

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Strategy Session on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 5:02 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II.

**AUN:** Councilmember Victoria Watlington

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**Mayor Lyles** welcomed everyone to this meeting. It's our April 5, 2021, Strategy Session where we have an informal discussion of items that are coming up before us. Before we talk about that any further I'd just like to wish everyone, during this season of people that have faith, whether your Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or other just to say that spring is a time that shows us the renewal and the opportunity that we have for renewal in our lives. For of us that celebrate faith, I say that that renewal can also be a part of what we believe and forever and ever.

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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**ITEM NO. 1: CARES ACT UPDATE: EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said tonight we are going to start off by giving you an update on the CARES ACT (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Funds. I believe the last time we were before you Shawn Heath provided you with a backdrop of the additional Federal Stimulus Funds that are coming to the City and also to the County, and to the school system. As I mentioned last time, we have begun a process with the County Manager and the Superintendent of Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, where we can work collaboratively together to see how we can best deploy these Funds. Shawn Heath will be representing the Manager's Office in these discussions. So, with that said before I turn it over to Shawn, we are actually going back a step in time and talking a bit about the CARES Funds. As you will recall we had \$154 and a half related to the CARE Funding, but we also had additional funds that came to the City with ESG (Emergency Solution Grant) and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Funds. So, tonight what Shawn is going to do is give you an update of where we'd like to go with these funding sources for some initiatives that we believe are quite timely. I will turn it over to Shawn.

**Shawn Heath, Special Assistant to the City Manager** said I'm back to talk about Stimulus Funding and I think the CARES ACT, it's fair to say, it's the gift that keeps giving as Manager Jones had made reference. In prior conversations, we focused a lot on the Coronavirus Virus Relief Fund tonight. It's an opportunity to really drill down a little bit into a number of investment opportunities that are available to us as a result of additional allocations of ESG and CDBG Funds during the calendar year 2020. Before I dive into the specifics since really everything that I'll talk about tonight, and I only have a few slides, is focused on homelessness-related challenges. I just want to acknowledge that the City Staff is very enthused about these particular opportunities, but we recognize that this is a tremendously complex area. We recognize that dealing with challenges around homelessness requires an entire ecosystem to bring solutions to bear and the community and the City of Charlotte of course plays an important role but there are other players that will have a lot to do with our ability as a community to address these issue in the long term.

Third, and importantly also a recognition that there are many things that the City Council is advancing in terms of long term strategic priorities, such as affordable housing,

economic development, Corridors of Opportunity, Strategic Employment Plan, all of which, if we could get it right, will clearly have a beneficial long term impact on our ability to reduce the number homeless individuals in our community five years down the road, 10 years down the road, etc. So, I just wanted to start with that as a backdrop just in recognition as [inaudible] I'm about to dive into some very specific details and opportunities, but I wanted you to know that the staff has a sense for these bigger picture context around a lot of these issues.

So, first with the Emergency Solutions Grant under the CARE Act as of today, we have roughly \$3.9 million in resources available under this particular program. This can be dispersed in a number of ways based on the HUD (Housing and Urban Development) guidelines under the CARES Act including for example investment in rapid rehousing, and also investments to support emergency shelters. That's what you will see here on this slide, are two very specific opportunities in that area. The first one United Way of the Central Carolinas, just as a little bit of context over the last 30 days or so you'll recall that in February with the public health concerns related to the North End encampment there were a number of folks that were displaced from a few areas that referred to collectively as Tent City. An assessment was done of the 184 individuals that were moved from Tent City into temporary hotel scenarios for 90 days. An assessment was done to evaluate the appropriate solutions for these individuals. Seventy-five of those individuals were determined to be suitable for rapid rehousing. So, that's what this particular opportunity focus is on, is rapid rehousing for 75 individuals that were displaced from Tent City. Key features of this particular program would allow for full rental and utility subsidy over a one year period is really the main component piece that we would be funding, but it would also provide resources associated with mental health and substance abuse counseling, with workforce development, and employee assistance, child care, and then also access to resources that could support individuals to determine if they were eligible for benefits such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans benefits, etc. So all of those resources would come to bear for these particular individuals over a one-year time period.

Two things here it is important to note. One, as I was going through those numbers I made reference to 184 individuals in total. Seventy-five of which would be addressed to this particular solution. I won't try to speak on behalf of the County tonight but, I am aware that for the other 109 individuals that have been displaced the County is exploring opportunities for those individuals. All of which require a higher level of service than would be possible through this particular program that the City is pose to fund.

The United Way of the Central Carolinas would be the quarterback in the overall orchestrater for this initiative. There would also be direct involvement from a number of other community partners, including social services and Catholic Charities. So, a big picture of a 30,000-foot view. That's the first opportunity.

The second is with the Salvation Army Center of Hope. Here there is an opportunity to focus specifically on creating additional shelter capacity for women and children. The Salvation Army is looking at an opportunity to rent a hotel during the July and December of 2021 time period that would create 400 additional spots, 400 additional beds for women and children in our community. There are a number of features here that attracted us. One of course is the opportunity to keep mothers and their children together in this particular setting. A safe secure environment with 24x7 security would be part of this program and also this would be an opportunity, we believe, for collaboration with the County as they are exploring ways to support this through operations and then also Social Services.

So, you will see that with those two particular opportunities that would be \$2.8 million, of course leaving a remaining balance of \$1 million, which I'll come back and talk a bit about at the end.

With Community Development Block Grants, here we have a current balance of \$4.8 million to specific investment opportunities. You'll see we repeated the Salvation Army Center of Hope and the idea here is the Salvation Army is looking to the next six months as essentially a bridge period, where it is a rental scenario. This will provide financial

resources from the City in support of the Salvation Army's acquisition of the very same hotel that we are attempting to support them through rental funding over the next six months or so. The Community Development Block Program has different rules and guidelines than the ESG Program. It just so happens that with CDBG Funds you have the ability to pursue purchases of real property like this, which would not be an opportunity for us with the ESG Funding itself. So, this would just be an extension of what I mention on the previous slide. Converting that hotel from a rental scenario into an acquisition scenario. The Salvation Army is in the midst of negotiations on this particular site. So, I'm not disclosing specifically where it is intentionally while they work through that process in the months ahead. But, once again the same location. So, it would provide for additional capacity for 400 individuals, mothers, and children in the community here.

The second item here is Social Serve. It's appropriate for CDBG Funding, but it really goes hand and hand with the United Way investment opportunity I mentioned on the previous slide because a big piece of what Social Serve investment would do here is provided for six housing navigators. As I have learned more about this it's clear to me that these housing navigators are really so instrumental to the success of some of these programs. These individuals work closely with landlords, and property managers, social service agencies in order to really identify suitable housing situations for these homeless individuals. So, the 75 people that I referred to on the previous slide under the United Way Program as well as an additional 225 more individuals would be supported by the housing navigators that would be funded through this \$300,000 for Social Serve. So, once again coincidentally the total funding plans for CDBG would \$2.8 million, which would leave \$2 million in CDBG available at our disposal. You may ask, why aren't we spending all of this? So, \$1 million of ESG is still available, \$2 million of Community Development Block Grants, we certainly have a sense of urgency to put the money to work. At the same time, I would say, unlike the CARE ACT Corona Virus Relief Fund, these funds don't have near-term disbursement deadlines. So, we want to be as smart and strategic, and intentional as we can about how the money is spent. As I mentioned the last time I was with you, we are in the midst of looking through a number of alternatives related to the American Rescue Plan. Some of which provide specific flexibility for investments and the homelessness area. So, we'd like to think about opportunities to leverage all of this at the same time, and then as the City Manager referenced, we are really on the front end of the conversation with the County and CMS as well to identify if there are opportunities for us to dovetail some of those efforts. So, we'd like to have a little more time to sort through the opportunities there. I'm sure there are some good ideas that are waiting in the wings and we look forward to going through that evaluation process.

I went through that fairly quickly but that is the status of where we are at today with those two particular funding streams. The next steps would be for the City staff to work with our community partners to activate these particular programs. Some of which we would hope to activate very quickly. For example the United Way solution. Others of which would likely play out over the coming months. Housing Director Pam Wideman is here in an adjacent room. She and her staff deserve all of the credit for the leg work that has gone into cultivating these opportunities and to the extent that you have any questions, you know I would be happy to take those now.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said thank you Shawn for that presentation. Just a question about the CDBG Funds and you said dovetailing with the County. Do they have their own tranch of CDBG Funding? I know you're talking about in the next round in the Recovery Act, that you will work with the County and schools, but on this tranch are they doing their own thing with CDBG money from the CARES Act?

Mr. Heath said so, I'll start and then I'll ask Pam to help out here. The direct reference with the County was really focused on the American Rescue Plan with the \$215 million that they will receive and then the \$149 million that we will receive, and looking for opportunities to collaborate on housing and or homelessness issues in that space. As it relates to your specific question about whether the County would have received some CDBG Funding under CARE last year that's still available, I'm looking to Pam for a little bit of support.

**Pam Wideman, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services** said thank you for the question. The County does not normally receive an allocation of CDBG Funds. They are not an entitlement community. I'm not sure if they received CDBG CARES or the exact source of the money they plan to partner with, but they do not normally receive CDBG dollars.

Ms. Eiselt said okay, thank you.

**Councilmember Graham** said Shawn thank you for the presentation and the information. I'm glad that we are finally talking about homelessness and the challenges that we as a community play. That is well. The City definitely has a role to play and I say all the time that [inaudible] in the passenger seat, in the front seat in the car going along for the ride without [inaudible] and so I'm glad that we are here today and talking about how we can really do our job and play in a lane that we should be playing in. Which is being a supportive community partner with other agencies and certainly putting our money where our mouth is relating to how we wish to move forward in working to resolve some of the homeless issues in our City.

I think step one is [inaudible] Grant is spot on in terms of working with the Salvation Army short-term to give them the resources they need now for people that are hurting now and need help. So, I'm glad that we are doing that and certainly the United Way as a community partner to help us with a wide variety of issues that goes beyond just the stick in the bridge, right. The wrap-around service and just being at the table for us, I think it's a great, great step in the right direction, but I think the usage of those dollars are very appropriate as well as step two, with CDBG Grant. Both in terms of working with the Salvation Army for the long term solution, which is getting more rooms on the ground permanently as well as working with our community partners, Social Serve, who has been working with us really since way back to the Housing Taskforce and resources we have given them before. So, I'm excited about the outline. I think we can go a couple of steps further thought in terms of really thinking out of the box about further steps that we can take relating to housing and homelessness. One in the particular topic was a discussion we had that the Housing Taskforce container homes and, Whether not that is a viable role that the City can play in, in terms of working to develop container homes and other forms of occupancy housing that our City desperately needs. I hope Mr. Manager and Mayor, we can just talk about that a little bit as well in terms of how we expand a list beyond these two items that Shawn has talked about. There's a balance still available in both pockets and I am hopeful we can have a further conversation. Maybe we send it to a committee where we can really kind of talk about that particular issue. A lot of conversations about that, beginning with the last couple of months about this. I also took the time to tour the container home in Rock Hill to kind of see for myself and touching it.

Again I thank ESG, I thank CDBG. Great steps in the right direction. I want to do more in addition to those things that Shawn outlined so I just kind of pause and kind of hear the reaction of the Manger if I can.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said Councilmember Graham, I appreciate what your saying in terms of our ability to move forward. As Shawn mentioned earlier, when we have the ESG Funds, they are related to homelessness. The CDBG Funds, as you'll see with the project that we have that's out there, does give us more capacity to deal with brick and mortar and sheltering, whether we call it SRO's (Single Room Occupancy) or whether it is container homes and things of that nature. What I will say is that we have already begun the analysis of not these last few million that are in this first round of Stimulus Funds, the CARES dollars, but also In this next round, and as Shawn mentioned last time, it's not just the \$149 million, but as we start to dissect these plots, and I have to start out by saying we don't even have the guidance unless something has happened in the last couple of hours in terms of guidance of how these can be spent, but there are different areas, to bring it home to your point Councilmember Graham, like the Homeless Assistance and Supportive Services Program, which we believe \$12 million will come to Charlotte, Mecklenburg. We think that great opportunity for collaboration for some of the ideas that you have proposed today.

Mr. Graham said thank you Mr. Manager. I hope we can do that. I think there's more we can do. More than we should do and I think it's an opportunity for us talking in general about SRO's and specifically about container homes. I think it's a lot we can do really to kind of build a demonstration project. There are a number of individuals in the community that is willing to walk with us along the way in terms of doing something like that. I just think it is something we should maybe just kick around with you in [inaudible] and kind of see if we can meet at the same place at the same time.

**Councilmember Winston** said I agree with just about everything that Councilmember Graham said. Thank you Mr. Manager, and Mayor. I think to put this into more plain terms, what we are doing is finding more ways that we can play in the 0 to 30 AMI. The Mayor will always tell me, well it's easier to say that than to get that done because there are so many different perils if we try to start to overstep our bounds in terms of internal infrastructure that we have to do the same thing that we do from 30% or 50% and up with 0 to 30. It is not the same equation. There have been some silver linings with this pandemic. In terms of the ability to have funds and try things that are out of the ordinary because this is obviously an extraordinary experience. I would hope my colleagues can see that and we will kind of hone in on this work.

I would suggest that after July 1<sup>st</sup>, the new fiscal year takes place, that we go into a deep policy discussion because what's happening right now is a great project to project, kind of deal to deal with, but we have to work in policy. We have to work in a way that is planned and that's what's allowed us to do that. We've learned for instance as Shawn just said, that while this County has certain resources that are unique to them that we don't have, we do as well. i.e. CDBG Funds are a tool that we can use to acquire property that the County just doesn't have. So, as we are thinking about these things, how can we not necessarily experiment, but is policymaking an iterative process? How do we take this next iterative step from the important step that we have been taking over the past year? What we have been doing is diving into the 0 to 30 market. It might always be, for instance, funding the construction of it. As Shawn just showed importance of having these housing navigators is very important, so that might be part of the strategy initially that we focus on. I don't know, but I think we should go into that deep policy discussion. Hopefully, that can set up for our January retreat, where we can go even deeper for the next budgetary discussion for the 2023 fiscal year. If we could do that I will be grateful Mayor and Manger.

**Councilmember Johnson** said this is a very exciting presentation. It's good to know that we are intentionally and deliberately working to work with the homeless population. It's been proven that it is a huge need. I would like a copy of the presentation to be sent. Shawn mentioned that we are providing services to 75 of the families. So, that's approximately 41% and I wanted to know more about the eligibility for those 75 families.

Shawn mentioned the other 109 have greater needs, but if we are providing services [inaudible], mental health services, and access to benefits assistance, childcare, workforce development, that seems like a pretty high need individual. So, I'm wondering if we could get some details on what the eligibility going go to be for those 75 families because we know that our constituents will be asking those questions. I'd like to know that answer. I also wanted to know if we are working with the continuum of care since they do manage housing dollars and HUD dollars as well to be able to leverage our dollars and collaborate with the housing advocates in the community?

I'm excited about the container homes. I know I mentioned that back in February of last year, so it's exciting to have some funding to be able to build the momentum behind that project. So, I am really looking forward to the next steps with that. I guess my questions are, are we working with the Continuum Care in the community with these dollars to collaborate and maybe stretch them or leverage them? What makes 75 individuals eligible for our City assistance versus the total 184? The other question from Pam, would be are these going to be vouchers for these families?

Ms. Wideman said thank you, Ms. Johnson. Yes, we are working with the Continuum and that's the beauty of this project. It kind of came out of the Continuum of Care discussions. Will there be vouchers involved? That's the beauty of the Housing Navigators. They are

working with landlords to understand what they will need to rent to this population and so, vouchers are included in that discussion.

Then lastly, to the eligibility, again in working with Continuum and kind of what we learned early on about the population was out there, based on some work done with the Continuum and some of the County staff, it is our understanding that about 75 of those households with this work, can be placed into some type of permeant supportive housing and the remainder they have more significant barriers to the housing so that's why they are not included in this. So, I think that answers your three questions and more to come on the container home discussion.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said my question was already addressed.

**Mayor Lyles** said okay. I saw you at the Asian March giving remarks. I really appreciate you representing that issue Ms. Ajmera. Thank you. The idea that people are being harmed and discriminated against and often suffer violence because of race or gender or creed or ethnicity. So, thank you very much for doing that.

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## **ITEM NO. 2: STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT PLAN**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said a great job to the entire team as it relates to the CARES Fund. So, next what we have up is our Strategic Employment Plan and Tracy Dodson will provide an overview. As you may recall as we go back to January and the Annual Strategy Meeting, we talked a bit about not just housing or what we were doing with our Corridors of Opportunity. Some of the things that we were doing around the Safe Charlotte Strategy, but also as we look forward into 2021 and 2022, a concept of a strategic Employment Plan that's bigger than just Charlotte and we will have Tracy present tonight.

**Tracy Dodson, Assistant City Manager** said as Marcus just said, the Strategic Employment Plan is something that we have been talking about for a while. We've created a new name around called Hire Charlotte. This is kind of a working name for us, but it's just something a little bit different than just the Strategic Employment Plan, which was when you broke it down in letters was too close to SEAP for me. Since January we have really been refining it and so what we want to do is kind of share with you where we are at the latest.

So, quickly what we will do tonight is revisit our shared purpose, talk a little bit about our overarching goal and desired outcomes. We have created a manifesto if you will, to try to make sure that we are bringing everybody along. Then a framework that hopefully, we can bring to life as engaging the ecosystem of this, and then build out the right team. The work is never done on this right. If we do it right, it's just uniting how this ecosystem works together. So, that's not really an end date if you will. The idea is that we are building something that's better and stronger. It's as simple as this and we want to create a framework that defines how all of our partners work within the employment ecosystem and work together to drive inclusive growth for all of our residents in business. It's not necessarily intended to be new work for the ecosystem but again, convening and uniting, and getting under a common goal. I'm not going to read all of this to you, but I think the first sentence is the most important. The overarching goal is to inspire and support Charlotte's inclusive growth by connecting and channeling resources to create career opportunities for all. We can't enforce enough how we want this to be inclusive for all. So many times we end up thinking about one piece of this ecosystem and not thinking about the whole ecosystem and how it works together. So, really this is about consensus building and building and establishing strategic connections. Then really talking about what really puts people in jobs. What gaps do we have or do we have barriers in different parts of our City? Is it training without a job at the end of it?

Then identifying how we unite the ecosystem on a similar path forward. Again, not new work but really convening and uniting everybody under a common mission. As well as

Metrix. I can't enforce the Metrix enough, which I'll talk about a little bit more in a second. So, creating opportunity for all. I tell companies as they are looking at Charlotte, that Charlotte is a city that's built on commerce. A lot of other cities are built on entertainment. Councilmember Winston, we have talked about that, but Charlotte is really a City that has been built on commerce. We are so fortunate to have an incredible ecosystem of educational providers, workforce training providers, civic organizations, employers who are actually leaning in. As well as momentum in recruiting jobs to our market. Sometimes though we have overlaps in the ecosystem or there are just gaps in how things are actually delivered or the connections that are made. So, what we really want to talk about is very simple, and imagine the possibilities if we can all unite and strengthen together our alignment, creating that universal hiring goal. It's as simple as that. Putting people in jobs. Also then, again, tying it to a metric. I want to show you a short video that we are using to talk to our partners about, kind of the why, the now, and what the opportunity is.

**A video was shown.**

**Mayor Lyles** said good job.

Ms. Dodson said so, you can see why the now becomes so important. We have a great ecosystem if we use this opportunity to really unite. We have great partnerships in our community. We have the right ingredients to really start to move the needle in our community. So, if we do come under an overarching goal again. It's as simple as creating career opportunities for all. Then we can organize under some of these guiding principles. Inspire and support, which is the shared goal, accelerating the coordination for real results. Again, it is as simple as you go back to the video, create and feel good jobs. That's where the work is and this is the everyday work that we need to do in making those connections through establishing this framework and beyond connect and challenge. This goes beyond the obvious partners. We talk about workforce training to jobs, but what we learned in our working corridors, which I will give you as an example, there's so many other things that we need to deal with. Barriers, housing, and transportation, childcare, and so there's so many other pieces to this puzzle that we need to be thinking about and challenging ourselves on.

Then the last one is inclusive growth and this is our goal. Our residents are the beneficiaries and this is for all of our residents. It goes without saying that the strategic focus on the wants and need, as such as our corridor. There's work that is already happening. We don't need to stop what is happening in our ecosystem right now. We just want to unite is while the work is still going on. I will give some examples of how we are trying to build some of this out in just a second.

**Councilmember Watlington arrived at 5:30 p.m.**

So, the next one on building the team. We have tried to break this down because what we have found over the past several months that as we've talked about it, that there is so much going on in this ecosystem, how do we keep ourselves at the 60,000-foot level and not going down into rabbit holes every time we turn around. So, it's very simple to say that everybody has a seat at the table. This is not intended to exclude anyone. This is really intended to celebrate the work that everybody is doing, but also creates a structure so we know what everybody is doing and we are all working towards a similar metric. So, we have the steering committee, and this a smaller group that is really focused on product design, process, and outcome. Then we have our project partners and these are active members of the employment ecosystem today. The project partners will also help us build out what we are calling work streams, which is the opportunity to do deep dives. If there are areas that we need to really take a deeper look at, what is the profile of Charlotte tomorrow and the future state of jobs in Charlotte tomorrow? You know, we recognize that questions are going to come up, that we are going to have to pause, and we need a group, and we need workstreams to work on.

Then we have our project advisors and this is a larger group too that will comment on the output of the workstreams and the project partners. Are we getting this right? Making sure that we are constantly questioning ourselves. There is the project support team and this

is this team that is going to support on a day-to-day basis, ongoing with the other initiatives that are happening in the ecosystem right now. So, there is a lot of work, but again trying to create that framework so that we are very clear about what we are trying to accomplish over the next several months. So, this is where I want to give you a couple of examples because I think that we are already working smarter together. The first example that I want to call out. How this is really creating the will? It's already starting to happen, but how do we assure that it continues to happen as we move forward? Different pieces are standing in my spot or different people are coming into the ecosystem. How can we continue? So, two examples I'm going to give you really quickly.

The first one is, a recent announcement that we made for arrival and it's the electric vehicle manufacturing facility. They put their headquarters in Charlotte as well as a van manufacturing facility that's going to go at Tyvola and Billy Graham. Conveniently it's a mile from the West Boulevard Corridor. Through conversations that we are having on our Corridors of opportunity and this is conversations outside of this building but really we were on the phone one day with the Knight Foundation as well as United Way. We started talking about the purpose of Renaissance West and the success it has had and alleviate barriers to entry, but we also started talking about employment and unemployment in Renaissance West due to COVID (mild to severe respiratory infection caused by the coronavirus). So, the natural connection came from my business recruitment team to our corridors team and said we have to connect arrival and their facility with employment opportunities and potential employees that are less than a mile away. That's just a natural example of how the conversations have come together, but a huge opportunity for, I think it's about 281 jobs that will be at that facility.

The second example that I will use is around Atrium and Wake Forest for the medical school. We know that we are going to have significant growth in the life sciences industry in the coming years. What are we doing to work together to prepare around education and training for our existing residents for these opportunities in these new types of jobs? I know I have heard different educational providers talk about really understanding this and gearing up for it, whether it be JCSU, UNC Charlotte, everybody knows it's coming. It shouldn't fall on the shoulder solely on Wake Forest and Atrium. So, what are we as an entire community doing to better leverage the opportunity and this growth sector that is coming our way?

These are two examples that don't come out of one conversation or two conversations. It comes out of really uniting an ecosystem and creating these long-term partnerships and strategies and putting them in place for the long haul. I'm going to wrap it up really quickly here, and what does success start to look like? We've shown you tonight what a successful framework could look like, but it helps us better identify and leverage connections. The mix is proactive in aligning future business recruitment opportunities or future industries. It unites the entire employment ecosystem and then lastly and most importantly, I can't emphasize enough, it creates the metrics to demonstrate that we are really moving the needle on this.

So, what does this look like going forward over the next several months? We have continued to build out the framework and I'm giving, our team on this timeline that you see here a lot of grace because this is dependent on bringing along the other partners with us. I hope you saw from the video that we've got good momentum with our partners. We are going to have to keep it every step of the way. This is a conservative timeline that we have, is that really our first quarter deliverable, but I also have to emphasize enough this isn't necessarily one deliverable, and then we have done, right. It is an ongoing partnership, but the real deliverable is that we can say we have pulled everybody together. We have created a framework. We do understand what the metrics are and the goal of doing that at the latest would be the first quarter of next year. As I've shown you and talked about the two examples, the work is ongoing all the way through. It doesn't stop for this solely. With that, I will stop if there are any questions or comments.

**Mayor Lyles** said [inaudible] all of us know coming out of this pandemic the importance of this issue because the only way to be a successful City around the issues of upward



mobility, the ability to have a livable city for everyone and actually to have a safe City come out the idea of the value of work.

**Councilmember Watlington** said I'm not sure I understand. We can talk offline if necessary. I'm not sure I understand what is different about this framework and over the next year to Spring 2022 what we would expect to look different in terms of the workforce development ecosystem? Can you just briefly help me understand what is different between what is existing today and what it would look like next year?

Ms. Dodson said I think one of the big distinctions that we have to make for everybody is that workforce development is a piece of what we are talking about in Hire Charlotte. Workforce development, we have a lot and energy that we put in the workforce development space and those are all great. There's great initiatives going on in there. The workforce development initiatives don't necessarily connect to the jobs that we are recruiting and how we are targeting the recruitment process. When you think about what Hire Charlotte is supposed to be, it takes all of these components around jobs. It takes the educational component. It takes the workforce development component. It takes the business recruitment as well as business retention components and tries to connect them together. So, it's not just about training workforce development, but it's about the types of jobs that were growing here aligning with the type of training and education that we are providing here as well.

Ms. Watlington said so, let me ask you this way. On the other side of this work are you expecting that the workforce development programs content may change to match jobs? Like what are we getting out of this?

Ms. Dodson said potentially it could. Maybe there's just better alignment with some shift. I mean, some of the workforce training that we are starting to look at is, workforce training piece of it is great, but we have to ensure that there is a job at the end of it. So, maybe the workforce training doesn't necessarily change. Maybe we are focused more on the employers and how do we make those connections to the jobs? I have to remind people a lot of times, this isn't just about workforce training. This is about the employers to the training to the jobs we are recruiting here and all the way through, but I am happy to talk to you more in detail if you'd like as well.

Ms. Watlington said I guess for me, I know there are gaps and I realize it's not just workforce training but I'm not sure that walking away from this that I understand what gaps we are going after necessarily. So, we can talk offline, but the other thing in regards to this is the regionalism component right. I know you said you said Charlotte and beyond. I really would like us to think about how do we face the fact that we are recruiting in particular industries right. So, we are expecting high earners to continue to move here. Well, that has impacts on the market and on housing affordability as we all know, correct. We also know we are running out of land in Charlotte. So, we are not necessarily in contention for large manufacturing space and those kinds of things. We also know that a lot of our manufacturing employees are actually coming from other counties to work here in Charlotte. So, I just like to hear a little bit about how we are thinking realistically about who we are recruiting to Charlotte and how we are working with our surrounding Counties because the reality of it is that some of the skills that people need to get the jobs that we are recruiting here are a long ways off. Whereas we can still work with some of our surrounding more rural Counties to be able to recruit and secure employment for some of our folks that may end up working across the line. So, I just want to hear a little bit about how we are really thinking about that regionalism component.

Ms. Dodson said so, [inaudible] I'm addressing too is one, every step of the way that we talk about this framework while we kind of have to start somewhere right. So, we started to focus on Charlotte but we were having a great conversation with the County and they said, well is scalable to think about not just the City, but the County? So, we've tried to design something that can be scalable. Even if it starts small, that can slowly grow out from its origin. So, the goal here would be that it does go to the regional level. But, I'll use the other example, Councilmember Watlington. The Manager and I talked about is if we talked about, for example, mobility. We talk about growing out a mobility system that's

going to take us a decade to build out, what are we doing in the region to start training for that today, right. So, that we are creating jobs not just in Charlotte, but if we are building out a 10-year system with our Mobility Network, how do we start training for those jobs because 10 years of work around this, around construction, and transportation, that's a start of a career for somebody. So, we have started to think about how to do the different initiatives that we pull from the region. How the different industries that we have pulled from the region? So, that is a piece of what we are thinking about.

Ms. Watlington said okay.

**Councilmember Winston** said Ms. Dodson, this is incredible work. I know you along with Mr. Bokhari and Mr. Mitchell before they had been working on this for a long time as well as everybody else on the Economic Development Workforce from the committee. Mr. Manager, this sounds like this is one of the parts of this solution around the discussion. Maybe not the solution, but has to be part of the discussion around Arts. This is part of what we are talking about and I would encourage us to match this up somehow because that's what we were talking about. For example, as Ms. Dodson said to add on to another example, I had the opportunity to meet with the Charlotte Independent Brewers Association last week. We were talking about ways that they can interact with the City. As I was talking about this arts discussion, one of the problems, for instance, for musicians, and performance artist is how you match them with independent music venues? Now, when you talk about the bigger picture of what Charlotte is, we often talk about the loss of independent music venues, but we have a growing restaurant scene. We have a growing brewery scene.

These can be independent music venues, right. But it's not the brewery's or the restaurateur's job to be talent agents or to mint talent with audiences and it's very difficult for the artist in our community because it's all about who you know. There's no workflow to get into. So, we know about other cities that have strong cultural economies like New Orleans, Savannah, Charleston, New York, there is this kind of strategic overall approach that isn't just workforce development that isn't just education, but understanding both of those industries, right. Restaurant, eating, and drinking establishments, as well as artists. How do we understand those and how do we intersect those, because obviously there is an environment, and an ecosystem that converges, that isn't matching right now. They were very excited to hear about that and I know some of the artists I've talked to are very excited to hear about that. Then you at the story that came out on WFAE, the Charlotte Symphony is actually doing that. Again, the symphony is not something that you can really play indoors during a pandemic. So, now they are exploring how do you match with these breweries' different size venues from an old [inaudible] that is huge to a very small venue? Those have different needs. So, again how do we match exactly what Ms. Dodson is talking about, all of those things that something like that is direct to Ms. Watlington's point, those are going to Charlotte artist that is going to be hired by Charlotte businesses, that are going to be enjoyed by Charlotte audiences, and all of a sudden you created a different ecosystem that feeds inside to itself.

So, I hope that we can find a way to wrap this together.

**Councilmember Phipps** said listening to Ms. Dodson's presentation and piggybacking off of what Councilmember Watlington said about regionalism, I wondering does Hire Charlotte to represent a carve-out from the work of the Charlotte Business Alliance? I guess the rework of the Charlotte Chamber was done the way I thought would promote more regionalism, so I was just curious as to whether, I think I heard your response, and as much as you said you wanted to start from somewhere but I just wanted to make sure that, I'm trying to figure out is this a carve-out specifically for Charlotte Mecklenburg or are we still focused on that regional approach to job recruitment and training and workforce development?

Ms. Dodson said first the goal wasn't this. We are talking about it tonight and today as Hire Charlotte, but the goal was to come up with a name that we can make it, Hire Charlotte Mecklenburg, Hire Charlotte Region, right. That this can grow over time. We have kept the Alliance close. They are definitely an identified partner in this. I've actually

talked to [inaudible] about the CEO, about how we could scale this from a city to a regional initiative. Regardless if it goes regional, the Alliance is at the table. They are our Chamber. So, we have to keep them at the table with this, but the way we share today, we share in project management for recruiting business. We share that responsibility. They create lead generations and they manage regional projects and then we the City manage the Charlotte projects. So, we already have a tight partnership there when it comes to recruiting. That's another reason why they are a partner at the table. There are seeing what kind of leads are being generated across the region as a whole and that information is very important and relevant to the work that we doing just specific to Charlotte. So, again this can absolutely be scalable to a regional level. We started with the City just because that's where we were starting, but we are seeing interest from other partners. Somebody like the Alliance, even the County, are all at the table with us today and hopefully all the way through this.

Mr. Phipps said thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for the beginning of the framework and I'm looking forward to the next steps.

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### **ITEM NO. 3: CHARLOTTE FUTURE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REFERRALS**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said what we attempted to do tonight by putting this on the agenda was just to really focus on what the upcoming weeks will be like and what you will get in the various committees in terms of the staff resources and input. So, as the Mayor did provide the topics and referral question, I'd like to, if okay Mayor, follow up on how the staff intends to provide resources to you.

So, for example, we have the Great Neighborhoods Committee, which is meeting on Wednesday and one of the items on the agenda is the referral as it relates to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. What all Councilmembers will get tonight is a pre-read, if you will, which basically just provides a bit of a back-drop of the referral, but also what's happening in some other cities across the Country. Typically, we began, and this is actually strategy and budget this white paper together. So, they are not going to be 40 pages. It's a pretty quick turnaround, but it's just providing an overview of the referral and what's going on in some cities that could be comparable. Particularly we start off with 20 cities that we benchmark ourselves against, but you would also have a staff resource at each committee meeting as well as somebody from my office at each committee meeting as well as other staff resources.

Then beginning this Thursday, there will be these community Zoom meetings based on the various topics. So, for instance, the first coming out, which makes a lot of sense, because you have the committee meeting on Wednesday, would be Mr. Graham's topic that would come our Thursday for one of those community discussions. So, again it's just making sure that we get the information out to you this evening and also let the community understand that these various referrals that are going to three separate committees, six referrals, and that the TAFT Committee, as well as Great Neighborhoods and then Workforce and Business Development as well as the community Zoom meetings by topic, with the goal of the Council coming back together in mid-May with some options/recommendation from the various committees to the full-body, with the goal of having the plan before you as a body before the end of the fiscal year. So, that is the purpose of the item on the agenda tonight.

**Mayor Lyles** said I think the packets are being delivered to the Councilmembers by email.

Mr. Jones said by email, they will get the white papers and they should come from Marie Harris.

Mayor Lyles said you will get that from Ms. Harris, but it is really important I think for the community to know that as Mr. Jones said, Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m., there will be

a discussion about anti-displacement in vulnerable neighborhoods that will be on a link that you will be able to connect to. Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the discussion around single-family zoning and the 10-minute neighborhoods and process to resolve conflicting policies will be hosted by Mayor Pro-Tem and the Transportation and Planning and Environment Committee. We have one meeting on the participatory development process, which is also named Community Benefits Agreements, as well as the Fiscal and Economic Analysis on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Of the 100 people that signed up to speak at our public hearing, I hope that each one of you have the opportunity again to tune in and see what's going on and how we are moving forward towards the reports that we will come back to in June, as we continue deliberation on this very important Comprehensive Plan and vision for the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) implementation.

So, this work is stage one. Stage two is much more detailed and around our planning. Actually, the ordinance is in the regulation, but we are trying to reach what is our agreement. What kind of city do we want to see? What is the vision for our City? These are all steps to answer that. It's not just to answer it for today, but to answer it for the next 10 years. When a city the size of Asheville, the residents will be moving to Charlotte. How do we do this? In the next 10 years as we gain again and have another 200,000 people coming here, this work isn't about us today. It's having the vision for those that will be moving here and growing up here in the future, so thank you to all of the Councilmembers for the attention paid to this. It has been a great effort once we found and really focused on the five issues. I think it has given us a lot more context and people having the ability to respond and inquire. So, we are looking forward to comments again, even after 100 people signed up for our public hearing, please come back and continue the dialogue with us so that we all come with a great result.

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#### **ITEM NO. 4: COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS**

**Mayor Lyles** said I want to remind the Council that this is not a report of what we are doing, but to inquire of the Council any question that you have that is necessary for you to continue your deliberations.

#### **Workforce and Business Development Committee**

**Councilmember Bokhari** said the only thing I'd say is you heard from Tracy so there is a lot of strategic work going on. I think the same comment applies to the Strategic Employment Hire Plan. I agree we are still struggling a bit for a name for that, that actually grasp the entirety of that encapsulates. So, but I think that as well as our work on the 2040 Comp Plan, both have the same factor to it and same comment which is, we rely heavily upon what is going on in every other committee right now and every other division and department.

We are on the critical path of doing our economic analysis on the entirety of both of those things, relying on what we are going to hear from you guys. So, whether that's the Transit Plan or the Comp Plan or our strategy for affordable housing, or you name it, as we put together this Strategic Employment Plan, Hire Charlotte Plan, it's going to be touchpoints back and forth that are almost too seamless and hard to distinguish sometimes. So, the punch line there is our ability to partner is going to be very important and the same goes for this Comp Plan. Our economic analysis on all of this, whether it be community benefits agreements or signal family zoning. That ultimately is going to be some of the consequences we are making sure we get right over this 8-week period. So, I don't have a specific call out for any other committees other than, we are just looking at you with great anticipation as we figure out how we pull all of this together in 8 weeks and we are going to appreciate close communication and dialogue back and forth.

**Councilmember Watlington** said I just wanted to comment on something because I just mentioned this thing about regionalism. Sorry if I'm bringing it up too late in the game, but

when it comes to the Comp 2040 Plan in general, I think if we don't approach the plan considering what goes on outside of the City limits, I think we missed an opportunity to do exactly what Bokhari just said. There are opportunities and strategic connections in our surrounding areas that we could leverage to meet our goals as a region. I think about the Transformational Mobility Network and how our interaction has been with the towns and having to manage stakeholders in a way that we didn't necessarily see coming. I realize that every municipality has its Comp 2040 Plan. To me, it would really, really be a mistake in my opinion if we did not look at this at a regional level, because if we expect another town the size of Asheville to show up here over the next 10 or 20 years, obviously they are not all going to fit in Charlotte. If we are not thinking about that as the end goal, a metropolitan area, then I think we are going to be in a world of hurt.

Mr. Bokhari said Councilmember Watlington, I'll say you are spot on and I think the difference is, I think we all come with good intentions that, that is indeed our goal. I don't think anyone on this council would say, no that's not what we are about. I think the difference between striking that nearly impossible balance and getting to an outcome is how we go about engaging them. I think the fundamental part is if we come to them with let's say this Strategic Employment Plan or the Comp Plan, or you name it, and kind of like, hey what do you think that we have basically done. Do you have any comments? They are going to want to have a say and a point while it's still moldable.

If it's the Comp Plan and the 8 weeks we are on, or luckily for us the higher plan has a bit longer of a runway, you just nailed it. That would only be measured in the outcome of how many people are on the same page at the end of the day, and we will know that at the end, and it will be too late one way or another. So, we have got to be absolutely laser-focused on that aspect and all of these things. I know I am but I also know I'm kind of still sitting back if I'm going, to be honest with you all and seeing how this 8-week process we're on is going to come into view because I don't want to get ahead of the council and get out there and speak for myself. I also don't want to assume that that is going to be architected into this or maybe we are all assuming each other are doing it. So, I think we have to figure out very carefully how we do that so that we are firing on all cylinders. The points are incredibly well taken.

Mayor Lyles said I would agree with Mr. Bokhari. I think the Mobility Plan was certainly an example where we really missed the opportunity. At the same time, I think what it has generated now are consistent planned meetings with members of the other towns. I know to meet with the Mayors every six weeks. All of the Mayors in Mecklenburg County and it's not everyone, but it is different. You have to learn the South of Mecklenburg is very different than the North. There are lots of things that we will have to do. I think over half of the towns have already adopted their 2040 Comprehensive Plans. So, they've got a plan and what they have looked at is what we have and what they thought we were going to be like and they have built their plan in reaction to us. So, this is a thing that it's a learned lesson I think, not just Charlotte, but all of the town in Mecklenburg, to be able to react and work together in a different way. I think it's really important. We have lunch in Mint Hill last week. The Mint Hill Mayor hosted us and he started talking about the one-acre lots and how the town did not want to have any a lot smaller than for residential than one acre. Well, we know the consequences of that. They know the consequences of that, but how do you do that, and wherever or not they are reconsidering it. So, we have the opportunity to talk, not just formally but informally. I think that that has made us a better partner. I think that it has brought them to the table in a way that perhaps we should have known. But sometimes you don't know what you don't know. That's all I can say because once it's done we just keep on moving forward and try to do it better the next time. So, I appreciate the question and I think that is a really helpful response to Mr. Bokhari.

**Councilmember Johnson** said I do have a responsibility for what was just said. I think Councilmember Watlington did nail it. This will be a great opportunity if possible, and we talk about it during a Strategic Planning Session to formalize the processes to work with the adjoined counties or the region, because we know that that number of folks moving here is not going to fit in Charlotte. So, rather than our look at solutions that the public doesn't accept or that the Council does not support, as such the single-family exclusion or whatever that might be. Could we think outside of the box and work with the regions

for a collaborative approach for housing, because we will outgrow that the population is moving here if we don't make some changes. So, I think that is a great approach if we really talk about that or think about that as a Council, to work collaboratively with the other cities and bring them to the table rather than saying our only option is this plan and if we don't do this than we are not going to have the room for folks. We have to think differently and I think that Councilmember Watlington, thinks that is a great approach to look at this regional and holistically as a region rather than say we in Charlotte have to be able to solve this growing problem.

Mr. Bokhari said and I add to that as well for you. Again, spot on I agree. I think it's a matter of, we are starting to figure more things out as we do this and we have experienced some of the challenges of not having it all figured out and we are still figuring it out, but this is going to take all of us. We have heard Councilmember Winston say this before. This is about all of us communicating. All of us starting to partner and do these things that challenge the devil and detail. How do we make sure one of us doesn't go too far ahead of the body in building these partnerships. I am just speaking bluntly right now. It's a fair challenge point because we all need to be doing it. We can't just be me having a batch conversation with a member of leadership or the Mayor having lunch with these groups. We all have to be in lockstep. But we all have to put some rails around it where the message doesn't suddenly become crazy and everything like that. So, I don't know the answer other than I know that is the problem statement that we must solve if we are going to be successful, because if it's just a couple of folks off the record, or back channel, or informally kind of saying, hey what do you think, then that won't hit the mark either. So, I think that is a challenge that we all have to look together to each other and say how can we put the rails in place by which we can unleash the power of all of us individually or in small groups, yet trust that it won't backfire on us. The backfire is just as much of a concern as the opportunity we are going after, but I could not agree with both of you more.

Ms. Johnson said and maybe that is something for the Intergovernmental Committee. Really to formalize the process and begin to talk to the other counties and the region. How do we solve this? It's an opportunity for all of us.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I don't know where to start with this. We've just heard that our other towns have Comprehensive Vision Plans. We haven't had one since 1975. We've got to do ours and we don't have the right to do it for other towns. Where the intersection is, is with our Mobility Plans and that has been going on. Connect Beyond, the [inaudible]. There are lots of groups that are talking about this on a regular basis and has for years. The Transit Plan is our biggest opportunity to connect people and that's what you talking about is connecting people. Giving people the opportunity to live in Gastonia, to live in Iredell County, to live in other parts of the region that are more affordable or just have a different lifestyle and that's what people choose to have. The only way you can do that and allow the 51% of the people that work in Mecklenburg County, that live outside of Mecklenburg County to get back and forth is with a Strategic Mobility Plan. Maybe because of being involved with this thing for two and a half years, this is a really hard conversation to hear right now. I'm going to be really blunt and honest about that. Very, very difficult to hear this. I know in my role I have to sit in on all of those meetings and it's a lot of meetings. There is a lot of people I never knew before that is doing this work and has been doing this work.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I agree with a lot of what's been said. I think one of our problems is that our attempts at this are superficial. You can't call up the Mayor and have a chat. We have to have institutionalized workgroups to sit together and develop these things. I think part of the problem with the Mobility Plan was we went for the finished plan and we said to everybody else here, isn't this wonderful. Don't you like it? So, unless we create an environment in which everybody has a shared sense with the destiny that we have in common and unless we have a governance structure for the region that puts more authority in the hands of a group in which everybody participates, these exchanges are not going to move the dial much. Frankly, when Charlotte went out and talk to other governments, I don't believe that the people who did the talking were very interested in hearing any input from them. I think it was a sales pitch. That is just not the way to go about this and unless we get to the point where we have a more robust institutional

framework for inclusion of these other stakeholders early on in a process of conceiving the future for the region, you not going to get the attention for a whole lot buy-in from the other. The same I a different way goes to the General Assembly. We are going to show up there and say, here is our plan. Please let us raise taxes. I just don't feel that's the way to go about this and I have been saying the whole time that I thought that there should have been a more collaborative approach to the conception of the plan and not to the adoption of the plan. So, in a way our next task has got to be put in place, the more robust regional infrastructure, I mean, the CRBA is working on it, but frankly, from where I sit I just don't see a lot of product.

I don't hear about meetings that took place from representatives from Charlotte and Matthews or work sessions where people sat down together for hours and tried to hammer something out. That is the kind of thing that I think it would take and I think if you go and look at the Denver example on how they got their Transit System done, to me the description we heard sounded like it was a great deal of participation by different groups. Different business groups, government groups, and everybody, and by the time they got around to initiating that tax, there was some [inaudible] ownership in the prior role of parties. I don't think the way we have gone about what we are doing, supplies to the Mobility Plan and the 2040 Plan, both of which have big implications for our neighbors. I don't think we've had that challenge. I'm just hoping that we will get to the point where we don't have, where I see my County Commission counterpart on Friday morning [inaudible] meeting. This is the first time that she and I have talked in ages and we both wonder why isn't there a more formal setting in which our group, the County Commissioners, and the City Council actually look at each other and talk. Can we find a topic that we all should be discussing together, like the housing issue and working on those together? If we keep taking this approach that each group comes up with its own idea and then tries to sell it to others, I think your success is going to be limited.

### **Great Neighborhoods Committee**

**Councilmember Graham** said I was just kind of taking in the conversation. I lot said for sure. A lot of truth for sure too on the last conversation, but I digress. I think we just have to find a way for all of us to work together. A lot of things done now as the Councilmember Eiselt has said in terms of regionalism and regional cooperation,[inaudible]. Certainly, we should do a lot more of that, starting right at home with the government in the building, but I digress.

So, my committee is relatively short. We're meeting on Wednesday, the Manager talked about the Town Hall on Thursday. So, we are prepped up and ready to do that. My only ask of the Council is please, please, please submit your name for this [inaudible] of Income Discrimination Committee. We talked about this and I thought there was a sense of urgency but we are not getting the names. So, help [inaudible] operating I think we will be okay.

### **Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Councilmember Winston** said I just wanted to respond to Mr. Driggs and a couple of other folks. This conversation needs official dialogues between entities is something that Mr. Bokhari and I have been working on an intergovernmental. We have had a number of actually Intergovernmental Committee Meetings with the County. The County has sponsored those. Mr. [inaudible] is our counterpart that is on the County side that is saying the same thing. We know that this goes beyond that, but I would just encourage my colleagues to participate in these efforts. These are things that we email you about. These are things that you are invited to. These are discussions that we have had and some of you have rejected that, but the Intergovernmental Committee is the place that we have to do. It is our vehicle. It is our tool. So, it is going to be up to you guys to participate in this process that is actually happening.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I was just going to comment not to the regional Comp Plan. In my mind, we have fact that other communities have already adopted their plan. It seems to me that they have looked at us and really are not interested in all of the

increased density and intensification of some of their areas. So, I think we have a challenge on our hands to get our Comprehensive Plan through an [inaudible] influence right now. I mean, we have a challenge before us and not to minimize the importance of regional cooperation with the Comp Plan, but at this stage, I think they have made a decision on which way they want to go and we need to go forth with what we want to do. In those areas that we can work together, then that's what we should try to do.

### **Safe Communities Committee**

**Councilmember Egleston** said our meeting is tomorrow. So, I hope that you all join us for a more comprehensive dive into what I'm about to give you a very brief overview of and you can see it in the Committee Chair Report outs document that was sent to everybody last week if you want to dig into the details of what we discussed at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. At that March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting we had Deputy Chief Patterson join us. She talked about the progress that has been made by CMPD (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department) working with Campaign Zero. If you will recall their name because they are the ones we worked with on the Eight Initiative last year. They also have an initiative now around search warrant policies. This is something that Councilmember Winston had brought to my attention and asked that we take a look at in our own department. To Chief Jennings's credit, as soon as we brought this up to him, he jumped right on it and got to work with his team and with the Campaign Zero team. We got an update on the progress that they have made at our meeting last month. We will get a final update and analysis of the progress they have made in aligning with those best practices identified with Campaign Zero around search warrant policies tomorrow at noon. That meeting will be virtual and we would love for anybody who wants to learn more about that to attend. Again, you can get a lot more details in the document that was sent out to us last week.

Also tomorrow we will get an update on the next steps for the Safe Charlotte Plan and those are going to be our two topics tomorrow. So, that is my report and I hope to see you all tomorrow at noon.

### **Budget and Effectiveness Committee**

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to report briefly. In our Committee, we talked about the budget outlook for CATS and the Aviation and in brief, in case anybody has read this in detail. They will propose a balanced budget, no bus fare, and freeze, and the cost per plane passenger at the airport. It remains the lowest. There is some discussion and we will continue to discuss the disposition of federal funds, which enable those two Enterprise Funds to maintain their balance budgets. One thing I will mention, which is probably more for the Transportation Committee to follow up. We were told about the end of the Gold Line phase one trial period and I think Council will need to discuss how we want to proceed there, given the controversy around that experiment. We were told that CATS has determined to create reliability and rail the same way they do for buses, the same way they do for rail. So, that's something that we will need to continue to work on.

The other item we looked at was the workshop agenda for what is going to be our last Budget Workshop. So, I'm just going to mention the topic and you if you think about what we have done so far and you hear this topic, if there is anything else you think needs to be taken up, then you need to say so because this is the last meeting coming up. The topics there are Safe Charlotte, the Pay Plan, Financial Partners, CATS budget outlook, and Aviation budget outlook. So, those are the final topics for our budget meeting. Our committee has pending referrals related to redistricting considerations. The Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance Recommendations and in particular the virtual meeting options, which we will need to talk about as the City reopens and the opportunity to have in-person meetings improves.

Ms. Watlington said as it relates to the Budget and Effectiveness or the Governance component, I think Councilmember Driggs, that this idea of beefing up our structure around intergovernmental would be a great topic for you all to take up. I think that Councilmember Eiselt made some good points about some of the existing organizations, but I think it's worth understanding what they do and where we as a body can connect.



Whether that is through stronger relationships in our individual committees or what that looks like. So, how do we leverage what's existing and take it to the next level so we feel like it's reflected in our plans? That would be the only thing that I would ask of you to consider as we are thinking about the strength of our structure.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to say my comment was not intended to question the activity of our existing Intergovernmental Relations Committee. I just think we as a Council and we as a City need to kind of think larger scale in terms of how we try to work with other governments. So, I appreciate the work our existing Intergovernmental Relations Committee is doing and I think they are in the right place, but as I look at it from outside of that committee, I have very little awareness of what's going on in other governments.

Ms. Johnson said I just wanted to get an update from the safety committee or if we can revisit the drag racing and the noise ordinance. We all get emails about that. Even this weekend I heard a noise next door. We don't know if it was gunshots or a car backfiring or fireworks. I think it was a car, but there is a problem with our [inaudible]. So, if we can take a look at that [inaudible] and really kind of escalate that or just highlight that. We have got to do something at least to let the residents know that we are talking about it. It's our priority and we are working on it.

Ms. Eiselt said I strongly second Ms. Johnson.

Mr. Egleston said agreed and that is something that everyone on the Council agrees with that. We have all had emails. Some of the ones Ms. Johnson has referenced. This goes on in every part of our City and I think it's likely been exacerbated by the fact that the streets have been a bit clearer over the last year and people have had a little bit more ability. In fact, I was reading something today that across the Country people are actually seeing more vehicle-related deaths during the year of COVID when we had much less driving because people are driving much faster, much more recklessly, and the streets are more wide open for them to do things like drag racing and the thing Ms. Johnson's referencing. So, heard and agreed and that will continue to be something that we need to put a focus on.

Mr. Jones said Chief Jennings have been in constant communication about this. There will be someone from CMPD at the Safe Community Committee tomorrow and provide some input as to what we have been seeing, but we have been doing so it doesn't seem as if there is nothing going on. So, we will make sure that somebody will be at the committee meeting tomorrow for an update.

### **Transportation, Planning, and Environment Committee**

Ms. Eiselt said we had our meeting last week and we had two items on the agenda. The first one, Michael Smith came for a visit and gave an update on Center City 2040 Vision Plan. This is really important because this is a plan that is supposed to dovetail with our overall Comprehensive Vision Plan. We are going to be asked to vote on this so I really need Council to weigh in as this progresses and that's going to be in the next couple of months. So, this Center City 2040 Vision Plan is a very focused community area plan for uptown of course. It makes a commitment to equity making sure that growth and opportunity are more sustainable and widely shared. If the focus is on transportation, improving mobility networks to support complete neighborhoods with a further commitment to sustainability. The thing that is really important in all of this, in May they will have a virtual public meeting. They will be meeting with stakeholders and updating groups and then on May 24<sup>th</sup>, Center City Partners will come back to the Committee for a deeper dive into the plan and then in June the Planning Commission will take a look at it and we will be asked to adopt this in the summer. So, there's going to be things that we are going to really have to wrestle with, i.e. parking in uptown. Right now U-MUDD allows for, I think, no parking Maximus. That's been an issue that a lot of our friends in the sustainability world have talked to us about and we really need to address that uptown if we really do want to make uptown more accessible to more people. We have to talk about public transportation. So, I really encourage Council to join the May Committee meeting with an update on this plan and have some comments that you can weigh in on

for the Center City Plan. The Center City Plan has a two-mile radius. So, it's not just uptown. It's a two-mile radius from Trade and Tryon. So, there are opportunities for private-public investment that could be a transformative catalyst and those would be areas around Trade and Beatties Ford Road, the Silver and Blue Line crossing, and right now they don't cross. The plan is not for them to cross. The North End, the proposed Queens Park that people have heard about, Second Ward high school, and we talk about the new Medical Campus. So, there is a lot going on in this. Again, we don't want to get to this point where we are asked to vote on it, and all of a sudden a lot of this kind of gives us pause and we have a hard time catching up with it. So, that the Center City 2040 Vision Plan.

Then, Alysia Osborne gave us an update on our Comprehensive 2040 Plan. I don't know that you need much more of an update tonight to know where we are on it, but as you know the next steps will be additional in-depth comments through our listening sessions and then taking that back and assimilating it for a second draft release.

Mayor Lyles said I think that it has been a very productive and good meeting.

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### ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour, 41 Minutes  
Minutes Completed: May 12, 2021