

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020, at 4:09 p.m. in Room CH-14 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, and Braxton Winston II.

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Councilmember Victoria Watlington

**Mayor Lyles** said welcome, everyone, to the Council Meeting for the City of Charlotte. This meeting is being held as a virtual meeting in accordance with the electronic meeting statute. That means that we have provided appropriate notice, access, and minutes through electronic means. The public and the media are invited to view this meeting on the Government Channel, the City's Facebook page, or the City's YouTube page.

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### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Mayor Lyles gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Johnson.

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### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

There were no Awards or Recognition.

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### **ITEM NO. 1: VOTE 411.ORG DAY PROCLAMATION**

**Mayor Lyles** read the following Proclamation:

**WHEREAS**, the League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 as a "mighty political experiment" by the leaders of the suffragist movement at the National American Woman Suffrage Association; and

**WHEREAS**, their goal was to help the 20 million American women newly enfranchised by the 19th Amendment carry out their civic duty as voters; and

**WHEREAS**, VOTE411.org was launched by the League of Women Voters in 2006 and since then has functioned as a "one-stop-shop" for election-related information including registration deadlines and tools, absentee and early voting information, polling place locations, voting hours, candidate information, ID requirements, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, VOTE411.org was named 2020's Best Government & Civil Innovation Website, an award for excellence on the internet, at the 24th Annual Webby People's Voice Awards, presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, by providing VOTE411.org The League of Women Voters seeks to promote a democracy where every citizen has the desire, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate; and

**WHEREAS** VOTE411.org will go live to offer voting and candidate information in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and North Carolina beginning August 15, 2020:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim August 15, 2020, as

**"VOTE411.ORG DAY"**

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

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## ZONING

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**ITEM NO. 2A: ORDINANCE NO. 9860-Z, PETITION NO. 2019-160 BY MERITAGE HOMES OF THE CAROLINAS, INC. AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE TO AFFECT A CHANGE IN ZONING FOR APPROXIMATELY 80.78 ACRES LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF PLEASANT GROVER ROAD BETWEEN HUTCHESON LANE AND KELLY ROAD FROM R-3 LWPA (SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL, LAKE WYLIE PROTECTED AREA) TO MX-2 (INNOV) LWPA (MIXED USE, INNOVATIVE STANDARDS, LAKE WYLIE PROTECTED AREA) WITH FIVE YEARS VESTED RIGHTS.**

The Zoning Committee voted 7-0 (motion by Kelly, seconded by Ham) to recommend approval of this petition and adopt the following Statement of Consistency: This petition is found to be consistent with the Northwest District Plan (1990), based on the information from the post-hearing staff analysis and the public hearing and because the plan recommends residential uses at up to four dwelling units per acre. Therefore, we find this petition to be reasonable and in the public interest based on information from the post-hearing staff analysis and the public hearing and because this petition proposes 280 single-family attached dwelling units, at 3.47 units per acre, which is consistent with the recommended density of the Northwest District Plan (1990) of up to 4 dwelling units per acre. Surrounding retail, church, school, and park uses will provide support services for the proposed attached residential use. The petition commits to incorporate design standards that stay true to the desired residential character of the area, such as minimizing the visual impact of garage doors and using a combination of construction materials. The petition proposes to incorporate street connectivity in the construction of the site by including multiple entrances and exits into the development, and by dedicating right of ways to C-DOT(Charlotte Department of Transportation) for future residential and collector roads. The petition commits increasing future residents' quality of life by dedicating a 100-foot SWIM buffer and a minimum of 2 acres of the site area to Mecklenburg County for future greenway use and for a future neighborhood park.

The petitioner made the following changes to the petition after the Zoning Committee vote. Therefore, the City Council must determine if the changes are substantial and if the petition should be referred back to the Zoning Committee for review.

- Additional commitment to a berm along the site's reverse frontage buffer of Kelly Road (not including the portion of the property being dedicated as a park). A cross-section of the proposed berm is also included in the rezoning plan.
- Addressed the internally protected stem at the entrances on Kelly Road and Hutchinson Road.
- Provided road cross-section diagrams to provide better clarity on the proposed road types for the project.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously not to send this petition back to the Zoning Committee.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve Petition No. 2109-160 by Meritage Homes of the Carolinas and adopt the following Statement of Consistency: This petition is found to be consistent with the Northwest District Plan (1990), based on the information from the final staff analysis and the public hearing and because the plan recommends residential uses at up to four dwelling units per acre. Therefore, we find this petition to be reasonable and in the public interest based on information from the final staff analysis and the public hearing and because this petition proposes 280 single family attached dwelling units, at 3.47 units per acre, which is consistent with the recommended density of the Northwest District Plan (1990) of up to 4 dwelling units per acre. Surrounding retail, church, school, and park uses will provide support services for the proposed attached residential use. The petition commits to incorporate design standards that stay true to the desired residential character of the area, such as minimizing the visual impact of garage doors, and using a combination of construction materials. The petition proposes to incorporate street connectivity in the construction of the site by including multiple entrances and exits into the development, and by dedicating right of ways to C-DOT for future residential and collector roads. The petition commits increasing future residents' quality of life by dedicating a 100-foot SWIM buffer and a minimum of 2 acres of site area to Mecklenburg County for future greenway use and for a future neighborhood park, as modified.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 254-255.

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**ITEM NO. 2B: ORDINANCE NO. 9861-Z, PETITION NO. 2020-110 BY CITY OF CHARLOTTE: GENERAL SERVICES AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE TO AFFECT A CHANGE IN ZONING FOR APPROXIMATELY 2.5 ACRES LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF SWEDEN ROAD, WEST OF SOUTH BOULEVARD AND EAST OF ENGLAND STREET FROM TOD-CC (TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY CENTER) TO I-2 (INDUSTRIAL),**

The Zoning Committee voted 7-0 (motion by Welton, seconded by Barbee) to recommend approval of this petition and adopt the following Statement of Consistency: This petition is found to consistent with the future land use policy in the Arrowood Station Area Plan (2009) for this site based on the information from the post-hearing staff analysis and the public hearing and because the policy recommends industrial zoning to support as-of-right operations of the City's street maintenance facility at this location until such time as it is proposed for redevelopment; then the recommendation is for Transit-Oriented-Development. Therefore, we find this petition to be reasonable and in the public interest based on information from the post-hearing staff analysis and the public hearing and because the future land use map does illustrate TOD-mixed acknowledging the long-term policy for transit-oriented development. The City owns the site for its street maintenance and equipment facility. The rezoning will allow industrial uses including the continued use for the existing maintenance facility. The proposal is for only a portion of the parcel to be rezoned, the majority of the parcel will remain zoned TOD-CC.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Graham, and carried unanimously to approve Petition No. 2020-110 by City of Charlotte: General Services and adopt the following Statement of Consistency: This petition is found to be consistent with the future land use policy in the Arrowood Station Area Plan (2009) for this site based on the information from the final staff analysis and the public hearing and because the policy recommends industrial zoning to support as-of-right operations of the City's street maintenance facility at this location until such time as it is proposed for redevelopment; then the recommendation is for Transit-Oriented-Development. Therefore, we find this petition to be reasonable and in the public interest based on information from the final staff analysis and the public hearing and because the future land use map does illustrate TOD-mixed acknowledging the long-term policy for transit-oriented development. The City owns the site for its street maintenance and equipment facility. The rezoning will allow industrial uses including the continued use for the existing maintenance facility. The proposal is for only a portion of the parcel to be rezoned, the majority of the parcel will remain zoned TOD-CC.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 256-257.

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#### **ITEM NO. 4: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Mayor Lyles** asked if there were any Consent Items for comment or a separate vote.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said for comment Item No. 33.

Mayor Lyles said staff has settled Item No. 39 and staff has withdrawn Item No. 54.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Newton, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item No. 39 which was settled and Item No. 54 which was pulled by staff.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said with regard to Item No. 33, Airport Electric Buses, I just want to applaud the leadership of our Airport staff. They are creating a model for other departments to follow by taking steps to address our SEAP (goals and this will replace five diesel shuttle buses. It is a great way to showcase our sustainable initiatives for visitors that are coming to visit our City or even our residents. I am very pleased to see the leadership by Brent Cagle and his team.

**Councilmember Egleston** said just a quick comment on Item Nos. 23 and 24: Construct Howie Acres Phase 2 Neighborhood Improvement Project and 24: Construct Parkwood Avenue Improvements, I think this is a great example of continuing to invest in pedestrian and cyclist safety initiatives and Item No. 23, we are investing almost \$1.2 million in a lot of drainage and stormwater infrastructure, but also improving wheelchair ramps, resurfacing, curbs and things like that. Parkwood Avenue is just down the street from Howie Acres between Villa Heights, Belmont, NoDa, Plaza/Midwood, and that area increasing our bicycle facilities to connect the already existing bicycle lanes there. I just want people to know, I know that is a high priority in all parts of the City that we improve our PED bike experience and want to not skip over those too quickly without calling attention to the investments we are continuing to make on those fronts.

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#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were approved:

**Item No. 22: Fire Apparatus Cooperative Purchasing Contract**

(A) Approve the purchase of fire apparatus from a cooperative contract, (B) Approve a unit price contract with Spartan Motors USA Inc. for the purchase of fire apparatus for a term of one year under Sourcewell contract 022818-SPR, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for additional terms as long as the cooperative contract is in effect, at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contract.

**Item No. 23: Construct Howie Acres Phase 2 Neighborhood Improvement Project**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,186,993.50 to the lowest responsive bidder OnSite Development, LLC for Howie Acres Phase 2 Neighborhood Improvement Project.

**Summary of Bids**

OnSite Development, LLC	\$1,186,993.50
Nassiri Development	\$1,294,239.65
United Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,591,715.80
Dellinger, Inc.	\$1,612,216.10
Zoladz Construction Co., Inc.	\$1,637,946.54
Mountaineer Contractors	\$1,665,733.92
Blythe Development Company	\$1,707,719.20
NJR Group	\$1,789,959.48
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$1,824,510.05

**Item No. 24: Construct Parkwood Avenue Improvements**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$2,023,192.38 to the lowest responsive bidder Sealand Contractors Corp. for the Parkwood Avenue Improvement Project.

**Summary of Bids**

Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$2,023,192.38
United of Carolinas	\$2,095,972.45
Zoladz Construction Co., Inc.	\$2,239,953.99
Nassiri Development, LLC	\$2,504,328.75
DOT Construction	\$2,048,542.10
Blythe Development	\$2,614,341.46

**Item No. 25: Construct Rocky River Road West Streetscape**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$9,517,276.12 to the lowest responsive bidder Sealand Contractors Corp. for the Rocky River Road West Streetscape project.

**Summary of Bids**

Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$ 9,517,276.12
Blythe Development Co.	\$ 9,742,667.00
NJR Group, Inc.	\$11,182,576.57
Boggs Contracting Inc.	\$11,889,316.81

**Item No. 26: Construct Ramps and Address Sidewalk Gaps**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$626,158.50 to the lowest responsive bidder Little Mountain Builders of Catawba, Inc. for the Sidewalk Gaps and Ramps Fiscal Year 2021 project.

**Summary of Bids**

Little Mountain Builders of Catawba, Inc.	\$ 626,158.50
OnSite Development, LLC	\$ 750,172.50
Red Clay Industries	\$ 809,297.50
Nassiri Development, LLC	\$ 879,587.50
ARMEN Construction	\$ 948,755.50
United Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,030,480.00
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,092,080.00
DOT Construction	\$1,147,564.00

**Item No. 27: Public Auction for Disposal of Surplus Equipment**

(A) Adopt a resolution declaring specific vehicles, equipment, and other miscellaneous items as surplus, (B) Authorize said items for sale by public auction on September 19, 2020, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to approve certain administrative and storage fees as may be required from time to time for auction events.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 003-015.

**Item No. 28: Construct Hampton Avenue Storm Drainage Improvement Project**

(A) Reject the low-bid submitted by Zoladz Construction Co., Inc. for the Hampton Avenue Storm Drainage Improvement Project, and (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,729,610.30 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Sealand Contractors, Corp. for the Hampton Avenue Storm Drainage Improvement Project.

**Summary of Bids**

Zoladz Construction Co., Inc.*	\$1,047,956.00
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$1,729,610.30
Blythe Development Corp.	\$1,758,618.95
United Construction Company, Inc.	\$1,806,049.30
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,895,153.70

\*Did not meet the established CBI goals nor the Good Faith Efforts.

**Item No. 29: Davidson Water Transmission Main Construction**

Approve a guaranteed maximum price of \$14,972,315.07 to Propst Construction Company for Design-Build construction services for the Davidson Water Transmission Main project.

**Item No. 30: Mallard Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Blowers**

(A) Approve the purchase of Sulzer blowers for the Mallard Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project, by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Pete Duty & Associates, Inc. for the purchase of Sulzer blowers for the term of one year, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 31: McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Paving Improvements**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$869,385 to the lowest responsive bidder OnSite Development, LLC for the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Paving Improvements project.

**Summary of Bids**

OnSite Development	\$ 869,385.00
Blythe Construction	\$ 968,731.50
Blythe Brothers Asphalt	\$1,251,954.00

**Item No. 32: Wastewater Treatment Chemical**

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder PVS Technologies Inc. for the purchase of ferric chloride for a term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Summary of Bids**

A complete summary of bids is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

**Item No. 33: Airport Electric Buses**

(A) Approve a unit price contract with New Flyer of America, Inc. for the purchases of electric buses and charging equipment for an initial 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**

A complete summary of bids is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

**Item No. 34: Fuel Products for Airport Vehicles and Equipment**

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Mansfield Oil company of Gainesville, Inc. for the purchase of fuel products for the term of 14 months, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to four, 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**

Mansfield Oil Industries	\$0.4356
Petroleum Traders Corporation	\$0.5283
Colonial Oil Industries	\$0.62

**Item No. 35: Fiscal Year 2020 Tax Collector's Settlement Statement and Fiscal Year 2021 Order of Collection**

(A) Receive as information and record in full in the minutes the Mecklenburg County Tax Collector's Settlement Statement for the Fiscal Year 2020, and (B) Adopt an Order of Collection, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 105-321(b) authorizing the Mecklenburg County Tax Collector to collect the taxes for the Fiscal Year 2021.

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

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$2,304.86.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 016-017.

**Item No. 37: Meeting Minutes**

Approve the titles, motions, and vote reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of July 13, 2020, Business Meeting, July 20, 2020 Zoning Meeting, and July 27, 2020, Business Meeting.

**PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

**Item No. 38: In Rem Remedy 418 Ranier Avenue**

Adopt Ordinance No. 9869-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 418 Ranier Avenue, (Neighborhood Profile Area 367).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63 at Page(s) 276.

**Item No. 40: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Goose Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #3.**

Resolution of Condemnation of 36,674 square feet (0.84 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement and 13,438 square feet (0.31 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement on Bain School Road from Robert T. Hucks and Kathy T. Hucks for \$12,725 for Goose Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #3.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 18.

**Item No. 41: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Goose Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #5**

Resolution of Condemnation of 5,204 square feet (0.12 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 12303 Bain School Road from Thomas A. Pritchard and Lynette M. Pritchard for \$822 for Goose Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #5.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 19.

**Item No. 42: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Goose Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #6**

Resolution of Condemnation of 828 square feet (0.02 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement and 251 square feet (0.00 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 12325 Bain School Road from Matthew T. Hucks and Kristen C. Hucks for \$325 for Goose Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #6.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 20.

**Item No. 43: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – Irwin Creek Tributaries to DeWitt Lane and Yeoman Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement, Parcel #15**

Resolution of Condemnation of 7,192.9 square feet (0.17 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement and 3,106.9 square feet (0.07 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 4374 South Tryon Street from Cook Out South Tryon Street, Inc. for \$69,600 for Irwin Creek Tributaries to DeWitt Lane and Yeoman Road Sanitary Sewer Replacement, Parcel #15.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 21.

**Item No. 44: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – McMullen Creek South Park Tributary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #2, 3**

Resolution of Condemnation of 26,261 square feet (0.56 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement and 7,358 square feet (1.86 acres) in Access Easement at 3709 Sharon View Road from WC&C Incorporated for \$168,100 for McMullen Creek South Park Tributary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #2, 3.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 22.

**Item No. 45: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – McMullen Creek South Park Tributary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #4**

Resolution of Condemnation of 11,402 square feet (0.26 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement I, 1,513 square feet (0.03 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement II, and 685 square feet (0.02 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 4600-4634 Colony Road from TH Property Owner 7LP for \$59,400 for McMullen Creek South Park Tributary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #4.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 23.

**Item No. 46: Charlotte Water Property Transactions – McMullen Creek South Park Tributary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #5**

Resolution of Condemnation of 1,463 square feet (0.03 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement I, 491 square feet (0.01 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement II, and 123 square feet (0.00 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 6965 Fairview Road from Atrium Health Foundation for \$24,975 for McMullen Creek South Park Tributary Sewer Improvements, Parcel #5.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 24.

**Item No. 47: Property Transactions – I-85 North Bridge, Parcels 2, 2.1, 2.2, 12, 12.1 and 13**

Resolution of Condemnation of 436 square feet (0.01 acres) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 4,428 square feet (0.201 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 994 square feet (0.022 acres) in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 594 square feet (0.014 acres) in Slope Easement, plus 3,930 square feet (0.09 acres) in Access Easement, plus 42,367 square feet (0.973 acres) in Right-of-Way and Utility Easement, plus 266 square feet (0.006 acres) in Waterline Easement, plus 17,031 square feet (0.391 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 19,704 square feet (0.452 acres) in Utility Easement at 1000 Louis Rose Place from DM Mainstreet Environmental Way LLC for \$140,200 for I-85 No4th Bridge, Parcels #2, 2.1, 2.2, 12, 12.1 and 13.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 25.



**Item No. 48: Property Transactions – I-85 North Bridge, Parcel #6**

Acquisition of 2,965 square feet (0.068 acres) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 2,597 square feet (0.06 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 6,349 square feet (0.146 acres) in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 1,243 square feet (0.029 acres) in Waterline Easement, plus 13,253 square feet (0.304 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 12,099 square feet (0.278 acres) in Utility Easement, plus 902 square feet (0.021 acres) in Retaining Wall Easement, plus 811 square feet (0.019 acres) in Post Construction Controls Easement at 8909 J. W. Clay Boulevard from Sam's Real Estate Business Trust for \$413,150 for I-85 North Bridge, Parcel #6.

**Item No. 49: Property Transaction – Kilborne Drive Streetscape, Parcel #2**

Acquisition of 1,447 square feet (0.033 acres) in Sidewalk Utility Easement, plus 3,188 square feet (0.073 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 2924 Kilborne Drive from Kilborne Apartments LLC and Jarmeg LLC for \$16,000 for Kilborne Drive Streetscape, Parcel #2.

**Item No. 50: Property Transactions – Matheson Bridge Streetscape, Parcel #10**

Acquisition of 177 square feet (0.004 acres) in Sidewalk Utility Easement, 3,509 square feet (0.081 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 709 Matheson Avenue from James C. Kirby Trustee of the Family Trust of James Carlton Kirby for \$19,031 for Matheson Bridge Streetscape, Parcel #10.

**Item No. 51: Property Transactions – McCullough Drive Streetscape, Parcels #25 and #26**

Resolution of Condemnation of 6,450 square feet (0.148 acres) in Fee Simple, 1,659 square feet (0.038 acres) in Sidewalk Utility Easement, 4,944 square feet (0.113 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 8309 Russell Street from M. C. Wallace and Dorothy C. Wallace ETAL for \$8,200 for McCullough Drive Streetscape, Parcels #25 and #26.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 26.

**Item No. 52: Property Transaction – Montford Drive Extension, Parcel #1**

Acquisition of 220 square feet (0.005 acres) in Sidewalk Utility Easement, 14,316 square feet (0.329 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 1601 Abbey Place from FAEC Holdings LLC for \$466,883 for Montford Drive Extension, Parcel #1.

**Item No. 53: Property Transactions – Providence Road Sidewalk Improvement (Greentree Drive – Knob Oak Lane), Parcel #13**

Acquisition of 191 square feet (0.004 acres) PDE Accepted as SDE Easement, 2,509 square feet (0.058 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 3520 Providence Road from Thomas A. Barringer and Virginia R. Barringer for \$26,825 for Providence Road Sidewalk Improvement (Greentree Drive – Knob Oak Lane), Parcel #13.

**Item No. 55: Property Transactions – Tom Hunter Streetscape, Parcels #33, and 34.**

Resolution of Condemnation of 1,213 square feet (0.028 acres) in Storm Drainage Easement, 7,457 square feet (0.171 acres) in Sidewalk Utility Easement, 10,387 square feet (0.238 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 6441 North Tryon Street from Parks Holdings LLC for \$77,800 for Tom Hunter Streetscape, Parcel #33 and 34.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 27.

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**Mayor Lyles** said we still have approximately 30-minutes before we begin the advertised portion of our meeting; we are going to go to the City Manager's Report. We will come back for our Public Forum as well as our Public Hearings.

**ITEM NO. 5: CLOSED SESSION**

No closed session occurred.

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## POLICY

### ITEM NO. 10: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said tonight we have a packed agenda and it goes back to two weeks ago and what we are trying to do is make sure we get this timely information in front of you. We do have on the agenda tonight, and as the Mayor said, we will go as close to 5:00 as we can and then go back to the Public Forum and then come back to Item No. 10.

We do have from last week the Strategic Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and the American Cities Climate Challenge Updates and it is interesting the space that we are in right now, a combination of 2018 and as Councilmember Ajmera talked about the Airport buses, we will talk a little bit about additional buses in terms of electric buses and the CATS system. So, the work of both Ms. Ajmera and the Mayor, the things that you've done with the Climate Cities Challenge Updates, I think that the City is at the forefront of the other cities that are a part of our cohort.

The Charlotte Business INClusion Annual Report, I know that Councilmember Mitchell has been waiting for that as well as an announcement that we had planned a couple of weeks ago that we will have tonight. Transportation and Transit Updates; we will have the combination of Taiwo, John, and Liz to give us updates. If we go back to January, we had talked a great deal about mobility, accessibility, and connectivity and this is getting us back on track, punt intended, in terms of what we are doing around mobility.

Then there has been a question about an update for the RNC; it is great to have the Health Director, Gibbie Harris, here with us tonight as well as we have the individual who is working with the health protocols that are related to the RNC as well as our Chief who will give us an update, this being the last meeting prior to the Business Meeting for the RNC.

We also have the Legislative Agenda Update. As you will recall Councilmember Bokhari and Councilmember Winston have talked about a new way of engaging with the Federal Government, the State Government as well as our regional entities. We have the COVID-19 Update and that was a question that came a couple of weeks ago. They are counting for the various pots of money if you will, and then there has been a lot of activity in the different Community Recovery Task Force as well as the Committee report outs. Mayor; you provided the last time we were together information or referrals that relate to not just the Committee work but, work that is also related to what is happening with Councilmember Egleston, Safe Community Meeting. So, having that discussion today would also be important. That is what we have Mayor; in terms of what is under the Policy. Unless there are any questions, I believe that Jason may have cued up a video that is related to the SEAP and the American Cities Climate Challenge Updates, but we also have staff that is standing by to answer any questions.

### **Strategic Energy Action Plan and American Cities Climate Challenge Updates**

A short video was shown.

**Councilmember Watlington arrived at 4:34 p.m.**

Mr. Jones said as you can see a lot of hard work; the team has been, I believe exceeding expectations, and we are just very appreciative that you would approve in this year's budget additional resources for us to move forward. If there are any questions for the team, we could take them at this time.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I am very pleased with the work that has been done to further our SEAP goals, especially with our energy production and our workforce development initiative. It just goes to show our City Manager's commitment to our SEAP

goals that were unanimously approved by the Council. Thanks for all the work that has been done by staff in support of the Council. I'm pleased to see the progress and keep it up Mr. Manager and staff.

**Mayor Lyles** said I want to add to Ms. Ajmera's compliments to the staff. This is a team that sits outside necessarily of the organization structure. The team includes a representative from every function inside of our organization and for them to come together and be able to continue to drive, based upon data, this change in what we are doing has been absolutely phenomenal and I really appreciate the opportunity to share those ideas and thoughts and that we are getting things done. That is really important in this process.

Mr. Jones said what we will do next is we will have a CBI update and again to the Business and Workforce Development Committee, this was pushed back to the forefront back in the June timeframe to make sure that some of the recommendations from the 2017 evaluation were brought before the Council. At this point, we would like to give you updates on the Annual Report as well as where we are heading in the future. With that said I will turn it over to Phil.

### **Charlotte Business INClusion Annual Report**

**Phil Reiger, Director of General Services** said standing with me tonight is Shawn Thomas, Assistant Program Manager of the City of Charlotte Business INClusion (CBI) Program, and it is our pleasure tonight to present to you. the highlights of the Charlotte Business INClusion fiscal year 2019 Annual Report. This is a report that you all received in your packet, I think in early July. I'm going to kick off the presentation and then I'm going to ask Shawn to share with you the results of the report and then I will return to wrap it up.

Before I get started, I just wanted to pause a moment and acknowledge that while this report will present good news tonight, many of our small businesses in Charlotte are struggling, including our minority businesses. It is times like these that make the work of our Charlotte Business INClusion Program around equity and contracting to be very important. For the sake of the audience, I just wanted to start by very quickly review the purpose of the CBI Program. The mission of the CBI Program is to promote diversity, inclusion, and local business opportunities in the City's contracting and procurement process for businesses in the Charlotte region. We do this by certifying minority, women, and small business enterprises. We set minority, women, and small business enterprise utilization goals, we track and report against those goals, we conduct education and outreach to build capacity, we engage with our stakeholder groups and we partner with departments to increase opportunities for MWSBE participation. Now, I will turn it over to Shawn Thomas and she will walk you through some of our results.

**Shaunne Thomas, Economic Development Program Manager** said CBI is working collaboratively with its community partners to increase its pool of city certified vendors. CBI has specifically concentrated its efforts to recruit minority business enterprises in contract areas with low MBE availability. These strategic efforts have resulted in increased year over year spending with city certified vendors. For the first time in the history of the program, the City has over 1,000 certified vendors in its database. CBI continues to connect with prime contractors, trade organizations, Chamber groups, private diversity, and inclusion organizations, and other community partners to increase the pool of city certified firms.

The sub-contracting spend with certified vendors for the same time period fiscal year 2018 to 2019 increased by over \$18 million, a 44% increase. The City of Charlotte increased spending with city certified prime contractors by 22% from FY2018 to FY2019. CBI continues its collaborative efforts to breakdown work and increases opportunities for certified firms to become prime contractors. While the City had a record spend of \$32 million with MBEs in construction more work needs to be done to connect our MBE firms with professional, architectural, and engineering other services opportunities. CBI continues to work collaboratively to find the right size informal opportunities for certified

firms. This strategy helps to remove the experience barrier for our certified firms and connect them with contracting opportunities.

Of the City's \$133 million spend with certified primes and subs over \$42 million were spent with minority businesses enterprises, and more than 55% of the MBE spend of \$42 million was with certified African American firms. CBI is introducing a new metric for the fiscal year 2019. We will list the certified firms that had an annual spend greater than \$1 million. The City spent over \$1 million with 22 certified firms, eight of which are MBE and three WBEs. CBI also continues its commitment to help prepare certified firms for contracting opportunities with the City through education and project forecasting.

In the closing fiscal year, 2019 was a year of growth in certifications, prime and sub spending, educational opportunity, and outreach activities. However, as the fiscal year, 2020 brings additional challenges for our City certified firms CBI will continue to implement evidence-based and data-driven strategies that connect our certified firms to City contracting opportunities.

**Mayor Lyles** said I just want to say Shawn; you ran through that and I want you to go back a couple of things to just remind us. We spent a lot of money, over a million dollars with 22 firms I believe you said; you are breaking out minority, African American owned businesses as a part of your reporting. A lot of improvements that have been made, so Shawn; next time slow it down and celebrate a little bit okay.

Ms. Thomas said yes, Mayor.

Mr. Reiger said if I could just really quickly go to the next slide. I just wanted to say a few thank you. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without effective collaboration with our partners, so I just wanted to thank the Workforce and Business Development Committee for their feedback and support along the way. Specifically, I wanted to thank Committee Chair James Mitchell, Vice-Chair Tariq Bokhari, and Committee members Dimple Ajmera, Malcolm Graham, and Renee Johnson. I would also like to recognize the hard work of the Charlotte Business INclusion Advisory Committee. This Committee's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the work of CBI has been extraordinarily impactful to the successful results that we've been able to share tonight. It is just great news.

I am extraordinarily excited to announce the hiring of our newest Team Member tonight. As a result of a national search, we've hired Steven Coker of Syracuse, NY to be Charlotte's next CBI Program Manager. Steve has 20-years of relevant experience, including work experience that spans public, private in the academic sectors. Steve's first day will be next Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, and I can tell you that he is really excited to meet our community and to begin building relationships within our contracting and small business community specifically. Because I know that Steve is watching tonight, I would like to ask you to join me in virtually congratulating Steve and welcoming him to Charlotte. With that said I turn it back over to Mr. Jones and Mayor Lyles and if there are any additional questions, we would be happy to answer them.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said this is something that I know is near and dear to the hearts of the Committee and I believe we have the right individual who can lead us as we start to go back and revisit some of the things that we have done and worked on in the past such as capacity building and collaboration between other departments. I am convinced Mayor that the Committee Chair may have something to say and I will move away.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said let me first of all thank the staff for all their hard work. The Workforce Development Business Committee really made this a top priority. Phil, Kay, and Shawn, you guys really stepped up to the plate and increased our numbers. I have to thank the City Council as well. Many times, when we had agenda items, the Council was very passionate to make sure we can increase participation, increase the goals, so it has been a team effort. City Manager; we really thank you; this has been a day that I've been looking forward to, for quite some time to find a CBI Program Manager to replace Nancy, so thank you, sir. Thank you for doing a nationwide search. I promise not to bug

Steve on his first day, but after that, there is no guarantee. Thanks to everyone and thank you for all the work we've done in the CBI Program to be a program that is known throughout the State of North Carolina being a top program.

Mayor Lyles said Steve; on behalf of all of us, we are glad to have you come to Charlotte and look forward to the work that you are going to do. We are a great place that always thinks about what we do well, but how we can do better. Thank you for joining our team.

Mr. Jones said Mayor and Members of Council; if we can go to the next presentation or update; Transportation and Transit Updates, that will catch us up with where we were from last week and actually put us back on time in terms of the Public Forum and the new information that we have for you tonight. With that said I will turn this over to Taiwo.

### **Transportation and Transit Updates**

**Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Assistant City Manager/Planning Director** said I know the last time you saw myself, Liz, and John present to you was at the Council Retreat back in January about mobility, accessibility and connectivity so we would like to give you an update today. The focus was on mobility and accessibility and how we make sure that we improve connectivity in our City. I believe beginning this year how we launch programs that will improve our mobility and congestion, but also improve the reliability and efficiency of our transit system while we continue to also have a better understanding of the funding climate both at the state and federal level and how we can together review, discuss and evaluate funding the kind of events for really improving congestion or even improving our transit system.

Two things came out of our Retreat; number one the establishment of the Task Force that was charged with translating our vision for mobility in the Charlotte region to one of implementation. So, a 25-member Task Force headed by former Mayor Harvey Gantt was formed back in February of this year and they started to meet in May of this year on a monthly basis. In the last meeting, we had guests from Nashville, Tennessee, Austin Texas, and Broward County in Florida to share with us their experiences. The goal of this Task Force is essential to deliver on what we call a Transformation and Mobility Network of a magnitude that would really change the way we move around and connect in the Charlotte region, particularly focusing on the City as well.

One thing that also came out of it which you've heard a great deal about in the last several weeks is the Corridors of Opportunities. We identified those six corridors and where transportation, transit, and planning can really team up with housing and economic development to create complete corridors. We identified six corridors of opportunities where we can attempt to provide the top platform to leverage what we've invested in these corridors in the last several years, but also provide a platform for doing great things in the future.

The next slide shows us that our world has changed after the pandemic and so while we were thinking of this will be in the words of Councilmember Eiselt, the Year of our Mobility. It quickly became a different focus for us so, by March and April of this year experiences was different which was why we paused on meeting with the Charlotte Moves Task Force until May, and then we also did not really get on the Corridors of Opportunities until very recently. But like many other cities in the world, particularly in our country, we started to look at how do we activate the public space that will focus more on pedestrians and encouraging people to go out while respecting the City's guidelines on either wearing masks or even maintaining the six-foot social distancing while at the same time supporting our businesses. We were able to quickly pivot and do certain things while the pandemic is still here with us.

We launched creative initiatives, the first one being Shared Streets. We launched the first phase on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, and it has been successful. We did a survey and over 60% of the community felt that this was the type of thing they would like to see in their City. The second phase was launched therefore on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Those of you who are watching, Shared Streets is really an opportunity to create an environment in our City streets where

pedestrians and people are riding on their bicycles or even if they are wheelchair restrained or strolling with the babies, are able to share the same streets with vehicles. Now those streets are closed to through vehicles except for emergency vehicles, but they are definitely allowed for people to have activities on those streets. The third phase actually was supposed to launch the last weekend but we are moving it to this weekend so the date there is not correct. It is August 15<sup>th</sup>, and then the fourth phase of it we will do an evaluation and how can we have a sense of permanence once this period we are in is over.

The second initiative on the next slide is the outdoor dining and Strategies program. Really, the outdoor dining is about how do we support our current businesses. So far, we've got about 18 businesses that have registered, at least through last month. We continue to have an interest in this, I guess the first two will be the one on North Tryon Street as well as Farmers Street, but we continue to encourage these. This is not something that Charlotte alone is doing, but again it is another way to not only activate our City streets and public spaces but also to encourage and support businesses especially now that the second phase has been extended, how can we support businesses? Now, this is not going to encourage restaurants or bars to open between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. because of the City's Noise Ordinance, but it does enable them to be able to utilize parking spaces or other opportunities within their establishments to be able to encourage people to sit outside, maintaining City guidelines, not more than 25% of capacity in each restaurant.

The next slide actually shows that we are not the only ones doing that pretty much throughout the country. The City of Belmont has an outdoor dining program that closes its Main Street to vehicles every Friday. I actually think that Charlotte should be second in leading this and I wish that we are doing more of this. But hopefully, we are able to get things set up quicker in the next several weeks so that our businesses and our residents can take advantage of this.

The next slide is Shared Street Murals. Prior to COVID-19, actually even as part of our placemaking program was to launch murals in our streets. What COVID-19 has done as we created the Shared Streets, we also wanted to make sure that people who used the Shared Streets had a sense of vibrancy on those streets as well, so we create murals in association with a few of those streets. What we have been able to implement in the month of June alone, 15 neighborhoods with about \$15,000 in our placemaking program to our local Charlotte artists have done some tremendous work in painting our street murals that allow vehicles to slow down, but it also allows us to do things to expedite creativity by activating again a public space. Perhaps the most well-known of these Street Murals is on the next slide, and that is the Black Lives Matter mural uptown between the 300 and 400 blocks of South Tryon Street which was done on June 9<sup>th</sup> and that was street was closed subsequently on June 12<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. This really engaged about 17 different local artists. It is funded by part of the left-over dollars in our Placemaking Program. We paid about \$500 per artist per letter. Of course, one of those letters has two artists for those of you who are calculating. But it has been a community gathering place and I would still like my colleague, Michael Smith of Center City said, it becomes a sacred place and a healing spot for our City.

The next slide actually shows that while other cities in North Carolina have done that, we actually set the tone in this state for something of this nature and we expect that other cities, frankly speaking, cities as far away as Seattle and Portland are reaching out to us and calling us, as far away as far as California asking if we would share with them our experience. Those of you who have basketball plans may notice that a particular mural was displayed when NBA opened in Orlando several days ago. It has really gone beyond what we celebrate in Charlotte to something that is celebrated nationally.

At this point, we turn this to John Lewis who will walk us through what he has been doing with regards to the Transit piece of the update.

Mayor Lyles said I wonder since it is almost 5:00 if we could go ahead and do our Public Forum and then have CATS come back. I think if we can go ahead and get our Public Forum and those Public Hearings out of the way, will that work?

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### **ITEM NO. 3: PUBLIC FORUM**

#### **Affordable Housing**

**James Lee, 3501 East Independence Boulevard** said I miss you guys and I hope that everybody is being safe. I am still working in the trenches with the census and we are feeding people in the communities, but I want to talk to you about Mayor Brookshire. If you don't know he was a Mayor that we had in a very turbulent time in history during the '60s, Vietnam, so it was very turbulent, but he stood up as the leader. He did a lot of the right things at the right time when a lot of people didn't want him to. Mayor Lyles; you have an opportunity to go down in annuals of the history of Charlotte as the Mayor that helped us get off the bottom. You know about the Restore to Justice CNT Resolution that is going to be before you soon and we are asking you to read that because just with this one act you will be off from 50 to 49 with this just one act, so we hope that you look at that. You and your Council will have an opportunity to go down in the annuals of the history of Charlotte as the people that had the courage to help turn this thing around in Charlotte, the upward mobility piece, and the resolution that the Restore to Justice is asking you to look at is something that is going to be like the first step in getting us off the bottom. I miss you guys, I thank you for this opportunity and I hope to see you soon. Come out and see me at Census Caravan.

#### **Helping Our Youth**

**Leo Amon, 13524 Carleen Way Drive** said I live in two Districts; District 1 and 4. Even though I can't vote, I can still give good advice to my parents. My main topic tonight is bullying and Black Lives Matter and the Police budget. I want to know why so much of the budget is going to Police because the Police don't help us that much, especially people darker than me. About the bullying, Ms. Ajmera is being bullied by some Councilmembers and that is not fair. Some of you, and you know who you are need to quite bullying Ms. Ajmera, especially she fights for the climate and environment and that means she fights for my future. About that budget, I want to know why 40% of the budget is going to Police. As I said, they do not help us that much. My mom called the Police when a racist neighbor trespassed on our porch and threatened her life because of word art and design on our fence. They came and shot a video of him threatening my mom. They did not include that in the report, in fact, they wrote it up as a complaint from our other neighbor who is also racists. There is no room for Cops that do not take a single mother seriously. There is no room for racists on the City Council and I know there is some in there. You need to fix that.

#### **City Council Ethics**

**Desiree Miller, 2210 Winthrop Ridge Road** said thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Transparency, accountability, and good stewardship; are three core values that as citizens of Charlotte we expect from this Council. We also expect that you would treat your fellow colleagues on Council with the same respect and professional courtesy regardless of their party affiliation that you would expect for yourself. Dimple Ajmera, I find it shameful and hypocritical that you would make bold accusations to discredit and question the ethics Councilmember Tariq Bokhari. I believe this is your attempt to draw attention away from some of your questionable behavior. It appears that you are using your official position as Councilwomen to directly benefit were people in the real estate community are making donations to your campaign in return for receiving your support and vote in passing the rezoning requests before the City. Where is the transparency there? I ask this Council to hold an independent investigation in what appears to be Councilmember Ajmera's own unethical behavior.

### **City Council Ethics**

**Kalle Thompson, 1500 Rutledge Avenue** said I'm going to speak on the same thing as Desiree Miller just brought up. I was going to address the ethics complaint recently filed by the NCGOP against James Mitchell and Dimple Ajmera. Ajmera's particular pattern of campaign contributions is an incident worthy of an independent investigation. She does appear to have used her position and power to obtain donations from key businesses and property owners which coincided with relevant zoning decisions. This series of donations and their suspicious timing warrants a full independent investigation. When asked about the allegations she called the line of questioning a sexes, racists political attack. Ms. Ajmera; you cannot use you are identify as a shield against accusations of wrongdoing. The bottom line the NCGOP is calling for an independent investigation of these Councilmembers and as Desiree Miller quoted Ms. Ajmera because she is the one who said these words, "we insist on the transparency, accountability and good stewardship of our public dollars". This is not a political situation, this is involving her actions and her actions alone.

### **City Council Ethics**

**Shawn Odendhal, 10423 Alvarado Way** said I just want to repeat in regard to the accusations that have been raised against Councilmember Tariq Bokhari and even after he went to the City Manager and Attorney and asked for a full approval that there would be absolutely no conflict of interest, I just challenge Ms. Ajmera to look at what she is accusing Mr. Bokhari of doing and also the accusations and the unethical behavior that she has demonstrated that has been documented.

### **RNC Convention**

**Cindy Decker, 12800 Diamond Drive, Pineville, NC** said on July 27<sup>th</sup> I helped organizers with a two-hour family-friendly rally in Marshall Park in support of law enforcement called Back the Blue. CMPD asked that they move to the park rather than the Government Center to avoid any conflict with another group protesting outside the jail. About an hour into the rally a visiting African American pastor was in the middle of leading the rally in prayer when the group from outside the jail descended upon the rally, grabbing flags out of people's hands, hitting one woman over the head, almost falling into the pond, unplugged the sound system, flipped over tables, pushed an elderly man to the ground, took property and shoved it in the garbage cans, yelling their favorite obscenities in everyone's face and began to push the pastor away from the front until CMPD arrived and began to separate this group with the line of bikes, giving them an opportunity to move back and away, but they did not move. After having their bikes shoved back at them an Officer pulled out his can of pepper spray and sprayed it once to stop the madness and the angry crowd began to move back and slowly left. Every media network labeled it post [inaudible] showdown as if both groups showed up in this place for a confrontation. That was a complete lie. This group came from jail to harass and attack a peaceful group on permitted space. It was a shutdown, not a showdown. People were assaulted and their civil rights were trashed. Parents fled with their terrified kids, angry that on a Saturday afternoon they weren't safe at a Pro-Police Rally. All they have is questions about these groups running the streets like some vigilante mob without consequence and is justice only for one group's right. This public display of such hostility to any opposing voice will ultimately discredit their message, but it is the wrong message for Charlotte. That said when RNC Groups come to this Host City in support of this President, what is the strategy to stop this exact behavior from happening? What clear boundaries will be communicated to be the activist that keep them from attacking and assaulting our visitors? What kind of strategy will you allow CMPD to deploy to protect our visitors and their rights? With all respect Mayor and Council, it appears there is deference being shown to allow this nasty and threatening activist in our City and that is not the reputation Charlotteans are going to keep tolerating.

Mayor Lyles said we are actually going to have a briefing on the Republican National Convention later on the agenda. I would invite you to continue to watch and you will be able to hear some of the thoughts of what we are doing during the RNC.



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## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF WEST 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers for or either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

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### ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AN ALLEYWAY BETWEEN 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET AND 24<sup>TH</sup> STREET

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

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### ITEM NO. 9: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AN ALLEYWAY OFF HAWKINS STREET BETWEEN WEST WORTHINGTON AVENUE AND WEST BOULEVARD

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

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Mayor Lyles said I would go back; we had two speakers on our Public Forum tonight, Mr. Lee and Ms. Baker signed up to speak about a resolution around the issue of Restorative Justice and Upward Mobility. I would like to take a moment before the meeting starts on our Business items and going back to our Police items, to address this issue. I sent many of you a memo telling you that this was an issue that was presented to me and I have addressed it in the following way: First, I want to make the statement specifically around upward mobility and restorative justice. I acknowledge the history and complexities of systemic racism and our City Government's role in perpetuating those systems. I also acknowledge this Council's commitment to equity, social justice, and our City's role to address our own systemic racism. As Mayor, with the support of the Charlotte City Council I want to thank the Green Fund Center from my own Alb Motto, Queens University for their research and statement on upward mobility and restorative justice, as well as a request for an apology owed the African American residents of Charlotte for the actions taken under urban renewal laws of this country, displacing hundreds of African Americans on this land that we sit today as the center of government, and other actions furthering the inequities of race in our City. I want to express my appreciation for Rev. Willie Keaton, Rabbi Judy Shidler, and former Mayor Jennifer Roberts for their unflagging energy to this effort.

Mayor Roberts knows from her time in office that resolutions are important statements that have to be grounded in data plans and accountability. Again, I want to say about this

Council, we have made a commitment to equity, social justice in our role in systemic racism. Tonight, we ask our residents, businesses and corporations, our philanthropic and faith communities to commit to a city that is diverse and inclusive, requiring all of us to examine those actions and seek out remedies for bringing all races and ethnicities to the opportunity denied to us, but yet afforded to others. That is why

I'm making this statement, that we apologize to the African Americans who came before us and to those living in our City today. Our apology is grounded in the fact that Charlotte is a tale of two cities, we have great prosperity and great poverty. African Americans in our City did not achieve upward mobility due to our history of slavery, reconstruction, Jim Crow, segregation, and systemic racial discrimination of redlining, restrictive covenants, urban renewal. Charlotte lives with the impact of those laws, policies, and social determinants resulting in health disparity, food insecurity, negative environmental impacts, and the resulting trauma.

Charlotte's statistics show the result of deeply rooted structural barriers to upward mobility such as education, housing, criminal justice, transportation, and employment. The City of Charlotte's government between 1960 and 1967 raised the Brooklyn Neighborhood displacing over 1,000 families and nearly 10,000 residents, 216 black-owned businesses, and 11 houses of worship. The City of Charlotte atones for the past actions of our government that impeded the stability and the wellbeing and progress of African American residents. We ask the entire City to work with us at this moment and this time to change the course of our City to move forward on social justice and equity, and as a City, we will begin to take these steps to reduce trauma in our City with Violence Interruption Programs in our neighborhoods, to fund black businesses in our Opportunity Corridors to achieve economic advancements, support black entrepreneurs and build public infrastructure on Beatties Ford Road, West Boulevard, Albemarle Road, North Tryon Street, and Sugar Creek Road.

We commit to creating an opportunity for jobs with working wages, diversity in hires and promotions, and to pay all City employees a working wage and to ask our supply chain vendors to commit to the same. We develop partnerships with corporations, businesses large and small, philanthropic, faith, and other governmental agencies to act to address racism with collective and collaborative actions. We want to measure the results of change with transparency to our community. I want to thank all the people that live in our City and each member of the Charlotte City Council for understanding the task and moving forward for the future. That is a statement that I make in response to the request for upward mobility and restorative justice from our City. Thank you for allowing us this moment to take and address that issue, it is an important one as we move forward.

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## **CONTINUATION OF THE CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Mayor Lyles** said I'm going to ask the Manager once again to go back to our agenda.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said we will queue back up to Taiwo who will hand it over to John Lewis and we will have Liz also round it out. I just want to echo what Taiwo said, a lot of things are happening in the City and the mobility is something that the Council had as a top priority during the last Annual Strategy Meeting, so be able eight months later to come back and show the progress has made is important as well as there are issues still out there that we have to address. With that said I believe Councilmember Winston had a question of Taiwo.

**Councilmember Winston** said Taiwo you mentioned when you were talking about the Streateries that are popping up, you mentioned that you wanted to see more of this get set up faster. I know several Councilmembers, including this Councilmember, want this to happen as well. Business owners are looking to the government for regulations that help them innovate ways like this. Since all parties seem to be in line, what is preventing us from doing more of this faster? What can City Council do to speed this up?

**Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Assistant City Manager/Planning Director** said thank you very much for that question. As you know when you are in an environment like this you definitely want to maximize creative ideas to support businesses as the Charlotte restaurants and bars and of course our residents, but it is also very important that we engage these [inaudible] as well so we are in the process of doing that. But of course, funding is also part of that equation as well. We are hopeful that within the next several days as we work through those two items engaging and also the funding piece, we will begin to launch our Streateries Program. We actually had the outdoor dining programs right now that a couple of restaurants have taken advantage of. It is really the Streateries that we need to really focus more on. We are thinking of a couple of streets right now, I think our conversation last week between Planning and C-DOT and Center City Partners and ED focused on Camden Road, but we just want to make sure that we do this right. Sometimes in an effort to do something good, there are unintended consequences and so part of that is to make sure that we are engaged. What we also want to make sure that we don't do this endless engagement where we just keep going on and on and on without coming to conclusion. So, hopefully, within the next few days, we can. We would definitely like to make sure that we partner with Tracy Dodson, our Assistant City Manager for economic development and I believe she briefed the Committee on the workforce earlier today about this program. So, ED, C-DOT, Planning, we are working closely together to make sure that we launch this as soon as possible, but in the right way.

Mr. Winston said you mentioned funding and outreach is needed. Is this something City Council can help with? I know a lot of business owners and advocates are looking at, hey while there are parking spots, on-street parking that we can be converting into eateries or spaces that their patrons can utilize. If I am that business owner that has this kind of idea, how do I do that as well? Two questions; how does City Council help with that funding and outreach and what can business owners do right now if they are interested in converting on-street parking?

Mr. Jaiyeoba said once this program is open, we will have an application process so folks can apply just like they've done for the outdoor dining program. I mentioned earlier that we've had 18 businesses that have applied. So, it will be right about the same thing. Yes, Council can help and that help really is about supporting when we come before you with some of the ideas. We could take advantage of a number of funding opportunities, but I want to make sure that I'm in alignment with what the Workforce and Business Committee had discussed this morning and so Tracy Dodson and I will be talking about this later tonight or sometime this week to make sure that we have the right mechanism in place to get this going. We definitely want to do this, there is no doubt about it, but your support will be needed, but also using this as an opportunity to communicate to restaurants that are interested. Once we launch, we will do a citywide marketing effort. This is not only going to be focused on Center City, we want a citywide effort. There will be marketing work that we will do that will allow people to know what we are trying to do so they can apply. We definitely want to make sure that we take advantage of what we have now, the extension of Phase 2, or our Reopening and support our businesses as well.

Mr. Winston said as we are looking to do this and understanding that this is a pandemic response, I would like to see if there are places where this makes sense for this to be a permanent solution that we also explore this. I would hate to do something, put a time limit on it, and then do extra work on the backside on the end of it coming up with a solution that we just through of on the very beginning.

**Councilmember Watlington** said I just wanted to say I absolutely love this; I have residents who have come to me before about [inaudible] so I am very excited to see that this is moving forward and I'm happy to support it. Looking forward to seeing this come across the dais. Thanks for all your hard work Taiwo and Tracy.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I'm just going to pile on with all the compliments as well. Thank you, C-DOT and Planning and Liz, and Taiwo for working together on this. I talked to you guys about it and there were a lot of unintended consequences that we, Councilmembers, might not have even thought of, but I really encourage the public to reach out and use these amenities once they are opened up so that we can show that

roads are not just for cars. Roads are public spaces for everyone and so the more we can get people to really make the most of it the more we stand a chance of being able to have perhaps Camden be a permanent street eatery and be able to access that a little bit better for everybody. Thanks for all the efforts going into this. It is exciting.

Mr. Jones said we will go to Mr. Lewis, but also to the Mayor and Council, you will find a reoccurring theme in these presentations that because of the pandemic we've had to think about doing things differently and that is even to the point I believe John is going to talk about that he had some 15-minute frequencies in some of his higher traveled corridors which is one of those issues that was brought up during the Annual Strategy Meeting and this pandemic has forced us into doing things a little differently, much like street closures, things that we talked about closing streets. I remember even Mr. Egleston had a grand idea about closing streets. We will continue to be innovative and creative as we address these issues. With that said I would like to turn it over to John.

**John Lewis, Executive Director of Charlotte Area Transit System** said I just wanted to give you an update on the progress that CATS has made over the last several months and some of the initiatives that we have designed and discussed over the last several years. Prior to the health pandemic CATS was moving Monday through Friday an average of 80,000 riders per day. Three-quarters of those riders Monday through Friday would get from their origin to their destination on board a CATS bus.

This was part of an effort, Envision My Ride to overturn a troubling trend that had been plaguing CATS for a number of years and that was continued reduction in bus ridership. We saw our reductions in ridership on the bus from FY15, FY16, and FY17. During that same period rail ridership continued to rise. That pointed to the effort that it wasn't people weren't willing to take transit, it is just that the offerings and the structure of the system we were providing of mobility options weren't meeting our rider's needs. We launched the Envision My Ride Program which was based on three pillars, structure, frequency, and reliability which was implemented in 2018. We first got the structure of our system right, we completely redesigned in the fall of 2018 our bus system and went from a hub and spoke system that required so many of our bus riders to come into the uptown area at the Transit Center, get off one bus, cross the Center, get onto another bus and leave the uptown area to reach their destination. We instead implemented a more of a crosstown grid pattern which enabled people to make more crosstown connections without having to transfer.

The next phase of the program was focusing on enhanced frequency. Manager Jones mentioned part of that initiative in February 2020. We took four of our routes prior to the pandemic and increased frequency. That is the intervals between when buses come to a stop cutting an average of 30 down to 15 minutes and we were continuing to fund that over the years. Again, now that we've gotten the structure of the system right, focusing on frequency and with the next slide, the third pillar of that plan focused on reliability. After we had gotten the system structure right and we continued to invest in additional frequency so that our customers did not have to wait long periods of time between buses, it was still key that we focused on reliability. More frequent buses that are stuck in the same gridlock that everyone else is stuck in defeats the purpose of the investment we've made in this plan. We started with our bus-only lane pilot which was completed in December 2019 on Fourth Street where we took away one full lane of traffic, devoted that to a bus, emergency vehicles, and bicycles and that was a successful program. We are now in the midst of examining other corridors that we can implement similar types of programs along with technology enhancements such as cue jumps that allow buses to get around car traffic at intersections, also traffic signal priority that will allow our vehicles to get through intersections and continue on their trip more quickly, and reliably.

Then the pandemic hit and while we focused initially on the shock of the health pandemic and the reorganization of our system of mobility options, the health crisis has since given us an opportunity to re-examine how we provide service post-pandemic. What will the world look like post-COVID-19? We are all in the midst of changes to the workplace, people are working more often remotely, whether that is from the home or other remote locations. Will that continue and at what level once the pandemic has concluded? What

other resulting changes in commuting patterns and what will that do to our system as we potentially move from peak period service to more of a flat service? Looking back six-months ago the method of putting mobility options [inaudible] A lot of bus and screen service on the street during the morning commute; we would drop off during mid-day and ramp back up in the evening, but as the work environment changes and people's schedules change it may be that those peaks will go away and we end up with a more constant level of service throughout the day.

Then second, we challenge ourselves and staff to really think about our service [inaudible] rather than how many people we fill the seats of our buses and trains, but rather on the value that we provide to our community. In that, as we worked diligently to respond to the COVID-19 we changed from just providing our normal mobility options to really supporting essential and frontline employees. We developed our essential service plan that focused on higher capacity routes with more frequency, particularly on those routes that provided service to a health care facility, major employment centers, grocery stores, and opportunity corridors. As we restructured, we in some cases reduced service levels in some areas so that we could increase in others and we focused specifically on those opportunity corridors that we have discussed so much over the last several months. Five out of the six opportunity corridors now have service and bus routes that operate on a 15-minute frequency.

Or course, one of the biggest projects we've been talking about over the last year is moving the LYNX Silver Line project forward. The Silver Line locally preferred alternative was adopted in 2018 and included the 26-mile corridor from the Town of Matthews through uptown Charlotte, connecting along the Wilkinson Boulevard Corridor to the City of Belmont in Gaston County. This is the largest single project in our region and connecting three different counties. The Silver Line Program encompasses three separate projects; the Silver Line Design and Environmental Service that focus on refining the corridors, determining the station alignments, and really beginning to dig into the details of where the Silver Line Rail Project will be built. The Transit-Oriented Development Planning Study that includes the lessons learned from the Blue Line Extension and incorporate them into this project so that we can ensure that we not only meet the mobility options of this region but also focus on the other community goals, such as affordable housing and economic development and how can we focus those efforts in a concerted plan to ensure that we maximize and leverage the investment that we are putting into the Silver Line into the future.

Then, of course, building on the popularity of the Rail Trail in South Charlotte; we want to make sure that we take advantage of the opportunity as we build out this corridor to include a Rail Trail along as much of the corridor as possible. Prior to COVID, we had embarked upon a very aggressive stakeholder and public outreach meetings. Since then we've had to pivot and go more virtual and we are looking to continue those public outreaches into the fall.

The City LYNX Gold Line is a 10-mile modern streetcar system that is planned to link the community transit centers at Rosa Parks Place and Eastland to the existing Charlotte Transportation Center and the planned Charlotte Gateway Station. This was a three-phased project with the first phase opening in the summer of 2015; Phase 2 is under construction now and we hope to have Phase 2 open for revenue service in early 2021. The result will be a total length for Phase 2 of four-miles and 17 stops. Then we are ready to embark upon the environmental design and preliminary design for Phase 3 which will connect, as we mentioned, westward to the Rosa Parks Place and eastward to Eastland Mall. We will begin to update the environmental document and confirm the alignment, stop locations, and a new location for a maintenance facility along the remaining six-miles of the streetcar alignment.

With that, if there are no questions, Madam Mayor, I will turn over to my colleague Liz who will give the Department of Transportation update.

Mayor Lyles said I'm sorry, you can't do that quite yet; there are several questions, but I do want to say you are making a big case for bus rapid transit and with reliability and the work that you are doing, so I think having an appreciation of the core of the system is so

important because that is what you can move around and be responsive to. Thanks for that update.

Ms. Eiselt said you made reference Mayor, to the bus rapid transit, and John I am really looking forward to us to get to that place that we can have bus rapid transit. Taiwo; not to correct you, but I had hoped this year was going to be the year of the bus where we really do invest in our bus system, but also invest in innovations in our bus system, and I still hope that we would take advantage of this period of COVID to try some of these pilots. I think that is really critical when we have less resistance to congestion on our roads. Thank you for all this hard work and for this presentation and if you could talk about that John a little bit, will we have the opportunity to get a BIT pilot anytime soon?

Mr. Lewis said like you, I had hoped this year would be the year of the bus as we continue to implement the components of Envision My Ride, but as I mentioned earlier, with the success of the Fourth Street bus-only lane we are working very closely with C-DOT to ensure that as we embark upon a potential new pilot that we do so in corridors that while it may seem like it will work during this downturn in commuting, habits and [inaudible] changing commuting patterns, once the new normal happens we wouldn't want to implement something that works today and cripples C-DOT's endeavors to provide their service into the future. Therefore, we are working in conjunction with a study to move forward as quickly as we can with a pilot program that will meet both of those goals. Again, the pilot bus-only lanes, look for opportunities to pilot advanced technology, but also on those corridors that make sense both from the transit and a roadway sense.

Ms. Eiselt said do you have a sense of timing for that because we've been talking about that and I just don't know that I have a sense of how far along we are in the opportunity to try a pilot. I understand what you are saying about changing patterns during COVID, but we might be able to take that opportunity to learn a few things too if we do want a pilot. Can you give us some timing as to when we might be able to do that?

Mr. Lewis said at this point we don't have enough information for me to guess on a time, but I understand the urgency from Council, and we will certainly move forward as quickly as possible. We will make sure that we come back potentially to the TAP Committee and give frequent updates on the progress of that study.

Ms. Eiselt said I will ask TAP because I really would like to get an idea of when we could start a pilot.

**Councilmember Egleston** said John; this project is going to be the death of our friendship.

Mr. Lewis said I think I know where you are going.

Mr. Egleston said and I'm not pointing at you; frankly, I'm pointing at the contractors, but I also think that we as a City, and I'm not putting this at John's feet, it has been all of our feet. We've got to do a better job of holding the people that we contract with, that we hire to do work for us accountable. The level of incompetence on this project is breathtaking. Maybe it is in just one part of this project, but it is in a part of this project that I'm very familiar with because I live near it and I have a lot of constituents that live right around it and it has been hell for them for the last three-plus-year. As everybody is well aware right now, we found out that there are additional delays on the Hawthorne Bridge, a project that will literally never end and while I am glad that we are going to be able to get it open to pike and PED access at the end of this month theoretically, there are further delays to vehicle traffic crossing it. It has been stated that it likely will not delay revenue service on the streetcar itself which is good news, however, I think the people living right around that bridge in particular, and really all along the line. I was just on the westside of Phase 2 last week and those roads are torn up the same way the roads in my District are torn up and I know people are sick of it. They are sick of having a mess in their front yards and a mess in their neighborhood, streets that are torn up. Sometimes there is not someone out there with a sign telling people when they can go and when to stop to make sure the traffic is proceeding safely.

I've really gotten to the point where a couple of things; one we have to decide where we draw the line in the sand if a contractor can't deliver on what we have asked and what they have promised. I can't imagine in the private sector that someone would have been allowed to continue down this path for this long and make the mistakes of the magnitude of the mistakes that have been made here. We ought to figure out where that line in the sand is. Second, this is really to Mr. Jones, I think we need to, sooner than later start having a conversation about Phase 3 of the Gold Line and is that something that we want to continue to move towards. Because [inaudible] proposed for mass transit and if we had magic wane and we could just have this whole line up and running tomorrow, I think it would be an incredible piece of infrastructure for our City that would yield a ton of economic development, a ton of connectivity and a lot of things that I think everyone on this Council wants for our City. But we don't have magic wane and we see the damage that these projects can do, and it is different from light rail. Light rail has its own kind of designated right-of-way, it is not necessarily in the street, but it certainly has an impact. This is tearing up our streets and it is also tearing up our communities, it is tearing up people's houses, it is tearing up businesses figuratively speaking and literally speaking.

There are businesses like Sabor and Hawthorne Pizza who half of their customers who normally come to them can't get there, and don't bother trying. We've been asking them to put up with that for years and so what I imagine, and I won't speak for Mr. Graham, but there are businesses along Beatties Ford Road Corridor that I would imagine might have the same concerns I have for the ones along Central Avenue. A lot of those are minority-owned businesses, a lot of them are a small business that if they close because of construction that goes on during the potential Phase 3 of the streetcar, they will never reopen and they will be replaced with chains, and they will be replaced with a business that isn't immigrant-owned, that doesn't make our City more unique and more special. I am more and more having trouble wrapping my head around this project and where we draw the line, both with the contractor on Phase 2 and with whether or not this is the best way to deploy our dollars on Phase 3.

I am wholeheartedly in favor of us increasing our transit here. I am, as is Ms. Eiselt, a huge fan of testing some of the bus rapid transit options we have, a huge fan of the Silver Line Light Rail, but this streetcar has just a pain in the ass for too long and people are sick of it and I'm sick of it. We better figure out something quick or a lot of people are going to be getting off this train figuratively speaking when we start talking about Phase 3.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, Mr. Egleston. Your observations are on point and the questions we have to ask about our communities and neighborhoods are really very important.

Mr. Jones said Mr. Egleston; on your first point, the City Attorney and I are working on a confidential memo for all members of Council that we will get to you tomorrow about what our options are with where we are right now on Phase 2. In terms of Phase 3, you do raise the right questions. As we start to think about this, there is an eastern part of it, there is a western part of it. We've talked about issues such as bus rapid transit. As Taiwo and John go into getting up to 30% design for Phase 3, both the eastern side and the western side, all of those options will be a part of it and I think that is a part of the analysis, but I just wanted to let you know that the memo is coming tomorrow in terms of Phase 2 and we will factor in the questions that you have brought up as we explore, and I use the word explore, moving forward with Phase 3.

Mayor Lyles said I think all of us are looking forward to hearing what you can say about this project and its contractor.

Ms. Watlington said I think this may be addressed in the Manager's memo because I'm interested in what becomes a condition when we offer these kinds of contracts, and to Mr. Egleston's point, I'm surprised that it has gone on this long, but I think that will probably be addressed there so I will hold off on that. I've got a couple more questions, the first one in regard to Mr. Lewis, in particular, is what drove the ability to enhance

service in the corridors? I just want to understand what factors had to be true for us to be able to enhance service at this point in time.

Mr. Lewis said as we went through the impacts of the health pandemic and the impacts of the change in employment habits and business openings and how people went to work or changed their mobility patterns, there was, as I mentioned earlier, typically CATS would employ a larger number of vehicles. Actually, the number is just under 250 vehicles in the winter before the COVID-19 during our morning and evening peaks. I generally think about those peaks as roughly 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and then again from about 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We did that in order to meet the normal commuting patterns of people going to and from work. Once the health pandemic hit, we no longer needed the number of vehicles on the street to meet the demand for transit services. So, what we were able to do is essentially reshuffle the chair on the deck of the ship. So, on corridors where we were not moving large numbers of people into uptown, going to work we were able to move some of that service, those vehicles, and operators to those priority corridors that were serving hospitals, larger employment centers, grocery stores, etc. That was our pandemic plan and so we were able to do that in a pretty close to revenue-neutral model by taking service from corridors that had lower demand and move it to corridors that had higher demand, and essentially increase frequencies to 15 minutes of greater; in some of those corridors, we are at 10-minute frequency.

Ms. Watlington said in thinking about Mr. Winston's point I guess I will just echo that because I will be very interested to see how, and hopefully, we will turn to some level of normalcy in the next year how that plan is built out to maybe sustain some of the gains, but that was very innovative, so thank you for that. The next question that I have is funding. I know that we are still early on in the Silver Line particularly, doing 30% design work but how are we currently thinking about funding some of these rapid transit investments? Have we learned anything new about what is the current thinking?

Mr. Lewis said let me address the Silver Line; the Silver Line study was planned and procured with CATS sales tax money and it was estimated at around \$50 million. That budget and that process are ongoing and the funds for that have already been set aside. But to your point, our Planning staff is working day and night, looking not only on how we provide service today, but what does the transit system of the future look like, and what will be the demand for those mobility options? We are trying to create a system that number one provides the level of frequency and service on those corridors that are needed, but also has the flexibility to provide other options such as mobility on demand, potentially using private sector partners that will only provide mobility connections when demanded by a rider rather than we system we use, we just run vehicles and trains up and down a corridor all day. Also, there is the potential for other connections, autonomous vehicles partnering with the transportation networking companies, the Ubers, and Lifts, and so what we want to do is make sure that in those areas where we know we can provide the most sufficient and effective service, our rail and our high capacity bus corridors that we continue to do so, but have a system that is open and flexible enough to bring in other partners to meet other needs as the mobile environment continues to evolve.

Ms. Watlington said the last thing and you don't have to answer now because Hugh Grant and I will have deep dive about this in the next couple of months, but I just wanted to lift up the Airport piece. One of the things that were lifted up when I was there this month was our small business owners and how public transit, as we all know, is an enabler to economic mobility for folks who are working at the Airport. So, I look forward to getting together to talk about how we can continue to support folks working at the Airport who may not have transit.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Watlington; I would like to add that Taiwo has been working with our Mobility Task Force that was created after we had our Retreat and we said what kind of leap can we take to actually make this happen. Harvey Gantt has led a group of 24 citizens in talking about our plans and how they are financed. They are making some good progress and what are the opportunities, and hopefully, we will hear back from them before the end of the year.



**Councilmember Mitchell** said John, thank you so much for the presentation. Just for clarification; I guess the future line going from French Street to Rosa Park Place and then going from Sunny Side Avenue to Eastland, are those part of the Phase 3 discussions?

Mr. Lewis said that is correct.

Mr. Mitchell said I think as we try to collaborate those are both Corridors of Opportunity for us in the ED and I think Ms. Eiselt and I need to be joined hand in hand as we talk about how transportation can support economic development. I know both Councilmember Graham and Councilmember Newton have been passionate about making sure we spend those \$24.5 million wisely on those corridors by having transportation strategy being important as well.

Mr. Lewis said I understand.

Mr. Winston said I just have one comment; something that I said in our last Transportation and Planning meeting as we were talking about our mobility plan and given the Mayor's apology that was given on behalf of the City of Charlotte, I would like my colleagues to recognize that the Silver Line, as well as the Gold Line, runs through many of the most affected areas by the City of Charlotte's Urban Renewal Policy. As we deal with this idea of Restorative Justice and giving reparations to the people of Charlotte, particularly black people of Charlotte who our policies have left out of the picture in terms of economic mobility, I would encourage my colleagues to guide staff to provide restorative policy options as we continue to develop this land; policies that will, in fact, promote black homeownership and black business ownership. We cannot wait for the market to figure this out. This is our duty and our responsibility to our citizens. These development projects also represent really the largest swaths of land that we will be able to mandate and do what we want obviously within regulations and funding models that we have to go into.

This is going to be our opportunity, not only are these neighborhoods the most affected, this is the land that has the greatest potential of providing generational wealth over the next few decades as these transportation investments are made. We talk about it all the time around the Blue Line, around both phases. So, again my comment is to my colleagues; I believe that we should be guiding staff to come up with restorative policies around our transportation and transit development that provide reparations for black homeownership and black business ownership.

**Councilmember Driggs** said Mr. Lewis; as one who has been skeptical and critical about the Gold Line for the last five or six years, I just wanted to tell you I really appreciate your reference to [inaudible] as most people's minds have connotation Titanic about it, but I do have a question as well. When we talk about the lowest and responsive and responsible bidder and we end up in a situation like this, I think with hindsight we can raise the question as to whether the bidder that we awarded this too was in fact responsible. I'm wondering if we need new criteria for choosing bidders in these situations so that we don't end up going with the lowest price and some kind of acceptable story around responsible. Do you look at track records, is there anything we could have done to identify the difficulties we are experiencing right now with this contractor which has gone on for years?

Mr. Lewis said I think you brought out the million-dollar question in regard to infrastructure procurement and particularly in regard to construction. When it works well it works very well, but when you find situations in projects where contractors and project sponsors get into this never-ending cycle of claim and counterclaim you begin to question the process by which we choose contractors. Some of your questions I think are a little beyond my scope; I'm going to turn to Phil Reiger, our Director of General Services, and see if he can provide a better answer for you.

Mr. Reiger said let me add just a little bit to that because being somewhat new to the project, I won't speak for the exact credentials of this particular contractor, but we do know through the process of bidding, which was done back in 2016, all the contractors that bid on this had to pre-qualified by NC-DOT(North Carolina Department of Transportation). So, this contractor was and therefore eligible to bid.

Mr. Driggs said I would just mention Mr. Reiger; you know that our internal audit on contracting has highlighted going back a number of years, various difficulties we've experienced so I hope we can use this occasion as a sort of case study and why well-intentioned plans go awry and to me has to do in part with looking harder at the process to which we select these contractors and the agreements we put in place in order to hold them accountable. Thank you for your remarks.

**Councilmember Graham** said I just want to echo some of the comments made by my colleagues in reference to the corridor and the importance of transportation options like the streetcar. Obviously, on the lower end of Beatties Ford Road, we are excited about the opportunity it will present once it is open and I'm a firm believer that if we can revitalize the corridor, we can revitalize the neighborhoods around it. I look forward to continuing conversations with the Council and Transportation about how we could utilize transportation as a vehicle for corridor enhancement and neighborhood improvements. I think Councilmember Winston made a number of good points as well. We can use this as a tool for economic development and I also concur with Councilmember Mitchell's points in terms of revitalization of the corridor, using transit as a method and a means of doing so. Just wanted to add my voice to the record.

Mayor Lyles said this discussion continues with C-DOT and what we are doing around how we work our streets as well. I want to say this is really important for us to begin to think about these tenets all working together.

**Liz Babson, Transportation Director** said this evening I'm going to give you two real quick updates on state funding allocations that we receive to maintain our streets. Each year the North Carolina General Assembly approves annual funding to maintain streets in cities and towns across the state and we call this Powell Bill Funds. These funds are primarily used in Charlotte for resurfacing efforts, but we also use those funds for other maintenance and repair activities on our city streets. COVID-19, as many of us are aware, has had a drastic impact on funding at all levels of government and we are seeing that our State Transportation funding level as well. You may be familiar with the recent state legislature that approved HB-777 which was the NC-DOT funding Bill for FY2021 and that made some budget reductions to impact our Powell Bill funding. Specific adjustments to our Powell Bill funding include a one-time 10% reduction for FY21 to Powell Bills across the entire state, but more specifically to Charlotte and Raleigh, we had a one-third one-time reduction for municipalities with a population of over 400. That reduction in Powell Bill is approximately \$8.2 million to our typical annual Powell Bill allocation, making our new estimated amount for FY21 \$12.3 million.

We got this covered and we've worked very closely with our Budget Office. We've reviewed internal operations, made some budget adjustments and operational changes for one year to solve for all but \$3.4 million of that reduction in Powell Bill allocation. That will result in us reducing our contracting resurfacing budget by this year that will reduce the amount that we typically resurface by about 25%. We believe we can sustain this one-time budget impact without any significant impact on maintaining our infrastructure over the long haul.

I've got some good news on another state-funded allocation that I would like to share with you. NC-DOT has a statewide asset maintenance program where they reimburse cities for maintenance to traffic control assets on state's streets within those city limits. This covers installations, operations, and maintenance for things like traffic signals, traffic signs, and pavement markings. The City of Charlotte has actually entered into agreements with NC-DOT like this for more than 25-years and there are about 15 cities across the state that enter into agreements similar to this. I am happy to say that you approved at your last Business Meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup> a new funding agreement with NC-DOT in the amount of \$1,175,000 and there has been no reduction in funding for this effort. With that, I will take any questions if you have any.

**Councilmember Johnson** said thank you Liz for that presentation and the work that you and C-DOT do. I have a question regarding the reimbursement from NC-DOT. Here in District 4, we have some of our major thoroughfares that are State-owned, and we get a

lot of requests from residents regarding the maintenance or the litter or the grass and so many times they are State-owned roads like NC-49 and W. T. Harris Boulevard. Will this reimbursement allow the City to do work on those thoroughfares and receive the reimbursement?

Ms. Babson said yes ma'am, but not for the two examples that you just mentioned. This agreement is specific to traffic control devices and again, those are things like traffic signals, traffic signs, and pavement markings. So, things like litter and the maintenance of the asphalt are not covered under this agreement.

Ms. Johnson said is there an option for because many times I've reached out and the City staff has cleaned it up as a courtesy and I appreciate that but moving forward we know there was a budget cut I think with NC-DOT that is affecting the maintenance of these areas. Do we have options to maintain the grass and the trash in our Districts if NC-DOT is not able to maintain?

Ms. Babson said yes ma'am, I believe our two options would be the City either covers the cost of that maintenance on the State street or we would enter into an agreement with the State, but again, as you mentioned, NC-DOT has had some funding implication and would not likely enter into any new agreements for arrangements like that.

Ms. Johnson said thank you for the work that C-DOT is doing Liz.

Mr. Mitchell said Liz; I kind of want to follow up on Ms. Johnson because I think we are talking about Corridors of Opportunity and we have heard from some of the residents that the exits or the ramps are not pleasing to some of the citizens that we know are owned by the State and so, is there any way we can get creative and come up with a solution? I think our residents are tired of hearing it is the State and nothing is being done. I don't know City Manager; can we put this part of our Corridors of Opportunity, maybe focus on those six as a pilot, but I do think when you are talking about rebranding and putting our money to corridors, one thing is very important is beautification. I don't need an answer now, but if we could get creative and try to address that I think it will make a lot of the Councilmembers happy.

Mr. Jones said sounds good.

Ms. Babson said I will share with you Mr. Mitchell, I did just receive an update from the Division Engineer, and these are perceived for landscaping and clearing many of those areas so we should see some improvements in that regard in the coming months.

Ms. Watlington said I've got just a couple; first of all, thank you all for being proactive and anticipating and making sure that we are able to recover, even with the Powell Bill reductions. Liz, can you put recap for me what our net difference is and the reason I ask is that I've got that \$14.5 million in my head and I'm thinking about some of the work that is going on down in Steele Creek and I just want to make sure I understand the impacts of the reductions on that.

Ms. Babson said \$3.4 million is the final impact to our total Powell Bill allocation after we've made some adjustments internally and we are going to reduce our contracted resurfacing amount by that much, which is about 25%.

Ms. Watlington said and that is separate from the signalization and other improvements that we've targeted certain areas of the City for.

Ms. Babson said yes ma'am.

Ms. Watlington said the next thing, from a tedious standpoint, and I know we are still early in our [inaudible] there, but I'm curious to know if there are local businesses who may be interested in making those investments to enable the employees to get to work during rush hour a little bit better. I'm wondering if we've had any conversations with anybody about potentially making those investments and then being reimbursed on the back end by the State or what the conversation is in that [inaudible].

Ms. Babson said let me answer that question a couple of different ways. The Powell Bill allocation is to resurface City streets, not State streets and I know many of the ones in your District are NC-DOT maintained, so I don't know if that changes your question or not, but we are always interested in partnering with developers, property owners to make improvements to the City's asset and NC-DOT would likely engage in that as well.

Ms. Watlington said because you said what you said, let me ask you this. If it is a State road what would the avenue be; say if BASF came and said you know what if we just went ahead and improved this turn signal at the intersection, we would see an improvement, and our employees would be able to get to work on time, or anything like that. What is the avenue by which they could do that now or [inaudible]?

Ms. Babson said if it were being funded by a private entity, we would enter into an encroachment agreement with NC-DOT to have them perform that work within the right-of-way.

Ms. Watlington said the only other thing that I was going to ask is about the litter and the maintenance of some of the State Highways. I get the same kind of constituent concerns and I'm just curious where the Adopt a Highway Program plays a role in that or if there are opportunities for neighborhoods to come out and clean up. I know that on the west side we do a lot of underpass clean-up and things like that and Camp Stewart, our volunteer hours for matching grants. I'm just curious how we leverage that program or if it is a fit for this kind of thing?

Ms. Babson said it absolutely could be a fit for that. The City and the State both have those programs. Obviously, you wouldn't do that on a freeway or an interstate for example, where you've got high travel speeds and nowhere safe for people to do that litter collection, but the City and the State both have that program currently.

Ms. Watlington said but how do we do; somebody could just e-mail us, and I will forward it, I guess.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said most of my questions have been addressed, but I do have another question that wasn't addressed around truck parking. I know we were getting complaints, the last complaint we had received was late last year about trucks parking at the entrance of freeways, especially off of Sugar Creek Road, W. T. Harris, etc. and I know that staff was working with NC-DOT on that. We had seen where there were signs that were put out however, we had seen that problem occur somewhere else after signs were put out at one exit. Was that issue addressed or is there anything you can provide on that?

Ms. Babson said yes ma'am; we work closely with NC-DOT and Highway Patrol to install new signs on those two exit ramps. I believe it was Graham Street and Statesville Avenue in particular where there was a previous signing that had been knocked down and removed. Those signs have been reinstalled.

### **Republican National Convention Update**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said we have a couple of guests tonight, so I appreciate their patience and that is our Health Director Gibbie Harris, as well as Dr. Runge who will talk a bit about safety and preparation for the RNC as well as there, are several members of CMPD who have been working on the RNC as well as the DNC (Democratic National Convention) back in 2012. Angela, I don't know if you want to tee it off or Gibbie or what is next. I know you are in the next room, but this is in response to Council asking for an update around safety for the RNC.

**Gibbie Harris, Mecklenburg County Health Director** said I appreciate the opportunity to give you an update on where we are with the planning. I'm going to make a few quick comments and then I'm going to turn it over to Dr. Runge to run through the presentation and then we will be happy to answer any questions that you have or attempt to.

I am the Health Director here in Mecklenburg County and have had the benefit of working with a really good group of people on the RNC. Our focus has been to make this reduced Convention as safe as it possibly can be both for our community as well as the delegates and attendees. We continue to plan with the State and with our national partners. We are planning around lots of different things obviously, some of the planning has been going on for almost two years now and some of it has been a little more recent. I do want to let you know that I've been in fairly constant conversation with the State Health Director around this to make sure that whatever we are putting together will be acceptable to the State based on the Governor's latest executive order. In the last letter from Betsy Tilson, State Health Director, basically what she is saying is that in order to be supportive of this event we are going to have to make some accommodations but based on the unique [inaudible] of the Convention we are willing to be somewhat flexible in enforcement with certain public health measures. You will see that as Dr. Runge goes through this presentation.

Dr. Runge is a Health and Medical Advisor that is working with the RNC and he has been working with a group here in the County. He has been driving this effort very effectively and so I am going to turn it over to him, who obviously is virtual, to go through this presentation.

**Dr. Jeff Runge, Health and Medical Advisor** said it is a pleasure to be appearing before you even though I am an hour and a half away. I have a very short slide deck, about seven slides and I would like to get to the point where we can field questions if possible. This plan follows a form that I learned when I was Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs at Homeland Security back when I was exiled from Charlotte to DC in 2008. I follow the national response framework which has the principles of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery that were used for basically any event or any disaster. We are using it in this case to prevent the consequences of the disaster that we already find ourselves in. One of the first principles in the national response framework is that when you are working with something that has occurred or you are trying to prevent occurring in a local community the first thing, we do is to engage the local community. In this case, all of the necessary assets that we need to carry on a successful and healthy meeting exists in Charlotte Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas. I'm very happy that this has been scaled down; this actually gets us to a condition that we can control and as you see here, we started planning back in early May that includes not only myself and our Director of Operations, but Charlotte Emergency Management, the Health Department in the form of Gibbie Harris, but Atrium Health and Novant Health have had a robust presence in the meetings which happens two or three times a week as well as Mecklenburg County EMS.

This Committee actually has to be in sort of conjoined effort and reporting to in some ways to the Health and Medical Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee of the National Special Security Event which is coordinated by the Secret Service. I believe the concept of an NSSE is familiar to you; there are certain events that the Federal Government proclaims to be National Special Security Events and what that does, it names the principal federal official as the Secret Service and makes resources available to augment what is needed at the local level. There certainly would have been plenty needed had we not been in the pandemic and would have had from 20,000 to 50,000 people in town.

Those of you who are military veterans will recognize planning doctrine which is just the principles around which we build the plan. These are the five core lines and that is that this plan and our implementation of the plan will comply with State and Local Health Director and as Gibbie said we have been working with her. Dr. Betsy Tilson, who is the State Health Director, she actually sits on the COVID Sub-committee of that Health and Medical Sub-committee that I talked about, so we've had full transparency the entire way and really the only way to do things. This gathering, if you use the John Hopkins stratification of risk, this is a high-risk event. Again, it doesn't compare to the risk that would have taken place had we had 50,000 people here, but it is still a high-risk event. People are coming in from every state in the country and from those of the six territories that are allowed to travel and so this is a serious issue. The way we mitigate that is to put

in multiple layers of risk reduction that can bring that risk level down into the acceptable rate. It will not be risk-free and so you will see that we are jumping through significant hoops in order to carry on a meeting that is public negative and provides no risk to the community, which is frankly the third principle here. That is that I was brought on board by the Republican Convention Committee with one mission and that is to help them have a safe meeting.

I mentioned the core capabilities before, health protection, prevention, mitigation, and response and recovery, and the implementation of this plan depends upon many elements of the community supported by principally the Federal Government as well as the private sector. That is basically the planning doctrine and principles. This is the third major attribute of this plan and that is that this is not a political plan. I have been totally unresponsive to anything that sounds political and it is easy to do that because of the planning cell that we have which are people from Charlotte. They are physicians, there are paramedics, there are health administrators and they understand that if this thing is not carried on in a safe manner that they are at the tip of the spear, and those health systems will be the ones that will suffer as well as the core County Health Department that is going to be stuck with facing contacts, etc. We are observing guidelines that are put out by the CDC (Centers for Disease), the White House Task Force, the State of North Carolina, the County of Mecklenburg, and the wisdom of some really smart people, senior positions, and administrators [inaudible]. Those elements are communication, communication, and communication with the participating attendees to let them know that this is not the same kind of Convention they have attended in prior years. This is about the business of nominating a candidate for President and this typically happens in other years the week before the Convention, then the Convention meets, and it is what is on TV that we all like to watch and it is the bib Pep Rally. That is not this. This is the business of the Convention and our feedback from Dr. Tilson at the State is that the flexibility of our being able to bring together 336 delegates and another 75 to 100 support people from out of town depends upon their respect for the Democratic process of doing this and that the important part is the business of the Convention and it is not a party.

What we are going to do is that every person that travels to Charlotte who is an official attendee of this Convention is going to be given an at-home test. It is the only one that is both preliminary chain reaction-based and has an internal control to make sure that the sample is accurate. It is a North Carolina Company and we have high confidence that a negative is a negative and a positive is positive so that is the first hurdle. You don't want anyone who is COVID positive to get on an airplane or to go to the airport or to land in Charlotte and expose the Uber or Lift drivers or whoever on the way to the hotel. They will be invited to stay at home and other accommodations will be made for representation for their state. When they arrive, they will be tested again? The at-home test will occur seven days before they travel and that will occur seven days after they have been observing enhanced social distancing so they should not have had any contact with a COVID positive person in the days prior to the test nor will they have any contact with a COVID positive person after the test, but if for some reason someone does enter a gathering; my fire alarm went off the other day and three volunteer firemen show up at my front door with no mask on. I couldn't control that and so stuff happens. We are going to test them again when they get here. They will start arriving on Wednesday, we will be doing testing Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as people arrive and we are going to have a COVID negative attendee cohort coming from every state in the country and some of the territories. The community supports staff. There are members of this community, some of whom are in high-risk groups, some are in low prevalence groups, but they are all going to be tested if they are front of house staff and in contact with the cohort. Every day the attendees will have to attest to history or signs and systems of COVID or for risk of transmission and we will have people who are trained and physical observation to look for anybody who just doesn't look good. They will be referred to a secondary screening area that is staffed by health professionals from both Novant and Atrium and we are not going to let anybody in the meeting who appears to be ill.

There is going to be 100% compliance with physical distancing, the chairs will not be moved in the meeting rooms, the meeting room configuration is configured to be six-feet apart both that way and that way and there is going to be 100% mask use in indoor spaces

and anywhere including outdoor spaces when close contact cannot be avoided. In addition, we are also concerned about the risk of this cohort because a good portion of these people is in high-risk groups, due to age only, others are in vulnerable risk groups due to their medical conditions, they love to travel, and they love this stuff and they are going to be here. So, we will know who they are, and our health teams will be alert to how many of those people are here and we will be alerted to working closely with them to make sure that they remain healthy.

We are also employing a technology that we learned about that is what we call a safety fob of the badge and is blue tooth enabled and it knows when other badges are close to it and how long they are close to it. The identity of who is wearing that badge is known, the PII is protected, it is in a database and nobody will ever crack that code unless somebody gets sick. We will find out if they are sick because we are going to follow them up when they leave Charlotte at day five, day 14, and day 21 with e-mails, text messages, and phone calls in order to detect if anybody has gotten sick, whether it is here or there and then we will be able to tell the people who were in close contact with that individual and with the help of Gibbie's people and the State we will be able to make contact tracing automated and exceedingly simple for our contact tracers here and not add to their burden of already a very difficult task.

In terms of the categories of things that we do for prevention and protection, once again attendees will attest to their risk factors and their health limitations. We will have that discussion with them, they will have a daily symptom and temperature checks, and every day if they pass the symptom check and the temperature check and they've just had a negative COVID test a day or two or three before, they will be given a risk band in the color of the day that will allow them to enter the meeting spaces. Those will be monitored by our staff, by a private security group that RNC has used in the past. General Giants will be making sure that people are observing social distancing and wearing the mask and that they have the risk band for the day before they go in. These meetings will be in both the meeting hotel and on Monday when the National Special Security Event occurs, which will occur in the Convention Center. The Secret Service will be manning the security for the Convention Center, but we will have our usual people doing secondary screening and making sure that they have their badge, their credentials, their safety fob, and their risk band for the day before they are allowed into the area. Once they get into the Convention Center everybody in that Convention Center will have had a COVID test within the previous few days and if there are any symptoms of anybody that will be noticed on the way in with our screeners; they will not be allowed to come into space for any of those meeting days in which they are ill and medical care will be available to them both on-site and through a telemedicine application that we are providing to them as well as their own contact with their personal physician back home.

I mentioned some of this, but what I have not mentioned is food and beverage is a problem and people who come to a meeting from out of town, they like to eat, and they like to drink. Unfortunately, that is not going to be part of this meeting, but we have to feed them, and it is actually safer for them to eat in this, I hate to use the word bubble because it brings on NBA connotation, but in fact, it is a protected space where everybody has been tested negative and it is actually safer to feed them there. That is what is going to happen for breakfast and lunch, but all of those meals will be either seated or they will have a box they will be encouraged to eat breakfast in their rooms or at lunchtime they will probably be in a meeting room and in their distanced seat. No other social gatherings will take place in excess of what is in the Governor's Executive Order which is 10-people indoors and 25-people outdoors and even in those cases they will be masked, and they will be encouraged to physically distance themselves. The rest of this is just standard operating procedure for any county during the pandemic and that is if there is a COVID positive individual they will have to isolate for 14-days if they are symptomatic, they will follow the CEC guidelines for that, which is a day without any symptoms after their symptomatic. If they come in contact with a COVID positive individual they will be quarantined 14-days, again following the directives of the Mecklenburg County Health Director. The RNC staff will help these people be successful in isolation and quarantine; we are not going to leave them stranded. They will eat, they will drink, they will communicate, and they will leave and go home as soon as their time is up. Again, as I

mentioned, we are going to follow up after the meeting, and this really has two big purposes. Number one, this has not been done before; this is the largest sanctioned event that we know of outside of professional sports. While we are not trying to set a precedent here, we do want to know if it works, so we are going to do an after-action report which we will of course share with you and the Commissioners and anybody else who is interested. We think this is a; I don't want to call it a social experiment, but we are using specific evidence, we will be testing those hypotheses and we want to report on that afterward. The other reason as I mentioned before is that we are responsible for helping the Mecklenburg County Health Department with their contact detection and notification and we want to make sure that we know of anybody who attended the meeting in the official capacity who might have become ill after they left.

We talked about mitigation and response, again both hospitals have been great, providing medical support. We want to assure the Council that this is not going to detract from the general [inaudible] logical testing of the community. Novant has acquired a free agent for one of their platforms that is not used for general testing and Atrium Health is working with the State and frankly with the USHSS to acquire some additional reagent for their machine to make sure that no testing is diverted or interrupted.

Just to let you know that there is a lot of people involved in this thing. The critical support functions, communications, and communications and communications, public education, public notification, the setting of expectations, that has all been going on now for a couple of weeks. There are vendors who will be private bus operators who will be observing all the health protocols necessary. We have been looking at ventilation and filtering. It started with the Spectrum Center before all this stuff happened with Jacksonville and everything else and we've become very familiar with the ventilation systems in the Charlotte Convention Center and the Westin. They have upgraded their filtering for this occasion, the ventilation is state of the art and we are going to keep our planning cell functioning in case something happens that we had not planned for, etc. We feel really good about this; we feel really good about the status of the emergency medical services and the Emergency Management in Charlotte as well as the robustness of the two Medical Centers, and frankly, this was a great place to the Convention, and it is at the size now that it can be managed locally. I'm a native Charlotteans, I was exiled to DC and then to Chapel Hill for 20-years. I'm moving back home and I'm really excited about being back and it has been great for me to reconnect with the community in this way and I'm very grateful to the community for its community spirit. The Medical Centers put out a joint press release this morning. How often does that happen? We are very excited about where we are going here and I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said this is a great presentation and the plan that we have to keep our residents and our visitors safe. I do have a question about our essential workers that will be working at hotels or in restaurants. What is the plan to keep them safe?

Dr. Runge said Gibbie is the proper person to answer this question, but I will tell you that all those personnel, many of them come from communities where the population is very dense and they are at risk for having asymptomatic COVID and transmitting it and this is also a cohort coming in from 50 states, but everybody is going to be tested who interacts with each other. We are doing testing three and four days before people arrive, the staffs of the venues are being brought in for special training, not just for this event, but also for the sake of how to do social distancing and mask-wearing and they are getting additional training and we are going to have a testing clinic at that time to make sure that they are all COVID negative. The ones that aren't will not be allowed to work in front of the house and what their HR Department does is up to them. They will be following state and county directives about that. This is really an important thing to us, we want to make sure, and there are going to be 400 people considering the two venues, the RNC staff is now local and will probably remain local. They came here a year ago to support the Convention and a lot of them like it. We feel pretty confident that everybody is going to be on exactly the same basis. There are no privileged characters, everybody is going to be expected to do their part to remain safe and we are going to test them to make sure that the group is COVID negative.



Ms. Ajmera said will testing access also be provided to workers?

Ms. Harris said the individuals who are working in the venues; all of the delegates and other individuals coming out of the County are being housed at the Westin, then the Convention Center is the other site. Folks that are working in the Westin and having any interaction with the delegates at all or the others from out of town as well as all of those that will be working in the Convention Center will be tested on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday prior to those individuals coming into town. It was important to know that we were protecting the delegates and the people that are coming here to make sure they were negative when they got here, but also those individuals that are coming in to work with them and for them during this event. Any interaction there and Dr. Runge mentioned the bubble, what we are doing is trying to create an environment where we know that everybody that is in that environment is negative as they come in.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said it sounds like, and I know you didn't say like the NBA bubble, but there is obviously a feeling of there are a lot of very in-depth protocols to ensure the safety of that. That was a good visualization. I guess my question is, it sounds like in this type of environment, what was already a minimized impact for our struggling small businesses and hospitality workers, is it a correct assumption to assume that it will go from limited to basically almost nothing at this point?

Dr. Runge said let me just say that my primary concern is not the economic benefit of this meeting occurring in Charlotte. I'm glad that it is coming and I'm glad that there will be 400 people who will be supporting this meeting. It is interesting that Dr. Tilson, State Health Director really did not want us to feed people in the evenings because people without masks on in large groups and so they are going to get out and go to restaurants. The RNC staff is contacting restaurants in the area to make sure enough of them are going to have reservations. Restaurants that are adhering to the local protocol, there are going to be enough to feed people both uptown and close by. I think there will be a bump to tell you the truth, but it is going to be nothing like would have occurred had there not been a pandemic and there had been 50,000 people coming to Charlotte.

Mr. Bokhari said I completely appreciate from your perspective; you've been hired to do a specific thing and it seems like you are taking that very seriously and doing it from my perspective the top of the ability that it can be done. So, I thank you for that. I guess my request would be on the broader coalition of folks working on this, you've brought in a top gun on safety and innovation around health in Jeff and also in working with our local health leaders. I would plead for you guys to also find somebody that is just the same amount of passion and champion for the local small businesses for the hospitality workers and creatively figuring out how we can have them provide breakfast or lunch because these people have been looking at this for so long as potentially a life raft of economic recovery. I would really hope that they go and call in the big guns, whatever the Jeff equivalent is on the economic side in creativity, I plead with those folks to consider that as well.

Dr. Runge said I will tell you, Mr. Bokhari, the staff of the RNC, they are young gun-ho vibrant people. They have been trying to figure out what stuff around Charlotte that the delegates can do when they are not in meetings that will be fun, like Top Golf or these sorts of venues. They are making a list so they will be able to get out and do things in venues where this social distancing can actually occur. They will find their own way; these people have been to lots of conventions before and if they've got money in their pocket, I hope they will spend it in the community. We are trying to help them; it is problem because this pandemic stinks for everybody. There is nothing great about this and everything is a compromise. Our delegates certainly don't like coming to town and not having the typical celebration over a Presidential Candidate. It won't be the pep rally feeling that both Conventions have every four years and they don't like that and the economic benefit that comes from that.

Ms. Harris said that has been part of our conversation there, it is not a typical Convention. It can't be right now for our community and so we are trying to make sure that the delegates understand that and as Jeff mentioned in working with the RNC Committee to

identify those places nearby that they can go to, have a meal, enjoy themselves and come back. We are just wanting to make sure that we don't create an environment during this event that could easily turn into a party or could expose a lot of people at any given time. It is a balancing act, but I do believe that by not having big events at the facilities it does give people more of an opportunity to get out in the community and potentially get to some of those places that you are talking about.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I'm really impressed with the spirit and cooperation, the care, the collaboration among all the parties that are going into this planning. I can't help but wish it had been like that the whole time frankly. It has taken us too long to get to the point where we were working together like this. The deal would be a reality which was the virus with the enemy here, not the Governor, not the President. We need to be working in these terms, looking at what kind of accommodations could be made and what was necessary for health. Anyway, I'm pleased that as the time draws near, we've really got a good plan. The question I have is what are we doing, and this may be for the Manager as well, what are we expecting in terms of manifestations in the streets and the kind of health hazards that they could present and the other safety issues around that? Again, I realize this is not just for the medical people, but have we given thought to the risks related to crowds in the streets? Do we have assumptions about what kind of crowds we should expect? What about outside the Convention itself?

Mr. Jones said Councilmember Driggs, the second part of this presentation includes a CMPD response.

Mr. Driggs said alright, good. So, that is just a question I guess of do we have any thoughts? We've seen in other crowd manifestations that mask wear was sometimes patchy, that people certainly didn't maintain distance. Do we have any thoughts around that or are we planning any new ways for that? What can you say about it?

Ms. Harris said we will have masks available for individuals that are in the street and what has been seen; there has been a couple of studies that have been since some of the large protests, especially in Milwaukee, and what they have found is that people being outside with the majority of the people wearing masks that the likelihood of transmission is much lower than we would have expected to begin with. I think if we plan ahead, make sure that we have resources available to the people in the street, keep crowds moving, and not clustering in one place we have a much lower possibility of exposure.

Mr. Driggs said thank you; I think we are all setting a great example for how cooperation can work in managing these issues and I appreciate the work you've done. I'm looking forward to a healthy Convention.

**Councilmember Winston** said I have a practical question about airflow in a room where several hundred people are going to be for hours. As Dr. Runge said, this is not going to be the pep rally, this is going to be a situation where you will have delegates sitting in the same room for an extended period of time. I believe what you say if testing is your primary weapon to making sure that there is no contamination within the rooms, but are we doing anything, are we talking to the folks at the Convention Center here, the CRVA (Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority) that we have any concerns or doing anything about airflow, HVAC with these hundreds of people sitting in one room for an extended period of time? How are we looking at that?

Dr. Runge said we met with Engineering in both places and first of all the states want us to observe a person per square footage that is currently in place for a restaurant, which is 12 people per 1,000 square feet. All of the engineerings of the HVAC systems turn over air well in excess of what will be required for even more than that. So, it depends on where the suppliers are and where the returns are. In the Convention Center a lot of that all happens in the ceiling so apparently, I don't know the architecture, but everything must be up there over the second floor such that the air that circulates is pulled in from the top which is good. As I used to say to my residents, the solution to pollution is dilution and where there are germs, if you can get that air circulating the better is. Much of that air is recirculated, but it is running through Merv 15 filtration system. So, Merv 13 is what is

considered adequate for this sort of particulate matter down to the microns of droplets and even aerosolized viruses. Merv 15 is closer to hospital-grade and that is why is in the system in the Convention Center. We feel good about that; interestingly, the Spectrum Center, when it was still a candidate had [inaudible] upgrading its systems and it is interesting, it puts more stress on a blower the smaller the filters are in the filtration system, but both facilities are fully capable of managing that. Yeah, we've looked at this pretty thoroughly; it is very important, but I will say again, you can get away with a world of sin by wearing a mask and if you can contain the droplets if you can limit the spread of the aerosols by not cheering and shouting and singing and preaching and stuff. I asked this question so to tell me about the climate of the speakers in a typical Convention. I've never been to one, and I was told think of it more like a giant college lecture. In this case, where these meetings occur, it will be more like a giant college lecture than a rock concert or anything in between. I feel very comfortable that the buildings that were selected for this venue are up to the task.

**Councilmember Egleston** said the Dr. answered one of my questions which were just more specifically around the number, we knew the number of delegates but the total number of people including sports apt and others because obviously, it takes more than just delegates to put on a Convention, so he answered that earlier. I'm actually a delegate to next week's convention which is entirely virtual now with not even the speakers not even going to Milwaukie to broadcast from there but staying at their homes, states, and cities to broadcast. One of the communications that we have received loud and clear as delegates to the DNC and I'm curious whether Republicans have received the same thing is, anticipating that as you said these are enthusiastic party supporters who want to be at these Conventions, and they are highly disappointed that they are not taking place as normal. Anticipating that folks might show up in Milwaukie despite being told that they weren't supposed to, they have been very clear, communication coming from the DNC to us the delegates saying do not come to Milwaukie and if you do there will be nothing for you to come to. This was even prior to it being entirely virtual. Have there been communication to the delegates or other who might have wanted to come if they are not one of those 300 plus delegates that are going to be in person that said if you come here you will not be allowed to attend anything so please don't show up in Charlotte expecting that you can meet up with a buddy and get into something that you weren't invited to?

Dr. Runge said that is a great question and I don't know the answer. The communications around health have been focused on people who will be here. Those delegates, non-delegate committee members, Gibbie is going to have 20 people who are in her environmental health crowd, there are going to be Firemen, Police Officers, etc. we've been really focused on communicating expectations for behavior and what is expected of those that are coming. I can't answer that question, but I will get back to you on that, that is a good question.

Mr. Egleston said I know Mr. Driggs is involved in that so I would be curious to hear if it hasn't been sent out, I think it would be useful because there will be people who will say I can show up and still get into some events or whatever. People need to know that if they are not on the invitee list there will be nothing for them to come to and they should not come to Charlotte.

Ms. Harris said I'm not sure what the communication has been, but we have been clear that if they are not appointed delegates and/or alternates or some of the staff that has been identified that they are not coming in.

Mr. Egleston said not only the delegates but the delegates who are invited to come because not all the delegates are invited to come.

Ms. Harris said that is correct.

Dr. Runge said that is correct; we will have six people from each state, which is the target number each state and territory. Some of the territories are not allowed to travel so, it will be fewer than 336, but it will be over 300.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to say that I'm an alternate, not a delegate, but I got the message some time ago that I should not come to Charlotte, which I thought was funny since I'm here. I am not part of the North Carolina group which consists mainly of party officials, so it has been pretty clear that I should not make any plans to participate. I don't know if it goes as far as emphatically saying do not come to this city, but certainly, it was plain enough to me that there was nothing going on in which I should expect to participate. That is just one perspective.

Ms. Ajmera said a couple of weeks ago there were plans for having delegates at several hotels instead of just one to further minimize the risk. What happened to that plan and how did you arrive at this plan?

Ms. Harris said I think that a particular plan was what we were moving forward with when we thought there were going to be more people here, with the expectation that they would need to be spread over a number of hotels. Having them all at one hotel with the meeting rooms being in the hotel except for that Monday when they are across the street at the Convention Center gives us an opportunity to control the situation better and to make sure that people are complying. It also reduces the need for transportation that we have to try to move people around from multiple hotels. When the number got that condensed it gave us that opportunity to localize it.

**Mayor Lyles** said I want to thank both Dr. Runge and Ms. Harris for being available to us tonight. I think we've covered a lot of ground and I think from what I have seen from your slide presentation and the work that you've presented and the answering of the various questions that we really do have a plan and something as you said you will be able to write about as the way we handled a large event well during this pandemic time.

Mr. Jones said thank you so much Gibbie. I think people understand that there is this policy group that has multiple discussions during the week, and it is very refreshing to have you come and speak with us, so thank you for everything you've done as well as Dr. Runge. The next piece of the presentation again, responding to Council's questions is to have a discussion about what is happening outside of the facilities and Chief Jennings will cue it up, but he also has a number of individuals who worked, not only through this project but also during the DNC, so we have a bit of history here. I will turn it over to Chief Jennings.

**Chief Johnny Jennings, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police** said I'm still waiting for my letter not to be here for the Convention. Our security planning started in March of 2019 so you can see we've been into this for quite a while. Although it has certainly changed from what we were originally planning, we are still fully committed, have been, and will continue to be committed to working with our law enforcement partners and other Stake Holders to make sure that this event is safe for the attendees and also for our community here in Charlotte.

Just to get into some of our planning, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Command Center will operate between Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. and Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and we are actively planning for potential events during that same timeframe. As you have heard earlier, the Secret Service has designated this as a National Special Security Event, but the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, we have to break this down into two ways of looking at it. One, we have to ensure that the event itself, delegates, guests and everyone else that is attending here for the event is safe and that we are able to manage that event as well to ensure that it is as little disruption to our City as possible and at the same time, we are committed to making sure that services that we provide from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department to our community who is here are not diminished in any way shape, form or fashion. We have a strategic operation plan in place to ensure that doesn't happen and make sure that our City is continued to receive the services from our law enforcement that they have been receiving. As you heard earlier, we are expecting 336 delegates plus their guests and there is no indication at this time of a Presidential visit or Vice-Presidential visit however, if that does change, we do have resources in place, and we will be able to manage that effectively as well.

You heard a little bit also the history of Charlotte; we've been fortunate to be able to plan and put forth operations for major events. Some of them and a lot of them that I've been significantly involved in from a leadership perspective and so we've been fortunate in that so that we feel that the Republican National Convention is something that is certainly within our realm of ability to be able to handle and make sure that it is safely put forth for our citizens and the guests that are coming into Charlotte. We've been working with CATS, C-DOT, NC-DOT other partners to help manage a traffic plan that will impact based on the plan that is going to be for the secure area. The traffic plan will be released later this week so that everyone has knowledge of that as well.

I think it was Mr. Driggs who mentioned the protest and the safety of protestors. The answer to that is yes, we do expect protestors and demonstrators to come into Charlotte and we are going to hopefully have a peaceful protest and ideally that they will abide by the plans as far as a mask are concerned and take consideration for their health as well. We can't accurately predict a number of protestors that we are going to see; it is a little bit different this year as you've been told and as you can imagine it is a little bit more difficult to know who is planning on coming in for the demonstrations. We are going to be appropriately staffed and planned to make sure that whatever we see and are faced with that we will be able to handle it and make sure that they are safe, and the Officers are safe as well as our community is safe.

There has been a tremendous amount of planning, training, coordination and it has all been committed to the security for this event and public safety for our community. In the interest of public safety as well, we are not going to discuss means, methods, and specific resources, that will be things that will be released after the event is completed. We want to make sure that we are providing a safe and welcoming atmosphere for everyone coming to visit Charlotte and those that live here as well. I'm going to end that with any questions and I also have some staff here that can answer any specific questions if I'm not able to answer as well.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said Chief; thank you for the update and I have a question when the event was scaled down and we were told to scale down our use of the security grant to essentially what we spend. I wonder how that impacts the mix of security that would have come here, between Secret Service, FBI, local, out of state. Do we still have a mix of that or is it just local or how does that work?

Chief Jennings said there is a mix; the National Special Security Event does allow for federal assistance as well. Of course, obviously, with a scaled-down event we have scaled down the number of resources that we have, however, we still do have resources available to us because as you know, we don't know what we are going to see as far as protests are concerned and if it gets to a level of protests where we need further assistance, we do have that available for us as well.

Ms. Eiselt said will you have any out of state officers coming from other Police Departments?

Chief Jennings said we have those resources that are available at this point. We feel sufficiently staffed with what we have in place so I don't want to get into specifics about which agencies and how many agencies will be assisting in any, but at this point, I feel very comfortable with what we have.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said just three quick questions; one, I think you mentioned that the Command Center would open starting Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> through Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup>, but I thought Jeff said the Convention runs from the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Is there a reason we are not extending the Command Center through the 27<sup>th</sup> on that Thursday?

Chief Jennings said originally the 27<sup>th</sup> was going to be the acceptance speech and that is done virtually. The events in Charlotte will end on Monday afternoon the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mitchell said okay, that is good news. Secondly, Chief; during the DNC the boundaries and I know some of our Councilmembers were not here, but actually was fended in all the

way Center City Partner boundaries; with it be the same setup for the RNC, is that going to be a gated fence around downtown?

Chief Jennings said you will know a lot more later this week, however, you can imagine that since there is only one venue that it is not going to be as significant as it was during the DNC where we had essential venues downtown that were impacted.

Mr. Mitchell said in 2012 the protest area was right beside the Westin, it was an old club there called the Crews and it was a little open spot. Where is the protest area, have we designated one for the RNC?

Chief Jennings said given the idea and the thoughts of how scaled-down we are and some of the information that we are receiving at this point about who is coming to Charlotte, at this point, there is not a designated protest area that has been set up. People will have the freedom to be about and around the area that is secure, but there is not anything designated that we are going to set up.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Mitchell; I recall that we designated a protest area and not one protest took place in the protest area. They moved around so I don't know that we get to define that as much, but I tell you Chief if you can get the fencing, as much construction is going on down there, I'm going to really look forward to seeing how you get new fencing in addition to the fencing that we already have out in the Center City.

Mr. Egleston said Smuggie, that nightclub was called "Crush" not "Crews".

Mr. Driggs said Chief Jennings; we've been asked a number of questions about the status of the federal grants on an ongoing basis. We received information at one point that the grant available to Charlotte had been reduced to about \$16.5 million and that was to cover about \$14 million in expenses we had incurred and included a provision of a couple of million for security under these new circumstances. Is that still the plan, is there any capacity to get more money from the federal grants since it is now not a committee to Jacksonville or how do you think that will play out?

Chief Jennings said that is a very good question and one that was actually discussed this morning. The short answer is that I'm not sure so, we are going to submit what we can and the final number of what that grant is going to provide to us will be determined once we have all those submissions. I think it is going to be close to the amount you mentioned.

Mr. Driggs said the sensitivity is around the question of whether or not there will actually be any cost to Charlotte for security. Are you describing a situation in which there might be?

Chief Jennings said I can't answer that right now, but what I can tell you is that we will submit reimbursement for all expenses.

**Angela Charles, Assistant City Manager** said that is correct; we have the opportunity to submit for any additional costs over the original grant approval up until March of next year. Again, if CMPD incurs additional cost due to having to deal with the protestors, etc. we have the opportunity to submit that for reimbursement.

Mr. Driggs said good, so we are covered, great. My other question was the Vice President indicated in Raleigh that the President did intent to come to Charlotte and we have just been advised that there is no such plan. Does that mean that we have affirmative information to the effect that he is not coming or is it only that we have not had any indication yet about whether he will be here?

Chief Jennings said to be honest with you, I don't think anything is affirmative until Tuesday after the event is over, but your guess is as good as mine. You know daily, they change things but what I can tell you if it does change to where the President or the Vice President attend, we are prepared for that, and we will make accommodations for that. At

this point that is something that we are being told that neither is planning to come to Charlotte.

Mr. Jones said that is it.

Mayor Lyles said thank you Chief.

Mr. Jones said Mayor; what I would like to do now is while the Legislative Agenda Update could be a part of a Council Committee Report out, we elevated it in the City Manager's Report because there is a different way of approaching it this year, so at this point, I would like to turn it over to Dana as well as the two Co-Chairs of Intergovernmental to talk a bit about the strategy around the Legislative Agenda for this year.

### **Legislative Agenda Update**

**Dana Fenton, Intergovernmental Relations Manager** said Mr. Bokhari and Mr. Winston wanted to talk about how we engage with our Federal and State and our County and other partners that we do have. In addition to that, I would like to provide just a brief Legislative Agenda Update just to bring you all up today on the different things that are going on. I promise it won't take too long, and of course, I will be glad to answer any questions. My intent tonight is not to take any time away from Mr. Bokhari and Mr. Winston to talk about what they've brought up last month at one of the Business Meetings.

We will just go over a couple of things tonight to tell you where the Congress and the North Carolina General Assembly are at this time, talk about some potential Legislative Issues and where those could come from for your 2021 agendas, and then talk about the next steps. The US Congress I'm sure as you all know that since the start of the pandemic, the Congress had enacted into law four different relief measures and they have been working on a fifth one now for a few months. Over the last week, they've had negotiations, the negotiations haven't gone too far, and the President took some unilateral action over the weekend, signed an executive order, and issued three memoranda in an attempt to try to get the negotiations going. There has been some back and forth between the parties and they are trying to get back to the negotiating table. I know for some it may not seem like they are trying to, but with this environment that we are in right now, this is what is happening.

Also, in addition to the emergency relief measure, Congress still has an appropriations bill to pass for the operations of the government for FY 2021. They have to act by September 30<sup>th</sup> to pass a continuum resolution to keep the government going. You will probably see an appropriations bill passed sometime after the election.

The North Carolina General Assembly convened their short session earlier this year in late April; they adjourned in early July and they primarily spent their time addressing policy and appropriation issues resulting from the pandemic. I know that Ms. Babson was up here before talking about Powell Bill and some budget reductions in the State Department of Transportation. There were significant budget reductions that had to be made in both the State General Fund in the Department of Transportation. Again, the General Assembly adjourned on July 11<sup>th</sup>; they will be coming back on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for a two-day session to appropriate any federal funds received in response to the pandemic. I know that the House and Senate leaders are looking at the Congress to see what they are going to be doing to see whether there will be any additional funds to spend or any additional flexibility in the use of Coronavirus relief fund dollars and like a lot of state and local governments around the country, the leaders of the General Assembly have expressed support to the Congress for additional flexibility in how those funds can be spent, specifically for revenue replacement.

When you look at the horizon here, looking ahead to 2021 and you look at what you all have been doing this year, you have established a number of Committees and Task Forces and you have empowered your Committees to look at certain issues. This is going to be a year, unlike any other year when it comes to your Legislative Agenda. You are going to have ideas coming from Council Committees. I think so far, we've been

monitoring the different Committees and Task Forces that have been meeting and I don't know just how many different legislative recommendations have already been made by those groups, but there are quite a few. There are certainly going to be a lot of issues for the Intergovernmental Relations Committee to consider next month and in October. In addition, we believe that we will be receiving from members quite a few different requests to take a look at different Legislative issues. And of course, we will also have a request from staff as well.

I know that one thing when Mr. Bokhari and Mr. Winston speak, they want to talk about how they are reaching out to other governmental entities here in the area. I want you all to know in about two weeks from tomorrow the Intergovernmental Relations Committee will be having a joint meeting with the Mecklenburg County Commission counterparts. I will make sure I sent you invitations and they will be focusing on mobility issues. Mr. Jaiyeoba will be presenting a briefing on the Charlotte Moves Task Force and there are also going to be some community members talking about greenways and how those fit into a mobility system.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Committee will meet, their regular type of meeting and they will be hearing requests from Committees, Councilmembers and staff will give what Legislative requests they have. They will convene again in October to propose State and Federal Legislative Agendas for your consideration and during the month of November the Committee will be center stage with the Council on three different dates, the Strategy Session on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Action Review on November 16<sup>th</sup> and we are planning for the adoption of the Agendas on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. After the adoption of the Agendas, we will transition to implementation of the Agendas and we are already planning on briefings for our Congressional Delegation and State Delegation, and just so you know, we are targeting sometime between December 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for a briefing for our State Delegation. We would like to do it early this year because the General Assembly convenes in mid-January and to try to meet with the Delegation in January or February is almost impossible because of the different time constraints that they have.

I believe that is the last slide I have and with that Mayor; I will be glad to answer any questions, but it would probably be better for me to defer to Mr. Bokhari and Mr. Winston at this point.

**Councilmember Winston** said as Mr. Fenton said, this year is a year like no other, however to a point we will try to do things the same. We have a tried and true method that gives us results at the State and at the Federal level. We anticipate our Legislative Agenda will look very similar. We will have about five or six items that we bring to our delegations, however, as Mr. Fenton laid out, we have a lot more than five or six issues that I imagine we will need some type of legislative action on the State and Federal level to help us get our work done. So, what me and Mr. Bokhari have been working with Mr. Fenton and our other colleagues to do is how do we speed this up; how do we start this process a little earlier? We have our COVID response, we have on top of the bullet points that Mr. Fenton presented to us, we also have the audacious task of reimaging of government's role in safe communities and community safety as well as taking a different approach to public health response, to dealing with violence. There might be a need for legislative actions there, we don't know yet. As we are doing this, we want to give staff a chance to think outside the box, so we've been reaching out to you, our colleagues.

We laid out our process earlier in the summer, we sent you an e-mail last week. Over this next month, we will be working with Mr. Fenton to figure out how do we create buckets. How do we create buckets that we will separate from what might make our Legislative Agenda versus how do we create a workflow in our Intergovernmental Committee and create a framework that works on those issues and gives Councilmembers and gives staff, and gives our COVID response a good chance to get all those things done? I will say, as Mr. Fenton showed you that we are looking at an Intergovernmental approach to transit and to transportation investment with the County.

I encourage all of our members, especially those that are on the Transportation, Planning, and Environment Committee to come and participate in that meeting, that the Legislative



requests that you have, or just the work that is getting done. I will also say that Mr. Bokhari and I are working to find how do we be actors or participants and partners in a consolidated effort around the upcoming CMS school year. Again, while we might be passengers on that journey, again it will be good for us to understand what we will need to ask for from a Legislative Agenda versus an Intergovernmental approach to the work that we do. If you have not been in contact with myself, Mr. Bokhari, or Mr. Fenton letting us know your possible legislative requests or priorities as we go into this process, please do. This next month is going to be very important for staff and us to use that time and effort and resources to really grab a hold of all of the issues that we have on our plate in front of us. I will leave it up to Mr. Bokhari to fill in any holes that I left out.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said that was well said, Mr. Winston. I would just add one little tiny piece around all that which is we have worked to progress and evolve Intergovernmental Relations in the process over the last three years and I think we and staff, Dana, everyone that has been part of that, Mr. Egleston beforehand have all done amazing work. The difference again, we said it before and I'll say it one more time, between the last of a couple of years where we formalized the process, the rails, the ability to move on certain items that are hot and put other items in parking lots and try to figure out how to water that garden so it could be one day hot enough to move on has enabled us to get here. This is evolving to the next step this year and I cannot emphasize enough what Mr. Winston just said; the next month and a half is the most important period of all of that. Today was a big milestone; if you haven't sent your items, your buckets, your high-level visions of what needs to be included based on all of the topics that we are seeing right now, particularly from a COVID perspective and economic recovery, we really need that feedback. The next month or month and a half is going to be the next evolution of what we do.

Again, it is not saying here is a laundry list staff of 15 things very specific that we want to be included or may be included, it is here the major topics that we want outcomes achieved in. It is my opinion that in the past, and I think Mr. Winston agreed, we have in some ways hamstrung staff by giving them a laundry list of very tactical items to consider and they spent their time figuring out, can we do it or can I explain it back to you as it relates to why we can't include that right now. It is very important, we are not going to say you can't submit those, but we very much want to find the micro buckets that Mr. Winston was just talking about where staff can be unleashed in this next month and a half to go figure out what the art of the possible is. The Legislative Agenda, in my opinion, has never been more important than it is going to be over the next year. Right now, we are dealing with significant problems, many of which we are not authorized to solve on our own. I would just that on to Mr. Winston's points and close it there.

**Mayor Lyles** said I just wanted to mention two things; we've got a Governance Committee of citizens that are going to come to us. I don't know if they will require Legislative action or not and also the Mobility Committee when we are talking about the funding of our walk, bikes, and all of that. They are probably not going to meet the deadline of next month and wanted to make sure we left some room in there for their opportunities when they come forward. They will come to Council first and then going forward.

Mr. Winston said to that point, we understand this, and this is why we are trying to work on this idea of buckets. I know we have a lot of ideas around mobility, for instance, Ms. Watlington has talked for a couple of years about taxes to help Steele Creek deal with mobility and transportation infrastructure investments that are happening there. Again, this is something I think we can talk about in the greater bucket around our transportation, not just agenda, but how we really try to put our strategy together to deal with it. How do we bucket it up where we are able to deals on the micro-level those many different things that are going to be needed across our City and our region, but still making perhaps one singular line on the Legislative Agenda related to transportation mobility?

Mr. Bokhari said just to add to that because this is the point that really has to be emphasized in the change this year, which is we usually treat the Intergovernmental staff and the process of getting this Legislative Agenda form as an after-thought if I can be quite frank about it. It is usually something where everyone has their other Committees,

the other things they do and they say, oh the deadline is coming up I need to give some ideas if I have some. The buckets in this approach at a high level enable us. We know that we are not going to be able to know everything until months down the road, but we need to unleash Dana and this staff now on important topics; for example, Mr. Winston and I have already agreed on one that is going to be a focal point for the two of us and that is the digital divide and we know there are things that are going to come out as we learn more and the feds and other partners and other counties are doing, particularly rural, urban and other things like that. The 74 corridors, many other related items, however, we know at a bucket level we want Dana and the Intergovernmental staff that he orchestrates with to start working and compiling what these other groups are doing now. Because we know there are many things in the General Assembly, many other counties, other groups that also are working on coming up with things. It enables Dana not to be responsive on 75 things with one-week before the deadline that this thing has to be crafted with its approach now. It only works if all of you start really thinking now and providing high-level buckets.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said Dana, as a follow-up I know the state engaged in the Disparity Study; I know some of us are very interested in that, so if you can provide an update where the state is as it relates to the Disparity Study could be some conversation for this Council as well.

Mr. Fenton said I will, thank you.

**Councilmember Watlington** said I was just going to offer up, and it may have already done by the Chairs, but if we think about our major bucket that our Committees are organized around maybe that is work that we can take out of the Committee and just say one of the things that we know that we said were priorities for this year as Council and what are the things fall within those existing buckets as you've already mentioned transportation, housing, ease workforce business development, safe communities, governance, those kinds of things. We know that those are buckets that we are working on within our sphere, so if there is anything from the Committee standpoint that folks have wanted to lift up, but knew was outside of our immediate authority, I think we could go ahead and add those to the list.

Mayor Lyles said I think that is the end of the Legislative Agenda Update; thanks guys for thinking through it in a way that is more policy-focused and legislative policy-driven.

### **COVID-19 Update on City Response and Recovery**

**Marcus. Jones, City Manager** said I will begin this presentation and it is in response to some of the questions that came up the last time we were together around expenditures to date and what may be left in some of these various areas that are related Coronavirus Relief Fund. So, two items we will today, that is to review the funding as well as discuss the expenditures to date.

I do want to start off by going back to where we were in May, I think it was May 11<sup>th</sup> when I provided a memo to you that showed what was available in terms of some of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act) funding. I believe the information came out on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we were able to report back to you by the 11<sup>th</sup>. It is really two areas that we started off with and that is operations and community support. Under Operations, a lot of that deals with our employees, and from the very beginning, we've discussed protecting our employees and continuing to provide core services. Under the Community Support, it is easy to divide it up into a couple of Task Force action around small business and around housing, but we were also able to shift some funds from the Operations side over to the Community Support side because of our ability to use FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) funds and that will occur again tonight. Where we are right now is focusing really on the Community Support as well as Operations.

I do want to talk a little bit about Operations and protecting our employees and providing core services. It is important to note that right now as we ventured into the beginning of June, the first two weeks of June for the most part, we had Operations back in service.

The last time we discussed this we talked about First Responders who never really throttled back at all and then we had to make sure that our team, in terms of Operations, that they were safe before they could come back to full operation. In other words, we did those A, B shifts, we made sure that we slowed down some of our collections to make sure that we could have our employees safe. I will tell you that as of August 8th, we've had 146 employees test positive for COVID-19, and right now 96 are currently quarantined, and about half of those folks are our First Responders. I will say that we would like that to be zero. When you start to think about having 8,000 employees and year to date, we have 146 employees that have tested positive, that is a bit of a matrix or data point that I wanted to share with you.

I think what is also important, as I talked about those first two weeks in June when we went back to full operations, first making sure that we had the proper protections for employees, about 75% of our employees are reporting to work every day. The other 25% are working remotely and with that 75% of employees that are reporting to work every day, we are doing things like staggered start time, reporting directly to work in your vehicle, not having to go into an office. So, again we are sticking with not only providing those core services but, protecting our employees. What is also important that I wanted to put out today, is in terms of financial management we have about 60 employees less today than we had at the start of this and for the most part it is due to this higher increase that we've had.

I want to bring you up today in three areas; one is if we go back to April where we started to think about our revenues, and I mentioned to you that because of sales tax and the way that sales tax did not have to be reported until July and there is a two-month lag in terms of sales tax and I would not give you a very good update before the September/October timeframe. I will tell you the first couple of data points in sales tax while it has been off, it hasn't been off as much as we had projected. We were thinking to be down as much as 25%; I think the last data point and Ryan will pop up at some point tonight, and we may have a new data point with sales tax, but the last data point I have is that we were down 18% and no-one is excited about being down 18%, but when you are carrying being down 25% that is a little better than expected.

In terms of expenditure, I commend the entire team in terms of making sure that we control the expenditure side as best that we could by limiting our expenditures. Again, protecting employees, providing core services, but also limiting our expenditures. As we start to talk about some of the operations and the CARES funds and how they've been utilized we've been able to charge as many eligible costs as possible and that also helps us. I say all of that to say that I'm confident that we will end the fiscal year FY20 in the positive range as opposed to in the red which basically means that we would not have to go into fund balance to balance the books for the period ending June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2020. Again, that has been a collaborative effort with the entire team, but I'm always going to go back to protecting our employees first as well as providing core services.

This bubble chart you've seen over and over again, but I think it is important to continuously put it out in front of you. These are our CARES funding today; I put the CATS funding and the Aviation funding in yellow again because those aren't impacting the general fund and those are for our two enterprise funds and it is very different with those, as we go to the next slide that those two allocations actually can be used to support their normal operations where we can't with the other CARES funding that we've had up to this point. I know that our CFO, Kelly Flannery would love to get some guidance that would basically say that we could use some of these funds for revenue placement, it is not the case right now, but as Ryan speaks with you later, our Budget Director. Again, kudos to both of them in terms of helping us manage through at least the end of FY2020. If any opportunities arise around being able to use some of the CARES funds for revenue replacement that is very different than having to spend it all by December 30<sup>th</sup>. Anything that is used for revenue replacement for anything that you've budgeted could result in you having resources later on that do not have time limitations and if I butchered that Ryan will clean it up when he comes back.

The next slide is just really to put it in front of the Council that we've been talking about this a lot. As a matter of fact, there is always something on the agenda that relates to COVID-19 whether it is Chief Johnson and Chief Graham or me or other members of the team, we try to continuously keep you up to date even beginning with that May 11<sup>th</sup> Manager's Memo that alluded to earlier. The blue dots are basically the different Task Force meetings that have also occurred during that time and if the count is right, I think it is 26 different meetings. So, there has been a lot of work trying to make sure that we are taking care of employees, providing core services, but also getting these resources out into the community, especially in the housing area and small business and workforce development. The two yellow boxes I bring to your attention because on June 22<sup>nd</sup> we were able to free up some additional CARES funds by charging some of our costs, which are allowed, to FEMA. We were able at that point to free up \$3.5 million which the Council approved that same night for the Summer Learning Program with the YMCA as well as public wi-fi. Tonight, the August 10<sup>th</sup> box, there are two items that are on the agenda, one is that you have an RCA for \$6.9 million in additional ESG (Emergency Solution Grant) funds which is just awesome. I think you will hear from a Task Force a recommendation for using a big portion of that \$6.9 million tonight, but also through hard work we are able to free up another \$3 million in our CARES funds because we are going to charge that \$3 million to FEMA. Again, this CARES Act allows the City to request FEMA reimbursements and we are going to that for the second time tonight. The first time, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the \$3.5 million was again used for the programs that I discussed earlier. Tonight, for your consideration is another \$3 million and combined that provides \$6.5 million of additional capacity from the CARES funds for what we call community support. I think we have a couple of charts on the next slide of what we are doing.

Community Support, again we talked about June 22<sup>nd</sup> where we had funds for bridging the digital divide, \$1.5 million, great job Renee. We are working through that and I think we are actually starting in the Beatties Ford Road Corridor and the Youth and Teen Opportunities Centers with the YMCA. We've been getting very good feedback from Tod Tivets in the Y. For tonight what I tried to do, and this may not be a comprehensive list, but listening to Councilmembers and going back with some of the discussions that have occurred during Strategy Sessions and Business Meetings and Committee Meetings, and Task Force Meetings, I tried to provide a list of areas that all makes sense in my opinion that this \$3 million could be used for. Last time we were together on the 27<sup>th</sup> there were discussions about support for arts and the artists, as well as utility relief. But, also there has been a series of discussions about support for homelessness and housing and that has come from the Task Force. Support for the hospitality industry, restaurants, hotels that have been previously discussed. Youth athletic activities, again as schools are going virtual, what are the things we could do, especially in the corridors around youth and youth athletic activities. Employee assistance with daycare, I'm going to come back to that, but there have also been questions about additional support for public wi-fi as well as additional support for small businesses. The employee assistance for daycare; I've had discussions with the County Manager as well as the School Superintendent and I believe more information is coming out as it deals with opportunities for those families that are going to work, and school is going to be virtual where do those children go who may not have the oversight at home?

What we've done with our own employees, and Sheila Simpson is here tonight; it started off with a survey to see what the needs are or in other words are there some employees who would find it difficult to come to work because of potential daycare needs. We are continuing to monitor that as well as talk with employees about the various options that could be available to them. I've made it very clear with Department Heads that flexibility is extremely important in these unprecedented times and because our employees have been able to be with us through this, we've had no lay-offs, we haven't had any furloughs, we've continued with premium pay for those operations and First Responder employees, but still, we need to continue to make sure that we are taking into account various family situations thought this.

Before I turn it over to Ryan, I just want to talk a little bit about where we are now versus where we were at the beginning. So, the May 11<sup>th</sup> memo, we roughly had \$70 million for what we call Community Support so outside of the CATS allocation, outside of the Airport

allocation and that \$70 million was split between the Small Business Task Force \$50 million and the Housing Task Force \$20 million, and then contingency, \$14.5 million has been left in contingency. A lot of that when we start off was, we were trying to get to September and maybe the beginning of October to see what would have been the changes if any, or what would be the need. We've also set aside that \$14.5 million for what we would call the unknown and it is still setting out there. But, tonight instead of having \$70 million for Community Support and \$70 million for City Operations, by the time we do the two actions, the first FEMA action \$3.5 million and then the second FEMA action another \$3 million, we would move another \$3 million over to the Community Support side which would end up being \$76.5 million and then \$63.5 million would be left for City Operations which again, Ryan will walk you through that \$63.5 million and then we are going to have Tracy to walk you through what has been allocated so far from the Small Business Task Force and then Pam to walk you through what has been allocated and what is going out the door as it relates to the Housing Task Force. But again, over and above just the \$154.5 million we've had ESG funds, we've had some reimbursements that are going to FEMA so if you start to look at this in the total spectrum there has been a lot of resources that have been pumped back into the community.

I will tell you we also took a quick look at the other jurisdictions that got the direct allocation so Houston got the most at \$404 million, Atlanta got the least at \$88 million and for those cities, and I think Atlanta got in at the end there; those cities that have 500 residents or more and we are pretty consistent with small business rental and mortgage relief, emergency response, that is pretty much through all of these cities. Some folks have done some other things around arts and culture, food assistance, homelessness, COVID testing, but for the most part, I would say that the Council is consistent with many other communities that had these CARES funds directly allocated to them. With that I'd like to turn it over to Ryan to discuss City Operations and what we've spent up to this point.

**Ryan Bergman, Strategy and Budget Director** said I'm going to walk you through a little bit, specifically our Operating Support, but I wanted to start with this slide because we've had a lot of different presentations, we talked a lot about each of these individual buckets, but we haven't put it all in one place. This is the Coronavirus Relief Fund Overall Plan; the Manager mentioned how we started with \$70 million for Operations, \$70 million for Community Support. Through the FEMA actions and the ability to charge things to FEMA there we've been able to transfer some of those funds to Community Support so what we are left with is the \$63.5 million in Operations, and I will talk specifically on the next slide about each of those categories within Operations, but the gist of it is that we were able to charge \$17.3 million in the responding piece through FY20 and then a little bit in the adapting piece for a total of \$17.7 million which as the Manager mentioned, did allow us the opportunity to potentially end FY20 without a deficit, but also to take care of many of the needs that I will talk about on the next slide.

The next piece is the Community Support piece where we had the \$50 million and \$20 million allocations. Tracy Dodson and Pam Wideman will provide updates on each of those during their section, but I also wanted to draw attention to the additional support. This is the \$6.5 million that the Manager referenced which is outside of the Task Forces purview. It took care of the public wi-fi program, it took care of the Summer Learning Centers which if approved tonight with the FEMA Ordinance will allow \$3 million for the Council to make a recommendation on without impacting the rest of our plan. Finally, before I move to the next slide, I wanted to talk a little bit about the contingency. The City Manager did have it correct, but the other thing I would like to add about that is the state and several other jurisdictions are also holding funds in contingency for two reasons. One would be the possibility of revenue replacements. If you follow the federal legislation that is out there, both the Senate and the House Bill had some form of revenue replacement. Whether they make a deal or what happened beyond that we are not sure, but for now, there is certainly at least a possibility of it. The reason that is important is that if we are able to reimburse the taxpayer for the lost revenue that would allow us to potentially turn back to the Council and ask for recommendations on what they would like to do outside of the CARES Act restriction. So, if you think about some of the things we were talking about at the Retreat, and I won't go into details on them, but Program Enhancements we'd like to talk about and Council priorities, which ended up having to either be reduced

or eliminated because of the COVID and the financial impacts. The other mention for contingency is the Senate version also provides an extension of the existing fund. So, if that were to happen and I believe the Senate version would extend it through the fall of 2021 for us, that would mean that we would have that money contingency going into 2021 for additional programming.

Here are the details on the Operations piece; I'll talk specifically about the responding piece mostly because that is more of the reactive piece and that is where we were able to charge most of our money in FY20. CARES Act has two pretty key restrictions, the first is that it will not allow us to revenue replacement as we mentioned, but then also it won't let us pay for anything that is already accounted for in the budget. The one important exception to that is it does provide us flexibility around First Responders staff. What that means is Fire for instance, if we take an existing Firefighter crew and they respond to a COVID related medical emergency, we are able to charge their regular salaries, it is not overtime, it is their regular salaries. The reason that is important is because that allows us to reduce our end of year expenditures by getting reimbursement for normal costs and that is what really allowed us to be able to potentially end FY20 in the black. Beyond that, the other types are certainly above and beyond the expenses that we've had. Hazard pay, which is premium pay as well call it, we are able to reimburse via CARES Act First Responder hazard pay and then emergency leave, which is a benefit that the Manager recommended for employees that Council approved giving the Manager authority for which provided two-weeks of paid time off for both COVID related sickness but also for school closures that appeared in the spring. We are able to get reimbursement for that, beyond that we are able to reimburse ourselves for above and beyond Operational Costs outside of public safety. The Solid Waste fleet, anything that we needed to do or need to do spread the work out to ensure the safety of our employees, we are able to seek reimbursement for and we did so in FY20.

I'll spend a little less time talking about the Adapting piece because it is really from the presentation that Phil Reiger gave to City Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. But that is really about what we need to do to make our buildings safe when we do bring employees back when we do bring the public back into our buildings, and then also how can we make sure that we have the technology, whether it be hardware or software or network security to make sure that we've adapted to what may be the new normal for work. With that, I will turn it over to Ms. Dodson.

**Tracy Dodson, Assistant City Manager** said I'm going to walk you through a portion of the \$50 million allocated to supporting our local economy. What we did, and Ryan hit on it a little bit, is we had two different categories, the first category which we dubbed as Survive was \$35 million. The second category we dubbed as Thrive which was \$15 million and which we will talk more about later this evening. In the access to capital, we had \$30 million of grants; to date, we have received 3,400 applications totaling almost \$42,900,000 in requests. To break that down a little bit further we had 1,555 applications totaling just over \$17 million of businesses that had not received PPP. In that, a majority of them were companies that were five people or less. Then for companies that applied that had received COVID or PPP (Payroll Protection Program) we had 1,712 companies totaling an amount of \$25.8 million in requests. We have gone through four different rounds of applications in this and have prioritized companies that have not received PPP to date. We have awarded 760 applications totaling \$8.1 million and you can see the majority of those were micro-businesses and 75% were minority businesses and they are evenly distributed throughout our entire community. We will make some recommendations later on this evening to actually extend this access to the capital program by one more round and open it up to the companies that have received PPP so we can deploy all the funds. There are definitely enough requests there.

Another initiative we have was \$2 million for small business support and we awarded that in 12 applications. This was acknowledging that we have a lot of different organizations in our community that was quickly reorganizing to help small businesses, whether it was to file for PPP applications or anything else, just basic guidance and navigating this very unusual time with the pandemic. We awarded again 12 of those for a total of \$2 million and those have gone out throughout our community as well to help bolster more support

for our small businesses. We have our Open for Business Platform as well. That is really the larger convener for all of the efforts that we have within our small business community with the pandemic and then hopefully even living beyond and that can be everything from grant applications to just a resource guide for best practices and things like that. You can see on there we've had over 15,000 views. We also had a half-million in Workforce Partner Support and that was to launch the renew intensive training cohort on his part of the American Cities Climate Challenge and train a cohort of individuals who had been displaced by COVID into the HVAC business. That one is about to get underway soon. The last thing I will mention is that we have about \$2.5 million from the Survive category, this \$35 million that we are going to propose later on that will roll over into our Thrive, a company that \$15 million that we have in remaining funds for allocation.

**Pam Wideman, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services** said just as a brief recap about what we've done around housing; we had a Housing Task Force that met for 12 weeks, 10 of those were consecutive weeks, so thanks to that Task Force. Basically, in terms of what has been provided to date, you all will recall that we had both rent and a mortgage relief program. Initially, you all approved \$2.2 million in the CDBG funding that you got at the start of the pandemic and then you also approved an additional \$8 million through your Corona Relief funds for again, rental and mortgage assistance.

Our partner in this work is the Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership; they've been working really diligently to get this money out of the door. To date, you will see that we have distributed a little more than a million dollars to help over 1,000 households with rental and mortgage assistance. Needless to say that we've seen more request for assistance on the rental side and less on the mortgage side, but we do believe that there is more to come on both the rental and the mortgage to date, in addition to what you've put out the door, you do have about a 1,000 applications that CMHP (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership) is working through now. In terms of the security and utility deposit assistance, we have \$1.2 million in CDBG. What we've learned through this process is for individuals with higher barriers to housing, meaning that they are harder to house, is that we are seeing that landlord is looking for two-months' rent in advance rather than one-month rent. Social Serv is our partner for that and so we are working through that program as well.

In terms of Supportive Services, you will recall that you have already allocated \$1.3 million of your Emergency Solutions Grant. The partners that we are working with are Roof Above, formerly Urban Ministries, the Salvation Army Women's Shelter, and again Social Serv. We also have allocated \$2 million in your Corona Relief Virus Funds to help support a supportive housing facility and so that is underway, and you will recall that early in the pandemic you also received \$416,000 for HOPWA assistance. I think you will hear later on tonight about another recommendation for more Emergency Solutions Grant funds for your consideration in your Committee Report Out and I'm happy to elaborate on that if it is helpful. I will turn it back over to Manager Jones.

Mr. Jones said what we have for the next steps and it is an interesting night tonight because we have so many things that have occurred, not only over the last few weeks but even actions that have happened today in our Business and Workforce Development Committee, so what I would like to do is just put on the table a couple of things. One is we will have report outs from the Committee as well as the Housing Task Force and you will have on the agenda tonight the additional ESG funds, as well as the additional FEMA funds and I, would like to go back to slide #10 which puts us in a situation similar to where we were earlier this year on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We do have these ideas that are out here that we captured, and I just want to make sure that there aren't some other concepts that should have been captured here. I think we've done a broad brush with it and the two that are further along than anything are the first two, which is support for the arts and artists because that was discussed a couple of weeks ago and utility relief. I believe Mayor, you brought that up. I believe also that Mr. Fenton talked a bit about what may happen in terms of the General Assembly and Ryan talked a little bit about what may happen in terms of the federal government. I do want to clarify one thing that was pointed out to me when I talk about the cities that received the CARES funds direct allocation, we have a group of cities that we call our comparable cities, so clearly, I didn't include New York or

LA in that so there are cities that received a much bigger allocation than our \$154.5 million. I just wanted to put that out there, Mayor; before we went forward with some of the additional report outs.

**Mayor Lyles** said I believe the Manager is laying the groundwork to give us the background of what we've done and how they have worked out and I see a lot of successes in this effort. The idea that we have for how we were getting people grants to the small businesses of 25 and under has been successful. The housing and homelessness have gone from the ability to keep people in their homes with a rental, but also provided funding for homelessness with an SRO (Single Room Occupancy) and the shelter renovations. I know that there are probably some other things that you would like to add or discuss so, let's take some questions now before we go where we are trying to go after this. I think we are trying to get a solid footing and understanding of where we are right now.

**Councilmember Egleston** said thanking all of the staff; I know every department has been scrambling trying to help us figure how to provide relief for people in our community, the businesses in our community, and there are no easy answers and no perfect solutions, but I think we've done a pretty good job overall. I think there is more that we can do, and I know some of that we will discuss item by item, creating opportunities back up for another round to include some businesses that might have been left out before. I know we've had some issues with people who maybe would have been eligible but didn't have all the necessary documentation or paperwork or had errors on their filings or something that just needed to be cleaned up. I'm glad that we can go back and try to help some of those folks who we haven't been able to help yet. You said the first two things on this list were a little further along than others and I think they are both critical. My first question would be about the utility relief and if this has been discussed and I missed it I apologize, but obviously, we can't necessarily control Piedmont Natural Gas or Duke Energy, but we do control some utilities at the City side. What is our plan going forward for the next however long to continue to exhibit patience with folks who are having trouble making ends meet right now as it relates to water and stormwater bills?

Mr. Jones said thank you Mr. Egleston, and I have a few people that are in arm's reach that can help me out if I mess this up, which includes Angela Charles as well as Kelly Flannery. My understanding right now is with all of these CARES funds there is nothing in any of the guidance that will allow us to pay ourselves. So, in other words, when it comes to water, we would not be able to take the CARES funds and provide it to our residents for the residents to pay their water bills. Again, that is one of the reasons why we are monitoring the guidance that we have, but that is not necessarily the case for some of the other utility bills. So, while I said we are further along, we are further along in the sense that we've discussed it a bit and we understand some of the complications with it. I am convinced that what we are doing in the City, as it relates to our water bills that folks aren't going to wake up tomorrow and see water being shut-off. The team has been working around the clock to make sure that we are taking our residents and their situations into account. If I have misspoken, Angela or David, just let me know.

Mr. Egleston said that makes sense that we can't use the dollars to pay ourselves, and I don't guess that was even my expectation that we might do that, but more so, how far have we gamed out what impacts it might have to our budgets in those enterprise funds, depending on what percentage of people we expect might be delinquent on their payment right now. I do hope too, that as we continue to exhibit that patience with folks who are having difficulty paying some of those utility bills that our friends at Piedmont Natural Gas, Duke Energy, and others will continue to find ways to follow suit and I know that they have done I think a lot of good work on that front to date and I hope they will continue to because as it transitions into my points about the top bullet there, which is there is a lot of things mounting, and the Mayor just talked about some of the things we've done to address the ever-present, but currently very visible homelessness crisis we have in this community. And a lot of attention should be paid to that and a lot of resources and efforts should be put towards that and they are both from the County, who leads those efforts, but also from us trying to be complementary to the work they are doing.



A big concern of mine right now is that there is, and this was discussed ad nauseam in our Housing Task Force Meeting; there is a wave of the next wave of homelessness coming because and it goes into things like arts and artists. When you think about the people who cannot work right now and cannot make a living doing what they normally do to put food on the table and to pay their rent or pay their mortgage. There is another wave of homelessness coming on the backend of a lot of what is happening right now and so, if we are not being very mindful of – think about how big our arts community is in this city and think about all those people who have not been able to make a living or earn an income in the last four months and it could be another four-months, it could be another eight-months, we don't know yet.

The musicians, the artists, the sound techs, Mr. Winston knows these people well, he works among them and he is one of them. The events that are not happening and all of the inside jobs that go along with some of those events. There has been a big effort at the national level called safe our stages and it has had its bumps in the road and it has also had bipartisan support and I think here locally we've got to think about that too because the places that we will lose where you can go and see a local production or a live music event that are not national corporate entities are already fewer and farther between than we would like them to be in this City.

As I mentioned earlier tonight if we lose some of our immigrant-owned businesses, they likely won't be replaced with those sorts of unique businesses that create a fabric in our community that we can be proud of but be replaced by chains and corporate entities. I think the same holds true for our arts community, I think if we lose a neighborhood theatre and an evening muse and a Visulite and others like them if we lose some of the small theatre companies in Charlotte, we will be left with only national two ring acts and live nation venues. No offense to these things that are a part of the fabric of our arts community too, but it shouldn't be the only part of it. Everything on this list deserves funding but I think if we are not trying to figure out how we can help people who have not been able to make a living in the past four months, and probably won't for months to come, we will be later trying to figure out how to help them get out of a situation where they might find themselves without a roof over their head. I hope we give strong consideration to that as we continue this discussion.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Egleston; I wanted to talk a little bit about the rationale around the utility relief; while we can't pay ourselves, we are paying for people's rent and we are trying to help them, but they've gotten behind on their utilities as well. If you are in a home or an apartment and some are not always going to look like they might be the '60s apartments or the '70s apartments that we are doing this where people need rent relief. I'm very concerned that we have the ability to cool or heat those units. As you can imagine if you don't have a place to cook because you don't have electricity, there are often alternative methods that people use, burners and things like that that are not as safe for our community as we would like. I think the utility relief was about Piedmont Natural Gas and Duke Energy and they have done a lot to help, but they have actually I think lifted their "turn off" or whatever you call it. People are going for evictions, they are losing their power because of their power bills. We have a little bit more control over the water and I don't feel like we've had an answer yet for paying back Charlotte Water, but at the same time I feel we have safety issues if we don't provide for people to have adequate utilities to cook, and air conditioning is also an important part in this when we had 20 days of 100 degrees heat. So, where we are paying the rent, I would like for us to consider that almost as similar to any welfare that we would have around kept them in their homes that we would have to keep their utilities on. I wanted to add that rationale for why I think it is actually a safety issue as well as most things are when you not able to support yourselves, you figure out ways to do things that are perhaps where we want to be, but you have to get it done. I just wanted to say that about the utility portion, and it is just an allocation that I think ought to be done, but you also talked about the merits of arts and artists and I truly support that for different reasons that I'll talk about as we go through the list a little bit later.

Mr. Jones said to your point Mr. Egleston, I want to see if I can frame this in a better way. There are the CARES funds, the \$154.5 million that we have guidelines about how it can

be used. Each time we charge something to FEMA it is like moving additional CARES funds over to Community Support. So, when we started off on May 11<sup>th</sup> there was about \$70 million allocated to Community Support. If you approve the RCA tonight all in it will be closer to \$76.5 million, so another \$6.5 million for Community Support. You have already doled out \$3.5 million of this \$6.5 million. ESG is also over and above this \$154.5 million; you've had two allocations of it, the first one \$1.3 million, and then you have \$6.9 million for that if you approve the RCA tonight. That is very specific that that is for homelessness and near homelessness, and I do believe that the Housing Task Force is going to have a recommendation tonight which I believe is a great recommendation to utilize \$3.4 million of that \$6.9 million to help the area that you talked about, I think number three, not on the list in terms of importance, but as we started to enumerate some of the things, support for homelessness would be addressed directly by these ESG funds.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for the clarification of; I'm going to say it simply; we had \$70 million for Community, we now have \$76.5 million, but some of it has to be allocated for a specific use, not all of it, but the FEMA is \$3.5 million that could go for any purpose that we've already allocated and another \$3 million and then you have the ESG funds.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I have a couple of questions here; first, Mr. Manager; I know I had talked to you earlier about the arts and artists and also the point that Mr. Winston has raised a couple of weeks ago around that allows folks to work in sports venues that have also been impacted. This arts and artist funding, could it possibly come from the tourism bucket?

Mr. Jones said I'm going to ask Kelly Flannery to verify/validate this. I believe there is a potential that you could use some of those funds for, not necessarily what was discussed earlier in the year which would have been restaurants or hotels, but I believe a case could be made that some of those tourism funds could be utilized for those organizations that are part of the ASC. Did I get that right Kelly?

**Kelly Flannery, Chief Financial Officer** said yeah, I think that is right. I would just remind everyone that the hospitality revenue has also experienced a great decline, more extreme than the rest of the revenues, so it wouldn't be a recommendation, but it is a possibility.

Ms. Ajmera said I understand that we have a very limited balance in our tourism bucket however, it already has restricted use in terms of how it can be spent which will free up additional dollars to Mr. Egleston's point, for other items on this list. Also, to extend support for many other industries that have been impacted, folks that work in sports venues that Mr. Winston has raised, folks who work in salons, folks who work in fitness industries such as [inaudible] dance studios, etc. and those venues are still under restriction so, I think it will free up some of these funds and I know there are times we often discuss how arts actually brings economic development and spurs economic development including visitors so I think we should look at our tourism bucket; what is the capacity in tourism bucket and whether that is something we should be leveraging so that we can look at assisting more people with the CARES act dollars. Number two, for support for homelessness and housing; I'm sorry I didn't catch the number that is recommended for that and does that include folks that are residents of our tent city and those that are currently experiencing homelessness?

Mr. Jones said I'm going to ask Ms. Wideman to come up and talk a little bit about that, but it is a recommendation that came from the Task Force and it is taking a portion of that \$6.9 million. My understanding is that it moves individuals who are homeless or in tents for those hotel rooms or other places to get them from homelessness and tents. Pam, am I close on that?

Ms. Wideman said you are exactly right Mr. Manager; the proposal is two-fold; it is to first move unsheltered homeless i.e. people who are living on the street into either shelter of some type of permanent housing and then the second part of that is to move folks who are currently in hotels out of the hotels into some type of housing unit. So, two parts there.

Ms. Ajmera said thank you Ms. Wideman; a follow-up question, how long are we looking at in terms of assistance?

Ms. Widman said what is being proposed with the ESG funding will provide assistance for up to one-year, recognizing that some people may need that entire year, some people will not need that entire year, but overall it will provide assistance for up to a year.

Ms. Ajmera said do we have an estimate of the number of homeless individuals that we will be able to assist? Do we have an estimate, not just the ones that are currently in a tent city, but in our City overall?

Ms. Wideman said we don't have that in our City overall, but with this proposal, what is recommended, and let me add that this would be a systemic approach, it is a collaborative approach as well and when I say collaborative, it involves all of our partners, a Roof Above, United Way, Salvation Army, Women's Shelter, and Social Serv and so what the projection is, is to support up to 224 households. So, a breakdown of that would be 124 households that are either sheltered or unsheltered and then the 100 households who are currently in the hotels.

Ms. Ajmera said so 200 and some; I know when are provided this data, I know we get that report every year, I've not seen the report this year that provides the homeless individual's number. I am sure it was more than 200 in the last report, especially with COVID-19 that number might be higher. I would really like to see data around what is the need out there, so we can make a decision on the funding. There is a possibility that we are going to have to allocate additional funding. I had a call earlier today with Mr. Egleston and CMPD about a homeless situation in Mr. Egleston's District, that some of the residents are not part of the tent city, however, they are experiencing homelessness. They should also have an opportunity to participate in this program if we do allocate sufficient funding for this. I also understand that we are not going to address assistance for every single individual, but we've got to do more than what is currently being allocated. That is my second point.

Number three, is for the hospitality industry; is this something that we had discussed earlier today at our Committee meeting, or is this a separate request?

Mr. Jones said I wouldn't call it a request; it is just concepts that have been discussed throughout time including anything. Early on we talked about could we even purchase hotels, so I just tried to put in there anything that may come up and I think this net is wide enough to capture the discussions that have occurred.

Mr. Ajmera said I understand and I appreciate that you have put the hospitality industry in this list and I know I was one of the individuals who had asked for it, but as I talk to small business owners in the various industries, whether it is fitness facilities, barbers, salons, even event planning, etc. there are so many industries that have been impacted by COVID-19 and I want us to be mindful that if we are supporting one industry we are not choosing winners here; we shouldn't be in the business of choosing winners and losers. We've got to have a wide program that is open to all businesses or industries that are being affected by COVID-19. That is my third point. That is all I have, just those three points if you could address those.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Ajmera; I think you are so right, there are absolutely no winners in a pandemic and the populations that we are talking about, people that make less than \$40,000, some of them making as little as \$15 a year that have been struggling. So, I can't see any scenario where there are winners in this; we are just trying to keep people under a roof, trying to get good in their mouths and having them being safe in the place that they are. I also agree with you that when we started out this entire program.

I remember we had data that was provided by the alliance on where the employment bases were and how many there were, how many businesses, and I would hope that today we have a couple of items on the list, but these are defined well enough. I think

what Mr. Jones said is that he has a concept around them, and I think there ought to be at least an explanation or expiration of what the concept is.

Right now I am just looking at words and I may have an idea of what that means, but I just want us to say be very careful in the words that we use because in this situation that we are seeing people where the evictions are still going on, where we are having kids that are not going to have parents watching them when they are supposed to be at home doing remote learning. There are no winners in all of this. My hope is that we would actually get data around the numbers of people in the hospitality industry, restaurants, and hotels that are unemployed, get some information to see how we allocate this before we start talking about ways that we see it or view it without having any information.

Everyone in the City is hurting, even if it is nothing but mental health stress, and when we talk about the homeless in the tent city, and I have talked to Ms. Johnson a lot about that. Those are people with pets that don't want to go into a shelter, there are people with mental health issues that are very difficult to deal with and there are also people in there with real substance abuse that haven't been resolved. So, when we are talking about the universe of homelessness, that is not the same as the people we could automatically help, but I wouldn't consider anybody in this community a winner just because they got a part of this program.

Just think about it, if you think about homelessness and the number of people that are homeless and homeless because of all kinds of reasons, for us to do 200 is at least helping 200 people. Thank you for raising those issues, I think if we could have some data about that that would be helpful.

Ms. Ajmera said I want to follow-up on that comment you just made. What I'm trying to convey here is that is being open to all industries and you are not choosing one industry. That is the point I'm trying to make.

Mayor. Lyles said I understand; we should be choosing an industry where people are hurting the most. That is the way I see it, like I said there are no winners.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said this is a good discussion, it really is covering a lot of topics and I think it also brings to light areas that we can and should help in like homelessness that we don't traditionally do, but if it is a plan that comes together then we should be helping with this homelessness issue and I'm glad to see that Mr. Graham's Task Force will be taking up that issue and allocating funding for that. There was a very lively conversation today in the Workforce Development Committee about the hospitality industry and what occurred to me is that we do have funding, we've got to get it out the door, we've got to use it by December, but we also have to be smart about how we use it because if we look at it, and we've said this before when the topic was in the Small Business Task Force, to some extent we don't know how the money is going to help people because we don't know how long the pandemic is going to last. We don't know what it is really going to take for some small businesses to make it through the pandemic, but what the Small Business Task Force did talk about is industry suffocation. While we didn't talk about the hospitality restaurants and hotels, that is the third-largest industry in our community. It employs tens of thousands of people and I do think that we should have a focus on our industries that are the underpinning of the economy in Charlotte because there are no winners or losers, these are all individuals that have jobs and at the end of the day, we need to make sure that our critical industries are getting some help to get through this.

With regards to arts and artists, the arts ecosystem is one that a lot of cities have dedicated their CARES Act money towards because they recognize that they are also very important in terms of economic development and quality of life in a community. In the case of Charlotte, there are roughly 17,000 people that are employed in the arts ecosystem and as we know and as any artist can tell you, a lot of those folks are not making a whole lot of money and so they probably go paycheck to paycheck because they have chosen to have a profession and they are in a profession that really values innovation and creativity over a large paycheck. The need in the arts community is also

unique because a lot of the facilities have been closed down completely and productions cannot be mounted to have 10 people or 50% occupancy. You just can't do it at all and so they have been sort of all or nothing events that happen to that particular sector of the economy.

We did have this discussion two-weeks ago and I think that we have to start saying when we've some opportunity to deploy these funds we need to start doing it, and we do have an opportunity in the arts sector right now because as we have been talking about perhaps the opportunity to use some of the money that the Manager has freed-up because of the FEMA funding we could put \$1 million towards arts institutions and artists. Mr. Driggs and I have had a number of conversations with all Councilmembers about this.

In the process of doing that we had a public sector offer from the Pride Arts Fund which Mr. McColl put together and raised private sector funds for the arts community. I first want to thank Michael Marsicano and Charles Bowman for offering the opportunity to match our money if we were to put \$1 million of CARES Act money towards the arts community, we would have the opportunity to have that matched one for one by the Pride Arts Fund. I know that we are still going to have more conversation on this, but I hope that we would have a motion tonight that the Council would consider passing the support for \$1 million for our arts community. I want to read a statement that was written by our favorite creative guys over at Charlotte is Creative, Matt Owen, and Tim Miner because we had conversations about how this money would be deployed and what really qualifies as an artist and creative and so I'll read what they sent me. "We are a city that champions business and innovation, and innovation sealed by artists and created, and it is abundant here in Charlotte. We are asking you, the Council to invest in Charlotte Creative

Today, our creative needs and investments now to keep playing your vital role in the growth of our city. When companies consider a move to Charlotte they may be initially attracted to our resources and our infrastructure, but it is the vibrant character of our city that seals the deal. Our Creatives do that. We market our city in large part in the work of Charlotte Creative and envision the ways of life here. Think of how the 17 artists that painted the Black Lives Matter mural on Tryon Street thrust Charlotte into a global conversation in that word is important. Providing funds to creative organizations and individuals isn't charity, it is an investment in the future of the Queen City. Since the pandemic began Charlotte has acted quickly and rightly to invest in hospitality industries, retail, service business, and others, but many of the arts organizations are non-profits which are key here because a lot of the programs, even what we have in our small business grant does not address the needs of non-profits so they have been ineligible for a lot of the local and federal programming.

Creators are entrepreneurs who work hard to find the innovative success that allows them to sustain themselves and their families and employ others and create opportunities while enhancing the quality of life in Charlotte. Making this investment now will help our arts organizations put free-lance creatives back to work and it will help keep [inaudible] creative here working on that next big idea of a project that puts the Queen City on the map and leads the way to recovery".

I read that because there is a lot of momentum in the arts community around getting some kind of help and I would just remind my colleagues that these are also individuals that could be homeless. I know one artist that was homeless temporarily until friends helped him out and I'm sure there are many others who are in that position, so they are also probably working in the hospitality industry to make ends meet. There are folks that have two or three jobs; they are the folks that are looking for help with daycare, rent relief, utility relief. I know there is more discussion, but this particular opportunity is one that we have here today with a match.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, to use \$1 million of our CARES Act funding to put towards this matching program that will be run by the Foundation for the Carolinas.

Ms. Eiselt said the funding would not go to the Arts and Science Council; they will help to deploy those funds to the affiliates of the ASC, but others have the opportunity access that funding as well, and it will be a percent of the funding that gets microgrants directly to artists.

**Councilmember Graham** said I just want to lend my voice to support the motion on the floor to provide \$1 million and that million dollars to be matched by the private community to support local artists in our community. I believe it is money well spent. Obviously, the Arts and Science sector of our community represents a number of individuals, organizations, and artists who provide a backdrop to our City. A number of these folks and organizations have been in the dark literally since the month of March with no performance and no opportunity to provide resources for their organizations and/or for themselves if they are a local artist. The opportunity to put a million dollars forward and have that being matched really multiplies our investment to \$2 million and obviously, I believe it is money well spent. As I said earlier, I think Ms. Eiselt made a number of good points in terms of why we should support this. I talked to Ms. Eiselt earlier today as well as a number of the members of the arts community and I told them then, as I am doing now, pledging my support for this very worthwhile endeavor.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I want to speak in support of the motion, and I will point out as the grouchy conservative on Council, I'm not normally a big advocate for large public investment in the arts. I think there is a big difference between considering support for the arts in a healthy environment versus this line of defense that we are trying to create here and under these circumstances, I think that we should back up the investment that we make in the arts with this million-dollars. I do believe there is a public interest in the arts so even though, again I wouldn't favor kind of lavish taxpayer funding, I think the community has a stake when it comes to the survival of the arts community. I would like to mention that we should not rank all of the priorities that we may identify and then throw all of the money the one at the top of the list. We need to try to allocate the money among the priorities that we identify in such a way that we get the biggest bang for the buck in each of them. I will mention that in fact, we do that every year in our budget, even under normal circumstances so, we continue to invest in a lot of things that are in our budget even while some needs are not being met because we recognize that those needs are as big as the ocean and we are not going to meet them all. We have to use our resources in such a way as to spread the benefit across the greatest number of priorities that we have. I think that this is a very valid use of the million dollars, I think the leverage makes it more attractive even because of that extra bang that we get for the buck and again I think what we are talking here about is the safety net and not some sort of investment in the arts that we might argue should be coming from somewhere else. This matters to us and we should be willing to pay a million dollars.

**Councilmember Johnson** said I really went back and forth on this proposal. I do want to piggy-back off of what Ms. Ajmera said when she was talking about industry-specific assistance. I agree with her; I agree that we should have a general fund that serves businesses that have not been served. When we talk about arts, it is a non-profit so there might be other non-profit organizations or industries that haven't been served. I support general funding and not industry-specific funding. However, with this arts proposal, we do have leverage from the private sector, and I think that is something that we need to consider, especially since we are going to be providing assistance for the homeless and the individuals in the hotels and individuals who need housing assistance tonight. That priority in my mind, and all of our minds, is being considered. So, the fact that we have the leverage from the private sector and the arts are an economic driver in our City as well as the black lives matter mural, I think that is about the healing for our City. It brought national attention, but it was a healing space for the City. Normally, I may not support, but in this situation, I think this is important and I would support the motion tonight.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said our screen was frozen for about seven minutes, so I missed all of that discussion.

Mr. Driggs said just vote yes and don't worry about it.

Mayor Lyles said you know you have advice and advisors, right. Mr. Mitchell; there is a motion on the floor to appropriate from the FEMA \$3 million that is in addition to the \$3.5 million to move that to the Foundation for the arts and artists programs. I think because there is a match of \$1 million to the money that would allow it to be a \$2 million program.

Mr. Mitchell said I just have a process question Mayor; I think when I spoke to Ms. Eiselt, I told her I was definitely supportive of it. I just want to be clear, we are going to use probably the greatest administrator we have in the City of Charlotte, that is the Foundation of the Carolinas to administer it, but will these funds go directly to the artists or is there a third party involved.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Eiselt do you want to explain how it works?

Ms. Eiselt said [inaudible] and I do want to say again how grateful we are to have the generosity of Mr. McColl and the Thrive Arts Fund and they are covering fees for all that is going to the institutions because that was just part of the program. So, it will be the Arts and Science Council [inaudible] will be at the table to help get the money out the door, but all the money is going directly to the institutions and to the artists, to the Foundation for the Carolinas.

Mr. Mitchell said it must be my screen the only one that is freezing, but you saying who is going to be at the table to make sure the money is going out?

Ms. Eiselt said it wouldn't be limited to, but it would be the Foundation for the Carolinas, the Arts and Science Council, and either Matt Owen or Tim Minor from Charlotte is Creative are at the table to make sure the money goes out and who it goes to in terms of those individual grants. It goes directly from the Foundation to either the individual artists or the institutions.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said I will be supporting it as well. I think it is a good proposition brought together by a lot of people working and just another great example of public/private partnership and the private sector coming in and matching. We need more of that.

Ms. Johnson said I want to confirm, and I spoke with our Attorney, and he is in the room; I spoke with him earlier just to confirm that I do sit on the Blumenthal Board, along with another Councilmember. I wanted to make sure that I disclosed that and that he confirms that there is no conflict of interest in our vote.

Mr. Driggs said I am on the Arts and Science Council Board as well, just for full disclosure.

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

Mayor Lyles said we can go back to the general discussion about what to do, we can take support for arts and artists off of this, but a general discussion about how to define and get some of this moving from concept to action.

Mr. Graham said I was going to talk about the housing grant for the homelessness; I can do it now or I can wait until we have our formal Housing Recovery Task Force [inaudible]

Mayor Lyles said are there any other duplicates besides the housing one that we would talk about later?

Mr. Jones said no Mayor; there was a discussion around the hospital industry earlier today, but I think that will be discussed at the Committee Report Out later. So, to Mr. Graham's point, I believe there is something that is coming out of the Housing Task Force that could also be voted on tonight that would get money out into the community.

Mayor Lyles said would you like to do the ones that are actually being asked for action tonight which I believe would be support for homelessness and housing and would hospitality also be one or is this just the one?

Mr. Jones said just to be candid, I do believe that there is an expectation because the Task Force met last week that there would be a vote on that \$3.4 million. I know it is a timing thing because you won't potentially approve the \$6.9 million until later in the meeting, but I'm sure it will be fine.

Mayor Lyles said I don't think utility relief is ready for anything more than just a follow-up and that might be best now that we have Shawn, he can help us make it even better. So, why don't we start with homelessness and housing and Mr. Graham will go over what he is going to approve and we will have to discuss it and then bring it up for a vote when we get to that Committee item, but we would all at least understand it and then if there is support for the hospitality, we will discuss that. We will just go down the list, but I'm going to let Mr. Graham go ahead. I also had Ms. Johnson and Mr. Winston to speak on the total lists, so let's start off with homelessness and a fresh start, starting with Mr. Graham for homelessness and housing. Is that okay with everybody?

#### **ITEM NO. 11: COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCE UPDATES**

**Councilmember Graham** said I think the discussion tonight in reference to how we move forward as a community has really been impactful and what we are bringing forward to you from the Housing Task Force is just as impactful. Let me start by thanking Councilmembers Johnson, Winston, and Egleston for their leadership on the Housing Task Force. We had a tremendous 14-weeks of work. Every Task Force Committee member was engaged and brought forth a number of legitimate recommendations for the Council's consideration. Most of those recommendations will be sent to the Great Neighborhoods Committee for further elaboration and clarification. Others will have a referral to Mr. Winston's Committee relating to Government Relations to make sure that we meet his deadline. Some of those recommendations will be going that way.

The last Task Force meeting we had was July 30<sup>th</sup> and at that meeting, we talked about regulatory affairs and a presentation from Homelessness Task Force member Deronda Metz which is talking about how we can help with the homeless situation as it relates to COVID-19 right here on the ground. I think many of the members have seen on news reports as well as with their own eyes some of the issues that we are dealing with related to homelessness in our community ranging from the tent city itself as well as an empty uptown because many of our workers are working at home. There is a lot more visible presence of the homeless population in our uptown community and we've been blessed to have Deronda Metz as a member of our Task Force who did some research and brought us some information in terms of a recommendation for our consideration.

The Task Force Committee on every week we had a very different topic and even with all the topics we always came back for at least a minute or two talking about what are we going to do to relieve the homeless situation in our community. Therefore, Ms. Metz made a recommendation for \$3.4 million to help with the homelessness issue in our community. The Task Force voted 11 to zero to approve that recommendation and moved it forward to the full Council for consideration. I will read the verbiage to you so I can make sure that I am correct.

The recommendation includes \$3.4 million that will be used to provide rapid rehousing and support services for individuals and families to bring shelter and unsheltered homelessness and individuals and families unstably housed in hotels. So, that is the specific purpose of the funds. Ms. Widman, our Director of Housing has been working with the number of institutions in our community related to providing homeless service support. This will be done in conjunction with our partner Mecklenburg County. Again, the County drives this initiative, the City is really in the passenger seat, but as you can tell by the previous presentation by Ms. Wideman, we have put a number of resources dating back to early this year to providing additional support for the homeless population in our community. This \$3.4 million from the ESG fund will help well over 200 families living in tents and in situations that are not what we want as a community.



Motion was made by Councilmember Graham, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, that we use \$3.4 million from our ESG funds to support homelessness in our community.

**Mayor Lyles** said those funds are restricted for the of this purpose and so what we would be looking at from the recommendation, everyone should have a copy of the Housing Task Force funding recommendation; Mr. Graham read the recommendation and it is going to be levered with the County continuum of care work.

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

Mayor Lyles said we will now go to the next concept list, support for the hospitality, restaurants, and hotels that have been previously discussed and I believe it was discussed in the Workforce Committee today. Mr. Mitchell do you want to lead us off?

**Councilmember Mitchell** said yes; and Mayor we did have a very robust conversation in our Committee today about the hospitality industry, restaurant, and hotel. We were very sensitive that one out of nine citizens in our community work in this industry. I think it was tough, I think it came down to three to one to say let's not create separate funding for them but let's make sure they can apply to a new recommendation that Tracy is going to make later on. With that said, I think a question was asked by Ms. Ajmera earlier because I will admit Mayor; I've been around for a long time and maybe I got it wrong; I thought we could not use the tourism fund only for capital projects, but I'm hearing now from our CFO that we can use the tourism fund for this type of activity. Can we get confirmation from our City Attorney or someone because I thought it was a State Statue preventing us from using the tourism fund?

**Kelly Flannery, Chief Financial Officer** said each of the taxes has a different use requirement around it but let me clarify; the dollars have to be used for tourism expansion and extension. Could that mean supplementing a program for sure, but it would still have to fulfill that requirement. So, could it just be paying employees no, it still needs to have a tourism component.

Mayor Lyles said let me follow-up; I thought that the idea that we were trying to do was help the businesses that are in the hospitality industry to survive. So, what we would be awarding to would not be programs or capital improvements, we've been talking about this for the hospitality industry where one in nine people work and I think they actually have or this is my understanding, the highest unemployment rate of any business sector is in the restaurant and hospitality industry. I don't think we are talking about using this money the way Ms. Flannery has explained it; I think this is money to help businesses, not venues, but I'm not sure if I understand. Would it be appropriate for Mr. Mitchell for Ms. Dodson to explain what the concept was for the Committee or Mr. Jones?

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said Mr. Mitchell, Mayor; let's be clear what Kelly said was she wouldn't recommend it. So, someone threw a hypothetical out about whether or not something could be used, and she cautiously said maybe it could be, but she followed that up very quickly by saying that she would not recommend it. If we go back in time, we know that we have enough in the fund to do the projects that Council has already approved, but let's make no mistake that when we start to talk about some of the taxes that drive that fund, those are the taxes that we are being hit with the most. So, again a question was asked about could something occur, and the CFO made it clear it is not something that she would recommend.

Mr. Mitchell said Mr. City Manager; I'm with you, I just thought maybe, I'm old as dirt so sometimes you forget stuff, so I just wanted to make sure I was correct during our Committee discussion. Mayor; we heard you loud and clear and I remember a couple of months ago, you made a statement, you challenged us if we can support the hospitality industry, I think the conversation we had today, and I'll let Ms. Ajmera and Ms. Johnson speak to it as well, it was a conversation are we picking winners and losers by having a designated fund just for the hospitality industry and we had a very robust conversation. I

think we landed at a potentially good spot and Tracy will make that recommendation at our Committee break out portion.

Mayor Lyles said I think we've been doing it as we come on this list if there is a recommendation for action tonight. Are you comfortable with Ms. Dodson doing this now?

Mr. Mitchell said Tracy; I'm comfortable.

**Tracy Dodson, Assistant City Manager** said I'm comfortable however, it all goes into a larger pot that we have for the remaining \$17.5 million out of the \$50 million so, I can talk about specific to where we ended up today specific to food and beverage and hospitality or I can go into the whole thing.

Mayor Lyles said I don't have the background and ability to make that decision. Whatever you guys decide will be fine I'm sure with all of us.

**Councilmember Egleston** said I would like to comment specifically on this piece whenever that is appropriate.

Mr. Mitchell said Tracy; you talk about the \$17.5 million as it relates to this piece if you don't mind.

Ms. Dodson said if I can have the presentation for the Thrive Report out that would have been in the Task Force and let me just show you the numbers so you can start to understand and we can go through it however you would like, but this is the whole proposed budget for Thrive and where we started today in the proposal in Committee was what you see towards the bottom that Impacted Relief Fund. We were proposing \$3 million for hotel and hospitality and \$5 million for food and beverage. The research that we have shown that in the hotel industry there has probably been a loss of \$128 million in the past four-months and occupancy has been hit by 70% to 75%.

The research that we've gotten back from the industry is they feel like they really need some type of fund around hospitality/hotels, specifically again that is around \$10 million. In the food and beverage, we were looking at a \$5 million component that was divided up into what I will call access to capital that may be the opportunity for some innovation grants. Through the discussion, today, where we ended up, was this Impacted Relief Fund which followed the Governor's Executive Order and establishes an extra million-dollar fund that provides grants targeted at industry [inaudible] entertainment, indoor exercise facilities and it is trying to separate out those industries that have been hit the hardest, not been able to reopen at any kind of real capacity.

Just to give you a couple of other data points, if you combined hotels and foodservice together it would be, I think the fourth largest industry. If you put arts and entertainment into that it is the second-largest industrial employer in our community with health care just above it and finance just below it. We have over 81,000 people that are employed through hotels, food and beverage, and arts and entertainment, and based on the data that I have I don't think that includes contract employees of hotels or things like that. I really don't think that number even starts to capture the entire industry sector.

That is where we landed on the proposal today, is to have a specific fund that basically instead of being industry-specific followed the Governor's Executive Order recognizing that we haven't moved into the next phase yet, and these are probably the industries that are still the most need.

Mayor Lyles said if I recall this Mr. Mitchell; when we were talking about access to capital we were talking about how barbershops and beauty shops were really shut down under the Governor's order and we were giving them the opportunity to get PPE and to start up and I think what Ms. Dodson said that resonates with me is that these are businesses that have been out of business from March until September 11<sup>th</sup> and so they have not had an opportunity to participate in anything as a result of where they are right now. That is what I understand. Is that the debate that you had?

Mr. Mitchell said Mayor; you are spot on. That was the debate because we wanted to make sure there were some industries that had not had any help since March and we wanted to make sure that we can be as diverse as possible, making sure these funds got out to those businesses. That is why we call it the Impact Relief Fund so it could touch different industries in our community.

Mayor Lyles said but it would be those under the Governor's order that has yet to open.

Mr. Mitchell said yes, and I think we listed about seven of the industries.

Ms. Dodson said let me just clarify for the Mayor; that wasn't just the ones that have had to remain closed. You could still include restaurants in there that have no events, that are at half capacity based under the County's orders, have lost more seating with losing the bar seating or different things like that and so restaurants were included in that, but we looked at hotels, restaurants, bars, entertainment, and indoor exercise facilities. This also came about when we looked at the access to capital, we had only had right around seven percent of applicants coming from the food and beverage industry.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Mitchell; I'm wondering is there a decision around this, is there a motion to do the Impacted Relief Fund? It needs some more detail, I think. I think I can say those that are under the hospitality industry, is that the way we are structuring this?

Mr. Mitchell said restructured the Impact Relief Fund Mayor; to make sure that all small businesses have the opportunity to take advantage of this grant funding that we have in the Thrive budget.

Mayor Lyles said would it be those businesses related to the hospitality industry, the gymnasiums, those impacted by the Governor's rule?

Mr. Mitchell said yes ma'am, outdoor gyms, yes ma'am.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to approve \$8 million for the Impact Relief Fund.
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**Councilmember Johnson** said can I get a point of clarification here?

Mayor Lyles said of course.

Ms. Johnson said I just want to make sure because it was my understanding earlier today and I think we used these words like broad and general when we were trying to cast a wide enough net to cover businesses and remove barriers. But I'm hearing today that businesses that are identified in the Governor's order so can I just get clarification of what businesses that would be eligible for this? It was my intent that we captured or supported businesses who might not have received other funding such as the non-profits we spoke about earlier today or create a business that we may not be aware that exists. I just want to make sure what this \$8 million or who this \$8 million will serve.

Ms. Dodson said let me go through it again; I want so to step back because this also gets into the access to the capital discussion that we had earlier today too where our recommendation to the access to capital, which we have only prioritized today for companies that have not received PPP. Our recommendation is to moving forward in this final round of access to capital which is the \$30 million that we open it up to organizations that have served PPP while also looking for other organizations that may be still have not had a chance to apply yet. That is one piece of it and that is for businesses for six to 25 or one to five. Then what we talked about today, and I think it got lost in a lot of the discussion; what Laura was suggesting when we were throwing out different ideas was that if you didn't want to do something, and I think it was coined pick winners or losers that what you could look at was what the Governor's mandate is. That is a series of industry sectors and businesses, primarily small businesses that are still being negatively impacted by not being able to open or rule changes or different things like that. So, we

essentially broaden what we proposed to begin with into something that falls under the Governor's order which was hotels, bars and restaurants entertainment and indoor exercise facilities.

Ms. Johnson said she just listed about five types of businesses. Is that what you are saying?

Ms. Dodson said yes.

Ms. Johnson said just those five types of businesses.

Ms. Dodson said those five industry sectors and I can pull up the Governor's mandate specifically is what we were trying to follow. It says North Carolina Executive Order 120; entertainment facilities, example live performance venues, movie theaters, skating rinks, (B) indoor exercise facilities, gyms, yoga studios, indoor trampoline, rock climbing facilities, (C) personal care and grooming business, beauty shops, barbershops, massage therapist, training salons, nail salons, (D) restaurants. Those are the ones specifically called out under his order.

Ms. Johnson said that is more than five, more general right?

Ms. Dodson said yes.

Ms. Johnson said I just wanted to make sure that we were [inaudible] and that there were not people that were going to be left out as much as possible.

**Councilmember Winston** said Tracy; I have two questions, I think. I hear we just went through the types of industries that might be able to access this \$8 million, but how will they access this \$8 million? What type of guide rules or boundaries are being put in place; is there a certain size company, are there certain things they have to do with this?

Ms. Dodson said I'll be honest with you; we are kind of building this as we are going because this is not exactly what we walked in with this morning at the Committee meeting. So, one of the next steps we will have to take really dives into this in terms of size. One thing that we looked at in the two hours between the Committee meeting and this meeting is do you do based on that industry sector that we talked about or company size, do you do different grant sizes? We've got to determine if we continue with the partner in the Foundation to put this capital out, what is the most efficient way to do it. We've heard from you all many, many times that getting the relief out the door is important and so, we've looked at grant funds in this, but again where we ended up at 10:00 today we really haven't had the time to put the full scale together.

Mr. Winston said that is what it sounds like, I just wanted confirmation for that. I have one more question, but it relates to something I heard earlier tonight's agenda. Mr. Jaiyeoba, when he was talking about some of the ways we've had to pivot in terms of planning and supporting growth and development with these streateries and adaptive reuse of our public spaces for economic development in eating, but also maybe other types of businesses, there was a need for a funding source for that. Is this something that this impacts on this \$8 million could be used for rather swiftly being that it seems like we do have a sort of framework for how to do that, but we are looking for money to make that happen?

Mayor Lyles said this all has to be COVID related. If you show that relationship the answer is yes.

Ms. Dodson said Mr. Winston; just to answer your question, when we were initially thinking food and beverage fund, we had almost divided it out into straight access to capital if you will or what I'm going to call the innovative business grants, specific to food and beverage. So, let me give you a couple of examples of that; streateries would be one, the other idea would be would a couple of restaurants in a neighborhood want to come together to start their own delivery service. We wanted to give food and beverage an

opportunity to get innovative, but when it all got lumped together, I don't know that that still works the same way. There is still through the innovative business grant program, if you are looking at the line above the Impact Relief Fund, there still could be an opportunity to talk about steirates in that depending on how it is approached.

Mr. Winston said I asked Taiwo the same question; what does City Council have to do here to make that happen, to get this money from this bucket into this action that seems to be quite actionable pretty soon?

Mr. Jones said my understanding is that the Innovative Business Grant Program was designed to some extent to deal with the streateries and some of the things that would show innovation around restaurants and seating and things of that nature. Are you saying that when you left the Committee today, you are not sure if it still covers that?

Ms. Dodson said no, let me clarify that. We had the Innovative Business Grant Program, the \$1.5 million that was kind of citywide all businesses. What we had been talking about and we really didn't get to a lot of discussing in the Committee about it today because there seemed to be a push back on having a restaurant in a hotel fund. We really didn't get into it, what we had considered was dividing up part of the \$5 million that was food and beverage and doing a separate Restaurant Innovation Business Grant Program.

Mr. Winston said I just want to follow-up on why I am harping on this for my colleagues is that not only is this a way that we can get people back to work, but we have to think about it from our perspective as well. We are in the beginning stages of a pandemic, we have to recognize where we are. We probably are going to be here 12-months from now, having a conversation of still dealing with the pandemic. So, as we are finding ways to invest these tax dollars, we should find ways that are finding solutions that are also going to present more solutions, so if we are able to do socially distance work on a consistent basis that will kind of sustain the business model throughout then we will also continue to generate tax revenue and we will be in a better situation to provide more solutions. The streets are a viable place to do that and businesses can only do that if they get our help. So, this is why I'm on this because it just seems like it makes so much sense right now and people are clamoring for us to take these steps to make this happen. We seem to be right there on the precipice, I just want to what we can do to push us pass and potential through this.

Mayor Lyles said that sounds like a great idea to allow that innovation for people to be able to survive and thrive.

Mr. Egleston said I won't belabor the point too much, but I hope we can retire at least in our COVID discussions, the idea there are winners. The Mayor kind of said that earlier but that we are picking winners or losers. The government is already in this course of COVID pandemic, been in the business of picking winners and losers through the fact that the restrictions on the businesses, which by the way I am supportive of and I understand that there are differences between businesses that lead us to allow some to open basically while others can't. I am supportive of those health decisions that have been made; those decisions have picked winners and losers, mainly losers.

So, when we look at how we can deploy these funds we are not picking winners and losers to say that funds need to go to the places where the policies that have been created to protect the public health have made those industries the losers on the front end of this COVID pandemic. When we've got dollars to deploy that is where they need to go. If people can't be open and if people can't work dollars are needed there more than places that they can. And so, while no-one is a winner right now in this pandemic, there are people who are losing more than others and that is where we should put the dollars. So, I want to get away from the idea that somehow, and I know this is not what any of my colleagues mean, but it paints the picture that this is going to be some sort of windfall that some business is going to profit off of. Everyone is losing their life savings and their life's work right now, no-one is winning. I do hope we can put this towards the people who need it the most and have no other means to keep their business on life support, but for our assistance.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said this Impact Relief Fund provides an opportunity for all businesses that are being impacted by the Governor's order. They are not excluding the hospitality industry; one of the recommendations that our experts on our Small Business Task Force from the hospitality industry said that there were many restaurants and hotels that were not able to apply for access to the capital program because they employ more than 25 people. So, with this Impact Relief Fund, we are taking that filter away so that way everyone who has impacted, minus the publicly traded companies can apply for this fund. It is broad enough to include most of the industries that are impacted, but I don't want anyone to think that we are excluding hospitality and tourism; the program has been modified so that they can also apply, but there weren't able to apply to the Access to Capital Program.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Ajmera; do you know how many publicly traded companies there are in Charlotte? Ms. Dodson do you know?

Ms. Dodson said I do not, but I will get you the answer.

Mayor Lyles said that makes a difference because you can go with it and if it is so many does it dilute the impact that you can have for them or if there are not enough, are we giving too much money in one place without knowing how many others would have it. That would be a good number to know.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I think I understand a little bit better; I listened in on the meeting today and honestly was kind of concerned about it. I think I understand a little bit better what the Committee was saying with regard to lifting the filters, but I do have concerns about that. Again, this feels like a lot of money, but it is not a lot of money and there are no winners in the City right now with COVID. Everybody is impacted but we've got to be very intentional about how we deploy the funds and so I was on the Small Business Task Force, I wish this conversation would have still taken place there because we did have all those industry experts that could have weighed in on this. I do think we have industry sectors again, that are highly impacted and represent a very large segment of our economy that need more assistance and I would say that the hospitality industry is one of them. So, while I would certainly support an effort around the hospitality and restaurant industry and lift the cap of 25 employees for them, I think, to the Mayor's point, we are diluting our impact if we just now say that anybody can apply that is on the Governor's list and any of those businesses and now, we no longer have that limit of 25 employees and a certain level of revenue. Seventy percent of the businesses in our economy and nationwide are small businesses with less than 25 employees so, when we targeted that population of businesses through the Small Business Task Force, we knew that that was going to give us the biggest bang for our buck. So, I can't honestly get my head around the Impacted Relief Fund and opening it up to everybody and to take all those restrictions off that we really worked for months to put in place on the Access to Capital Program.

There is still a tremendous amount of need out there for businesses under 25 employees. Mr. Newton has done a lot of work with our immigrant community that did not get access to the program for a lot of different reasons and I applaud the Foundation and Tracy for their team for really trying to make sure that they do have access to capital. I think we are really limiting our impact if we now just say everybody can participate in this fund except for publicly-owned companies which I don't know, I don't think they measure up to the number of privately-owned companies we have in this community. I'm not sure at this point that I could support that kind of change unless it was around specific industries that do represent such a large portion of our economy.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said I think the bottom line here is everyone is seeing that there is basically a dollar amount and absolutely no idea what to do with it or another level of detail. Let me just dispel one quick rumor; that is not the staff's fault at all. Full stop. The staff has been getting whipped around for three months plus now, they've spent three-plus months working on real data-based strategies and plans to address the crisis that our small businesses that are the workforce that others are facing right now in our community, and they do all this analysis and they get into the meetings and a couple of

our colleagues literally continually, habitually rip out the rug from under them and just make them go a different route and this is completely evident in the last 24-hours, the rug has been ripped out from under them twice.

Now, you are simply seeing them sitting here and saying yeah, this is the new thing and I had two hours to figure it out. So, if you are looking for the unvarnished truth that is literally what is happening right now and the two sadist parts of where we are in all of this right now is one, we've got an entire group of some of our most talented staff that I don't even know if they are still pulling their hair out at this point or if they are just dusting their resumes off and trying to jump out of this ship as fast as they possibly can. Two, the recent travesty is that we've been given \$154 million and while the number wasn't shown to us in those earlier presentations my gut reaction is if 10% of that money here in the middle of the third quarter that it has to be spent in, is out the door I would be surprised. So, those are the two facts that we have to understand.

I just have one question because I literally don't know how to vote on this because one side of me says there isn't enough meat here to even remotely figure it out. The other side of me says I don't want our poor abused staff to have to go through another round of this behind the scenes joking in Committee meetings, so I will ask you Tracy; would you prefer us to pass this and you guys just literally figure the details out later? Marcus or somebody because I want to know how to vote. The answer is we shouldn't vote to move forward, but at some point; they can't keep doing this and we are running out of time to help the people that need it. So, someone needs to answer that.

Mr. Jones said Mr. Bokhari; there is a motion on the floor which I think has a second and just for me, just some clarification; we do have the \$30 million worth of grants which I think \$8 million is going out the door, but there are a number of businesses that maybe we are discussing tonight that have applied and that process will work itself out and then is a motion on the floor that deals with something that has a bit more specificity and it seems like some Councilmembers would like it smaller, some would like it broader, and I think what is important is to just get, understanding is not the right word, but there are opportunities for entities to go into some of the grants that are already out there, Again, part of that \$30 million and it seems like this would capture restaurants and hotels, but maybe not to the level that the team started off with which was a bigger emphasis on restaurants, but I believe that is what the Committees are for, to have these types of debates and I believe that if something could not be done or is inconsistent with the rules somebody, whether it is me or Kelly or Tracy would step up and address it.

Mayor Lyles said I'm going to ask Mr. Jones if what he just said is that this list of projects here, the Impacted Relief Fund, what I heard Ms. Dodson say is that those businesses under the Governor's order, including restaurants, would be those places where they've been closed since March and they haven't been allowed to open yet.

Ms. Eiselt said I don't understand that because when you say beauty salons, there are a lot of beauty salons that are open.

Mayor Lyles said I didn't say beauty salons.

Ms. Eiselt said I thought Tracy did.

Mayor Lyles said I thought it was the gyms, but I didn't think that she said beauty salons. Ms. Dodson said let me clarify; in our list, we did not have beauty salons, when I read the Governor's order to clarify everything for Ms. Johnson, beauty salons and barbershops were in there. So, it is included in the Governor's order; I don't have the breakdown in the \$30 million of the existing access to capital in terms of what kind of response and applicants we've gotten that fall into beauty salons or barbershops. We do hear that they are still impacted; I know that on the \$30 million the restaurants make up seven percent of our applicants.

Mayor Lyles said I'm sorry, I did not mean to say beauty shops, but I guess I was using the criteria unable to open and recover to this point in the time since we started this. We

are not closing off anyone to make an application for the original \$15 million and now \$30 million right. Out of the \$30 million that we have in the first fund for grants we've spent \$8 million. Is that correct? So, we have a long runway left to do that. I was just thinking that we were focusing on the hospitality industry more than anything, but I think that I saw a chart earlier today that said the hospitality industry more than anything. I saw a chart earlier today that said the hospitality industry; maybe I missed it, but I thought I saw a chart somewhere. Here it is, there was a food and beverage relief fund recommendation for \$5 million.

Ms. Dodson said that was before we went into the Committee.

Mayor Lyles said okay, what was the recommendation in the Committee for food and beverage?

Ms. Dodson said what came out of the Committee was that Impacted Relief Fund, so the \$5 million for food and beverage and the \$3 million for hospitality, all of that rolled into one \$8 million funds.

Mayor Lyles said that would be primarily for food, beverage, and hotels in the \$8 million.

Ms. Dodson said there was debate amongst Councilmembers as to not being specific industries and so that is when we tried to introduce the idea that it could be geared towards hospitality because that was part of what was in the Governor's order, but also let in gyms and from I just read, hair salons and barbershops.

Mayor Lyles said I think it is nothing like a Council meeting to figure out what is supported and what is not. We can do this; I think Mr. Mitchell's motion was \$8 million for an Impacted Relief Fund and I'm just going to just say this, Mr. Mitchell if you would agree, why don't we do one which has food, beverage, hotels, and gyms in it? Would that be okay to start out there? That is all-inclusive for the longer-term people that have not an opportunity to get to other places. Mr. Mitchell, what would you like your motion to be so we can get clarity?

Mr. Mitchell said Mayor; I think we've got the same intention; we are trying to make sure we can get this money out to the community. I don't want to beat a dead horse, I just don't want us to override the Committee and I don't want to set that model tonight. I think we can have a check-in process on September 14<sup>th</sup>, so if somehow, we look at the numbers, and if it is not being dispersed, we can revisit it. I would like to keep the motion on the floor, the Impact Relief Fund with a caveat we can look and see how things are transpiring at our next Council meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> if that makes everybody comfortable.

Mayor Lyles said so the Impact Relief Fund would be open to any business and including publicly traded businesses.

Mr. Mitchell said no, not including publicly traded businesses.

Mayor Lyles said if I am at the Westin and they are not publicly traded and the Marriott is, I wonder how you differentiate that. I don't know how you deal with that. Both hotels in Charlotte, both going through the pandemic, how do you deal with that?

Ms. Dodson said could I add a little bit of color and data around the publicly traded? We have about 25,000 hotel rooms in Charlotte, but 92% of those are affiliated with a brand or parent company like a Marriott or something like that. So, most of those are going to be publicly traded type companies. We have 2,526 publicly traded companies in Charlotte; however, only 156 of those aren't franchises and so with hotels I need to do just a little bit more research in terms of ownership whether it is what I call the mothership, Marriott owns the Marriott or somebody owns a hotel here that has [inaudible] and Marriott flag but they are a local owner of a hotel. We may have to do more research in dividing that out to better define that, but I think you have a mixture as it relates to hotels that are owned per the brand, and I'm going out on a total limb here. My guess is that the larger



hotels are going to be owned by those brands, a lot of the other hotels, a majority of our hotels are going to have more individual or company ownership.

Mayor Lyles said I think this is open to any business, and I don't know that we know enough about what is publicly owned and what is not, especially when it comes to hotels and restaurants where are franchises and you can be an owner of a franchise or you could just be a franchise operator, is that kind of it?

Ms. Dodson said you can be a franchise operator or you take a lot of restaurants and again, I go back to the hotels when I was on the development side or to a lot of the local ownership that developed and owned hotels, but you pull in a flag on to that so the flag is the brand of the hotel, but the owner can be completely different.

Mayor Lyles said I think we have a motion on the floor from Mr. Mitchell to approve an \$8 million Impacted Relief Fund that is open to non-publicly traded businesses.

Mr. Egleston said I have a question about the motion before we vote. There has been so much saying I apologize if I'm not on the right iteration. This is open to any business, yes or no?

**Patrick Baker, City Attorney** said with the exception of the non-publicly traded piece.

Mayor Lyles said with the exception of the non-publicly traded.

Ms. Eiselt said no, publicly traded.

Mr. Baker said publicly traded companies are excluded from the program.

Mr. Egleston said again, given that this is our last Council meeting for a month, I'm not sure what the alternative is but, if it is open to any business are, we even requiring that they demonstrate that they've been impacted? There are a small handful of businesses that have not had nearly the negative impact that many have and sectors that have been impacted is very different degrees from others. Why are we even calling it an Impacted Relief Fund if we are not limiting it to the people who have been most impacted? Again, I don't want to vote against something because I know every business in this community right now needs assistance, but some very demonstratively need it more than others and we can quantify that. We are broadening it to the point where it is not going to be effective for the people who need it so again, I'm probably not going to vote against it, but we might need a new name because this is just anyone who wants it relief fund.

Ms. Eiselt said I'm really struggling because we put together a Task Force of businesses in the community who made recommendations and now that just kind of went out the window and none of them had any saying in the matter. The \$8 million, I recognize that we've learned some things as an industry that needs more help than others, why can't we just keep that in the grant money, put it in the grant money, but say we will make an exception for hotels and restaurants to apply for it if they have over 25 employees. It would have to be private so if it is a licensing fee of a hotel or something, but they got PPP they shouldn't get this money and the team that makes that decision. Only the team can figure that out, but the Task Force intended this to be for businesses with employees of 25 and below. Just changing that in one day with a couple of Councilmembers when the Task Force didn't have a say in the matter, I really am struggling with that decision so quickly. Why not just say the \$8 million, an extension of the grant is for hotels and restaurants that can go over 25 employees?

<p>A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, that says we keep our Small Business Grant Program the way it is, but restaurants and hotels and whatever the qualification was in the tourism industry can go over 25 employees as long as they are not owned by a big company that got PPP.</p>
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Without a second the motion was not considered.

Mayor Lyles said it is almost like a full circle; we went from yes, we know more people are impacted, I think Mr. Egleston's point, we will do it for everybody, and I don't know where we've gone.

Mr. Jones said Tracy; I'm just going to see where we are based on the Committee meeting today. I actually thought that this was not as broad as what is being discussed now so, can you bring us back to wherever we left off in that Committee and Mr. Mitchell if you could confirm that I think that would be helpful.

Mr. Mitchell said let me just make a statement so at least we can all be on the same page. We did invite the Small Business Task Force Committee members to our Committee meeting today; we had three representatives on the phone, Vinay Patel, DeAlva Wilson, and Chad Turner. We kept the meeting open to our Small Business Task Force to say if there is an important issue for you please continue to join us. So, I want to make sure that we did have representatives of our Small Business Task Force there; they engaged with us on this topic and I just want to be clear; we took that expertise we had in the very beginning and they are still with us now.

Ms. Dodson said thank you Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Jones; I think there are a couple of questions in this, where we started when we came into Committee today, based on the data that we had, conversations we'd had in the industry was to propose in this new budget a fund for restaurants, food, and beverage and then also one for hotels. Recognizing that the one we had for hotels wasn't still going to be exactly what hotels needed but that we had one for each that was specifically catered to each one. I think question number one, is that an industry sector that we want to support or not support? Through the Committee discussion it got broadened to other business types and so what our staff intent has always been is to have something that focuses on food and beverage, hospitality. If you want to add gyms in there, add gyms in there. It was more of the businesses that have been impacted and still remain impacted either by rule changing or closure, whatever you have, that we really were catering something to help them.

Mayor Lyles said this is the recommendation Mr. Bokhari said the staff came and put forward, but the Committee broadened.

Ms. Dodson said the Committee broadened, yes, correct.

Mayor Lyles said it is just that I think if we have something, and you say that we can come back in September, we can always broaden, but it is very difficult to put things back into a bottle when we can probably start with where the staff was and say \$5 million for food and beverage. I don't know what it was for hotels, but just doing that, and then if we need to do more, we can broaden it in September.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, to approve the original staff proposal of a Relief Fund catered towards the hospitality food, beverage and hotel industry with the \$3 million and \$5 million relevantly associated.

Mr. Bokhari said that will enable them while we are on break to continue forward and then fill in the blanks of the additional details necessary to move forward.

Mr. Mitchell said good point and so when staff brought that to us, I think our Committee members will remember, Mr. Patel spoke to that proposal. That is why the discussion led, what could be fair, and I won't put words in his mouth Tracy, but I think he used the word "wasn't" sufficient enough". If there is so much confusion around the \$8 million, I think it would be best if we want to table this, approve the rest of the thrive budget and then come back. I just want to make sure we get it right and so we are trying to do our true intentions is to help small businesses out there in our community.

Mayor Lyles said what came out of Committee would be all businesses and it is not small businesses. I'm confused.

Ms. Johnson said I just want to give some background of what our intent was today. Our intent was to be inclusive and not industry-specific. Ms. Ajmera used the words winners losers and maybe that is not the right semantics, but our intention was not to be exclusive of businesses who are suffering. We know that there is a high percentage of restaurants that are suffering and hotels, but that doesn't mean another type of business is not suffering as well. That was our intent, to open this up that doesn't preclude or exclude hotels and restaurants from applying, but this removes barriers so businesses who have not been funded or need assistance that has been impacted as well from COVID. I know at the beginning of our meeting we did talk about restoration and equity and [inaudible] to the black community and here is one of these policies that give us an opportunity to be as open and remove barriers for small businesses or businesses with over 25 or whatever, but to be as inclusive as possible, and once again, there is a barrier that will be there for them. That was our intent, no we didn't have the details worked out, we rely on the staff because the meeting was just over at 2:00, but it was the Committee's intention to be inclusive and to help out as many as possible.

Mayor Lyles said I think that is a great principle and we are doing that through the \$30 million funds. If we want to come back and change that to open up for more employees, we can certainly do that. I think we have been talking about this for a good bit and we have a substitute motion on the floor to do this. Again, let's see how it shakes out with the vote, that is why we are here and then we can come back in September and redo or decide how we can do. If the \$30 million that we did in the first grant program comes back and we've only gotten to \$10 million by September, we need to open that up for another way because that is something everybody can go through, it is just limited by size. This one is limited by function. Both of them are limited in some respect.

Ms. Johnson said just let me say also what hasn't been addressed today as we learned in the Committee meeting, there was a 65% error rate for the businesses that had applied. So, there is some mitigation that can be done for even the businesses that have applied to be able to get funding. It is not like this is not a successful program or that folks aren't applying. The majority of the businesses that have applied have received some type of error in the process.

Mayor Lyles said my understanding is that those numbers have improved. That was before the Foundation took over the process and that has changed, but that is just what I've been told by the staff.

The substitute motion on the floor is to have the food and beverage relief fund at \$5 million, hotels for \$3 million, and have that operated and come back and see if there need to be any additional changes to it.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Eiselt, Egleston, Graham, and Winston.

NAYS: Councilmembers Newton, Johnson, Mitchell, Ajmera, and Watlington.

Mayor Lyles said if we can go back to the concepts that were on the table; I'm going to suggest that we've done the major portion of that work. I'm going to ask if there is anything else on this list that we want to discuss tonight or give the Manager some direction?

Mr. Jones said Mayor; the remaining items were Youth Athletic Activities, Employee Assistance with Daycare which I would like to pull off. That is something that I should handle, and additional support for Public Wi-Fi as well as additional support for small business.

Mayor Lyles said so Mr. Jones is going to take care of support for employees in childcare.

Mr. Jones said I'm going to try my best.

Mayor Lyles said this is such uncharted territory. Mr. Jones has said the next one is Youth Athletics; is there a discussion around that?

Mr. Mitchell said I thought in the Safe Community meeting we had that there was some discussion about the Youth Athletics, and I think I remember, correct me Mr. Chairman, I thought we passed something to add additional funding for the Youth Athletics so I thought we were okay, but I could be wrong.

Mr. Egleston said I don't know what other possibilities have been discussed. Mr. Jones might know what overlap there is or difference there is in what has been discussed. We just added to one specific program; I'm not sure about others that might be on the table.

Mr. Jones said I would like to give it a shot. The concept is schools being virtual and opportunities for athletics being diminished and our youth, especially in our corridors, is there something that we could do with CARES funds to support that void that is going to be created, especially as our relationship with the YMCA and I don't want to call that relationship ending, but the \$2 million that was associated with the program really ran mostly through the summer. So, what void is out there that if we think about it more intentionally, maybe even with partnerships with the County, and with the school system that there could be opportunities for young folks in the fall. I think I summarized that.

Mr. Winston said as I mentioned earlier in our Intergovernmental Affairs report out, we are trying to figure out how; we are dealing with this pandemic, and getting through this school year is probably the most important issue our community is about to face moving forward. It affects every sector of our population and it affects economic development, it affects the ability for people to go to work and everywhere in between. As we are trying to figure out what the City's help and role might be in this, we are not really going to understand what that looks like until after September 1<sup>st</sup> as CMS is really focused on getting through the beginning of school, then they can get to their out of box thinking where they can bring partners like us and the County into it. As we are trying to be proactive, I do think we need to think about what is in our wheelhouse, how can we prepare ourselves to serve alongside CMS and our other partners? As Mr. Jones said we know that there is going to be no athletics, we know that there is going to be no movement, no physical ed and we know that people that aren't moving as we are looking at a public health crisis and looking at the acute measurers and conditions of health and how do we improve those situations in the pandemic, while also understanding where our skillsets and our jurisdiction applies, youth sports, our partnerships with other service providers in the community, athletic programs to get young people up and moving are some of those places that we play well in, and some of the things that we've done in the past. I think it makes a lot of sense for us to think about how do we continue to think outside the box and respond to the needs of our community, and not just speak about it from a general sense, but how can we specifically provide, prescribe solutions and help? I think Youth Sports and Youth Athletics and Athletic Programming and activity programming is right there. You need to look no further than PAL for example, or as Mr. Jones said, our strong and close partnership with the YMCA in the summer and throughout the school year.

Mayor Lyles said some details around that; what it might look like. I think you are right, we will know better what is going on I think in combination with school starting and also see what the federal government is going to do, and I think a number of people around childcare especially. So, if we can look at that.

The next one, the Manager is going to handle the Employee Assistance with Daycare, especially for our folks that have to be here, and then the next one is Additional support for Public Wi-Fi.

Mr. Jones said Mayor; I am very pleased that this was brought to our attention. I will say that we have a lot on our plate right now dealing with Public Wi-Fi to pull this off. But, just having Councilmembers wanting us to go as far as we possibly can is good enough of a nod for us if there are more opportunities for us to go with Public Wi-Fi in those corridors we will.

Mayor Lyles said my understanding is that the two IT leaders between CMS and the City have met and they are going to build around the same principles of work, but I think a lot of this is being led by the schools that we are supportive in ways that they can work

together. I think we have a goal to change the Digital Divide and we've got a lot of asks out there and I think this should always be on the table.

Additional Support for Small Business; can we do that in September when we come back? I think it is really important to get a run rate for the \$30 million, the run rate for this \$8 million, and then pull altogether. We are kind of looking at this as what is available for money to do and then look and see what we've done and then decide where we go. I think that is the discussion we should have in September.

Ms. Johnson said as far as utility support; if we wrote off some of the balance for the outstanding water balances would that be considered a loss in revenue Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones said yes, and I think David is still here. We do have an understanding of what we have in terms of bills that are overdue and how that may be different from what would be typical. David; are you able to speak to that?

**David Czerr, Deputy Director of Charlotte Water** said yes, I am here, and I can answer your questions.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Johnson; do you want to restate your question?

Ms. Johnson said I know that the COVID funding of the CARES dollars, one of the exceptions is that it can be used to reimburse the City for lost revenue. If we looked at maybe writing off a percentage of the Water bills for residents or maybe businesses imposed or something, if we wrote off the balances for Water bills, is that something that we can reimburse ourselves with some of the CARES dollars, if that was something that we had the political will to do?

Mr. Jones said I'm sorry Ms. Johnson; I misunderstood your question. We can't use the CARES dollars to reimburse ourselves for Water.

Ms. Johnson said for lost revenue.

Mr. Jones said we can't.

Ms. Johnson said the lost revenue as one of the areas that we could reimburse ourselves, right?

Mr. Jones said we can't use the CARES money for revenue replacement but let me make sure that I'm not misunderstanding what you are saying. David, what can we do?

Mr. Czerr said you are correct that we can't use the CARES funding to replace the revenue, however, we are looking at a number of different resources to assist our customers with making payments. Some of those would be looking at the private sector. We are also implementing a payment plan arrangement.

Ms. Eiselt said can I ask a follow-up to that? I guess to kind of get around that; can we give the money to an organization like Crisis Assistance and then they are making the decision as to how that money gets deployed which ends up getting deployed for that kind of situation?

Mr. Jones said trust me Ms. Eiselt; I have tried every way in the world to utilize these funds for Water and between Kelly doing her job and Legal doing their job, we are not able to do it.

Ms. Eiselt said okay, thank you for trying.

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## **ITEM NO. 12: COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS**

**Mayor Lyles** said I sent out a list of the proposed Council Committee referrals and we agreed upon these with the Committee Chairs and I just wanted to make sure as we are doing this, in this concept that we had we were going to be able to come back with a draft Community Safety Plan about September 14<sup>th</sup>. I guess the question I have is that each Committee has a section that is required for us to do that plan and that means that you would have a meeting in August or at least by the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting for the areas that address Safe Communities. I just wondered if everyone was on the same page for that. As we go through this and we are talking about the Committee work, I would just like to hear from each Chair if looking at those projects that they would do to get us to have a draft Safety Plan, including the Manager who would be coming to us with the Violence Interruption Program in neighborhoods as well as the Violence Interruption Program that is hospital-based. We were trying to incorporate this, and I know as each Committee comes through if they could just think and let me know if that is still realistic for you considering.

We start off with Budget and Effectiveness with Mr. Driggs and the ones that you had for the violence part were Violence Prevention Data Matrix and Public Scorecard and the Police budget review by service area.

**Councilmember Driggs** said we haven't seen yet the breakdown of the police budget review by service area. My thought is that that needs to be kind of a consolidated natural statement for the Police Department again, broken down by those major service areas rather than all the internal documents related to their finances. We don't have that yet, so the Committee hasn't looked at it. The other thing is we would look at it and then I think to submit to the rest of the Council the information. I don't know that the Budget Committee is going to be the one that makes decisions about whether those amounts that have been identified in the respective service areas are too much is too little. I would have to actually refer to staff to know when we can expect to see that breakdown and then discuss it and refer it to the full Council. So, it is a question for the staff.

Similarly, the data matrix; I can talk a minute about what we did discuss at our last meeting, but these items have not yet shown up at a meeting and haven't been considered by us yet.

Mayor Lyles said do you think you can do them by September?

Mr. Driggs said I don't know what dates we are going to be meeting.

Mayor Lyles said that is what I'm trying to get clarity around. I don't want us to outline something that we force ourselves; you know what I'm saying, we don't force something but we want to keep on track on this. If it is not possible to do it, we just need to say that upfront.

Mr. Driggs said if we could have a meeting in August at which the material that the Committee needs to consider is presented to us then I think we could probably get a fair amount of work done. I'd be interested to hear from other Committee members, but again, we haven't had that foundation yet where we just get data that we can talk about. If the staff can give us something to react to and to analyze for a meeting sometime this month.

Mayor Lyles said I there was something scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Driggs said right; we've already talked about a couple of agenda items for that meeting. If we can get this information again, subject to what other members of the Committee say, I think we could look at it on the 18<sup>th</sup>. We could plan a follow-up meeting in order to finalize whatever our conclusions were on the 18<sup>th</sup> and therefore have available for the remainder of Council a digest of the financial information and an analysis of the Violence Prevention data base.

Mayor Lyles said if you will just let me know by next week that would be great.

Mr. Driggs said right; I need to hear from staff to be able to reach a conclusion about that. Are we also doing the Committee Reports?

Mayor Lyles said I would highlight anything because we did have them in the document so you don't have to go through everything, but I think the highlights would really be important.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to mention; there were the three topics mentioned in the summary we have. We need to do a little more work on the notion of prioritizing capital investments that are funded by tourism dollars. I think the summary of where we want to go with that is what are the policy options to prioritize tourism funds investments of Community City Partnership to achieve the City's priorities and this has to do with the fact that in the past Council has not really had a really good analytical or policy framework for considering some of the proposals that come to us for the use of hospitality funds. The second item was the internal audit report that we got that highlighted 22 areas for improvement in terms of our capital funding and management of capital projects. I think we need to go a little further on that given what we were talking about earlier and I would like for our Committee to come back with recommendations about how we can address the issues that are brought up there. The third item we considered was whether or not there should be a policy around resolutions, and I think it is fair to say the majority of the Committee felt that there really should not be any rules that we try to establish about resolutions, that Council should consider those on a case by case basis as they are brought forward. That is kind of what we did.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said to Mr. Chairman's point about the CMPD budget review does that include referrals that were from the Safety Committee for CMPD audit? Is that what you are referring to Mr. Driggs?

Mr. Driggs said we had talked about the notion of reviewing all the finances of CMPD with an eye towards considering the notion of as we Reimagine do reallocate some of those funds, do we allocate some of those funds away from CMPD to civilian departments? I think what this intends is that we get kind of a management version of the finances of CMPD that makes it apparent to us how the money is being spent now from which we then can consider whether we see too big of an investment in some areas and not enough in others. What I want to avoid is an attempt by a whole bunch of people to do an audit of all the financial statements of CMPD when we are not qualified to do that and don't have the time.

Ms. Ajmera said I just want to ask the Safety Committee Chair, Mr. Egleston; I know this was a referral by the Safety Committee for the request that we got for the CMPD audit and it was not a financial audit although financial was part of it, it was mostly around the effectiveness of our public dollars and I know that there was a scope of the audit that was sent by safe coalition so, I just want to hear from Mr. Egleston as to what was behind that referral and was there a specific scope that you had in mind for that referral?

**Councilmember Egleston** said I don't believe it was my motion so I don't know what the motion maker at the time specifically had in mind, but I think that there will likely be an ongoing conversation. We can talk a little more about it when we get to the Community Safety Report, but an ongoing conversation as we go through each of these meetings every other week and unpacking a different part of CMPD policies, budgets, tactics, tools, or whatever where we might identify areas that we can reimagine the work that they do or work that might be better suited to be placed in another department or in another service providers hands and with each of those would come an accompanying amount of money that would be saved by CMDP not doing that work and could be reallocated somewhere else. I think the process sort of inherently has a bit of an audit built into it that we will be doing in the Community Safety Committee which you sit on as well and what the specific ask was of the Budget Committee would be a philosophical question for the motion maker and I don't recall who that was. I think we will be doing it in our Committee, you and I, and the rest of the Committee as we have these meetings every two weeks.

Mr. Driggs said Mayor; could I comment on that? If you recall at one of our meetings a work plan was kind of proposed in which all of the Council Committees had some perspective on this safety thing. This particular referral to Finance was part of a general process of trying to take a holistic view of it, engage all of Council in the areas of the respective Committees and I just want to comment that the word "audit" in the narrow sense connotes a verification of financial statements, a check to see that the numbers as they are reported are actually the right numbers. So, we are using the word "audit" if at all in a broader sense here to describe a review of these financials in order to gain familiarity with them and in order to use that knowledge to consider the question about whether resources could be allocated more effectively in a different way. That is why I'm saying I don't intend for this to be anything resembling an "audit" where we get a sheet of all the internal financial documents of the Police Department. We need to have a management type of consolidation of those numbers that help us participate in the Council-wide discussion. I think each of the Committees on Council has a charge that is related to this overall safety goal we are trying to achieve by September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lyles said the next report is from the Great Neighborhoods Committee.

**Councilmember Graham** said I gave a tentative report based on the last meeting of the Task Force which was held on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We are into August; our goal is to meet around the first of September for our first Great Neighborhoods Committee and those items will be the first items that we pick up for consideration to meet the September 14<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Mayor Lyles said that is a big question because if we are going to do Nuisance Abatement, what do we do for housing displacement. It is a big issue and a very complex one, so thanks for taking that on as it relates to safety.

The next report is from Intergovernmental and I think we heard that earlier today. Do you have anything else to add Mr. Bokhari or Mr. Winston?

**Councilmember Winston** said I think just to answer your specific question Mayor; you wanted us on IG to think about Ms. Watlington's ABC Board proposal, Intergovernmental to work around homelessness as well as the reintroduction of formerly incarcerated people as it relates to our community safety work. To be completely honest I don't know if we will be ready on September 14<sup>th</sup>, I can confer with my Co-Chair and Mr. Fenton about that. Again, we are trying to bucket right now our work for the Legislative Agenda as well as our Intergovernmental Strategy to deal with this. This is something that we know we were aiming for our meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to have those strategies and those bucket staff's response to that, but I can touch base with Mr. Fenton to see what kind of strategies we can come up with for September 14<sup>th</sup> around those three buckets.

Mayor Lyles said I also think we had you guys looking at the Nuisance Abatement process as well as the Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Mr. Winston said yes, that is something else that we talked about and again, this was something else I talked to Ms. Watlington about at the end of last week. We do think that there is an Intergovernmental Strategy that needs to be looked at with that because that is not something that would be germane to the Legislative Agenda.

Mayor Lyles said but it is Intergovernmental, and I think Mr. Jones is going to try to reach out to the County Manager because right now they are the lead for it, but we need to step it up in that area. Anything else Mr. Bokhari, anything to add?

**Councilmember Bokhari** said no thanks.

Mayor Lyles said the next one is the hardest working Committee in Council, Safe Communities, Mr. Egleston.

Mr. Egleston said we are the James Brown of Council Committees. We've talked about it plenty tonight and every meeting we've had for the last couple of months as we should. We continue to meet every other Tuesday with our Community Input Group meeting on the opposite weeks from the Safe Community Committee, getting great feedback from



them. We have from them as we mentioned in the last meeting and in fact, I think we've heard it from our Committee members as well as the Input Group members, that we are really trying to bite off a lot very quickly and we are still trying to strike a balance between getting this work done quickly and getting it done effectively.

So, in our last Committee meeting, we were not able to get to all the things we had on our agenda because it was so ambitious. We will continue to try to strike that balance. If there are specific questions, I'm happy to field them, but I feel that is the main thing we've been talking about for a while besides COVID. It is COVID and Community Safety so I will remind people that our next meeting will be a week from tomorrow, Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. I know we've still got other agenda items and maybe even a closed session to get to and it is almost 11:00.

Mayor Lyles said the next one is Transportation, Planning, and Environment, Ms. Eiselt. For yours, we had the vision plans for the Opportunity Corridors and Development and Design Considerations to increase safety and security in our buildings and sites.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said do you want me to go over that?

Mayor Lyles said no, I was just saying as a reminder to make sure that you think you can be ready by September. That was all I was asking. I think I'm hearing just reports and you can get back with me at some point.

Ms. Eiselt said for our Committee update, we had a really full agenda in July, and I won't go into too much detail. The first item that we talked about was the Silver Line and Mr. Lewis gave us an update on the Silver Line tonight and kind of went over a lot of what we talked about in the Committee meeting, so I won't rehash all of that. Then Alisha gave us an update on the Comprehensive Vision and just the Stakeholder engagement that has been taking place there and some of the meetings that are coming up with strategic advisors later this month.

Then we will kick off a series of virtual focus groups this month as well that include Drive-in Community Workshops so it will be interesting to see how that goes for the Comprehensive Vision Plan. Then we had a presentation by Allison Craig and Tim Porter on our Tree Canopy Action Plan and as you know we reviewed the Tree Canopy Plan in 2018 and made a decision to put that into the Comprehensive Vision Plan, but we did have a text amendment that we voted on this year and from all of that came the need to really talk about having a 2020 Tree Canopy Plan that would be guided in coordination with the Comprehensive Vision Plan. So, in doing so, Allison and Tim said that they have organized some stakeholder groups that consisted of neighborhood leaders, advocacy groups, development community representatives, landscape architects, home builders, just a whole array of people and they did a study of what people really thought the plan should be because we are not achieving 50% coverage by 2050, which was the original goal. It is just interesting to note that that straw poll that was done saw some adjusting Charlotte's current 50% of the canopy, the results were 10% said to keep that goal, 65% wanted to revise the current goalkeeping some of the elements of the 50% by the 2050 plan, but also include new focus areas and 25% needed more information.

That was really it; they haven't gotten too much into the plan yet, the Tree Canopy Plan, but knowing that they might have to make some adjustments is probably where they are headed. The last item was the update on the Charlotte [inaudible] Task Force which is the Task Force led by Mayor Gantt. The key points from the panelists that spoke; they had panelists that spoke from different cities, such as Austin, Brower County in Nashville that has had mobility plans, some have been successful and some have not and so the panelist spoke on the key takeaways and their recommendations were to have a very bold vision on your transit plan, having a comprehensive plan that has broad-based benefits that can easily be communicated to people, make sure you've got good civic engagement, get out to people and talk which is a little hard right now, and have a dated driven plan. The goal of the plan is to deliver a transformation network mobility plan to Mayor Lyles by December. That was it for the meeting and we are meeting again on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lyles said the next Committee is Workforce and Business Development and my understanding is Mr. Mitchell that in all our deliberations we failed to take the appropriate action for the remainder of your Committee Meeting from today as well. If you could add that we can make that as a part of your motion after you make your Committee report.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said on the Workforce and Business Development Committee update we had a great presentation from Holder, Edison, R. J. Leeper about a workforce/upward mobility program they are doing now on the Convention Center as well as the Airport. Then later on we talked about our Corridors of Opportunity strategy. The staff gave an outstanding presentation on how they are working internally and then we actually voted on a new logo. Hopefully, at our September 8<sup>th</sup> Strategy Session, we can add that to the agenda so the entire Council can see the new logo and the new strategy for the Corridor of Opportunity. Mayor; you challenged us that all our takeaways would be for the workforce development, I think those items in green, and we are scheduled to have those at our September 14<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m. Committee meeting. Thanks to Emily and Tracy for already leading the charge of working with Charlotte Works and the Urban League on our workforce development initiatives.

Mayor Lyles said thank you; I think that what I'm hearing is that we should plan on having something by the end of September as a draft Public Safety Plan instead of early September. That will give everybody time over August and September to get there so, let's just say we will do that, and I'll make sure that Marie sends out an updated list of all of the Committee referrals to the complete Council later on this week when you get your packet, so we will just send it by e-mail.

Mr. Mitchell; do you have something that we have to go back to the Thrive Program?

Mr. Mitchell said Tracy; I'm going to let you handle it for any of the recommendations we made to move forward on the Thrive.

**Tracy Dodson, Assistant City Manager** said I'm going to start with what we talked about earlier which is the access to capital. There was a recommendation that came out of the Committee today which was to open up the grant program to not just companies who had not received PPP but to companies who had also received PPP. If you remember, I told you there was about \$44 million in applications that had been received, about 1,700 of those were companies that had received PPP and I think the other remainder of 1,500 or so were ones that had not. We also are pivoting to assist companies that have submitted applications, but for some reason, there is an error. We are going back through them, it could be as simple as there was a signature left off, but we are pivoting to do more on that. We are also working with some navigators to help engage international small businesses so, we need the recommendation to open that up to all companies that have received PPP that still falls within the same parameters, one to five employees, six to 25, all the same parameters and then we would open new applications for that tomorrow through the 30<sup>th</sup> and run for three weeks, and then you see the timeline on the right-hand side of the column to start getting checks out, we would continue to deploy checks out.

I'm just to keep on going to the next slide and get through the Thrive stuff. You can take this on all at once. I would be remiss if I didn't say in the open for business, the access to capital, the Foundation has been a really great partner in keeping us up today literally daily with the information that is coming in, making sure that is equitable, spread throughout our community and identifying any issues that we may have. What you see here is the proposed Thrive budget. I mentioned earlier tonight that we had about \$2.5 million that rolled over from the Survive \$35 million budget and so we have a \$17.5 million budget to work with here. I'm going to go through each one of these initiatives pretty quickly. Workforce Partner Support; that is very similar to the program that I outlined in Survive tonight where we did small business grants for organizations in our community that was supporting small business and supporting our ecosystem that supports businesses. This is the same thing; this is about workforce and training and doing a program that allows organizations, non-profits, academics to reach out and apply for a grant to increase capacity or help pivot. Some were doing in-person training, now are

pivoting to doing on-line training to continue to track our workforce that has been displaced with COVID.

The initiative to the righthand side, the Thrive Hiring Grant; we talked about these many times. If we use this for time solutions, we call it the Opportunity Hiring Grant. The Thrive Hiring Grant is similar, but it is with the intension of getting companies to hire employees that have been displaced from COVID. We do know that some companies are hiring out there and we want to give them an incentive to go ahead and hire now and hire locally.

The Open for Business Initiative, you heard me say a little bit about earlier as well where this is really building out a platform that serves as a primary resource for connecting all small businesses and our workforce. We want to add in job connector, and we want to continue to build out as a grant opportunity come on, or even other grant opportunities from our community come on that this is the place that we can promote that. To date, we have also been building this out as a resource center and so it is the mentorship series, townhall resources, as I mentioned grant opportunities, but then also connecting small businesses to other small businesses and so this will be a big one that as we promote the industries, we talked about streateries tonight, here is a great place where we can promote, encouraging people to get back out and go to different restaurants or get back into the community in different ways as well as connect back to some of the small businesses that are out there.

On the left-hand side, you have the Resilient Re-up program. If anybody remembers or has heard us talk about the Amp Up Program; this is a great model that we have. Amp Up has served to meet a capacity building program for our MWSBE's; what the Resilient Re-up is it is for small businesses, it is not targeted at just MWSBE's, but for small businesses to try to create resilience plans and our goal is to serve 40 to 60 small businesses with 25 people or less and again, really focusing on resiliency so that they are better at crisis management, risk management and have the opportunity to function better through times like this.

On the right-hand side, you have the Innovate Business Grant. We talked about that a little bit today. There is an existing grant program out there by Honeywell and Center City Partners that is focused on small businesses in the two-mile radius from uptown. We are proposing to have a very similar program to that, but it is Citywide and really encourages businesses to get innovative to pivot in different ways and even become more resilient through this crisis. This slide is the one we've talked about with the targeted relief fund. So, with that, there is one other thing I did want to point out; on the access to capital implementation cost is another aspect of it and this is the cost that we have incurred to deploy the access to capital, the \$30 million. We broke it down under that \$2.76 million because a big chunk of this has been really taking employees from the Y and other places that have been furloughed, putting them back to work, getting them to get out into the community to help inform business owners, help business owners apply for the access to capital. Part of it too was building out the infrastructure so the system to administer the grants and then the fee for just the straight administration of it. It is good to note that as we go into this next phase of access to capital that I've recommended that the [inaudible] is just over \$300,000 but the Foundation for an additional eight-weeks of work or six-weeks of work, is not charging any additional fees so they are taking that on themselves. Again, reiterating what a great partner that they have been, but a big chunk of that implementation costs goes to putting our community to work.

Mr. Mitchell said may I make two quick points; I want to give Councilmember Newton kudos for this leadership and if you look at the second bullet on engaging the community to outreach strategy, there was a lot of conversation about our International Small Business Community was having some barrier. Under Mr. Newton's leadership we talked to the Foundation of the Carolinas, we went out and hired some navigators to help with the International Small Business Community, so I just want to highlight that if you see things out there that we can make this program better, the Foundation of the Carolinas has been a great partner to be flexible. Councilmember Newton; thank you for that. The other comment I want to make, and I know we didn't have time to put this on the slide, but I just want people to know rounds one, two, three, and four how the demographics

broke down and Laura Smith did an excellent job. So, rounds one, two, three, and four, that \$8 million; 59% have been African American, 24% have been Caucasian, nine percent have been Latino/Hispanic, five percent have been Asian. We do have a map that shows where all the small businesses are located, and you should be very proud that they are truly dispersed throughout our whole community throughout our whole City.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, for adoption of the recommendation to go to next steps for access to capital.

Mr. Egleston said that will take into account the vote that was taken earlier.

Mayor Lyles said yes, that vote is already taken so yes.

Mr. Bokhari said I think we really have to call attention to the incredible work our staff has done over the last several weeks thinking about Thrive and the second phase to all of this while we were also crafting the Survive Grant. Staff, hats off to you for what has been accomplished it has been on your shoulders, so thank you so much.

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

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## **BUSINESS**

### **ITEM NO. 13: APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9862-X appropriating \$3,000,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Grant Program for eligible costs associated with First Responder overtime and personal protect equipment. (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9863-X appropriating \$6,866,990 from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Solutions Grant, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to execute any necessary contracts and agreements related to the Public Assistance Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 258 and 259.

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### **ITEM NO. 14: CENTENE CORPORATION BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to approve the city's share of a Business Investment Grant to Centene Corporation for a not to exceed amount of \$31,588,352 over 12 years.

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### **ITEM NO. 15: SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY ON STARWOOD AVENUE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Graham, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution approving the sale of 0.6 acres of city-owned property on Starwood Avenue (parcel identification numbers 105-271-74 and 105-271-75) to A-Plus Realty, Inc. for \$20,000, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the sale of the property.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51 at Page(s) 001-002.

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**ITEM NO. 16: APPROPRIATE PRIVATE DEVELOPER FUNDS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to (A) Approve a developer agreement with LIDL US, LLC, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9864-X appropriating \$10,000 in private developer funds for traffic signal installations and improvements.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 260.

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**ITEM NO. 17: CHARLOTTE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION FUNDING**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to (A) Accept Federal Transit Administration Section 5303 Metropolitan and Statewide planning funds in the amount of \$500,000 as identified in the Charlotte Regional transportation Planning Organization's annual Unified Planning Work Program, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9865-X appropriating \$500,000 to the General Grants Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 261.

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**ITEM NO. 18: SEPTEMBER 2020 CITY COUNCIL AUGMENTED MEETING SCHEDULE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to (A) approve the September 2020 City Council Augmented Virtual Regular Meeting Schedule, and (B) Authorize the City Clerk, or her designee, to adjust the September 2020 City Council Augmented Virtual Regular Meeting Schedule in accordance to the status of North Carolina's phased reopening.

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**ITEM NO. 19: DECISION ON CAMERON COMMONS AREA VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, and carried unanimously to adopt Annexation Ordinance No. 9866-X with an effective date of August 10, 2020, to extend the corporate limits to include Cameron Commons Area properties and assign them to the adjacent City Council District 4.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 262-267.

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**ITEM NO. 20: DECISION ON CARSEN GLEN AREA VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to adopt Annexation Ordinance No. 9867-X with an effective date of August 10, 2020, to extend the corporate limits to include Carsen Glen Area properties and assign them to the adjacent City Council District 2.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 268-271.

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**ITEM NO. 21: DECISION ON MCGEE PLACE AREA VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to adopt Annexation Ordinance No. 9868-X with an effective date of August 10, 2020, to extend the corporate limits to include McGee Place Area properties and assign them to the adjacent City Council District 2.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 272-275.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 6 Hours, 59 Minutes  
Minutes Completed: September 7, 2020