust Fund, so that means you, the Housing Trust Fund, have to put fewer dollars in because of the dollars that you have from the other partners.

Ms. Ajmera said does it also include the land that the City is contributing?

Ms. Wideman said yes, it does.

Ms. Ajmera said I looked at the project based voucher. I think that was in one of your slides. I am interested in understanding how does that affect existing waiting lists that the Housing Authority has? I know having served on the Board of Commissioners and the

Housing Authority, at a time, several years ago there were over 25,000 on our waiting list, so when we are allocating some of these vouchers to the project base, how are we affecting the existing list?

Ms. Wideman said it actually helps their list. It helps number one, because you are getting these units on the ground as project based vouchers are attrited through the Housing Authority. The developers have agreed to take the customers off the existing waiting list. So, that is how it helps.

Ms. Ajmera said got it, great job Housing Authority. The other question that I have is specifically about Bingham Apartments. That is nine percent. It is not recommended even though it is along the Blueline Extension; it is within an opportunity zone and that area is going to be gentrified or is already gentrifying. I am interested in understanding why this was not part of the recommendation.

Ms. Wideman said the short answer is you all have already approved the nine-percent funding for that in a previous round. What we were able to do through working collaboratively internal was to work with both C-DOT and Planning. We are going to take care of that gap that they have there by not requiring them to turn over one of the streets in the development to the City. So, as a result of working with Planning and C-DOT, that gap no longer exists, so that request is not out there anymore, but I wanted to be true to all of the information that we have presented to you, and we were just able to come to that conclusion on late Friday.

Mayor Lyles said so, when we have a meeting on the 15th, I think that it would be good to have a comment for each one of the ones that are not recommended and why. Some of it is good, and some of it is just an assessment.

Ms. Ajmera said I think that would be useful.

Ms. Wideman said those units will come online. I just want to make sure that you understand that.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, because that just seemed like a pretty good deal to me. The last question I have, if you could go to slide 38, the estimated RFP projects that's about 12.8, is that all recommendations here?

Ms. Wideman said yes, that is all of the ones that we are recommending.

Ms. Ajmera said the fiscal year 2020 NOAH, I know that we also had allocated certain funding from our general account in the budget that was approved. That doesn't include this, right?

Ms. Wideman said this is the general fund dollars that you allocated in this year. That is in additional to the \$17.5 million. That is new money that came in this year.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said those two lines are the general fund money, the \$4.2 million and the \$2.1 million.

**Councilmember Egleston** said I also had a question about the one that we had already approved money on, so I am glad to hear that is coming to fruition, because I was concerned that maybe by denying this request, somehow it had fallen through the cracks. The only other thing that I had was praise and underscore for, all the media that are not here anymore, the team work between everybody that is involved has created so many more additional units, but almost even more importantly found a way to cut the cost per unit nearly in half is remarkable and should not go unnoticed but probably will.

**Councilmember Winston** said I was also going to ask about the additional Housing Trust Fund dollars. I would love to go through a deep dive with you Ms. Wideman at some point before the next couple of weeks. The only other question that I think that I would have, in terms of the LISC Community Advisory Board, what is the status of that, and has that



been put together, and have they been able to take a look at these four-percent deals, and if not, will they?

Ms. Wideman said it was a joint-review process, so the team has looked at it. Raphine Caldwell is here and I would invite her to the podium to speak to the Advisory Broad piece.

**Ralphine Caldwell, LISC** said I am the Executive Director for LISC. The Investment Advisory Committee is being vetted now, so they are already on standby. They actually will meet after your vote on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Once they actually meet, it is kind of the same process. They will meet, be able to look at the deals. They will also have a about a two-week way to be able to look at all the deals and vet them, then at that point, we will issue a letter of intent for the deals that we recommend and move forward.

**Councilmember Newton** said I really appreciate all the hard work that went into this manual that we received. Thank you, folks from LISC as well. I want to comment on how discerning you were on this, because I feel like often times, we find ourselves getting deals coming before us and doing it as though we have to take advantage of this for any number of reasons. I of course, am of the opinion that we really should be focusing on the quality of life. It is not always about the deal. It is not always about where we get the best leverage, and I think that is what we see here. We see that not all of the projects are to be rubberstamped so to speak. Now, having said all of that, if we could go to the slide with the map, I think that it is number 20. In our pursuit, we talked a lot about upward economic mobility, and I think that we talked a lot about mixed-income communities. We talked about equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout our entire City. I think that what we are seeing on this map is a couple of areas that do not have any economic development within them. I think that this is becoming quite a trend. I asked a question before, so I do not think this is something to be directed at you Pam. It is probably something to be directed at the Planning Department, but I asked the question before tonight's meeting, and it is in our agenda Q&A pertaining to transportation oriented development, and at the same time our TOD ordinance. My question pertained to the Cross Charlotte Trail and incentives to the extent that the TOD ordinance creates incentives for affordable housing development incentives within transportation oriented development and the possibility for incentives to be connected with that trail. I am hoping to get more information and clarity on what we consider to be transit projects, because it has always been my understanding our lane is not greenways, Parks and Recs. Our lane is transportation, and the reason why we placed upwards to \$70 million plus dollars towards the Cross Charlotte Trail was to create a transportation corridor, and I am wondering what the criteria is for what transportation corridors are or transportation projects and whether that is something that could fit into that, because I think that ultimately, when we talk about creating mixed-income communities, upward economic opportunities and mobility, equitable distribution of affordable housing throughout all of the City, I think that maybe that is something that we can explore in an attempt to find incentives for areas that are not, areas that new development is occurring in, and I get that we talk about land expense, maybe these incentives will help in that regard. At the same time too, I know we have a little bit left in the trust fund as well. I am on board so long as we all understand and appreciate that by doing that, by making sure that we have new developments across the entire City alongside of preserving the areas that need to be preserved, we are creating the upward economic mobility that we want to create in the City, and I would be on board insuring that we have better quality of life as a result and paying a little bit more, but if my colleagues would not be, maybe that is a way we can do it.

Mayor Lyles said actually, I think that your comment is on in some ways we have to realize this is a snapshot on one angle of what we are trying to do. If we stop here, we will never be able to actually meet the need, so I think that we are looking at how do we work with the apartment association to get some units for reentry that you will rent to, where you will be willing to have a subsidized rent. We have a lot more work to do, and I do not know that we can get everything around everywhere, but I think that all of our other strategies are much less of a geographic barrier. I think that they are much more often to how we do things, and even in our zoning processes, we begin to see some of the development in south Charlotte, and people are coming in and asking for units, increasing the density

on land. That is where we start talking about how do you help us with helping with affordability and quality of life for all? I do not want anybody to take this as this is the end all be all, because it is not. This is great work, and celebrate it, but at the same time, we now have to start thinking about what else needs to be done, and that what else needs to be done means that we need to look at the entire community and not just wait for the River District to be done but to actually start talking about some of these things where it is in the rezoning process, working with the apartment association or that we have some opportunities with the land that may be donated by some of our partners. This week is being done because of our work with partners, primarily in the private sector, and we have other opportunities there, and let's begin to think about that after we get this one.

Mr. Newton said I agree with these recommendations, and I am really thankful for all the hard work that went into this. At the same time, I think that there are opportunities for us to get on the front end of the affordable housing issue and not rely on developers to tell us where they want to build, because I feel as though that is also in their best interest. We need to be looking at the best interest of all of the residents at the City of Charlotte. Sometimes that means that we need to create incentives and tell developers.

Mayor Lyles said we can look at land bank. We need more options; you are right, so land banking and all of those kinds of things are things that we can do.

Mr. Driggs said this is great work; we are much better off than we were before. Two, I think you can infer from a number of things that have been said, it would be great to have a recommendation like we get on zonings that gives the rational for or against, a couple of bullet points with this is why we like this one, and this is why we do not like that one. It is a reflection of the fact that we have come a long way, but we still are at a point where we have taken a whole bunch of inputs and to a somewhat mysterious process arriving at a yes and in some cases in a no in others. I would also recommend that maybe we consider taking the quantitative aspects of this, like a weighted average affordability divided by the number of years times this. See if we can massage those numbers into some sort of a score that points to a ranking, because I am still a little bit unsure about why some of these made it and some did not.

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#### **ITEM NO. 5: SHOWMARS LEASE AMENDMENT**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said I am not sure that it is a five-minute discussion in Room 267.

**Mayor Lyles** said do we defer it or have the discussion at the dais tonight? How does the Council feel about putting this on the 22nd?

**Councilmember Egleston** said I think that can create some further anxiety, is that the word you would use Mr. Driggs?

**Councilmember Driggs** said I am worried that we have deferred it already. The perception of this, because of some media comments, is going in a direction that is really not consistent with what I believe is the majority of our sentiments here and I just think that it would be great if we can get something done tonight.

Mayor Lyles said okay, we will tackle it on the agenda.

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#### **ITEM NO. 6: ANSWERS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS**

There were no outstanding Consent item questions.

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**ITEM NO. 7: CLOSED SESSION**

There was no closed session.

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The meeting was recessed at 6:32 p.m. to move to the Meeting Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

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**BUSINESS MEETING**

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for a Business Meeting on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 6:38 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II.

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**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

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

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**AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**ITEM NO. 10: DALE MULLENNIX MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, after serving as the executive director of Charlotte’s Urban Ministry Center since the nationally recognized organization’s founding in 1994, Dale Mullennix retires from his post on June 17, 2019; and

**WHEREAS** during Mullennix’s tenure as leader of the Urban Ministry Center, more than 150 houses of faith and thousands of donors, businesses, and volunteers in the community have come together to help serve homeless Charlotteans through creative outreach ministries and programs, including Room In The Inn, art programs, cooking programs, a soccer team, a gospel choir, an organic garden, and SABER, a highly regarded substance treatment program; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 2000’s, Mullennix challenged the Urban Ministry Center’s board of directors not to be satisfied with merely treating the symptoms of chronic homelessness but to attack the problem of homelessness itself, which resulted in the 2012 creation of Moore Place, the first phase of a 120-apartment complex that provides housing for over 300 of Charlotte’s most vulnerable citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, Mullennix was named as the community director of the Housing First – Charlotte-Mecklenburg Initiative, which through the coordinated efforts of non-profit agencies, businesses and governmental entities has led Charlotte close to the initiative’s stated goal of eliminating chronic homelessness in the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Mullennix’s ministry has not been limited to the city’s homeless neighbors but has extended to a far broader community of individuals whose hearts he has opened to the suffering and innate dignity of their homeless fellow citizens:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim

July 2019 as

**“DALE MULLENNIX MONTH”**

in honor of Dale and the countless lives of our citizens for whom he has helped to restore full and meaningful lives on the path to ending homelessness in our city.

**Dale Mullennix** said I would have been more than overwhelmed with Dale Mullennix happy hour. I am very, very grateful and very honored by this recognition, but I am also grateful for the partnership that the City has provided with the Urban Ministry Center through the years. Most of the things that you have named, we would have had done if it was not by community partnership and coming together and people bringing their best resources and commitment to helping us make happen what we were able to do.

The first job of a leader is to tell the truth about the way things are. We had to tell the truth about how hard life is for people who are chronically homeless, and the good news was the community responded. When you mentioned Room in the Inn, 5,000 volunteers a winter. When you talk about the outreach work that we did, many people in this community who wanted to be a part of something that was extremely difficult to do, so I am grateful to you but also challenge you to remember that your first job is to tell the truth about what we have to do as a community but then celebrate the good news that this community really does want to help. They really do want to make a difference, and they really do want to see change, and they are willing to invest in that to make that happen. So, I am very, very grateful for this honor, but I am also grateful for the partnership that we have had together through the years.

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**ITEM NO. 11: THE JOSEPH C. STOWE, JR. REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY PROCLAMATION**

**Councilmember Mayfield** said this is an amazing man. I will say personally the morning that I had the chance to learn of his story and to be with him and his family and to see the surprise when he turned around and recognized that his family was there was a challenging morning for me when we look around this nation and see so much hurt and pain as a black person in America. This young man did amazing things at a time long before there was a quota or a need and you all will see that. I thank you for giving me the honor to reach this proclamation which reads:

**WHEREAS**, our community continues to grow and thrive, necessitating capacity to process more wastewater; and

**WHEREAS**, Charlotte Water endeavors to construct a regional water resource recovery facility providing a regional approach to wastewater treatment, serving western Mecklenburg County and the Belmont and Mount Holly communities in eastern Gaston County; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph C. Stowe, Jr. served as Charlotte Water Director from 1982 to 1994 pioneering efforts during his tenure to introduce a biosolids treatment program, broker agreements with local municipalities to form a regional water and wastewater utility, and implement a model program for employee leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph C. Stowe, Jr.’s lifelong passion for water has resulted in significant and lasting contributions to the water and wastewater industries as evidenced in his numerous awards and accolades at the national, state and local levels; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph C. Stowe, Jr. is a leader and innovator, practicing a philosophy of diversity and inclusion before it was a focus of the community; and



**WHEREAS**, Joseph C. Stowe, Jr.'s hard work and dedication to our community forged a solid foundation for a regional water and wastewater utility serving residents today and for generations to come; and:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim this new wastewater treatment facility as

**“THE JOSEPH C. STOWE, JR. REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY”**

and commend its observance to all citizens.

A short video was shown.

Ms. Mayfield said I would mention, this is the very condensed version, but what Mr. Joseph C. Stowe Jr. did, as Director Angela Lee brings him down, our first female to work in Water was because of Mr. Joseph C. Stowe Jr. Angela Lee, having her opportunity is because of this man. Honor someone while they are here. To honor you while you are here is a gift for us, so we would love to hear from you.

Joseph C. Stowe, Jr. said first of all, I want to say that Charlotte is in such a good position with its utilities that they stay ahead of the game from many, many years back until present currently under the leadership of Angela Lee. I am deeply pleased that you have made the decision that you have made relatively to that facility that will be built over the next several years. Thank you, and I wish you well.

Mayor Lyles said can we have his family members please stand? And the staff who worked with him, please stand up. I have actually worked with Joe, it is so good to see you. \* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO. 12: PRESENTATION OF ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE**

Mayor Lyles said many of you know that the Long Leaf Pine in North Carolina is truly one of the most valued opportunities for recognition, and tonight, we are fortunate enough to present to two individuals very important to this community their Order of the Long Leaf Pine. First, before I do that, I would like to recognize John Hanna, our former Chief of the Charlotte Fire Department, as well as Mike Sprayberry, who is with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and who is representing our Governor Roy Cooper.

I am going to read the Long Leaf Pine. I am going to first read what everybody likes about this recognition.

“Here’s to the land of the Long Leaf Pine, The summer land where the sun doth shine, Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great, Here’s to “Down Home,” the Old North State.”

This is being presented to two people who worked in our organization by Governor Roy Cooper, because they are looking at proposing special confidence in the integrity, learning, and zeal of these individuals, and as Governor, he confers upon them the Order of the Long Leaf Pine with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary, privileged to enjoy fully all rights granted to members of this exalted order, among which is a special privilege to propose the following toast and select company anywhere in the free world.

So, it is really a special honor. I am not sure about the toast part; Dale, do you use yours very often? I would like to invite Richard Granger. We would call him Rich when he was here and ask him to come down and receive his Order of the Long Leave Pine, as well as Walter C. Caldwell Jr. Both of them, formally with our Department of Fire, and to say

thank you for the recognition and the work that you have done, and you look a lot younger since you have left.

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**ITEM NO. 13: AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY**

**Councilmember Eiselt** read the following proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities. This legislation established a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. On July 26, 2019 we will celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the ADA; and

**WHEREAS**, the ADA has expanded opportunities for Americans with disabilities by reducing barriers, changing perceptions, and increasing full participation in community life. However, the full promise of the ADA will only be reached if we remain committed to continue our efforts to fully implement the ADA; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County celebrate and honor the achievements of people with disabilities who live in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, in partnership with the City of Charlotte ADA Community Network Team, Mecklenburg Advocacy Council for People with Disabilities and 99 other partners representing various agencies and organizations, have come together to celebrate the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

**WHEREAS**, on the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County celebrate and recognize the progress that has been made by reaffirming the principles of equality and inclusion and recommitting our efforts to reach full ADA compliance; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate those positive changes in our community so people with disabilities can be free from negative attitudes and architectural barriers; and

**WHEREAS**, we honor those businesses in our community for complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act by making their establishments accessible and usable to all patrons with disabilities:

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, and George Dunlap, Chair of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners for Mecklenburg County, do hereby reaffirm to continue to work toward full ADA compliance, and do hereby proclaim July 26, 2019 as

**“AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AWARENESS DAY”**

in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and encourage all citizens of the City and County to recognize that the Americans with Disabilities Act has, and will continue to, improve the quality of life for all people with disabilities in our community.

**Terry Bradley, Deputy Community Relations Director** accepted the proclamation.

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## PUBLIC FORUM

### ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC FORUM

#### Increase in Homicides

**Cedric Dean, 11922 Harris Pointe Drive** said I came on behalf of my church, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. We have our pastor, Cantrell Barrell here, who has made it a mission for this social justice issue. The first thing that I want to say is that we have to start developing partnerships with our business community. Right now, I am calling you out and letting you know, we cannot stop the homicides without partnering with the business community. I work directly in the jail with these individuals who are committing these murders, and it is the same kids that is getting out, the same kids that are going three and four times on these ankle monitors because they do not have resources in the communities, so we need people who will say that they will step up, get these individuals jobs, because we are working directly with the Sherriff and the Chief of Police. We can monitor these individuals, given assurances that if they act up, we got control of them, but people need resources and jobs. That is the first thing that I want to ask.

We have got to go back to community policing. This is personal for me, because Gary McFadden was that one individual that everybody would go to and tell him anything that he needed to know. Right now, there are people running around in the community with all kinds of guns and stuff, but they do not feel comfortable talking to the police officers, a lot of times because it doesn't look like them. I have individuals who complain to me every day about Beatties Ford Road saying I see people with hands behind their back and five officers around them that are white. Why are we still doing that today?

Right where the murder happened at that Burger King, I personally saw five white officers around one black suspect. I am saying, at least have some black officers there, and then the community will open back up and start feeling comfortable with tell you anything you want to do. We cannot do it without.

Lastly, I just want to say, you have to work with the returning citizens. I am not talking about in passing. The other day we were in Southside Homes. LaWana Mayfield and I were knocking on doors talking to the people out there passing out food at Second Harvest. Second Harvest is out there giving out this food. If you as Councilmembers will go into the communities where Second Harvest is giving out this food for free- It isn't really Second Harvest. It is our businesses that are donating this food to make sure, but then you talk to the people that you are responsible for. You cannot say that you represent somebody if they do not know you. I will end with that and just say let's talk. That is all I am saying. My number is 704-492-5509; if you really want to solve this problem, give me a call.

**Tiawana Brown, 6130 Dunvegan Lane** said thank you guys for your job and everything that you do in the community. I know it has got to be tough on you. As a citizen of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County all of my life, I am 48-years old raising two African-American young women. We definitely have to come back to community policing. The other day, Cedric and I, we definitely volunteered in Southside Homes. I am from Southside on the corner of Remount and South Tryon, and I have watched the City change tremendously.

I run an organization for young women called Beauty after The Bars. The reason why I run that organization is because I was a college student at Johnson C. Smith University. I committed fraud. I come from poverty and committed fraud, snatched out of college. First time I was sentenced to 42 months. That was 25-years ago. I have been home for 17 and a half years, and I never look back, and I want to be able to give back. So, we have to be able to respect our returning citizens. We have to be able to open up jobs. We have to understand where they are coming from. A lot of people do not come to these forums anymore. They do not come out and support you anymore, because all they here is talk. Now, born in the projects and now I live in Berewick. That is District 3. Who is my Councilmember? Who is District 3? LaWana Mayfield does an amazing job. She really does.

At the end of the day, our children are afraid of the police. I wasn't afraid of the police. They do not know who they are, and there are a lot of great officers out here, and I applaud you guys for all the work that you do, but at the end of the day, let's face reality. The reality is that they are afraid, and the 16-year old that got killed on Beatties Ford Road, how many people have reached out to their family? That stuff is important in our community, so to be able to give back, to be able to come in my City and see my City turning and all the murders that we have this year in Charlotte, NC is unacceptable, and at the end of the day, I did not write anything down, because I am speaking from my heart, a person that loves the City, born and raised. I was on the other side of the law, so I know what it is like to be born in poverty, but I also had a loving family. What about the people who come home and do not have a loving family? I told you, I spent 42 months in prison as an honor student at Johnson C. Smith for fraud. If I were another color that wouldn't happen, 42 months, then when I came home, guess what? I couldn't find a job, so I violated a condition of my parole and went back, so you are looking at a product of recidivism, but I bounced back. I had a family that loves me and supports me and stood behind me, but that is not the average person that is convicted of a felony now a days. That is not the average person that is born in Southside Apartments, Beatties Ford Road, those corridors. Education is important. Let's practice equality for all. Cedric and I work together. I am not here to bash you, but if you want to hear from somebody that has made- came from a product of their environment and has made the change, you are looking at it. So, you guys run for these offices and you put your name out there and beg for the votes, but when you get into the position, uphold the position that you are asking us to vote for you.

**Mayor Lyles** said we know that in the next year, about two percent of the people coming out of federal facilities will be relocating to Charlotte. That means they have to have a job. They have to have a place to live, and we need to work towards that.

**Charlene Henderson, 1646 Termini Drive** said thank you for allowing me to stand before you today; I come personally because it is a personal issue for me. I do have a young son, who is 18-years old, and I am standing on gun violence. I am standing on young violence. I have a passion, but I am going to read from a piece of paper right now.

Good evening, I am honored to be here today. You are truly an inspiration; I want you to continue to be an inspiration in our community, as role models for front line community activists like myself, fighting to stop the killing. There are very good reasons why I am here today to discuss teen-based violence in Charlotte. Consider three points: first, teen-based violence, which I will refer to as TBV, is a city-wide pandemic. The chance that a person will become a victim of a violent crime in Charlotte, such as armed robbery, aggravated assault, rape, or murder is 1 in 296. This equates to three per 1,000. Secondly, although data is scanty, we know that CMPD ended June 2019 with 57 homicides compared to 26. That is 119.2% increase, 912 robberies, compared to 834, which is a 9.4% increase; 149 rapes were reported compared to 131, which is a 13.7% increase; 2,331 aggravated assaults compared to 1,920, that is a 21.4% increase. Third, TBV threatens public safety at its core. For those who will survive it, it has devastating impacts on those who have mental health issues and safety and their families and communities.

An accidental shooting of a woman and children during a drive by is more than an accident on an individual. It is an accident on families and communities. It is an accident on the rule of law and an assault of believe in your government to protect you. In short, it is an accident against dignity and humanity. Violence is a crime that can be stamped out through education, empowerment, equality, justice, and security. We have tools at our disposal. Our community has tools. Those who are closest to the problems are the ones who are closest to the solution.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for your comments; we heard a number of comments from our Police Chief and the District Attorney earlier this evening, so your comments were right on point.



### **Planned Parenthood**

**Philip Benham, 761 Harris Street, Concord** said it is good to be before you again, seeing your smiling faces and wondering. God is fixing to get us into a fix that you cannot fix so that he can fix you. Right now, you have a lot of problems. You have a lot of things that have been spoken from the heart that you cannot fix and resources you are not going to buy your way out of this. There is a major problem here. When God is removed from the equation, when he is removed and you feel like you have to bring peace back into the City and justice and security, you will find out that you cannot do that. Ms. Lyles, you have, on a number of occasions, said we have got to bring value back to life. We have to bring value in to life. How do we do that? Well, you do that by loving those that are perhaps the smallest little things as soon as the sperm meets the egg there is instantly life and a little baby is born. You and I and all of us came from that, and our neighborhood was the womb. That was our neighborhood. That was where we lived for nine months, and yet we have abortionists now not even knocking at the door of the womb and coming in there and breaking in and violating and killing the least of the smallest of these, and if you are not going to take care of the least of these, you will never take care of the violence that is in the street. You are not going to do it; it is impossible. You do not have it in you, and you do not even pray to the God in heaven who has an answer. He is saying, if my people who are called by my name, shall handle themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, and believe me folks on this Council, you are wicked, not because you are not a Christian. There are many Christians who are wicked who need to repent, but the fact is that you do not think that you need to repent. You have removed God from the equation; therefore, you have no answers. Ms. Lyles if we would go ahead and place value and replace value in life and stop the shedding of blood in the womb, it will cease in the streets, but if you are going to sow bloodshed in the womb, you are going to reap it in the streets. Blood is coursing down the corridors of our schools, workplaces, and streets, and you know it and you cannot do it, and do not expect Kerr Putney to do it. There is not a Police force enough to make a young man do what is right, but I know that there is a Jesus that once he gets into the heart of that young man, he will lay his own life down for others. A total transformation happens, but you will not give him an opportunity. You do not want to acknowledge him, then some of you that are claiming Christ and using the word Jesus, you are no more Christian that you are a poached egg, and this is the fascinating thing that happens to me. You have denied the evangelical voice. You do not want it. You will accept the apostate church that accepts everything, but you will not accept the truth. God is our answer, Jesus is and he loves you enough to tell you the truth.

### **Poor Sidewalk Conditions**

**Rita Miles, 1312 East Barden Road** said I live in Old Salem Community, which is on a very popular road, called Providence Road. You have probably heard of it. It goes from Weddington all the way uptown, and I use to drive into our community and really enjoy it; however, in March of 2018, a project manager by the name of Sam Barber, Dan Lever, and Mike Davis tore it up, and it affected 14 properties, and five were really, really messed up. They tore up trees, grass, shrubs, and as you see in the pictures, they left this in shambled, unrespectable and unprofessionally. We have called them; they have made promises. They avoid calls, do not return emails. They say they are going to do something and they do not. They left road signs down that they did not place back up. When I called last week, just last week they picked up the sign, and that was over a year. There is a concrete slab that was left with big iron stakes and a gentleman has fallen four weeks ago on it, and I believe there is a law suit now, but they left that right by the sidewalk, and it is in your pictures. Just last week they just put up a cone, or two days ago or something, but it is still left in shambles. I am pleading to you to help us get this resolved. I take pride in my City, and I love the beauty in what it has to offer, and I want to have that drive home to be beautified. It has affected cells in our neighborhood and these neighbors that live there, their lives have been affected, because they have been calling and emailing and these project managers are not taking it seriously.

Mayor Lyles said we will get this information, a response back to you as soon as we can research the information, and thank you for the photographs. Besides, my son lives on Farm Land, so I go by your house a lot.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said you can just keep me looped into that.

Mayor Lyles said we will get a report to you and the information as well.

### **Sidewalk on Providence Road**

**Paul Holmes, 5034 Providence Road** said I have resided at 5034 Providence Road since 1975. Tonight, I ask for your help in overcoming a complacent City department in charge of the Providence Road half-mile sidewalk project from Mammoth Oaks Drive to East Bardon Road. Work started in March 2018 and was scheduled for completion by August 2018; 11 months later and it is not yet finished, though City Engineering says it is. There are still a number of things to finish up. After 18 months, no one is attending to them though I have mentioned them to City Engineering, as have other land owners. The City doesn't care. I have communicated with City Engineering more than 45 times via email and phone since last July, responses range from being ignored to promises to correct the problem, which turn out to be lies. Now, after all these months of promises, the latest reply in July of 2019 is that the situation is covered by the so called taking payment for the right-of-way on my frontage property, and that the mess is mine to finish. That is nonsense and a new twist to get out of doing what is right after a year of broken promises. Take a look at the pictures of my yard and you will see a well-kept property. The other pictures show the mess left by the City and deemed acceptable to them. It is ridiculous. The other pictures show the first washout of the yard in 44 years since last July, due to negligence of the City during construction. Since when is the property owner left with such a mess? Would you install a sidewalk outside this building and accept this mess? Never. In front of your home? Never. I asked the Council to shake up the City bureaucrats to stop passing the buck and do the right thing. We are asking very simple situation is return the property to the condition that they found it in. Put quality soil and landscaping to smooth taper from the sidewalk, which it had before, and replace all the mulch in the front yard which was washed away by the flooding. We have been waiting for that now for a year. That is my request.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much; it is always great to have a list that is very specific Mr. Holmes. We will add that to the Manager's reply along with that from Ms. Miles.

### **Housing Trust Fund**

**James Lee, 3501 E. Independence Boulevard** said it never fails; every time I come down here, I always have some prepared thoughts, but I hear speakers before me, and my thoughts change. Tonight, you heard from the hood; you heard two ladies, then you heard Mr. Dale. I have been to the Urban Ministry before; I have been through that before. I am initially here to talk about the Housing Trust Fund, because housing is a big thing. That is a starting point for a lot of people to get their lives together. As you know, I am coming from homelessness. I am a veteran. I am in transitional housing now, but there is no guarantee that I am going to be able to afford to live in Charlotte once I get out of this housing. I do not want to live in Gastonia; I want to live in Charlotte. So, I hope and pray that you guys make the right decisions for the two young ladies that came and spoke before you and for the legacy of Mr. Dale and also for people like myself who go through bad stretches in life and are trying to fix that and with that trying to give back to their community to make sure that nobody is left behind in the City as we progress and move forward to the 2040 plan. There are a lot of things that we need to do in this City, but one of the things that I will always tell you guys is I know it is going to be this Mayor and this Council that is going to turn this City around and turn this from 50th to the 1st, because we have always been first in a lot of things, and wouldn't it be nice to be first in this particular instance where nobody is left behind, where upward mobility is allowed for everybody? Everybody has an opportunity, not only in Ballantyne but in Grier Heights and in Southside and the Beatties Ford Road corridor; everybody deserves an opportunity to progress along with where Charlotte is heading, because I am working on the 2040 plan,

and I am going to make sure that the hood is at the table. You guys already know me and you already know. I am going to make sure that the hood is at the table, because the people who I represent, the two sisters, and I have told you before. Two sisters, they work together. They live in a two-bedroom apartment in Grier Heights, and they have 13 children between the two of them. They deserve affordable housing. They deserve an affordable rental property. So, I am here speaking for them. I am here speaking for the drug heads I use to hand around. I am here speaking for my neighborhood, for Grier Heights. Do not leave us behind. Make sure in all your decisions about the Housing Trust money and stuff that is going on that the people who cannot be in here, that you guys remember them.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. You always remind us of what is important.

### **Mental Crisis Combat PTSD**

**Frank Byrd, 2634 Park Road** said my name is retired Sergeant Frank Byrd, 101st Airborne and Air Assault Top Secrete, medical discharge. I have combat PTSD. I have insomnia, severe depression, anxiety, tinnitus, severe alcoholism. I do not drink liquor. I was on six medications, down to two, 13 years no help from local, federal, or state. I have over \$300,000 in medical bills, property taxes that cannot pay in Dilworth and I owe HOA of \$1,016 that I cannot pay. Central Piedmont Community College dropped the ball on me, because I could not afford the tuition. The community dropped the ball on me. I own no weapons, and I have not worked in three years, since 2016, from Wells Fargo. At Wells Fargo I was doing online fraud. I was fired because of my PTSD. The ADA act does not apply or does not work, and that is all I have to say. Thank you for your time.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
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**Councilmember Mitchell** said with regards to Item No. 19: Construct State Street Pedestrian Improvement Project, I just want to say thank you to the CBI staff for making sure the integrity of the program is upheld. By the motion you are asking to do today to reject the low bid and go with action B, because they met on the SBE and the MBE participation.

**Councilmember Harlow** said I just wanted to speak really quickly on Item No. 20: Construct Five Points Plaza Improvement Project. I guess it can loop in Item 19, the State Street Pedestrian Improvement project as well, both of which are part of the West Trade/Rozzelles Ferry CNIP program. We, a few weeks ago, approved the Rozzelles Ferry Ped Scape, so again, I just wanted to thank all of staff who have worked with the community over the past few years through bond cycles so we continue to really start to see projects now come out of the ground in this area in this \$20 million investment that the City is making in a lot of infrastructure improvements, and thanks to the community for all the public input that has gone into the design and acceptance of these projects.

Mr. Mitchell said I totally agree; I just want to make one reference to thank the United Carolinas for passing the MWBE goal. It was seven percent. They actually got 17.46%. So, sometimes we need to recognize and thank those who really meet our goals, so thank to staff and this corporation.

**Councilmember Phipps** said regarding Item No. 29: Set Public Hearing on Cheyney Voluntary Annexation, this is currently in the ETJ, but I guess tonight we are setting the public hearing for August 26<sup>th</sup> and if we vote August 26<sup>th</sup> this will come in and I guess be effective immediately, so my question is, does this effectively redraw then the voting lines for District 4 for the upcoming election?

**Patrick Baker, City Attorney** said I will have an answer for you; I do not know how that works. Typically, you will end up resetting this. I am not sure how often you do it here, as you bring on properties that go into a particular district, but I need to look at that for you to give you a firmer answer.

**Mayor Lyles** said I think in the past we have done redistricting with the census or when the annexation made a differential of 10% or more, and I am not so sure that we have done that in a while, not since I have served, which is like six years, so I am not sure if that is because differentials do not exist or not. So, it would be great for all of us to understand where we stand on all that. Is it below that threshold, or is that the right threshold? Thank you for bringing that up Mr. Phipps.

A vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

The following items were approved.

**Item No. 18: Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center First Floor – CLT Development Center Renovation**

(A) Reject the low bid submitted by Miles-McClellan Construction for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center First Floor - CLT Development Center Renovation project, and (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,177,085.58 to the lowest responsive bidder D. E. Brown Construction, Inc. for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center First Floor – CLT Development Center Renovation.

**Summary of Bids**

D. E. Brown Construction, Inc.	\$1,177,085.58
Catalyst Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,634,930.00

**Item No. 19: Construct State Street Pedestrian Improvement Project**

(A) Reject the low-bid by Red Clay Industries, Inc. for State Street Pedestrian Improvement Project, and (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$866,926.25 to the lowest responsive bidder United of Carolinas, Inc. for the State Street Pedestrian Improvement Project.

**Summary of Bids**

Red Clay Industries, Inc.*	\$783,689.38
United of Carolinas Inc.	\$866,926.25
OnSite Development, LLC	\$880,244.38
Nassiri Development	\$943,006.25

\* Red Clay Industries, Inc.'s bid in the amount of \$783,689.38 was found to be non-responsive as a result of failing to meet the City's Charlotte Business INCLUSION (CBI) Program goal.

**Item No. 20: Construct Five Points Plaza Improvement Project**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$3,872,616.95 to the lowest responsive bidder United of Carolinas, Inc. for the Five Points Plaza Improvement Project.

United of Carolinas Inc.	\$3,872,616.95
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$4,215,398.89
Blythe Development Company	\$5,791,886.39

**Item No. 21: Construct Cross Charlotte Trail – Brandywine Road and Tyvola Road**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$17,192,995.60 to the lowest responsive bidder Blythe Development Co. for the Cross Charlotte Trail Brandywine Road to Tyvola Road project.

**Summary of Bids**

Blythe Development Co.	\$17,192,995.60
Crowder Construction Company	\$17,685,483.20



**Item No. 22: Locks, Cylinders, and Key System Parts**

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Accredited Lock Supply for the purchase of locks, cylinders, and key system parts for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Summary of Bids**

Accredited Lock Supply	\$214,939.23
Electronic Access Specialists	\$225,632.95
Independent Hardware Inc	\$228,759.31
IDN Armstrong's Inc.	\$232,992.00

**Item No. 23: Underground Locating Services**

(A) Approve a unit price contract with USIC Locating Services LLC for underground locating services for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 24: Water and Wastewater Programmable Logic Controllers**

(A) Approve the purchase of programmable logic controllers and related electrical components, by the sole source exemption, and (B) Approve a contract with AutomationDirect.com Inc. for the purchase of programmable logic controllers and related electrical components for the term of five years.

**Item No. 25: Mount Holly Pump Station and Force Main Design-Build Services**

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$8,848,918 with The Haskell Company for Phase 1 Design-Build Services for the Mount Holly Pump Station and Force Main project, (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to acquire all easements and real property interests, including by condemnation, when necessary, for construction of the project.

**Item No. 26: Blue Line Extension Construction Management Services Contract Amendment**

(A) Approve contract amendment #10 for \$4,200,000 to HNTB North Carolina PC for construction management services for the LYNX Blue Line Extension project, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to further amend the contract consistent with the Blue Line Extension project budget and scope for which the contract was awarded.

**Item No. 27: CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Shelter Contract**

(A) Approve the purchase of shelters and shelter parts, by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Tolar Manufacturing Company for the purchase of shelters and shelter parts for the term of two years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 28: Airport Corporate Aircraft Hanger Site Development**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$6,032,643.10 to the lowest responsive bidder Blythe Construction for the corporate aircraft hangar site development project.

**Summary of Bids**

Blythe Construction *	\$5,484,221.00
Blythe Development Co.	\$5,874,108.00

\* A contingency fee of \$548,422.10 was included in the final contract.

**Item No. 29: Set Public Hearing on Cheyney Voluntary Annexation Action**

Adopt The resolution setting the public hearing for August 26, 2019 for the Cheyney voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 716-718.

**Item No. 30: Set Public Hearing on Sutton Farm Phase 2 Voluntary Annexation**

Adopt The resolution setting the public hearing for August 26, 2019 for the Sutton Farm Phase 2 voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 719-720.

**Item No. 31: Set Public Hearing on the Enclave at Peachtree Voluntary Annexation**

Adopt The resolution setting the public hearing for August 26, 2019 for The Enclave at Peachtree voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 721-722.

**Item No. 32: Workers' Compensation Medical Services**

(A) Approve a unit discount contract with Concentra Medical Centers for workers' compensation medical services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 33: Property and Casualty Claims Third Party Administration Services**

(A) Approve a contract with Preferred Adjusters of the Carolinas, Inc. for property and casualty claims third party administration services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 34: Refund of Property Taxes**

Adopt The resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$44.60.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 703-704.

**Item No. 35: Meeting Minutes**

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of: May 20, 2019 Zoning Meeting, May 22, 2019 Budget Briefing, and May 23, 2019 Budget Adjustments.

**PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

**Item No. 36: Property Transactions – Back Creek Church Road to Serve 3124, Parcels #1 and 2**

Resolution of Condemnation of 11,354 sq. ft. (.261 ac.) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 9,202 sq. ft. (.211 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement at 3000 Back Creek Church Road from William T. Crowder, Jr. Revocable Trust and Pamela M. Crowder Revocable Trust for \$4,900 for Back Creek Church Road to serve 3124, Parcels #1 and 2.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 725.

**Item No. 37: Property Transactions – Back Creek Church Road to Serve 3124, Parcel #3**

Resolution of Condemnation of 2,998 sq. ft. (.069 ac.) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 1,986 sq. ft. (.046 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement at 3102 Back Creek Church Road from William T. Crowder, Jr. Revocable Trust and Pamela M. Crowder Revocable Trust for \$875 for Back Creek Church Road to serve 3124, Parcel #3.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 726A.

**Item No. 38: Property Transactions – Briar Creek Road Connector, Parcel #1**

Resolution of Condemnation of 339 sq. ft. (.008 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement at Washburn Avenue from Star City Development Company, Inc. for \$725 for Briar Creek Road Connector, Parcel #1.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 726.

**Item No. 39: Property Transactions – Bryant Farms Road Sidewalk, Parcel #9**

Acquisition of 1,582 sq. ft. (.036 ac.) in Fee Simple, plus 4,166 sq. ft. (.096 ac.) in Fee Simple within Existing Right-of-Way and 145 sq. ft. (.003 ac.) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 193 sq. ft. (.004 ac.) in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 1,054 sq. ft. (.024 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement at 8722 Bryant Farms Road from Dana Hoegh-Guldberg and Niels Hoegh-Guldberg for \$35,000 for Bryant Farms Road Sidewalk, Parcel #9.

**Item No. 40: Property Transactions – Hinsdale-Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #252**

Resolution of Condemnation of 588.31 sq. ft. (.014 ac.) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 749.99 sq. ft. (.017 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 3,031.03 sq. ft. (.07 ac.) in Utility Easement at 3300 Tinkerbell Lane from Laura Duke and Peter Tannenberger for \$34,725 for Hinsdale - Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #252.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 727.

**Item No. 41: Property Transactions – Hinsdale-Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #253**

Resolution of Condemnation of 45.68 sq. ft. (.001 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 2,556.25 sq. ft. (.059 ac.) in Utility Easement at 3310 Tinkerbell Lane from Michael F. Anderson and Jacquelyn M. Anderson for \$18,150 for Hinsdale - Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #253.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 728.

**Item No. 42: Property Transactions – Hinsdale-Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #267**

Acquisition of 468.32 sq. ft. (.011 ac.) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 273.87 sq. ft. (.006 ac.) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 3,617.21 sq. ft. (.083 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 1,131.44 sq. ft. (.026 ac.) in Utility Easement, plus 288.65 sq. ft. (.007 ac.) in Existing Drainage Right of Way as Storm Drainage Easement at 2824 Hinsdale Street from Adam M. Growley and Robin P. Growley for \$24,500 for Hinsdale - Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #267.

**Item No. 43: Property Transactions – Sugar Creek Road Streetscape, Parcel #19**

Acquisition of 5,211 sq. ft. (.12 ac.) in Fee Simple and 9,362 sq. ft. (.215 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 3,786 sq. ft. (.087 ac.) in Utility Easement at 301 East Sugar Creek Road from Viet-My Corporation for \$110,100 for Sugar Creek Road Streetscape, Parcel #19.

**Item No.44: Property Transactions – Sugar Creek Road Streetscape, Parcel #23**

Acquisition of 2,942 sq. ft. (.068 ac.) in Fee Simple and 1,726 sq. ft. (.04 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 2,112 sq. ft. (.048 ac.) in Utility Easement at 215 & 227 East Sugar Creek Road from Maria C. Harrington and Christian Josue Costly Molina for \$90,000 for Sugar Creek Road Streetscape, Parcel #23.

**Item No. 45: Property Transactions – Sugar Creek Road Streetscape, Parcel #26**

Acquisition of 14,028 sq. ft. (.322 ac.) in Fee Simple and 543 sq. ft. (.012 ac.) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 12,109 sq. ft. (.278 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 7,114 sq. ft. (.163 ac.) in Utility Easement, plus 301 sq. ft. (.007 ac.) in Storm Drainage Easement and Utility Easement at 127 East Sugar Creek Road from Adriaajepe Enterprises, Inc. for \$249,075 for Sugar Creek Road Streetscape, Parcel #26.

**Item No. 46: Property Transactions – Water Oak Storm Drainage Improvements, Parcel #8**

Acquisition of 2,441 sq. ft. (.056 ac.) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 191 sq. ft. (.004 ac.) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 1,400 sq. ft. (.032 ac.) in Utility Easement

at 4523 Water Oak Drive from Joseph Linn Jr. and Joycelyn Linn for \$18,887 at 4523 Water Oak Drive for Water Oak Storm Drainage Improvements, Parcel #8.

\* \* \* \* \*

## POLICY

### ITEM NO. 14: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said as we were running out of time in Room 267, what I would like to do is turn over my time for my report to Tony Korolos to talk a bit about Item Number 15 on tonight's agenda.

\* \* \* \* \*

## BUSINESS

### ITEM NO. 15: CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG GOVERNMENT CENTER RESTAURANT LEASE AMENDMENT

**Tony Korolos, General Services** said tonight on your Business agenda, there is an item for amending the current lease for Showmars, which is a restaurant in the Government Center. I would like to go through the background of the relationship between Showmars and the City government as well as an overview of the current lease amendment and paths forward.

As far as the background of the transaction, prior to 1999, the City building had multiple food providers inside the Government Center. The City occupants had multiple issues with the service provided; there were long lines and the quality of food was subpar. The City had to look at different options; so, in 1999, a RFP was put in place and the City staff, County staff, as well as private sector advisors committee was put together for the RFP and Showmars was chosen as the service provider in 1999. So basically, Showmars has been in a relationship with the city for last 20-years. That industry, as many of you know, the restaurant industry, the average business typically stays about three to five years and 70% of businesses fail within five years. So being in business for 20-years in this building, obviously, that is something that is very important for the operation of the Government Center.

One of the issues that Showmars faced right away obviously is the level of the number of services per week. The average restaurant provided about 21 services per week which is breakfast, lunch and dinner. Because the working hour in this building, it is typical ten meals per week which is essentially has the volume of a typical restaurant business. In 2012, as a result of the Democratic National Convention, the City installed the security checkpoint and as a result of the security checkpoint, the volume and the sales have dropped by about 30% from prior to 2012. So basically, the restaurant was doing a little bit over one million dollars on a yearly basis. Sales, that number dropped by about 30%-35% as a result of the security checkpoint.

Staff worked with Showmars to essentially renovate the restaurant in an effort to increase the sales volume. So, in 2016, we went into a new lease and within that lease, we did an upfit within the restaurant and we added different menu items in an effort to increase the sales. Unfortunately, sales kind of stayed pretty flat. So, in 2019, this year, we've conducted an employee survey. We have about 1,200 employees in this building. The three issues that we're discussed in the survey were quality, price, and service; 90% of the respondents gave very high marks to Showmars as a service provider and regarding service, 75% responded very highly regarding quality and 60% regarding price.

So, what we're putting in front of you on the agenda is essentially amending the current lease to go from \$36,000 a year to \$6,000 a year, a real reduction. By doing that, that will give Showmars an opportunity to stay, not necessarily profitable I'd say, but will go beyond the break-even point for them to stay operationally within the business. Two



things that staff typically looks at when we look at this part of services within the building, number one, we consider this as an amenity to the occupants of the building. So even though rent is part of that equation but is not necessarily the main driver, the main driver, as I mentioned earlier, is the quality, the service and the price; and they have scored very highly in those three categories. The second thing is if we go into a different direction or we try to get a different vendor, that will take, going through another process, that will take 12 to 18 months to procure another tenant and with that will come the potential demand from that new tenant regarding up fitting the restaurant, capital dollars to make it conducive for their operation; so, it will be cost outlay and risk to the city as far as continuity of the level of service that exists today. With that, I'll be open for discussion.

**Councilmember Egleston** said just to make sure we're all clear what we're voting on, was it determined that what we're voting on is to change the rental rate for the remainder of this five-year lease that they're in currently?

Mr. Korolos said the amendment is for the current lease, which is the next two-years, and the option to renew. So, in other words, if they decide to exercise the option to renew, that will go as well.

Mr. Egleston said I think he might have been clarifying what I was asking.

Mayor Lyles said what was your answer to the question about what we are actually –

Mr. Egleston said so the two-years remaining in this current lease plus the five-year tenant option which I understood -

Mr. Korolos said if they exercise the option to renew. In other words, if Showmars doesn't exercise the option to renew then it there will be nothing.

Mayor Lyles said I'm not sure that we understood that. Would you please restate the answer?

Councilmember Egleston said they have the option, it's not our option. It's Showmars' option, if they want to extend the lease for another five-years at \$500, that's what he is saying we would be authorizing. I was of the understanding that we're potentially looking at just doing the \$500 lease rate for the remaining two years of this existing -

Mayor Lyles said I want to make sure that Mr. Egleston said that that was his reading of if but what I heard our staff say is that is not the reading. That it is the option of. I've not seen the contract. I'm trying to figure out what it is.

Mr. Korolos said so the amendment is for the current lease and the current lease has an option to renew as well. If Showmars' ownership decided not to exercise that option, then beyond the five-years and will not be an issue or not part of the equation, but if they decided to exercise the option, the \$500, it will continue with the 3% escalation on a yearly basis per the existing lease.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said two questions; the general service operating fund, what is that? What comes out of that currently? What do we pay out of the general services operating budget?

Mr. Korolos said so that's the general fund basically. Any revenue that will come from leases, that's not encumbered by federal funding, or you know, generated activity, that will go into the fund.

Ms. Mayfield said I wanted to have clarification since currently what their rent is, is \$3,000 and what the request is, is a reduction to \$500 that goes into the general operating fund that we utilize quite often for multiple, almost immediate needs in the community. The other question of which we discussed earlier that I have is there is a potential challenge because of security measures. But do you know if there has been any discussion regarding them adapting to today's market instead of being open only for breakfast and

lunch considering being open on evenings where there are multiple meetings that are happening right inside this building; just as the last 20 minutes, individuals that were here early thinking that the meeting time was a different time, are we looking at -- have they looked at other options other than asking for a considerable reduction of funds that is now contributing to our general operating fund?

Mr. Korolos said based on the current staffing level where they have, I would say, an above average number of employees to accommodate our service hours and the response for our short lunch period of time, they will not be able to sustain the level of services after hours so that will be a major cut as far as the number of people working in the building and provide accommodating services because it will be not consistent I would say.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager what I would ask for us to look at what are the possibilities of other options outside of a considerable reduction; it's already reduced in comparison to other facilities within the uptown area and how much rental space is, for funds that go into our general operating budget.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I wanted to publicly clarify that George Couchell is an old friend of mine, so just full disclosure. But I don't believe that affects my judgment about this and I also wanted to clarify that in conversations today I got the feeling that the reduction of the lease through the end of the current lease term was something that might work for us here and that's something that should be considered as an alternative to the original proposal that would commit us over the renewal term as well. I hope today we can talk about reducing the rent just until the end of the current lease term, which I understand from the owner would be acceptable to them.

Ms. Mayfield said everyone wasn't a part of that conversation so this is the first time that some of us have heard that.

**Councilmember Winston** said I don't think we should be in the business of picking and choosing business models to support. I like Showmars as an entity; but, it's had a good run of 20 years and I think the market has just changed. I think a re-envisioning of our ground floor, our first floor, is in line with what is happening right now as we're completing the one-stop shop. The plaza area could find a way to be incorporated into the dining area perhaps; taking advantage of the food trucks, the trend of the market nowadays. I understand the current lease only allows for five days of food trucks. I can't see us supporting this reduction.

Mayor Lyles said I want to make sure you all understand; does the lease actually say that food trucks can only be used for five days? I want to make sure that we understand that.

Mr. Korolos said yeah, they would be limited from a competition standpoint; they will have limited - five times per year to have food trucks coming in the plaza.

Ms. Mayfield said because that's competition.

Mayor Lyles said I understand that but I want to make sure that we have that stated for the record.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said I thought this was a no-brainer until today. It seemed like this has turned into a very interesting conversation. So, Tony, let me ask, because I want to be fair to both sides, and so Showmars has invested \$55,000. Do you have a copy of their last revenue for last year?

Mr. Korolos said we have the financials, yes.

Mr. Mitchell said are you are at liberty to share with this dais?

Mr. Korolos said we don't have it right now. But obviously, that is a private entity, so we have to check with the City Attorney whether that is something that can be done.

Mr. Mitchell said Mr. City Attorney, since they are in our building, can the financials be shared with us?

**Patrick Baker, City Attorney** said I haven't seen their financials so if they have given them to us, I'm not sure they've gave it to us pursuant to some sort of confidentiality agreement or something along those lines; typically, that would be proprietary information that would be owned by the entity and could potentially be a shield to a public records request but I have not seen the document yet.

Mr. Mitchell said check that box, okay, thank you. So, I'm in support of reducing. I'm a big fan of Showmars as they can attest to. I want to be fair. Corporation makes investment into equipment, I feel some pain if we somehow would terminate the contract and they still are trying to recoup their cost. On the back end though, I'm thinking about this building and the City Council; and I think if we go seven-years because I'm hearing you say two-years into this term and a renewal of another five years. I give a little credit to my colleague, Councilmember Winston; the model has changed and so I'm very comfortable reducing their rent for the next two-years and let us have this conversation as we move forward. Now you mentioned that we cannot allow food trucks out there more than five times a year. Is that our policy or is that Showmars?

Mr. Korolos said that's part of the negotiation that basically we entered into it and that is common in commercial buildings. You don't want to have competing interests in the same building because they provide same type of food.

Mr. Mitchell said but Tony, here's the catch twenty-two, apparently, they stop at 3:00 p.m. To the mayor's point -- you got time, you've still got 4,000 some people in the building that would love to eat even at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. I'm sensitive to you on one side, but you can't create a monopoly that there can be no other options for us after 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Korolos said let me clarify. The food trucks will not be allowed as long as Showmars is operating. If a food truck comes after 3:00 p.m. we would be open to it.

Mr. Mitchell said thank you for the clarification. You didn't say that at first. I was under the impression you were saying -- okay, so they can come. But only five times a year?

Mayor Lyles said during the hours that Showmars is open they can only have five days of use but that would make no sense for the food truck because lunch is when you make your money.

Mr. Mitchell said we need to make sure that we are clear, let me repeat what you just said that after 3:00 p.m. food trucks are available to be out there in the plaza.

Mr. Korolos said that's correct.

Mr. Mitchell said Showmars is closed so there's no competition.

Mr. Korolos said that's correct.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I do think it's a little confusing because we're given a small amount of information on the contract, itself. I vaguely remember there was this food truck rule. I certainly don't want to go to the five-year extension. I'm not going to lose sleep over it staying open another year or two. The rent itself is a rounding error in the big scheme of things. I think leave it open and talk about other ways that we can provide other options. Nothing against Showmars but there's other models. I will say, though, that in the four years I've been here, restaurants have closed in this area. You got to take a scooter up to North Tryon to get any food around here because that Clucker's across the street closed and it doesn't seem that restaurants can make it down here. So, you've got to be a little bit careful. Jurors use Showmars, people at the County, at the court system uses it so I'm probably fine with the two-year reduction but let's have a little more time to talk about what the options are after that.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I'm with my colleagues, Mr. Mitchell and Mayor Pro-Tem. Showmars does serve the majority of our employees and they have good service; the challenge is after hours. At the same time, I do understand the investment that they have made, and they have a trend, I mean they have a history of 20 years with the City of Charlotte which is remarkable. But is there any way we can after two-years, we can look at the performance and see if it makes sense for us to continue with five-years or explore other options? Can we do that in this contract? I know that would require a majority of six votes, but is that a possibility?

Mr. Korolos said that is a possibility. We will now have to amend the existing lease not only on the rent but also on the option to renew because as I mentioned, the current lease dictates that there is an option to renew.

Ms. Ajmera said would Showmars' owners be interested in that option? That's what I'm trying to understand.

Mr. Korolos said not for the \$3,000 but it would be down to the \$500. At that point in time, they will, based on the conversation that we're having, they will probably not renew again. But we will cross that bridge at that point in time.

Mayor Lyles said before Mr. Driggs has his motion I would like to ask a question. We've talked about the \$55,000 to replace kitchen equipment with the appliances and remains responsible for the repairs, it says under the current lease. When did they actually update the kitchen?

Mr. Korolos said three-years ago in 2016 when we renewed the current lease, they replaced the kitchen equipment and they actually own the kitchen equipment now.

Mayor Lyles said so they've had three-years of depreciation on the new equipment?

Mr. Korolos said yes.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to approve a lease amendment with Showmars, Inc, in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center for the remainder of the current two-year lease with no option for a five-year renewal.

Mayor Lyles said we have a motion and a second that the lease be done for two years and removing the option for renewal.

Mr. Korolos said two-years, until June 2021.

Ms. Ajmera said while removing the option, right? Is that your motion?

Mayor Lyles said yes, I said - he said removing the option, yes.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said I think this is the right thing to do, in this approach right here that we've come to. The only thing I would say one, let's make sure that our partners in Showmars know how much they're appreciated and this conversation is a macro view of what's going on. You can see through the numbers from the employees that they love the service, the food, everything of that nature, and I personally really appreciate the folks that work there. I think they're wonderful folks. Let's not walk away here with anyone thinking anything less than that, hopefully. And, also, so there's two-years. Let's not jump into this decision like we're talking about it now, very ad hoc in two-years, like this is the future of food and there can be food trucks. Food trucks can be out there after 3:00 p.m. And while that's not lunchtime, it gets close to dinner time and none of them are there now. So, let's really do our homework and if we're going to come back two-years from now and say the model has changed; let's be damn sure we understand what the new model is if this isn't it. Because my perspective is right now we've got a tenant in there



who serves up amazing food and service in an area where it's basically a food desert and you've got to go really far anywhere else to find anyone else who'll set up any kind of shop to want to do business in this area. So, I just ask that we consider that.

Ms. Mayfield said for Mr. Manager and for Mr. Korolos, I share the sentiments that I do not want us to waste the opportunity in these two-years to actually identify opportunities. I am not a fan of surveys as a general rule because Coca-Cola can do a survey and say Coke original is the best, is number one out of five cokes. That's not the information that you're getting, you're just saying one out of five. Five out of five people love Coke original; that's not telling you your comparison was Coke vanilla, Coke orange, and all Coke products. So, to do a survey for one business that has been here for 20 years that has not had competition is, I feel, very short-sighted on our part for the simple fact that we love to sit around this space and say, pro-market, pro-market, business sets the tone. Well, this is a business decision. It has nothing to do with the personal relationships with any of the staff. It has nothing to do with a personal relationship with the owner. It's a business decision. So, your business model should be adjusted.

I will not be supporting a reduction from \$3,500 down to \$500. Even if there was a consideration of \$1,500, that I would probably give more consideration to than going down to \$500 because what precedent does that set? As was shared earlier today by my colleague, we are pushing for ground floor retail throughout uptown in the immediate area. We have repeatedly shared what our expectation is for other companies to do business in the city. I am concerned about what precedent for any other space that government may own because what I'm not concerned about is what the private market does. I don't care if Bank of America offers street space for a restaurant. I don't care if Federal Reserve does it. They didn't have funds going into their general line item in order to help with the needs in the community. So, because a business says they're not seeing the amount of revenue that they would like to see, so, in essence, give me a break. That is a very difficult request for me when we have residents in this community who are constantly seeing increases in retail space, not just residential space, in retail space; where they cannot afford to continue to do business in that space and that bank or that other entity is not reducing their rent. So, it looks like there's support around this table. It only takes six out of the eleven. If we're going to utilize these two-years, then I hope that we utilize it wisely and actually reach out and ask the question, are there any other food options would you like to see? Whether it's food trucks or not, plenty of businesses are set up for breakfast and lunch. Others may have a different model, but if we're going to consider this rent, \$500, then that means whoever comes in the future should have that same opportunity to be able to come in and say they can lock you in a \$500 rent as opposed to a \$3,500 or \$4,500 or whatever the market says the rent should be at that time. So, if we're going to have a conversation about reducing the rent for this company, who has had the ability for more than two decades, to have a complete corner market of 1,200 plus individuals access, then we need to say, okay, if this is going to be the rent, this is going to be the rent for this space moving forward.

Mr. Winston said I'd like to make a secondary motion to deny all amendments to the current lease agreement.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Winston and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to deny all amendments to the current lease agreement.
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Mayor Lyles said so, maintain the current lease.

Mr. Winston said yes, ma'am.

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

Yeas: Councilmembers Mayfield and Winston.

Nays: Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mitchell, Newton, and Phipps.

Mayor Lyles said motion fails; that brings us back to the original motion to maintain the recommendation from the City on the agenda for the reduction in rent from \$3,000 to \$500 for a two-year period deleting the option for continuance; and, I guess that assumes the owner will make that agreement. You'll come back to us if not.

A vote was taken on the main motion and recorded as follows:

Yeas: Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mitchell, Newton, and Phipps.

Nays: Councilmembers Mayfield and Winston.

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#### **ITEM NO. 16: SUPPLEMENTAL MUNICIPAL AGREEMENTS TO MAINTAIN TRAFFIC SIGNALS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Newton and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt the resolution authorizing the city manager to execute two supplemental municipal agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for: Traffic signal re-timing on state-maintained streets, Annual traffic signal maintenance on state-maintained streets, and (B) Adopt a Budget Ordinance No. 9593-X appropriating \$300,000 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for light-emitting diode (LED) traffic signal display replacements on state-maintained streets.

The resolution was recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, at Page(s) 705-715.

The ordinance was recorded in full in Resolution Book 62, at Page(s) 286.

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#### **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

##### **ITEM NO. 17: APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a three-year term for an At-Large member beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2022.

The vote for this appointment was held at the June 24, 2019 Business meeting; however, no candidate received at least six votes; a run-off is required.

The votes were recorded as follows:

- Elizabeth Frere, 3 by Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, and Newton
- Ciara May, 3 by Councilmembers Harlow, Mayfield, and Phipps
- Chris Muryn, 5, by Councilmembers Bokhari, Egleston, Eiselt, Mitchell, and Winston

Results of the run-off were recorded as follows:

- Elizabeth Frere, 2 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, and Driggs,
- Clara May, 3 votes – Councilmembers Harlow, Mayfield and Winston
- Chris Muryn, 6 votes- Councilmembers Bokhari, Egleston, Eiselt, Mitchell, Newton, Phipps

Chris Muryn was appointed.

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### MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS

**Councilmember Harlow** said we approved some contracts tonight around the West Trade/Rozzelles Ferry C-NIP. There is another community engagement meeting this Saturday for another project, the Five Points and I-77 Underpass Enhancement project, so from Saturday at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Duke Library at Johnson C. Smith, 100 Beatties Ford Road, come out and give your input to some of the public art installation, the lighting design. Check out the design that staff has prepared and the consultants have prepared for the I-77 underpass at Trade Street coming on to the west side.

**Councilmember Driggs** I think that everybody knows that last week there was an explosion on James Jack Lane in my District. This was one of the most extraordinary things that I have ever seen. It is worth noting that CFD was there in six minutes and at a time when nobody knew what had happened, what other explosions might occur, the firefighters rushed in, and they were followed immediately by CMPD and other firefighters. It was finally a four-alarm event. There were 85 firefighters, a huge amount of equipment, trucks I have never seen before, and it was quite extraordinary to watch them in action. We acknowledge our firefighters in our invocations, and we appreciate our first responders. This is what it is all about, and the way that these guys came together and worked as a team was really an inspiration to see, and that is exactly why we try to remember them regularly during our evening meetings. I also wanted to extend, I hope, on all of our behalf, condolences to the family of Rania Karam who perished, who was trapped for seven hours before she was found and did not survive that and her husband, Dr. Jebran Karam, who did survive, made a phone call from his wrist phone from within the wreckage and was recovered after three hours. A couple of others were injured, and there was quite a lot of property damage, so we just extend our condolences to everybody in that neighborhood and to the family members of those who were injured or died.

**Councilmember Winston** said on July 20, 2019 at Queens University, we will be hosting our first Queen City Hoops for Youth. It will be a great opportunity to mix youth sports, as well as our partners and some opportunity fairs for the community, so everyone come on out on July 20, 2019 at Queens University.

I would also like to send some condolences to the family of Aliyah Terry. She was killed by her boyfriend last week, and I ran into her mother, who came down from New York to talk to police outside of CMPD headquarters last Wednesday. As we continue to deal with violence, it always hits close to home, because with too many people it happens within the home. She just had a book that was released on Amazon.com that talked about domestic violence, so it was a very tough time for her family and hopefully we can all find ways to treat each other better and find the help that we need day to day.

**Mayor Lyles** said again, I want to say thank you to the staff and all of the people that were our partners making it possible for us to go through the process for the affordable housing funding process for the first time, and as a result, after we resolve this, I want to recommend that we assign to the committee a look back at the process and make any process improvements that they would recommend based upon our decision making at the end of this. I believe it is something that we say we will evaluate, and we should do that after we look at your questions and response so that we could do it better the next time.

The second thing that I wanted to bring up again is Level Plus Up, basically offering free, all-day access to the local YMCAs for students between the ages of 13 and 18, especially those in the surrounding community. The idea is that we want young people and young teenagers to be able to come out and be a part of an activity that is very positive, working, basketball, whatever kind of ball you play, swimming, all those things and more importantly the opportunity to be in a healthy environment along with having a hot meal every day. So, I think that is an important effort that we can see the interest in our community to serve young people.

I want to acknowledge, we lost the Panther's favorite fan, Cat Man over the weekend. He was a Winston Salem State grad and a man I really think loved that team and came every

time and lived that love and often they said brought a young person he had worked with in his city, because they were talking about the positive relationships that he had with young people, so Cat Man, we are going to miss you.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said I want to make sure that everyone knows that tomorrow evening from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. is an opportunity for our minority, women, small business enterprise (MWSBE). We announced earlier the Stowe Regional Water Resource Recovery Facility through Charlotte Water, so they are doing a design bill project with you in mind, so our outreach and information session is tomorrow afternoon 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Check in starts at 3:30 p.m. at 4411 North Point Industrial Boulevard here in Charlotte. You can RSVP to my office or you can contact Charlotte Water directly at [clt.eventbrite.com](http://clt.eventbrite.com) to find out your opportunity to be a preferred business and learn the application process for the Stowe Regional Water Resource Waste Facility, and I also want to acknowledge, as the Mayor mentioned, for the YMCA, they need volunteers, all of the YMCAs. There are multiple locations. There is an opportunity on Fridays and Saturdays. Currently, every Friday evening they have the shut in through the program. You have an opportunity. Yes, you would need to do a background check, because what makes the event so great for Level Up is it is a time specifically for the youth. So, the only adults that are in that space are the adults who are volunteering, so parents, feel comfortable sending your children there, because all of the adults in that space, there is a background check. It is an extensive background check. You do not have a lot of adults running in and out of the facility. It is really a chance for your child to be a child in a world where we are growing up so quickly. They get a chance to just be young people again and have fun. So, for those of you who are over 21 that would like to volunteer, reach out to your local YMCA; complete the application. Volunteer for a couple of hours, three hours out of your day, and hour and a half, and you can make a difference in a young person's life.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I just wanted to thank the staff of the City for helping me host a very successful and productive townhall meeting a week ago this past Thursday, Vision Zero, More than 2020. We had it at the Camino Center, and a host of City departments all related to transportation projects and importance of criticality of a vision zero, trying to reduce traffic fatalities and pedestrian fatalities in the City, but unfortunately as you may have heard, last night we did have a pedestrian death. The light rail struck someone at the intersection of University Pointe Boulevard and Tryon Street last night at about 11:30. It is critical that we do watch the signals and gates and just adhere to different warnings that we get to try to preclude some of these untimely tragic events, but I do thank the staff and probably I hosted my final townhall of my City Council career, and I really do thank them for it. I appreciate it; each of you should be getting a letter here soon personally from me thanking you for all of your efforts in helping me to host that townhall.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said exciting day, we approved the Cross Charlotte Trail portion Brandywine to Tyvola Connector. This is going to be something that is very, very exciting for my District, and as per the Manager's new approach to capital projects, shovel ready is the theme. I have been assured that the shovels will be in the ground as soon as early Q4, then we will have up until towards the end of 2021 a complete connector there connecting what will be an amazing continuous set of miles of trail that is Cross Charlotte, so that is exciting.

Secondly, many of you attended Charlotte's parade on the Fourth of July in Myers Park, and we thank you so much for that. A lot of people said that the Myers Park parade would always be the only parade in town. We have allowed some others to occur, but this is the primary one, so I just want to thank everybody, particularly John Beard for making Charlotte's parade the most fantastic of the City. It really was something that no one will ever forget.

**Councilmember Newton** said my colleague kind of cut to the chase there before I had an opportunity to do so. We had a fantastic 51st Annual Hickory Grove Parade and Celebration in both District 5 and District 1 this year. I want to thank all of the organizations and people who made that possible, including the parade committee, Charlotte East, the Charlotte History Museum, Aldersgate, and CLT250. Thank my colleagues who were in



attendance during the parade and celebration, thank all of the other folks who showed up as well. Thank Chief Johnson, our Fire Chief, as well as Major Campagna and thank our honorary Major, Jasmin Bloomfield, and Larry Sprinkle, who was the Grand Marshal this year. I cannot wait until next year.

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### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to adjourn the Business Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



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Emily A. Kunze, Deputy City Clerk, NCCMC

Minutes Completed: August 12, 2019  
Minutes Length: 4 Hours, 9 Minutes