

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for an Oath of Office Ceremony on Monday, December 2, 2019, at 6:08 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II.

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Mayor Lyles said I wish we started off every Council Meeting just like that. The Vance High School Band thank you so much for being here tonight. I want to thank all the friends and family members that are here this evening, our staff and our volunteers and everyone that put some effort into making this occasion what it is, to have our new Councilmembers sworn in and to say goodbye to several of our Councilmembers that are here for their public service and to thank them.

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INVOCATION, POSTING OF COLORS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by Dr. Michelle Jones from Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

The Posting of Colors was by the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Honor Guard.

Christine Willey, Mallard Creek High School led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Queens University of Charlotte's Chorus led by Director Justin Smith sang the National Anthem.

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MAYOR'S AWARDS

Mayor Lyles said I have the distinguished honor of presenting this year's Mayor's Citizen Award. It is a tradition at the ceremony to offer awards to distinguished members of our community who have served with distinction, honor, selflessness, and courage. Tonight, I am proud to present the Mayor's Award in honor of former Mayor Richard Vinroot, to an individual who has displayed unselfish leadership in support of our community. I would like to have Mr. Jessie Cureton come down and join me.

As a native Charlottean, growing up on the Beatties Ford Road Corridor, Jessie has developed a deep understanding of the interworking's into the social and racial relation that continues to influence our City. That insight inspired the creation of "One Charlotte," a group that promoted healing within our community after the demonstrations that followed the death of Keith Lamont Scott. Jessie's visionary concept has helped to address inequities throughout the City and has driven change that will last for generations.

His experience as a financial executive with Bank of America and as the Chief Consumer Officer of Novant Health has provided opportunities to create and develop long-range solutions to assist underprivileged youth and underserved families. The work he has done through the Charlotte Business INClusion Program continues to enhance competition, participation and acceptance of small minority and women-owned firms. Jessie, we are inspired by your willingness to always help others, to step up when we call to answer those calls and to make something happen. You are an inspiration, a true servant leader in your pursuit of happiness and welfare of every Charlottean who lives here. We are glad to recognize someone born, raised, and working in our community this year with this award today. Thank you very much.

Jessie Cureton, said it is my pleasure to accept this award on behalf of my parents, my mother, on behalf of my great organization, Novant Health. I am product of this community, born in Southside Homes, and when I get up every day I think about everyone that is in this room and all the people that have been a big part of my life. So, when I start my day, I can't start my day without thinking about all of the people that we can make a difference for. So, tonight I am honored. I am privileged to accept this award. Thank you for this award, and thank all of you for doing all the things that you are doing in this City to make Charlotte one of the best places to live in the country. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said our next recipient doesn't need very much of an introduction, but I would like to take a moment to talk about the UNC-Charlotte Chancellor, Phillip Dubois. Dr. Dubois would you please come down.

Now, this second award that we are presenting is a Mayor's Award, and it is actually in honor of Harvey Gantt, who has joined us this evening; thank you for being here Harvey. thank you very much Mayor. This award in Harvey's honor is given to citizens who have demonstrated courage and civility, and as I said, this year's award goes to our University's Chancellor, Phillip Dubois.

Since becoming Chancellor of UNC-Charlotte in 2005, his professional influence has boasted the University that we all want to have in our City. He also has set a bond that is solid and strong with the City that the University bears the name of, our own City with the downtown campus, with our light rail system. UNC-Charlotte has branched out with several creative initiatives to support secondary education, for non-traditional adult students as well as traditional students. Your partnership and your efforts around what we see as one of the real connections in the City, the LYNX Blue Line, that makes travel to and from the campus easier, for members of the community as well as the students was exceptional. It was strong, and you were with us every step of the way. The focus on his community partnership evidenced through the increased events and exposure, and I think what we are calling a championship football team now was a decision that wasn't easy to have or make and the Chancellor stepped out every time strong.

Think about, we have a Charlotte Engineering Early College High School on the campus of UNC-Charlotte, but most of all in this last time that you will probably be remembered for, but not just for this, you displayed steadfast stability and courage and compassion during the tragic campus shooting in April of 2019. Your strength, your fortitude provided support to countless others who felt the heartbreak of that evening, and you have stood with your student body every step of the way, and we are going to miss that kind of momentum and compassion and courage. It was one of the worst moments in our City's history actually and think of how the healing has worked and what you've done to make it possible. So, thank you for being Chancellor of our University, and I am so glad to have you recognized by your City as someone that leads with courage and civility.

Dr. Phillip Dubois said Mayor Gantt, thank you for being here. The very first building I built at UNC-Charlotte was yours. I'm glad I could be joined tonight by my wife, Lesa Dubois; my son, Taylor; my Board Chair, Mike Wilson; my Special Assistant, Betty Doster and all of you. We've got another five or six months to go in leading this University, and we appreciate your support. The best days for the University are ahead. Thank you.

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PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Lyles said on behalf of the City Council, I now want to speak about our outgoing Councilmembers. When you serve with someone for a while you develop a relationship; it may not always be easy. It may not always be fun and laughter, but in this case, we have people that we are really fortunate to have served the City. I have written all of them a personal note to say how much we have appreciated the time that they spent with us and something special about each one of them, because they each brought something special to the event and the table. We are going to start with recognizing them and thanking them. I hope you will hold your applause until we recognize all of them.

Councilmember Greg Phipps, who is actually our zoning and land use expert, has already started a new venture in life, and so he has asked his wife Lemear Phipps to come down and she will receive his gift. Lemear Phipps please come down; do you want to say a few words on behalf of your husband and friend?

Lemear Phipps said I am Greg's wife, and he is not able to be here obviously, as mentioned. He has started an assignment out of state, but I am delighted to speak on his behalf, so without further ado. I want to thank the residents of District 4 whom Greg has represented and served, starting in 2005 when he served the remaining term of Malcolm Graham and then 2013 to 2019. Despite personal and family sacrifices, it has truly been an opportunity beyond measure to serve on the Charlotte City Council and participate in the District's positive transformation. Greg appreciates and is humbled by the trust and confidence everyone has placed in him to do the job that was required, and lastly, a big thank you to Greg's chief staff, Robin Lo Furno, all the constituents served the staff, City Manager, and Assistant City Managers past and present and the couriers that deliver Council's Package each Thursday. Though retiring for the second time as an elected official, Greg will always be working for a stronger Charlotte.

Mayor Lyles presented Mrs. Phipps with Greg's gift and told her they would make sure that it gets delivered to her home, and please tell Greg we missed him and he will be missed.

Mayor Lyles called Councilmember LaWana Mayfield to the podium.

Councilmember Mayfield said in 1967, black power, the politics of liberation in America by Quammie Torey, formerly known as Stokely Carmichael and Charles B. Hamilton was published. In this book it was written, "in other words the white power structure rules the black community through local blacks who are responsive to the white leaders, the downtown, right machine, not to the black populous. These black politicians do not exercise effective power. They cannot be relied upon to make forceful demands on behalf of their black constituents, and they become no more than puppets. They put loyalty to a political party before loyalty to their constituents and thus nullify any bargaining power the black community might develop. Colonial politics causes the subject to muffle his voice while participating in the Council's other white powered structure. The black man forfeits his opportunity to speak forcefully and clearly for his race and he justifies this in terms of expediency."

It is with this above understanding that I proudly served District 3 for eight years. You entrusted me to keep the concerns of the community to the forefront and although sometimes standing alone, I worked to do just that. I will acknowledge some days were tough, yet overwhelmingly greater days outweighed those. As your Representative of District 3, we created the following: nine job fairs starting with the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the Charlotte Premium Outlets, and this year, my first ever, a re-entry job fair for those formerly incarcerated. The targeted and rehab program that helps to stabilize families and quickly gentrifying neighborhoods, the development of the Goodwill Opportunity Campus, the new CLT plus apt that creates ease for residents to report community concerns via your phone, the Home Serve Protection Plan for Charlotte Water customers along with many projects throughout District 3, just to name a few.

I have been blessed to represent Charlotte on a local and on national boards fighting for equity and access. As I leave you as your Representative who proudly served, never forgetting that the system, a systemic legislative policy was created to insure blacks in America had obstacles and being able to breakdown a few of those along the way alongside my Council colleagues. I could not have done any of this without my family, some of whom have joined me tonight, but especially to my wife, Gelisa. I thank you for understanding me and all the energy I bring to the work that I attempt to do. You are my foundation. I'm looking forward to finding my next great adventure, where I continue to build on the success of the past eight-years and be a champion for those who are often overlooked in our community. I love District 3, and it has been an honor serving along four Councils. I love you Charlotte and thank you for entrusting me.

Mayor Lyles said not I would like to invite Dr. Justin Harlow to the podium.

Councilmember Harlow said I recognize past Mayor Gantt; I see some other elected officials here, my former Campaign Manager, Commissioner Mark Jarrell; Chair of the County Commissioners, George Dunlap. If I'm missing anyone else in the room, thank you all for being here, friends, family, and I will ask my wife to stand. Kera and I have been married for six-years, seven-years in May. When we started all this we had one kid, we were pregnant with the second, and now we are pregnant with the third. I will say that without her and her allowing me to do this and her allowing me to share myself with you all I wouldn't be standing here, so thank you, Babe. Thank you for just the sacrifices and the support.

To the Council of Elders in District 2, Historic West End, neighborhood leaders and association leaders, and members, thank you for your support as well for allowing me to help lead this District for these past two-years. It has really been a pleasure. We know that the challenges are great, but they all are known. Displacement, gentrification, development pressure, we know what is happening to Charlotte's Northwest side, and it has always been my point to try to protect the most vulnerable, preserve the history that is there and promote the legacy that exists in District 2.

I stand on a lot of shoulders, I see past District 2 Councilmembers here, Al Austin, and one that doesn't want to go away behind me is Smuggie Mitchell. They were in my ear very early. I've been in Charlotte for five and a half years and very quickly got me involved and plucked me out and say hey, you could be good at this. I would like to think that I've done some good at this, and I couldn't have done it without Amanda Burch. She is my Constituent Services Support and Admin. If you have e-mailed my office, you probably got a response from her, and she will continue to support Councilmember Egleston and Councilmember Ajmera, one of the best City staffers we have here. So, thank you so much for everything; just keeping me in line.

I'm proud to have done some of this work even just for this short time in two-years, and I'm proud to have introduce the Aging in Place Program that has allowed senior citizens in this City to not feel so much of the burden of property tax increases that we know hit this community through evaluation last year. So, senior, if you don't know about the program look it up, and if you are over the age of 65, the City is helping you with some tax relief. I'm proud to have been a champion for that, leading neighborhood development initiatives and policy changes with the Noise Ordinance as well as adding some strength to our minimum housing code. So, thank you, Mayor, for allowing me to help Chair that Committee and bring that through this Council.

I'm proud of the investments we've made in this short time in the Westside, continue to support the \$150 million investment in the Streetcar. When we first started two years ago, only eight percent of our Council appointed Boards and Commissions had members from District 2. I'm proud to say that that number has doubled and increased to 18%. Almost one-fifth of our Boards and Commissions are now filled with constituents from District 2. Two comprehensive neighborhood improvement projects, we have 10 total projects, eight of which have now moved to the construction phase so \$40 million in investment at Beatties Ford Road and Rozzelles Ferry Road, as well as Lakeview, Reames, Beatties Ford, and Sunset area.

Our new partnership with Economic Development with the Urban Main Street Program that is going to look to try to help revitalize everything between the Brookshire Freeway and I-85, particularly focused on the Beatties Ford and Lasalle area. New investment by the Knight Foundation, continuing on the Mayor's path of trying to get more private and philanthropic investment, the Knight Foundation has really doubled down on the Historic West End initiatives, I'm happy to be a part of that. Introduction into this past year's budget of \$500,000, half of which is matched by our new partner LISC for what we are calling the Westside Community Collaborative Fund to help with small business innovation, small business development, and incubation. Gateway Station, advanced funding for the new CMPD Northwest Division Station as well as joining my colleagues with helping to usher in the \$50 million housing bond and thank you community for your support. None of this

could I have done without the people behind me, my family, and most importantly this community. You embraced a new comer. You embraced someone who likes to talk about where I'm from, but I know that Charlotte is home. You've supported my business, you've supported me here on this Council; you've supported my family, and I thank you, I love you Charlotte, and thank you for allowing me to serve.

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READING OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk read the results of the Municipal Election held November 5, 2019.

City of Charlotte Mayor	Vi Lyles David Rice Write-Ins	Elected: 70,886 20,459 78
City of Charlotte Council At-Large	Julie Eiselt Braxton Winston, II James Mitchell Dimple Ajmera Joshua Richardson Write-Ins	Elected: 67,713 Elected: 62,607 Elected: 62,508 Elected: 56,759 32,167 124
City of Charlotte District No. 1	Larken Egleston	Elected: 11,261
City of Charlotte District No. 2	Malcolm Graham Jacob Robinson	Elected: 9,686 1,704
City of Charlotte District No. 3	Victoria Watlington	Elected: 7,765
City of Charlotte District No. 4	Renee Perkins Johnson Brandon Pierce Write-Ins	Elected: 9,057 2,209 5
City of Charlotte District No. 5	Matt Newton Write-Ins	Elected: 7,366 5
City of Charlotte District No. 6	Tariq Bokhari Gina Navarrete	Elected: 11,163 7,806
City of Charlotte District No. 7	Ed Driggs Write-Ins	Elected: 10,482 7

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MAYORAL OATH OF OFFICE AND REMARKS

Mayor Lyles said Judge, would you please join me along with my family, my son Kwame Alexander; my wonderful daughter-in-law, Ashley Alexander; and two of the most beautiful grandchildren in Charlotte, Aria Alexander, and Mya Alexander. I am so glad that they are here, and I know that Aisha and Jeffrey are watching, and I just want you to know that I miss you and wish you were here, but we still have work to do.

Judge Yvonne Mims-Evans administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Lyles.

Mayor Lyles said I want to take a couple minutes, mostly to say thank you to this City who has been so wonderful to me. I want to say thank you for electing me to be the first second-term Mayor of Charlotte in nearly a decade. When I first became Mayor in 2017, I had high hopes; I wanted to make sure that Charlotte was a place where everyone had

the ability to both work and live, and I also knew that Charlotte needed consistent leadership. We needed change, and we needed a steady path forward.

In the past two-years, the Charlotte City Council accomplished many successes, real successes, and aspirational thoughts and ideas. We passed a housing bond that many thought was impossible, but 69% of the voters proved that it was possible. Those votes showed that this City understands the difficulty when people don't have a place to live. So, I ask you to continue to push us to do more for all of the people who are displaced, those that need to remain in affordable housing as we continue to work to preserve and build safe places for everyone.

We are a fiscally responsive Council and Mayor Office. Our tax rate is one of the lowest in the State. I want to say thanks to the City Manager and his team, because they understand financial planning but they also understand financial constraints. We recruited thousands of jobs and even new industries to Charlotte, and we continue to address the climate crisis with a real plan, one that we can do, but you know this, it is really the character of our Council and this office that earn your trust. It is the pride that we have for this City; it is the hope that we have for this City, and we all know that we as the City of Charlotte that we are greater than any national divisiveness that this country will experience. It will not happen here in Charlotte.

The foundation of City Government is to serve with policies and actions that are inclusive and equitable, but really the foundation is to plan for the future for the generations that we are hearing now in this room, yet there are always challenges to living in a growing city. So, what are we going to do? In January, I will ask the City Council to review the homicide cases that have occurred this year to determine the neighborhoods most impacted by violence and guns so that the City, the County, and our courts can begin to work together to provide evidence-based and community-focused services to our neighborhoods. We must change the path that we have taken this year. We must change that path.

This year we are going to look at our transit system, and you know this is an opportunity for us to address and correct the inequity in our City in the most visible way. We need a bus system that works reliably and responsibly. We need the Silver Line to improve our carbon footprint and our air quality. We need to address light rail with physical accountability, and most importantly we need to have a plan for transportation, for housing and economic opportunity for the east and west sides.

In January, I will appoint a Citizens Committee on transportation infrastructure and funding to seek advice from our community and the Cities in our region on this most important strategic issue. It is strategically required for our continued growth and success. I will also appoint a Citizens Advisory Committee to look at our governance structure with a focus on the Mayor and Council roles and to prepare us all for the new Council Districts that will go into effect in 2021.

As I close, I would like to thank the many of you that have made the second term possible. I hope you voted for me. I hope you are a friend of mine, I hope that you will continue to support me, because I know I would not be standing here without you. I want to say thanks to my family who sustain me. They show up when nobody else will; they allow me to have Friday night supers and to relieve myself of a little bit of the stress and tension that goes with this job, not much but a little bit. I want to say thanks to the members of the Charlotte City Council, because I believe we go into a new term with a clear mandate to build a livable City, not just for today, but tomorrow. Thank you, Charlotte for allowing me to continue to serve in this office as Mayor.

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COUNCIL-ELECT OATH OF OFFICE AND REMARKS

The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor Lyles to Councilmembers Elect Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Victoria Watlington, and Braxton Winston, II.

Mayor Lyles said beginning with Councilmember Newton in District 5, I would like to invite each Councilmember to deliver a few brief remarks; two minutes is brief. There is no timer of course, but I'm going to ask the Clerk to go ding ding no matter what.

Councilmember Newton said I want to start by extending a thank you to my colleagues who were outgoing tonight. Their leadership, their dedication, their commitment to this City was a second to none, and I learned so much by being a part of a Council with them included. I want to recognize my wife as well who is in the audience. I ask her a moment ago if she would be okay with me asking her to stand up. Babe, if you would be so kind, so everybody can recognize you. She is not the kind of person to be out there kind of front of stage, but I'm only possible because of her. Being on Council, there are a lot of long nights. Often times we don't get home until as late as 11:00 p.m. on a long Monday night, and she has been so understanding, so wonderful, and I don't know how she stays so beautiful. Babe, I love you so much; thank you for allowing me to do what I do and to provide service to the citizens of Charlotte and more specifically to the citizens of East Charlotte. I want to thank my family as well, thank everybody who supported me over the past two-years, supported me through re-election. Thank the residents of District 5, who have entrusted me with another term, many of whom are here tonight. So, thank you all for being here. I really appreciate that and your support.

As we move forward, I'm really looking forward to working with my new colleagues to ensure that the citizens of Charlotte as well as the citizens of East Charlotte continue to have a wonderful, vibrant, dynamic City to live, work, and play in and that includes, of course, the Silver Line and undoubtedly Eastland. I look forward to this next two years and all the great, great work we are going to do and the many accomplishments we will fulfil and accomplish.

Councilmember Bokhari said first I would like to thank my wife, great timing. After two years I think this is a great reminder that it is not so tough Monday nights when you bring all three of your kids and you get to experience what a two, four, and six-year-old are like. Thank you, guys, Chase, Charlie, Maye can you give everyone a wave. As hard as this could ever get in anyway, it makes me realize today whatever my wife has going on back at the house on Monday nights is much, much harder. So, Chris, I love you; thank you so much for all of that.

To all the campaign workers, the groups, particular the YRs and Merk and folks like that for incredible work and help on the campaign. It wouldn't have been possible without all of you guys and particularly for the last two-years City staff. I am a glass is half empty kind of guy; Marcus you know that, and there are some incredible staff folks in this building working hard and doing the right things every day, and I appreciate you all.

The last two-years have been amazing working on affordable housing and you've heard a number of other things, upward mobility programs, Police and Fire pay raises, economic development and job recruitment and an amazing list of items that I've got to partner with this group, and I will say over the last two-years it really has been amazing to work with almost all of you. It is such a surprise, and it goes without saying, we went into this saying local politics don't have to be so partisan and every once in a while we found ourselves in a partisan situation but nine times out of ten we were all kind to together just kind of going through. It has been a great pleasure to work with everyone, especially the Mayor when she doesn't turn off her phone.

We have an amazing next two-years ahead of us, and I can't wait to work with some of our colleagues. We've got some huge items on the docket to work on; we've got to deliver a safe and incredible RNC. We've basically rezoning the entire City if you didn't know. It is a pretty significant approach; we've got to hire a new Chief of Police, but nearly 100

people are moving here every day and the traffic and congestion and infrastructure needs that brings a long is no joke. The decisions we make in this next two years will all of those things is going to be co crucial but particularly the unacceptable crime rate, and I try not to forget about it every day. I know many of us are focusing on it, but we have to get a whole of this, and I'm so pleased to hear the Mayor's commitment and her plan to have us focus on that, because every morning I wake up, and I think about Darnell Harris from Stake & Shake, and I think about the fact that he was killed by a repeat violent criminal offender, just like 70% of all of those. Over 100 we are seeing the stats right now, where Dr. John Holliday, a visiting CEO and again that was directly caused by conflict resolution.

While this is fun, it is a night to rejoice for the victories and us moving forward, we have a very serious two-years ahead of us, and I can't wait to get to work with all of you on that. I want to end by thanking the residents of District 6 for giving an underdog a shot two-years ago and then allowing me to come back and work for another two-years, it is truly an honor, and I am so grateful for it.

Councilmember Renee Johnson said this is the first time hearing my voice in the Chamber, so I just thank God, and I'm excited to be here. I am so blessed and honored to be here tonight. I just want to take the time to thank all of those who has made this opportunity possible. Thank you to my loving husband Bernard; you've always been my number one supporter in everything that I've done, and I cannot wait to share this next chapter with you. Thank you to my children India and BJ and to my grandchildren, I hope this encourages you that dreams really do come true. My father, my in-laws, my family and friends both near and far, thank you for your support, your donations, and your prayers; we did this together.

Thank you to my friends who are here tonight. I won't name them all, because I don't want to miss anyone, but I do want to name my friend Cynthia who has been my friend and drove from DC, and we've been friends for 40-years. We've been through a lot, and I truly, truly appreciate your being here tonight. To Jane Whitley and the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party, the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County for their support. Thank you, Diarist Price and Black Charlotte, for my very first pollical endorsement. I also want to thank the Black Political Caucus, the Charlotte Observer, and the labor unions for their endorsements also.

I want to thank my small and mighty campaign team. Dan, thank you for your strategic leadership; Bill, Tony, David, LaVester, Mr. Kincaid and the rest of my volunteer teams, I see you out there, and I appreciate your support. Thank you for believing in me and working so hard to make this night possible. Lastly, and most important, thank you to the voters of District 4. I truly appreciate you; you've given me the honor and the privilege to serve you as your Representative, and in return, I will give you my absolute focus and my absolute best. Together we will build a strong, safe and health community for now and for generations to come. I look forward to serving you.

Councilmember Watlington said I am also humbled and honored and thankful to serve the City in this critical time and from the bottom of my heart I do thank you. To the neighborhood leaders who have been carrying the torch long before I arrived, I thank you for leading by example. To the Ricky Halls and the Frank Coleys, the Brenda Campbells the Beverly Clarks and many more, you are the backbone of the community, full of conviction, compassion, integrity, courage, and resilience. I am so grateful that you invested in me, and I look to you as equal partners in this season.

To the scrappiest, bravest campaign team anyone could ask for, I thank you for your commitment. I see Tiffany [inaudible] here in the audience. Sam Smith was here earlier and several others; I appreciate you, because you remain consistent for over a year taking on whatever challenges we faced with steady hands and a willing heart, always hopeful through the storms. I thank you for being my anchor. I would not be here without you, and I'm so proud to call you friend.

To the volunteers, donors, host committees, supporters, champions, fair warriors, and that red army, I thank you for bringing the vision to life. Every door knocked on, every

phone number dialed, every personal introduction, this is what successful campaigns are built upon, authentic connection. It's been the life blood of this campaign and the essence that filled this victory. To the outgoing members, Mayfield, Harlow, and Phipps, I thank you for serving this City sacrificially; you served with passion and commitment, and I wish you success in your future endeavors.

As we look to the next two-years, we know we face challenges. We must deliver a Comprehensive Plan, preserve affordability, invest in transportation and support economic mobility even as we prepare to showcase our City on national stage. These are no easy tasks; however, I continue to be inspired by each of you, those committed to continue the work of building this world-class City. From Pawtucket to Steele Creek, we've made a new commitment to be engaged to be informed and to lead, to know our neighbors, to partner with our local government staff to build our vision, to take personal responsibility for who we are and how we grow, training more leaders and plugging into the process. To preserve our identity, to honor our history and to embrace our opportunities. Madam Mayor, Council, and City staff, I look forward to working with you. Let us be an example that all of Charlotte grows stronger together toward a connected, inclusive, and responsible future.

Councilmember Ajmera said as we transition into a new role in a new year with fresh goals and opportunities, I sincerely want to thank the people of Charlotte for their continued support. I pledge to continue to fight for what is right and what is just. I'm grateful for my selfless, caring and generous family, my dearest husband, Dr. [inaudible] for many sacrifices that he makes so that I can continue to serve. I'm so grateful for your support, and my mom, moms have the best [inaudible] and my sister, [inaudible] and my family in California. They are watching live and to my amazing campaign team, I am so grateful for each one of you for your generous time that you have given to our campaign. Andy, thank you. Denetria, thank you. Tracy, Barbara, I'm so grateful to have you as part of our team, and Dan McCorkle, our advisor, thank you for being there since day one. I'm very grateful for you. My extended family who is here today with us from Mooresville, thank you for being here. To Madam Mayor, thank you for your leadership. You are the working soul of our City, and we are grateful for your continued leadership. I also see we have a few leaders here in the room that I want to recognize, our Congressional District 12 Chair, Cozy Watkins; Cynthia Wallace, Congressional District Nine Chair; as well as Jane Wickley, thank you for your leadership. I also want to thank the incredible staff that we have. So, Mr. Manager, thank you for your leadership. Our City Attorney, thank you for your leadership, and our amazing staff that we have. Many times, you don't see them, but they actually always have our back, and we couldn't do what we do without them. I want to recognize Amanda Burch, as Justin had said earlier, she is the best, and I am so grateful to have her.

We made great strides in the last two years from affordable housing to economic development, to becoming a global leader in environment sustainability, but we have so much ahead to continue, and I think together we are stronger, and we are creating a model that other cities and other towns across the state are following. My fellow Charlotte residents, I'm so grateful for your continued faith and trust in my leadership. I also want to recognize outgoing Councilmembers for their commitment, sacrifice and for all the work that they have done for the people of Charlotte because all the work that is being done it takes many of us to continue, so I'm so grateful to all my colleagues.

Councilmember Mitchell said thank you to the members of Team Mitchell for your time and your commitment to make sure I could sit in this chair today. I see two of them in the audience, so I'm going to give a special shout-out, my Treasurer, Jamir Simmons, and my Social Media Director, Travis P. Jackson, Jr. Thank you for my church C. N. Jenkins Presbyterian for your prayers and your support. Thank you for my brothers of Omega Si Fi Fraternity; thank you to my family members and cousins. Thank you to my blessings, Kayla and Nicole for your love, your passion, and your styling of daddy. Thank you to my Queen for allowing me to serve another two-years. I love you, and I appreciate you putting up with this little hyper, energized bunny. Last but not least, thank you for the citizens of Charlotte for allowing me to serve two-years of a City I love, I endure, and I'm glad to be known as the Cheerleader for Charlotte.

Councilmember Eiselt said thank you, everyone, for what for me is the honor of a lifetime. I couldn't do this, first of all, starting out by saying without the support of my family, my husband there. He is taping this right now. He has been my rock and my support and my cheerleader, and he has never waiver in his support of me doing this job, which is saying a lot, because there are some nights, and there have been some votes, and there have been some evenings of this Council where it has been tough, and he has always been there for me.

My son Joe, who is here tonight representing also his brother and sister Jack and Kate who couldn't be here tonight. I'm grateful for you guys for every time you are in town putting on those pink t-shirts and getting out and supporting me at the poles. I'm grateful for my team; I have the best volunteers in the world; three of them are here tonight representing so many more, Marcie, Dick, and Beverly. Thank you so much for standing in the rain, for writing letters, for everything that you've done to help me get elected. Thank you to the most amazing staff a city has.

We are the face of the Council; we are what you see, but so often our staff doesn't get credit for what happens in this City. They work supper hard, the ones in this building the ones on the streets driving trucks, fixing your water pipes when they break, collecting your garbage, protecting us for public safety and for fire. We've got an amazing City, and I'm really grateful to say that we have this staff that keeps this engine running. Our City Manager, who is our fearless leader, and I want to say thank you for the voters who get out and vote, because you are a minority, unfortunately, but that is kind of true in a lot of cities, but you also represent a City of other people that work really hard for our City every single day, and as much as we could sit up here and say that we take votes that ultimately dictate what happens in this City, it doesn't happen like that.

So many of you that are out here tonight, and that are probably listening are on Committees. You are in advocacy groups; you do the research for us. You problem solve, and we couldn't do it without you, and I want to point that out, because in this time of disfunction frankly in this country, when we talk about what is going on at the national level about people that we don't even meet and we don't even know, I think about Charlotte, North Carolina, and I think about how we are all willing to work together by in large people that we might not know well, but we are willing to sit down and listen to each other, because we all have the goal to make our City a great City for everyone. Yes, we are not always going to agree on anything, but the best work that gets done is when we are willing to sit down and listen to each other and say that yes, we want to build a city that offers opportunity to everyone. So, I'm grateful to all of you who put time and energy as volunteers into this City, because you are what makes this City great and I'm honored to represent you all.

Lastly to my colleagues on Council, because as someone mentioned, the truth of the matter is we all work together, because we are really working on, we might have different points of view, but it is all towards what makes Charlotte a great City, and that is what I wish we could have happened at a national level too, but I'm honored to work with all of you.

Councilmember Winston said my name is Braxton Winston; my pronouns are he, him, and his, and I would like to thank the people of Charlotte for selecting me to serve for another two years. Yesterday, I was able to spend some time with some of my Council colleagues, and most times the public only sees the headlines of the work that we do or when we disagree. It is true that we all bring a different view on approaches to the issues of our City, but everybody out there should know that Charlotte has 11 Councilmembers, one Mayor, and over 8,000 City employees that are dedicated to make this the City that we all do deserve. We will be losing three Councilmembers who have passionately served their constituents. I am grateful for all three of your service and excited to see what is next for each one of you.

The voters of Charlotte have selected the next iteration of Council. It will be up to us to operate cohesively to set the clear position of the City so that our staff can operate efficiently and that the Mayor can succinctly amplify our message for far and wide. We

will work together; we will work cooperatively, if we do what so many of us has said and stick together through thick and thin.

Yesterday, I was also able to spend some time with a friend. I met this friend about three and a half years ago during the Charlotte uprising. Out on the streets of Charlotte, we both committed to ourselves and to each other that we would dedicate our life and our efforts to permanently disrupting what some of us may refer to as the Charlotte Way. I often refer to it as the status quo, and we have both followed through on our commitments to disrupt the status quo, but while we were talking he said something that I stayed up last night thinking about. He said something to the effect of, why is this work so hard? We work so hard in our neighborhoods just keep getting taken away.

While I stayed up. I thought about this. You know Charlotte's segregation, our inequities, our lack of mobilities, we didn't simply get here because of hatred or fear of one another. We got here because of intentional policy decisions that our past City Councils have made based on visions of what they saw the City should be. Tonight, all of us sit in this Chamber, and we sit on land that was once indigenous land, but we also sit on land that was once a City within a City, the center of black Charlotte, the neighborhood of Brooklyn. In 1958, the Charlotte City Council voted to erase an entire black community from uptown Charlotte for the stated purpose of creating a better environment for its residents. Families were told they could return to Brooklyn once the City used federal urban renewal money to build affordable housing here. No residences were ever built and the promises were never realized. In Brooklyn over a 10-year period, 9,000 residents were displaced; nearly 1,500 homes were demolished, and 216 black businesses were forced to close, many never reopening. Some people who owned homes and businesses still content that they were not adequately compensated for their property. Eleven black churches were bulldozed and their congregations scattered. So, I content that as we deal with issues of congestion, crime rates, lack of upward economic mobility, we will only truly be successful if this Council over the next two years approaches our work on policy through restorative lens, ones that intents and identifies the ability to repair past policies. We know how we got here; knowing is part of the battle. Now we must do the hard work to repair what we have broken, but as I met somebody today, just as I was getting ready, they told me to keep my head up, because if it ain't hard, it ain't worth it.

I want to take a moment as a point of personal privilege to talk about a different part of the day that I had yesterday. Yesterday, I was able to reflect on the journey, not just in the past two-years, but really the past three and a half years that I have been on along with my family, much of which has been shared with the greater Charlotte community. I want to thank my entire family, those banded by blood and those who have been selected by choice and fate along the way. I love you all. I could not and would not be here without you. The ride has been wild, and I think it is only getting started.

Councilmember Driggs said I am honored to be sworn in today for my fourth term on City Council serving District 7. I would not be here without the tremendous effort of my campaign team, donors, volunteers, and friends or the support of the voters who made my re-election effort a success. I am grateful to all of you, those present and hope to live up to the trust that you have placed in me. Most of all, of course, I am grateful to my wife Caroline; she would be mortified if I pointed her out, so I want to indicate that she is over behind Joe Bruno sitting next to the guy with the white hair. Without Caroline, I would not be here tonight or for that matter any place good. Thank you, Sweetie.

The last time at the Swearing-in Ceremony, I offered some sage advice to my new colleagues, which they then proceeded over the next six months to ignore at every turn. So, I'm not going to try that one again. I will point out that I believe the coming Council term will be exceptional in many ways. As we deal with continued high growth and urbanization, we will be called upon to make important decisions on matters such as charting our future through the 2040 Comprehensive Plan making multi-billion-dollar investments in transportation and defining our relationships with major sports franchises. We will safely host a National Political Convention. We will build on the things we love about Charlotte while continuing to address challenges such as high-crime rates, the shortage of affordable housing, and the need to create economic opportunity for all of our

citizens. If we do this right, Charlotte will be an even better place at the end of this term than it is now in the beginning, and all of us in City government will be able to take pride in the part that we played in our City's progress. I look forward to working with all of you.

Councilmember Graham said thank you Madam Mayor and members of Charlotte City Council, ladies and gentlemen and to the voters of Charlotte City Council District 2. I want to thank each and every one of you for your support, your prayers and your words of encouragement. I would also like to thank the greatest campaign team in the state led by my wife Kim Graham, Anthony Lindsey. I see Linda, Chris, Evette, Omia, Chris Wilson and last but not least a gentleman I have a lot of respect for, I don't think I would be sitting here if he didn't twist my arm, and that is Mark Joe. So, Mark, I want to thank you for doing the [inaudible].

I'm back, and I think that is a good thing. I took the opportunity Madam Mayor to park my car at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and I walked from Friendship to Johnson C. Smith, talked to folks I saw along the way: business owners, people on the street, our homeless folks, loiters, homeowners, property owners, and this is what I found out, and I want them to know that I heard what you said, that the issue that are important to you are also important to me, that I care about gentrification and being uprooted from your homes. I hear you. That we need to uphold our history and tradition, I hear you. That we need to protect our seniors from property tax increases, I hear you and that we need to do something about the rising gun-related incidents that we experience. I hear you.

I hear that some black business owners believe that they are still getting short-changed. I hear that a lot of people believe that our District is still being left behind while other parts of the City are growing. Some say that our schools in inner City Charlotte are not up to date, that we are not being competitive with other parts of the City. I hear you. Some believe that the Beatties Ford Road and LaSalle Street corridor have looked the same way for the last 40-years. I hear you. Some believe that we've been so focused on shiny brand-new things that we forgot about the people that live in Charlotte, I hear you. Some believe that small business owners and our MWBE Program, while we try to fix, it still doesn't work for them.

Some believe that while they can see the skyline from their neighborhoods that it might as well be a thousand miles away, because they can't relate to the jobs announcements, because they can't get them or they can't go to the Panther's game or don't know much about soccer. They know that their streets look the same; they know that their neighborhoods are declining. They know they are being forced out, and they want us as a community to do something about it. I make that commitment today to do that. I also make the commitment to work with this Council to again, bring those major corporations who win incentives to come to our community to work for conventions who want to come to our community to bring jobs and business opportunities, that anyone who wants to do business with our community to share our values, values based on integrity and honesty, diversity, inclusion, and racial equality. If you can meet us there I'm willing to do business with you, but if you can't, you shouldn't come. We need to make sure that as a community that we are doing what is morally right and not what is politically correct.

So, I'm back to do big things, not small things. Why can't we put up the transit line all at once? That is a big thing. Why can't we work with the County and call gun violence what it is, which 102 individuals have died in our streets; call it is which is a public health crisis. Let's work with the County and Mecklenburg to do that. Why can't we work with the County and say, we understand that greenways are important, but rec centers that merge with inner City communities are important too and that they should be 21st-century rec centers where kids can go 10:00, 11:00, and 12:00 at night and get SAT counseling, financial literacy, job training, still play a little bit of basketball and baseball and football. We have to find a way to work together across county lines.

Lastly, and more importantly, I had breakfast this morning Madam Mayor, with the DA, and we shared a concern about 102 individuals who died in our streets, and you were there with me when I spoke to the police department two months ago, National Day of Mourning, where I saw parents, relatives or victims in our City who were killed, some no

fault of their own, just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I understand that too. So, I'm going to work with this Council, work with the Sheriff, the DA, Mecklenburg County, anybody who wants to call what we have in our community a crisis. So, let's to big things Council, not small things. I'm ready to get to work.

Councilmember Egleston said, first of all, I want to acknowledge some people who are here and some people who are not, without whom I could not do this and would not be here. First and foremost, my family, my wife, Lauren is here. She like Ms. Driggs does not want to be asked to stand up, so I will not do that, but her patience and support has been critical leading up to my being on Council and in the two-years I've been on Council. She is often left to be at home as a single mother to our poodle-daughter Salem, so I appreciate all that she does to make this possible for me. Both my parents, Robert and Amy Egleston traveled in town as well as my sister Anna Egleston who are here with me tonight and have helped over the course of 37 plus years shape me into the person that I am and I'm grateful to have them here tonight.

There are a number of people that are here in the crowd and a number of people who are at home watching tonight who helped with my campaign, who have been friends long before politics and who have become family. I won't attempt to name all the names but three who couldn't join us tonight are my current and former Campaign Managers Jordan Kravit Speinburg and Tonya Jameson, as well as my Treasurer Jeff Speinburg, and I've got a host of friends in the audience and at home, who I love dearly and who really inspired me to do this work and someone in particular who challenge me at times, because we don't always agree but they always make me better and they always make me really give a lot of thought to the decisions I'm making and how important they are, and so I appreciate even the disagreement.

It has been mentioned a lot, but I will mention it again. Staff at the City of Charlotte is who does the real work here. We kind of set the course, but they are the ones who paddle and the boat wouldn't go anywhere without them, and I have the privilege of working with Amanda Burch as well. She is a rock star; there are a lot or rock stars on this 8,000-person team, and it has been a privilege and honor to work with them for the last two years.

To the three outgoing Councilmembers, Harlow, Phipps and Mayfield, I knew all three of them to some extent before we got on Council together, but there is no better way to really get to know somebody than to serve two-years in elected office with them, and I'm closer to all three of them now than I was when we started two-years ago. I will miss them dearly, but I know they will all still be very engaged in our community, so I thank them for all they have done and all they will continue to do to make this City a better place.

To all the people sitting around the dais tonight, I look forward to the next two-years. I think the last two-years we made a lot of progress, and we can be very proud of the term that this Council just finished, but as has been stated by many of you in your remarks tonight, we know what the challenges are. There is still a lot of work left to do, and I have a lot of faith that this group of people can do it. I won't repeat all the points that were made but we know what we need to do. We know what we need to do to make sure that more people in this community can benefit from the growth and benefit from the investment and benefit from all the things that we are excited about that are going on in this City, but to Mr. Graham's point, not everybody is always excited as we are, because they don't feel like they are feeling benefits of it. We need to make sure that the opportunities in this City are for more people, and I look forward to getting back to work, starting tomorrow on that with this group right here.

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ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Lyles said we have one business item on our agenda. We need to elect a Mayor Pro Tem, and I will open the floor for a nomination.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Graham, and carried unanimously to nominate Julie Eiselt as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Lyles said I recognize former Mayor Harvey Gantt in the audience. I know that we have a number of other elected officials and former elected officials that have attended this ceremony. We are grateful for you; you led our way, and we are very, very glad that you are doing your work now and the work that you are continuing to do. Please stand if you are an elected or former elected official, so you can be recognized.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour, 28 Minutes
Minutes Completed: December 17, 2019