

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Special Meeting on Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:12 a.m. in Room 267 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, Matt Newton, Victoria Watlington and Braxton Winston II.

Mayor Lyles said today's meeting is being held as a virtual meeting in accordance with the electronic meeting statutes. The requirements of notice and access and minutes are being met appropriately. I hope that people are going to be able to view this at this time on the Government Channel, the City's Facebook page, and the City's YouTube page. However, this will be a continuous opportunity for people to watch over the weekend.

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WELCOME

Mayor Lyles said good morning, everyone. I want to say that today the City Council will conduct this meeting to hear from eligible candidates who are interested in filling the current At-Large City Council vacancy vacated by former Democratic Council member James Mitchell. We received over 100 applications, and the first thing that I want to say is thanks to everyone that completed the applications. I'm going to hold off this book to show you how many people really took the time and energy to express their willingness to serve. I am just so proud of the commitment of these folks to come to say I would like to participate in this City and in this democracy and a commitment to public service. We had a number of diverse candidates. There were certain qualifications that had to be met. So, today we're dealing with those that met those qualifications and so let me remind you what they are. You had to be a registered Democratic voter. You had to be 21 years or older and a resident of the City of Charlotte and qualify to vote in a City election. You know, we now have 106 eligible applications and of those, we have almost 70 that agree that they would be willing to take this morning to throughout this afternoon to make a two-minute presentation about why they should be considered. So, I want you to know that if those folks that were not able to participate in this meeting, they can certainly contact individual Councilmembers and the Councilmember's email addresses have been provided to them.

The next step in this process is on Monday at our Strategy Meeting, February 2nd, 2021 Council will have an action item to deliberate a vote on this item. There's no guarantee of what time it will be. We usually will have a few presentations and then the Council will address the issue of filling the vacancy. With that, I think I've covered the basics. Thank you again for everyone that participated. I hope you understand that this is a commitment to fill the vacancy that would start immediately as soon as we can get someone sworn in and would be of service until December 2021, swearing-in of the Council because we do have an election this year.

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INTRODUCTIONS

I want to introduce the staff that's helping us. There is a whole crew of people that helped put this together, and it's really good for us. I thought about this. If we had a major issue, this would be the kind of speakers list that we would have and so I want to thank the City Clerk, the Deputy City Attorney, the City Attorney, Ms. Jackson, all of those that made it possible for this to happen today. And with that, we will go ahead and begin with our first speaker, unless there are questions from the Council.

The Clerk will take the two-minute time limit. When the bell rings, I will say thank you. And then if you have additional remarks, you can certainly email those remarks or if you have your remarks written, you can email those to the City Clerk and they'll be provided electronically to the Charlotte City Councilmembers.

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CANDIDATE FORUM

Juddson Larkins said over the past decade, I have been a servant of the community through small business. No substitute exists for experience on the front lines. I have seen the desperation in the eyes of a business owner as his business was on the brink during the housing crisis. I have seen the joy on the faces of those experiencing record profits during the economic boom. And over the past year, I have seen the scared faces of many as they anxiously await news of further restrictions. However powerful those experiences were, none ravel hearing from individuals at the metal on the way. I received calls late at night from parents struggling to feed their kids because they cannot find gainful employment due to lack of training or degree.

I've seen the grandparents nervously go out to try to stay as safe as they can from an invisible killer. I've helped those families move who have been displaced due to a rent increase that they can no longer afford. Why did these individuals confide in me? Because they know that I care for them. This vacant At-Large seat is a chance for me to help transform transportation, increase affordable housing, illegal discrimination of LGBTQI (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex), plus community, and finally rid us of those racial barriers that exist. I hope that this serves as an introduction to my passion, dedication, and my commitment to making Charlotte better. A future for Charlotte must include a future for all. Thank you for your consideration.

Ryan McGill said first I acknowledge James Mitchell for his dedicated service to our city. Smudgy has spent most of his life working to grow Charlotte into what it is today. He deserves our highest regard for as long contributions. I've learned much from the opportunities I've had when working with him. President Biden stated a rising tide lifts all boats. Here is how those words resonate with me as a Charlottean. As Charlotte continues to grow and prosper, leaders must be vigilant. We must consider the well-being

of the least of our neighbors and each decision. We must be smart and allow data to drive our decisions without losing touch with the people we are serving. We must be mindful to look at the forward-thinking solutions that will benefit our City and our future and not just what is right there in front of us.

The council has some complicated decisions before you, and what is needed is someone who can learn quickly, adapt and overcome. I am that. I'm a team player, a problem solver, and a diplomat who will work with anyone to accomplish the mission. I have used my life in the service of others, and that is highlighted by my non-profit work with marginalized children, veterans, and people living with HIV, AIDS. I continue to serve the North Carolina Army National Guardsmen. You may be seeing me fly over the City now and that. I promise that I will continue to be a stand for equity, fairness, and compassion. I also give my word not to run for a City Council seat in 2021. Thank you, each of you, for your unwavering service to Charlotte and your consideration in voting for me to fill this seat.

Rebekah Whilden said I live in East Charlotte with my Rottweiler, Willow, and my spouse. Thank you for considering my application. I want to serve not because I see it as a steppingstone, because I see it as a seat at the table, a seat at the table to shape Charlotte's vision for mobility in transit. Our community's first Comprehensive Plan in my lifetime and to strengthen Charlotte's commitment to sustainability and livable neighborhoods.

I would work with the budget process at every meeting to make sure we don't leave any of our neighbors behind due to COVID-19. Over the past year, I've donated, volunteered, and worked with my neighbors to make sure Windsor Park Elementary Food Pantry is stocked. Thanks to many of you on the Council for chipping in with that effort. I serve food, prepared hundreds of meals for folks sleeping on the streets of uptown, but I know I can personally do more. The City Council has the responsibility to do more. What sets me apart for the seat is the breadth and depth of professional experience I would bring to the issues council will face this year. You have my resume and scores of emails from neighbors, friends, and elected officials from across the state supporting my candidacy. So I'm not going to belabor the point of why I applied and what sets my application apart. Instead, I want to tell you how I would show up as a Councilmember. I would read the hundreds of pages of material before each council meeting. I would ask questions at staff reading briefings to respect our time at the dais. I would put our goals as a team before my personal self-interest. I would listen to each of your points of view and the communities before making my own decisions. I sincerely believe that our ability to respond to the issues facing Charlotte is only limited by imagination, and I'm ready to put it into that work. Thank you for your consideration. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve.

John Bommelje said in two minutes, I'm going to quickly tell you who I am, why I'm applying, and what I contribute. So, I'm a native Charlottean. I was born and raised on the West Side in Forest Pawtucket and we're a proud product of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools at UNC Charlotte (University on North Carolina), an active member in the Charlotte LGBTQ community, particularly community fundraising efforts, Charlotte Pride,

and the Charlotte Royals. I'm passionate about my career and information security. Working in Charlotte Staples like Novant Health, Ally Bank, and American Tire Distributors. I applied for this position because I'm interested in seeing Charlotte grow into a world-class city while keeping it the city that made me. I believe, in the Safe Charlotte Model where support our current neighbors, build a sustainable community, implement changes to our environment and create the city that we want to be.

I believe in Charlotte, but I want Charlotte to work for everyone. We're not just those inexpensive apartments, but we are for everyone, native or otherwise, who are born here and want to stay and realize success or have come here seeking opportunity or change. My work within the LGBTQI community has shown me that the inequality that our neighbors experienced daily and I want to bring equity and inclusion and the opportunity for upward mobility to our entire community. Working in information security leadership, I've had the opportunity to experience and guide large-scale transformations, manage risk, budget, and conflicting needs. I excel at getting input by it and ensuring the inclusion of all stakeholders for community-wide success. I can give an uncommon perspective from my experiences in the LGBTQI community and from the information security corporate world. I continuously found in my career that often solutions can be found in other sectors and I want to bring to bear my expertise in those other sectors.

Ultimately, I'm here. I want to help as well as the 143 plus other people who applied. I believe that I had the experience, skills, and abilities to bring value to the Charlotte City Council and thus my hometown At-large.

Eric Platts said first, I want to say thank you to my Lord Jesus Christ for this opportunity. I want to say thank you to Charlotte for this opportunity. I am born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey. I have lived here in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the last two and a half years and am a current business owner of a demolition and hauling business. I am interested in being on the board because of my concern for infrastructure and the safety of our rules. With my background in the construction industry, I feel that I could bring a lot to our City of Charlotte with my knowledge of safety on the roads and how many vehicles that we have, and how many different people is traveling throughout our City. One of my main things I would focus on would be the lighting situation that we have, it would be the markings on the ground. it will be the stop signs. I also want to also work on dealing with our homeless issue. I want to try to work on pushing the community service program that we have here, having more people focus on that, having more community service being done as far as cleanliness of our roadways, cleanliness of our City, and also getting more homeless people acclimated and getting back into the work industry again. Then also when we have these companies that's coming into Charlotte that are building here.

Anthony Andrews said I first want to start by thanking each of you for allowing me the time to speak before you today. My name is Dr. Anthony Andrews, and I have been in private practice for the past several years providing therapeutic services for the people of Charlotte. Now I specialize in trauma informed care, substance abuse, and rehabilitation counseling, both physical and psychiatric. I am also a professor and researcher at the

graduate level and where my interests are mass incarceration, recidivism, employment, and the impact of ecological trauma. That was my passion in these areas that has led me to submit an application for the vacancy. You know, when I mentor and speak with the clients that I see, so many citizens often feel unheard that due to their disability, criminal record, history of substance abuse, or even their social class. Now, everywhere we turn, we hear the words of mental health, so, we know that we need it. You know, we need it in our police force. We need it in our schools and our low-income and high-income neighborhoods and even in our jails. Now, individuals need jobs, but people also need career counseling to figure out what they actually like. You know what they're good at. In my role as a career counselor, I have placed individuals into gainful employment for the ex-offender who has often turned away to the millennial, who was often undecided. You know, I believe in a holistic approach to wellness. I want to continue to advocate, but not just for my counseling chair, my classroom, or on journal articles and research articles. I want to do it right there from the City seat as City Councilman. I hope to strengthen the policies that are already in place and work with each of you to strengthen the City of Charlotte. I ask that I be consider this position so we can continue to serve and make Charlotte a City of wellness. I appreciate your time.

Crystal Screen said I do apologize I'm unable to activate my video this morning. I was having some computer problems, but I want to say that I put in for this position because as a recent retiree from Piedmont Airlines and the New York City Police Department, I think I bring a myriad of experiences that would help [inaudible] the citizens of Charlotte. I spent 20 years in the Police Department. Some of that time I was an investigator for the Internal Affairs Bureau investigating police misconduct. I also worked in the Office of Equal Employment, which also allowed me to investigate allegations of employment inequity. I recently retired from Piedmont Airlines, which is a large employer in the City of Charlotte. There I was the training supervisor and was instrumental in creating a process that they currently have in place to facilitate the hiring of new hires. I put it in this put in for this position because I have the time, I have the passion, and I want to dedicate my free time now to serve the citizens of Charlotte. One of the things that I have noticed recently is an increase in our homeless population. And with the homeless population comes children that also homeless. I want to use my skills, I want to use my knowledge to assist in coming up with some sort of program, some sort of assistance that can decrease the number of homeless that we have here in Charlotte. I know that there are a lot of things that we need to get right, and this is one thing that I want to get right.

Joel Odom said I'm the best candidate for the temporary City Council At-large position. I'm asking for your trust and vote for these reasons. I sincerely love this City and have been putting in my time, talent, prayers, and treasures in the positive growth and development of Charlotte. Starting from the early age of 10, working on and with various campaigns, individuals, and organizations from across the City from working on former Mayor Anthony Fox campaigning with the historic Wesley Heights community president, working on Mr. Mitchell's campaign when he was just running for District two and running for City Council At-large. This is a rare opportunity for the Council to follow the direction of the City and the Nation. President Biden, the Vice President, Harris, is leading the

charge that the young adults should and will be [inaudible], I promise if appointed to continue the work of the previous Council and to work with the current Council that is in office, including not myself forward, but to the City and the citizens, and to be the leader that reaches back and uplift the children and young adults of Charlotte so they can pick up the mantle and lead one. My name is Joel Elijah Odom. Thank you. I ask for your vote. I ask that we can come together and work together to build a greater and better City. Thank you so much. God bless you.

Curtis Hayes said I'm running to represent all the people of Charlotte. I have been in the community since I was 18, impacting positive change. Starting with a squeegee and a bucket, I have created hundreds of job opportunities for my fellow Charlotteans. I have taken my past experiences and now teach the youth and my peers how not to make those same mistakes of failing not only themselves but also their families and communities. I've also dedicated my life to volunteering and being a philanthropist in the community to inspire individuals and organizations to continue making positive changes within their communities, city, and state. I was recently internationally recognized for the passionate message that I gave during the George Floyd protest to find a better way to deliver love, justice, and liberty to all. If elected by the people, I plan to use my extensive experience in community activism, social justice, and entrepreneurship to enhance the lives of my fellow Charlotte residents. I want to thank the Mayor, Councilmembers, and the people of Charlotte for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today and hear my vision on creating a better way for the people and the City of Charlotte.

Valerie Starks said good morning Mayor Lyles, Mayor Pro-Tem Eiselt, Councilmembers Ajmera, Eggleston, Winston, Driggs, Graham Watlington, Bokhari, Newton, and Johnson. I am Valerie Starks. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to meet and greet you for this special opportunity. I call you by name because just like the people you represent, I want you to know I see you and my future role with you important to perform At-large. We must represent everyone as if we know them by name and the At-large seat, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to represent the diverse voices who may not feel like you've seen or heard unless there's an issue they have to make noise about. A little about me personally, I am a mom of two sons. eighteen and 26. I relocated here from Charlotte in 1998. I am the wife of a retired federal law enforcement officer from ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) and I've been married for over 28 years and I've been a career woman. I have blue in my veins, being the daughter of an NYPD (New York Police Department) officer, retired of 28 years as well, and a mom who was in banking, real estate, and legal. My vision to support include affordable housing, homelessness, and crime, education, jobs. But before we get to all of that, we have got to get back to the basics of food, utilities, housing, and transportation. People cannot concentrate on anything else until those basic needs are met. And working for the United States Census Bureau, as you see, which is part of my credentials, government, media community. I have had my hand. I've been a public servant for 30 years but working to [inaudible] I have touched every single aspect of the Charlotte community. I am very excited to be a part of your team. I think there are so many things that can be done now. But in order to empower our neighborhoods and empower the City of Charlotte.

Stephanie Al-Zubaidy said I'm a native Charlottean who left in 1988 to attend NC (North Carolina) State University. I returned back home in 2009 after living all over Southeast Europe, and Eastern Europe, and traveling and working around the world. So many aspects of Charlotte have changed during that time and so have I. During these 20 years, I pursued a career in international accounting and finance, including senior-level roles for KPMG DELAS Group, which is Food Lion's parent company, and Novant health. I have reviewed countless budgets, negotiated hundreds, if not thousands of contracts, built performance to assess new business opportunities, and hired talented team members to support these organizations. I've always been a strong voice and fiduciary, but those groups who have trusted me to be the representative and to oversee their resources. Six years ago, my husband, a pharmacologist, and I started Catawba Research, a clinical research organization. We run 12 to 14 clinical trials annually, many of which are generic drugs, bringing lower-priced products to market. We've grown to 50 employees. We're headquartered in Charlotte and have facilities in Texas, New Mexico, Michigan, and Mumbai, India. I understand how to grow a business, navigate through governmental regulations and bring high-paying benefit-eligible jobs to a community. We've recently sold a majority share of our company to a private equity firm, and I am transitioning my role as CFO. I can proudly say that every organization that I've worked for has benefited financially and operationally from my work. I come to the table with information and data to help drive good, responsible decisions. My travels around the world have given me the ability to appreciate diverse people and perspectives and help me to think creatively about solutions to our most pressing challenges. I believe in collaborating with talented people and organizations to make our City a better place.

Elizabeth Magan said I'm one of the 370,000 new residents that Charlotte welcomed during the last 20 years. Here, I realized an exceptional quality of life, both personally and economically. However, I quickly came to appreciate that was not the case for everyone. While working time-intensive jobs, my husband and I tried to think of ways we could help resolve some of these inequities. We created and self-funded a foundation called VLT Rising and over the past five years have focused on trying to make the dreams of high schoolers for college come true and historically under-resourced communities in Charlotte. Out of a strong sense of civic duty, I've recently offered my resignation from a premier management consulting firm in order to expand the foundation's efforts and to equal access to justice and entrepreneurial enablement. When I heard about the vacancy on the City Council, I thought I would be remiss not to offer my services given my fortuitous availability and the overlapping focus areas. Thanks to my education and professional career, I have the business acumen, problem-solving skills, and work ethic that you seek in your appointee. This council has truly inspirational goals for the City of Charlotte. I would be humbled to help bring those goals to fruition by serving out the remainder of Councilman Mitchell's term. I thank you for your time and I welcome your support.

Noelle DeAtley said at the height of my volunteer commitments to the City of Charlotte, I spent many days visiting the government center for meetings. I was repeatedly encountering the same City employee who came to the conclusion that I was there so

often that if I was not an employee in the building, I should be. Developing an integrated and multimodal mobility network is a key element of a more inclusive Charlotte. Equitable transportation policies and access to transportation played a huge role in developing connected pathways to employment. I've read the reports from the Charlotte Moves Task Force, and the Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and I am prepared to join the team working to positively impact all of our communities, especially those who are most underserved. I've spent the last 15 years volunteering in my community and not just listening to their needs. As a Mexican Native American, I hear them. I served on the Business Advisory Committee for two terms where we implemented the Charlotte Business Resources Dotcom website we founded, and I was named the first chair of the Charlotte Business Inclusion Committee for MWSBE (Minority, Women, Small Business Enterprise). When City Council asked for recommendations, I spent months learning about business investment grants and tax incentives for growth on the national and international levels. I was chair of the Business First Program for Economic Development by interviewing business owners all over Charlotte, the first volunteer of the year for the Charlotte Chamber honoree as 50 most influential women in Charlotte, a graduate of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department Citizen's Academy and I chaired the first technology summit for the Charlotte Chamber. Finally, in 2009, my doctor told me golf is not enough exercise. So I joined the Charlotte Martial Arts Academy Learning and working with special needs children. They taught me more than I could ever teach them. It is my honor to join the City Council and make the vision of our future Charlotte a reality.

Alexa Parsley said I am open to running for this open position because of my experience working in Charlotte for the past two and a half years with a non-profit organization named Teach for America. And today, I wanted to share with you a personal story about my experience living, working, and teaching here in Charlotte and why that has inspired me so much to become a larger part of not only of our City but of supporting the future of our City and the young people who are traditionally sitting in classrooms but today are sitting behind computer screens. My first year teaching, I had a student who worked really, really hard in school, but he was stuck between two worlds, a world where academic success and prosperity was a potential, but another world where behavior and family involvement could have ended him on the streets or incarcerated or even something worse. And my commitment to that student was getting him involved in afterschool programs and mentorship opportunities to ensure that he knew the opportunities and resources available to him in our great city. I'm now proud to say that as a rising junior in high school, this student has already been a prospect at several colleges and universities in the State of North Carolina has kept up not only in that mentorship program but also mentoring young men and boys in our City to this day. And the reason that I share this with you is because I think so much of our focus in our City is on people who are coming in like myself. But the future of our City and our City's success is already in our classrooms. And so I will allow my application not only to speak for itself from my experience in university-level governments, as well as in my studies at Johns Hopkins University for my master's but also more most importantly, my experience and hearing and seeing firsthand what our young people in our community want our families in our community are experiencing

and how I want to use not only my own personal experience and love for the City of Charlotte but to elevate the future voices.

Tara Harris said Charlotte is transforming. Our Mayor and our City Council are crafting policies to transform parking spaces into green spaces, cost-burdened homeownership and renting into restorative justice and homeownership and renting, transforming isolated food deserts and health care deserts into ten-minute neighborhood oases, and transforming people and small businesses in an Airport ravaged by COVID-19 into a community experiencing vitality through its recovery. I welcome the opportunity to be part of that transformative work with you all.

I am excited about this opportunity. I think the Councilmembers and the mayor for your tireless service and even just for holding this forum, listening to nearly 70 of us today, what a great problem to have so many people who care about the City of Charlotte. What sets me apart from this work? Well, I am multi-modal just like that mobility network that we plan to implement through the right funding and the right infrastructure. I am multi-modal. I'm an intellectual property attorney and a scientist, so I'm fluent in the language of innovation and I understand the talent that we'll need to attract and retain to continue this tech town booming. I also know how to solve complex problems and I work hard for justice and equality for people across Charlotte. I make a difference in people's lives. I'm a mother to two young children who are in the CMS (Charlotte Mecklenburg schools), and I can go seamlessly from restructuring the governance of a local nonprofit to reading to students at the West Boulevard Library. You all are multi-modal too, Council and Mayor. I see how hard you work on the six now seven committees wearing so many different hats and wearing them well. I welcome the opportunity to be part of your multi-modal team.

Paul Pegues said the purpose of the Council is to work for the people we are foot soldiers or the people of Charlotte. And what I want people to understand is that not only will I be able to go to any district and be able to communicate effectively and properly with people in that district, I'd be willing to take information that I receive from those people. And [inaudible] do you all collectively so, we in conjunction, work together to make a way of life in the way of living in Charlotte better for everyone. A lot of the issues that you see coming up when those people like they don't have a voice. People feel that they don't have a representative for them. People who may not have the best education or may not come from a socio-economic background. They just need someone, just a beacon. Someone to speak on their behalf. As a father and someone who works at Amazon as a process assistant, where I'm able to see and interact with different people from different races, genders, and backgrounds, I feel like I am the perfect candidate, the perfect person to work with the City Council so that we collectively as a unit can take the City of Charlotte not only as a beacon for North Carolina but as a beacon for all other cities in the United States of America. We have the potential. We have the people. And I think I am the person to speak for the people and to represent them in the Queen City.

Cherie Readus said I'm a Long-Term Care Administrator and over the past years in my tenure, I've had the opportunity to advocate for my residence, for my team, and for the

families. Recently in this pandemic, It has hit my community and just this area of work very, very hard. The families there have relied on my leadership, have relied on my continued ear to hear and to listen to rely on my heart of commitment and discernment, my mind for service, and consistency to advocate on their behalf. Under my leadership, it has been very rewarding for those I have fought to find the different services to combat their challenges, such as relatives dying, their inability to visit, and love on their loved ones just to be a service to them in this time of dire eminency. As a quick study, I'm not a stranger to the goals and objectives of the Council. I understand what it takes to mitigate challenges, to have a commitment to focus on driven concerns. I understand that the people need a voice to advocate for them. I'm no stranger to crisis management, creating policy and regulation, business development, and sustainability, just to name a few. In closing, I'd like to thank each of you, Mayor Lyles, and the Council, for your time, your energy, and efforts on my behalf. And thank you for hosting this platform.

Kelly Price said I am an ordinary citizen, a recently retired educator from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, a member of the LGBTQ plus community, a community volunteer who is seeking to be appointed to this Council to expand my role as a servant leader. I had the audacity to believe that I can do that because I stand on the principles of faith, honesty, integrity, and hard work. My entire career has been about servant leadership from my time in the classroom to my time managing a hundred million dollars of taxpayer funding and taxpayer-funded programs to meet the needs of our children, their families, and their teachers. I worked within the letter of the law to ensure that our tax dollars were used in ways that the spirit of the law and that actually made a difference for people in the people's lives that we serve. I've seen the growth of Charlotte over the past 35 years. I've seen what is possible when we commit to a common goal revitalizing our city center city, establishing a light rail line, and investing in neighborhoods. When we make these decisions as leaders, we have to prioritize the voice of the people on the inside of those communities that we look to improve before we prioritize the voices of those on the outside. My husband and I have both experienced how a representative government can work for or against our rights and pursuit everything enshrined in the Bill of Rights. During our immigration process, we have seen firsthand how elected officials can either positively or negatively improve or impede a process. Our current elected representative in Congress does not believe in our rights, and so we find ourselves not represented at all. That is why I want to serve.

Amar Johnson said thank you for allowing me the opportunity to ingratiate myself with the City Council for consideration of the At-Large vacancy. It would be a privilege and my honor to serve in this capacity alongside current members of the City Council and for me to serve the citizens of Charlotte. Currently, I'm the president of the Seversville Community Organization, located in District two. I have the pedigree of dealing with the public and working with developers seeking to invest in the community. And engaging, embracing, and sustaining these relationships is paramount. Adding me to the City Council would mean, I'll help the City conquer its pursuit of increasing upward mobility for its least fortunate residents by increasing diversity, equality, inclusion, and access by providing an increase in exposure and creating an opportunity that is currently non-

accessible to all citizens. While continuing to engage our most fortunate residents to achieve new apexes or success. This will make Charlotte a more perfect union of collective neighborhoods and business industries. This will also give me another opportunity in my life to leverage my career experiences and accomplishments to make the City of Charlotte a better all-American City by extending and developing amenities and resources that are needed to accommodate the City's optimistic future.

Amy Goudy said I am biracial, a mother, and a passionate activist in politics. I recently recovered from a severe case of COVID-19. So if I'm coughing, please forgive me. The Queen City has been home since 2000, having been relocated here by Solectron, which is now Flextronics. In the course of my corporate employment, I served on numerous boards, including the Carolinas Minority Supplier Development Council, along with Smudgy and on the Certification Committee for the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, also known as WBENK. I feel this uniquely qualifies me on the business aspect of serving and that I know how to review budgets, work on teams and support small businesses. In 2008, I started my own consulting firm, and more recently last year I opened my own retail space, The Corner, in the North University area. The other area of my experience that I think is unique is my work with the youth of the City. I've had my story featured in Creative Loafing and Charlotte Five, so I won't belabor the details, but I want to point out that children are the future, and making sure their voices are heard and included is critical to the success of the City. Lastly, if you wonder how much I love Charlotte, I also own the brand DCCIV and you may have seen these hats around. I love the City and I like to support it.

Marcia Kilpatrick said a candidate for the At-Large City Council, committed to public service and bridge the gap of injustice and justice between all citizens and police in Charlotte. An advocate for communities, freedom division, advisory council, and leader, a voice for the silent who are ignored but relevant to close the gap of dividedness to heal the City. It is recognized Board Members who are looking for a competent leader, addresses affordable housing, homelessness, self-sufficient families, and the youth, an experienced law enforcement official, to dedicate a partnership with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office over 25 years of community services to find solutions to crime prevention, domestic violence and gun control. Within Community Award by former CMPD (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department) Chief Monroe and more. A proud graduate from an HBCU (Historically Black College) to work the return of CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) back by popular demand. This brought millions into Charlotte City, helping small and large businesses to remain open. A family reunion affair. Let us not forget the youth to instill mentorship, education, peer pressure, and bullying that exists to change for the good of humanity. I bring leadership, structure, project management, and public service to name a few, not for arrogance, but sincerely with gratitude. Today you hear, see and acknowledge me as Marcia Kirkpatrick, an advocate. But tomorrow watch me work and let the show begin.

LaToya McCants said let me start by saying that Charlotte is a great City. Let me repeat that. Charlotte is a great City. I have lived in Center City for almost 10 years. So, I get to see the great, the good, the bad, and the ugly. I witnessed the diversity of this City firsthand on a daily basis, from CEOs to our homeless neighbors. With all of the opportunities that this great City has given me as a business owner, I want to make sure that those same opportunities are given to every citizen. It is not a surprise that one of the greatest struggles of this City is upward mobility. We need to make sure that as the City grows, equity in education, housing, economics are first and foremost for everyone.

G'Sean Williams said nice to see you guys. If I haven't met you, nice to meet you. I'm a certified professional and supply management, a supply chain executive for 21 years. Eight of those years here in Charlotte. I have adapted and adopted Charlotte as my home. I've launched 2014, my big program for the Black Chamber of Commerce, in the 2015 SBA Emerging Leaders Program. It's been quite a lot of success. In 2017, I [inaudible] Supply-Chain Conference, to 2021 Business Center-Supply Chain Center of Excellence as well. I was appointed to the CBI Advisory Council of 2017 and led the Dynamic Opportunity Committee for two years. I've been saying the word hyperbole a lot lately. I've been hearing the word hyperbole as well and I had to look it up and see what it meant. I realize that hyperbole is not to be taken literally. So, exaggerated claims are not taken literally. I would say that Charlotte has a lot to offer. I've heard people say that many times, that Charlotte has a lot to offer. I believe it's true. It's not hyperbole. I would also say that the Supply-Chain has a lot to offer as well. I look at this from a Supply Chain perspective, but first I've got to summarize Supply Chain a source into risk management, logistics, transportation, and cost management makes up the Supply Chain. I would say from a sourcing and risk perspective, we've got to make sure the proper equipment is had for CMPD as well as Charlotte Fire. We've got to make sure that they're safe on the streets and have the right PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). Eastland Mall is a good example of sourcing the risk to be sourcing the right partners. They go very well. If your source with the wrong partners, it may not go so well. Logistics and transportation. CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System) is the largest transit system with 23 million trips in North Carolina.

Shirley Mitchell said I'm originally from Charlotte. I was born and raised here. I actually was born at a hospital that was called Good Samaritan, which is now where the Bank of America Stadium is. It gives me great honor and privilege to have this time to present myself. As growing up in Charlotte, North Carolina, I stay in a historical neighborhood. And for a long time, the neighborhood has gone through some changes and some people were not proud to call this their neighborhood. But as the changes took place, I embraced I joined the community board here in my neighborhood and I became a voice in the wilderness by working on a newsletter that we have in the community. With that newsletter, I was able to reach out to all residents within the community. This is the Queen City. And I believe and I know that we can live up to our name by having great job knowledge, by embracing and getting the skill sets that it will take to keep our City abreast of everything. I am just proud to be a citizen of Charlotte City, and I thank you for your time and putting in this forum together.

William Shoff said I'm seeking an appointment to the vacant At-Large City Council seat. I plan on only serving the remainder of this term. I am a 28-year-old resident of District six in a Charlotte native. My experience spans from local journalism to public affairs to health care. And some of my hardest jobs have been from working in the gig economy, delivering both food and passengers as a 1099 gig worker. I believe my experience in this area will provide the City Council with an important perspective. As we prepare for the future of our City, from transportation to battling inequity and increasing upward mobility, I believe we need youth representation from younger millennials and [inaudible] community voices. They will play an important role in the Charlotte Moves Task Force, the Charlotte 2040 Plan, and the Charlotte UDO. In 2040, I will be 47, these plans will develop in Charlotte I will see for a significant portion of my life. We are at the forefront of a really exciting future in Charlotte and I believe I can help elevate the voices of younger residents.

At the same time, we must remember that we are in the presence of a significant crisis. One crisis I think we must be proactive in preparing for is the mental health of our students. As recently reported by Charlotte Ledger, almost 15% of CMS students failed the first quarter. I think the agenda reported this morning that almost a third of students are failing at least one class and absenteeism is at an all-time high. I was able to experience this firsthand as a tutor this fall to more than a dozen high school seniors. When you consider the number of 18-year-old graduates this summer that haven't been in a typical academic or social interaction since they were 16, it really hammers home the importance of this. Five years ago, during my summer internship at the Charlotte Observer, legendary editor Gary Schwab gave me the following advice. Dial it back to people. Regardless of what we are working on, we must remember the people on the other side of it. As a member of the City Council, that's something I would carry with me. We must have an empathetic approach to service. So, I thank you for your consideration.

Maria Brown said I'm a master's degree mother, sister, friend, but most importantly, a member of the community. I founded a mentoring program named GOALS. Girls Obtaining a Love for Self because I remember growing up lacking an outlet, a safe place, and a community where I felt like I mattered. And this is why I've applied for this seat. I've served as the Vice President of the Parent-Teacher Association Board, and I'm known for having a strong voice for my community. My goal is to be a voice for the voiceless, an advocate for the youth, and persons with disabilities, and to be a servant to the community. Within the last few years, I was diagnosed and healed from heart failure and cancer, lost my job due to COVID-19 and my 11-year marriage failed. I found myself in a place where I knew there were thousands of others just like me, and this fueled my passion and thrust me into pulling myself up by my bootstraps and persevering. So, why am I telling you this? Because I can give perspective. I've been in a six-figure earning household and thriving, but I've also been on government assistance trying to decide which bills I will pay today. While I may not be considered an ideal candidate, I can adamantly decree that with the strength of God coupled with my resiliency, I will be of light where darkness, silence, and complacency once lived.

Demario Baker said I have made it my life's work to serve our community of Charlotte and my interest is driven by my passion for service, unity, and equality. My fire is still burning strong in my path have led me here. I believe in the democratic process and I have faith in my intentions of working with others who do not share my background or share my same religious beliefs. Our cultural differences are what creates the very fabric of democracy. And at this time I am ready to play a bigger role in the process. When in leadership, the foundation of your wise should be permeating the efforts of their initiatives. And when they are accomplished, this can propagate prosperity and culture in unison. Since I've graduated from college, I've aspired to be a leader in my community and for the past 18 years, I've worked on the front lines alongside the people of Charlotte, trying to improve our City one person at a time. I have served two terms on the Mecklenburg County Community Relations Committee. In my last term, I was named the Chairman of the Education Subcommittee. In 2015 I walked away from my HR career and I founded a nonprofit organization called Inspire US Foundation, and I have operated full-time since inception. January 2020 Inspires Foundation was nominated for the Mayor's Mentor and Lyons Grassroots Organization of the Year, and I actually personally won the Mayor's Mentor Alliance Mentor of the Year award. As someone who has political aspirations, I look forward to being able to continue my pursuit of building impactful bipartisanship, inspiring community unity, and ensuring growth for all.

Natalie Douglas said I am a lifelong Charlottean. It is an honor to be here. After graduating from UNC Charlotte, I started as a community organizer and in 2020 I spent the majority of my time talking with voters all over Charlotte about their anxieties and hopes for their families and community. I realized that the work that they would benefit most comes from the local level and that is why I'm here. I want to carry this with me into this seat. As for myself, having grown up in West Charlotte, I understand the struggle that many families are facing. I know the fear and I know the anxiety of being priced out of the progress our City is making. I know the fear of being qualified for a job that does not exist in our community. I want to work hard to fight for affordable housing and economic mobility. I want to see an economy that works on behalf of everyone, whether you're in the service economy or the finance economy. And as a mother of a second-grader, I understand the importance of not only safe schools but well-funded public education. Their future is also on us. As a young, queer mom I'm honored to have the opportunity to be a voice and a visionary for all the folks all powered, all the people of our city

Sydney Pendel said It is my pleasure to speak with you today. Before I start, let me just say that I enthusiastically voted for a majority of you, and I hope you'll consider that when it comes time for your vote. I've lived in Charlotte for almost seven years now and it's safe to say that I've found my home. This is the City where I became the first person in my family to attend college. I hold a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting from UNC Charlotte and I'm incredibly proud to be counted among the Niner Nation. Charlotte is the place where I got my first professional opportunity in accounting. I'm a proud member of the professional services firm Clifton Larsen Allen, where I focus on health care, not-for-profit, and state and local government audits. I am not joking when I say that it will be I will bring a unique perspective and passion to the high-octane and fast-paced work of city

budgeting. Charlotte is the City where I bought my first home. My wife and I worked hard for a modest living, and we know the struggles facing those trying to find affordable housing in Charlotte.

We are truly lucky when a townhome in Iceland became available in our price range. As a member of the Council, I would be proud to join those of you engaged in solving the city's housing issues and give all those in need the same experience that I had. On a personal note, I'm really excited about the proposed Gold Line expansion. Charlotte is the City where my wife and I grew our family. In February of 2020, we welcomed our son Hudson. We call him Sunny at Novant Presbyterian Hospital. As a new father, I want to see that Sonny and other kids like him get the best quality education possible. Working with and supporting an education forward agenda would be a primary focus for me as an At-Large Councilmember. So, I think it's safe to say, as you all know, Charlotte's got a lot of opportunity for me and for those that call our wonderful City home. I know I'm in good company with these many applicants and I am proud to count myself among them. I look forward to the good work of making Charlotte a truly great place to live, regardless of your decision today. Thank you and go Hornets.

Larry Mims said a lot of people come in here, they have speeches prepared. You know, I was always told to speak from the heart. So, that's what I'm going to do today. I have been a resident of Charlotte all my life. I was born and raised here. I'm also one of the most recognizable names and faces in the City, not just because of what I do for a living. I'm a media personality, but because of the community work that I put in. I've been dedicated to this City since day one that I became a media personality. So, that's over 23 years. I've worked with the Salvation Army, I've worked with Black Law Charlotte. I've worked with several violence prevention units and youth advocacy groups. The biggest thing about me and the biggest asset about me, I think, is that I'm not a politician. You see, I feel like 65% of the residents of this City feel like politicians are out of touch. I want to continue to be in touch with citizens for the simple reason that they feel politicians are out of touch, that they don't even know how much a gallon of milk costs. The average gallon of milk in Charlotte costs two dollars and twenty cents. Why is this important? If I'm a citizen of Charlotte and I'm dealing with the affordable housing crisis, I make \$1200 a month and I got to pay \$1,175 a month for a three-bedroom apartment to feed my two kids. When I go to the grocery store shop, I have very, very important decisions to make in that store. And at two dollars and 20 cents where it might not mean anything to you, it means a lot to some of our residents that go that are going to sleep tonight in the City. So I want to continue the work that I'm doing out here in the City and I want to continue to be an advocate and liaison for the citizens of Charlotte and bring back their thoughts and the things they feel necessary to the Council. Thank you. I'm Larry Mims and I am a resident of the City of Charlotte.

Brittany McCauley said I'm a proud Charlotte resident, along with my husband Matt, our daughter Eva and our dog Scout. I've spent the last ten years and IT consulting and recruitment. And I understand the importance that employment has on individuals and families as well as a community in a city. Over the course of my career, I've worked with

Fortune One Hundred Enterprises as well as small and regional businesses. [inaudible] great opportunity for marginalized individuals, as well as people who are underemployed and unemployed.

Due to technical difficulties, there was no audio for this portion of the meeting.

Carl Terrell said I have a lot of information to share, but most guys have it on paper, so I won't bore you. But I have 25 years plus public service in the City of Charlotte, working in transportation, a business manager for the Fire Department, Administrative Division Manager for Solid Waste Services. I also worked up many inter-department projects for the City. I have a lot [inaudible] of knowledge and I would like to share that and serve in the citizens of Charlotte. For the last seven years, I've also volunteered on the Waste Management Advisory Board dealing with Solid Waste issues. And so in a nutshell, I believe I can hit the ground running as far as handling some of the challenges that face the City of Charlotte. I'm a forward thinker. I think of solutions first. I'm optimistic. I would say cautiously optimistic. I try to simplify complex problems, common-sense solutions. And I would appreciate your vote on Monday for this position.

Russell Martin said I am 28 years old and I graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. I am a small business owner, minority, and millennial of [inaudible] company, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to speak with you all and the fellow members of the dais and applicants. Utilizing this opportunity to help promote the general welfare of all Charlotte constituents and level the playing field for those who have been left behind over the past few decades and ensure future generations have better access to adequate community resources notwithstanding, small business owners is my goal. History is the biggest proponent and benchmark to plan for a stronger and more equitable future. My volunteering servant leadership and community engagement extends to the Mecklenburg County Small Business and Entrepreneurship Advisory Board as of June 2019, the WYE Champions Group. I've also assisted with building the playground at Chantilly Park while I was at UNCC. My main goal is to work with you all to ensure that our City has viable access to PPE, pandemic response, and ensure that we have equitable distribution of vaccines, mental health services to folks who have been negatively impacted. I want to highlight; I'm not trying to come in as a distraction and I do not have intentions of running next term. I do believe the At-large position should be decided by the constituents of Charlotte via the traditional grassroots campaign and citywide vote. From an economic development standpoint, I believe in economic mobility, social equity, access to capital, affordable housing, and address the homeless crisis in the Charlotte area is going to be key, including utilizing opportunity zones as a means of economic development.

Brittany McCauley said that was definitely one way to be memorable. I wasn't planning on that. But just to pick back up, my husband and I and our daughter Eva are proud Charlotte residents. And I've spent the last 10 years in IT consulting and recruiting. And I understand the important role that employment has on individual families as well as the community in the City. I've worked with Fortune 100 enterprises as well as small and

regional businesses and help them develop strong employment and training plans that engage the community and create an opportunity for marginalized individuals, as well as people who are underemployed and unemployed. I've also worked with organizations on how to attract top talent in a market that's really competitive more than ever. On a personal note, I grew up in a very low-income family and I've personally experienced the power that economic mobility has. And I strongly believe that employment is the key to making this happen. And I'm very passionate about creating the same opportunity for others. And I'd love the opportunity to serve the City this next year. Thanks for your consideration.

LaTasha Earl said I am a resident of District three. I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Public Administration. I plan to live in Charlotte for a very long time with my family and continue to play an active role in the community and making Charlotte a great place to live, work, visit and raise a family. As a wife and a parent of two young men, I appreciate the importance of living in a community that is safe, affordable whilst enjoying the amenities families require. Being on the City Council will be a way for me to give back to the community. I want to be part of the decision-making that reflects the entire community. I currently serve as the Vice-President of the Forest Pawtucket Association and an active member of the Northwest Community Alliance. My 20-year career in Public Service and Human Services, where I currently work for a managed care organization where we manage managed federal dollars and state dollars for individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse, as well as my experience in board governance, development and understanding policy and procedures, community service outreach and advocating for others that this will give you my skills and insight that I believe will be useful for the council table. The things that I will focus on as violent crime, homelessness, police, economic development, education, affordable housing, and transportation. The legacy that I would love to leave behind is for our youth to see someone like me in the Council stepping up, speaking out, and being a part of the solution and influence them to do so as well. In closing, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration and allow me to serve Charlotte on a bigger scale. And for that, I will conduct myself with professionalism, integrity, and commitment.

Adam Howell said I, for one, cannot wait to be able to shake hands like it was 2019 again, and I'm sure many of you feel the same. I'm here today to offer my service to you and the City of Charlotte. I have no personal agenda. I am simply here to assist in achieving success through the vision you have set for 2021. I am content with the finite time frame of service. What appears to be a priority is developing a critical path forward for improving mobility based on outcomes from the Charlotte Moves Task Force. I have over a decade of public sector experience solely devoted to improving mobility for the communities in which I have worked to ensure citizens had daily access to resources and improving their quality of life. For building support from diverse communities for a light rail corridor in Baltimore to helping garner buying him from the public, that led to a successful half-cent sales tax referendum in Wake County, North Carolina. I have been dynamically involved in helping to mobilize a better future for many communities. My involvement with the tax referendum opened the door for me to administer and manage aspects of the Wake County Transit program that fostered the planning and implementation of billions of

dollars for new public transportation investment, as well as regional mass transit projects connecting the greater triangle area. I've been actively involved in building regional support to develop positive solutions for complex needs, and I moved to Charlotte to do just that. I'm confident that if appointed, my skills, knowledge, and background will benefit city leadership and citizens alike. I am prepared to help transform mobility and keep Charlotte at the forefront of progress and innovation. I greatly appreciate your time and shout out to your communications staff for this great effort today.

Terry Lansdell said I usually work from the background and as you know, I've served this Council. I've also served City Councils since the turn of the century with my first appointment in 1998 to the Citizens Transit Advisory Group, and I served sense, almost in a continuous fashion for a variety of councils. I've also served the County as well and the Air Quality Commission for over a decade. I understand the relationships between City and County. My professional life relates to state and federal activity as well. I want to emphasize my role and your work today, your work yesterday, and your work tomorrow. I know that you're going to have a lot of issues coming up that you need to be prepared for and have someone on the Council that will contribute directly to the City Advisory Commission on governance. And this is a full-time job and support that. You've got an incredibly powerful Gateway Center meeting coming up. There's an outstanding pedestrian American Disability Act survey out there that is going to influence the Charlotte Moves prioritization process as well. We want to improve the City of Charlotte, and I think that what I represent for you, the County, and the State, I can contribute directly from the beginning. This week and this month and this year, especially coming up in the next 30, 60, 90 days, is going to be critical. And I know that I'll be able to serve you and continue to serve you in this transportation area and the mobility area that this Council is lacking in many respects to make quick, accurate, and informed decisions of how to proceed before the November election.

Keith Way said my name is Keith Way, which translates into service to the community. I'm a native of Charlottean, who was born here, educated here, employed here, and since retired here. And I remain a service provider to our community. As a former Police Detective, my entire career was built on servicing the community and I feel that my greatest asset has been my ability to connect with every aspect of our communities, which would be economic, social, political. Over the years, I've been involved in some of the biggest volunteer efforts in the City to include United Way, Police Athletic League, Right Moves for Youth, and I'm a long-term domestic violence advocate. Being a member of this Council means a commitment to Charlotte's greatest asset. And that's the asset that we cannot and will not and refuse to let go. And that's the people who live here, who are born here, who reside here, who educate here, who work here and come here to retire. Since retiring four years ago, I still feel about five to 10 calls every week from people still asking me to help connect them to community services to improve their quality of life. My appointment to the Council would give every resident a listening ear and a voice to speak on issues, no matter how large or how small. And I feel that the person who's chosen for this position has to be a well-rounded person who could bridge the gap between resident and you all as policymakers. And we also have to realize that we're facing issues that

we've never dealt with before, we'll never see again, and that we're going to be making history not only with this appointment but going forward. And I thank you.

Deborah Woolard said I just want to thank you really for this opportunity to open it up to the citizens of Charlotte. It's absolutely amazing. It's hard for me to honestly talk about myself because of all the work that I've done, I've done in collaboration. And it's really been the citizens of Charlotte that have made my work what it is today. So, with that being said, it is we thing, it is a part of compassion that sees the needs that our citizens talk about every single day. And it's greater than just homelessness, it's greater than just affordable housing when it comes down to arts and political issues, when it comes down to civil rights issues, the citizens have really come through. And I've had the opportunity to stand with so many of them, including those that are candidates today. So, I'm just grateful once again for the opportunity. I've seen some amazing things transpire in 2020 that I never even imagined. You know, in the midst of the George Floyd outcome, I've seen protests on Beatties Ford Road. I've seen people march. But that very day when Food Lion was broken into when the glass glasses in the front of the grocery store were torn down, we came together as citizens and we set up a makeshift grocery store right there on Catherine Simmons for those that didn't have an option that particular day because we know that transportation to be an issue when you don't have a car when you can't afford an \$88 a month bus pass, we were able to make it happen. We did it as citizens of the City of Charlotte. I've been able to walk with citizens to people's homes when they've had a family member murdered. So, I know what it's like to be able to pull together and band together for a common purpose and a common need. I'm a domestic violence survivor as well as an advocate. And I've had compassion that people give to me so that I can put women or even some of our transgender community in a hotel when they've had to flee in the middle of the night with their kids or even with their pets. So, we've been able to pull our businesses. Businesses have shown up in a major way. I'm the founder of Lot Love Charlotte. I've had businesses, individuals. This city has a lot of love and compassion and it means a lot and it will mean a lot to be able to represent those that have represented.

Austen DiPalma said I'd like to thank you all for this opportunity, and I also want to thank my fellow Charlotteans for their commitment to our City. It's pretty amazing that 145 people stepped up to try to fill this vacancy. My name is Austin Palma. I'm a long-time Democrat and an active member of Precinct 67 within Council District six who's looking to do more for our collective communities. I believe deeply in striving for inclusion, equity, and independence. I grew up in a union family in the Northeast. I went to college, though, in the Southeast. I've lived in the northwest and I've settled with my wife, who's a native Charlottean, and my two kids here in Charlotte. I'm currently employed by a non-profit whose work is focused on climate justice and advocacy work to increase access for democracy or access to democracy for young people, especially those in marginalized communities. And I also serve on the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Stewardship Advisory Board, whose voice was instrumental in halting work on the Greenway Connector for fear of excluding surrounding underrepresented and unconnected neighborhoods.

In addition to that, I'm an active member of the Charlotte arts community, which is often underrepresented in some of the proceedings. I'm interested in honestly and working to better the lives of those in Charlotte and working with a diverse group of people to get common work completed and stop bickering. I believe I look at each situation objectively and find common ground so that I can work with others to find solutions for outcome-focused solutions. And I hold strong friendships with people on both sides of the aisle. So I understand the complexities of relationships with people from differing backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses, and so forth. So, again, I appreciate your time this afternoon. There are a lot of incredibly qualified candidates and I just look forward to potentially adding my voice to what's happening here in Charlotte

Mark Sumwalt said I'm a graduate of Davidson College and USC Law School, and I'm a lawyer by trade. I have lived and practiced law in Charlotte for 40 years, including running my own law firm for the last 21 years. Because of time constraints, I will not repeat my professional and public service listed on my CV and application, but I do want to briefly mention my political involvement and relationships that I have cultivated over 40 years, and why I think I could be of assistance to this Council. I was unaware of this until yesterday when it was pointed out to me by a County Commissioner that I voted 46 times, perhaps more than any other applicant. Charlotte needs Raleigh's assistance in order to accomplish many of its objectives, including the Charlotte Moves project, light rail, and transportation needs. I have developed deep, long-lasting relationships with the folks in Raleigh, including very close relationships with the Governor and Attorney General and relationships with the Speaker of the House and Senate Pro-Tem. While there are many qualified candidates for this position, I believe that I am uniquely qualified to help bridge the gap between Charlotte and Raleigh and the rest of the state because of these relationships. Understand, it's the Council's desire to eventually have a clean election in 10 months or so with no incumbent advantage. And I have no desire to serve beyond the 10 month period. But if appointed, I pledge to do everything I can within this 10 month period to promote the City's interests, including leveraging my relationships with the power brokers in Raleigh where possible. I'm an advocate and a fan of the City of Charlotte and proud to have been a citizen for the last 40 years. If appointed, I promise to give you my very best effort to do my small part to make this City a better place to live. I hope to have the privilege of serving this great City by joining you on the City Council for the next 10 months.

Maurice Grier said I want to start by saying Charlotte is home. I've met each of you at some point in my journey as a direct product of past and present Councilmembers' advice, inspiration, success, and failures. I've witnessed the growth that we pride ourselves so much on. As a former intern in the Mayor's office under [inaudible] Anthony Fox and Patty Kinsey, I've had the blessing to see the challenges of our City and the solutions that our leaders with the help of diverse perspectives, bring. There are so many dedicated citizens today who have spoken. As a graduate of West Charlotte Senior High School, UNC-Chapel Hill and a current law student at Howard, my experiences and my drive have been tailored to learning more about our community and the world. To find ways in which we can overcome some of our age-old challenges. Today, we must stress the importance of

community and building bridges to understand one another across our communities through love. It's an acronym that I live by. It stands for Listen, Observes, Value, and embrace. Whether I embark on this opportunity or not, it is important that we use these things to overcome our challenges and watch it make a difference within our families, our own lives, and our hometown, Charlotte, North Carolina. Your commitment to these principles implicitly is what led me to want to serve alongside you in this capacity for only the duration of the appointment to continue that work after a new member is elected by the community. I have no interest in seeking a seat in the upcoming elections. So, that will enable us to focus on getting work done and finding solutions rather than politics. To maintain an office with a focus on the intersectionality of our citizens, we'll be able to create solutions to help mediate many of our challenges that seem complex with local, state, national, and global perspectives with the people of diverse densities in mind. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back.

The meeting was recessed at 12:45 p.m. for a break and reconvened at 12:53 p.m.

Sarai Lewis said I am a Charlotte resident and I have been since I was 12 years old. And I'm an avid letter writer to the City. I've always had a passion for Charlotte and anywhere that I moved from undergrad and now I've lived in Tampa, Charleston, New York City. All I do is get Charlotte praise and let people know that I'm from here and [inaudible]. So, I think a passion for Charlotte is always the number one thing that you need to be in public service in the City. And I moved here when I was 12 years old and through college to grad school, through jobs, I've always followed the progress of Charlotte, no matter what city I was in. I was reading The Charlotte Observer every single day, having listened to everybody speak, it's pretty apparent that everyone kind of has similar ideas for Charlotte, you know, as far as housing, addressing homelessness, infrastructure, inclusion, access, diversity. And with that in mind, I believe that it's most important that that the communities are in a spirit of collaboration. I think that being on the Council in this interim period, especially with COVID, it's really just anchored in a spirit of collaboration, and because although we have the same ideas, we might have different ideas. And I think for me, I bring it all-embracing community perspective. I'm a hard worker. I'm not afraid to be critiqued, and I think I'll be a great addition in this interim period as the City Council Rep.

Dante Anderson said I'm a native daughter of South Charlotte who's passionate about the advancement of the City I call home. I'm a product of CMS and have been able to shift my outcome of economic mobility by focusing on education and opportunity. I've served the City of Charlotte in a variety of ways, and I felt compelled to become a part of this process because I'm passionate about the future of Charlotte and all of its residents, native and new. We have to prioritize unique ways to address affordable housing and the growing homelessness crisis the City faces. Concepts like the Housing Impact Fund and others that focus on naturally occurring affordable housing should be reviewed and embraced. The Transformational Mobility Network must continue to be a priority, extending the bus corridors and adding new modes of rapid transportation is a direct way that we can ensure equitable mobility for all Charlotteans. As our City grows into the vision of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, we must ensure that a crime does not increase in scale.

I'm an advocate for equal opportunity and safety for all. That's why I support the Council's consideration of a nondiscrimination ordinance to ensure the protection of all Charlotteans, regardless of race, sex, religion, and orientation. Thank you all for your consideration of my ability to step into the At-large seat and assist in the progression of Charlotte. Throughout my career, I've met success by being an active listener, a critical thinker, and solving problems through collaboration. [inaudible to do so with you.

Robin Taylor said I have a passion for service to make our community a better place. When I was young and idealistic, I wanted to join the Foreign Service. Today, I'm a little bit older and a little bit wiser. Now I live in Charlotte. I work in the nonprofit sector with the Catawba Lands Conservancy here in the City. I want to join the Council, though, because I want to address the needs of Charlotteans. The economic investment in long underserved communities, addressing our housing needs and expanding our transportation options to be fully functional for all of our citizens. I want to help make Charlotte a vibrant forward-looking City, prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. I want to thank you for your time today, and I know you're going to make the best decision for our City.

Jessica Davis said I am before you to ask for your affirmative vote to be appointed to fill the At-Large vacancy created by the resignation of Councilman James Mitchell. I am a wife, a mother, and a proud American descendant of enslaved people. I'm a community advocate and an educator that sees and understands the needs of this community, all of our community. I will not belabor you with my resume. Instead, I want to offer you an insight into the type of colleague that I will be to you and the type of service I will be to all of the people of Charlotte. I believe in doing the work with wisdom and knowledge. When the call was made by our government staff or citizens to get involved in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, I answered. I have worked with countless others in our community to lay the framework for the future of our City. I'm an advocate for community values, safe neighborhoods, prioritizing and equitable growth framework to ensure that affordable housing is a reality for improving access through a multimodal transportation framework that does not marginalize already fragile communities and for collaboration between government entities, the business community, and, most importantly, the community. As an educator, I believe in not only equipping myself with information and knowledge to guide my actions but also equipping the community with information and knowledge to aid their navigation of complex systems. I understand the law and I understand the roles and responsibilities designated to our City Council. I'm familiar with the strategic priorities already set by the current Council and I am here to support the work the Council has already begun. I did not apply for this position to satisfy my own agenda. I applied to this position to serve, to serve the people of Charlotte. And in supporting me, you will support the people of this community who are crying to be heard.

Belinda Lanier said thank you for your consideration. I won't waste our time with information that is already on my application. Instead, I would like to discuss the call to action that brought me here today before you, that is to fill the vacancy seat on the City Council. I feel that I am the best candidate because not only am I an active member of

this community, a precinct delegate chair, a public servant, and a businesswoman who is capable of rising to the occasion in a crisis. Under our new president's health initiative, there is a plan for a massive rollout out, which will increase the doses within a matter of weeks. Now is the time for all hands on deck and working to relieve fears, ensure public trust, and assisting in making the vaccination available to everyone, while restoring the City to a stabilizing sense of normalcy. The call to action is real and urgent. You may ask what can I do in a short time? The answer is, as a community leader, I am willing and able to make calls, pull my resources, find the space to set up emergency health kiosks in the neighborhoods throughout our City, mobilize volunteers to put ears, eyes, and boots on the ground to help ensure health and safety to our citizens. Our call to action is to be prepared and ready for what is to come. My name is Linda Lanier and I thank you for this opportunity. Have a blessed day.

Gregory Williams said let me first thank everyone, the honorable Mayor, the honorable Pro-Tem Mayor, and the City Council for allowing me to speak in reference to this At-Large position. At-Large is myself. When I looked up the definition I looked at it and stated more, this person will do more than just one specific area. It will be throughout the City and that's my [inaudible]. I don't need to rehash what's in my application, my work with the City Council, whether I'm selected or not, will still continue my focus on, they call it the affordable housing, I call it the workable homes, education, and doing the things the City Council needs as it relates to a balance and a compromise. I think that's more focused than anything. When I travel throughout the United States and everywhere when I'm told talked about the City where I'm from, I say Charlotte, North Carolina, and I quote them and say Charlotte, there's no better place for me to be. There's no other place that I'd rather live in Charlotte, North Carolina. I read about it in songs. I read about it as it relates to the homeless. Currently, I'm studying and working with architects and builders to address the affordable housing in the area to go even further. When I retired, I went back to Central Piedmont and taken the architectural program to better understand how to design and build and be more willing to send those designs to you all as needed. But my focus now is finding out how do I come in and how do I support the City, not as someone in the streets as I do now, but also in the City Council being able to understand how we operate in the process to move things along better. I look forward to assisting weather selected City Council At-Large or just being called in to give feedback or assistance to the City in any way possible because I do love the City. Thank you all and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak to you.

Darrell Bonapart said I want to humbly and briefly lay out my reason for being your choice. I am a Charlotte native who has spent almost half of my life serving the State and Country in the military. I am now a fully retired, disabled army veteran. And at this time I want to give a few examples of receiving the trust, support, and vote of local, state, and federal elected officials. The Charlotte City Council once trusted and voted in favor of me to serve four years on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, where we had to review and make judgments on major development projects throughout the entire County. When I served as a national committeeman to represent the state of North Carolina Young Democrats, I was unanimously elected with votes also coming from members who were elected

officials in their respective cities. To receive the endorsement of the Mecklenburg County Black Political Caucus as a candidate once for City Council, City, County, State, and Federal elected officials voted to say they entrusted me to govern the City of Charlotte. And lastly, to have once served as the first Vice-Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Black Political Caucus, again, City, State, and Federal elected officials voted to entrust me to lead and govern on their behalf. I have been very fortunate to serve in my beloved City. And I hope that you would take a good look at my credentials to feel confident that I can successfully do the job required as your colleague.

Glenn Thomas said I am honored to address you today as an applicant to fill the vacancy of Councilman James Mitchell. I have been a resident of Charlotte since 2003 and moved away twice and relocated here back in 2016 by having spent close to 14 years here in Charlotte of my life. In 2004, I had the honor of serving in the Mecklenburg County Manager's office as a Management Analyst under the leadership of Harry Jones, which subsequently led me to accept a role with the City of Atlanta under the leadership of Mayor Shirley Franklin as a Budget and Policy Manager of the City's Public Safety Division. But the enterprise oversight of Police, Fire, Corrections, and Courts also working with support agencies in the City of Atlanta Airport. In that role, I supervised all City Public Safety matters regarding policy, budget development and oversight, capital projects, technology, and external partnerships on behalf of the City. I also had the privilege of working closely with the City Council and Mayor's Office drafting, reviewing legislation, and presenting budget and policy recommendations to the Council. As a leadership executive for close to 20 years, I've also had the pleasure of working as an Executive Director for organizations such as the YMCA of Charlotte, Communities and Schools of North Carolina, Justice Initiatives, and also serving as a Regional Associate Director for Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America and currently a CEO of Hard Work Leadership Group based here in Charlotte, North Carolina. I asked for your support to fill the remaining time of the unexpired term for this seat because I am prepared to fulfill the role that is really awaiting the selected candidate. Having served in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee, coupled with my experience in City and County Government Finance policy and governance, I believe it positions me to seamlessly fill the role and meaningfully contribute to this body in the City of Charlotte immediately. We are indeed in unprecedented times and more than ever our city needs an experienced government professional in the short term role.

Daraell Logan said thank you, Madam Mayor and City Council, for allowing me to speak with you today. I am originally born and raised in Buffalo, New York, and relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina in 2006. I saw an opportunity for raising a family and also educational and employment opportunities here in Charlotte. So, Charlotte is now home being here for many years. I also obtained my bachelor's degree from Phifer University. I am married and I have three children. I met my husband here in Charlotte. So, Charlotte is home all together. While I may be considered green as far as experience and serving publicly, I do offer an opportunity to serve and I would like to be able to serve the City of Charlotte constituents, the community, and also I was able to feed the homeless with my church. It's something that we do down on Phifer. I was able to see an opportunity for our

underserved community and the underserved demographic of our community, which is homeless. And I recognize there were many young folks that were there, many families who are homeless, and that struck home with me. I would like to bring my experience of Management and being able to bring others together to come to resolutions and solve issues and serve the City of Charlotte. I think it will be an honor and privilege to serve as the City of Charlotte to citizens, the community, the neighborhoods, and my family. I have no plans for running for the position once the term is ended come October. So I just wanted to see if this will be a good opportunity for me.

Patricia Frye said a lot of people know me as Ali, I am a former early childhood education teacher, and currently, I'm a member of the [inaudible] And so I have a lot of time right now on my hands with our industry being kind of closed down due to COVID. And I've never done anything like this. So, but I have always had a lot of ideas and passion towards not what can be changed with the structure, because I've looked over your strategic plans and they look amazing in the strategic policy and your vision with affordable housing, homelessness, and gang activity reaching our communities to be safer. I think I would be a really good fit to just enhance the strategy part and use my skills with people development, human development, and my skills with digital art to transform the way we think about assistance, with asking for help and encourage people to share their stories more so we can find out how did we get here. So, not so much how are we going to fix it, but how do we get here? How do we take the problems that we have and look to the seed of the core of what we're in the process of growing did they miss on the vitals of diving? So, that's what I would love to bring to the table. And in the meantime, hopes that our entertainment industry goes back into full-on shows.

Juan Euvin said I believe I can add value to the City of Charlotte and to the Council. My background and experience made me a great candidate. I was a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne Division. I was a logistician at the [inaudible] company of 120 soldiers to go to Afghanistan in 2003 [inaudible] Afghanistan. I'm the recipient of two bachelor's and an MBA from UNC-Charlotte. As far as how we can help the City, these are my beliefs. I believe that zoning should not be administered by City Councils. It should be administered by the staff and be more capable to make better decisions as far as who will be able to make better decisions. I believe the opportunity itself should be paired with first-time home buyer grants, such as the Live Programming, which was available about a year or two years ago. Affordable housing families that have children under seven years old should get priority for affordable housing. And I also believe that the City Council should pass the [inaudible] ordinance related to the utility poles whenever there's an accident, Duke usually repairs the pole or those [inaudible] mixed repair with the utility owners should notify the other entities, such as AT&T or Time Warner, whoever else is using the pole as well so that they can make the necessary repairs instead of leaving things generally right behind. Thank you for your time and hope you will consider me for this role as well.

Felicia McKoy said I am an educator and I have been working for a Union County Public Schools now for over 15 years. I'm originally from South Carolina and I feel like this opportunity would only get me closer to the community that I serve now. I enjoy working

with children and families. Most of my time in education has been working with low-income and at-risk children and families. I work with Thompson Kids, which goes out, I went out, and I work with small daycares to get them on that scale where they can earn their license ratings and educate the teachers that they already have there. I have also spent a lot of my time working with the public school system as a math specialist and also teaching within the classroom. Working with children and families is really important to me because I have had the opportunity to work with low-income, at-risk children and families. So, getting out into the community and getting to know them and their needs, and just finding out different things about me has been my top priority. And I love doing it. And not only that, I have been serving the community in so many ways. I worked with CMPD, Animal Care, and Control. I also work with Faith Serve. We usually go out to Tent City and we serve a lot of the homeless out there. And a lot of this calling, just comes from the heart. And I would love to be a part of the Council and just bring more of this to the forefront.

Brenda Adams said I'm a Charlottean born and raised here, I care about my community. I've seen it grow and flourish over time. I've always had a different interest in local politics or politics as a whole. I just think that we all need to do our duty, you know, and just stay in tune with local, state, and federal level politics. You know, whether that being an avid voter or, you know, holding those accountable in the community, that sort of thing, getting involved in some way, sacrificing our time, sacrificing ourselves, you know, devoting our talents just to the greater good of the community. That's what I believe in. And especially, you know, as a person of color, I admire those that came before us that sacrificed and, laid the groundwork for all the opportunities and things that we have today. I believe in, just doing the same thing, just carrying on a tradition of service and to the community. Like I stated before in the application, I just always had an interest in the policy, the groundwork of how City government work, setting policy and approving financing for city operations, and all that that you all do, enacting ordinances and that sort of thing, just being involved with it, understanding how it works, understanding how decisions are made, how it impacts the community. A lot of people don't understand that, so, just to be a part of that. And knowing the person that I am, that knowing what I will bring to the role, I'm not doing this for ego, not for additional income and that sort of thing, but just doing it because I feel as though I'm a person of great integrity, a person with a great work ethic and that sort of thing.

Jason Spooner said I want to start by just saying thank you to the Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tem, the Councilmembers, and, of course, all of the citizens of this great City for taking the time to come together today, for giving consideration for this role. I also want to extend [inaudible]. [inaudible] about an hour now, I've listened to so many amazing applicants hear their voice and their vision, and the common theme that I'm hearing is just serve. Everyone on this call wants to come into this role and just help lift up the City of Charlotte and do their part to make this City [inaudible] and better for all those involved. And that's inspiring. It's inspiring to me and I hope it's inspiring to the City Council and to everyone else, all the other applicants that are here. I came to the city 20 years ago for my undergraduate education at UNC Charlotte. I've had the opportunity to experience firsthand the incredible growth and evolution of the City. And I believe in the City and its

residents. And it's because of the citizenry, both newcomers and the natives, that I chose to raise my family in Charlotte. There's just a sense of pride and community that permeates all of Charlotte's neighborhoods. And it's the same pride that encourages our citizens to celebrate our victories and speak up. And we know that we as a City can do more for the people of Charlotte. In my professional career, I've had the privilege to work with a number of companies and stakeholders in leadership roles. I worked closely with the leadership of both the CRBA and the CRVA. Through this work, I've been able to develop a key understanding of the business drivers and the success metrics that we in Charlotte is looking for. I've also had a chance to work as a small business owner myself with many local businesses here in Charlotte, and that's giving me a key insight into just the different makeup of the neighborhoods from South End to Ballantyne to West Charlotte and East Charlotte. How we come together as a mosaic to make the City so fantastic to live in and to grow support.

Joshua Lipack said I'm a native Charlottean, local attorney, and I've been practicing real estate law now for the past five years. I live in McCrorey Heights with my husband Gerald and our one-year old French bulldog. We just got married recently this past August after making the difficult decision not to allow any guests out of concern for our friends and family due to COVID-19. And yet, despite global turbulence, we're both grateful to live in what I consider to be a shining city on a hill and look forward to starting a family here in the near future. I've never held or sought public office, not for lack of interest. I just honestly have no desire now or in the future to run a campaign. But there are many forms of public service. For example, my mother just came back out of retirement as an R.N. to help with the vaccine roll out right here in Charlotte. And because I hold all forms of public service in high regard, I find myself here today. Following the progress of our City's growth throughout my lifetime has been seriously and the nerdiest way possible, almost like a pastime for me, which is why it would be a tremendous honor to have the opportunity to serve my lifelong community and to work with all of you for however short a period of time on initiatives like Charlotte Moves and Corridors of Opportunity to help foster the continued growth that comes nationally recognized for, but particularly in this time of need and uncertainty, to also ensure that all Charlotteans stand to benefit from our united success and prosperity. Being that this is an appointed rather than an elected position, I still felt it was important knowing I had the support of my community to serve. And so over the past week, I've had friends, colleagues, other real estate professionals, various small business owners, including [inaudible] Dawkins', founder of BBOC, and even my parents reach out to confirm and express their support. It's truly been a pleasure being a part of this process. Thank you all for your time consideration.

Curtis Stone said thank you for calling on me. I am sorry I'm late to the party. I think this will be there at 12 o'clock but end up double booking my hours. So, I'll take a quick 30 seconds to just say I appreciate being considered for this position. I didn't prepare anything ahead of time. So, what that makes me look like. But I know that the position and the opportunity to be able to serve the community would be something that I took incredibly seriously as a 25 year resident of Charlotte, North Carolina, moving from California. I've also raised two kids here, got married, started two different businesses,

and weathered the COVID storm so well that we're looking at opening up another location. So, whatever I could do to help the community, that's what I'd be doing for the panel. That's all I got.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. That's exactly what makes this city a great place because of people like that with that attitude. Thank you very much. All right.

Jessica Foster said I'm a 35-year-old Military Police Captain in the North Carolina National Guard. I have a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and Urban Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Urban Management and Public Policy. I personally had an interest in running for Council for quite a while, but I've actually really enjoyed the representation that I've had. It didn't make sense for me to recognize them, but I'd be remiss to not at least apply to be appointed at this point in time. I saw the list of people applying yesterday and I've listened to a lot of the two-minute speeches and I am encouraged and intimidated. I'm encouraged by how many of my neighbors and community are wanting to improve the quality of life for others in Charlotte and I'm intimidated because I don't have the background that a lot of them have. And every time someone speaks, I just think about how unqualified I am. But I do have the passion and the perspective and the purpose. And I'm I look forward to the opportunity to be able to do something beyond the volunteering that I do in the community for food, justice, and affordable housing, and mobility and accessibility. I acknowledge that addressing each of these individually is like putting a drop in the bucket and that each of them needs to be there needs to be an intersectional approach to improving the quality of life in Charlotte, improving and maintaining the quality of life in Charlotte. I am a homeowner and I was able to purchase my home through things like House Charlotte Neighborhood and the Let's Save program and I think that these are things that if more people knew about them, that they could do a lot more as far as affordable housing goes. It doesn't fix it, but it would help. And I do think that the ability to market these programs is a good place to start. I just spoke really quickly and I apologize, but I hope you guys have a good day. And I don't envy. This is going to be a tough decision. I don't [inaudible] being on the council at this point in time.

Maritza Ortiz said I have been a Steele Creek President since 1989. I'm an empty nester of two Olympic High School and Appalachian State University graduates. I was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Brooklyn, New York. I'm a bilingual educator, fluent in Spanish, with over 20 years developing young minds to grow and think. I have passion, motivation, drive, and commitment to mentor, teach and volunteer in our community. I have volunteered as a tutor with the YWCA part math tutoring and up to Luckies Barbershop serving the oppressed and marginalized. The reason that I want to be a member of the City Council is due to my concerns about the lack of affordable housing for the working poor, the City's lack of economic mobility, income inequality that exists, and our increasing crime rate in Charlotte. I don't want our City to be known as the Tale of Two Cities, a city of poverty and the city of Prosperity, or Gotham City. As some people in my neighborhood call the Southwest area of Charlotte. Our working poor need to make an average of \$17.67 an hour to be able to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment. I am not a stranger to living in poverty. In 2005 my children and I relied on my part-time salary

of \$1400 a month until I began receiving court-mandated child support. I was blessed and fortunate my mortgage was only \$500 a month. I know without a shadow of a doubt that I would not have been able to afford an apartment and have enough for food expenditures, etc. I believe that our increasing crime rate is tied to our current banking and economic mobility, our low salaries for the working poor, and lack of affordable housing. Therefore, I want to help co-create an usher in a tale of once and for all can flourish and thrive and all have a place at the table in our great City of Charlotte.

Samantha Gilman said I'm one of the many moms and Charlotte working full-time at home with a little one running around the house, supporting my family financially and emotionally. I'm here today because I recognize how this Council can support the Charlotte community and its families in this extremely hard time. And I recognize how I can be part of that good work. I want to start with a quick story. When I was eight months pregnant with my son, I was laid off from the Solar Developer Company I was working for. I did some quick research and I found out I had no support, not from the Federal Government, not from the State of North Carolina, and not from Charlotte. I was unable to collect unemployment because I was unable to work simply because I was doing something so core to this community. I was starting a family. Unfortunately, this is not a unique story. Like this Council laid out, we need to develop pathways to employment for those who are unemployed, especially now for those who find themselves unemployed due to COVID like my husband. Plus, we need to support our families with paid family leave and affordable childcare. This Council has also prioritized strategic investment core corridors, and I see this as a prime opportunity to build and invest in homes and neighborhoods of the future, neighborhoods that are energy-efficient, built for renewable energy, and the connected home, not to mention all these public transportation supporting these corridors need to be clean or electric. I've served on a number of Councils and Boards and I understand how to get work done in this sort of environment. I work for a member of Congress both in his district office and in his Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C., serving constituent requests, advising on policy, and learning how the government works from inside. I've also got my hands dirty working with Habitat for Humanity, working to build homes here in Charlotte, Washington, DC, New Orleans, and several countries in Latin America. I thank the Council for allowing us to have this time today.

Bruce Clark said my mission is to build support and coalitions focused on connecting every member of our community to opportunities. For me, service begins with empathy. It's meant the world to me to work with people from nearly every corner of the City. It's their stories that define my hope to do my part and move Charlotte forward. Given how quickly our City is growing, it can feel to many like we're all along for the ride. I believe we can ensure a collective vision for the future guides our decisions and priorities from classrooms to job centers and from grocery stores to kitchen tables. Before we can realize our potential, we have to effectively understand our interconnectedness as a community. For over 13 years, I've worked across Charlotte as a small business advocate, a lead regional campaign staffer for Barack Obama. Anthony Fox's Mayoral Campaign Manager and for the past five years, I've lead Charlotte's digital equity efforts. In this most recent role, I've led an abundance of partners to bridge the digital divide, aiming to make

Charlotte the most digitally equitable city in America. Core to that work has been the development of community-based workshops for over a thousand families across 50 schools and dozens of non-profits throughout Charlotte. We can work together in Charlotte to build an economic and empowerment strategy that ensures everyone can thrive. Several key items on the agenda this year will move us in that direction, and I'm ready to help drive these initiatives over the finish line in 2021. And to put as many plans in place to make sure a sustainable progressive agenda can start now and continue helping people for years to come. If we've learned anything about the people of Charlotte over the past year, it's that our resilience as individuals, families, and a community may have no bounds. The strength of the human spirit is on display every day in our community, and we need nothing less to navigate the historic challenges that surround us and whatever may come next. You could count on me to be prepared for the role, to be a collaborative colleague, to remain focused on the will of the community, to protect the integrity of our local government, and to deliver change.

Jeffrey Simpson said I am very honored to be able to speak to you and present myself as well moving forward? I'm originally from Hartford, Connecticut. I'm a [inaudible] Vietnam veteran, and the transition from [inaudible] to Charlotte back in 1995. People that know of me, I'm known as an over achiever. I've kind of got that reputation because of my beliefs as well as my attitude as far as getting things done. I take on challenges that motivate me to the action of serving people observance to develop my efforts [inaudible] appreciated or whether as an individual or team player. Some of the things I've done with regards to volunteerism is over the years that Rochester, New Hampshire, I was the Vice-President of the Rochester, New Hampshire NAACP for 14 years. Also here in Charlotte served on the Community Relationship Committee. A committee such as the [inaudible] team, as well as the Fair Housing [inaudible] Committee. I'm also presently on the Charlotte Citizens Review Board and also within my community. And because of my HOA (Housing Owner Association). Basically, what all of those types of things that I describe to you, I believe, and hope you will too, my background and attributes would be of value the missions and goals as At-Large within the Charlotte City Council.

Edwina Corprew said mine is going to be very different from everybody else because I can tell you that I didn't see myself sitting here talking to you as recently as two months ago. I consider myself to be a passionate servant leader, but I'm also a businesswoman. I am a disruptor. I'm a game changer and I believe in transformation. What brought me here today was 2020, we saw the most incredible global disruption that this world has ever known. And I believe that the person who is sitting with you in this role coming up for the next ten months is understood disruption and how to answer that call. I'm here today because it's not just the southern initiatives around homelessness that are important, or community recovery, or workforce and business development, or even intergovernmental relationships that are all very key. But being able to create a post pandemic stabilization or what's to come. I bring that to this community. I'm here today because I believe that history is looking at our generation and history is going to record how we respond not just to the current things that plague us but being able to provide a future and a pathway to a very sustainable future. So, I want to close with these

comments. One of the persons that I admire as Margaret Mead, and she's known very much for this comment, but never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world indeed is the only thing that ever has. And while that is a wonderful saying, I want to leave you with my personal conviction, and that is that I must admit that I personally measure success in terms of the contributions an individual makes to his or her fellow human beings. I'm here today to serve our entire community and to provide a place for Charlotte to attract and retain people from all over the world to want to call this place home. Thank you very much for this opportunity. I look forward to serving with you.

Nancy Wiggins said a fellow Charlottean, taking this interim appointment because I feel that I have the experience, expertise, and love to make a solid contribution to Charlotte now and for its future. I believe that with the guidance of our professional staff, like [inaudible] that we need to concentrate on the four areas that the Council has identified so that we can provide a safer community. We are going to need a better connectivity, so our service responders have a better chance to resolve emergencies before they become a tragedy. I believe that we should continue our vertical expansion, modernize and expand our transit solutions, and vertically integrated our neighborhood lifestyles where affordable housing can locate within more affluent neighborhoods, as we successfully did in the 1970s. I was one of the renegade Planning Commissioners in the late 1990s that insisted that we rebuild our First Ward. And I think our premonition was correct. This economy is built on location, logistics, finance, energy, and enterprise. It is our lifeblood. Major sports have been able to successfully [inaudible] our center City. One thing I constantly do is listen to and respond to Charlotteans when I'm on Board and Commissions so that I can understand their needs and desires in order to translate them into positive public policy. I was honored by the Board of County Commissioners who were inducted me into the Order of Hornets this fall for service in Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission for 12 years, Living Community Recycling Committee, the Mayor's Committee for the City Budget, and also for Global Housing Foundation. I appreciate your interest and I hope that you will consider my application seriously.

Mayor Lyles said the next thing I want to do is just thank everyone. I just can't believe how many of you have put such passion and interest and willingness into this venture. And reading your resumes and reading these applications has truly been a gift to us. It's going to be difficult. I wish we could choose everyone that was interested, but we have ways to choose you and other abilities to serve and there are other places to serve. So, I hope that we will choose one person to serve in this vacancy. But I hope that you will consider the multiple choices that your talents and your passion can be part of the City's growth and ability. I'm very clear that this is the right way to have people express their interest in what we do. And thank you very much, all of you, for your participation.

Councilmember Watlington said I just wanted to reiterate what you said about other opportunities to [inaudible] with the County Government, and even local non-profits. Don't let this be the last time you guys step up because there are a lot of opportunities and there are a lot of needs that we need to build the pipeline. So, please reach out if there

are other things that you have seen here at the City that you would like to learn more about.

Councilmember Johnson said I was just so impressed and humbled and inspired by everyone, by all of their comments, so thank you for stepping up.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 2 Hours 36 Minutes
Minutes Completed: March 18, 2021