

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for an Action Review on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 5:10 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Lyles presiding. Council Members present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Larken Egleston, Matt Newton, Gregg Phipps, Victoria Watlington, and Braxton Winston, II.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Malcolm Graham and Renee Johnson.

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This meeting is being held as a virtual meeting in accordance with all of the laws that we have to follow, especially around an electronic meeting. The requirements also include notices and access that are being met electronically as well. You can view this on our Government Channel, the City's Facebook Page, or the City's YouTube Page.

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ACTION REVIEW

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

Mayor Lyles said I'm calling to order the action review for the City Council. Today is February 28th, 2022, and we are going to start off with Mayor And Council Consent Questions and have Ms. Harris come up. We'll do introductions downstairs when we have everyone in and we will do the pledge and the invocation and all of the ceremonial things will be done to open the official meeting.

Marie Harris, Strategy And Budget said you have one question and answer before you from Mr. Winston. Is there any other follow-up questions? There's a few of you I was able to check in with today, but anybody else have any questions?

Councilmember Ajmera said Marie, for that item that I had sent earlier and that got pulled?

Ms. Harris said that's being deferred by staff. Yes, ma'am to look more into what the project, the scope in the review, and the information around the actual project itself.

Ms. Ajmera said that was 48 or 49?

Ms. Harris said 49, just for the record, that's 49 Property Transactions, Monroe Streetscape, Parcel Number 63.

Mayor Lyles said I want to recognize the City Attorney to talk about item 13, which is on our policy agenda.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 12: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no manager report.

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ITEM NO. 13: CITY CODE UPDATE

Patrick Baker, City Attorney said members of the Council, that item has been referring them back to my office in the administration. Item number 13 has been pulled and referred back to my office and the administration based on conversations and questions that have been provided to me. I'd like to get those responses out to you hopefully by the end of

this week and then have a conversation with you all offline about which of those ordinances can move forward to the full Council for passage probably in two weeks and which of those ordinances need to be potentially referred to another committee as well? There are a number of ordinances, I think some important ordinances, particularly from the public perspective, that probably don't need a further dive and can go forward, but rather than rush that conversation tonight, I'd like to have those conversations with you all with the idea that some of the ordinances will be back in front of you in two weeks and others will go for a deeper dive in a committee where a referral will be made shortly.

Mayor Lyles said I want to make sure that everybody understands what we're saying is that the City Attorney will work and we're going to assign this to the Safe Communities Committee for a review of the ordinances. Some of those will be examined by the committee and those will come as the committee makes the recommendations going out and refer to, but others, unless there is an exception that's identified by a Council Member. They will be coming up for a vote in two weeks at our first business meeting in March.

So please take a moment to review anything that you would see that you would have an exception to and get that to the City Attorney so that we can get that research done and staff can be prepared. This is one of the things that we said early on as we talked about making our committee meetings more constructive, to advise the Council, and to make our meetings more around things that we understand and actions that we are ready to take.

So, with that, we are have item 13 will be pulled from the consent agenda by staff. In addition, item 33, is Minivans for CATS paratransit. Item 41, Charlotte Water Property Transactions, the Airport Charlotte Airport Water Line, Progressive Design Bill Project, and Item 49, Monroe Road Streetscape. The staff has asked for those to all be pulled. Is there any additional items that you would like to see deferred?

Councilmember Winston said I do still want item 25 deferred. I just didn't hear if you had mentioned it.

Mayor Lyles said no, I haven't mentioned it yet. So, do you want a deferral or do you want it to be voted on separately?

Mr. Winston said I would like to defer, but I guess we would have to do that by a separate vote.

Mayor Lyles said okay, so, it would have a separate vote on Item 25. Roof Replacement for Sweden Road Equipment Services Building.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items 23 through 61 may be considered in one motion except for those items removed by a Council Member. Items are removed by notifying the City Clerk.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 23: Crushed Stone for Construction Projects

(A) Approve a unit price contract with the lowest responsive bidder Martin Marietta Materials Inc. for the purchase of crushed stone for an initial term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to four, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 24: Landscape Maintenance Services for CATS

(A) Approve a contract with Champion Landscapes Inc. for landscaping and maintenance services for the CATS South Corridor Light Rail Transit South for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 26: Professional Engineering Services for Storm Drainage Improvement Projects

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,300,000 with D&A Wolverine, PLLC (SBE) for planning services for the Bayswater Storm Drainage Improvement Project, (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$640,000 with ESP Associates, Inc. for planning services for the East 4th Storm Drainage Improvement Project, and (C) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,150,000 with ESP Associates, Inc. for design services for the Fox Run Storm Drainage Improvement Project.

Item No. 27: Asphalt and Concrete Cleaning Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with American Pavement Cleaning Services, Inc. (SBE) for asphalt and concrete cleaning services for an initial term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 28: Belt Filter Press Replacement Parts

(A) Approve the purchase of belt filter press replacement parts and services by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Alfa Laval Inc. for the purchase of belt filter press replacement parts and services for a term of five years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 29: Idlewild Road Water Supply Project Construction

Approve a guaranteed maximum price of \$15,094,214 to R.H. Price, Inc. for Design-Build construction services for the Idlewild Road Water Supply Project.

Item No. 30: Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Inspection Services

(A) Approve unit price contracts with the following companies for sanitary sewer cleaning and inspection services for an initial term of two years: Champion Cleaning Specialists, Inc. dba CCSI, Duke's Root Control, Inc., EnviroWaste Services Group, Inc., Pipe Pros LLC (SBE), and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 31: Water and Sanitary Sewer Repair Inspection Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with DiCon Consulting, PC (SBE) for water and sanitary sewer repair inspection services for an initial term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 32: Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Installations

(A) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Dallas 1 Construction, LLC for water and sanitary sewer service installations contract #1 for an initial term of one year, (B) Approve a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder State Utility Contractors, Inc. for water and sanitary sewer service installations contract #2 for an initial term of one year, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Summary of Bids

Dallas 1 Construction LLC	\$8,382,891.00
State Utility Contractors Inc	\$13,854,786.00

Item No. 34: Airport South Crossfield Taxiway Construction Change Order

(A) Approve change order #1 for \$542,592.40 to Thalle Construction Company Inc. for the deicing pad and South Crossfield Taxiway Project Package 1.

Item No. 35: Bond Issuance Approval for Evoke Living at Morris Field

Adopt a resolution granting INLIVIAN's request to issue multi-family housing revenue bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$19,500,000, to finance the development of Evoke Living at Morris Field.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 492-497.

Item No. 36: Set a Public Hearing on the Charlotte Quartermaster Depot and Area Missile Plant Historic Landmark Designation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for March 28, 2022, to consider historic landmark designation for the property known as the "Charlotte Quartermaster Depot and Area Missile Plant" (Parcel Identification Numbers 079-031-02, 079-031-05, 079-031-07, 079-031-08, 079-031-10, and 079-031-11).

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 498-499.

Item No. 37: Set a Public Hearing on the McDonald's Cafeteria and Mini-Center Historic Landmark Designation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for March 28, 2022, to consider historic landmark designation for the property known as the "McDonald's Cafeteria and Mini-Center" (Parcel Identification Number 069-126-25).

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 500-501.

Item No. 38: Resolution of Intent to Abandon Unopened Right-of-Way between 3427 and 3439 Oakwood Avenue

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon the unopened right-of-way between 3427 and 3439 Oakwood Avenue, and (B) Set a public hearing for March 28, 2022.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 502-503.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 39: Aviation Property Transactions - Barry Drive and Verns Avenue

Acquisition of 0.567 acres and 0.431 acres (Total 0.998 acres for both parcels) at Barry Drive and Verns Avenue from Rodney H. Dellinger for \$260,000, and all relocation benefits in compliance with Federal, State, or Local regulation for Aviation Master Plan.

Item No. 40: Aviation Property Transactions - Greenvalley Road and Lakeview Road

Acquisition of 17.600 acres and 1.331 acres (Total 18.931 acres - vacant) at Greenvalley Road and Lakeview Road from Roy Jerome Stilwell and Mary Lou Stilwell for \$1,100,000.00, and all relocation benefits in compliance with Federal, State, or Local regulations for Aviation Master Plan.

Item No. 42: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - Charlotte Airport Area Waterline Progressive Design-Build Project (Old Dowd Road 24" WM Connect), Parcel #12

Resolution of Condemnation of 39,564 square feet. (0.91 acres) in Waterline Easement, plus 18,566 square feet. (0.43 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 2943 Kanimbla Drive from Hospitality Concepts, Inc., Ramesh B Gokal, Surandra Odahv, Naman I, LLC, and Naman II, LLC for \$83,000 for Charlotte Airport Area Waterline Progressive Design-Build Project (Old Dowd Road 24" WM Connect), Parcel #12.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 504.

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Item No. 43: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - Charlotte Airport Area Waterline Progressive Design-Build Project (Old Dowd Road 24" WM Connect), Parcel #13.

Resolution of Condemnation of 7,647 square feet. (0.18 acres) in Waterline Easement, plus 5,308 square feet. (0.12 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 2540 Little Rock Road from JJP Little Rock, LLC for \$161,300 for Charlotte Airport Area Waterline Progressive Design-Build Project (Old Dowd Road 24" WM Connect), Parcel #13.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 505.

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Item No. 44: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (WT Harris-Plott Road Water Transmission), Parcel #24.

Resolution of Condemnation of 9,146 square feet. (0.21 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement, plus 4,700 square feet. (0.11 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 7037 Lawyers Road from Bernard Franklin Armstrong, Jr. sole beneficiary under the Estate of Bernard Franklin Armstrong Sr. for \$43,725 for North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (WT Harris-Plott Road Water Transmission), Parcel #24.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 506.

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Item No. 45: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (WT Harris-Plott Road Water Transmission), Parcel #36.

Resolution of Condemnation of 132 square feet. (0.00 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement, plus 2,842 square feet. (0.06 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at Trysting Road from Reliance Trust Company, as Trustee of Thomas E. Teeter Revocable Living Trust for \$225 for North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (WT Harris-Plott Road Water Transmission), Parcel #36.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 507.

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Item No. 46: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - Upper Little Sugar Creek Trunk Sewer Atrium Segment, Parcel #003.

Acquisition of 1,069 square feet. (0.025 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement at 1610 Lombardy Circle from Eric Blankenship and Katherine Blankenship for \$25,000 for Upper Little Sugar Creek Trunk Sewer Atrium Segment, Parcel #003.

Item No. 47: Property Transactions - Davidson-Jordan Place Intersection, Parcel #16.

Acquisition of 2,654 square feet. (0.061 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2514 North Davidson Street from SRP 2514 NODA LLC for \$93,525 for Davidson-Jordan Place Intersection, Parcel #16.

Item No. 48: Property Transactions - Monroe Road Streetscape, parcel #46.

Acquisition of 85 square feet. (0.002 acres) Bus Stop Improvement Easement, 1,081 square feet. (0.025 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 688 square feet. Temporary Construction Easement (0.016 acres) at 4820 Monroe Road from Gerald S. Dudley Jr for \$23,725 for Monroe Road Streetscape, parcel #46.

Item No. 49: Property Transactions - Monroe Road Streetscape, parcel #63

Resolution of Condemnation of 84 square feet. (0.002 acres) Bus Stop Improvement Easement, 856 square feet. (0.02 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 2020 Eaton Road and 5101 Monroe Road from EP 5101 LLC for \$4,025 for Monroe Road Streetscape, parcel #63.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 508.

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Item No. 50: Property Transactions - Pebblestone SDIP, parcel #2

Resolution of Condemnation 26,052 square feet. (0.598 acres) Storm Drainage Easement at 0 Village Lake Drive from HVM/Creekwood Limited Partnership for \$725 for Pebblestone SDIP, parcel #2.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 509.

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Item No.51: Property Transactions - Sharon Rd Sidewalk (Bramwyck to Chandwort), parcel #4.

Acquisition of 558 square feet. (0.013 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 2,818 square feet. (0.065 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 6212 Sharon Road from Emmanuel Isanda for \$10,000 for Sharon Rd Sidewalk (Bramwyck to Chandwort), parcel #4.

Item No. 52: Property Transactions - Sharon Rd Sidewalk (Bramwyck to Chandwort), parcel #9.

Resolution of 282 square feet. (0.006 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 6132 Sharon Road from Philip R. Bridgeman and Katie S. Bridgeman for \$375 for Sharon Rd Sidewalk (Bramwyck to Chandwort), parcel #9.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 510.

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Item No. 53: Property Transactions - Sharon Rd Sidewalk (Bramwyck to Chandwort), parcel #12.

Resolution of 431 square feet. (0.01 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 6120 Sharon Road from Harry Phillip Bowen and Duoying Wu for \$650 for Sharon Rd Sidewalk (Bramwyck to Chandwort), parcel #12.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 511.

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Item No. 54: Property Transactions - XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #1

Resolution of 3,937 square feet. (0.09 acres) Greenway Easement, 10,883 square feet. (0.25 acres) Utility Easement, 274 square feet. (0.006 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 3800 and 3826 Raleigh Street from 3826 Raleigh Street LLC for \$370,125 for XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 512.

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Item No. 55: Property Transactions - XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #3

Resolution of 3,122 square feet. (0.072 acres) Greenway Easement, 836 square feet. (0.019 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 3934 Raleigh Street and 453 East Craighead Road from Triple Crown LLC for \$63,375 for XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #3.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 513.

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Item No. 56: Property Transactions - XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #5

Resolution of 147 square feet. (0.003 acres) Greenway Easement at 4100 Raleigh Street from Trailhead 4100 Owner LLC for \$3,725 for XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #5.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 514.

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Item No. 57: Property Transactions - XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #6

Resolution of 1,446 square feet. (0.033 acres) Greenway Easement, 564 square feet. (0.013 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 530 East Sugar Creek Road from Trailhead 530 Owner LLC for \$32,825 for XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #6.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 515.

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Item No. 58: Property Transactions - XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcel #11 and 12

Acquisition of 21,963 square feet. (0.504 acres) Greenway Easement, 160 square feet. (0.004 acres) Utility Easement, 14,377 square feet. (0.330 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 151 Dorton Street and 4600 North Tryon Street from Lion Services Inc for \$562,125 for XCLT Craighead to Tryon, parcels #11 and 12.

Item No. 59: Property Transactions - XCLT Orr Road to Rocky River Road, parcel #2

Resolution of 2,200 sq. ft. (0.051 ac.) Utility Easement, 1,448 sq. ft. (0.033 ac.) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 587 sq. ft. (0.013 ac.) Temporary Construction Easement at 5748 North Tryon Street from Storage Trust Properties LP for \$30,050 for XCLT Orr Road to Rocky River Road, parcel #2.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 516.

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Item No. 60: Property Transactions - XCLT Orr Road to Rocky River Road, parcel #6

Resolution of 187 sq. ft. (0.004 ac.) Utility Easement, 34 sq. ft. (0.001 ac.) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 1,856 sq. ft. (0.043 ac.) Temporary Construction Easement at 5729, 5732, 5735, and 5737 Orr Road from Storage Trust Properties LP for \$3,050 for XCLT Orr Road to Rocky River Road, parcel #6.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 517.

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Item No. 61: Property Transactions - XCLT Orr Road to Rocky River Road, parcel #24.

Resolution of 19,862 square feet. (0.456 acres) Greenway Easement, 17,204 square feet. (0.395 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 800 Autumnwood Lane from Jeffrey L. Murphy and Heather D. Freeman for \$61,125 for XCLT Orr Road to Rocky River Road, parcel #24.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 518.

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ITEM NO. 25: ROOF REPLACEMENT FOR SWEDEN ROAD EQUIPMENT SERVICES BUILDING

Councilmember Winston said I guess I would have one question. Would any deferral of this, I would imagine that this roof replacement was considered in the last budget, but I understand that there are some issues from a safety perspective but is something that we've been dealing with for a while. Would a temporary deferral of this item cause any interruption in services?

Marie Harris, Strategy And Budget said since this is a safety issue that needs to be addressed, you know, something bad might happen that might not, you know, we don't know, but it's already a deteriorating roof to the point where pieces are falling on the shop floor.

Phil Reiger, Strategy & Budget Director said Ms. Harris is right. There's an insulation that's part of the roof. The insulation starting to fall. This is a 70-year-old building with a 70-year-old roof. The roof is original to the building and so, the quicker we can get this replaced, the better.

Mr. Winston said colleagues and the public, the reason I've pulled this, and I would like to defer this is because we're being asked to okay, a \$600,000 roof, which obviously is very necessary. Hopefully, that roof will last for multiple generations as this roof lasted. However, my concern is this is a lot. It's an auto-kind of the centric facility. It's a lot that where our fleet gets repaired, such as busses, fire trucks, solid waste vehicles, this, that, and the other, but it is adjacent to an Arrowood Light Rail Station. We have asked the community to develop differently, to move away from developments just like this.

We have asked staff to look at city-owned properties that could be used and dispensed to develop affordable housing and appropriate areas. However, I was made aware by staff today that we only look at abandoned empty properties. We don't look at any of our properties that are operational right now to determine whether we are using it to the highest and best use.

So, I would like us to take step one, I think we should start looking at that as we're assessing properties to understand if we are using everything as the highest and best use from a policy perspective. Specifically, I think we should look at this especially [inaudible] that, as Mr. Reiger said, this past roof was 70 years in the making. Do we really want to invest \$600,000 in something that might be optimal for housing but won't be able to be touched for another 50 years because we haven't taken the time to look at it? So, I would like to defer this or make a motion to defer this so we can get with staff and do that assessment for this property. I would like to look at our policies of analyzing our city-owned properties for operational uses as well.

Mr. Winston said I know that the second one was an aside.

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, to defer action to approve a contract in the amount of \$599,500 to the lowest responsive bidder Interstate Roofing Company, Inc. for the Equipment Services Building Roof Replacement Project.

Mayor Lyles said I'd like to ask Mr. Reiger a couple of questions about this. If I recall, there was a study done and Charlotte was beginning to expand and grow, that talked

about operational issues and the necessity to make sure that services could be delivered equitably across the county. So, all of the garbage got picked up on your day that street potholes were filled in a specific time because of the access to service. Has that study been updated or is it something that still is valid today?

Then the second part of my question is when we talk about this facility and the roof no longer being able to operate, would we have to delay this and go in another direction, what would be the cost of tearing it down to make sure that it's appropriately safe for a vacant lot?

Mr. Reiger said I'm not aware that the study that you're referring to has been updated. What I can say as being a part of the management of both, there's two operations on this side. There's a fleet management operation that serves all of the heavy equipment in Charlotte. That includes our fire trucks, our dump trucks, and all of our backhoes. That type of equipment. Behind that fleet maintenance facility is a street maintenance facility. [inaudible] has three districts, and three facilities that they operate out of. One of the major considerations is the location of these facilities. As we provide services to Charlotte, we want to make sure that we have proximity to the areas that we serve, such that we don't have people, we call windshield time, spending too much time driving back and forth to move vehicles to a maintenance facility and back to their facility or in street maintenance case, the south part of the city, the suite and road drives all the way to the edges of Matthews and provide services. So, it's not only the redevelopment opportunity, but it's also what it means to our city operations and where would we go or where would we replace them.

Mayor, to your second question because there's two facilities on this. I don't have the exact cost estimates in front of me, but I could venture to say there's tens of millions of dollars of facilities that are on this piece of property that supports both street maintenance and fleet.

I don't know what the tear-down costs would be. It would be significant. The other thing that is significantly known, it's this property has come up from time to time, as we've talked about redevelopment there because of its proximity to the light rail. It is challenged by topography. There is a huge hole in the middle of this site that would have to be dealt with in order to really be able to support any sort of housing or mixed-use.

This is big enough that it would probably be better suited for a mixed-use type of development, which would include some element of affordable housing in it is what I would guess. I hope that answers your question, Mayor.

Councilmember Phipps said How long has this site been used as a maintenance facility?

Mr. Reiger said Mr. Phipps, I'm not exactly sure the total length, but I've been here 21 years and it's been a maintenance facility ever since I've been here. I think much longer than that. Marie managed the department that managed the fleet at one point in time and it's been a maintenance fleet; maintenance facility for a very, very long time.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said Councilmember Winston, I don't think your questions of that question, and I think part two of that should be something we think about anyway. I believe this one would be challenging for many of the reasons that Phil mentioned before, and we haven't even started to talk about the costs of reconstructing something somewhere else. But again, your second part of the question is we should think about that more deeply, yes.

Councilmember Driggs said I had a comment for the managers. Mr. Winston, I like what you're thinking. I think you're right. We should look at not only disused or abandoned locations, but we should also look critically at locations we're using now and find out whether that activity could be located somewhere else. I can tell you the logistics of transitioning to a new location for this activity, it's a big deal. We can't afford to take a year off or something. So, when you get down to the detail of what it would look like if we tried

to move somewhere else, I think as the Manager says, we would find that this did not show up on a list of actively used facilities that we ought to be thinking about, use doing something else somewhere else. I'm not going to support your motion, although I think we should continue the conversation about looking critically at our portfolio. This is not the one. This really isn't. Thank you.

Councilmember Ajmera said after listening to our staff, Mr. Manager, and my colleagues, we should not take a risk here. This is a concern about the safety of our employees, and that should be our number one priority. If that means \$600,000 to keep our employees safe, we need to spend that. However, we do need to look into the policy like Mr. Winston said and Mr. Driggs on affordable housing inventory for our city-owned land. I don't know where we were at last time. I know that the Housing Committee had looked into affordable housing locations and city-owned land. So, maybe this might be a policy question. What other areas within our city-owned land that we need to look at for affordable housing development? But there is a fair concern that Mr. Winston have raised that can be referred to the committee. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said I think that's an excellent point to refer to not just the vacant land but other uses. I would also like to add though, we ought to have an updated study for how we operate our ability to deliver services included in that because, without that kind of equal service delivery, it becomes a problem for how we, you know, serve our citizens. So, I think the combination, both philosophically as well as just because of the growth that we're seeing and the needs that we're seeing, probably fits within the same kind of concept of how we do what's best practices and make it possible, serve the residents in a good way. So, Mr. Winston, I think you hear where this is going. So, let's give you the last word.

Mr. Winston said to my colleagues, I think what we heard from the Manager and Mr. Reiger, were ideas of what they might expect to happen, but they don't know for sure about this facility. Again, all I'm asking is for you not to deny this, but for defer it until it could be until the next meeting so we can talk to housing and neighborhood services, because, again, they did not even look at this property to consider it, because we don't look at those properties that are in use. So, can we determine whether or not, in fact, what the Manager, Mr. Reiger, are assuming are fact? That's all I'm asking for.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Eiselt and Winston.

NAYS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Newton, Phipps, and Watlington.

MOTION FAILS

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to approve a contract in the amount of \$599,500 to the lowest responsive bidder Interstate Roofing Company, Inc. for the Equipment Services Building Roof Replacement Project.

Mayor Lyles said so, thank you for a good conversation and good next steps. I think that Mr. Jones we heard let's start looking at land for other uses, like affordable housing, even if they're occupied and to look at how we are situationally ready to provide locations where city operations can operate effectively for the citizens.

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ITEM NO. 2: ACTION REVIEW AGENDA OVERVIEW

There was no action review agenda overview

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ITEM NO.3: ACTION REVIEW ITEMS - SAFE CHARLOTTE GRANT FUNDING

Marcus Jones, City Manager said we have two items on the Action Review tonight and knowing that we have the public forum in about an hour. We tried to make sure that we didn't overpopulate the agenda tonight. So, two key items that we believe is the proper time to have a discussion. One will have a Council Action further down the road, one that will be sooner. Having said that, we'll first have an update from the Safe Charlotte Grant funding and that will be a tag team with Federico Rios and Julia Martin. Again, a lot of hard work came out of the Safe Communities Committee and you're continuing to see progress along these lines, including last year's budget, where the Council approved some innovative ideas it comes around community safety.

Then we'll have the Charlotte Business Inclusion Program update and you'll have an opportunity to see Phil Rieger again. Steve Coker and Thomas Powers will talk a bit about the next steps as it relates to how we are handling the disparity study as well as some of the Business Inclusion Program information. So, Mayor, if there aren't any questions, I'd like to turn it over to Julia and Federico.

Julie Martin, Assistant To The City Manager said Julia martin with the City Manager's office. I'll be starting off, and then I will turn it over to Federico. So, we're here to give you a quick update on the Safe Charlotte Grant, specifically a bit about what we learned during round one, and then I'll turn it over to Fed to talk about where we are going with this. In the interim, I'll give a quick update on Safe Charlotte in general. Just an important note for you all tonight, there is no Council Action requested on this. So, a lot of words on this slide. I'll try to go through it relatively quickly. As a reminder, as the manager said, Council approved Safe Charlotte in October 2020. In May of 2021, you all approved almost \$3 million to support Safe Charlotte initiatives. That includes \$1.2 million to launch the city's first civilian sports model, a million to continue the Safe Charlotte Grant, and then almost \$800,000 to double the number of co-responder teams that we have in our community policing crisis response Team.

Moving over to October 2021, I came before you to provide an update on five of the six recommendations that we had. Our consultants, three reports on. I won't read the recommendations to you there, but those are the five. Then if we move over to February of 2022, just some quick updates for you. The recommendation is in parentheses and then just a short blurb next to it. Again, we're here to talk to you tonight about Safe Charlotte round two in early March. So, we have a meeting tomorrow. Hopefully, we can do this in the next two weeks. We will release the RFP (Request For Proposal) for the civilian response for low-risk calls for service. We will be looking for service providers, to help us provide EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) and clinicians to respond to low-risk calls. Recommendation three dealt with improving some of our data processes. That was an external review of officers and civilian consultants.

So, see, CMPD (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department) have done some internal work to upgrade their early intervention system to make it more user-friendly and are working to connect some of the internal affairs data to other data sources and see CMPD to provide a more holistic look of the officer's citizen interactions that are happening on the ground. Recommendation five was to evaluate youth programs, which we did with UNCC (University of North Carolina Charlotte). Our IT (information technology). the department is working with the youth program staff right now to help them build some capacity around data management, program, administration, and evaluation. They're working to prioritize future programs for evaluation. They will start with our youth diversion program.

Then moving down to recommendation six. We have a position posted for civilian trainers at the training academy. Again, these individuals will go through those three positions. They will go through and help standardize some of the curriculum that is provided to our police trainees. Additionally, CMPD has contracted with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, who did the initial assessment to conduct a staffing study at the training

academy. We are developing some modifications to the application process to actually become a police officer, to improve user experience, and hopefully reduce the number of voluntary drop outs that we experience currently. I'll just do a quick reminder. All of this information, the reports; a couple of staff-written reports are available at Charlottenc.gov/safecharlotte, If you would like to learn more. So, this is just a reminder specifically about recommendation one. It was to provide \$1 million from the city's current budget to help Charlotte-based nonprofits. You all did that in FY 2021. That's what I'm here to provide you with an update on. Then we'll talk about where we are going with the FY 2022 funding.

So, \$1 million, those are the two funding sources. That is only important because Community Development Block grant is a reimbursement-based grant. On the next slide, I'll talk about some of the challenges that we experienced in round one with some of the organizations and managing a reimbursement-based grant, when you are a relatively small nonprofit. We chose our maximum budget for this as \$150,000. Again, that was an intentional choice to help support some of our grassroots organizations. We gave out 17 awards of \$50,000, to two organizations with relatively small budgets. Priority was given to organizations working the corridors, and then you can see some of the eligible service areas below.

This was a mix of what is eligible from the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) standpoint and also what the community expressed was their need. We worked very closely with United Way on this round. They've been a great partner with us. We plan to move, and partner with them going forward. So, they have been a great help in managing this, which has turned into it's been much more work than I think anyone anticipated, which is an important part of the lessons learned for this.

So, my final slide before I turn it over to Federico is probably the most important of the night. In thinking about what have we learned from round one, which is still ongoing and how does that inform where we plan to go for round two? So, the first bullet organizations did not have administrative processes in place to manage federal funding.

This can be as specific as not having a solicitation license, which is required by North Carolina to receive a grant. Some of these organizations also, you know, their accounting system was Venmo. So, we are spending the kind of a really gamut of organizations not having the back office support to be able to manage some of these. It's also, you know, we had planned a pretty robust capacity-building program and it's difficult to build capacity to manage federal funds while you were also trying to spend federal funds.

So, you'll see in the next round, we have built in a dedicated capacity-building period to help organizations plan and get ready to do that type of work. Again, they needed additional time to plan activities, and the majority of this grant is reimbursement based, that is just a challenge when you have a small budget. So, moving forward, thinking about higher dollar organizations and they will have, you know, kind of be able to manage the cash flow of managing a reimbursement-based grant and have additional funds to support things that might not be eligible with federal money.

Before I turn over to Federico, I will say we have had a couple of successes with this. So, three of the organizations that we awarded actually received additional federal funds through United Way to help with the encampment project, and because we had to retool our capacity building from group based model to an individual-based model, these organizations received extensive one on one capacity building in terms of strategic planning, executive coaching, how to set up your back office. So, hopefully, we will see some of those fruits of our labor and those organizations' labor down the road.

Mr. Jones said in the transition and I think it's worth repeating. So, we took a bit of a risk with a number of organizations for us to do something different. What we're telling you tonight is that you've had some success stories. We've had some bumps along the road, but it doesn't mean that we're not doing the right thing and we're trying to make sure that we, within the ecosystem are able to build capacity amongst some of the grassroots

organizations that two or three years ago, it wasn't even under consideration to have these types of funds. Is that good?

Federico Rios, Assistant Director, of Equity said yeah, I don't think we could have heated up better. This has definitely been a process and we've learned a great deal through our initial foray into this. So, we can move on to the next slide, we'll show you where we're taking this. Again, Federico Rios, Office of Equity Mobility and Immigrant Integration in our Housing and Neighborhood Services Department. Again, based on what we learned, it was really important to set the ground and set the stage with a philosophy that really incorporated what it was we were hearing from the organizations that we had worked with and other community members. Again, we wanted to prioritize collaboration. That's something you'll see throughout this presentation. We wanted organizations to work together to create the support that they really needed. Ourselves and United Way alone could not equip them with all that they needed to be successful in this space.

So, I'll spend a little time just going over the program guidelines because again, this was informed on the lessons we've learned through this process. We've determined that instead of funding individual organizations that are very small, it was in the best interest of the organizations to fund collaboratives. Again, prioritizing organizations working together. We wanted to do that in a way where we would not have some of the same hiccups that we encountered managing CDBG dollars.

Also, we wanted to provide an opportunity for learning on both ends of the spectrum. So, working again with our agencies to better understand what they were. We will be proceeding with one lead agency that has the opportunity to partner with up to two grassroots organizations. This allows for a number of things, especially the ability to manage that federal funding and create a mentor-mentee relationship that is mutually beneficial.

Each collaborative is tasked with approaching two issues. So, not just one problem, but really seeing the intersection between multiple issues. And again, we focus our attention on youth services, mental health, workforce development, housing stability, and domestic violence. These were areas that had come up in the initial foray, and we still find them to be areas that we need to focus on through this opportunity. Again, back to what we had shared, we found value in prioritizing where these collaboratives would take place and so they are place-based. Again, prioritizing the cities corridors.

Again, so in relation to funding in FY 2022, \$1 million was provided with \$850,000 coming out of CDBG and \$150,000 from local funds. We would be going about the same amount for the following year. Again, as Julie had mentioned, this grant is reimbursement based. So, working with lead organizations allows us to have organizations that have the money on the front end, which allows the work to get to go forward much faster and easier. Depending on grassroots organizations to have a large cache of dollars to pull from is incredibly challenging and proved to be difficult in this process.

We're excited to share that on March 1st, tomorrow, we would be opening up the initial capacity building application. Now capacity building in CDBG nomenclature for a planning process. Really, we would be using this opportunity to allow collaboratives to work together to figure out programing that aligns with the CDBG grant and allows them to tackle those two areas that they have designated as important. As you can see from this, in mid to late April, we would be awarding those, and then come June 17th, we would open a programmatic grant application. So those collaboratives would put forward the next step of the process to allow for a detailed summary of their programs and all the necessary information with the awards going out on June 27. With that, I'd love to ask all of you if you have any questions.

Councilmember Ajmera said Mr. Rios, could you go back to the slide where there are criteria? There are organizations have to meet those criteria to apply for this funding?

Mr. Rios said Yes, ma'am.

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Ms. Ajmera said some of the after-school programs would be able to apply for this funding.

Mr. Rios said that given that youth services is focused, they could. Again, they would either have to be a lead organization. So, one that meets a certain threshold so anyone with a budget of over \$850,000 and experience managing federal funds or a smaller organization that would pair with a group that meets that requirement.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, So for the collaboration, some of the small organizations may not have the infrastructure, and I know we are opening up doors for them. So, would we facilitate that collaboration between an organization that they are just starting out and an established one?

Mr. Rios said that based on the fact that this is an RFP, I think we would be challenged to do that, but we will be sharing the grant broadly and offering up a directory of what nonprofit providers are available that people could connect with. We really want that to occur organically and allow for those relationships to happen that way. I don't want to push someone to a particular provider or when we have to make a decision on the back end related to the RFP.

Ms. Martins said I'll just add, once the groups are the collaboratives are identified that we will have resources for them during the capacity building period to strengthen their relationship with each other.

Ms. Ajmera said I guess the biggest hurdle I have seen, especially with smaller organizations that lack that social equity, is the connections to some of this established organizations. So, if you are really creating opportunities for these organizations to apply that are doing great work in our communities with supporting our youth in afterschool programs, I think we've got to do a little bit more handholding here, thank you.

Councilmember Driggs said when we first started down this road, the kind of novelty was we were going to use a data-driven approach. That was how we described the change in the way we were tackling safety issues. So, I'm wondering, how is data now being used to it for these steps? Like where do we see the application of data? In particular, what metrics are we going to use to measure our success?

Ms. Martin said for round two in the application online, organizations will see the types of data. First, for CDBG, you have to collect program information about individuals, income levels, and things like that. Then part of receiving the program implementation grant is you have to provide here's the data I plan to collect, here's the outcomes I'm looking for. We have a UNC-Charlotte grad who is getting her Ph.D. to help guide those organizations through that process to determine how they set up the correct metrics and make sure they can actually capture the data.

Mr. Driggs said down the road, there will be a time when we get data that demonstrate that we've actually achieved a reduction in crime or whatever improvements that we've set out to accomplish with this.

Ms. Martin said correct. In the application for each of those five categories there, there are a number of different goals that you have to meet. Part of your application is for youth services; I plan to demonstrate that I improved my high school graduation rate and they will be tracking that and capturing that information. I will say it will not be as specific as a direct reduction in crime. That's incredibly difficult to attribute just to one program. But we'll be looking at things that we can specifically capture and measure

Mr. Driggs said because of the reduction in crime, which is kind of critical when we talked about this and the other things that we're doing as a result of that, that kind of push that we establish to reduce crime, or is this our principal initiative there? In which case, I think it's important that we do have the prospect of being able to point to improvements in the crime rate.

Mr. Driggs said I would say this is not our primary effort. This is to complement what the police does every day, and what some of our other nonprofits do. We have alternatives to violence and Beatties Ford Road. And so really trying to take an approach that looks beyond policing in terms of how we are addressing crime in these in these areas. I'll say we have four collaboratives which will be place-based. So, you know, we can look at how the crime rates change in those neighborhoods, but it would be probably not wise to make any strong judgments about how these programs are impacting specific crime metrics in those neighborhoods.

Mr. Driggs said so, I appreciate the work that is being done. I think this is valuable, but I will just point out that there is a burden on us to show some progress. I think we're seeing areas where crime rates have gone up. We have issues with the courts. We all know the stories that all the different reasons. I think people are looking to us to actually achieve a reduction in violent crime and even in things like this organized step, shoplifting, and so on. So, I hope that we don't kind of get distracted by the social improvements we may be able to accomplish with this from a primary goal of making Charlotte safer, thank you. That's all.

Councilmember Winston said this is thank you for the update. I think that for the public out there, this is a public-private partnership, right? This is how work gets done, how government usually works best, and how you get things to scale. Where we're doing a little bit differently is we're going to these grassroots nonprofit or community-based organizations that don't necessarily have the 501 or 3C status. We've been supporting them with the public-private partnership with the United Way to get some of that capacity building. But I guess this question probably is from Mr. Jones. I kind of think at a higher level[inaudible] Safe Charlotte, which is a great rationale for going this route. We need those grassroots organizations, as you see right here, those five, for instance, to work in and above the Safe Charlotte model. Do we have any program we'll be doing anything in general to create capacity for grassroots organizations, even if they're not kind of plugging into this? And if not, is this something that could be useful for the types of public-private partnerships that we might need to deal with other types of issues?

Mr. Jones said thank you. Councilmember Winston, I'm smiling because, yes, we're just having a difficult time telling the story. So, in the coming weeks, you will hear about different initiatives under our Corridors of Opportunity, where we're doing capacity building from the ARPA funds, where we're having a capacity building. And so, what we're trying to do, if we go back to the fall Annual Strategy Meeting and we put those six key areas of the Council up, we're seeing how we can cross-collaborate. So yes, absolutely that's occurring. And if we start to think about if Safe Charlotte had more than just some of these collaborations around safety. They talked about housing; they talked about jobs in the same concept on the corridors that we're talking about a more holistic approach. So yes, there are multiple opportunities to build this capacity, not only in terms of safety but even in arts and culture. So yes.

Mr. Winston said I like to think high level, you know, so that it doesn't even have to fit between, you know, for those grassroots or community-based organizations to be able to plug in and start to work on a capacity building. You know, how do we provide and work with other nonprofits because they're the experts here on capacity building of nonprofits to create something where a community-based organization can just plug in without determining, do I have to work within Corridors of Opportunity or do I want to go the art route, or do I need to go safe the Safe Charlotte's route?

Mr. Jones said [inaudible] agree. And that's why I'm saying we're having a difficult time putting the message out there, but that is what we're trying to do, that you don't have to go specifically to a particular pot because so many of these different areas go across the spectrum. Yes, sir.

Councilmember Eiselt said so, kind of to that point a little bit, it is really hard to measure whether it impacts crime, because as we know, a lot of the times, crime stats follow national trends as well. I think if those grassroots groups in the neighborhood leaders are part of that dashboard, sort of from the beginning, you know, with crime, so much of it is

perception, right? Perception is reality and if they feel like they are at least being given more resources to deal with, access more resources maybe from the get-go, including them in a sort of as the baseline measure. Then, you know, how do they feel it changed things in the neighborhood, even though that's still a little squishy; it's not perfect data on crime, but I just think it makes a big difference. I would be surprised if we would find crime rates going up and neighborhood groups saying we feel like we've gotten resources we've been asking for or access to that because they're you know, they're fingers on the pulse of this. Thank you.

Ms. Ajmera said I agree with what Councilmember Eiselt just said. It is hard to measure, but I guess to follow up question, what does success look like in this case Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones said yeah, absolutely. Success is not only are we seeing a reduction in crime, but we're seeing individuals have access to jobs, access to transit, access to affordable housing, and being able to live and stay in their neighborhoods. I will say, you know, this is not even the first data point. We are so much at the infancy of this. So right now, I think we're taking our medicine, seeing it tough, and we realize that you have to double down with the capacity building, but I think we're doing the right thing right now.

Ms. Ajmera said so how do we measure that?

Mr. Jones said so, it'll take at least the next cohort, right? One of the things that's tough is that we took CDBG funds that 15% set aside, and there are a lot of rules around that. We took funds that we were doing afterschool programing. I think that's correct. We think a higher priority for the Council was what we could do in terms of Safe Communities. So, with that came these extra, I guess ties, which is good because you have the certainty that the funds are spent the right way. But I think we could have spent a little bit more time preparing the organizations for the rules that come along with federal funds.

Ms. Ajmera said yes. I mean, I get it. There are a lot of strings attached to the CDBG funds, and it's good that we are actually helping them with capacity building. I think there's got to be some way we are measuring whether this is successful or not, right? So, for example, if we know the need is more on mental health support or youth services versus other umbrellas, versus other groups, right? We have to reallocate funds. I guess how do we measure the success of programs?

Mr. Jones said I've heard of several times today. So, we'll give you a better answer than what we have now, whether it's a dashboard or how we go about doing this. You know, one thing that Chief Jennings, you know, and I have talked about from time to time is that sometimes crime is up, sometimes it's down. You don't, you know, celebrate too much to lament too much. We were down 5% last year. I think part of this is not just policing, but it is how you get the community engaged to help us in creating safe communities.

Ms. Ajmera said yeah, exactly. I think to follow up on that, I don't think there is a direct correlation just to the crime. I think the way we measure success needs to be a little bit different. How many kids were employed as a result of work force development? How many youths were engaged in our afterschool programs that they would not have an opportunity otherwise? Or in mental health, how many youths or adults were on track to have stable housing, or a job or stability? I think there's got to be one way that addresses the success of each one of these programs. We have four focus areas; housing, safety, workforce development, and public safety. So, I guess we got to figure out a way to address success in all four of this focus areas.

Mayor Lyles said I want to follow up to Ms. Ajmera and Ms. Eiselt. How many times do we actually have people come into the community and say we want to buy a house, and the first thing that they ask is what is the school system rating? So, the perception of safety is just as important as the perception of our school system and what happens. I believe that there's been documented research that shows that perceptions can impact how communities are developed, and how many times houses turn over all of that. So, I hope that our focus will be on how to make someone that lives in our corridors where we have had crime, that they see a perception that safety is increasing and they do that not

necessarily because our officers who are doing a great continue to do their great job, but it may just be how often do we have the garbage picked up safely? How many neighbors put out you know, their trash on that same day? It's an entirely different kind of thought. But again, I referenced the idea when people come to town, the first thing that they look at is what kind of neighborhood am I going to choose to live in. I would love to see our neighborhoods that we currently see now suffering through all of this crisis and be able to change that to a perception that this is a great place to live. I think that's what Ms. Ajmera and Ms. Eiselt are saying. I do believe that there is data that proves that. As we talk through this, Mr. Johnson, you do the dashboard, there's validation for this in many areas, and I think that's where we ought to be.

Councilmember Watlington said Madam Mayor, you pretty much said what I was going to say. There's dozens and dozens and tons of data in regard to the correlation between socioeconomic factors and crime. So, I don't think that there's going to be an issue in terms of how we measure. I think the question's going to be how targeted are we going to be in particular areas of who are as the target population in particular, because I think it'll be pretty straight forward in a way if we targeted well to be able to say to Councilmember Ajmera's point what are they going process metrics, how many people were enrolled, how many people graduated from these programs, how many people were served with these programs and wouldn't otherwise be; it that directly to our crime statistics in those particular neighborhoods? I think that it's been done before. So, I'm confident it will be able to measure. I think the key it's going to be making sure that our strategy connects the dots so that we've got some internal validity there. The only other thing I'll say, because I don't see it here as it relates to the grassroots organizations and not that there is an organization targeted on most, but if we're talking about violent crime correlations, I just want to lift up alcohol outlets in our communities is an extremely well-documented correlation. The higher number of alcohol outlets in a community, the higher the violent crimes. So, I'd love to see us address that. Thanks.

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ITEM NO. 3: ACTION REVIEW ITEMS - CHARLOTTE BUSINESS INCLUSION PROGRAM UPDATE

Marcus Jones, City Manager said when you see Thomas Powers come in, you know, it's about that time, right? I think [inaudible] is up for us.

Phil Reiger, General Services Director said I'm Phil Reiger, General Services Director, and it's my pleasure tonight to give or to really partner with my colleagues here. Thomas Powers, Senior Assistant City Attorney, and Steve Coker, CBI Program Manager. We're going to bring a disparity study update to you tonight. We're going to answer the question, what is a disparity study? That'll be, I'm certain, a reminder for everybody. Talk just a little bit about the city's history with its inclusion programs. We're going to give a current overview of the Charlotte Business Inclusion Program. Then finally provide a sort of next steps. What's what should Council expect in the coming months as it relates to the 2022 disparity study? So, without further ado, let me turn it over to Thomas Powers and he'll get us started.

Thomas Powers, Assistant City Attorney said to quickly get into our PowerPoint again, since we're doing this parasite, say, we want to make sure we update all member's accounts of what a disparity study is. Again, a disparity study looks at the existence of minority businesses, women-owned businesses, and small businesses and their availability to see whether or not they can or cannot perform on city contracts. Their availability and their actual use on those contracts. If there is a gap between the availability utilization, that is disparity. If they are utilized at a percentage of 80 percent or more, then there is no disparity. The point of this actual disparity study is to determine whether the disparity of 80 percent or less could be attributed to something such as discrimination

Again, why is the city conducting the disparity study? Disparity study again offers an actual legal basis for us to conduct a race-conscious or gender-conscious program. The

courts of the federal government through [inaudible] case that was decided by the US Supreme Court has mandated that we conduct a disparities study to see whether or not there is discrimination in regard to our contracting. Again, typically it is considered to be acceptable for a disparity study to be conducted on a five-year basis. Anything more than five years gets into the question of whether it is actually based on a current marker in time-related to the practices of that jurisdiction. I will turn it over to Steve Coker, who will again talk about the next couple of slots.

Steve Coker, CBI Program Manager said the next part of the presentation will focus on the history of the inclusion program. We are very mature in this regard. This programming goes back to 1981 to 2002 where we had the minority women business development program. This was a race and conscious gender program where goals were set on city contracts. The program was challenged in 2002 and this resulted in the dismantling of the program due to an outdated disparity study. A disparity study was completed in December 2003. At that point, from 2003 to 2013, we had what was called the Small Business Opportunity Program. This was a program where race-neutral and gender-neutral goals were utilized on city contracts and a new program name was adopted. Then in September 2011, a new disparity study was completed.

From 2013 to 2017, that's when we started CVI, or the Charlotte Business Inclusion Program. Race-conscious and gender-conscious goals were added. The new program name was adopted and a disparity study was then completed in 2017, and that's the one we currently work under. From 2018 to 2023, is the period of the 17 study. The race-conscious and gender-conscious goals were extended by five years. Amendments to the program policy were approved and we're currently not working under the 2022 disparities study, which will be completed at the of this year. The next part of the presentation will give you an overview, a high-level overview of the Charlotte Business Inclusion Program, and I'd be remiss if I didn't just take just a moment to say a major acknowledgment to my staff and thank them for the hard work that they do.

I think collectively we set a goal to really be standard throughout the country and I see us getting there slowly but surely. As it relates to what we do, one component is a larger development and growth strategy for small minority and women's business enterprises. Now, the program functions include the administering of the certification process to small business enterprises, which we call SBA, and minority and women in business enterprises are MWBE firms located within the 13 county Charlotte combined statistical area known as the CSA. It should be noted also that MWBEs must first register with the North Carolina office for historically underutilized businesses. At that point, we piggyback on their certification and register them with CDI. Now as far as overview continues in what we do, we establish, recommend, and monitor. MWSBE contracting goals and commitments. We oversee Charlotte's business inclusion policy and procedural compliance. We conduct outreach, training, and advocacy to encourage great participation in contracting opportunities, and we partner with our friends, economic development and small business growth and development capacity building, entrepreneurship, and access to financial resources.

Now, this final agenda item is a presentation of the schedule for the upcoming 2022 Disparities study cycle. It's broken up into two phases. In phase one, all of which happened in the month of May of this year. On May 2nd, the Council committee received a presentation of the Disparities Study report and the executive summary. A week later on May 9th, the full Council received the presentation of the Disparity study, report, and executive summary. A couple of days after that, on May 11th, Council's Charlotte Business Inclusion Advisory Committee, or CBIAC receives a presentation of the disparities study report and Executive Summary. Then on May 23rd, the full Council will be asked to vote on the adoption of the 2022 disparities study.

Phase two starts from June through November 2022, the Staff CBIAC and the Council Committee will review recommended changes to the policy and procedures. Then in December 2022, the full Council receives all the recommended changes to the policy and procedures and votes on those recommended changes. Then, finishing this up in January 2023, the Staff implements a communications and marketing plan to implement the two

2022 Disparities Study. That is the conclusion of the presentation. Of course, I will have to ask if there are any questions and or comments on the presentation.

Councilmember Driggs said I have a general question and forgive me if it sounds a little argumentative, but if our CBI is working, when we eventually arrive at a point where the disparity study doesn't find any disparity? How can this be perpetual when we're doing all the things that we're doing to try to eliminate a disparity?

Mr. Coker said that's a really good question. My answer to that would be, you know, we've done a disparity study for I think this is the fourth one that I'm aware of, and that's why we hire an expert. Someone that can analyze the data. Someone that could interview internal staff, and the external community, give the analysis of that study and then allow you to know where we are at that given point in time. We don't even know the results of what the study will find. As Mr. Powers indicated, it's what's necessary for us to have a legally viable program. So, we're waiting on the next study's findings to know where we stand.

Mr. Driggs said no, I understand, but what he explained to us was that as a legal matter, we have to have a study that demonstrates that we have disparities in order to justify a racially sensitive program like this. It just seems to me, as a matter of logic, that at some point, if you have this program, you ought to arrive at a point where there is no longer disparity. Now, I could see there's an issue if we were obliged as a result of that finding to discontinue our CBI effort, we might find that without that, we actually backslid into once again having a disparity problem. So, I get why the program might be necessary in order to prevent us. But it does feel to me as if we should have, after all this time, reached a point where a review of this kind doesn't actually find the disparity. I think we're doing a lot to try to avoid a disparity. In a way, we should resist the finding that we have a disparity, that we are in fact still not equitable in terms of how we allocate our contracts and things like that. So, it's just a conceptual question in my mind as to whether you don't sometimes reach a point. I will mention that on your slides that trace the history disparity study that was done a few years ago, initially did not find the disparity, and was sent back for review by somebody else in order for us to get to a conclusion that there was one. I think there's a built-in paradox here in the sense that we are doing a lot to avoid having a disparity, and yet we need to commission a study that finds that we do have one.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Driggs you've got a lot of folks that want to comment on your comment,

Mr. Powers said I'm maybe able to answer a few of the Councilmember's questions in this regard. Mr. Driggs, to your first question, will we ever get to a point of not have disparity? That is always a possibility, yes. If we ever get to 80 percent or above in regard to spending for a particular category. We do not have a legal justification for that particular category. So that is a possibility that does emerge. If the report were to come back and show that we have had spending for minority businesses or women-owned businesses at 80 percent or above, then the legal recommendation from the City Attorney's Office would be we do not have a legal justification to embark on that minority or excuse me, a race-conscious or gender-conscious program based on the disparity study. To your second question, in regard to the adoption of the report, when the report comes back, depending on the actual results in question, as Mr. Coker stated, based on the phase one schedule, when we bring back the report to this Council. The full Council will need to adopt the report as presented in order for us to look at and evaluate the next steps to the program. This will be a discretionary aspect for the full Council. If a majority of the Council wishes to adopt the report, then at that point, based on the report's findings, staff will then proceed to implement that. So, I want to at least highlight that point that again is upon Council in their infinite wisdom to vote to accept or decline to accept the actual report at the time that is given.

As to the aspect of the legal justification. Again, it is solely for a basis of allowing for a remedy of disparity. As Mr. Coker indicated, based on our past history, each time that we doing a disparity study, it is based on a time point at that moment, based on the conditions that have been undertaken for the previous five to upwards of seven years related to those businesses. When we did the 2013 study, part of that study actually accounted for

the market conditions that took place during the Great Recession. The 2017 disparity study that you alluded to as well also looked at the rebound of the actual market in the economy here in the greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg CSA (Combined Statistical Area). In regard to how businesses were able to actually account for the opportunity to not only compete for and win contracts that were offered by the city of Charlotte. So, I want to give you those points to answer at least the three points that I heard in that regard. Now, there's other Council questions in regard to the legal aspects. I turn back to the Mayor in that regard, and Mr. Coker can answer any questions from an operational standpoint.

Councilmember Ajmera said Mr. Powers, could you just tell us a little bit about the scope of this disparity study?

Mr. Powers said sure, the disparity study consisted of two parts. One part is qualitative. That is where we're going out and actually getting information from members of our business community. Those are small businesses, minority-owned businesses, and women-owned businesses as well. They are telling us about their experiences engaging the marketplace for the opportunity to compete in a fair and open market on contracts, not only for the city of Charlotte but also in the private sector. That qualitative aspect is one component. The second component that is part of this part of the disparity study is the quantitative component, which again looks at the number of businesses we have in the community. When the business were formed, where were their actual contracts, their earnings or sales in that regard, the number of employees, and the access to capital?

They're looking at a holistic quantitative approach and they're also looking at our contracts. From the standpoint of if everyone had an equal opportunity to compete on our contracts, again, that means at least 80 percent of the time they should be able to win a contract based on race, race, or gender. If they're unable to compete for our contracts, they look at and take the necessary step to evaluate whether there's any structural barriers to actually winning those contracts. I want to emphasize here is one point, and this is related directly to your question. We are not indicating in expressing that anyone in the Charlotte community is engaging in any kind of sexism or racism in that regard. That is not the point of the study. The study is emphasizing again that there is actually issues in regard to fair competition in the marketplace to allow all businesses to compete freely and fairly in regard to the opportunities here that Charlotte is offering.

Ms. Ajmera said to follow up on that, this was very helpful. So, there is a qualitative aspect to that and a quantitative one. So, to follow up on that, this is not just the city of Charlotte. They are looking at the market overall.

Mr. Powers said as Mr. Coker indicated, the market right now is a 13-county CSA (Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury Combined Statistical Area). When they're evaluating this, they're looking at roughly 75 percent of our spend. Based on that 75 percent spend, we're actually identifying what counties would comprise that market. There is a possibility again, Mr. Coker and I do not know exactly how we'll play out for this particular situation, but there is a possibility that our spend could have shifted, we're one of the 13 counties could have actually been eliminated or we could add new counties, depending on the market. Based on the geographical aspect of the 13 counties, we limited only to those for our study and our goal setting. If you're outside of that, you're not allowed to participate.

Ms. Ajmera said obviously our goal one day is to have a very equitable city, where there is fair competition, but that's not where we are today. I'm sure the study will show us that. Other points I wanted to mention, so even the city of Charlotte might be equitable in fair competition in awarding contracts, but this is really market driven. So, let's say the City of Charlotte has been equitable in awarding contracts. We have very little control over what other entities do.

Mr. Powers said one of the aspects that you're alluding to in the private market could be an aspect of capacity or bonding. I might be affirmed as able to do the work, but I may be having a hard ability or a hard time actually convincing a bonding company to award me a higher threshold to actually then bid on a larger contract. That may be a structural issue with the bonding community that inhibits a small business or minority or women-owned

business from actually growing. So, when we're doing the qualitative aspects of this, we're actually listening for those actual experiences from our businesses in this area as to whether or not they're able to compete or get access to those opportunities.

Ms. Ajmera said Yeah, and as well as the capital access.

Mr. Powers said yes, that is correct. Whether banks are actually able to give them loans and whether they are actually able to do that in the opportunities we're given.

Ms. Ajmera said got it. Well, I look forward to reviewing the report. Thank you.

Councilmember Phipps said that the study will be, I guess, conducted on the heels of this pandemic or whatever. I mean, isn't it reasonable to expect that the impact of the pandemic could have affected certain businesses more so than others? So, is it reasonable that we would see a disparity or a gap? If so, would we be able to differentiate the causative factors of that gap, whether it primarily resulted from situations involving the pandemic or had some sort of racial type overtones associated with it? Would we be able to make that causative distinction?

Mr. Powers said let me just say that right now since the staff has not received the final report. I can't answer that question at this moment because that would be speculation on that part. I don't really counsel down a path that may be highly incorrect. I will give you an example to your question when we did the 2013 study, we did have and see an impact on the Great Recession on small women, and minority-owned businesses here in Charlotte due to that actual Great Recession and an impact on the larger Charlotte community. To your point right now about the 2022 study, Steve and I have not actually had an opportunity to receive the report that is still being worked on by our outside consultant When we find out about is when you will find out about it as well, and then we can have that broader conversation.

Mr. Phipps said no leaks have occurred, huh?

Mr. Powers said no, sir. We have yet to have any leaks on this end.

Councilmember Eggleston said Mr. Power, I had to step away from saying stop me if this has been asked, and I apologize if so, but then we're looking at this study or whoever is the right person to answer it. When we're looking at this study, I know Mr. Bokhari has brought it up before. consider veteran-owned businesses. I know I and several others have brought up LGBT-owned businesses. Have we included those in studies in the past? Have we considered, including those in this study? If we've not, why?

Mr. Powers said let me just answer your initial question, Councilman Eggleston. No one has asked that, so I'm going to go and quickly address it. For veteran-owned businesses, we did not include that in this study. We do not have the legal authority in the state of North Carolina law to include veteran-owned businesses. If the Council wishes to include veteran-owned businesses and a disparity study going forward would have to be something that would need to be included in your I guess you're in a government relations report with Dana Fenton to ask for that special authority from state law.

To your second question in regard to LGBTQIA business enterprises. The answer is no. We did not include those as well in this report because, again, we do not have statutory authority to include LGBTQIABs in our report. If this Council wishes again to include those in a future disparity study report again, we would need to seek special authority from the North Carolina General Assembly, at which time in a five-year time frame around 2027, we will be able to look at and evaluate both veterans and LGBTQIABs.

Now, I will say there is some operational concerns that staff will probably have in regard to looking at and evaluating maybe the expansion of these businesses. To your initial questions, no, we did not include them only because we do not have statutory authority.

Mr. Eggleston said as a follow-up on that, do we not have the authority to include them in our program or do we not have the authority to include them in our study if it's the former and not the latter, I would contend that we could add them to our study, demonstrate that there is a disparity if there is indeed one. If so, I think that would give us additional ammunition to go and make the case that we should have the authority to include them in our program.

Mr. Powers said I'm going to take your question in two parts. The first part is, again, including an actual group in the study, to allow you to move forward with procurement goals to remedy that disparity. If you are to try to place fire and veteran businesses in a study in which you had no legal authority to actually remedy the disparity and in its entirety, depending on the time frame, you are able to get authority from the General Assembly, that study may be outdated where you would not be able to implement those goals. So that's number one. Number two, in regard to the situation expressly for LGBTQIA, there are other operational concerns that would come into play in regard to conducting a study that would be able to be legally defended in a court of law. So, I think that is another issue as well.

As I've understood from research nationwide, there has not been any procurement goals that have been set on LGBTQIABs nationwide. You do have some communities, such as the city of Houston, that has extended services that they are providing to their minority small businesses as well, but they have not set procurement goals, which is again the legal basis for a disparity study to remedy that actual disparity.

Now, I will say that Mr. Coker, if you're wanting to inquire, has extended services to LGBTQIA, that is now procurement related for the City of Charlotte, but we have not actually established procurement goals only because there is not a legal basis and there is going to be an operational concern in regard to trying to have a study conducted.

Councilmember Bokhari said I just want to reinforce what Councilman Eggleston just said. I mean, this is something we've talked about on adding veteran-owned businesses and entrepreneurs for a long time. We obviously have learned that we need a disparity study, as we've stated, to do it, and I think it's just been a lack of the will of us to all say let's make this a priority. So, I would humbly ask that we all do that. It's something that we know is very, very important and is a, you know, slightly unrelated, but note I want to plug right now. We need to look for opportunities from what we're hearing from the community. A great example is the LGBT Chamber and the fact that they've been trying for a long time to get a seat and representation on the Business Advisory Committee.

These are little things that really make such a small difference to any of us up here, and they make such a huge difference for those who are out there, whether they be veterans or folks just trying to champion business causes like that chamber is. So, I would encourage us to. We talk a lot about stuff all the time, but to pick little items like this and make progress on them.

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ITEM NO. 4: CLOSED SESSION

There was not a closed session

The meeting was recessed at 6:30 p.m. to move to the Meeting Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

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BUSINESS MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 6:42 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Lyles presiding. Council Members present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Larken Egleston, Matt Newton, Gregg Phipps, Victoria Watlington, and Braxton Winston, II.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Malcolm Graham and Renee Johnson.

Mayor Lyles said it's a little bit strange after a long time to be sitting in a room filled with residents of this community. So, we're really grateful that we see you today because we believe that participation by the residents in our decision-making is absolutely essential to making good government and good policies for everyone. So, I want to say thank you for being here today. I call the meeting of the Charlotte City Council on February 28th to order. We do have Council members that are by virtual means, and this is allowed under the law governing remote meetings. We will have introductions by the members of the Council at the dais and then we will have the introductions of those Council members who are attending virtually.

We also begin our meeting with an Invocation, which is followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our country's flag. We recognize that there is religious diversity in our community, including those that do not choose to have a religion at all. So, we want you to know that the reason that we had this indication is for us to solemnize our proceedings to make sure that we are aware of the gravity of the work that we do.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Winston gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by all in attendance.

Mayor Lyles said I want to begin tonight with a moment of mourning in the last 24 hours, we've learned of the passing of Claire Fallon, who was a colleague here on the City Council. She served as a Council member from 2011 to 2017. Now, anyone that knew Claire, I think that might have used the words outspoken and feisty. Probably the words that we would all like to be. She became a tireless advocate for our fighter fire firefighters and foes across most of her energy on housing. In 2009, she was appointed by the Mayor to the Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board.

I also remember Claire as a mom and a proud grandmother who was very excited when her granddaughter went to college and entered the university early. She made sure that we all knew that her granddaughter was successful. I think she told us that story every day for a solid week. That's what made Claire special. She was dogged about what she believed in and who she cared for and what she loved. She made a lasting impression on the city, and now we have a few members of the Council that knew Claire well, and I'd like to give them both an opportunity to speak about her.

Councilmember Phipps said I served with Claire the on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission back in 2009, and even before then, I had an opportunity to be hosted by Ms. Fallon in her home. Numerous breakfasts and teas would have for developers and community leaders to discuss issues focused on the city, particularly in the northeast part of Charlotte. So, even though she was an at-large member, I could always count on her for support in District 4. So, it's like we had like two Council members hitting the ground running hard in District 4. Like it's already been said, she was quite feisty, a lively person, and compassionate. She talked on numerous occasions about her support for affordable housing, even to people that were struggling to see the benefit of such housing in their neighborhoods. One t favorable thing that I recall during her time on the Council was at this dais when we had a rezoning meeting. We had certain developers

coming before us and they were presenting plans and such, and she made the comment that one of these projects looked like a bunch of barracks, you know.

That headline made the news the next day and we still do. Even with all these developments of apartments, I'm here to say we still have some of them that do look like barracks. But I think that she was well respected by the development community. They wanted her feedback and appreciated her feedback. She's always been a supporter of mine and even apart from our Council meetings and other committee meetings, we used to talk at least once a week back in the day, but you know, I miss her voice here and I was inspired by her. We supported each other and she will be sorely missed by the city. Charlotte So my condolences go out to her family as we enter this difficult period. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Driggs said I served with Claire for four years from 2013 to 2017. I think it's interesting, people who didn't know her will notice the similarity of the words that we chose to characterize her. The ones that I came up with were colorful, noisy, outspoken, and fiercely independent. She knew her own mind and she fought for what she believed. In My dealings with Claire, she would sometimes lecture me about how things should be or what I should do. I might say to her occasionally, Claire, I've been doing this job for a few years, you know, I think I know. She said, You're right, you're right. I'm sorry. Then she would proceed to finish the lecture. Whatever it was about. She told stories, a lot of stories about her past in New York, about her dealings with some notable political figures there. [inaudible], Donald Trump. It sounds like a very interesting personal history before we knew her.

She also talked a lot about her husband, Tim, whom she was with two years earlier. Tim, by all accounts, Harvard educated was erudite and a wonderful husband to her. I guess we can all console ourselves right now with the thought that she and Tim are back together again. Thank.

Mayor Lyles said Thank you. If you would not mind, would you please give Claire Fallon's family the respect of a moment of silence?

(Everyone acknowledges the request of condolences and silence)

Mayor Lyles said before we begin the next part of our meeting, I'd like to recognize that today. Governor Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina announced North Carolina sanctions in response to Russian attacks on Ukraine and ordered state agencies to review contracts and terminate agreements with Russian entities. I know that we're going to have some speakers that will come in support of Ukraine tonight to speak to not just this Council, but to our entire community about what's taking place in their homeland.

It's a difficult time, a war zone. For those that are concerned with the safety of friends and family back home, I can assure you that this community stands in unity with the very good people of Ukraine, and we condemn those acts of aggression against a sovereign nation. Democracy and freedom are the cornerstones of what we believe in as a body. over the past few years, we have welcomed and resettled Ukrainians in the Greater Charlotte area. It's possible that we might have the opportunity to welcome more of them over the next few years. Please continue to support the resettlement agencies that are doing their very best in Charlotte Catholic Charities, Carolina Refugee Resettlement agencies, and Rescue support services because we need to do what's right for each other.

According to the latest census data, there are approximately 1000 Ukrainian nationals living in Charlotte and more throughout our region, and we are proud that they chose this place to live. I know that the governor has announced state sanctions and we look at what we can possibly do. Charlotte has a sister city in Russia. It's called Varonis and according to our staff, we have not had any interaction with them since the summer of 2015. Today we will begin the process to sever that relationship. Now, this requires a vote of this Council, and that means in the next business meeting that we have, we will vote to do so in accordance with the sister city protocols and regulations we have. But we send this as a signal that we stand with you and we will stand with you no matter where we're going

in terms of this war. We want you to know how much we appreciate your participation in our own city and thank you. Let us hope and pray for peace.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Lyles said the next item on our agenda tonight is our public forum. Every quarter we have a public forum and we have 15 people signed up to speak and each speaker is given two minutes to express their concept before the City Council. Whatever message you want to provide to us. So, today I'm going to call two or three names at a time. These are very steep stairs, so please careful. But there are two podiums on either side of each side of the stairs. And please come down prepared to speak with us. At this point, what happens after you speak? The city staff will get the information and will follow up with you individually, with the information that you provide to the city clerk. We're here to listen and learn, and then you will get a response later on

Working Conditions and New COVID Surge

Kass Ottley, 1015 Mount Holly-Huntersville Road said this evening I'm standing here in support of Charlotte City workers. As you know, Charlotte metropolitan area is one of the most expensive places to live in the Tar Heel State. According to Economic Policy Institute, A single worker in this city with a child would have to earn \$62,000 a year to be able to raise that child.

Currently, 75 percent of our city workers don't make that amount of money. In the solid waste department, which is the lowest-paid department, 97 percent of that department makes more than \$62,000 a year. C-DOT (Charlotte Department of Transportation) is 90 percent of the department makes less than \$62,000 a year. In the water department, 78 percent of those workers make less than \$62,000 a year. In the CATS (Charlotte Area Transit Center) Department, 77 percent of those workers make less than \$62,000 a year. So, when we talk about upwardly in the city and we talk about corridors of opportunity and we talk about, you know, making this a beautiful place for everyone, we are leaving the majority of our city workers behind.

We can't talk about this city being a beautiful city when the people that keep this city running, they keep the water on, they keep the roads, you know, clean. They fix the potholes. They are essential workers. They have been essential before the pandemic. They've been essential throughout the pandemic, and these people are being left behind and they are suffering. There are people in this room that work two and three jobs, and they're asking for a living wage for their families so they can be able to live and thrive in the city that they worked so hard to keep beautiful.

I don't think that's too much to ask. I think, you know, we keep asking people to wait and be patient and wait and be patient, but that's a problem.

Charlotte's International Business Strategy

Vanessa Mathews, 2737 Celia Avenue said I was appointed by the mayor to serve as a chair of the Charlotte International Cabinet. On November 21, we previously shared your recommendations on an international business strategy and the city's language access policy. We appreciate you for approving the language access policy. However, A more comprehensive approach should be considered for the city of Charlotte's International Business Strategy. Data from the alliance shows more than 1,000 foreign companies representing 40-plus countries, employing more than 80,000 people in the Charlotte region. Fifty percent of these companies operate in Mecklenburg County. Being a global city includes two primary elements: active support of immigrant integration and attracting and supporting foreign direct investment.

According to the New American Economy, Charlotte is becoming more welcoming, both socioeconomically and in terms of intentional government policies that promote immigrant

integration. The city's overall score has improved since 2018 and we commend the city on this progress. As 257,000 foreign-born people live in Charlotte Metro, including 16 percent of that population in Charlotte. However, Charlotte ranks number 36 out of all cities assessed nationally on these measures with five of our peer cities: Atlanta, Seattle, Long Beach, Houston, and Columbus in North Carolina. Charlotte scores higher than Raleigh and Durham, but lower than Greensboro and Winston-Salem. I would like to thank Tracy Dodson for informing us of the Economic Development Committee topics are under review and we will be invited to the committee at some point.

I also am requesting that Mayor Lyles move this discussion to be scheduled with the Economic Development Committee to further discuss a comprehensive international business strategy for Charlotte. We signed up to speak tonight prior to the invasion to Ukraine. We know there is a speaker on that topic tonight and we ask that this community listen earnestly in regard to this grave situation. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much, Mr. Matthew.

Charlotte's International Business Strategy

Maggie Commins, 1148 Dilworth Crescent Row said I'm a professor of political science at the Queen's University of Charlotte and a member of the Charlotte International Cabinet since last July. Charlotte International Cabinet Chair, Vanessa Mathews, just shared some data with you that makes clear that our city is enriched in multiple ways by the contributions of its international community. Mayor Lyles talked eloquently about that tonight in reference to Ukraine. We encourage you, our city leaders, to keep this in mind when you are considering policies that promote economic development, workforce development, equity and inclusion, and community engagement. Charlotte is globalizing and our city leaders need to be clear about the benefits of this development. Please be intentional about developing policies that attract support and successfully integrate international businesses as well as our foreign-born population.

To support the City Council's efforts in this regard, the Charlotte International Cabinet is working to develop recommendations in several policy areas. Number one, develop a 21st international business strategy. The city of Charlotte should continue to grow our global economic ties and provide more opportunities for small businesses that serve the diversity of our steadily growing international community. To do this, we need a coherent strategy goal, benchmarks, partnerships, and policies.

Number two includes the needs of foreign-born workers of all skill levels in the city's strategic workforce development efforts. Number three, support naturalization for the eligible foreign-born population. We want as many community members as possible to participate as actively as possible in the political decision-making in our city.

Number five, consider ways to leverage international agreements, protocols, and engagements to our city's approach to growth and development. An example of this is the movement of U.S. cities leveraging engagement with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. If you would, send us your remarks by email so that we would have the complete document that you were working from, we would certainly appreciate it thank you for the international Cabinet's concern that we continue to figure out how to deal with our global opportunities.

Safety Concerns for CATS

Renee Holzbach, 1007 Forest Oak Drive said how are you doing? I am when they hold a spot. I am a Renee Holzbach. I am a Charlotte Area Transit Bus Operator. I'm also a union rep with the company with Smart. I'm the legislative rep and the safety officer. So, I represent most of these bus operators here. The first thing I want to say is that I'm a victim of an assault on the bus. My nose was broken. I was attacked. I didn't even know the person. He did not know me, but he just walked on the bus and he broke my nose.

The problem here is that we have a safety issue and the lack of presence from the G4S. The G4S is not good. We need better security, and more safety measures in place. The drivers are scared because of the lack of safety and we want to feel important. We want to feel just as important as the other city workers. I know we're not city employees, but we want to be respected. We want to be understood because we're not respected.

Another issue here is, I was at the meeting. I was in attendance at the meeting on January 26, 2022. Mr. CATS CEO John Lewis stated at that meeting that he mentioned that the frontline workers, essential workers were receive retention bonuses. I know that the rail operators, received the bonus but the bus operators didn't.

Mayor Lyles said all right thank you for that. Would you give us the remaining part of your speech? Especially we want you to know that we understand what respect means and that you are owed that. So, can we go ahead and that we're going to go ahead and ask Mr. Drawn to take his time to complete those remarks? Or and if you would send us a copy of your remarks, we will just have them distributed and read.

Safety Protocols for Public Transit System

Willis Draughn Jr., 4744 Tanglebriar Drive said how is y'all doing? If you don't mind, can you? I'll take my number. 704-724-1596 and a few of all already have my number. We can't do business in 2 minutes. Do we agree? Yes or no? I'm curious because I'm the one with, the voice. And I'll say this and say I had to hear men and women call me on the phone for hours and cry about safety issues. Safety issues that they scare that they not going to make a home to their Families They afraid. I'm talking about grown folk. I made a few phone calls in the city to try to go straight to the boss. And they asked me what make the boss pick up the phone for you. And you're absolutely right. Why should he because he don't know me, but he knows y'all. So that being said, this can't be the first time these people had said something to you or anybody else. I'm saying, y'all, because we are as an I. I is a team.

I don't try to point fingers because I'm not him. But at the end of the day, we've got a problem in our city of Charlotte, and at the end of the day, a lot of y'all know me from the work that I put in in the city. How I get the face I got to face, boss man, because I'm a city community leader. That being said, these people call me, they trust in me. They asked me to come to be their support because why pick up the phone and a text message, but one lady did in here today. One lady in here did today and that's that lady right here. And she says she's going to be here for us. So, I'm going to tell you something, if yall going to rush me, I need a little bit longer than two minutes. So, can I get that, first and foremost? Can I get that? I can't, right and I know I can't. That's the issue in this city. We ain't getting no respect. These people don't get no respect. They help my city move. They help your city move. I got a question. I ain't heard you step up one time for my people.

My people want to hear your voice. Step up and let them know they feel bad. That man, Ethan, God rest his family. The two little girls are crying. They ain't heard from yall, city. They want to feel your compassion. Where that's at? Is my time up? It's done ain't it? Hope y'all got my number So give me a call cause my time ain't up and I will keep talking.

Eastland Open Air Market Vendors

Astrid Jimenez, 4938 Central Avenue said daughter of Claudia Jimenez, who is a registered and certified food vendor of the current open-air market where we are gathered together here, as you can see, to request your assistance in forming a partnership with the city of Charlotte, to help Central Avenue market vendors find a permanent location. As you know, we were asked to leave the premises where we were setting up without notice. Currently, we find ourselves without a place in which to do business and without the ability to provide for our families. We are undergoing an economic crisis and without the ability to provide for our families or to continue building our relationships with the families in our community.

We ask that you deeply consider our request and help the people of our community to find a safe and family-friendly location for our businesses to grow. The vacancy notice was given to the previous leaseholder who failed to notify the vendors, leaving many vendors with merchandise that can simply not be stored. We need the city's help finding a safe and family-friendly, permanent location to establish the market.

These vendors are taking the necessary step to professionalize their business. We currently find ourselves without a place to do business, leaving many of these families without a second income. Without a way to provide for their families, many of them. Wonder if they will have food on the table for their kids in the next family gathering that they have. Mayor, I'm standing here representing my community. These are people that came here to live the American dream and they're trying to do that and we need the help of the city. We're doing everything right. We're asking for a partnership. We're not asking for hand-me-downs. These people are trying to do the right thing. The way that they were asked to leave the premises was not okay.

Nobody should be treated like that. These are small business owners that are trying to bring something special to the city of Charlotte. Thank you for your time.

Augustin Cruz, 4938 Central Avenue said I am a son and a vendor, also an employee at the old Eastland Mall at Center Avenue. I grew up at the open-air market seven years ago. I started working for my family. We are a team. We were a small business that we were trying to make so we can have food on the table, so can have money for my school and for my future college. But unfortunately, the CMPD and the city kicked us out of the property telling us to evacuate the property. If not, CMPD was going to give us a \$400 ticket. This is one of the worst nightmares. It affected all of our lives, not just one or two. We were a family. Most of the vendors do not have other jobs. This is the only job and opportunity that we have. They worked at the flea market so they can feed their family. Since we got shut down, we're going through a rough time because we don't have a place where we can work. That means we don't have dinner on our table. We want the city of Charlotte to partner with us. We want to be the hub and heard like big businesses do. We are small businesses and we can work with the city we want to be part of Charlotte so we can have a place to work. We're not criminals. We Pay taxes. We have families to feed and we want a place to work.

Marcelino Rosario, 4938 Central Avenue said good evening, I speak on behalf of the part of people of the open-air flea market. Tonight, I'm here to address the problem if you guys have heard that all the vendors here, I'm a son of a vendor. My parents sell at the flea market. Everyone from the flea market got kicked out without notice. Without a p solid place to sell everything. For many people at the market, this is their only source of income. People got kicked out. They can't survive for their families. They need a place to sell. In 2015, me and my family, we started selling at the flea market as individuals, small business owners, and entrepreneurs. As time has gone by, the flea market has become a solid place for families, people, and everyone. Not just the people selling, but the community. As we all gather together from different cultures African Americans, and Hispanics are all different, diversities as there's people who sell produce. There's people who sell equipment, and tools. It's a place for everyone in the community in Charlotte to get cheap, reliable tools, and stuff for their businesses to live their everyday lives.

People at the flea market, use this money to pay for their kids' tuition, as my parents do. We need a solid place to have. We want to partner up with the city of Charlotte so we all keep selling and have a solid source of income as this is our only source of income. The only thing I have for you guys is, you guys, put yourselves in our shoes and see where we're coming from. Thank you.

Jorge Castaneda, 4938 Central Avenue said I am one of the vendors of the open-air market in Central Avenue. In 2015, I was one of the vendors who started the flea market, bringing it to the city of Charlotte, an exotic fruit business who has never seen the city of Charlotte. I sell exotic fruits as many of the other vendors sell produce on the flea market. On February 11, the City of Charlotte sent out a representative with the police department to kick us out from the flea market. We ask one more day and we get a solution and they

will have no mercy for us. The fruit business that I have, as many other vendors, has their own business, is my only income source from my family. I have two boys: Alex and Jorge, nine and 14 years old.

They get inspired for my business. I am the only one who brings exotic fruit to this area of Charlotte. Many people from other states come here to buy my stuff. It is a great opportunity to have that type of business in the city of Charlotte because brings on other people to come in and join the city of Charlotte. They stay in a hotel, they buy locally, and they make the city grow. One of the reasons why asking you and explain all this information is because we need to have a flea market with diversity. Many people from Asia, many people from Africa, many people even American people go into the flea market and buy all this stuff. They see something international. They see something very important. There is our main income. The United States is the land of opportunities and the land of dreams. The city of Charlotte should be too. So, I'm asking you guys to work with us hand by hand, shoulder by shoulder. I demand you guys find a solution for all the vendors of the city of Charlotte, we are part of the community and we need to find a new place to sell. Thank you very much.

Claudia Garcia, 4938 Central Avenue said I am a Mexican American woman. I'm a mother of five children and a proud American. I picked on the unfairness of why we are all here today. I'm an advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves. The individuals of the flea market are more than just sellers. I am confident in my ability to express that we are a family. The vendor committee has found a way to stand for each other. As well as we all know, there are thousands of people unemployed. These vendors and I have chosen not to fall under these minorities. The seniors and the youth have all taken a stand to help. The will to sell is just for us. We have families chosen and parents to take care of. We have mouths to feed and unfortunately for some of us, this is our only chance.

Although the world faces so many problems, these can be ones you can fix. We are pleading for your help. We have done almost all that we could but will not stop fighting for being booted in our flea market. Communities is so motivated and strong. I hope to be heard and we need to be heard. Thank you so much for your attention.

Eastland Mall Plot

Robert Grauer, 226 Park Square Place said I'm a career and technology education teacher for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools. I'd like to thank you all for allowing me space to speak and feel part of the process. I'm here to advocate for the skateboard community that currently utilizes the space labeled Mixed Use Development District 0 Development Area one, also known as the location of the old Hollywood video. We would like to be included in the planning of the new development and allowed to retain our current plot or be given a new plot to continue community building. Tim Cinema, a managing partner of Crossland Southeast, said displacement of residents or indigenous communities could be a negative consequence. We want to avoid that as much as we can. We are those residents and we are that community. I'm fortunate to work hands-on with young adults in both the high school and local skateboard communities. I've been able to befriend young adults, attend my high school, attend high schools I don't work at, and those who have given up on public education in general.

I've heard their firsthand accounts, their frustrations, and their perspective on public education. Many of these young adults feel disenfranchised by the systems currently in place for their transition into adulthood. They are confused about their role in education in the world in general. At the Eastland Foundation, I can see firsthand how they are discovering how to be active and productive members of the community we've made for ourselves. The same students who I see on discipline reports in my school are learning trades, dealing with adversity, swinging sledgehammers, laying concrete, socializing, and learning real skills in the playgrounds that they help curate. That is learning, that is community building, and that is culture. The skateboard community at Eastland DIY is large, diverse, and dynamic. At any given time, there are more people utilizing this space than any basketball court, tennis court, or public space in the city.

The people who use this space are teachers, students, doctors, artists, musicians, Ph.D. candidates, general contractors, graphic designers, service industry workers, self-employed, unemployed, and as diverse as the city itself. We take care of the space and the people in it. We've hosted community events, brought in corporate sponsors, provided a canvas for artists, brought demonstrations, professional skaters, including Olympic gold medalist Yuto Horigome and most importantly, given our friends a place to fill their time while working towards sobriety and cleaner living. In my opinion, the world will be a much better place if that worked the same way Eastland did it. If you had ignored your constituents out of your ignorance or malice in this development process gone too far and shame on you, but it's not too late to make it right. Give us a spot to continue to build the community. Trust me, skateboarders are the best at repurposing and re-envisioning urban industrial spaces.

Eastland DIY Skatepark

Stephen Barrett, 3924 Harrisburg D said I am the founder of Eastland DIY Skatepark. Eastland DIY is a big mixed culture of all backgrounds. Seven years the Public Safe Haven Youth Creative was lost in translation by the redevelopment process. Like, I don't see how this cannot be involved in such redevelopment in the area if it's such a good thing. Other surrounding cities are more progressive with skate parks Charlotte lacks and always has been behind and creating public skate parks that are size and not free and free of pads. Eastland is probably gone. We can accept that Charlotte can't provide a replacement or skate park that can handle the volume that Eastland did.

We have been ignored on social media by every panel, hundreds of messages by Charneck and Charlotte [inaudible], and not a single response that we hear from you. We provide our own community to give us the space that we need to let us build for the past seven years and find it hard to believe that there's an old tennis court or a vacant lot that can be used to create safe space again. We have a petition with over 10,000 signatures. We have spoken to the media, we have been on TV, we've been to the radio, and we've been in local papers. What more do you want to hear us?

Mayor Lyles said I know that there's been a lot of conversation around the two topics, but I want you to know yours is very important and we'd like to hear your remarks, Ms. Benjamin.

Hawk Building Exhaust Pipe

Courtney Benjamin, 219 Doggett Street said thank you, Mayor Lyles, and members of the Council for the opportunity to speak. My name is Courtney Benjamin and I live on Doggett Street in South End. The Hawk apartment building at 1932 Hawkins Street installed an industrial-sized exhaust pipe producing noise levels that disrupt living conditions for the neighboring residents. The pipe was installed on the building in October of 2021 and right away began making a very loud, high-pitched noise. The noise echoes as the sound bounce off the walls of the neighboring parking deck. The noise has been constant since it started in October and never turns off. As a resident and homeowner on Doggett Street, the street that directly faces the pipe. Myself and my neighbors have been deeply disturbed by the ongoing loud noise coming from the pipe. My family and I have experienced sleep deprivation and headaches from the noise as it penetrates through the walls of our home.

The noise also prevents us from using our outdoor living spaces attached to the home. Several neighbors have even sold or moved their homes due to loud pipe noise and litter that the Hawk building produces and trying to solve this noise disturbance. I have been in communication with Nicole Connolly, the General Manager of the Hawk, police officer, Brad Hall, our neighborhood HOA, owners of the building, the Asana Group, and most recently Kirk Young, who is the code enforcement operations manager for the city. I have been working with the Hawk management for the past three months, but there has been no resolution. On Wednesday, February 16, there was maintenance done to the pipe in an attempt to reduce noise levels. However, this did not solve the problem and the noise only seemed to get louder. The noise has not only impacted our use of outdoor space but

has also disrupted many people's well-being and sleep quality. If this we could see a negative impact on health and home values in the area, as some neighbors have already started to leave because of this noise. Thank you.

City Sick Policy

Dominic Harris, 3016 Polk, and White Road said how are you doing? Good to see you. I got to let you all know something because you seem to keep forgetting. The city work because we do. The city works because we do. All these workers in here tonight, came out, some of them in fear of losing their job, and a lot of them got waitlisted. I don't think that's right. I think they should be given the chance to speak and they are right there. Their names are there. The only thing you got to do is call them. They are ready and willing to go. Let them speak.

All right. So, I'm supposed to talk about the sick policy and I'm going to hit on that a little bit because right now we got managers in certain divisions using the sick policy as a tool to hurt workers who they do not like. I got three workers right now trying to fight the win their jobs back because they were sick and got fired. They were sick and sent home. They filed public records requests in order to get the information they needed to fight their dismissal, fight this suspension, to fight their firing, and they haven't even received those yet. So, They can't fight. They can't fight. We need to address this now.

We need to make sure that those changes to the sick policy are made universal to every department so that no one is ever fired because they are too hurt and too down to make it to work. Now, another thing that I got to address, I got to talk about it is our budget proposal, because we gave it to you and I gave it to all of you, all members of Council. We talked to Marcus Jones. We sat down, to talk to you about a few of the items you missed. Some of them, but we're going to keep on moving with them. We're going to keep on up with it. We got to keep on going because right now, workers in this city can't afford to live here and it's a shame. It's a crying shame that we can't afford to live in the city that we work in. Now we stand in solidarity with any worker from around the world. No matter what, no matter what crisis, no what crisis that they're going through. If they're going to come to this city, they need to know that they are going to be represented and respected and stood by, and they're going to be in a city where the water is going to be flowing, where the traffic is going be safe, where the trash can is pick up is going to run on time, and the busses are going to show up at the bus station.

Bus Operator Safety and Security Policies said I am a current operator of CATS. As of 6:51 p.m. tonight, there has been 1,805 petitions signed in safety. I have been assaulted. My peers have been assaulted. Mr. John Lewis, I want the city to stop funding your agenda. I want the city to listen to what the operators are going through on a daily basis as far as our safety and security down at the city transit and these city streets. The transportation center where you're the CEO is a mess. We have to deal with drugs, alcoholism, and prostitution. I myself have been on a route for the past three and a half months where a man was masturbating on the bus. I have other colleagues that have to endure stuff like this. I want the city to allow G4S or whatever company you privatized and brought in to get away. We need the CMPD or the sheriff to police our transit the same way they police our community and the trains as well, thank you.

Mayor, you represent our city. This is not a good look for us. Is too much money running through this city, ma'am? It's just too. As an operator of eight years and as a Charlottean, I love my city and you are allowing it, along with this man right here to bring it down. It needs to be fixed. It needs to be fixed. Not yesterday, not a month before, but now. We've had a driver get killed right here on our city streets, shot in the head. That could have been me. That could have been any of these drivers up here. We need change.

Mayor Lyles said first, I would I want to recognize I see Commissioner Leake over here on this side, but I do want to recognize her as our County Commissioner. I also want to say thank you for coming down and speaking up. You've given us a lot. Much to think about, much for us to think about. As we get ready for the city budget, we want to see our city workers be a part of our entire community. That means that we have to treat you with

respect just like we do any other person that works in this community. So, that's going to give us something to think about in the next couple of weeks as we put together our ideas of what we should be doing. You've also given us much to think about when you think about a space for successful small businesses when they are uprooted and change happens. So, I appreciate that. Again, a lot for us to think about. Now, I'm really glad that we're hearing from our skate community and I'm glad that we're able to have this conversation because we are a community that looks like all of us in this room and the differences that we have, we've got to make them smaller and not so divisive.

So, with that, I know that this is the end of our public forum, but it is not going to be the end of our discussion around this dais about what we have to do. Several of the Council Members probably want to debate this tonight, and I understand that, but what we need to do is learn more about what you're talking about and do it in a very deliberate way so that we can figure out how to do this. I understand. I heard you, believe me. I listened very carefully. I want to say thank you again and look for some discussion and options that we can have. So, thank you very much. This ends our public forum for this business meeting. Thank you very much. We are going to take a five-minute break and then come back to our agenda.

The following person submitted written comments regarding this item pursuant to S.L. 2020-3, SB 704. To review comments in their entirety, contact the City Clerk's Office.

Retta Poynter, rettapoynter@aol.com

The meeting was recessed at 7:41 p.m. and reconvened at 7:47 p.m. for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 POLICY MAP

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

Mayor Lyles said before we begin this conversation and public hearing on the Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map, I just wanted to remind everyone, well, actually, I think most of you that are here to speak on it probably could give the same comments that I could give to open this. So, we're just going to make sure that the public knows that for those who would like a hard copy of the map, it's available at the library locations throughout the city, and it's also listed on the project website. We are looking for input and staff [inaudible] so that your input and staff recommendations to put into consideration prior to Council's taking action on the Policy Map.

Sylvia Bittle-Patton, 1623 Luther Street said I'm here on behalf of the Charity Community organization and the Grier Height's Economic Foundation to speak to agenda item seven, regarding the Charlotte 2040 Policy Map. Our request also aligns with that of the Community Benefits Coalition. I want to acknowledge the outreach that's been done by the planning staff. I want to acknowledge the outreach that's been done by the planning staff, including the former director, current director, and assistant director, respectively, Taiwo, Allison and Alesia, and others on staff. That being said, we feel that more is still needed. The request is to please allow more time for the community to review and comment on the proposed Charlotte Future 2040 Policy Map. We need to focus our efforts on effectiveness instead of expediency. We want to confirm that every community has had the opportunity to access the draft map and comment on the recommended policy types for their community, their streets, their blocks, their parcels, etc.

Historically, in this city and across the country, many of us know how planning, zoning, and land use policies have been used to deny, displace, demolish, and disenfranchise communities through redlining, eminent domain, urban renewal, and so forth. We need

to get this process right and all communities need to be involved. Otherwise, developers will be able to build by right and communities will not know how to respond. Perhaps another month, with the expectation that direct outreach will be conducted with those communities who have little or less access to technology and or have not provided comments on the proposed map. For example, given the ranking for Charlotte-Mecklenburg when it comes to parkland and open spaces, we want to be certain that all neighborhood, district, and regional parks are designated as such, just as greenways have been denoted. We can't afford to lose any parks in this city, nor give the impression that the land could possibly be used for another purpose. In addition, we'd like for you to allow more time for communities with adapted area plans and or playbooks to align those plans with the policy map.

Again, ask for additional time to allow all communities in Charlotte to engage in the Charlotte future 2040 Policy Map process. Thank you so much for your time.

Clifton Settlemyer, 604 Clement Avenue said I will be speaking about changes to the 2014 map that have been requested by the Elizabeth Community Association, or ECA. I've lived in the Elizabeth neighborhood of Charlotte for more than 25 years. I am president of the Historic Elizabeth Neighborhood Foundation, an organization charged with preserving the historic buildings of Elizabeth. We always work closely with the ECA. I want to begin by speaking from my heart. I have been watching many of the City Council's Meetings on TV. I want to say how grateful I am for the work you are doing. Keep it up. I have seen you working hard, innovating, and taking calculated risks to move Charlotte confidently into the future. I love how you respect each other as you work together to effect change. The discourse, no matter how powerful, it's always civil. Most of all, I admire how every action, every speech, and almost every word is weighed against two overarching goals. First, every individual citizen of Elizabeth be given an opportunity. Second, everyone receives justice in this city. Thank you to Mayor Lyles, Manager Jones, and the entire City Council. Thank you very much. Now I want to shift attention to the ECA board and its land use and Development Committee, or the LUD. They conduct business exactly as you do. More importantly, they strive to reach the same two goals that you do. Opportunity and justice. One obvious difference is that they understand Elizabeth more thoroughly than you do, with the exception of Councilmember Larkin Eggleston.

Therefore, I humbly ask you to cast a kind eye on the changes the ECA has asked to be made to the 2040 map. Last I heard, there are four changes that remain to be made. I believe that Mr. Evan Keller, Chairman of the LUD, is working with Councilmember Eggleston and city staff to iron out these changes. Finally, I want to quote directly from the talk the LUD has prepared on this issue. To be clear, ECA recommendations are not reactionary or made in opposition to change. We welcome thoughtful change and think that the Policy Map will be an important tool to help achieve positive changes. I don't have time to go into details on any of this. If you want more information, please contact Evan Kettler or me Clifton Settlemyer. I'm sure you can find both of us. Thank you so much. Have a nice evening.

Eric Zaverl, 828 E. 36th Street said good evening City Council and staff and especially the staff. Before I began, I want to thank them, the planning staff in particular for all their hard work on this Comprehensive Plan and Policy Map that Goes along with it. I'm sharing Sustain Charlotte's feedback, which has been weighted by our past and continued participation in the Comprehensive Plan last year and the continued work on the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) that has occurred over the last couple of years. As you know, we supported the comp plan last year and we support work on the Policy Map drafts, but our mission is to help push for a more sustainable Charlotte by incorporating smart growth principles along with transportation choices. With that being said, we have given staff some feedback concerning the density transition along and at the intersection of significant corridors located near place-type categories related to centers. Examples would be a community Activity Center, the Regional Activity Center, and Neighborhood Center, etcetera. These areas need to focus on maximizing housing numbers and diversifying the types of use.

Overall, we would like to see more of the Neighborhood-2 place type in innovative mixed-use place types being used in these locations. Some are currently zoned as multi-family in our current zoning ordinance but continue in this draft to be labeled as Neighborhood-1. The differences between the first draft and second draft resulted in a decrease of one and a half percent in Neighborhood-2 and a .2 decrease in innovative mixed-use. We need to increase both of those two to support density and a variety of uses to fulfill the ten-minute neighborhood goal set forth in the Comprehensive Plan and to support future rapid transit, that is called for in the 2040 plan. Secondly, there was changes made between the two drafts where segments that were once commercial place types were dropped to Neighborhood-1, and others that were once Neighborhood-2, that became Neighborhood-1. We are thrilled by the overall reduction of the commercial place type. However, both these changes are hurting mixed-use and density in and in these critical locations, and we can support the preservation of existing single-family neighborhoods where they're located and whether they're historic or if they're internal to the community, but the continued preservation of every single-family parcel using the Neighborhood-1 place type on significant corridors and adjacent to center place types, especially TOD (Transit Oriented Development) in our original activity centers, is squandering the opportunity for more housing units to be located there. It also fails to support future transportation choices and affordable by mainly providing low-density housing and limited mixed-use, thank you.

Jimmy Vasiliou, 3001 Shallowood Lane said I'm a member of the Charlotte Community Benefits Coalition. I'm here tonight to talk about the 2040 Policy Map, but I'm also here tonight in solidarity with the central flea market vendors and the skaters at Eastern DIY. As they both face the reality of displacement at the former Eastland Mall site. I am also here in solidarity as well with the workers at UE-150 as they demand family-supporting wages for city workers who, without them, the city would not function. I'm also here in solidarity with our homeless population as this Council decides whether or not to criminalize their plight, which has been caused by decades of policymaking and partnerships with private actors, which has caused and continues this housing crisis. While the issues of displacement, economic development, living wages, housing, and culture seem disparate on their face, they are all linked by land and space. How do we use it who gets access to it and who makes decisions as to its use? We are talking about resources and who has access. The 2040 Policy Map is a sweeping change to our previous land use policies and the first step in implementing the Charlotte future 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

This map will set the course for future land use and growth for the next 20 years. It will decide where jobs will be centered, where amenities will be placed, and ultimately which areas will benefit and which ones will suffer. My colleagues and I at the Charlotte Community Benefits Coalition have been following the progress of the 2040 Policy Map. We've taken part in the survey for phase one. We've been to sparsely attend meetings in phase two for neighborhoods where vacant land is set to be repurposed for manufacturing, despite the environmental implications for residential areas nearby. We've also added comments on the digital map. However, there are still areas where more context and neighborhood perspective is needed. What deeply troubles us is the swift pace of these maps, with the engagement of less than 100,000 citizens in a city of over 800,000 to decide the drafts of a map that will change the city and how certain neighborhoods will have access jobs, housing, and amenities such as grocery stores and medical services. Certain neighborhoods like Dilworth and Myers Park have weighed in extensively on this map compared to neighborhoods in Charlotte's Crescent with low response rates. This is due to the types of outreaches performed in these areas. If Charlotte wants to create an equitable city where those who work in the city are able to live in the city, approving these maps without extensive outreach with folks in Charlotte's crescent sends a signal that Charlotte is content with the status quo.

We at the Charlotte Community Benefits Coalition ask that city staff delay the approval of the 2040 Policy Map in order to perform more outreach and ensure that more residents have an understanding of how these maps will affect working people and their access to land and space. Thank you for your time.

Rob Nanfelt, 1120 Pearl Park Way said I'm here to represent the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition. Also known as [inaudible]. The place-type mapping of our entire city is a huge task, especially when you're talking about over 281,000 unique parcels. There's bound to be some areas that are mischaracterized at this point. Our hope is that many of those will be corrected when the map is finally adopted, potentially at the end of next month. We've received feedback, however, from other folks in the real estate industry. The current map is substantially correct or accurate compared to earlier iterations, and we're grateful to the staff for their ongoing efforts in that regard. To be clear, the proposed place type mapping is just the first step in a much longer and larger process. This will include enhanced opportunities for property owners to also remain engaged further. So, where are we in this process? With respect to the previous speakers, the map is only a translation. It's from old terminology to new terminology. The newly adopted land use policy speaks to future land use objectives. This is an important distinction. The names have been changed, but the path has not yet been set. The different future and more innovative land uses haven't been identified yet and where they will go. A more detailed assessment of appropriate uses hasn't taken place.

As such, the proposed map should be viewed as a starting point for future area planning efforts, but not a definitive tool for application-specific land use determinations such as rezoning petitions. That's a very important point. So, what are some of these examples? Some of these examples are the map is not considered redevelopment of older and or underutilized sites to different uses. It doesn't reflect the likelihood of aging multi-family sites which will be redeveloped or intensified to meet growing needs of community growth that would align with the 2040 plan goal number two, which is providing more diversity of housing and more middle-density housing. The map labels many currently zoned industrial sites for similar uses under new terminology. When these sites are actually more appropriate for mixed uses or even some residential. This is given because of adjacent development patterns and future trends. Major thoroughfares reflect Neighborhood-1, which is the new terminology for basically single-family neighborhoods. As are predominantly land use, rather than aligning with the policies of the 2040 plan that recommend corridors as these are appropriate locations for higher densities. As indicated, the mapping effort was a huge task and that should be recognized and acknowledged.

We commend the staff for sticking with it, but it is important to know there are limitations with this map. It should not be utilized as a definitive assessment tool until the process going forward has been defined.

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

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ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING ON SOUTHPARK MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

Daniel Levine, 2350 Sharon Lane said I come here tonight in support of the South Park MSD (Municipal Service District) District. I've lived in South Park and surrounding neighborhoods for over 60 years and have fond memories of playing little league baseball on the fields that now occupy the Apex Project. So, we've seen a great amount of change. This area of Charlotte sure has tremendous growth ahead of it as well. I'm also a landowner in the center city, which has a very productive and successful MSD District. Having been a board member of Charlotte Center City Partners for over 14 years, I can tell you committed leadership is the answer to addressing neighborhood issues as they arise. The South Park MSD will provide the advocacy that all residents, business owners, visitors and everyone else who comes to live, work, play, and shop in this area need for an excellent experience. I urge you to consider voting yes for this request. Thank you.

Melanie Coyne, 4625 Piedmont Row Drive said before I get started, I just want to thank each one of you for the incredible amount of time that you spend on the issues that are before our city. It is really inspiring and I appreciate it thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my comments this evening. I live in a mixed-use development in South Park that has a master association to which most of my monthly age wages flow. That master association pays property taxes on the buildings that house the residential condos. All of the residential condo owners in my complex will be paying this special district tax if it passes through our monthly HOA (Homeowner Association) dues. The finding of the need report in support of this MSD states that the boundary of the proposed district quote follows a parcel line to separate commercial uses from the surrounding neighborhood, and both While I live inside the boundaries of the proposed district, my residence is not a commercial use. If this district is intended to benefit me as a resident, then why are the surrounding neighborhoods such as Berkley Downs, Foxcroft, and [inaudible] not included? To subject my residential parcel to this additional property tax seems punitive and difficult to understand given the extensive discussions around and Council support for the ideas of higher density development in ten-minute neighborhoods.

I have been living that ideal for ten years now and it appears that I will be financially punished now for doing so. I have reviewed the findings of the report, which focus extensively on the apparent need to market the hidden gem that is South Park. I did not realize that I live in the Bermuda Triangle of Charlotte. I know where South is. The only meeting in the report that appears to have a nexus with the needs of the owner/residents within the MSD boundary is a capital investment component. I fully support capital investment in the South Park area, including the South Park loop. However, a comparison of the expected capital and investment expenditure of the revenue generated by the MSD approximately \$336,000 with the high-level planning costs of the loop contained in this framework document shows that the MSD's potential contribution to that tangible area benefit is negligible.

A greater amount, however, will be spent on the salary and benefits, and travel budget of whoever is managing the district. If businesses in South Park feel the need to tax themselves for marketing and lobbying purposes, then I request they do so without double taxing residents within the district who will derive no tangible benefits from the endeavor. Before I conclude my remarks, I want to share my frustration with the timeline associated with this proposal. I received official notification of the proposed tax in the form of a letter from the city two weeks ago. That letter identified this meeting, the one that is taking place right now as a forum for property owners to be heard on the proposed district. However, last week an article that was published in the Ledge, shared that there had been no major opposition to the proposal. How could that be when the opportunity to oppose it is happening right now?

When I shared my concerns, Christina [inaudible] after that article came out, responded that I would have four days after this meeting to apply for an exemption from the tax, that won't even be up for a vote until April. The timeline does not make any sense to me or to my fellow residents. Thank you for your time.

Robert Aulebach, 3013 Mountainbrook Road said I'm the Vice President of the South Park Association of Neighborhoods, also known as SPAN. We started this grassroots nonprofit organization in August 2017, based on the ULI (Urban Land Institute) study of South Park. Our mission is pretty simple. It's to establish a consistent and coordinated voice for homeowner communities surrounding the South Park business district. We do this through providing forums and a platform for sharing information, and collaboration on solutions to issues that impact our neighborhoods, especially rezonings and land use. We also allow neighborhoods to have a greater say in the type of growth occurring around us, which is tremendous these days. We also are better connecting our neighborhood leaders with our business leaders to work to enhance South Park. Lastly, we encourage smart development that will support economic vitality in the area, in particularly walkability, open greenspace, and pedestrian safety, which is sorely lacking in this area.

Today, we have grown to a membership to have over 30 neighborhoods as part of our organization representing 6,000 residents. We have been involved in many city projects,

including the [inaudible], the Backlot Trail, UDO, the Community Benefits Coalition, and the 2040 Plan, which you spoke to earlier. Proposed MSD as an integral piece of the ongoing planning to link the businesses, owners, residents, and visitors to focus on the infrastructure and community needs of the South Park area, which is in an increasingly competitive and wrapping evolving environment. We, therefore, ask that you approve the South Park Municipal District. We thank you for your consideration.

Chris Thomas, 5724 Maylin Lane said It's good to be here tonight as a South Park resident, as a South Park business owner and investor. I suspect that Daniel and I probably ran into each other on our spider bikes about 1970 or so because I was coming from Montclair and I had to ride my bicycle through the sewer treatment plan on Tyvola Road to get to South Park.

How we got where we're at is a term that we use in my rotary club, and that's what I wanted to briefly explain to the Council tonight. We did begin to meet in 2016, as the ULI study was underway and hundreds of us residential components of South Park, as well as a commercial community, participated in that transformative study, which helped us identify several things. One of the things that was identified was the need for collaboration, because as dense as South Park is even back then, even more so today, there were things that separated us as property owners and residential components of South Park. We're working hard to build the street grid and to do things to integrate the properties. When we know we've got plenty of parking, for example, how are we going to work together as property owners to better utilize the resources already available to us? We're not intending to fund all of the improvements that are needed in South Park out of this budget, but we're intending to do things which have already been done to continue good practices like a public-private partnership, which is underway right now with the construction of the first section of the loop. So, we need coordination that doesn't exist today. We need dedicated staff. We need to be innovative in our ways to move people around South Park so that we can achieve what developers talk about, but rarely, rarely achieve, which is moving people without the folks having to park their cars more than once.

Indeed, we know that 12 million people visit South Park Mall annually, for example, and I think South Park is a super-regional dynamic that has an in-town location. So, it's a special case. I've been involved with it all my professional career. Going back to my time at Belk, when the Belk family and the [inaudible] family-owned South Park Mall. I understand it pretty well, and I can tell you that we have a dedicated group and a consensus of residential stakeholders, as well as commercial property owners who want to work together to do the right things to see this area of our city thrive. The part of our city that contributes greatly to the overall well-being. Thank you very much.

The following persons submitted written comments regarding this item pursuant to S.L. 2020-3, SB 704. To review comments in their entirety, contact the City Clerk's Office.

Alexander Ivanov, aivanov@cmsimaging.com

Angela Cramarossa, angelacramarossa@icloud.com

Benny Dehghi, bdehghi@verizon.net

Brian McKeon, brian_mckeon@yahoo.com

Charles and Susan Dulin, 4620 Piedmont Row Drive
Christopher Raimondi, Christopher.raimondi@gmail.com

Dale and Phyllis Stoller, dalestoller@gmail.com

Mario Daniel Reinhardt Amat, 4625 Piedmont Row Drive

Debi Dilman, ddilman@hotmail.com

E. Jeffrey Croner, #708 Piedmont Row Drive

Evan Kettler, evan.kettler@gmail.com

Gail Stempien, GMSTEM@msn.com

Gerald Councilmember Johnson said, 4625 Piedmont Row Drive

Greg Brown-4625 Piedmont Row Drive

Janice M. Hayden, 4620 Piedmont Row Drive

Jenny Thompson, 5800 Sardis Road

Julie Bilotta, jabilotta@gmail.com

Kate Zawacki, 4526 Piedmont Row Drive

Katya Dembin, 4620 Piedmont Row Drive

Kim and Martin McGonagle, 4620 Piedmont Row

Kym Byrd, 4620 Piedmont Row

Kyle Hurley, hurleykyle@gmail.com

Madan Rangabasyam, mrangabasyam@gmail.com

Mariam Ghazi, mariamghazi@gmail.com

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Melanie Coyne, 4625 Piedmont Row Drive

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Michael Regan, reegsmtr@gmail.com

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Patrick Chiu, chiupatr@gmail.com

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Randy Montalbo, cityclerk@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Ravi Kodali, kodali1@hotmail.com

Rita Anderson, 4625 PIEDMONT ROW Drive

Sherrie Smith, herrierrcoa@gmail.com

Shu Mei Tsai, 4625 Piedmont Row Drive

Steve & Sarah Jane Plevka, steveplevka@gmail.com

Steve Swicegood, 4620 Piedmont Row

Tahmeana Jamil, tahmeana@yahoo.com

Tarey Strickland, 3504 Colony Road

Wieslaw Baran, ontwb@icloud.com

William Jackson, 4620 Piedmont Row Drive

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Winston, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

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ITEM NO. 10: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE SEARS ROAD

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to (A) conduct a public hearing to close Sears Road, and (B) adopt a resolution and close Sears Road.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 465-470.

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ITEM NO. 11: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE UNOPENED LOTUS LANE

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to (A) conduct a public hearing to close unopened Lotus Lane, and (B) adopt a resolution and close unopened Lotus Lane.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 471-475.

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BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 14: SECONDARY PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT FUNDING PROGRAM

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to (A) adopt a resolution ratifying an interlocal agreement between the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and Mecklenburg Emergency Medical Services Agency, a secondary Public Safety Answering Point for the 911 system, for an initial term of two years, and (B) authorize the City Manager to renew the agreement for up to one, two-year term and to amend the agreement consistent for the purpose for which the agreement was approved.

Councilmember Winston said I'm going to vote against this, but, Mr. Manager and colleagues, the reason I'm not advocating for anybody else to vote against this, is that we have to do something, I think, in having better emergency responses. I think that's what we're going to have to do figure out a way to better communicate and better work with our folks over in medic. I will say when I saw this agenda item, I went back to the last police shooting video that we saw; when it took nine minutes from when first aid was started to be applied to when the medic finally showed up. There was a lot that was wrong with the video, but really it was one of the first glimpses that I got to see about our emergency responses in that it was probably descriptive of the community responses at large, right?

So, we deal with gun violence, we deal with gunshot wounds. I just ask myself; you know, how many more people could be saved if the emergency service that was getting people

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from the streets to the hospital was able to arrive as fast as our police and our firefighters? There has to be a way that we look at this and we have to find a better, dare I say, more consolidated approach to the way we dispatch our emergency services. I think this is just one example of many that we can look into. But again, I'm going to vote no. Hopefully when you re-up, maybe we can have a conversation, or the next Council can have a conversation about how to better do this. Thank you.

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

YEAS: Councilmember Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Newton, Phipps, and Watlington.

NAYS: Councilmember Graham and Johnson.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 476-485.

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ITEM NO. 15: INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT FOR CHARLOTTE WATER AND STORMWATER VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Phipps, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution approving an installment financing agreement up to \$11,500,000 for the purchase and delivery of vehicles and equipment, (B) authorize City officials to take the necessary actions to complete the financing, including the execution and delivery of various documents to complete the agreement, and (C) adopt Budget Ordinance No. 252-X appropriating \$1,500,000 from the proceeds of the installment financing to the Storm Water Operating Fund.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 486-488.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 64, at Page(s) 606.

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ITEM NO. 16: CONSTRUCT WEST MALLARD CREEK CHURCH ROAD SHARED-USE PATH AND APPROPRIATE PRIVATE DEVELOPER FUNDS

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Winston, and carried unanimously to approve a contract in the amount of \$1,467,641.07 to the lowest responsive bidder DOT Construction, Inc. for the West Mallard Creek Church Road Shared-Use Path project, and (B) adopt budget ordinance No. 253-X appropriating \$22,847 in private developer funds from Crescent Communities for the West Mallard Creek Church Road Shared-Use Path project to the General Capital Projects fund.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 486-488.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 64, at Page(s) 607.

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ITEM NO. 17: EXTENSION TO A GROUND LEASE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution approving an extension to the option for a ground lease on property located on DeWitt Lane and South Boulevard (parcel identification numbers 149-012-47 and 149-012-51) through December 31, 2022, with DreamKey Partners, Inc. (formerly Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership, Inc.).

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 489.

ITEM NO. 18: INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD BUSWAY RESTORATION

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for design and construction of modifications to the busway entrance and exit on Independence Boulevard in the amount of \$750,000.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 490-491.

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ITEM NO. 19: NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP GRANT

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Winston, and carried unanimously to (A) accept a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the National League of Cities for lowering barriers for Hispanic entrepreneurs at any stage of business, and (B) adopt budget ordinance No. 254-X appropriating \$15,000 from the National League of Cities to the Neighborhood Development Grants Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 64, at Page(s) 608.

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APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Lyles explained the rules and procedures of the appointment process.

ITEM NO. 20: APPOINTMENT TO THE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending December 31, 2024.

- Dustin Branham, nominated by Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Eiselt, Graham, Phipps, and Watlington.
- Lindsay McCleary, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Egleston, Johnson, and Newton.

The results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

- Dustin Branham, 7 votes – Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Eiselt, Graham, Johnson, Phipps, and Watlington.
- Lindsay McCleary, 4 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Egleston, Newton, and Councilmember Winston said.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Phipps, and carried unanimously to appoint Dustin Branham.

Dustin Branham was appointed.

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ITEM NO. 21: APPOINTMENT TO THE CHARLOTTE INTERNATIONAL CABINET

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a partial term beginning upon appointment and ending June 30, 2024.

- Paula Broadwell, nominated by Councilmembers Driggs and Eiselt.
- Tenessa Moore, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Johnson, and Phipps.

The results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

- Paula Broadwell, 5 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Eiselt, Newton, Watlington, and Winston.
- Tenessa Moore, 6 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Egleston, Graham, Johnson, and Phipps.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Phipps, and carried unanimously to appoint Tenessa Moore.

Tenessa Moore was appointed.

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ITEM NO. 22: APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a three-year term beginning March 9, 2022 and ending March 8, 2024.

- Najam Usmani, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, Egleston, and Phipps.

The results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

- Najam Usmani, 10 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Graham, Johnson, Newton, Phipps, and Winston.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Phipps, and carried unanimously to appoint Najam Usmani.

Najam Usmani was appointed.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, seconded by Councilmember Newton, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.


Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC