

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Strategy Session on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 5:08 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, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II.

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Councilmember Justin Harlow

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**Mayor Lyles** said I know all the Committee Chairs will be so disappointed, but we are not going to have time for Committee Reports because we have 10 items on the agenda today and all of them are important so I thought we just dive right in. Remember our Strategy Sessions are around the Council determining the next steps or the questions that we have before the staff takes the next step so none of these are going to require you to vote tonight. There will be some asks for direction on some of the items as well and I tried to make a record of which were for information and which were for some direction and if I miss it Mr. Jones will help me out. I looked at the Agenda and we do not have a closed session tonight but we will have a staff report on Lake Arbor. I've asked the Manager to help me do some timing of each one, so I think we decided on 10 minutes for the Update on the NBA All-Star Game.

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**ITEM NO. 1: NBA ALL-STAR GAME UPDATE**

**Mayor Lyles** said Danny Pleasant has been our coordinator for this event, and let's see what we have coming besides fun next week.

**Danny Pleasant, Assistant City Manager** said we are having an opportunity to host a truly spectacular sporting event, the largest we as a City has ever hosted. We are looking forward to the national attention we will get as well as the entire Metropolitan Area. We are pretty much ready to go; we have Tom Murray (CRVA) here today along with Fred Whitfield, from the Charlotte Hornets, who are going to share some information about the upcoming event including how the events will lift-up our community through NBA Cares Program, how the events will use diverse local suppliers to give our residents a chance to participate in the Ambassador Program, and how we are creating a welcoming atmosphere for our guest here and showing them Charlotte's good hospitality. We expect significant traffic associated with the event as you can probably guess, and it will be both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. It will be a busy place in the Center City, and we will give you some information about that.

We know an event of this size requires enhanced security, and we know that we will achieve traffic management and safety and security through closing a few streets, changing some transit services during the events, and we should be able to manage that just fine. We will have a strong communications team across all organizations that will support the weekend events, and we are committed to providing you, the Charlotte residents, businesses and visitors thoroughly and timely information. So, let's dig in Mr. Whitfield if you would like to come up.

**Fred Whitfield, Charlotte Hornets** said thanks so much for having me tonight. Josh Rosen is here with me from our organization and he reminded me as we walked over that we delivered our bid document to the NBA on August 12, 2014 to host the NBA All-Star Game here in Charlotte. Dell Curry, Johnny Harris, Will Webb "Hugo," and I delivered that package to the NBA Officers in New York on that day. City Council; thanks for everything you do for us. This is just an update of our upcoming All-Star Game. It is amazing that the event that we have and that we've all worked so hard on together for the last four plus year is less than two-weeks away. As we have said many time, we would not have been able to pull this event off without a multitude of people working very, very closely. Mayor Lyles, our City Manager, City Council and of course Tom Murray and his staff at the CRVA have been absolute phenomenal partners with us in working through this, and the County has well. Don't let me leave out the County. We have a great partnership here and a strong working relationship and our ability to host this All-Star Game, by the far the biggest that our City has ever hosted is something we all are looking forward to.

Here is a highlight of the scheduled events; there will be hundreds of events both sanctioned and unsanctioned across Charlotte in the days leading up to the All-Star Game. We will tip off NBA All-Star 2019 with our Host Committee party on Wednesday night. Bojangles Coliseum will host the NBA Media Day and All-Star practice and the All-Star Celebrity Game. Our Spectrum Center will host the Rising Stars Game, All-Star Saturday Night and the 68th Annual NBA All-Star Game. A few additional highlights include our Fourth Annual Jr. NBA Day at the Charlotte Convention Center bringing together more than 1,500 youth from across our community; NBA All-Stars for wall to wall Basket Ball Clinics. The 20th Annual NBA All-Star Technology Summit, which is Commissioner Silver's baby, will be held at the Westin Hotel. The 20th Annual NBA Legend's Brunch will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center. Marque All-Star Events and Hospitality functions will be hosted in 25 plus of Charlotte's premier event venues and restaurants. Along with the major venues pictured above you can see the list of some of the additional venues that will be reserved during this time. Various venues throughout the City have been booked. Once again, this really exemplifies how big an event the NBA All-Star 2019 really is and the type of impact that it will have on our community.

We wanted to share with you a number of the ticket available opportunities for the major All-Star events that have gone on sale to the public. The Rising Stars Game, the All-Star Celebrity Game and the NBA All-Star Media Day and Practice at Bojangles. As a reminder NBA All-Star Saturday Night and the NBA All-Star Game tickets do not go on sale to the public and the NBA controls that inventory for those events, however I am happy to report that the fan interest and response to all of these events have been tremendous. We are sold out for the Celebrity Game and also All-Star Media Day and Practice. There is a limited amount of tickets remaining for the Rising Stars Game but they are expected to sell out in the coming days.

The EpiCentre will be transformed into NBA Crossover which will become the ultimate destination of NBA All-Star fans. NBA Crossover is free; however, it is a ticketed event that will be open from Friday, February 15th through Sunday, February 17th. NBA Crossover will have three floors; it will include seven venues, and they have all been customized through experiences, retail offerings and multiple NBA partner activation. You will see a picture of what the EpiCentre will look like when we get into the week-end. Some of the notable items include NBA Player and Talent Appearances, emergency virtual reality demonstrations, art and memorabilia displays. There will be an NBA Store which will be a fanatics experience. Speaking of tremendous response; we have already had more than 25,000 fans in our community register for NBA Crossover tickets through NBAevents.com. This is another example of our ability to utilize another great space in our uptown corridor.

#### **Councilmember Harlow arrived at 5:17 p.m.**

One of the NBA's biggest initiatives is giving back and improving communities around the world through NBA Cares. That is something our league will continue at NBA All-Star 2019. Their focus on giving back will be here in Charlotte as the league will reach thousands of children and families in need in many communities across North Carolina through its programs and events. Continuing the NBA's commitment of a quality, diversity and inclusion our league will use the game to bring people together for a series of forums, community conversations and in the arena experiences designed to build a more inclusive culture. Some highlights of the NBA's community efforts during All-Star include visiting patients and their families at Novant Health Hemby Children's Hospital unveiling a newly refurbished fitness center at West Charlotte High School, hosting the Annual NBA Day of Service when NBA and WNBA players, legends, coaches, partners and more than 1,500 volunteers will roll-up their sleeves for three service projects across our City. There will be additional updates on other community events that will be released soon.

I will touch briefly on the NBA All-Star Supply and Diversity efforts because Mr. Murray will talk a little bit more about it but more than 16-years ago the NBA decided that it would be fully committed to economic inclusion by identifying women, minority and LGBT owned businesses among the local suppliers it would bring in to help activate the All-Star Weekend. The NBA, our City, CRVA and our organization all share a robust commitment to uphold supplier diversity. We have been working very closely with the NBA led by their Chief Diversity Officer Oris Stuart on supplier diversity once we were awarded the All-Star Game. You can see some of the tactics that have been utilized collectively on this slide and the next. We held the standing room only supplier diversity event at Park Expo and Conference Center, those hosted by Mayor

Lyles, our City Manager, Marcus Jones, our organization, Tom Murray, CRVA and Oris Stuart from the NBA. I am pleased to announce that approximately \$1,500,000 in spend commitments to date and counting with more than 26 diverse businesses, 15 buying areas, all NBA, CRVA and City generated the NBA and CRVA solicited City-certified firms, and we are proud that we have been able to deliver them. The NBA has also had one on one meetings with NBA and their buyers with diverse suppliers that began back in November. We're really, really proud of that initiative as well.

Again, on behalf of our owner, Michael Jordan, and our entire organization thank you so much for your support. Tom, thank you for your support; it has been a great partnership and we are looking forward to activating in a big way and promise the NBA we are going to host one of their best events ever.

**Tom Murray, Charlotte Regional Visitor's Authority** said thank for your leadership; Fred and I are co-leaders on what is called the Executive Committee of the Host Committee and we've worked really well together, both teams, and we are really proud of that success. Below the Host Executive Committee is the Working Committee, and that is made up of some 40 individuals that are members of our ED partners of City agencies and people who focus on all areas of the event execution. As you can see, we have a Communications Consortium of all of those folks including the Hornets, the City, the Airport, CRVA, Center City Partners and the Alliance.

The event budget is about \$5.8 million; as you can see, we raised revenues of \$5.6 million. Participants in that revenue generation are the City, Mecklenburg County, The Hornets, Sports and Entertainment, and the CRVA. The CRVA acts as the bank on the event, and as you can see we have significant expenses to place those against. I am pleased to say that the budget seems to be going smoothly at this point and we've anticipated in our budget most of the needs that we are facing today. We still have 10 days to go so we will still keep our fingers crossed that we things keep going smoothly.

We also wanted to make sure that when people arrive in our City they feel welcome and particularly when they first arrive. From the conversation I had with the City Manager in L.A. when we landed in the Airport together he says we are going to it better than that and we have made a great effort to do that. You will see a huge Welcome Booth in the Atrium which will include things like basketballs to shoot into the pop-up basketball games and a 9x12 selfie-station. We will have ambassadors there greeting folks, and we will be giving away mini-stress basketballs. We will also have NBA All-Star merchandize available for sale there as well.

American Airlines has been amazing once again for us; they have given us all their terminal monitors. You may remember they have been helpful to us in the past in significant events, and we are really grateful to be able to do that. The "Welcome to Charlotte" graphic that you see up on the top; we think traveling is a good thing in Charlotte and we thought that would play well and that will be all over the Airport. Thank you, Tracy Montrose from American Airlines is here, also my Board Chair. We also have our Visitor Information Center that is there all the time is being ramped up to host the NBA, and the Airport team has been great with us, and we've got lots of branding, some digital product out there as well as floor decals and wraps so we are real excited about the way it is going to feel out there. Kemba Walker has got a message for all of our visitors as well when they arrive.

You also see efforts throughout the City; we've got \$61,000 in paid media investment with light rail and bus wraps, signage all over the EpiCentre, street pole banners, and new racks wraps. We also have worked to light the skyline red, white, and blue, the NBA colors, but we saved the best building, Bank America Tower will be Hornet's colors so we are very excited about that. We also developed a hospitality toolkit, which the CRVA has partnered with Center City Partners on; this is a resource we will distribute to the uptown businesses using Center City Partners and the 600-members of the Hospitality Partners from the CRVA's Team will be plugged in. It is their guide to involvement in the All-Star with social media graphics, posters, ways to engage and more.

We also have 28 hotels in the official block of 32,000 rooms and while those are official blocks we expect a lot of other bookings outside the block, but we will have welcoming ambassadors at each of these hotels to make sure that folks feel welcome when they arrive at the hotel as



well. Peak night for the event will be 6,000 room nights. This the map that shows the 28 hotels that are within the block, the majority of those hotels are in the Center City area but there are some in the SouthPark area as well and to the right you will see Bojangles as one of the event spaces, as we all know it is being used for many of these events.

We started with over 250 open positions for ambassadors; we are really pleased with the progress we've made. We still have 50 positions left, but we are confident that we will fill those. We've been pacing really well, and so we are excited about that. Those are paid volunteer jobs so the pay is between \$11 and \$15 per hour. We worked with four agencies that are all MWSBE or MWBE certified by the City, and they have been a big help with us. We've gotten the word out in many places, including our workforce development partners, 130 community, neighborhood and apartment associations, help with the Black Enterprise Entrepreneurs Summit and also Charlotte Business Resources.com and the City of Charlotte Economic Development website. We've made great progress there, and we are really excited about that.

We've also been partnering on the impact on the infrastructure, and we've been partnering with CATS, CMPD, the City, the CRVA, and the Hornets staff as well. Measuring the impact; we think there is going to be about 1,800 members of the media here; 200 countries will view this event speaking 40 different languages, 22.3 million television viewers and 1.2 billion social media impressions. We use the number economic impact of \$100 million, because the two cities we thought most approximate to our type of event posted one slightly lower than \$100 million and one slightly higher than \$100 million so that is where we get our \$100 million impact from.

Mr. Pleasant said this is a map showing the streets that will be closed between Friday and Sunday. They will start closing them late Thursday night and will reopen them in time for the Monday rush. There will be other streets in there that maybe will have a curb lane closure to accommodate Uber, Lyft, taxis, traffic management concerns and some security needs that are in that area as well. There will be a broadcast station across Caldwell Street from the Arena that will include lots of trucks with antennas, satellite dishes from various broadcast companies that will be covering the event and they will be in that lot you can see in the lower righthand side of the graphic. That broadcast compound will start setting up this week and next week, and you may see some incidental street disruptions while that comes and goes but no permanent closures for that.

Transit changes will include closing the Charlotte Transit Center (CTC) there on the bottom of the page for passengers. We will start closing that Thursday night and reopen first thing Monday morning so, Friday, Saturday and Sunday passengers will see a disruption there. Then the temporary CTC in the upper part of the slide will operate Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and will include heated waiting areas, pass sales and information, restrooms, connections to other route of course, and we have a few extras planned that should make it more pleasant and fun atmosphere in the area so we will look forward to that. Light rail will have some disruption; you can see in the yellow area between Third Street and Seventh Street passengers will not be able to board at the CTC Station but passengers traveling through that area will have to disembark at either Third Street or Seventh Street for security sweep and allowed to re-board once the sweep is completed. No trains will stop at CTC, as I said, and we will have ambassadors, City staff and CATS ambassadors up and down the entire Blue Line to guide passengers thorough there. Purses, totes, backpacks are things that will not be allowed on the Blue Line during those event times. That concludes our presentation, and we will glad to take any questions and respond to those.

Mayor Lyles said I have to say that this has been a long time coming, and now it is finally here it is great to hear from everyone. Thanks to the Organizing Committee and the work that has been done by the City and everyone that has participated in this effort. Again, I say what I think what our community will remember most is the NBA Cares Programs and efforts around the community. I think all of those will be things that will be not just over the weekend, but they will have a lasting impact in our community. The economic impact, especially for our minority, small and hospitality industries, this is the kind of thing that we really seek and see the benefit of. We often talk about how to market Charlotte, if this isn't going to be our best marketing opportunity, I'm not sure what will. We've already got the TV trucks coming in early and the number of members of the media around and all about a great opportunity to see some of the best athletes in the world participate in our City, so thanks.

**Councilmember Driggs** said first of all, Congratulations and I know how much work goes into this so great job, I appreciate it. My question was related to the City of Charlotte in-kind services and the hospitality tax contribution. Do we have any estimates of what hospitality tax proceeds we expect from this or what the sales tax affect will be on the finances of the City of Charlotte?

Mr. Murray said I think it somewhere between \$3 million and \$5 million; I will get you the more correct number later.

Mr. Driggs said cash flows?

Mr. Murray said yes.

Mr. Driggs said you've got an estimate in here for the sponsorship package sales I think and a couple items so this deficit number at the end of the day whose responsibility is that?

Mr. Murray said if there is a deficit that will be absorbed by the CRVA.

Mr. Driggs said by the CRVA so no general fund taxpayer impact for the citizens of Charlotte?

Mr. Murray said he CRVA acts as the bank.

Mr. Driggs said okay, good job, thanks.

**Councilmember Winston** said for full disclosure, I'm a part time employee of the Hornets, and I will be working the All-Star game, but I have a question about the MWSBE numbers, and do we have any metrics for that? We saw the numbers of \$1.5 million, but does that represent an expansion; how does that compare to other events like CIAA, ACC and other major events that we have?

Also, I didn't hear any specificity towards Charlotte or area based businesses. What was our outreach like and again, is there any metric that is looking at this that will be able to grade this when all is said and done to say that we improved our MWSBE participation or not?

Mr. Murray said we are going to conduct a full economic impact study after the event, and we will also attach to that a report that shows all the work we've done with local businesses and with MWSBE's as well. I will look to see whether we can find out what kind of spending that were at previous All-Star Games if they've been published and see if we can include that in the report as well. I will work to see what comparisons we have on other significant events that we've hosted here in Charlotte for you on that.

Mr. Whitfield said Marcus and I met last All-Star Game in Los Angeles with Oris Stuart to start the process and make sure we were ahead of the game and from that we put together the opening session that Mayor Lyles and Marcus and I hosted with Oris to make sure we brought in all these businesses and made them aware of how the process will work. We looked back at the process during the DNC and used that sort of a templet to grow from, and I think going forward the NBA will look at our processes of best practice as they go to future cities. In fact, they've shared that with me that we've been so buttoned up with the City, their support and been able to find diverse companies and bring them in and really educate them on how the process has worked, and we are thrilled that we were able to have the \$1.5 million impact, and it is regional businesses. It is people that all came and learned at the initial session and took advantage of the process and worked their way through. As I mentioned, there were a lot of one on one meetings with companies to really advise them. This is what it takes to be successful in the bid process.

**Councilmember Phipps** said is the NASCAR Hall of Fame going to be one of the venues during this NBA week, or is that lumped in with the Convention Center?

Mr. Murray said there are different events throughout the Convention Center and the NASCAR Hall of Fame, some official events and some unofficial events that are non-NBA events so it will be in use. There are 36 official events and probably 150 plus unofficial events that will be hosted during that time period.

Mr. Whitman said when he says unofficial events it is things like certain sports agencies that represent a number of players that are having their own private parties, and they are entertaining their players and clients, etc. So, even though they aren't technically official NBA events they are definitely connected to what we are doing during the week.

Mayor Lyles said we are looking forward to a great week so thank you very much for being here and as I said the other day that if Kimba doesn't show up I could be on the bench, but I think I'm going to substitute for Fred; he is going to be on the bench next, okay. Tom; thank you very much, thank you Danny and to our Police Department thanks for getting the word out and all the information that you are doing. There is a website, [charlottenc.gov/nba](http://charlottenc.gov/nba). That will help us with our road closures, the backpack sizes, all of those details will be there especially where the shared rides services will be able to drop off and pick-up. We are going to have a great time and it is going to be a safe time, so thanks very much.

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## **ITEM NO. 1: ARTS AND CULTURE DISCUSSION**

**Sarah Hazel, City Manager's Office** said before I hand it over to Catherine Horn from Discovery Place, who is joining us tonight, I just wanted to take a brief moment to remind you of the huge role that you play in creating a really diverse and vibrant cultural community here in Charlotte. According to the Americans for the Arts in 2017, Arts and Culture had an economic impact of over \$216 million, just here in Charlotte and beyond economic impact the experience that residents have is also very positive. So, you might have heard at the Council Retreat when you were going through the resident survey, one of the places where expectations of our residents are being exceeded are actually related to creating a vibrant arts scene, so that is something to really be quite proud of.

Just to remind you, you support the fabric of a cultural community by doing just a few things. You fund our public art program which is our percent for art programs that promotes unique art through capital projects. Through our financial partners program, you support the ASC over \$3 million and in turn what they do is support individuals, organizations and institutions to build capacity for our arts and cultural community. Our City employees in the month of February right now are beginning our annual campaign which is our annual ASC Campaign to support culture for all and then finally through tourism funds you support cultural facilities in a variety of ways and I won't list all of the great cultural facilities that you support but one of them happens to be Discover Place Museum. So, that is a great lead in and what we really want to do is provide opportunities periodically for you to hear directly from some of these great institutions, and this is just one of those examples and opportunities for you to hear from President and CEO Catherine Horn of Discovery Place.

**Catherine Horne, Discovery Place** said it is always fun to come and experience new technology, even though I've been up here before. Mayor Lyles, Members of Council, members of the audience, I really appreciate the opportunity to be here this evening. We work closely with the City of Charlotte through the Administration of the City Manager, and we are very grateful for the support that you bring and it is really a pleasure to represent my colleagues within the Arts and Science Council. I happen to, be the current Chair of the agency campaign for the Arts and Science Council this year so we are also in campaign week just like the City of Charlotte. We are very pleased to have a number of the Members of our Board or Trustees and our staff with us this evening and if they would please stand. There they are back in the corner, and Justin Harlow is our City Council representative.

We belong to Charlotte, and we've belonged to Charlotte since 1946 so, a long time before our present facility on Tryon Street was here, and we are very fortunate to be the number one cultural attraction for the Charlotte Region. We are also an anchor for North Tryon Street, and I'll tell you a little bit more about being that workforce developer in a little bit, but we are definitely the place where imaginations and innovations and STEM catch fire. Yes, that is fire in his hand, and no, we did not have to call 911, but that is a chemical experience, and if you would ever like to catch your hands-on fire you just to let us know, but from living collections to blockbuster exhibitions including our current exhibition bug lab which we are the North American Premiere of. It is an exhibition that originated in New Zealand and came all the way through the Panama Canal to make its way to Charlotte, North Carolina. I should tell you that we have



sort of limited storage facilities, and so we are very grateful to be storing all the crates in an airplane-hanger that belongs to one of our corporate citizens in Charlotte because we had eight tractor-trailer loads of giant crates that had to go somewhere and they weren't going to go in our parking lot.

We are also extremely well known for the lab experiences that all ages experience, and speaking of all ages, some of us think it is just a place where yellow buses and school children come, but did you know that 49% of nearly 800,000 people are adults, just like all of us in this room. We are today a network of four museums, and you've already heard me mention the attendance. We are also the top fieldtrip destination in North Carolina serving more than 132,000 students with an annual economic impact of nearly \$50 million. We heard Sarah say \$216 million for the cultural sector in Charlotte, and so you can do the math about where we figure in that.

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Going beyond our role as a leisure experience for all, we are integral leader in building the talent pool that Charlotte needs in our work places in the future. We believe that teachers, first and foremost, deserve to become more competent and confident in teaching STEM courses, and for our future workforce we create programs such as the Year of the Engineer, which won all sorts of national awards for its innovation between workplaces, professional fields, volunteers and children and students. We work with more than 150 youths through both paid and unpaid youth development experiences and we are very excited to have our sort of first long-term commitment to paid employment for high school students through work like this. We have the girls in STEM and by the way the girls in STEM are going to the NBA All-Stars; we will be part of a pavilion experience on Saturday and Sunday at We Work, and so we hope you will come by and see us. I think we are going to be on floors five and six. By the way, thanks to our friends at Bank of America.

When I joined Discovery Place five-years ago, and I can't believe it was five-years ago, we saw a great opportunity to become more engaged with our communities. Our Board made that a priority, and I'm so grateful that they did, because when we committed to reduce the cost of admission to Discovery Place to \$1 for families who receive EBT and WIC benefits we opened our doors for the very first time to literally dozens, now thousands of Charlotteans and other people in North Carolina to be on equal footing with everyone else. It is one of the strongest commitments along with the other things that you see up there that any science museum has made in the United States to economic accessibility both coming to our museums and going out into the communities. You can see that long list of communities that we are working with; let me just tell you that those are not one-time encounters but they are encounters that happen periodically, and I'm so sorry that the young woman who runs this program who is a rock star, and you can meet her in that All-Stars experience in about 10-days, is out at one of those community partner sites today. Her name is Charla Fields, and she is a transplant from Southern California four years ago along with the rest of her family that moved to Charlotte. We are very proud and we are that role model for many, many museums around the country that are trying to figure out how to do this.

None of this would be possible without the support of the City of Charlotte. You have been our partner since the beginning of the work to open this museum on North Tryon Street, which happened in 1981. So, just for a moment, I know some of us in this room were not here in 1981; you were a twinkle in your father or your mother's eye, but some of us were, and I remember, I wasn't in Charlotte, but I came to Charlotte and I can remember seeing North Tryon Street. I can remember seeing Discovery Place and just this afternoon we sort of counted up whether we were like the first new building on North Tryon Street, and we don't know this for sure but we are pretty confident that this is a fact, but we believe we were the first new building in the modern era on North Tryon Street. The Library had been there; they got sort of a facelift about 10-years after we opened and then 401 and 525 North Tryon Street did not open for almost 20-years. So, that meant that North Tryon Street was a collection of small buildings and probably the surface parking lots that we see today. So, here we are nearly 40-years later, and we are nearing the completion of a Master Plan which you so graciously funded for us about a year and a half ago and we will be sharing those findings with you later this year. Let's think about 1981 when we opened right. In the mid 70's was when Charlotte had court ordered busing. Discovery Place became the place where all of Charlotte was welcome. We also became if not the first one of the very first science centers to build a rain forest experience, an Amazonian Rain Forest experience for its community. And imagine for children and adults who

had never even gotten on an airplane what it must have been like to walk in that Rain Forest experience. We've been working to stay on the leading edge ever since.

When we think about Charlotte's growth and we look at the things that have happened to Discovery Place over the last few years we can see that we grew along with the City of Charlotte. So, these are just some good comparisons of the City population are the while line and Discovery Place growth in terms of physical size is the bottom line. In the first 12-years, through your support, we doubled in size to meet the demand for our audience. Then in the last 28-years, we've gained about 40,000 square feet for administrative functions that sit today in a block across Church Street and also our parking deck, which you so graciously helped us to have as well along with the public sector. Then in 2010, we renovated as part of the cultural facilities project but we did not gain any additional space. Today, we work really hard to engage a broad cross section of an audience that has continued to mushroom year over year, both locally and regionally. While our three smaller museums, one in Huntersville, one near Freedom Park, and then in Rockingham constitute about 30% of our total attendance because they've had to take the pressure off of a building that is the same size that it was in the early 90's.

We are challenged today I believe to meet the demands for programs and services that are critical to developing the STEM workforce in the future and particularly providing those for a much more diverse audience some of whom can come and are comfortable being in uptown Charlotte and some of whom we have to go see, but today we are at a defining moment; as Charlotte thinks about economic opportunity and the importance of high paying jobs in science and technology increasingly become more important as we recruit more industry to Charlotte, it is important that we have the opportunity to give the public the skills and the services to survive and thrive.

With your support, we are working to build a bold future for the City of Charlotte and for Discovery Place, because we know that Charlotte is going to be one of the leading cities in the 21st century. You have been a huge part in our lives of doing that, and these are just a few things that we are doing to position that growth, but we cannot make it possible were it not for our living collection and our wonderful staff in making this mission come to live. Thank you for all that you do for us, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much Ms. Horn for coming tonight. I know Mr. Harlow is our Council Representative on this Board, and we appreciate his service.

**Councilmember Harlow** said thanks Catherine for being here; thanks Board Members for being here. Discovery Place as I continue to learn; before joining this Council, I had no idea that it was the number one attraction in Charlotte. More attendees attend Discover Place each year than all of the other museums, the Bechtler, the Mint and the Gantt combined. There is something to be said about that, and I want to encourage this Council as we hear more coming up soon in the future around the future of the Master Plan for Discovery Place that we really think about how important an investment into Steam Fields and STEM fields for the future workforce and the future growth of this City and how Discovery Place has already proven that they are a perfect model for that. So, thank you for all the work that you do and for the citizens that have given us the trust to be able to continue to invest in this. I think it is something we should continue to be a part of.

**Councilmember Winston** said I am a fan of the cultural institutions, as I also employed by one of them as well. You gave a lot of thanks and graciousness for support from the Arts and Science Council, but the facts are that that type of funding has been much less dependable over the years. Is that accurate?

Ms. Horne said it is, ours has been cut by more than 40%.

Mr. Winston said in fact it was one of the first places we looked to cut in the budget last year when we had to make some difficult decisions. Can you speak to the condition of funding for our cultural institutions at large here in Charlotte? You referred to this \$260 million of economic impact; what is the temperature on how our cultural institutions are being funded and the challenges that we are facing in order to continue to survive and do the things that you presented in this presentation?



Ms. Horne said thank you very much Councilmember Winston, and I know Rebecca Scroggins is in the audience, and she is a member of the staff of the Arts and Science Council, so I will only speak as a representative of one institution. We are in a day in time where Charlotte wants more world class experiences. The exhibition that we referenced earlier in our presentation that came from New Zealand, that exhibition came at an extraordinary cost, not just the shipping but also the rental fees and those fees used to be largely underwritten by the funding that we got from the Arts and Science Council and corporate dollars have also changed and so, those exhibitions often come with a cost. It is what we do and what we can't do because we are going to take a major exhibition. So, I think first and foremost the cultural organizations are faced with greater choices about how we deliver our mission which puts the programs that you do free of charge or through a subsidy out in the community at greater risk, because you have to be able to pay your employees and pay for the products. We've been able to balance that and so I think that is one piece.

The second piece is that it is normal for local and state governments to support operations of cultural entities because they bring a vitality to a City. We are in Charlotte are blessed to have a large number of them within walking distance of each other. How cities and counties do that are done differently from state to state, but it is something that you want to provide so that we can be easily accessible for the broadest possible population.

**Councilmember Driggs** said you alluded to the investment that we made in the design and development; can you give us an idea of what the timeline looks like for that and when we would expect to see specifics about the investment that is required?

Ms. Horne said we are working on the final states of that Master Plan. The City Manager has been a part of that task force, which was led by civic leader Andrea Smith from Bank of America, and we are working all of those pieces because it is not just a facilities plan, but it is also about the educational content going forward, as well as a business plan, an engineering analysis of all trades in the building and economic analysis that has been done by HRNA to understand the real estate capabilities of those two blocks. So, all of those pieces are beginning to coalesce, and we will be coming forward hopefully within the next two to four months with that information for you.

Mr. Driggs said I think it is worth emphasizing the majority of this investment is from tourism tax revenues so that the public doesn't get the feeling that we are using property taxes and this is a business transaction. We basically realize tourism revenues and tax revenues because of the visitors, and that is the amount that we can look at for investment. I appreciate your work and look forward to hearing more.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said Ms. Horne thank you for being here. For so long, Discovery Place has looked upon just for attraction for our youth. As you look toward the future, how do you see Discovery Place being more of a place for adults as well to take advantage and to attend?

Ms. Horne said absolutely, that was the perception that I found when I came to Charlotte five-years ago, and adults such as you and I are and the rest of this room would have said oh, I haven't been since my children grew up and what we find today is that the importance of science in everyone's lives has become so essential that we all need to become better educated, and we are not going to go back into the classroom, and we can't always believe everything we read on the internet, right. So, where else to find it than a trusted source like your major science centers? That is first and foremost; providing the experiences for adults to become learners all over again. The second piece is for adults to enjoy learning science because many of us might admit that science might not have been our favorite subject in schools, and we went in different directions.

So, how do we make it engaging and of course one of the best ways we've made it engaging is through programs like Science on the Rocks and the National Geographic Live series that we do with the Blumenthal Performing Arts and just last week we had standing room only with a lecture from a NASA astronaut who had been the last pilot of the space shuttle Endeavor before it ceased to operate and Terry Verts was here to both entertain well over 1,000 children during the day from fieldtrips from as far away as Columbia, South Carolina but also to entertain

700 adults with an interactive experience and those kinds of things are possible through our mission and through our facility resources that we have.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much for presenting tonight. I think we could all listen to you talk about what we are doing for a very long time, but we are going to just say thank you for this time that you shared with us. We really appreciate it, especially to your Board Members and staff for being here. Thank you very much.

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### ITEM NO. 3: OPPORTUNITY ZONES DISCUSSION

**Mayor Lyles** said while we have a packet of information I'm not sure; was it provided on line? I think we have talked about how we are going to deal with this at the Retreat and this is going to be a follow-up, and you are going to have additional information as a result of it, but it is not the end of this conversation.

**Todd DeLong, Economic Development Department** said we are quickly going to go through a few slides to get to where the need is; you have a packet in front of you that lays out some of the questions that have been discussed at the Committee meeting in January, as well as at your Retreat last week which should cover some of those questions, and we will get right to the meat of what our next steps are. One of the other things that is in the packet are the questions that were provided by you over the week-end and on Friday, so I appreciate your quick response to our request to get your top questions regarding Opportunity Zone Program and what our role is in that program, hopefully through that packet to answer some of those questions and as we talk about it this evening those will get answered as well.

When we get into what our role is and what our next steps are we really got to figure out what our strategy is going forward, which is really a common place in terms of the questions brought about by the Councilmembers. One of the things we do have that came out through this is that we do have limited control. We have the zones, we recommended those zones to the state government which then recommended those zones to the Federal Government; they certified those zones and at the local level government level we actually have limited control over what happens in those zones. Outside of the zoning process and the regular regulatory control there is really limited opportunities, but there are opportunities that we can get in front of the investment and the development that takes place in those zones through a various set of programs, tools and mechanisms that we can take place to start to target and start to influence where that growth actually occurs and where that investment occurs. One of the key areas of doing that is through launching our website and launching a website that has interactive data with respect to social economic data characteristics, attractiveness of redevelopment of certain area, links to existing programs that we are offering that could be married with the Opportunity Zone Program. That is just one of the initial next steps that we can do and as we look at some of our peer cities that is one of the basic things they have. It is really being that conduit of information as they go around with Opportunity Zones is basically being the convener in the conduit of information. When I say convener, a great example is actually in the State of Maryland, and they have a website that an opportunity fund can put its information about the fund into the website which then acts as a data base, a developer or a development project can then insert its information about a project and the two can get together. It provides an opportunity to connect those two entities while it also provides us an opportunity to have a data bank and be able to vet the opportunity funds that are out there as well as the development projects that are out there, so we can get can get an idea or a sense of which ones we want to target and which ones we want to actually proactively partner with as we move forward to get those dollars out into these Opportunity Zones.

One of the foundations of the Opportunity Zones was because there were trillions of dollars sitting out on the sidelines waiting to be invested and that was the intent of this program. We want to make sure that we are actually intentionally directing or influencing where these dollars go in our community. From a mid-term strategy perspective over the next 90 to 120-days this is something that we have these dates in there but we would like to get these done as quickly as possible. As we review our existing tools, see where we have gaps, see what programs or what mechanisms we need to create to be more influential in how these zones are developed and how investment comes into the zone with respect to real property, redevelopment, as well

as businesses that can be invested in through this program. Creating that strategy to layering our incentive programs. That is something that is going to be key as we have that carrot-stick mentality of enticing or incentivizing development to occur within these areas.

Lastly, what I mentioned about the website in Maryland, this is something that over time we would like to organically grow and create greater structure to that website to make it more powerful in the way we are actually connecting both the developer, the investor and the business. When it comes down to it the users of the opportunity funds and the Opportunity Zones are the people who have money, the people who need money and the people who can manage money. We've got to figure out how we influence the relationships of those three sets of people.

Mayor Lyles said we have a lot more detail about the zones and everything within the appendix with maps and current property descriptions, zoning and things like that, but we wanted to be able to come back after the Retreat and talk about what would be taking place in the next 60 days and 90 to 120-days and also the idea that the Treasury Department has extended their October 60-day review to an additional review and Holland and Knight will be working with us. Dana isn't able to be with us tonight, but Holland and Knight will be working with us on what is coming out of Washington so that we can respond from the intergovernmental aspect with more information coming.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said one thing I want to let the whole Council know, I talked to Tracy Dodson, so this will be on the ED Committee Agenda I want to say the last Thursday in this month, the 28th at 12:00. As Todd mentioned, we can begin the discussion around policy and shaping that policy, and I think it is important for all of us to have that meeting as we go to the National League of Cities, March 11-14, because I think some of this will be at the National League of Cities Congressional City Workshops, talking about Opportunity Zones, so I think the timing is perfect.

Mr. DeLong said I might also add that with respect to the federal regulations and the guidance offered by the federal government, the first round of regulations came out in October which provided that 60-day comment period which effectively closed in December with a public hearing about those comments will be occurring on February 14th. Part of the delay was because of the government shut-down which delayed some of the process with the IRS and the US Treasury, and the second round of regulations or guidance will be coming out or expected to be coming out within the next three to four weeks, so we are expecting something to come in March and then a third round will be coming out at a time to be determined. There is a lot of fluidity to this program, and there are a lot of questions and comments about how do we actually sure up and create some greater certainty about what the program offers.

**Councilmember Winston** said we just came back from a Retreat where nobody knew anything about Opportunity Zones, our Secretary of Commerce, economist, and really smart people, so a week later why should we be confident that the role of the City should be a convener in these Opportunity Zones, and how do we know that what Maryland is doing with the website is the right way to go?

Secondly, you said right now the only way that we have to regulate or operate within the Opportunity Zones are from our current kind of zoning and land use policies which we know are very outdated right now, and we are in the middle of rewriting them which is in the middle of a four-year process. Should we not be looking toward guidance from our Legislators and our Governor to get more tools to operate in these Opportunity Zones which is going to be fast paced as soon as this happens, because I'm not confident that the tools that we have now are going to leave us with very good footing once this starts ramping up?

Mr. DeLong said on your first questions, I have to say I'm not sure we do know what the right strategies are and what our role really is. I think there is a lot of time that needs to be filtered out as we go through this; that is part of having the discussions in the Economic Development Committee and really vetting those through there to make sure what we are actually putting out there is something that we can do and monitor organically as a program and our tools that we have start to evolve as well.



With regards to the second question, I think it is something that we take a look at where we can leverage our assets and the information provided by all levels. So, whether it is our friends in the attorney's world, our friends in the accounting world, we are looking to them to provide that guidance on how the regulations from the federal government would be interpreted, what the comment period, what those comments show to the IRS and how the IRS has responded to those comments. It is going to be interesting to see how those turn out particularly on February 14th when the IRS has that public hearing about the public comment period from October.

Mayor Lyles said I think we are going to continue to learn, and we will have information coming out; there is another presentation I think that LISC wants to send to us about this. They are already in this space and doing some work, and we will just continuously get information out. I think when the Committee meets having the questions that are going to be addressed, we need to frame that so the Council is getting answers to the questions that were presented. Some of the questions I think were kind of structural you know. Yes, we need to know or whatever, but at some point, we actually have to write something that makes sense for the Committee to focus on and address in a way that works too have a strategy not knowing what our boundaries are right now with the state looking to the federal government because that is likely to come to the state and then down to the local community, so we will see how that goes.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Mr. DeLong, what is the target and the outreach for how you are going to identify the members for this Advisory Implementation Team?

Mr. DeLong said that is something we are looking through. We ideally want to have the folks who are experts in the industry, so the folks who are really guiding this. It would be ideal to have two fund managers, that would be great to have, people who can provide us the guidance that we need to have to make sure that what we are putting out there in terms of tools and mechanisms are really worthwhile, that we are not wasting our time or other people's time but what we have is something that is out that is something that can actually be that carrot or that stick that helps with guiding or influencing where the investment goes.

Ms. Mayfield said I am encouraging you to think a little broader than that, because as we look at Opportunity Zones and as we try to identify what Opportunity Zones are and we've already identified the area, there has to be a way in this conversation for community impact to be forefront in that conversation so whether that is someone that has a focus in development, in neighborhoods, in transitioning neighborhoods, in the triggering of transitioning of neighborhoods, we have to ensure that whatever language we are identifying it aligns with the City's policy of truly creating a welcoming City and a diverse City. What we've seen with growth up to this point is causing some challenges in neighborhoods, and what I would hope is that we are thinking further enough in advance so that we do not, through our language, create another transition of a neighborhood as we've seen with so many throughout Charlotte.

**Councilmember Harlow** said it is no secret that I am a positive fan of Opportunity Zones and what this might represent fiduciary, the sentiments of some of my colleagues around, is this a faster track towards gentrification and destruction of certain neighborhoods. I'm glad that we are getting caught up on all of this, because for a minute I thought we were very stagnant and a lot of other cities and state were light years ahead of us, so it is good to see some action steps and plans. I like the concept of an investment perspective, and I sense everyone, in lieu of those perspectives, which I think is spot on on how they are highlighting what the City is doing in a variety of different neighborhoods and an invite to the private sector to say here are some ways you can leverage what we are doing. I think we could do that as well. We already know we've got a very under-utilized Business Investment Grant Program and the corridor revitalization program that we have is heavily under-utilized particularly in these areas where those Opportunity Zones aren't designated, so I would say that part of this mid-term strategy should really be into how do we best leverage the existing resources such as the Business Investment Grant and the other grants to allow for whoever is going to be utilizing these opportunity funds to take advantage of that. That gives us some insight to what they are doing, otherwise we can't really peek under the hood of some of these funds that are operating already. So, the only way to do that is to have the participate in some of the things that we are doing and hopefully that is in the mid-term, and I suppose some type of long-term strategy especially as the federal government continues to roll out whatever they decide to roll out.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said Mr. DeLong, have we looked at all the Opportunity Zones, and is there any land within those Opportunity Zones that is owned by the City, and what percentage is that?

Mr. DeLong said yes, it is in the packet, and you will find maps of property sales that have occurred since January 1, 2018, which is when the sales could actually occur and be taking advantage of the Opportunity Zone Program. We also have a map of the City owned properties and I believe the percentage is –

Mayor Lyles interrupted to tell them what page it is on in the presentation.

Ms. Ajmera said I see that about 6.5% of that parcel is owned by the City.

Mr. DeLong said it is 6.5% of all census tracts within the Opportunity Zones.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, I got it, all Opportunity Zones. I know this is something we are learning as we are seeing more coming from federal government. I guess what I'm trying to get to is that if there are any opportunities that we can see in terms of intentionally being more proactive in rezoning certain properties so that we can be intentional about the type of development that we want to see and also create opportunities for upward mobility. Out of all the census tracts the City owns about 6.5% of this land; what are some of the opportunities that we can create from the land that we own and truly tackle upward mobility in that area? As you bring this forward with more details, I will be interested in seeing what we can do with the City owned land and how we can create opportunities.

Mr. DeLong said absolutely.

Ms. Ajmera said is the 6.5% all together where it shows the green area?

Mr. DeLong said the green area represents the City owned properties which makes up a little over 1,000 acres and the shaded gray area represents the Opportunity Zones and that is about 16,000 acres, so the City is about 6.5% to 7% of the total acreage within the Opportunity Zones.

Mr. Ajmera said the way I see this is we have opportunities, because we own the land in pretty much all of the Opportunity Zones throughout the City in all census tracts that are small or large, so we have a unique opportunity to be intentional about the development that we want to see in the future and how we can best leverage the opportunity that we have in front of us.

**Councilmember Phipps** said did the City of Charlotte offer up any comments during the initial comment period for Opportunity Zones?

Mr. DeLong said not that I am aware of.

Mr. Phipps said slide #12, those are nearly 18-acres of multi-family land that was sold I guess by parcels, were those sales done prior to the area being designated an Opportunity Zone?

Mr. DeLong said the Opportunity Zone designation and certification came through a process that started in mid-2018. I don't know the exact date. I can find that for you. Some of them could have occurred before, and some of them could have occurred after the certification of those zones were made.

Mr. Phipps said the reason I ask is because if they happened before or if they happened after then I guess that means we really sold the land prior to really knowing how we could take advantage of the Opportunity Zone framework. I was just curious about that.

Mayor Lyles said not the "we" like the City, but it was transferred between the private sector.

Mr. Phipps said I would be interested in knowing did the sale occur before the designation or after.

Mayor Lyles said I think Ms. Dodson had planned on doing that, but it wasn't in time to get this by today. We will try to get that data in the next presentation.

Mr. Phipps said are we planning to offer up any comments during the next comment period?

Mayor Lyles said the answer is yes. We've already talked about that at the Retreat, and Mr. Fenton is getting that information, and we are getting some information from our Lobbyists about what other places are doing and then that will come to the Intergovernmental Committee.

**Councilmember Egleston** said I think Mr. Phipps just asked part of my question about whether or not we should view these sales as sales that occurred because of the Opportunity Zone designation or possibly before and unrelated to. If it is from the beginning of calendar year 2018 then certainly part of the year folks would have had that understanding of that opportunity or not, but in the three census tracts that I know best and incorporates parts of my District 51, 52 and 53.01, there is a really high percentage of the sales in terms of total number of sales that are single family, which if more of those occurred after the designation was made would certainly support the idea that a lot of us fear that this is going to significantly accelerate gentrification in some of those areas. Those are areas that were already facing a lot of that pressure and if people are using them as an investment vehicle just to avoid taxes 56 single family out of 65 total in census 51, 30 single family out of 35 total in census 52 for instance I think that supports some of the anxiety that some of us have around what this could mean. I think it is important to know if some of those occurred more independent of the Opportunity Zone designation or because of, and if because of then I think we've got to be really mindful of putting in place some safe guards.

Mayor Lyles said I guess one of the questions that I have and this follows up to Mr. Egleston's point; how would you know that just because it was sold?

Mr. Egleston said you couldn't know their intention, but you could know if they make the purchase before or after the designation was made.

Mayor Lyles said I understand that; how would we know that they made that purchase because of the designation? We wouldn't be able to have a causal we would just know the timeframe.

Mr. Egleston said we would know they didn't if they bought it before the designation.

Mayor Lyles said I were just selling to Julie and we've been talking about it for a couple years and I just decided to sell in 2018 that doesn't necessarily mean that –

Mr. Egleston said if it was purchased before the designation was made then there was no way you could have made the purchase on the basis of the designation. If it is after the date we wouldn't know for sure but if 90% of the purchases made were made after the designation that might point to one thing and if 90% of them were before the designation was made that might point [inaudible]

Mayor Lyles said I think the important thing would be to find out whether it was an individual owner to an individual owner or was it to a company or corporation. There is bound to be a little bit variance, and we ought to be able to identify some parts of it that makes it fit or not fit. I think what we are looking for is that split between time Mr. DeLong, as well as perhaps maybe individual sales versus corporate; things like that would help us be better informed about the process.

Mr. Egleston said of if there is someone who is purchasing and we see the same name on a lot of these purchases that would certainly be something.

Mayor Lyles said that would be true, the more information around the transfer would be helpful.

**Councilmember Newton** said Todd, thank you for this information and for your presentation. One of my major concerns aside from sharing the concerns of my colleagues pertaining to the type of development that we would be looking at on some of these Opportunity Zones are the more individualized tracts within the Opportunity Zones is the concern that we are going to have some investment companies or entities buying up property and then building the bear minimum type of development on that property to get the tax right-off. I think in that regard maybe undermined the whole purpose of Opportunity Zones and not really seeing the full



benefit of the program. So, I'm wondering, and I know this is going to be coming before us in ED Committee soon. So, I'm wondering if in the interim that concern could be assessed to see whether it is a legitimate concern somehow potentially validated. If it is a valid legitimate concern maybe there could be some brainstorming, looking at other municipalities to come up with strategies that we could employ to see to it that that doesn't occur and that we get the full extent of the benefit of development under the Opportunity Zone designation.

Mr. DeLong said certainly, one example would be say a developer purchased the property for \$10 million, the land was valued at \$2 million and the building was valued at \$8 million. In order to qualify as a qualified Opportunity Zone property, they would have to put \$8 million into improvements, so they couldn't just do a new coat of paint and some new doors, that wouldn't qualify for the tax program, so they would have to make significant improvements, basically doubling the basis of the building value. So, that is very unlikely to happen unless the regulations change over the upcoming months. With respect to vacant acquisitions that is a little more in the unknown at this time. The intent of the program is that the money is actively invested, so as it goes through the testing and it goes reporting to the IRS the opportunity fund may have to prove that their investment dollars are being actively engaged in the community thereby a vacant or land banking a vacant land wouldn't apply and therefore they would either be penalized or they would have to make that property an active investment. The land banking of a vacant property is still somewhat unknown; you talk to five attorneys you are going to get five different interpretations possibly depending on how aggressive or how conservative that interpretation is. I think that is something that we would like to sure up from the IRS as we move forward.

Mr. Newton said seeing how this could be a preliminary question when we don't have enough information to have answers for, maybe at the very least we could get more information on what that minimum amount of development under whatever the guidelines are for Opportunity Zones, what that minimum would be on the vacant tracts that you are talking about. That is what I would be interested in hearing about.

Ms. Ajmera said I was looking at all the maps that are attached to this presentation, and that is very helpful as it breaks it down in terms of how it is currently zoned, how many multifamily and single-family properties that we are looking at. I would also be interested when we have affordable housing, a housing trust ask come in front of us I would like to know if they are in Opportunities Zones so that we can consider that as well, because I think that is a very important consideration, because we know that considering the activity in the market place where we are going to see gentrification, and we are already seeing some gentrification in some of those neighborhoods so it is an opportunity for us to put more affordable housing in those areas where people are closer to work where we can really create some opportunities in some of this growing neighborhoods.

Mr. Harlow said to your point Ms. Ajmera, I think you might find that there is a decent amount of affordable housing in a lot of these areas already so as we consider that, but I don't know that to be sure, but I would suggest that might be the case. To your point Mayor when we first opened this up; what is the question, right? We are getting a little sidelined on what we do and don't have purview over. I for one and I just asked the Chair if this would be appropriate, but I would want to consider as folks are making some of these substantial improvements that are required to get the tax benefit, somehow along that line they have to request for some type of permit, correct? Do we have some purview in that permit application to ask is this being funded through an Opportunity Zone fund, or is this for purposes of Opportunity Zone benefit? I don't know if we can actually ask that or not.

Mayor Lyles said we will get a lawyer; we won't ask Mr. DeLong to answer that questions.

Mr. Newton said no, no, I wasn't asking him to; I'm just saying to throw it out there since we are meeting in Committee in a few weeks to bring the answer to the Committee at least, and we can report that back out. That would be one question I would want to an answer to.

Mr. Phipps said if a vacant piece of property is already zoned by right, the individual investor could just develop it by right. He wouldn't have to be coming to us and haggling over a rezoning, right? It sounds like we are trying to impose some sort of litmus test or requirement that they

would do something that they otherwise could do by right. I wanted to make sure I understood that.

Mayor Lyles said we would have to be able to move pretty quickly to be able to do that if we were talking about corrective or changing the zoning.

Mr. Winston said in these Opportunity Zones are there any kind of boxes that development has to live in; does it have to be residential, or could it be any type of development that the person who has the money desires to put where they want to put it.?

Mr. DeLong said it could be anything.

Mayor Lyles said meeting City zoning requirements and code.

Ms. Ajmera said they would still have to go through rezoning.

Mayor Lyles said if they wanted to have a rezoning but they would have to decide, and if was zoned correctly they would have to tell it.

Ms. Ajmera said that is what I'm saying; if it is currently industrial and they want to do residential then they would have to go through rezoning.

Mr. Winston said what I'm asking is this deal of opportunity does it lie in fixed income communities; does it rely on improving some type of metric or standard of improving communities that are in these zones, or is the opportunity just given to the investor to make as much money as he can?

Mr. DeLong said the latter is the original intent of the program is to allow for capital gains to be invested into lower income communities to basically get those trillions of dollars sitting on the sideline to be invested.

Mr. Winston said it is deceptive. It sounds Opportunity Zone is something for the people, but it is simply for small subset of investors that the opportunity is supposed to be created for.

Mr. DeLong said there are about 77 funds that are in the process of attracting investment now. Each fund has its own specialization; some are specializing in affordable housing. Some are specializing in small business development; some are specializing in mixed-use development, so there is a range of different funds. Some of them have social driven missions, others have profit driven missions.

Mr. Winston said that is whoever creates the fund determines the mission. There is no definition within code or anything like that that sets out the types of opportunity funds and how many should go into certain census tracts or anything like that. Sounds dangerous.

Mayor Lyles said I think one of our speakers said that they wrote a law without any rules and now they are trying to figure out what the rules are so nobody knows what is and maybe the rules will address it and maybe not. We can't speculate, so we will just have to wait, and we can certainly comment on what we think would be important.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said just to kind of wrap it up, I think every city probably has their own set of questions that apply to their city conditions. One of the things that we need to know is, can we do zoning overlays because our Opportunity Zones are mostly zoned light industrial? So, that doesn't make it sound like we are going to get what we want out of it unless it has rezoning. My question is, and I don't need the answer tonight, if you could just let us know, but I'm curious as to what round two is really all about, because it seemed like the tax treatment was pretty specific in route one of the IRS guidance. To me, it is like starting a [inaudible] fund or something; anybody can develop it for whatever they want, and that is not anything new in the market place. That is out there all the time, and there are some opportunity funds that are for social equity, and the whole idea is that the investor would require a lower return, and that is why in theory this would be a good thing, but I guess my question if you can find out is what are people expecting to come out of round two guidance from the IRS. What is really globally speaking; what are we expecting to learn from that?

Mr. DeLong said we will get that for you.

Mayor Lyles said I'm going to try to get a referral written for the Committee around the questions and address them so that we know what we are trying to accomplish beside just- We've been talking a lot, and I guess the real question for me is what can we control, and how can we make the decision around that control? We are not always in charge of everything, so what are we in charge of and how would we do that.

With that thanks very much; this is always helpful and we will continue to talk about Opportunity Zones I expect.

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#### **ITEM NO. 4: CROSS CHARLOTTE TRAIL UPDATE**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said as we talked with you last month that we would come back with some recommendations related to the Cross Charlotte Trail. I will tell you in that period of time I learned a lot. Many people have an interest in the Cross Charlotte Trail. We've had meetings in my office, on the sidewalks, in the YMCA and about anywhere that you go there are good conversations going on. What we are going to do tonight is Scott Curry and Mike Davis will tag team with this, but I want to start off by saying that in the room there are some charts that really talk a little bit more than just about the Cross Charlotte Trail.

As we've discussed this over the last month, I've learned more about the Carolina Thread Trail which is 1,610 miles of trails, greenways and blue ways, and I'm not sure I understand what all of that is, but what I am saying is that this has always been something bigger than the 26-miles that we've been talking about. Many of these trails are in different stages of development, so what we are going to do tonight is try to maybe start over focusing on just the Cross Charlotte Trail, how we have gotten to where we are, and we are not talking about who did what when. It is just this is where we are today in terms of funding and in terms of opportunity to move forward.

What I will say is that I applaud Mike and Scott for being creative and innovative; you are going to hear some things tonight, and later on Ms. Eiselt you will hear a little bit about the 5th and 6th Streets Cycle Track. What we are trying to do is get to a place where in the next two years we can give you a facility that is comprehensive; it includes some of the recommendations related to the 2017 Bike Plan and how can we start to look at a network of transportation and recreational facility. Scott, did I set that up good enough for you?

**Scott Curry, Transportation** said perfect thank you. We are going to start with a brief recap of the Cross Charlotte Trail. The bulk of the presentation will be spent answering some of the key questions from the January Strategy Session and then Mike will go over in detail some of our options for moving forward, including an implementation strategy to deliver a complete connection across Charlotte within the existing capital funding we have available. We also want to spend a little bit of time explaining some of the things the City Manager just mentioned, which is how the Cross Charlotte Trail connects to other key parts of our network across the City.

Just to remind you, the Cross Charlotte Trail is a partnership with Mecklenburg County; it is a 26-mile north/south greenway within the City limits. You will notice that we have some posters that the City Manager mentioned spread around the room that illustrate the Carolina Thread Trail and the County Greenway Master Plan. The Carolina Thread Trail is a regional greenway vision that covers 15 counties in North and South Carolina and includes over 1,600 miles of planned trails. The Cross Charlotte Trail is a key piece within that much larger vision, so of that 1,600-mile system, about 26-miles is the Cross Charlotte Trail within our City limits and about 13-miles is the portion that the City is responsible for.

I also want to remind you that in 2016 \$3 million was added to the transportation bond to construct the South Charlotte Connector, which is circled here in red. That is a 1.2-mile connection that gets us from the Cross Charlotte Trail alignment to the existing McMullen Four Mile Creek Greenway System, which is one of the most heavily used greenway systems in Charlotte. So, now starting with that South Charlotte Connector we want to walk you through



the 11 segments that represents the City's portion of the Cross Charlotte Trail. What you see now on the screen is all of the County pieces; many of the County segments are already complete, and all of their segments are scheduled to be complete by 2021. The remaining 13 miles are what we are responsible for in the City, so moving from south to north, we will walk you through those segments. Segments one, two, three, and four are the segments that are most ready to move forward and in fact segment four is actually ready complete. That is the segment through Cordelia Park.

**Councilmember Winston** said the South Charlotte Connector is not technically part of the Cross Charlotte Trail, correct?

Mr. Curry said like I said the South Charlotte Connector was added in 2016 to connect that main Cross Charlotte Trail alignment to the McMullen Four Mile Creek Greenway system.

Mr. Winston said do we consider that part of the Cross Charlotte Trail or is that something separate?

Mr. Curry said it is not part of the 26-mile alignment that I mentioned. Segments five, six, seven, eight, and nine stretch through NoDa and Hidden Valley; it is about 6.5 miles of the trail that would connect up through UNC-Charlotte. Completing those segments would take us from 18 continuous miles of trail to 28 continuous miles. Segments 10 and 11 at the northern end or the lowest priority segments for the City; they are included in the Cross Charlotte Trail alignment, because they are a part of the Carolina Thread Trail within our City limits, but they don't get connected to anything in Cabarrus County so that is why they are the lowest priority of the 11 segments.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I know some of 10 and 11 is not in the City limits; it is in the ETJ when you get up close to the Harrisburg/Cabarrus County line? So, in your opening comments you talked about all 26-miles were actually in the City limits, but some of this is not. How do we reconcile that?

Mr. Curry said you are right; there is a small green bit right up there at the top that is actually outside the City limits. It is about a third of a mile that is a County portion. So, what you see representatives 10 and 11 on your screen and in your packets, that is the City portion of that northern end.

Mr. Phipps said that is direct in the City limits.

Mr. Curry said that is correct.

Mr. Jones said Mr. Phipps, something was said earlier about a low priority, and so what Scott was basically saying is that it really doesn't connect to anything outside of the City limits. Part of it being a low priority as Mike is going to say is that nothing has been done on it. There is no planning done on those two segments; there is no design on those two segments, so any certainty around the cost of those two segments we couldn't hang our hat on that.

Mr. Phipps said when you said there is no cost estimate, but that is part of the \$77 million overrun costs is computed within those sections right?

Mr. Jones said right, Councilmember Phipps; as we talked about this at the Retreat one of the ways to get the best numbers possible is to have a plan and a design before you go to construction. So, what previous numbers you had associated with those two segments had no planning on it and no design on it. It is just not a good number to start off with.

**Mike Davis, City Engineer** said when we were together last, of course what we are doing is describing an approach to the implementation of segments of the Cross Charlotte Trail with the understanding that we weren't fully funded to deliver and go to construction on all segments of the trail as originally contemplated, and so what we want to do tonight is kind of pick up from some of that conversation with a couple of key questions in mind that emerged from that conversation, one of which was why were the segments in the south prioritized? The answer to this is fairly straight forward; what you get by putting in the segments in the southern end of the alignment is you are leveraging work that the county has done or is imminently completing

that gives you the most amount of continuous miles of trail segment. That was the rationale leading to the segments in the south and that rationale was further confirmed during the development of the Master Plan and the community engagement that that involved.

The question I think we will spend a little more time with is, how much work has been completed on the different segments of the Cross Charlotte Trail? To do that, I wanted to show you a map and a table that is intended to show where the most work has been completed along the trail and to sort of understand the colors when you see the segments in green what that is showing you are the segments that have had the most work done to them. They've gone through planning, and they've been designed and they are the closest to being ready to go for construction and of course the one that is most ready is the South Charlotte Connector. Cordelia Park is complete, and as you move northward through the corridor when you see the segments in yellow those are segments that have had planning work done to them where we have some cost estimations complete, but designs are not yet complete.

Mayor Lyles said one of the questions I have is do you want to hear it overall and then come back for questions? I think that would be helpful if you could just make a note of where we are on each page and then we will come back and start a discussion and the questions from there.

Mr. Davis said lastly just know as was previously mentioned segments 10 and 11 in the northeastern corner have not had planning work completed on those segments, and so hold that thought in mind when we think about options for moving forward. There is a way you can think about this in terms of options that basically say you can take the funding that we have,, and you can reprioritize them and build different segments, or you can construct the three segments that are most construction ready. I will be providing a little more detail that will accompany that second option, but if we want to first think about what it would mean to reprioritize and build different segments again, I will take you back to the map and just would say generally speaking that if you were to want to not advance a segment for construction that has already been through design and is otherwise ready, you could reallocate resources to further one of the segments to the north, but what you run into in a general way with that is it is going to take longer to complete those segments, because they will need to go through the design and the associated real estate acquisition that follows that and then you would put the documents out and go to construction. When you are done with that the scenarios we've studied you would end up with fewer continuous miles of trail through any other approach, and there is also going to be greater uncertainty with that approach as you continue to do that work and you discover and get greater clarity on costs associated with those segments. Just sort of taking the abstract description of it, but if you were to take one example and we went back to try to figure out what would be the next most logical way to reallocate if you didn't want to advance the most construction ready segments and so this is a snapshot of what that scenario would look like.

What it says if you take segment two, which is the Brandywine to Tyvola segment and free up those resources to say implement segments in the north that you afford to with those reallocated resources, what would that look like? So, under this scenario what you would achieve would be to advance segments five, seven, and eight, but what you see in the resulting map to the left, you can see the missing segment, which is the Brandywine to Tyvola in the southern end and then segments five, seven, and eight highlighted. What you end up with is a slightly more disconnected network, but it would also take you longer to get those northern segments so rather than a 2021 timeframe, which is what we've been sort of looking at with the others, this is probably a 2024 to advance that work, so it is just one scenario. Others could be evaluated similarly.

So, that takes us to option two and if we pursued this option, and you started from the idea that you wanted to build the most construction ready segments, which would be one through three, it would give you 18-miles by 2021, and what this table is showing you is that once that is done you are left with a balance of approximately \$2.7 million and then the question becomes what then is the path forward for the remaining segments? As we've tried to crack that nut, we are thinking in terms of creativity, innovation, and partnership how can these things get us to a future that deliver on the Cross Charlotte Trail in the best way? I'm going to step you through segment by segment what we see as the opportunity to do that.

Segment five is the Davidson and the Matheson connection and it happens that this segment is next to the recently constructed Rail Trail, and I want to show you what the opportunity that gives us. So, on the bottom of the screen, the green line is existing greenway that is in place, the line at the top where it is marked existing Rail Trail was opened concurrently with the Light Rail Extension. So, what we see is an opportunity that whereas this line that was just animated in represents the official adopted alignment of the Cross Charlotte Trail, and there is an opportunity potentially to take advantage of buffered bike lanes that will be coming on line soon that could provide connectivity over to that Rail Trail segment, then what you would do is take advantage of that segment and reconnect up with Matheson on the northern end of that alignment.

There is also the possibility with the forth coming extension of a local street in that area to similarly connect this over to the Rail Trail, so these are not options that have been designed, so a path forward would be to understand the extent to which this might reduce our costs. This would take the place of some of the Cross Charlotte Trail alignment that was dash in [inaudible], and that would be the new alignment under this scenario.

Segment six is Matheson to Craighead; this is the segment that we think is the greatest opportunity for partnership with the private sector, so you are looking at an aerial of this particular part of the corridor, and what I'm bringing in that is shown in yellow represents groupings of parcels that are immediately adjacent to the Light Rail Extension; this is generally in the NoDa area, and what we have seen in this corridor is a lot of redevelopment activity that we think is prime to help us through partnership advance the Cross Charlotte Trail. In our interactions with developers so far, generally we've found that developers are seeing the Cross Charlotte Trail as a value add for their projects and in some cases we are even seeing branding around the idea of a greenway district. So, partnership could look like several things; it could take the form of redevelopment through negotiated improvements that occurs, mitigations through rezonings, it could happen through tax increment grants. Specific partnerships haven't been finalized but we think the opportunities are there and viable. The last thing I would say about it is it also represents an opportunity to do something different than other segments in the form of actually concurrently designing those land uses and those buildings to integrate from a design standpoint, with the Trail, not just be adjacent to it.

Segments seven through nine represent sort of a twofold strategy; one of which is that we recognize there is a need to complete the design. If we are going to have certainty about what a permanent alignment for seven, eight, and nine might look like, we think it is smart to go ahead and advance the design for that work to inform future decision making, but we also think it makes sense to implement what we've called a bike boulevard and to help explain that I will invite Scott back to walk us through that.

Mr. Curry said just so, we are working with a common vocabulary, Bike Boulevard is a term of practice in pedestrian and bike infrastructure planning that refers to streets with low traffic volume and low speeds where we feel like we have good opportunities to stitch together a comfortable bike network. They are designed and designated to be intuitive for cyclists and give them priority over drivers. Typically, they use signs, pavement markings and traffic calming measures to create safe and convenient bike networks on neighborhood streets.

This slide is an aerial view looking south from UNC-Charlotte towards NoDa, and we want to click through some things to give you an idea of what this Bicycle Boulevard connection might look like. For example, we think on North Davidson Street north of the existing Cross Charlotte Trail alignment, there is sufficient payment width in places to install buffered bike lanes. There are also lots of places along this route where we plan to install pavement markings and signage to make it very easy and intuitive for cyclists to navigate. This also helps to reinforce to drivers that they should drive slowly and expect to encounter cyclists. Where the Bike Boulevard crosses North Tryon Street, we propose a new pedestrian and bicycle activated traffic signal called a pedestrian hybrid beacon. When activated that crossing beacon provides a red light to stop drivers so that people on the Bike Boulevard can cross a major thoroughfare safely. Then there is a spot on Eastway Drive where we seek to widen a small stretch of existing sidewalk to create a shared use path that is wide enough for both pedestrians and cyclists.

This is a different type of trail experience than a typical greenway, but it is one that lots of other cities have implemented with great success. In fact, it is one that we've used with success on the existing Cross Charlotte Trail alignment in the south. What you are seeing now are pictures



of Jameston Drive and Irby Drive just south of Freedom Park where we've created a Bike Boulevard connection between two existing segments of Little Sugar Creek Greenway, so we would be seeking to do something similar through the northern Bike Boulevard proposal.

Mr. Davis said so, to sort of review how that works together again, kind of working from the bottom of the map if we take these in steps; that first step being to advance the segments that are most construction ready would achieve 18-miles of continuous trail. In terms of step two, working to the north which would be to potentially take advantage of the Rail Trail adds an additional mile for a total of 19-miles taking us to the next northern segment where we think we have the greatest opportunity for private partnership to get us to 20 and then the fourth step would be again a concurrent design evaluation for future segments while we implement a Bike Boulevard that connectivity that is brought on with the Bike Boulevard then ties into existing greenway to the north, giving us 28 continuous miles. Then as was referenced earlier what that leaves on the map on the northern most end are segments that do not connect any activity centers; they are segments that would connect to the City limits which one day may have a lot of value to connect to the Carolina Thread Trail but that project is not imminent so that is why that is our lowest priority. If you take all of that in conjunction with the other network that is accessed in the northern and the southern ends that is already constructed today what you end up with is over 40-miles of connected network. As we think about how do advance on segments that might require more funding in the future, our recommendation is that we allow the budget process to highlight those priorities based on greater clarity that is brought about through continued design for some of those remaining segments.

The last part of our presentation I want to invite Scott back one more time to talk about how this fits into a larger network.

Mr. Curry said before we wrap up we want to come back to a point that we started with at the beginning of the conversation, which is this is a conversation that is bigger than the Cross Charlotte Trail. We want to make sure you all understand more about the pedestrian and bike network Citywide and what we are doing to try to extend that. We've already mentioned some of the key connections to existing greenway systems in the north and south; there is also a key connection to a transformative project through Center City. The 5th/6th Street Cycle Track Project is one that you all have probably heard about. When complete, that two-mile facility will connect the Cross Charlotte Trail through uptown to the Irwin/Stewart Creek Greenway Systems on the west end and get us over to neighborhoods like Seversville, Biddleville, Smallwood, and Wesley Heights. It is one of the most anticipated projects we are working on right now, and on the next slide, I will show you some images illustrating these key connecting networks.

Here is an image from the existing greenway system up north; here is an image of that existing greenway system over in west end and again, just to make sure we have a common vocabulary; when I say cycle track I mean something that looks like this. It is in street protected facility that carries two-way bicycle traffic. Cyclists in a cycle track are separated from moving traffic by a horizontal buffer and a vertical barrier like bollards, planters or concrete medians. That separation means that cycle tracks are really high-quality facilities that are comfortable for folks of all ages and abilities. Lots of cities around the country have implemented cycle tracks in their downtowns; here is an example of a recent project in Austin, Texas, and here is what a portion of that existing McMullen Four Mile Creek Greenway System looks like to the south.

In addition to those three connections, there is also about a dozen other places along the Cross Charlotte Trail alignment where we would tie into other east/west bike network connections across the City. These are various type of bike lanes and signed bike routes that would funnel cyclists to the Cross Charlotte Trail.

I want to zoom in on a section of uptown where the Cross Charlotte Trail and the 6th Street Cycle Track converge. In 2017, you all adopted a Charlotte Bikes Plan, and in 2018, you allocated the first formerly and toward the implementation of that plan. In the past, our approach to building bike infrastructure was really focused more on what is easy and inexpensive; now with that dedicated bike program funding we can focus on what is most important and fill the most critical gaps in our network. This is a snapshot of that part of town as I mentioned where the Cross Charlotte Trail and that 7th to 10th segment are located.

Everything in green represents existing facilities that are on the ground today. Everything in yellow represents bike connections that we anticipate to be complete by 2021, either through bike program funding or other capital sources.

These projects create a series of bike routes that some other cities call green loops, and at the center of this system are those two bicycle super highways that I mentioned, the Cross Charlotte Trail running north to south and the 6th Street Cycle Track running east to west. Our intent is to replicate this kind of thinking elsewhere throughout the City. We could have shown you slides of West End or University City or the east side that has a similar scheme for green loops, but our approach has been to start from this confluence of the key facilities and then build our network out to reach as much of the City as we can.

What this does for us is to transform some of our best greenways from a mostly recreational infrastructure into true transportation infrastructure. This is what helps us move the needle and get more of our residents commuting by bike. It also supports transit ridership through key connections to and from Blue Line Stations. The Cross Charlotte Trail, the 6th Street Cycle Track, and the connected network of facilities that tie into those projects will encourage the kind of sustainability, livability, and carve out lifestyles that we've been working hard to support.

That concludes our presentation; Mike and I will be happy to take any questions. Liz Babson is also here to take any questions you might have for her.

Mayor Lyles said I have been making a list but before we start I wanted to make sure Mr. Jones; this is the segment that you would like for us as we ask our questions and get the information are we ready as a Council to give the Manager direction on the option to use existing funding as he looked at Option one and Option two or if there is an option that the Council would like to see done differently? That would be what we would have to do, so let's make sure our discussion gets you in a position that you are ready to give the Manager a sense of direction.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said could you take back to segment 10 and 11? I know you had mentioned about how 10 and 11 are not connected with other trails. Did I hear you correctly there? I'm still not clear as to why it is a low priority, because we've got the Blue Line Extension there. There is a lot of residential there, so I'm just not clear on why it is a low priority.

Mr. Davis said I think it is a matter of what the higher priorities are. The other segments are higher priority because of their connectivity to other network and other things like employment centers and larger-residential populations. Segments 10 and 11 when we get into that end of the alignment, it is not that is unimportant, but it gets to a place where the densities are lower, and its real value is probably in the future to link it to other regionally connected trail systems that won't come on line for a while. They are not unimportant; they are just not as important today.

Ms. Ajmera said I would disagree with that Mr. Manager. I think to label those segments as low priority is we are picking winners and losers here. We are saying that one is not as important as maybe one, two, or three, or four, or five. I would make an argument that it is probably as important, and that is the reason why we had voters approve it overwhelmingly. If you look at Page 10 where it says community engagement, it says the Master Plan confirmed this approach following the community engagement, so was there no community engagement done when we said we are going to put this on the ballot plan approval? How did we come up with 26-miles of Cross Charlotte Trail?

Mr. Jones said Ms. Ajmera I will try to dissect it in pieces so let's start off with the Master Plan; I'm not sure I would have called that a Master Plan. The Master Plan basically says it is going to be very difficult to build the northern portion of the Cross Charlotte Trail, start with the southern portion. So, that is basically what that discussed and it talked about some ways to do that. If we go back to those two last segments and I will start off my saying maybe a different word should have been used instead of low priority. I think the key is that no-one said let's abandon it, but right now in terms of having numbers that we can be confident in they are the furthest along in terms of not having anything. I do want to say one more thing that is pretty important is that that last little green dot at the top is I think a third of a mile that the County would construct. I think segments 10 and 11 are county owned land,, so somewhere in this discussion years and years and years ago the City said that the City would build the last two

segments of this Cross Charlotte Trail on County owned land mainly because almost all of segments 10 and 11 aren't within the City's boundary. So, that is where we are, but again, it is not abandoning 10 and 11, and we will use something other than low priority. It is not close to shovel ready.

Ms. Ajmera said thank you, I appreciate that. I think we've got to use different wording as to low priority. We are sort of picking winners and losers here; that is just not the right wording. You said that is on county owned land, 10 and 11. I know that connects to that Old Concord Road; how far is 10 and 11 from the Blue Line Extension, and is that in any way connects to the Reedy Creek area, the park?

Mr. Davis said I'm going to graphically represent where I think those two things are. Actually, Reedy Creek is marked on this map, and Reedy Creek is a fairly significant distance away.

Ms. Ajmera said how far is that from the BLE, especially that Old Concord stop?

Mayor Lyles said why don't we get a map and show adjacent improvements that have been made in the last five-years or something like that so we can show it with a little bit more clarity to some landmarks?

Ms. Ajmera said I think that would be very helpful. I think on the last slide it was said that currently it was used more for recreational purposes. I know that there was a Cross Charlotte Trail going right by Research Park area, and a lot of my colleagues when I used to work in the private sector they were using it as transportation more, so I think some of the existing trails are being used as transportation option and not for just recreation just, because it is a trail does not mean that people don't use it for transportation. In terms of options, I'm not satisfied with the option where we are again choosing which ones that gets built first and so on. That is where I am.

Mayor Lyles said as we get to that point of discussion tell us where you would like to be.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Mr. Davis, what is our current funding source?

Mr. Davis said the current funding source is the general obligation bonds.

Ms. Mayfield said what is the total amount that we totally have available?

Mr. Davis said we began with a \$35 million allocation; it was supplemented later by \$3 million allocation and goes to \$38 million total, and you question is how much of that has been spent?

Ms. Mayfield said no, it is a combination of questions; the first was to make sure there was clarity on the total amount that we had allocated through the bonds, because this is a conversation that has been happening for a number of years, so what we have identified right now through our bond issuance is \$38 million.

Mr. Davis said that is correct.

Ms. Mayfield said now out of that \$38 million between planned and designed how much has been already allocated and/or spent?

Mr. Davis said let me pull up a slide and tell me if this is not answering the question in the way that you are asking it. This is Option two.

Ms. Mayfield said what is being requested is a consideration between options. What we are talking about is a total of \$38 million that was allocated through the bonds. If we were to go to Option two then what we are saying is that would be miles and balance the total cost out of the \$38 million would be \$2.7 million if we were to move to Option two, or if we were to move forward with Option one, \$4.9 million out of the \$38 million that was allocated through bonds.

Mr. Davis said right.



Ms. Mayfield said fast forward through the slides to slide #24 please. Of course, I'm going to have questions about crossing Beacon so, for more than five-years I have had to had multiple conversations specifically regarding West Boulevard, Wilkinson Boulevard, Remount Road, Arrowood Road and Nations Ford Road regarding access from one side of the street to the other. Now, the City did make an investment on West Boulevard, and we put a road crossing at the West Boulevard Library; we are still able to get that and we are still in conversations regarding the road widening, because as I look at this trail and look at this allocation, of which Mr. Manager this can be a separate conversation later. If we are going to talking about it crossing Beacon in order for access of a bike lane then we need to have a conversation regarding crossing beacons across the City where we not only have areas where I have not been able to get speed pumps or traffic calming and/or safer egress and regress across the street.

So, if we are going to be introducing crossing Beacon I would like for us to look at how crossing Beacon can benefit current communities that are already on bicycles and that are not on the trail because this trail, the way they designed for it is not directly impacting southwest Charlotte, and the larger part of my community that have been on bicycles for more than 20-years. I would like additional information regarding crossing Beacon for other conversation besides this one, so that one was specifically for you Mr. Manager.

Mr. Davis, what exactly is the staff's expectations around allow upcoming budget process to highlight the priorities in future funding? Exactly what is your anticipation on that?,

Mr. Davis said I think what that starts from is something the Manager mentioned earlier which is that in order to have confidence in any segment or any project to have understanding and confidence in the costs, there needs to be some planning and design work done. So, part of what this recommendation is about is bringing things to a point where there is confidence in those estimates and the other part of that idea is that it is reasonable to use a CIP budget process that looks at those segments with knowledge of their costs in comparison with other competing needs that emerged during a budget process.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager, I would like for us to take into consideration that part of the reason we are having this conversation is, because it was recently identified a deficit based on recommendations that were made by previous Councils many years ago and conversations that started many years ago between the City/County partnership. If what we are being asked is to trust a planning and design process with a possibility of the CIP budget request, I would like for us to really take the time to consider and revisit the City of Charlotte's priorities. What is the City of Charlotte's focus areas in light of recent financial transactions, the impact of recent growth in areas? I would hope that our heart core services priorities are at the forefront of our conversations to help ensure that we don't have another conversation later that can't identify a multi-million-dollar deficit. If we are going to step back and really look because according to our language of allowing the budget process to move forward in a way to address our current needs and future needs, that gives the impression that we are having a different conversation regarding the conversation that the media has highlighted over the last few weeks regarding the deficit. So, if we are to have conversations regarding priorities it would be helpful to remind, not only staff, but to remind all of Council the focus areas and priorities of the City of Charlotte before stepping into priorities and partnership with the County, because there are a lot of needs that I don't think a lot of us or any of anticipated even five-years ago that have arisen because of the growth and the development in the City.

My last question for you Mr. Davis; I'm still trying to understand how staff defines a City/County partnership when we are looking at this breakdown. You don't need to have that answer right now, but it would be helpful, even though we have the breakdown of County parcels the County also has a tax rate. Mecklenburg County also has bonds and commitments and in their focus area are parks recreation and social services. It would be helpful to have a clear understanding as we are looking at what our focus areas are of what exactly is staff as well as the Manager's Office understanding of a City/County partnership.

Mr. Jones said I just want to make sure that I tough on a big point here. Somewhere in here, if the Council goes with Option two there is a balance of \$2.7 million. If the partnership works with the private sector and the Bicycle Boulevard is something that is okay with the Council, in two-years you could have 40-miles of connected network, where we believe we are not coming

back for additional funds. We may be a couple million dollars off, because what we have is for that segment, segment 5 is about \$3.8 million, but depending on what we could do in terms of this connectivity it could be conservatively less, and the Bike Boulevard signage and the treatments are around a million. So, what we are saying is in two-years, we could get all of this connectivity but it wouldn't stop us from trying to continue to move forward segments 10 and 11, and we would have to get some funds to design those segments that are a part of the Bicycle Boulevard.

So, in the upcoming budget absolutely positively we are going to ask for design money, because we are going to have to not just address segments 10 and 11 but any other project that we have been going along without any design money. The Bike Plan which was approved in 2017 didn't have any design money so, the \$4 million that you approved last year is like we are starting from scratch. So, we just need to have planning money and design money as we move forward with these projects. I didn't want to lose sight that there is an option on the table that can do this with limit extra funding requests.

Mr. Winston said are you saying to get here is represented on the two options that you presented us tonight?

Mr. Jones said it would be option two, a good portion of that is the Bike Boulevard.

**Councilmember Egleston** said which is just signage on an existing roadway.

Mayor Lyles said signage and painting. It would be lanes; I feel like signage is one thing visual.

Mr. Egleston said it is all visual; it is not physical infrastructure.

Mr. Jones said the only thing I want to add is the Council just approved double the money for sidewalks and pedestrian improvements so instead of \$15 million it is \$30 million. So, again what we are trying to make sure that we do is utilize those funds in order to implement as quickly as we can but in a very conscientious way as we look at the entire City.

Mr. Egleston said several things, one I am completely alright with the Bike Boulevard as a bridge solution to the end result, but I don't want anybody to think that we are saying this is what you are getting and then that is going to be it. It needs a band aid solution until we get to physical infrastructure. So, I would like us to be very clear about that.

I am strongly in favor of option two; I think we've got design. We are ready to go; it gives us the largest piece of continuous trail in the quickest timeline. Utilizes investments that have already been made. I think I can appreciate Ms. Ajmera's point around a poor choice in wording on one of the slides, but building infrastructure that doesn't connect to anything versus building infrastructure that connects to already existing infrastructure to me is a pretty easy choice. One thing that I'm curious about is the Brandywine to Tyvola segment at \$25 million for a mile and a half is approximately two to seven times more expensive per mile than the other three things that we show on there. What opportunities do we think might exist to re-examine the design on that to save some money? I understand that any given segment is going to be different from the next, but \$16 million per mile is a significant difference from these other segments.

Mr. Davis said that segment is very different than the others. Typically, when you are building segments of this trail you are running along areas that are by a creek in a lot of cases. What is different about the stream segment around Brandywine and Tyvola is all of the development has already occurred around it and the remaining topography is just kind of down in a canyon. I don't know if you recall in the last presentation there was some imagery we used to show construction of some retaining walls, construction of what I call low water crossings which are like small bridges, even some boardwalks where you've got to structurally suspend some elements of it, so it is not really having to do with what our expectations are for the design, the width and those things. It is really the topography in which you are working in that segment is truly different and a big reason why it has not been addressed up until this point.

Mr. Egleston said if that \$25 million estimate is right and again, I'm a strong proponent of option two, it leaves us \$2.5 million and I'm led to believe the 5th and 6th Street Cycle Track is about a \$6 million project, plus or minus. To me, if there is a way to find the \$3.5 million that can be

designed out of some of these segments, potentially if that is possible or find it somewhere else in the budget, to be able to do the three segments that are planned and designed and then add in the 5th and 6th Street Cycle Track, that not only connects it into west Charlotte and bring a whole new section of the City into this trail, but also if we want to make this a transportation method where are people taking it. If it is not recreational they are taking it to work theoretically and where are a lot of these people wanting to work? Where is the largest concentration of workers? It is in uptown so, if we cut it through uptown we actually make it an option for people to use it to get to work and we connect to west Charlotte, which to date has not been connected into this infrastructure. So, to me that puts us at \$42 million total to do what we've got here on option two with the 5th and 6th Street Cycle Track, connecting it through uptown, connecting it to west Charlotte. That to me puts us in a really good place and keeps the momentum going and does so quickly, extending our timeline to 2024 to only then have disconnected parts of this trail I think is not the best path forward, and we are going to have to continue to finance or try to build the northeast segment, but to waste the segments that have already been invested in I think would be disappointing.

**Councilmember Driggs** said the proposed County segments, are those funded? Does the County have money in its capital budget for those?

Mr. Davis said yes, the segments that we've shown you on the maps that are County are funded and either complete or under construction.

Mr. Driggs said the future funding reference, just to be clear, you've got 26-miles that are covered by option two in effect and 14-miles to get to 40-miles total with the suggestion that we have to think about future funding. So, those are the pieces that were going to cost \$77 million but won't, because we are not going to do it that way. Is that right? But, we need to come up with a solution in lieu of what was going to cost \$77 million in order to make those things happen.

Mr. Davis said I will break it down in a few rough chunks. If the City were to fully fund, for example, the Matheson to Craighead segment, which we have described as being a good opportunity for redevelopment, that is on the order of \$20 million and don't hold me to that number, but it is in that territory. The segments in the northeast, as I recall, are at a similar total, around \$20 million and then the segments that we might be bridging for a period of time would total somewhere in the \$30 to \$35 million. That is roughly how you get to something that is the \$70 million range, and again, if we are successful with development you take off big chunks of that.

Mr. Driggs said but we are guessing at what the solutions we might now consider might cost, right? We don't know.

Mr. Davis said that is right.

Mr. Driggs said I wanted to make the general comment that this is a bad situation, and it is very nice for us to say oh, those were people that were here before us, staff, Council, but if we don't react dramatically to this we own it, and I'm just concerned that in my mind there are three principle questions. One is what do we do about this? That is what we are talking about tonight, and I would like to say I'm in favor of option two, and I would certainly hate to see South Charlotte get the \$3 million taken out given how little has been invested in there.

The second question is, are we doing something different so that new projects that we enter into don't land us in the same place? I think Manager, you have talked about that a little bit about changing the sequence before stuff actually comes up for inclusion in a budget. I could only say about that I don't want to see us spending a pile of money on something that could get turned down, so we need to kind of figure out how to manage that. The third and maybe the toughest question is, where are we in terms of other situations like this? We've had one instance of presentations where we were told about several projects that were kind of off budget and JCC and things like that we talked it, but when the process of going through all of the prior projects that were done by other people before, be finished so that we can say that we are at the end of this?



Mr. Jones said I think you are going to take your first look at that at the first Budget Workshop in two days.

Mr. Driggs said alright, but you feel that you are in a position to then give us information that is not subject to qualifications about what else might bubble up as we go through, because there is a bunch of stuff in our plans for 2020 and 2022. So, are we reaching a point where we now do not have old things that were not even fully specked or designed that are sitting there with a number next to them?

Mr. Jones said I can tell you any item that doesn't have a plan to it or a design to it I can't have confidence in it. What we will do on Wednesday is give you every project that doesn't have a plan and doesn't have a design and those that have the planning process there is a little bit more confidence in design even if it is 50% designed we feel much better about it than having no design, but you will get all those projects that are in the CIP on Wednesday.

Mr. Driggs said I look forward to that; we need to put a fence around this, and again I'm in favor of option two.

Mr. Winston said how is what you are presenting to us different than what you presented to us last month?

Mr. Davis said there are some differences again; the first segment that we stepped you through is one that we think leverages an opportunity to connect to infrastructure that is already on the ground and that was not contemplated in that earlier scenario. I think there are a couple options we can do to take down the costs. I think the segment that is further north that we do think does really represent development partnership is something we're just taking a closer look at to understand at a parcel level what the opportunity is. The treatment, for what we are calling the Bike Boulevard, I think has improved in terms of what we envisioned the types of elements to go on it, and that distance has also been shortened. Those are probably the key differences.

Mr. Winston said Mr. Manager, between last month and this month we've learned a lot more about other projects. I think some of my colleagues alluded to a question about we will have to rely on CIP funding moving forward, correct.

Mr. Jones said yes.

Mr. Winston said what have we learned; what are we anticipating with those?

Mr. Jones said you as a body has the first look at those on Wednesday.

Mr. Winston said from what I take from the information that we've been told is that we will have to make priority decisions and some of these projects that we've said we were going to do won't be funded possibly.

Mr. Jones said I'm not sure I would take that leap. I would like to get to Wednesday; for instance something like an asphalt project at some point if you said that you could put down so many miles, and let's say you missed it and instead of saying I can do 10 you do nine. That is some of this, but the stand alone projects like this are the ones that give me concern.

Mr. Winston said does it seem like the Cross Charlotte Trail would be anomaly or it would be something that is going to characteristic of the decisions that we have to make in these 115 projects that are currently in process at some varying degree of process?

Mr. Jones said I don't know how I can better articulate it; if something is not planned, is not designed I'm not—

Mr. Winston interrupted to say I understand that if it is not but how many other projects are in this type of a situation?

Mr. Jones said in your C-NIPS, you have different projects within those that would have gone through this same type of process. What has occurred in the past is sometimes you would have so many projects and you draw a line and instead of having eight you have six. That is

not where I want to go as a City and what we would like to have is certainty in what we are bringing to you for your approval.

Mr. Winston said are we certain to see more projects like the Cross Charlotte Trail that are going to run into the same kind of situations?

Mr. Davis said Mr. Jones, may I jump in just a perspective?

Mr. Jones said I think I have answered this four times, and I'm going to try one more time. You are going to have projects that are going to have overruns. Does that help? We are going to have projects that are going to have overruns; the magnitude I don't know right now.

Mr. Winston said I'm not in favor of either of these options, especially deciding on them tonight when we anticipate finding a lot more information in two days about capital investment projects. I don't think that makes sense especially. I want a plan and a cost estimate for the entire Cross Charlotte Trail, and that is not what we have here and I think that is what the citizens deserve, and I think that is what we should provide.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said going back to what Ms. Ajmera said, I think everybody would agree the whole thing is a priority. The community voted on it as one trail; they feel the whole thing is priority. So, with that in mind, I support option two because my biggest fear is that if we pull anything out that is pretty much shovel ready to go, it is going to cost so much more, especially when it is a segment that is already very expensive to engineer and construct.

I'm going to support option two; I have two questions on that though. When we look at the vision zero plan I want us to look at it with this in mind, because I don't have confidence; I think it has kind of been clear. I don't have confidence that we look after our pedestrians and our bike riders. We don't enforce speeding. We are not good at it, and I'm fearful. I have ridden some of these trails on the roads that are calling them, but we've got to be sure that we are not only providing the infrastructure to the extent that we have it designed for bikers and pedestrians but that we are also going to enforce the law. That is a statement and not a question, but I feel strongly about it. The other question I have is I'm trying to look at this slide, and I'm really happy to see that the plan is to complete the 5th and 6th Street Cycle Track, because that is something we committed to two-years ago. I'm thrilled about that; it provides again a safe way to transverse a very busy street, and my question is, it connects to the Irwin and Stewart Creek Greenway system, right? Is that little green piece the Carolina Thread Trail?

Mr. Davis said no, the Carolina Thread Trail generally passes through Charlotte along the Cross Charlotte Trail alignment. This green segment over here, the two greenways you've mentioned are not part of that.

Ms. Eiselt said I'm just wondering for connectivity to west Charlotte and it looks like the Carolina Thread Trail is further southwest of that, but I thought it was a bigger trail. Does that have the opportunity to connect to the Carolina Thread Trail which does go through Wesley Heights, Smallwood and into west Charlotte a bit? Will that eventually be something that we can pretty easily make more connectivity?

Mr. Curry said the Carolina Thread Trail, like I mentioned before, is a regional system and a lot of the existing County Greenways are actually a part of that alignment. They are just not connected into the broader network yet. A big part of the thinking behind the Cross Charlotte Trail as well as some of the other material we've already showed you was to stitch together more of that network within Mecklenburg County. I don't know if that answers specifically what you were looking for, but the Irwin/Steward system could be incorporated into the broader Cross Charlotte Trail through some of the work that is contemplated in the presentation.

Ms. Eiselt said okay, and who really owns responsibility for the Thread Trail?

Mr. Curry said there is an organization called the Carolina Thread Trail; they coordinate with the City, the County and the 14 other counties in the network.

Ms. Eiselt said I thought that group was sort of doing more of the outer, not the urban work, so I wondered if that is the County's responsibility if we really talk to them about connecting and

make a plan to take this west, because that is what was so important about that 5th Street Connector from what I remember when you did the pilot two-years ago. It would really provide connectivity for the west side to the south side through uptown. I'll ask the County about it.

Mayor Lyles said I do remember when that organization was created; it came out of the COG work and all of that, and I think most of their work has been around getting guarantees through request of people as they are changing or building to dedicate and provide the real estate necessary for that to be done, but I think it is a good question to ask both and the County and the Carolina Thread Trail.

**Councilmember Newton** said what I understand is that we are viewing the Cross Charlotte Trail as a transportation corridor, and that is why it has always puzzled me why we haven't placed more of an emphasis on areas that have transportation need. I would suggest of course that would be east and west, so maybe a conversation for a future meeting we can talk about an east/west connector. Having said that I would agree with my colleagues that option two seems to be more preferable, but exploring option one for a moment I did have a quick question. If we could go to slide 15, Mr. Winston had brought up that the South Charlotte Connector was not and I want to just maybe clarify upfront, I'm talking about potential east/west. I think we are locked in on a south/north here, and that is based upon the bond that passed, so the voters decided that. Mr. Winston really brought up a great point I think pertaining to number one down there, the South Charlotte Connector, and just clarify for me that wasn't something that was included in the bond.

Mr. Davis said that segment is a little different; I mentioned that the original allocation was \$35 million, and that became \$38 million. That happened because this segment was specifically added for a value of \$3 million. It was added, because it linked in other greenway segments, but it was identified separately. It was labeled in the budget as Cross Charlotte-South Charlotte Connector, so it wasn't part of the original Cross Charlotte Trail vision for the 26 miles. It was treated in a manner of extending the reach across Charlotte by adding \$3 million for that segment which turns out to be within the budget of \$3 million.

Mr. Newton said gotcha and understanding that could you take one and you can see here on this segment map here, we have a disconnected joint right there at two, disconnected joint up there at six. Is that possible granted I think we are missing the planning and design? I'm not sure about two.

Mr. Davis said I'm not sure what you are describing, so could you say that scenario one more time?

Mr. Newton said number one is that something that could otherwise be moved up into some of these other areas to create further connectivity, maybe out to the north or alternatively, so I guess what we would consider number two there, connect at number two and create some connectivity. I'm just wondering is that an option one, and if it is what are the downsides? I think particularly if we are talking about upping number six, the downside would be we would have to go through a stage of planning and design. We don't have the full numbers, because we've been talking about \$77 million, but for all we know that could pump up to the \$90 million plus range. I'm not sure if that would be a factor there but those downsides to doing something and what would happen too with the existing planning and design? If we went as far as to choose option one what would happen to the money we've already spent on planning and design? Planning and design is that good in perpetuity, indefinitely?

Mr. Davis said those are good questions, so let me try to give you one answer that I think gets at that and let me know if I leave anything out. So, as you think about the idea of taking anything that is ready for construction to reallocate it there is risks. In the case of South Charlotte Connector and just as a quick frame of reference, it is fairly efficient from a cost perspective. Mr. Egleston was asking a moment ago about why is Brandywine to Tyvola expensive; this one a little up in the other end. This one is a little bit easier to build, it is ready to build so if you were to try to reallocate something from it you are going to be able to do a whole lot more with it and whereas it is truly ready to go with design, real estate, contractor, other segments will take longer which both cost you the time value of money as that escalation occurs and also you are stepping a little bit in the unknown if you don't have the design work done. There is a myriad of things that come up, but that is a good example of a scenario that we can test, and I would



say that is roughly how that would come out as you wouldn't find there is a lot to be gained from that particular one.

Mr. Newton said with the existing planning and design too so the planning and design for the south connectors that we've been discussing in option number two, are those things that can expire over time, or would that always kind of be locked in and we know that is going to be good indefinitely?

Mr. Jones said I think to your question about swapping one for six, one has a value of \$3 million; six has a value of \$19 million, and six is planned. So, at least we have that first step. So, from a money perspective we wouldn't be able to flip that.

Mr. Newton said we might have go back and look at new plans and new designs based upon the way that our City grows; I'm going out on a limb in saying this, how we might grow in the future, maybe 10-years plus and so we could lose that money that we already have invested in the planning and design in the south?

Mr. Davis said sometimes designs do get stale if conditions change, if what qualified to be permitted today, if regulations change over time, it can cause you to have to go back and re-engineer something. The planning work probably holds unless something dramatically changes over time that says we think this should have been a different project all along on a given segment, but yes, generally time will erode what you are getting out of that planning and design effort.

**Councilmember Phipps** said getting back segments 10 and 11, how long would the planning, design and acquisition process take if we started next week, if we had the money? How long would it take?

Mr. Davis said 10 and 11 are the ones that would need the most work, and so you are talking about something around five-years.

Mr. Phipps said okay, that is what is pushing me to option two, because I think we can ill afford to wait five-years to building out ones that are shovel ready waiting for something to get designed and planned and acquisition of land. It is unfortunate, because it is in my neck of the woods so I'm disappointed by it, but it makes sense. I participated in the design and planning of the Hidden Valley one, and it certainly didn't take that long, but it took a while, at least about a year maybe.

Mr. Davis said the planning phase is probably what you are describing.

Mr. Phipps said I think option two is the best option to have the most contiguous trail to be able to traverse.

**Councilmember Harlow** said thank you Mike for this presentation and giving us something different to consider, especially after the shock of the last presentation a little bit. I'm glad we got this today and then Mr. Manager thanks for telling us to look forward to some things on Wednesday. I'm kind of with my colleague. I really don't know where I stand yet, because I don't know what other shoe is going to drop on us, if any but whether that comes Wednesday or not I don't think we should be looking at trying to pull back on things that have already been invested in planning and design for those that maybe have considered that in their comments. That just means we just wasted money, so I wouldn't go that far, but I do think we have a responsibility to look at this holistically through the lens of all the other projects that are there that we don't even know about yet. Option two looks attractive, I will admit that, but I'm not certain yet.

I like the 5th/6th Street and thanks for the all District 2 representatives over there talking about connecting to the west side, appreciate you. The Stewart Creek and Irwin Creek and the Wesley Heights Greenway over to Frazier Park and Seversville are highly utilized, and so creating some type of connectivity eventually long-term to that is I think very valuable just by making what is now kind of recreational into more of a transportation site but also through some future planning going forward. I'm just looking forward to Wednesday; I think it sounds like there is more conversations on not just this, but other things but certainly as we think about

how do we, it is important to have things that connect versus things that don't connect. That just doesn't make any sense to have non-connected stuff, but we've got to continue to step back and un-peel this thing a little more, because while I wasn't around when all these decisions were made, it is ours now. So, we've got to own it and figure it out and good to know that we are trying to move into some direction to make sure that these type of things don't happen again. JCC was I think this Council's first kind of big hello moment, and now this is another one this year, but we are getting there but two biggest ones we shouldn't throw away already planned and designed stuff guys. That just doesn't make any sense. We shouldn't have disconnected stuff, and I think encouragement from the private sector is always the way to go.

Mr. Egleston said I appreciate Mr. Phipps letting logic outweigh his geographical bias, and he asked part of my question, which is going to be it has been proposed that we shouldn't do anything until we see a plan for the full trail top to bottom what it would cost, and Mike you said just 10 and 11; all his questions was what would segments 10 and 11 timeline wise take to plan and design, and you said five-years. So, my question was going to be what would the full top to bottom take to design, and it would have to be more than that.

Mr. Davis said I might have misheard or misspoke; five-years would be to get to construction. Roughly, planning is a year, probably a little less than that. Design can take you a year to two years, depending on go to bid and construct.

Mr. Egleston said so, if you wanted to see a full top to bottom Cross Charlotte Trail plan and design before we put a shovel in the dirt anywhere that timeline would be two or three years.

Mr. Davis said yes, two to three years to get a 90% design level.

Mr. Egleston said to me that is unappealing to think that we wouldn't even put a shovel in the dirt for two to three years. I would also note in case not everybody saw it in their e-mail, but we received from what I would contend the three organizations most in tune to this project and this issue Sustain Charlotte, the Carolina Thread Trail Organization and our own Bicycle Advisory Committee all three sent letters to all of us in the last week strongly in support of option two. So, there is nobody who spends more time thinking about these types of projects and these types of needs in our City than those three groups, and they were all in complete agreement. To me that speaks volumes on top of everything else.

Mr. Driggs said I want to say I don't particularly appreciate the suggestion that the South Charlotte Connector has some sort of junior status on this project. It was duly adopted, extra money was added to the total budget. It wasn't diverted from any place else, and the fact is economically it leverages this investment by connecting up a whole other system of trails and is already planned, so the advice we are getting is that it makes better economic sense to these three, this option two thing, and I believe that South Charlotte's claim is just as strong as anybody else's.

Ms. Ajmera said I think we often talk about equity and how we've got to have resources spread out throughout the City and when we talk about trails and there are neighborhoods that don't have trail options, specifically 10 and 11, there are no existing trails out there to connect to, I think backs the question should we do more in that area? Yes, it logically does make sense that we've got to have more connectivity, but if we don't build more we are never going to have connectivity. We've also got to look at this from the equity lens and provide more options to those neighborhoods that don't have options currently.

I think this comes down from the logical perspective it does make sense to do option two, but we are in the business of equity. We've got to look at it from that lens. We shouldn't build just because it is easy; that is not why we did this project. Option two is like we are building this because it is easier rather than what was promised. So, I'm not pleased with option two, and I think we've got to look alternatives on what was promised and how we can deliver on the promise from the equity perspective.

Mayor Lyles said there has been a lot said here, and this is how I look at this. Going back six years ago, what was the first bond for this one?

Mr. Phipps said 2014 I think.

Mr. Driggs said in the CIP.

Mayor Lyles said in the CIP then. One of the things that I think we've got to focus on is our thinking has moved so far ahead of what was the thinking when these bonds were approved, and yet these bonds were approved and still adopted by the voters. So, one of the very first things that I think about is it might be a difficult decision, but we have to deal with what voters have approved and continue to do that. I appreciate Wednesday's discussion but these bonds are specific to that trail and can't be used to substitute for any other project and so we have something that we've got deal with here.

The other thing that I think is this Council has come a very long way, because you have to remember most of our transportation funding prior to 2012 was all about how many roads are we going to build, how many sidewalks are we going to have, and it really just followed like, I remember the formula. Minor thoroughfares get sidewalks; major thoroughfares don't get sidewalks. All of these things were going on. and yet today we have a conversation around transportation options. So, somehow when I look at this there are a lot of things that you've said that have a great impact; shovel ready makes a big difference and instead of low priorities. Crossing Beacons are part of our language and ought to be funded now; we need to do as much as we possibly can to make sure that pedestrians are going to be safe in our City, and I don't think that I have actually heard pedestrians discussed in that way for a very long time. So, I'm really glad to see that.

We have as a City priority, Ms. Mayfield, I think you had stepped out of the room when we talked about the idea of transportation infrastructure and planning being combined. This is no more than a transportation infrastructure idea that needs further planning, and each time that we talk about this we actually need to look at this greater, because this is just one segment. The Carolina Thread Trail, this is talking about going up to Iredell County, all the way down to Rock Hill; there are many parts of those programs that haven't been funded and done, but I think the practical part of this is not just our values and our ideas. It is that we all know that we have a limited amount of funds with a very high likelihood of increased cost in construction and the ability to show people that we are going to do something right away. I think the Manager has said and I think that we don't have to do anything tonight, but what he has said is that he is going to bring back a designed project, so there will be continuous opportunity to do this and how we do it is going to be the question. Nothing on this page should be eliminated; it means how do we plan for it, and that is going to be something we are going to have to deal with in our budget discussions, but I think that if we are serious about transportation infrastructure, we've got to start talking about people and other modes that work for us more than vehicles and cars. I know that we will have that discussion; there is going to be a lot of things and formulas and all of that we have to do. It is easy to talk about we want to be a City that is transformative in transportation. It is a lot harder to make that transition when everything for our entire lifetimes in local government has been laying down asphalt. It is a tough transition to make but one that we've got to make at the end of the day.

I did kind of a dry run of who said what and I think I have six people that said they were in support of option two; we've heard the discussion from others that are saying I've got a real issue with this. I've got to consider that this in a geography; we ought to do the whole thing or how we are looking at it through equity. We may not get to equity right away, but we sure as heck ought to be trying, and I don't know how we do it right today at this moment, but at the same time, I think that we have to show the voters something that they have approved will be done before we can't do anything because of costs and construction costs. I've heard most people say option two, but if you will just raise your hand on the direction for the Manager to proceed in that way, and it is not that it is a final vote. It is just to proceed to make sure that every, and I have to say this Mr. Jones, that every part of what we are doing includes the ability to deliver the project. We prided ourselves on time and in budget; we have somehow gotten a sway away from that. I don't know how it happened, and I don't know when it happened but that is not to say that what is in the past can't be fixed. So, what I think we are giving the Manager direction to do under option two is to be sure that we go forward with the idea that what we have said that we will do will get done and if we can't do that then we have to have a different conversation.

All in favor of giving the Manager direction on option two please raise your hand.



YEAS: Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Newton and Phipps.

NAYS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Mayfield, Mitchell and Winston

Mayor Lyles said I think these are going to be some very hard decisions for us, but that is why you got elected and that is probably why you are running again.

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#### **ITEM NO. 5: CITY COUNCIL FOUR-YEAR TERMS**

**Mayor Lyles** said Ms. Root would you please review with us what we have in terms of information. Mr. Phipps is our Chair and Mr. Driggs our Vice-Chair, and this came out of the Budget and Effective Government Committee.

**Hope Root, Interim City Attorney** said I was asked at the City Council Retreat to review with you all the options going forward with the change to Mayor and Council terms. I believe the Council recommendations were from the Committee, and these were presented to you back in December I believe. Just to review that really quickly, the Committee voted three to two for the Mayor and City Council to transition from two-year terms to four-year terms, that Council initiate a referendum to allow a vote on the transition from two-year to four-year terms, and that was four to one Committee vote. The third part of the Committee vote was the referendum should occur in line with the potential September election; however, since that time based on a state law change it needs to be since this is an odd numbered year. The referendum needs to be given to the people in November at the general election which is November 5<sup>th</sup>, then the Council voted five to zero for staggered terms.

The process for making this change is set forth in the State statutes; first, the Council to make this ordinance change would be to adopt a resolution of intent and set a date for a public hearing, then we publish a notice of intent and the date of the hearing, and that public hearing must be held within 45-days of your resolution of intent. So, the timing on this is very important and at least 10-days after the published notice. I am going to show you in just a few minutes what that means in terms of the calendar.

The Council must then vote to adopt an ordinance within 60-days of the public hearing, that vote must be taken but not before the next regular Council meeting. Then also it must be at least 70-days or more than 70-days prior to the November 5th election. The very possible latest date that City Council could vote to change the Council terms or to submit this referendum to the people for a vote would be on August 26th at that Business Meeting. If it is subject to a referendum then you have to publish a notice of election and all of the information I'm bringing to you tonight is based the Committee's recommendation.

I've been asked to show sort of a calendar of the very last possible dates. If you change the date that you want to vote on the ordinance, all of these dates back up incrementally. So, what I can do if you would like, I can't do it off the top of my head, but I can sit down with the calendar and go through the last several months of Council Business Meetings and propose a back calendar and get that out to everyone if that is something you are interested in. It is very extremely important to pay close attention to the dates, because one feeds off of the other. So, you can see here these dates that I've put out are the very last possible, not the soonest, but the last possible dates you could vote on this. So, if the vote on the ordinance would be August 26th then the last possible regular meeting for a public hearing would be on July 22nd. If that public hearing is on July 22nd then the vote of the resolution of intent, the last possible date for that would need to be on June 10th Business Meeting, or it would need to be on June 10<sup>th</sup>, because once you start backing up from that last possible date then you have to vote on the resolution of intent within a certain amount of time.

One other question I was asked at the Council Retreat is, what would the ballot actually look like on the referendum on the vote to the people? The State statute sets that forth and it says "shall the ordinance" and then we just describe in there what you voted on like change of terms and what those terms would be and what those staggered terms would be, and it would be yes and no, and this is true regardless of whether it is voted in through a petition initiated

referendum or a Council initiated referendum. So, it would just be a simple explanation of what the ordinance would be.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Phipps do you have any comment on the process?

**Councilmember Phipps** said I don't have any comment; it is directly what we approved coming out of Committee.

**Councilmember Driggs** said would you go back to the slides that show the votes that were taken in Committee? I just wanted to know; for one, I was one of the dissenting votes on point one. The remaining questions then were in the context of if we proceed what happens? The second vote that should be a reminder or explained the alternative to initiate a referendum would have been for the City Council to proceed without planning a referendum in which case a petition with 5,000 signatures on it would have required us to schedule a referendum anyway, just so we are clear. So, that decision in Committee was that the Council not proceed without scheduling the referendum and wait to see if a petition is signed, but instead proceed directly putting the question to the public. I just wanted to clear that up.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said mine is actually a question related to my colleague's comments, because I want to make sure that all information is presented. Personally, I feel like this presentation is limited, so I just verified with Ms. Eagle, who is now Assistant City Manager, but at the time she was still in the Budget Committee. Back in 2013, we actually started the conversation regarding both and conversations were started with the City Manager's Office both four-year staggered terms, as well as if there were to be any conversations regarding compensation for Council.

What I'm concerned about in this presentation is the fact that what was not presented was here are the two steps; this is a presentation saying directly okay here are the steps for a referendum, but or in addition when we think about our previous City Attorney he had shared, as well as provided packets from years ago, that clearly stated that City Council has the legal ability to make a decision on four-year terms and/or four-year staggered terms. None of that information is presented, which is one, a little miss- I feel like it is not giving the community full information the way this presentation was presented, because there is a conversation between political will and political ability. Council has the legal ability to make a decision to go to four-year terms. If community, registered voters of the City of Charlotte, 5,000 I believe former City Attorney Hagemann had shared information that 15% of the population or 5,000 whichever is less, sign a petition then that will trigger for it to be on a referendum. So, that would trigger a referendum; we already had the dates in order to know if Council were to move forward and make a decision here are the dates. The fact that this presentation was presented without giving full information as far as what the legal ability is as well as here are the steps if the community were to identify verifiable signatures within the City limits of 5,000 residents, this will be the trigger and here are the dates that will need to be backed in in order to ensure that residents have a chance to move forward. Presenting this information without full information, what I'm hoping moving forward that comes out of the Attorney's Office is a presentation of all of the facts. That's it, not a partial of the facts, not one version. In order for us to have, not only Council, but for the community to have a full picture of the conversation all information needs to be presented.

Ms. Root said absolute Ms. Mayfield and I will be glad to do that, and I can talk through that right now if you would like.

Ms. Mayfield said before you speak through it now because this presentation is what anyone is watching on Facebook or Twitter or anyone that is watching on television, this is the information that they are receiving. They are not going to have that conversation that we are having, so I'm asking for future conversations whether it is from Ms. Root of the new City Attorney that is coming in, just provide all of the information not a partial.

Ms. Root said absolutely.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Mayfield, when we were at the Retreat we said specifically that we would look at the Committee's recommendation, and that is all that she was asked to do was to bring forward the Committee's recommendation. I think any Councilmember here that would like to

have an option, that is why we have these sessions so that we can have the discussion, and I think it is very clear that we can provide that information on what the choices were but she was asked at the Retreat to provide us the specific language and as well the Committee's recommendation. So, if we need to be more clear, sometimes that is on us.

Ms. Mayfield said Mayor, in regards to that comment, it was noted in the Committee meeting prior to the recommendation to full Council, and it was said. What I am saying because honestly that comment says then, okay only give me the information that I'm asking for. That is not the job, because that is basically what was just said, is she provided the information that the Committee asked for; that is not the job the Attorney's Office. The job of the Attorney's Office—especially since this is not a new conversation, we have been having this conversation since 2013. So, I am asking for the Manager as well as for the City Attorney's Office, any information that is coming that is coming before full Council just provide the facts. That's it; just provide all the information. Don't provide a partial; don't provide an opinion. Don't provide information that I'm saying that I want. I can just ask for specific information, and what I would anticipate and what I would expect is for you to give all the information, so therefore there would be no additional conversation, because all of the information is available.

Mayor Lyles said I think that you are accurate and that anyone can ask for any information. We asked for this information for tonight; we can ask for any information additionally and come back and schedule it for another discussion.

Ms. Root said Ms. Mayfield, I'm prepared to talk about the other options right now if you would like me to so that the citizens in the community and the public can understand those options. I'm available right now to go through that if you would like. I don't have the slides, but I can talk through those options.

Ms. Mayfield said well thankfully we are on Facebook live, so it may be helpful for you to say it since we don't have the slides that provide the information.

Ms. Root said absolutely. So, as Mr. Driggs started to point out, there are two ways in which the City Council can address the change in terms. The change in terms are actually set forth in the Charter, but it is one thing that can be changed by the City Council by virtue of an ordinance, and it can be done in one of two ways. One, Council can vote in a notice of a resolution, as we've talked about tonight, a resolution of intent to submit and then submit that out to the citizens for a complete referendum vote when every registered voter gets to vote on that. The other option is to simply approve an amendment and then it is 10% of the registered voters, or 5,000 whichever is a lesser number so in our case it would be 5,000. So, if there are at least 5,000 registered voters who signed a petition of intent then it would go for a referendum regardless.

**Councilmember Winston** said it would have to be within 30-days of our vote that that petition would have to be turned in.

Ms. Root said yes, that is right. Then once you get that petition then you would go ahead with the public hearing and the schedules are very similar to the ones that I've sent out here. It is just simply a change in the way that the referendum is presented to the community. There is a schedule, and if you would like when I do that calendar that talks about the different meetings and puts out the different dates that are available during the regular Council meetings, I can do a dual calendar and show one how it would be triggered with the City initiated referendum, versus how it would be triggered with the petition initiated referendum, and I can put those side by side for your review.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I have a question with regards to process, a little bit different than this. I know that this kind of moved forward because of what came out of Committee, but a question that I had was what if we wanted to split it into two? The problem I have with this process and this is the steps we take here is the public hearing is that a public hearing which means we listen, and it doesn't give us the opportunity to explain to the public why we feel, for those of us who feel four-year staggered terms is important, why we feel it is important. One of the things that I've thought a lot about, doing my research on other cities in our state and across the country we are one of the only ones with two-year terms for the Council and the Mayor. Could we split the vote into two votes, four-year terms for the

Mayor and four-year staggered terms for the Council? Other cities seem to have taken that approach; Durham has four-year terms for their Council, and I believe they are getting ready to vote this year on four-year terms for their Mayor. How would that work if we wanted to split it into two votes with the same process whatever way we do it.?

Ms. Root said I think the way it would work would be that your initial resolution of intent would be to state what your intent was. So, if your intent in your first resolution of intent was to put the Councilmembers without the Mayor on four-year terms and leave the Mayor in either two or three or four-years. You would just put that in your resolution, which triggers the process so, if you have two different resolutions or you have a resolution that states this is all the steps we plan to take and put it into one resolution then you could do it that way for a single vote.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to comment; what we are looking at here is the legal requirement, so there is nothing to say that in the time up until then we can't have whatever public meetings we choose to schedule and get as much input from the public as possible. Concerning the prior topic, I recognize that we did have a much more in-depth conversation in Committee than the one that has happened tonight. I believe in fairness to the City Attorney that this is an accurate reflection of the conclusion that the Committee reached and probably it was on us to say you need to repeat all of that for the benefit of full Council and we didn't. I'm not sure the Committee resolved that, but I think you did what we were hoping for.

Ms. Root said thank you Mr. Driggs.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said we've talked about this a lot, and all I would really hope and really plead with my colleagues here is most of you have already expressed your interest in doing this if you want to. I have expressed I don't think it is a good idea. I don't think that the taxpayers or the voters are screaming for this. I don't think anyone campaigned on it, but at the end of the day there seems to be more than six votes to move forward, can we just figure out how to stop talking about it and execute on it, and at the end of the day I hope everyone takes heed and understands that putting this to the voters to vote on it proactively is going to save everyone who wanted this a lot of heartache in the end, because it is going to be very simple for them to put it on the ballot themselves without us. So, whatever the result is, I think we've heard that there are at least six more people on this body that want to do it, so let's not repeat a year of scooter experiences in this topic. Let's just get it done and move on to things that people actually are calling for.

**Councilmember Newton** said second.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said ditto sir. So, Mayor can we vote to take some action tonight, because I don't need staff to go back and do anymore research. There is enough research out there going back to 2003, so we need to move on. This is not public service, so let's get back to public service.

Mr. Winston said I make a motion to adopt this. Is that what we have to do?

Mayor Lyles said I think what we would ordinarily do is put it on the agenda for a public vote and people have the ability to comment on the action. I'm just saying the action for what you are asking is it will be placed on the next Council agenda, which I think would be February 11th. You have to vote to do this by the 10th; do you want to have some time to go out and find a Blue-Ribbon Committee, raise some money? What do you want to do?

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Winston to place the question of City Council Four-Year Terms on the February 11, 2019 Business meeting agenda.

Mr. Phipps said should we say like that first bullet a vote on the resolution no later than June 10th or no later than those dates?

Mr. Root said yes. That is the very last possible time you can take these particular steps in order to get it on the November 5th election. So, if you do on the 11th vote in favor of a resolution of intent that will then start your 45-days to have your public hearing.



Mayor Lyles said so, the public hearing would occur sometime in March or April.

Ms. Root said the public hearing would need to be within 45-days of February 11th.

Mr. Bokhari said again, if anyone thinks I'm for this, I'm absolutely not. I'm just trying to expedite it. One, I think what we learned in Committee in our discussions was the importance of putting it on the ballot as a referendum, which has to be a part if that is what we are going to vote on up front that everyone is on the same page.

Two, I think everyone was of the mindset that doing this aligned with this year's general election or something like that where we don't spend extra money outside of a cycle to do something made the most sense, because when the clock starts ticking could force us into that. My recommendation would be if we are going to do and we are going to throw it up and make this thing go away once and for all that those be the two things that are a part of the vote in Mr. Mitchell's proposal which it goes to a referendum and it sticks with the timeline of existing voting.

Mr. Driggs said I think I've also been clear that I don't support this, but I'm wondering, what actions specifically that Council takes now does not set in motion a certain timeline? Like that says resolution of intent, would we vote on the resolution of intent now, or would the body commit to vote that later?

Ms. Root said if you vote on a resolution of intent on February 11th or whenever you schedule it on your agenda then that starts the clock running. That starts the 45-days that you much have a public hearing and then after you have your public hearing then you would have a certain number of days to- let me go back.

Mr. Driggs said you can see pretty well, if we did this on February 11th we would be moving the whole thing back three-months, right?

Ms. Root said that is right.

Mr. Driggs said you've got a May date instead of a July date for the public hearing or actually an April date, but the point is, it moves the whole thing back so the August event that appears there would be in May, right?

Ms. Root said right. So, what would happen if you voted on February 11th, you would need to have the public hearing within 45-days of that. Then from the date you have your public hearing then you must vote on the ordinance within 60-days of the public hearing. If you had the vote on February 11th, the next important date would be the public hearing and then you would count 60-days from that date to when you must vote on the ordinance change.

Mr. Driggs said if we do the first thing three-months earlier, then the last thing will happen three months earlier in May. I just want everybody to understand that that would be the timeline we are on.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Bokhari suggested that we do it that way and if we start on February 11th that we would vote on the resolution of intent. I was actually thinking that you would vote to do it and then you would be able to decide your calendar. It is up to you whatever the group wants to do, so I would just say the Council has approved going forward with the process and then you would have some time to decide, but it up to you guys however you want to do it.

Mr. Winston said I think what Mr. Bokhari is saying is accurate and I agree. What I would like to do is create an action that aligns this process with the November election. We don't want to continue to have staff come back and do more research and report to us we want to take action to align this process with that date.

Mayor Lyles said you have to, because that is the law. You have to have the vote in November or the date of the general election. The question is, are you ready to move forward on your resolution of intent and the public hearing? That is when you have some flexibility, but the November is definitely set.

Mr. Winston said regardless if it is February 11th or June 10<sup>th</sup>, we are not going to push forward on that actual referendum piece that once existed.

Ms. Root said that is correct Mr. Winston. On an odd number year, it has to be during the general election, which is November 5th of this year.

Mr. Driggs said that is a no later than date, August 26<sup>th</sup>, so if we did that vote on the ordinance two months earlier we would still be on the November vote schedule.

Ms. Root said yes sir.

Mayor Lyles said I'm asking the question, do you want to do it earlier or later, or do you want to have a schedule besides this one? Those are the latest dates. Does the Council want to determine its own schedule for doing this when looking at your entire agenda for various meetings, budget adoption, tax rate setting, all of those things will come into play on how you want to do this. So, I'm just asking; we can have on the agenda the discussion and go ahead and start, but you could then meet between now and the 11th to decide on those dates. Mr. Mitchell, what is your motion?

Mr. Mitchell said let's move forward with February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lyles said okay the 11th will be a vote on a resolution of intent; the public hearing will take place 45-days after and the vote on the ordinance will follow.

Ms. Root said that will follow within 60-days of the public hearing.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mitchell, Newton, Phipps, and Winston.

NAYS: Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, and Mayfield.

Ms. Mayfield said just for clarification, the language that was presented tonight is what we are talking about moving forward with.

Mayor Lyles said yes, these are the legal requirements to take action.

Ms. Mayfield said again, the language without having all the information, no, I am not supporting that, because this is saying that the expectation is for it to go straight to the referendum.

Mayor Lyles said yes, that is exactly, but we can provide all of the background information, and you could make a substitute motion if you would like at that time on the 11th. Okay, we have a majority ready to go forward, so we will start with the actual vote on the resolution of intent, the legal language as required. I think it would be good to include all of the follow-ups in the Committee meeting discussion, the minutes available, all of the data so that people should have it.

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## **ITEM NO. 6: BOARDS/COMMISSIONS REVIEW**

**Sarah Hazel, Assistant to City Manager** said I'm going to give an update on Boards and Commissions. If you remember in the December Strategy Session, the City Manager made a series of recommendations related to Boards and Commissions and many of those recommendations we were directed to move forward on. Tiffany is handing out a memo from the City Manager, and this memo outlines the progress that we've been making over the last two months related to the recommendations we are moving forward on and then we were also instructed to come back to discuss a few items. For the sake of time, I would like to let you know that in the back of the packet you can see on your I-pad, you will see there is a lot of information related to the additional recommendations specifically information around the survey that we conducted of appointees to Council Boards and Commission. You can review

that data but we are not going to cover that this evening. I would also like to make sure that you all are aware that the City Manager's Office has worked hand-in-hand with the Clerk's Office to compile this information and this work so any questions you have about the information in the packet can be directed to us.

Tonight, what I would like to do is talk a little bit about one specific item that has been brought up by several Councilmembers and that is our current requirement for voter registration. According to your Council adopted resolution on Boards and Commission currently, you have a requirement that states that a member of any Board, Committee, or Commission must at all times be registered to vote in Mecklenburg County. From my understanding from the history of this resolution is that it was intended to simply be a means of verifying residency. This adopted resolution also goes on to have a parameter that requires that there can be some exceptions that are made.

So, what we did, based on your direction, is look at what some of our peer jurisdictions do, and what we found is that many of our peer jurisdictions while they have residency requirements they do not have this same type of voter registration requirement that we currently have. In talking to some City Clerks from different areas, in many cases they simply ask folks for their residency during application period and do not verify unless it is quasi-judicial board. In other cases, they do their verification in a variety of ways, but it is not something that is written into a resolution or code.

What I have for you today is an option if you want to choose to amend your resolution, so instead of requiring voter registration in Mecklenburg County you can instead require that members of Boards and Commissions are residents of Mecklenburg County. If you decided to make this change, the resolution would cover all Boards and Commission within your purview, but it would not cover two boards, the Civil Service Board, where by City Charter you have be a registered voter, and it would not cover the Citizens' Review Board, which is covered in our City Code.

That is for your information today and I also wanted to speak one other particular question that is related. There was a question that came up by a few folks about previously incarcerated residents and their ability to serve on Boards and Commissions. There is nothing that prohibits that currently in our resolution; there is nothing that would prohibit that if you made this change, and there is only one specific Board and Commission that does have language around that, and that is our Citizens' Review Board, and that is again written into your City Code.

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston and seconded by Councilmember Egleston to amend City Council's Resolution on Boards and Commissions to remove the criteria that a member of a board or commission be registered to vote in Mecklenburg County; in its place, members of boards and commissions will be required to be residents of Mecklenburg County, with the exception of the Citizens Review Board and Civil Service Board.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said clarification on the Citizens' Review Board, we have language in that prevents those who were formerly incarcerated; do we have a time limit on that? The challenge of which some members are aware and some are not. The Governance Alliance on Race and Equity hosted their conference in Charlotte. Well, it was the first conference in North Carolina. Durham is doing a lot of progressive work and language, so this was one of the items that came up during the two-day conference held in Charlotte. What was questioned was the fact that we may have residents and there may have been an event that is 10 to 15-years old regarding law enforcement, and they are still not able to serve, specifically if they wanted to serve on the Civil Service Board. Can you give a little information on our language on that please?

Ms. Hazel said sure, it is not a blanket statement so according to your code individuals with felony conviction or a Class A-1 misdemeanor conviction shall not be eligible to serve on the Board; in addition, individuals with a Class 1 or Class 2 misdemeanor conviction within three years of their nomination for appointment shall be ineligible to serve. So, there is specific language; it is not a blanket covering all types of reason for someone to be formerly incarcerated, but that is the language specifically only for the Citizens' Review Board.

Ms. Mayfield said it will be helpful with the Attorney's Office to have a little more clarity, because on one it states up to three years; it states the classifications, but it would also be helpful to know if there are time limits on one of the items, because again, whatever that issue was, felony, misdemeanor, depending on the Class. I don't know all the Classes, because thankfully I haven't evidentially been involved with one of them, but if we are going to try to have transparency and we are welcoming back in an extremely diverse community, not only those who have been formerly incarcerated, and we are asking you to get engaged, for some people this will be a valid voice to have at the table as someone who may have been on the other side, especially unfortunately we have seen in North Carolina cases where individuals and the City has been a part of cases where individuals have been found to be innocent, but they still have the language on their record, because that is a whole separate process to have that language removed. It will be helpful to get one, if it is a timeline on all other; if it is just in perpetuity, and if not a recommendation on how to be more inclusive to our residents if it is over a five-year period, 10-year period. There is a number that we can associate with it; it will be helpful if we can get that from the City Attorney's Office.

**Mayor Lyles** said are you asking the benchmark the other cities to see if they have a timeframe or is it just that you have a timeframe in mind?

Ms. Mayfield said our language has a timeframe, so the question is if we are going to look at one of our partner cities, Durham would be the City that we should be, considering because one, it is already in the State of North Carolina, but they also have some of the most progressive language to insure resident's voices are heard.

Mayor Lyles said is your request to approve this and have an amendment to that motion that it be like Durham, or do you want research on more than one?

Ms. Mayfield said I was asking specifically, because my understanding that tonight was supposed to be mainly updates, not that we were going to be motioning things. Since this is the first time that this information was brought to us what, I was hoping was for additional information from the Attorney's Office on the language that Durham is using, can we incorporate it for Charlotte.

Ms. Hazel said just to clarify, that is just the language related to the Citizens' Review Board, so changing this resolution would affect all of your Boards and Commission with those two exceptions.

**Hope Root, Interim City Attorney** said we will be glad to get that information for you Ms. Mayfield, but this is done by resolution. The Citizens' Review Board is actually adopted by ordinance by the City Council, so any changes to that would need to be under a different process where you actually voted on a specific ordinance in the ordinance language, but we will be glad to get you that background.

Mayor Lyles said would we have to take this back; I think we need to put it on our agenda.

Ms. Root said we can put it on your agenda for February 11, 2019.

Mayor Lyles said we would take this action on an agenda; it is a Council resolution that we would adopt. I say that because we adopted this in an open session, and I think it would be good more notice out there that we are doing this, unless you see it as an urgent matter that we would just put it on our agenda.

**Councilmember Newton** said I had a question; someone addressed it a moment ago. It is my understanding the City Code is comprised of ordinances; we are the ones who approve those ordinances and amend those ordinances what have you. I was a little confused knowing that we have that authority, why that wouldn't be something that would be included in this or otherwise could be included in this kind of grander scope. I had a collateral question continue to shoot to City Charter; I don't know if that is something that would need to be approved by; is that like the equivalent of the Constitution and would need to be approved by the voters? So, if you could comment on that from the standpoint of the Charter and with the City Code, what is that process, and why couldn't that not be included in this?



Ms. Root said the City Charter is actually a local bill that is adopted by the North Carolina Legislature. For instance, the Civil Service Board requirement that you have to be a registered voter, that would have to be changed by the General Assembly. Now, the Citizens' Review Board was adopted by the City Council via ordinance in the City Code, and you are correct that you all can do that. You can make those changes, but that needs to be a separate change to the ordinance, because it has already been adopted by ordinance. What is proposed here tonight was adopted by Council resolution, which can be changed by Council resolution. If you are going to change the Citizens' Review Board it needs to be a separate process.

Mr. Newton said I would submit that the Committee also consider that in the future, maybe an amendment of the City Code for the Citizens' Review Board to include that kind of in a grander scope of what we are trying to accomplish here.

Mayor Lyles said are you asking that we put that on a future agenda and bring it back for discussion after we get the information that Ms. Mayfield asked for? I think what Mr. Newton was saying is I think we ought to change the City Code for the Citizens Review Board.

Mr. Newton said yes and that is separate; this is a resolution. That would be an amendment to an ordinance, and it is something can be done but isn't something that would be included here, so if that could separately be considered in Committee and maybe brought back at a future date.

Mayor Lyles said sometimes we have to be more directive; are you asking your colleagues to place that on the agenda? That is what I really need to know.

Mr. Newton said yes, I am.

Mayor Lyles said all we need is six votes to put it on the agenda. After we finish, we can come back; we will finish, but if you've asked that and it gets a second then all it needs is six votes.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I'm wondering if this change has the effect that undocumented immigrants could serve on all of these.

**Councilmember Winston** said yes.

Ms. Mayfield said yes.

Mr. Driggs said I'm not okay with that.

Ms. Mayfield said they are residents; they are taxpayers. That was the purpose of this honestly.

Mr. Driggs said the question of whether or not they had registered to vote and needed to register to vote is one question; the question whether they need to be citizens is another one.

Mr. Winston said that is a nuisance way of keeping people out and excluding them from the process.

Mayor Lyles said we are not going to have this going back and forth without some order.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I have a question of the City Clerk, the example would be the Planning Commission where we are allowed to pick members from the County Commission that they recommended to serve on the Planning Commission. Has there ever been a discrepancy in the register to vote criteria whereas the City would say they are required but the County doesn't require it? Have we ever had any instances where there was a difference of that requirement in any of our selections?

**Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk** said not that I'm aware of.

Mr. Phipps said I was just curious about that.

Mayor Lyles said we have a motion to adopt the change in the Council resolution for the residency requirement as noted on the screen; noting that the Civil Service Board and the Citizens Review Board would not meet the standard of the resolution.

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

YEAS: Councilmember Ajmera, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mayfield, Mitchell, Newton, Phipps, and Winston.

NAYS: Councilmembers Bokhari and Driggs.

Note: This vote was determined out of order since it had not previously been listed on the agenda for action. City Council took official action on this issue at the February 11, 2019 Business meeting.

Mayor Lyles said we will not go back and do the thousand people already in the cue and change anything; we will change the form going forward.

Now, Mr. Newton, would you like to make a motion that we revise the Citizens' Review Board and what you would like that revision to be?

Mr. Newton said just seeing the intent of what we are trying to accomplish here is opening access to all of our Boards and Commission for folks that go beyond just folks that aren't registered to vote. For me, it doesn't make sense why we wouldn't go, if we can also include the Citizens' Review Board in that, it doesn't make sense why we wouldn't go that extra step. I would refer this back to us as a Council to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would include the Citizens' Review Board, alongside all of the other Commissions and Committees and Boards that would have the new residency requirement to either come back to us for a vote or alternatively it go to Committee. I'm not quite sure of the process there.

Mayor Lyles said it is pretty simple; it is either for or against. I would just put it on the agenda.

Mr. Winston said I definitely understand, and I think we should make the change to the two that aren't valid under the action that we just took, but specific to the Citizens' Review Board, I would beg my colleague to kind of put this after our efforts to get subpoena power from the State Legislature. I think that is more important right now, and I think doing so before that might put that in some danger.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said we've had discussions on the Citizens' Review Board and we were able to tweak it a little bit to make sure that the terms were staggered and there were a number of other issues with the Citizens' Review Board that we still wanted to talk about that were just internal the way we operate and I think we need to talk to the Board. Our Attorney who supports the Citizens' Review Board has a lot of recommendations he would like to express, so before we do anything with that I think it has to be a comprehensive conversation that the Community Safety Committee takes on.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said I was a little caught by surprise, and maybe I was naive in thinking this was about expanding the ability for people who are not registered to vote to just be able to serve, but what I just heard caught me by surprise. It is fine; that is why I voted against it, but it caught me by surprise. I think it is important that we realize we've worked really hard on the Legislative Agenda for 2019 and a lot of personal discomfort to myself as an individual, I got on board with championing and putting on requesting subpoena power, which is a big step out there for a Republican majority Legislature. For us to now go and almost shoot ourselves in the foot with what is going to be whether we did it ahead of time, we did it just for this or will circle back around afterwards once they are done giving it to us, it just makes me very, very uncomfortable that we are sacrificing something that we did all get on board with to go at least ask for with whatever this came to be.

Mr. Newton said I think we are conflating two things simply because they both concern the Citizens' Review Board. These are two absolutely separate issues; this has nothing to do with us asking for subpoena power from the State. This is just us making sure that we have consistency across the board with the resolution that we just accepted and passed here. That

is why if it is something where if we want to take it to Committee, I'm completely okay with that. I just think it is something to review and consider.

Ms. Eiselt said as the former Chair of the Community Safety Committee I think Mr. Bokhari is absolutely right that the Citizens' Review Board; there are only four of them in the whole state, and there is a lot of resistance to the Citizens' Review Board, and there has got to be a process for it, and I would just really suggest that we be careful about that and we send it to Committee and they have the full discussion and we include our Attorney Julian Wright. He has got a lot of experience with this. He has been with the Board since its inception, so I support what Mr. Bokhari is saying.

Mr. Newton said that is fine by me. I just think once again this is something we have control over. That is something they have control over, and if we make an issue out of it of course someone is going to recognize this and say oh, wait a second, this is something now that we have a problem with. Frankly, we are making a mountain out of a mole hill when the fact is it is just consistency amongst all of our Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to emphasize there were two questions really; one of them was whether you should be required to have registered as a voter in order to participate in these. A separate question, which seems to have been sort of subsumed into that, is whether you have to be a citizen. I was also kind of on board with the idea that yeah, we don't need to be, but with that goes away the ability to know who you are dealing with frankly, and the fact that they are resident here- I'm not somebody that is advocating let's start deporting; let's reintroduce 287g, etc. etc., but I am concerned that among other things when we do this you say there is no connection. He is a lot smarter than you are about that. Believe me. In the minds of the General Assembly, there is a definite connection, and the message we are sending about Charlotte by taking this action is going to get attention, and it is not going to create a receptive environment to the bold attempt to try to get the subpoena power thing changed.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I agree with both of you Mr. Newton and Mr. Driggs. What this does it pretty much covers all spectrums, so folks that are not registered to vote, folks that may not be a U.S. citizen, might be a permanent resident or folks that are undocumented, folks that have been incarcerated in the past. So, it includes everyone that may not have been able to vote in the past and the folks that may not have registered to vote. I'm trying to understand here the two Boards here, the Civil Service Board and the Citizens' Review Board, do they have any state requirement in terms of registered to vote currently? Is that a state requirement?

Ms. Hazel said just to reiterate what our City Attorney just noted, the Civil Service Board is in the City Charter, which means that if it were to be changed you would need to get that changed through the state, so that does have a requirement.

Mayor Lyles said we do not want to touch our City Charter at the state level, because you start making one change, you don't know what change you will end up with. I'm getting tired, so I'm just going to be blunt. We may end up with a Council of five, okay.

Ms. Ajmera said so, the Civil Service Board is something that is state mandated.

Ms. Root said the Civil Service Board is done by our Charter, which is done by the North Carolina Legislature.

Ms. Ajmera said and the Citizens' Review Board is something that we can change in terms of the requirement for registration.

Ms. Root said the Citizens' Review Board would require a change to the ordinance.

Mayor Lyles said you would have to put on the ordinance which went through a great deal of process informed by the Police Department, the Police Chief, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Community Relations Committee, and one of the issues around the Citizens' Review Board is because you are assessing behaviors of people that accuse the Police of certain actions, and it was a very, very long process with lots of people involved and I think it would be very difficult for us to just say we are changing that.

I think it would cause attention by the Legislature that could mean that they could decide well, you don't a Citizens' Review Board. We are trying to get them to give us subpoena power, which often the Police say helps protect them as they go through the process of any kind of complaint. I think Mr. Newton made a motion; he needs six votes to carry it forward, and that is what you guys have to decide.

Ms. Ajmera said would you repeat your motion?

Mr. Newton said I'm a little confused on the process myself, because I think what we are talking about is bringing this in front of the Council for a vote. I'm on board with this going to- So, are we saying a motion to go to Committee to review this further?

Mayor Lyles said what would inform the Committee to debate that hasn't been informed tonight? If you want to delay action on it, that is fine.

Mr. Newton said Ms. Eiselt brought it up asking more clarity, of course, clarity from the department, from Julian Wright and others, but I would just say if we were talking about any other Board that is in our City Code, this wouldn't be a problem, right?

Mayor Lyles said it isn't just any other Board; all of these other Boards that you just said residents, they advise. The Citizens' Review Board has the opportunity to actually go to the Police Chief and say we recommend this be overruled and it has to go to the City Manager.

Mr. Newton said they can't overrule; they advise.

Mayor Lyles said well I thought they actually had the opportunity to advise the Chief, but it ends up in the City Manager's box, because it is advise, and I understand that. It has a layer of process. I don't know what we would do in Committee that we haven't talked about tonight, but Ms. Eiselt if you see something that I'm missing please.

Ms. Eiselt said I would just call the question. I think there is an ongoing conversation with the Citizens' Review Board and there are certainly opportunities to talk about. I would take direction from Mr. Wright as to what changes to the CRB could be beneficial, and who can participate has not been one of the questions that they certainly have asked for.

Ms. Root said Madam Mayor, may I interrupt? I'm a little concerned, because I thought the Council resolution that we were voting on was to put it on the agenda for next week.

Mayor Lyles said it was but there seemed to be a desire that just wanted to get it done. It is more appropriate for that to go in, because it amends a resolution that was adopted in an open session, so if that is okay with everyone that will be on the February 11th agenda and that would be appropriate for the Manager and the Attorney to do that. So, we will go forward with that and have a vote on it in the public session on the 11th.

Ms. Ajmera said I'm not even sure what we are going, because I thought this was going to be on February's agenda.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Ajmera, the resolution that you've already approved will be on the February 11th agenda. Mr. Newton made a motion to include the second portion on an agenda.

Mr. Newton said if I could amend my motion, because it is my understanding that we've already approved the other Committees. So, my motion is to just have the Community Safety Committee consider the possibility of Citizens' Review Board, the ordinance being reviewed and potentially changed to be consistent with what I assume we are going to be doing in February which pass the new residency requirements.

Motion was made by Councilmember Newton and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to refer the qualifications of Citizens Review Board members to the Community Safety Committee.



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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera and Newton

NAYS: Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mayfield, Mitchell, Phipps, and Winston.

Mr. Winston said I am confused about what just happened with this vote of Council.

Mayor Lyles said I just got advice from the City Attorney on the resolution that it needs to be done in the open session of an official Business Meeting. It will go forward with the Council recommendation.

Mr. Winston said so, the motion Council just made and was seconded and voted on is null and void?

Mayor Lyles said because it needs to go to the agenda in an open session.

Ms. Root said I can address that if you want me to.

Mr. Winston said please, please that needs some clarity. I thought this was an open meeting. I thought this was on the agenda.

Ms. Root said I'm not sure it is clearly on the agenda. If you wanted to have a unanimous vote to put it on the agenda since it talked about Boards and Commission Review, you could do a unanimous vote to vote on it tonight. I thought the motion was to go to February 11, 2019.

Mayor Lyles said it was my confusion. It is my mistake; I every now and again make one like every day, but to take a formal vote on something we have to have a unanimous vote. It would not be unanimous, because two people would not support it, and it didn't pass unanimously. So, I would assuming that we would go with the resolution on February 11th and it would be that we expect it to pass the same way it was voted on here.

Mr. Bokhari said not from my personal opinion but just as your Co-Chair on Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I think the conversation we've already had has somewhat let a portion of cat out of the bag as it relates to the impact it could be on subpoena power. So, hopefully that won't derail months of work that we've put into going after something that has been on the agenda for a long time, and I think this probably positions us now at a minimum where we need to consider making some kind of resolution as a body that we won't go back and mess with the Citizens' Review Board in this type of language and just hope that is enough, because this has the kinds of things that talking points gets used about sanctuary cities and things of that nature that I think will completely shut down all possibility of the subpoena power.

Mayor Lyles said I don't think we need to do a resolution around that, but we have to speak with a voice. The voice was 9 to 2. That is what I took from it.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **ITEM NO. 7: FOOD SYSTEM/FARMER'S MARKET STUDY**

**Tom Warshauer, Housing and Neighborhood Services** said I appreciate the hour; it is late, and you are probably hungry as you are looking at a food presentation. The report that you have in front of you, this Executive Summary is really an amazing Executive Summary that outlines the findings and the opportunities that are in front of us for recommendations. In view of the late hour, I'm going to try and hit on the highlights that will help you as you are looking at that and considering what those recommendations might be. I hope that will be okay, it will be a little bit faster than I had anticipated at 5:00 this afternoon.

I do want to spend a minute just setting a little bit of the stage. We began looking at this several years back, but food access has been an issue for Charlotte along West Boulevard Corridor, along the Beatties Ford Road Corridor, all over our community food access, and security has been present as long as I have been in Charlotte which is 30-years. We wanted to take a look at could we better reach all of our communities and make sure they had access to quality food

and local food. We've also lately become very concerned about building place and the kind of places that people really want to be in. What are the characteristics of winning cities; how do we keep millennials? How do we make visiting our community memorable? Many of us who travel one of the first things that we always go to when we are looking around the country are the markets in cities that we are visiting. Charleston, Seattle, Vancouver, Detroit's Eastern Market, New Orleans, Barcelona, London has over 230 market places. So, there are memorable places that people love, and when we have spoken about this over the years and people in east Charlotte have thought about whether they could be located there, people get very excited about the opportunity to have a market they would love in this community, which really doesn't quite exist yet.

The third component you will see as we began to analyze this is the economic opportunity for really enhancing the food market and connecting urban and rural and supporting the economics of our entire region, not just in Charlotte, but what would the impact be of supporting the food system throughout our region, throughout the whole area of our MSA.

We brought on some phenomenal consultants, and I'm not going to go into their buyers, that is in the information that you had, but really important for us was the process for me as I do projects is the product. We have an amazing local food infrastructure, people that are interested in food access, interested in supporting farming, urban and rural, that are interested in making sure that food channels, both retail and wholesale are really enhanced in our community. We wanted to make sure that local people were involved in our consulting team so that more information was left behind as our consultants left town. So, the consulting team not only included two amazing consultants, Karen Karp and Market Ventures from out of town and Market Ventures had been working on Asheville's Market with the state, but it also included the Food Policy Council, FARMS, which is Julian Henshaw's consultancy. She is an African American that works with African American farmers and advising them on how to do their business practices. Also, Suede Onion and Lynn Caldwell has been here for a while and still here, is a local food consultant, who works with businesses and market places here.

It is also important that we did a lot of homework looking all the reports that had been done and the middle report there had shown the Connect Project that over half a billion dollars of food that is consumed in Charlotte could be grown in the Charlotte MSA. So, we are missing an enormous amount of economic opportunity by not strengthening our food system in our community. We also did a lot of work with interviews with stakeholders, interviews and visits to the markets and group focus groups and very well attended community meetings. This was a topic that many people in the community were very interested in. Food is important, but all the food channels, wholesale, retail, farming were all very important to people from various perspectives in our community.

We asked them to take a look at benchmark cities and these are the cities that they selected based on opportunities or already present in Charlotte. If you go through the full report you will see a whole lot of different ways that these cities were compared and as I go through the next findings these are the cities we looked at and we looked at them from the perspective of the MSA, because that gave us data that we could look at that was similar for every city so we could make more accurate comparisons.

So, what did we begin to find? The first thing that we found is that Charlotte has a great climate, is able to grow food and has the ability to really do a lot more than it is currently doing. We see that we have a lot of acreage in farming, and we actually perform fairly well in terms of growth agricultural sales in our community in terms of the benchmark cities that we were looking at all the way from Kansas City, Minneapolis, Austin, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Raleigh, Asheville. We score pretty high. A lot of that however, really comes from Union County. Half of it is in Union County, and most of all of that is poultry and eggs. The other major one is going up to Iredell County, a lot of poultry there but also milk, not so much and you will begin to see some other data later when we begin to look at things that are produce. We score much less well.

We also have the ingredients when we are taking a look at this and is important to sort set the stage. We have people; we have a lot of people here, more than most of the others and not only that we have the income. We have the third highest income in our MSA over all these, so the number of people, the number of acreages, the amount of acreage that we have all should position us to do well in terms of food; however, we don't. That sort of really is the surprising

thing, because many people thought that when they began to look at the markets and the number of markets that are in our community they thought we were doing pretty well. When we really get into the data, we simply aren't across these MSAs. This one looks at how we are direct to consumer sales and direct to consumer sales are CSA boxes, farmer's markets, you pick kind of things, farm stands on the side of the road at the farmer's market.

We are really at the bottom in terms of the percentage of agricultural sales that are going in that channel in the direct to consumer sales and then also in the per capita, really low. Most cities are doing \$8 to \$10 in direct to consumer sales; we are doing \$1.57. That is a really low number, so despite what we may perceive of having a lot of markets, we really aren't exercising that channel as we might. Important in that are fruits and vegetables, we are particularly low there, which we saw in the earlier data. Most of our crops are really being grown in poultry and eggs and commodity crops not in the market baskets for the food. That is not to say that animal products aren't important; it is just that the others are really drivers of market places, and that we do particularly poorly.

One thing that was very interesting is that despite that over the last years, we've had a decline in the number farms; we've seen an increase in the number of farmers that are coming from minority communities. Africans Americans, Hispanics, and Asian operators are increasing, and in some ways that is kind of surprising, but a lot of immigrants that are coming to our community are very interested bringing agricultural skills and are interested in agriculture. I go to a dry cleaner on Central Avenue; she just did a \$3 million loan to open up a chicken farm in eastern North Carolina. She is Vietnamese. You are seeing a lot of robustness in this market, and that is not particularly unusual in the history of our state to see immigrants really living and working and providing a lot of vitality to rural areas, but that is happening today in this field as well in Charlotte and in our region.

Not surprising in terms of what you've seen, but we are really at the bottom in terms of we are losing our farm acreage in Charlotte, and there is an opportunity for us to perhaps try and stem some of that. We are one of the only counties that doesn't have a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD). Of the 100 counties in North Carolina, only 12 don't, and we are the only urban county that doesn't have VAD. The VAD provides some protection for people that are farming and some incentives for them to continue farming in urban areas and Charlotte could use that. We have over 200 urban farmers in Charlotte today.

**Councilmember Egleston** said I just wondered if it was a state approval process or just a local ordinance, or what is the process for that?

Mr. Warshauer said it is a county local ordinance from the County to do that.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said why is it called voluntary?

Mr. Warshauer said it is voluntary, because the farmer elects to participate in it so Voluntary Agriculture District. You may hear about that that later. We have 23 markets in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, about 16 in Charlotte, 23 in the whole area, and one of the things that we found was that all of these for the most part are staffed by volunteers or part-time people doing full-time jobs. They have very limited resources to do any kind of joint programming, joint hours, and joint advertising. A really lovely spread will come out in the Observer that lists all the markets and the market hours and nothing for the rest of the year. There just isn't any capacity there and one thing that they found was there is a real desire for people in this field of market managers to have some more robust assistance in terms of the advertising and their marketing, and they are talking to the City about the visions for the future and how we might support zoning issues and health issues, all those sorts of things that market managing association could advocate on behalf of people that are really too busy to do that on their own.

One of the other important findings was that our regional market in Charlotte really under performs all the other state markets. That is probably not new to most of you, but Charlotte has about half million visitors whereas Raleigh is at 3.5 million. The piedmont and Western North Carolina are well over a million, so our market in the state just isn't performing. People who go there on Saturdays love it, and it is crowded but the rest of the week, it is pretty much empty. There is no wholesale; there is no restaurant. There is no garden center; it really doesn't perform the way the others in our state are performing. Part of that is a lack of robustness in

their advertising and a part of that gets to be clear communications about what is done locally in helping people to really understand the value of consuming local food. Not only are the retail market channels constrained, the wholesale market channels are also constrained, and that is what this slide really shows you, wholesale being directed to restaurants, to grocery stores and to food processing and even people here that are doing CSA boxes understand this and having to bring in food from the Raleigh area or from the mountains, because few of the farmers in our area are growing these kinds of crops.

As well what we have found is not particularly surprising to people who live on the west side is that the markets that we do have are poorly distributed in terms of helping with food access and food security and our most threatened area. These are three of the different data sources that take a look at food and security, and it really shows a lack of overlap being able to serve those markets.

I think this was one of the ones that sort of struck me the hardest; on SNAP performance, we were dead last. We have one out of seven markets in Charlotte take SNAP whereas one out of three nationally takes SNAP and smaller market places than us are doing well over a million dollars in SNAP benefits being allocated. We have a couple of markets that were taking SNAP, but the amount of SNAP they were taking was a couple thousand dollars, not even reaching \$10,000 being redeemed. We think that people could utilize SNAP more, and they could certainly utilize SNAP more in market places and a part of the goal for having a market association would be to really enable people to understand where they could take SNAP to help markets with the equipment and the processes to be able to take SNAP and also to do some of the fund raising with local philanthropist, as they have done in so many other communities, so the double up bucks programs enable people who are on restricted incomes to have the resources to shop in farmer's markets, and that is what is happening most all the other market places but is woefully inadequate in Charlotte.

Educating and marketing would really help do that across all things, for wealthier people to know where the markets are, what the times are, the value proposition of food, how to cook things are seasonal and those are things that everyone needs, in addition, for low income people to really understand the SNAP and the value of local eating as well.

The recommendations really fell into four buckets that were not too heavy to lift. The first one was creating a Charlotte's Farmer's Market Association, and this was to be led by market managers in our community to put together a framework for them to lobby the City, to do some of the marketing that they need to be doing, to work on things like SNAP utilization in their market places. This doesn't exist and there are a number of organizations that probably have been talking to some of you that are very interested in this work. Primary among them is Piedmont Culinary Guild that is interested in expanding their work to take on this kind of effort, the role that the City might play in this is to provide some seed funding to help them get started on that and to actually rely on others to help fill in the gaps to sustain a Market Association.

In each of the recommendations our consultants provided us with several comparable cities where this is being done. Nothing that they are recommending are things that haven't been done throughout America. One of these is in Kansas City; I won't go into that more, but they are at \$800,000 in SNAP benefits and doing a lot of work to market their associations. A second one was to pursue improvements to the State Regional Farmers Market. The State spent with Asheville \$100,000, and all of our consultants were engaged in that to develop a 20-year plan the Asheville Market.

Now the State is implementing some of that with \$4 million of improvements to Asheville. If you've been out there you can see that the market is not what we would be proud of for Charlotte and that more work with our state and our state delegation to get more money into our market would really enhance its ability to serve our community with wholesale channels and a better look and a better feel to what we have out there. This is an example of Rochester, but there are many others in the report; places where people have done very successful markets with municipal participation and other foundation support.

A third is as we are planning our transit and planning our City and we are looking at our UDO for us to consider how we would support markets and festivals and events throughout our entire City. The markets that you love, many of them were built in the early part of this century or



even in the last century. People build these for the long haul, and they really exist for the long haul, and we could have a vision in our community for markets that will be here for a hundred years as we are planning our transit and our future it may be time for us to consider how we would embed markets into some of those plans and some of the infrastructure for some of the smaller markets is fairly simple, some of the larger markets are a little bit more complex, but these are the things that many cities have done years ago that people still see like in Detroit, the rest of the City is not doing so well or hadn't been; Eastern Market in Detroit is still doing phenomenally well.

**Councilmember Driggs** said can you go back one slide? I see the number \$30 million on there, and I'm wondering whether all of these small things that you are talking about are laying the groundwork down the road. Who paid the \$30 million in Grand Rapids?

Mr. Warshauer said the DeVoss Family.

Mr. Driggs said private money?

Mr. Warshauer said yes, private foundation money largely funded from philanthropy in that one.

Mr. Driggs said so the City's role in all of this some of the other things you alluded to, which are \$100,000 here or there. I'm just interested to know what kind of commitment could be required if we go down this road from the City.

Mr. Warshauer said on the Market Association, you would provide some seed money that will enable people to do some other private fund raising for their organizations to support a Market Association. That may end up being recurring for a number of years, but the hope is that over time those markets become more sustainable on their own. The State Farmer's Market is really looking at the state budget, the improvements coming there; that is how they are funded in Asheville. On the market there is some private and public funds that have gone into a number of these. Some of the markets are owned by the municipalities, and some of them are on municipality owned land; there are a whole verity of funding mechanisms just like we utilize when we are building other sorts of public facilities that are public/private ventures, and this particular one was largely funded through philanthropy.

Mr. Driggs said I think for us to be a catalyst is a good thing; if we start heading in the direction of big capital funding asks, I would like to know really early that that is where we are going.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said on the same note, we are noticing a good number of local coffee vendors, so a question that was asked, since we are on social media now, is we are thinking about grant funding for those that are growing organic coffee beans. Would there be a space when we talk about how we grow in the City [inaudible] a fund if we were to move in the direction of grant funding would that be something that could be considered?

Mr. Warshauer said sure, this fourth recommendation that we look at really takes a look at careers in agriculture and supporting the agriculture sector. The first ones were more about the retail channels and markets; the last one is we really need to help farmers do better. That is not really a City of Charlotte issue; it is more of a business alliance issue. It is more of a COG issue, truly work with all the counties about enhancing channels for people into farming careers. There are urban farms, and we look at the [inaudible] Program of being able to place people interested in agriculture and urban agriculture into urban farms here, but that is really much more of a regional issue of how farms are managed in opportunities and farms, and we really see that being a regional ask, not a City of Charlotte ask because all of the 930,000 acres of farm land is in the surrounding counties, it isn't in ours.

Ms. Mayfield said so that would be a no.

Mr. Warshauer said yes, I don't see that being on our ledger.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said very interesting presentation, thank you Tom. My question is just kind senior data and experiencing Charlotte over the last 15-years the way I have. Usually like marketing and asking people on a wide scale to change their behaviors is not always something that gets adopted; however, I see the angle that you said in there of going to where

people currently buy all their groceries; is there not an angle to push on which levers whatever kind of influence that we have to make it more of a meet people where they are and up some of those percentages in how they are shopping today?

Mr. Warshauer said there is a lot of education to help people understand the value of local food and what is in season and when they are buying and when it is local, so there is some education that is required. People want to across all income groups and races there are many people that want to buy local food that is healthy for them, but it is very hard for them to understand where that is. There is a mapping project that Ribbondale Farms is working on in conjunction with the food policy network and Piedmont Culinary Guild truly make more apparent where all the farms are and what they are selling and where they are selling it, so the people that want to eat local can eat local, because the information is hard to find.

Mr. Bokhari said I was going even more simple than that; like when I walk into Harris Teeter, is there some place you can tell me where they can put that and I can buy it?

Mr. Warshauer said the Harris Teeter may and one of the slides they had showed Harris Teeter saying this is local, and it was 232 miles away. So, there is not very much consistency about what is local out there so some education about what is local and how are we going to define it; where are farms? Letting people be able to find what is out there. Some of the mapping projects that would be done through the Market Managers Association is not just about where the market is, but it is also how you take the food that is left over at the end of the day and get it into food banks and mobile markets, so when they began to do some of this marketing what they were finding is they are looking at where are the Soup Kitchens, where are the restaurants that are consuming local, how can they get one to another. Rhode Island took this mapping project and began to organize their bus routes to make sure that buses were going to where the markets were. So, much of this information is not consolidated into a place that enables policy to be easily made that could influence the way that we run our buses that non-profits locate their work and there are probably eight organizations in Charlotte that are doing mobile markets. They don't all know where each one of their mobile markets are so many people in this industry are pretty operating on a shoe string and having this association sort of lift them all up and make that more apparent would enable them all to be more successful and they have sort acknowledge that.

Mr. Bokhari said I would encourage you to look into what Mr. Egleston did, the program for restaurants, Green Seal Program. It is a great way and doesn't take a lot of City capital investment, but it incents, and in this model, it would incent folks to say you can get this shop local seal if you follow these guidelines of market this stuff. This means local or whatever. So, it incents them to do with something along those lines. I feel like that would be low hanging fruit and a place to start.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I did attend your first presentation that you did with the Sustain Charlotte Group, where you had a lot of local farmers there, and after that presentation I had an opportunity to touch base and even individually meet with some of the farmers in our region, and I was pleasantly surprised to find out that we have a lot of farmers here in our region in the City itself. Often the first thing that they had advocated for is the protection for the farm land. That was the biggest issue; as our City continues to grow at such a fast pace we have to find a way to protect farmers, because by 2030, that was the number that I had read in the report, we will run out of developable land. So, that means we have to protect the land that we have today, especially for local farming. We can't protect the land without protecting our farmers, and I had met with a young lady who farms currently actually in Plaza/Midwood area, and she brought a couple of farmers at a meeting, and they all had strongly advocated for us to implement that, which is the Voluntary Agriculture District (VAD) that provide additional protection for farm land. For example, if there is a rezoning that comes to us right next to the farm land it provides them additional protection, so that way we are mindful of what we are rezoning without affecting existing farmers that are farming today. We have to be very mindful as we grow, because there are so many farm lands that, as you can see from this data that was presented to us, we are one of the worse when it comes to having that local farmers market, and we do have a lot of food insecurity, especially on the west side. We have a lot of food deserts and food insecurity. I think implementing the VAD could help us solve some of this but also having some sort of Farmers Market Association would give them additional resources to really work with other more competitive markets such as Raleigh and Asheville

where they have more resources. Ultimately, we are competing with some of the metropolitan area where they have more protections in place, more programs to support their farmers, so we've got to look into that. I also want to be mindful that we also have limited resources; so, how do we best use our resources while also addressing the food insecurity issues in our Cities?

I'm very strong supporter of the VAD, and I have had a couple meetings with local farmers on this, and they are all on board with it. So, I would like to make a motion to move forward, but I would like to hear from all of you about what you think about the VAD because every other Metropolitan area in the state has VAD in place, and we are one of the last who do not this.

**Councilmember Egleston** said didn't he say that would be triggered by the County and not us?

Ms. Ajmera said it could be part of the UDO process and Taiwo also had conversations with some of the same groups that I have had and that is something we can trigger.

**Councilmember Winston** said I disagree with Mr. Bokhari that this is actually low hanging fruit and on two fronts and when we get this onto an agenda I think I can support where we are going, but I think we should add something here. One, we are a City that is bringing in 1,000 a week, and these are people that are coming from different parts of the country, and they have experienced farmer's markets, and this is something that we don't have here. It has always been ironic to me, but I grew up in Brooklyn, New York in a place that is surrounded by asphalt and concrete, but I grew up with a better choice of fresh fruits and vegetables than I ever have living in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is incredible to me. I've never understood that, and it is something that I've always seen as a gap living here in a town when I moved here still had farm land all over it, so we are bringing people here that expect this in a City, and it is something that isn't here right now.

On top of this, what I think we should have here on top of looking for other state or county support; this is a regional economic development tool, and we should use our relationships and this is something that the CRVA should look at as well. We talk about bridging the urban rural divide; this is the way you to that to show rural counties, our rural neighbors that their economic interest for investing here in Charlotte that we can create jobs and economic development where they are by supporting what we've got going here on top of the idea of creating urban farming infrastructure. That is the way we should look at this thing as we grow as a City as a destination when we need to create a more stable restaurant culture. How do you create a more stable restaurant culture? One, you take care of workers and then you make sure they are working from the best most consistent ingredients time after time? Talk to the restaurant industry, and they will tell you that. That alone can drive the farmer's market here in the City if we get business owners to supply their restaurants with these local fresh fruits and vegetables. I would agree with some of the concern about depending on public dollars to do this, because there should be private interest in this, and we should leverage our ability to create public/private partnerships to make sure that this is something that gets off the ground quickly and is not something that is new for long.

Ms. Eiselt said really interesting presentation Tom; and you showed this to me a while ago, and I think it is really compelling. I have a question about the Farmer's Market on Yorkmont Road; what is the deal? I just don't know enough about why that can't be moved or what is the true story on it Tom?

Mr. Warshauer said it is a State-owned Farmer's Market, and the State Department of Agriculture I believe for the most part is looking at other mechanisms of support for farming other than market places. They have four that they have been given, and they are running those to the best of their ability. I was asking are you all interested in opening one in Wilmington; are you going to be in Greenville? Is this something that you are going to be expanding as rural economies are expanding and are people looking at this among from eastern North Carolina who sort of know that this is going on? There is a lot of interest in small towns around farming.

Vivian Howard is going to be here with the Foundation of the Carolinas speaking; it will be her third time in Charlotte. She has really made a huge difference in Kinston in eastern North

Carolina, so there is a lot of interest across our state in good eating and supporting rural economies. The state had a sense that CSAs, the boxes delivered to your home might really run afoul of sort like Amazon. Why would people want to go to a market place if they could have it delivered? But what I think we are seeing across the country and the world is even with that people love going to a market. They like meeting their farmers and if we talk about a place for social capital where visitors come in and visit. I was talking to one of our staff as I was waiting for this and she said I never take anyone to the state market. If I take a visitor to town I talk them the Publix. That is not where we take people, right. Other cities have this and it is where people meet across different immigration status, black and white, wealthy and poor. Market places are that social mixing ground, and so it is a phenomenal amenity for cities that have them. We are fortunate that we have the state but they have just not been interested in looking at moving it. It doesn't mean that in a new day that the state might be interested in another location, who knows.

Ms. Ajmera said I remember someone had raised a question when you were at the forum about this presentation specifically; the City of Asheville had received more public dollars from the state for their Farmer's Market, and I believe it was in multi-million dollars. I don't see a reason why we should not add this to our Legislative Agenda.

Mayor Lyles said I understand and they have said no.

**Councilmember Phipps** said Baltimore, in my youth, used to have horse drawn wagons of bringing fresh vegetables to the neighborhood, but my question is how sustainable are the farmer's markets. We had one over in the University at CMC; we had a few farmers come out, but I guess trying to load up the produce and bring it in is that a problem of that kind of work and then it seems like you would have to have a sustainable volume of purchasers to be able to sustain a momentum of a farmer's market on a consistent basis.

Mr. Warshauer said Baltimore has market places that are city run inside buildings that have been there for a 100-years. The pop up markets are really exhausting for both farmers and consumers; pop-up meaning the farmer pops up a tent. It covers then in the event of rain but not really the consumer. Lots of small town all across America and the world have been building markets, just for food but for entrepreneurship, for crafts, for all sorts of things and it can be a concert hall. In Virginia, there are a number of these just small sheds that people build. In Texas people cover cars because it is too sunny. In our Park & Rides, we could have shaded structures put up that would enable us to host a market and during the week it would be a place of shade for people to park.

There are places where we might be able to invest small amounts into some of our infrastructure that enable them to support a much more robust community. We might be able to put in electricity or water into a couple of sites where we frequently have festivals to be able to make that a place that a market could be more easily set up that would be more regular. That is the kind of thing a study would help us understand as where those should be so we are not just putting them willy-nilly to our community, but locating them more strategically to draw on a consumer base that would make them sustainable.

Mr. Phipps said I also remember in my childhood in Richmond, Virginia, they had a 17th Street Market [inaudible] where it was almost a whole city block where farmers came in one location, a block of just all kinds of produce and everything in that one block. That to me would be something that would be a draw that people would know that is where the farmers market is, a big draw like that.

Mr. Warshauer said absolutely.

Mr. Egleston said I love Mr. Phipps' idea of a City fleet of horses, so I think we should look into that, but I'm really passionate about this topic. Tom, I'm glad we got you here to do this, and it is something that I think touches a lot of bases. Braxton made the point that this is an economic development opportunity. When you go to Cleveland, when you go to Philadelphia, and you go to all these cities and you ask people where should I go? What should I see? One of the first places they say in anyone of those cities; by sister now lives in Milwaukee, and it is a Saturday tradition that everyone goes to the markets around there. In fact, the first place that three different people on my Facebook when they saw I was in Cleveland in December, the first three



places I was told to go were all the all same place, and it was the famous market. I do think it is an opportunity for tourism economic development; to Mr. Winston's point, it is also something that people come to expect in a city of a certain size.

Markets are something we can use to combat food deserts; we see articles in the newspaper about grocery store wars, well those grocery store wars are going on in the fluent areas of this City where you have six choices of a grocery store and yet we can't find anyway to incentivize people to build grocery stores where they are most needed because they don't think it is profitable enough. This is something that can combat those deserts, and so I really think that for an investment as small as what we are talking about in these recommendations and a few other ideas, some of it lobbying the state, and Yorkmont is not exactly the most conducive place we could have our state farmers market, but it is where it is and if we were to create a destination restaurant. If you had an heirloom restaurant that was the type restaurant that was located out of the farmers market, people go to Belhaven Boulevard now to eat at an heirloom restaurant. They will go to Yorkmont to eat at an heirloom restaurant quality place that is using ingredients from those local farmers.

So, if we give people a reason to go out, live music or a great restaurant or cooking demonstrations or things other than what is there now they will go there. In fact, a decent amount of people, if you've ever been on a Saturday morning. I think we can make that more of a week-long market and if we've got more places that take SNAP, take ABT I think it really starts to get out a lot of the core problems that are facing a lot of parts of our City. I hope for all the things we spend millions of dollars on, if we are talking about less than a quarter of million dollars and some advocacy on our part to really start to change the culture around a lot of this I think it is a small investment for a large return.

Mayor Lyles said you've heard lots of ideal about what we could do, what we should do and who we should ask and all of that. When I read the report, it said the role of the City is to convene around these recommendations, and I also want to recognize Mecklenburg County has a food council that has worked on a number of efforts like this, and I'm sure they are very well informed around this report as well. There is also this idea that we've gone to the state and asked about the SNAP and what we found is that it is not that Yorkmont won't take SNAP. It is like they have it on limited basis, but all of the markets in the SNAP, and all the connections are not made. I would like to suggest Mr. Jones that we actually take this to the County and their food council, let them have some comments on it, because a lot of these ideas we've talked about. We started the public market down at 7th Street Station, and there is a reason that things haven't taken off. Sometimes I think we do things like Yorkmont before the City was big enough to do them or there weren't the right demographics to do them. The Yorkmont Farmers Market got there, because we built a Coliseum out there, and they had to move and there was some land that was just available. So, it wasn't a conscious decision with data analytics and market studies of anything like that. Sometimes things just happen and now it is time that we've gotten to a place that we are better at understanding how we can make change happen in a more consistent way. I would like to suggest is look at this as a convening, especially I think the priority for advancing the study's recommendations; I think the one, two, three and four pretty much in order that the Farmer's Market Association and Advocacy would be really important.

I would like to think that we have people interested in this work that would see it as a part of what they currently do or that they would be willing to step up and help us do it in a way that is effective, and we would have some measurers, but I think we start with sharing this with the county and getting some thoughts about what they are currently doing and then come back with maybe an action plan around the first or second recommendations that could be more effective because there are some things that have been tried by a lot of people, and are we getting the right things done with the right data and the analysis to get it done?

Mr. Egleston said the only thing I forgot was and Tom mentioned it- I love the idea, and I don't want us to lose sight of it. Atlanta does something like what you mentioned, which is to do markets on a certain day of the week at a certain stop on their transit line. I think that is a great way for us to connect more people to those opportunities that every Tuesday at the Transit Center downtown or every Wednesday at Old Concord Station or wherever it is and wherever we've got high traffic that is a great way for a lot of people to plug into that system at least once

a week and make sure that we've got the opportunity to take whatever payment method they have. Atlanta is doing it, and I think very successfully.

Ms. Mayfield said with this request for the Farmer's Market Association or advocate, somewhere in this conversation it will be helpful if we can think about direct funding to support our local farmers that are coming up. We've been having the conversation for years now when you look at the West Boulevard Corridor, the community started the farmers market. We identified there may be a possibility through the CDBG funds in order to help, so I want us to rethink or to add in addition ways that we can help some of our local markets that are doing well opposed to just funding an Association.

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#### **ITEM NO. 8: LAKE ARBOR APARTMENTS UPDATE**

**Ben Krise, Housing and Neighborhood Services** said the presentation that we have is short, but what it is it is about giving you the data and the current status of where we are with regard to our progress out there. We continue to conduct our inspections regularly, and in summary, we have been able to bring into compliance 130 housing units within the minimum housing code. There remain 193 cases for 193 housing units open, since we started this project around September 1, 2018. Again, these are reiterations of previous information shared with you; all the units that were cited for infestation were treated by a licensed professional. We referred nine locations for emergency housing relocation consideration, and we have four cases that are scheduled for the March 5, 2019 Environment Court Docket in General District Court. We continue to attempt to engage the residents and connect them to the resources. Most recently, November 30, 2019 we held a resource fair in response to a survey that we conducted, and we had multiple other public agencies there to help connect them with resources and will continue to follow up with them. Our engagement staff will be following up on all leads with regard to that.

Lastly, I wanted to talk to you all about next steps where are we going from here? We will continue to monitor the 193 open cases; we are actively out there on a daily basis. We have Housing Appeals Board hearing that is scheduled for February 12, 2019; the ownership of Lake Arbor has appealed all 193 cases that we have open and they are scheduled to be heard on February 12, 2019 in front of the Housing Appeals Board. In conjunction with the tenant's requests, they have requested a meeting to be held at Action NC; it is scheduled on February 21, 2019, and those are our next steps.

**Councilmember Winston** said the last time you were here, I ask about holding somebody accountable, because they didn't meet the deadlines, and you said that they had to appeal within 30-days of that deadline, and I'm guessing they did, and that is how we get to February 12, 2019.

Mr. Krise said yes sir. They did appeal all the technical terms, the documents that we sent out is called Finding of Fact, but they did appeal that within the time parameters and that is the reason all the cases are in a state of enforcement until the Housing Appeals Board renders a decision.

Mr. Winston what kind of decision is the Housing Appeals Board considering? Are they just going to up or down, accept or reject their appeal, or will they hold them accountable at that point in time? What is the next step after that?

Mr. Krise said I can't predict what the Housing Appeals Board is going to say.

Mr. Winston said what are their options here? Is it defined what they can do?

Mr. Krise said they have the ability to up hold our order; they have the ability to modify that, or they have the ability to reject it. In doing so, it has been my experience in a lot of instances that the Board will ask for a plan, and they will consider substantial or significant progress and what the ownership will be able to demonstrate that they have been able to progress through bringing into compliance; they will consider those in formulating their decision and rendering on whether or not they will give them additional time or uphold the finding of fact and order.

**Mayor Lyles** said I wanted to share with the Council my understanding is we can assess civil penalties; they are not very large. The Board could do that and they could also give an extension. Yesterday, I got a call from the owner's representative, after nine months of trying to find someone to put a face to the owner I finally found the representative, and he has asked to come to have a meeting face-to-face with the staff that is working on this and talk about the things that they are doing. He has asked that I be in the meeting and the Manager be in the meeting, and I would certainly think that Ms. Mayfield should be in the meeting as well, but I would say that we ought to continue and go through our process and let the Housing Appeals Board make their decision on February 12, 2019.

Scott Brown is his name, and he is planning on flying up, and we have a call tomorrow to schedule something with the staff so that he can hear, but I would say that what we are going to end up having to do is follow our process, because I feel like we've been at this nine months, and one phone call to say I would like to meet with you doesn't make any difference to me. I'm not really concerned about him meeting with me, as much as I am concerned about him meeting with the residents that live there, and I expressed that to him when I talked to him earlier and that was yesterday. We have a call, and we will find out what his expectations are to do, but my expectation is that he is a lawyer, and they meet with our lawyers. I don't know that I'm necessary to meeting with the lawyer; we have a process, and we ought to follow it, and that is how I see Lake Arbor. It is nice to find that someone is really stepping up and finally saying that he represents the owner, because we've had some problems figuring that out.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.



Emily A. Kunze, Deputy City Clerk, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 4 Hours, 54 Minutes  
Minutes Completed: March 5, 2018