

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 5:02 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Renee Johnson, Matt Newton, Gregg Phipps, Victoria Watlington, and Braxton Winston II.

ABSENT: Council member Malcolm Graham.

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Mayor Lyles welcomed everyone to the January 24, 2022, Business Meeting and said this meeting is being held as a virtual meeting in accordance with all of the laws that we have to follow, especially around an electronic meeting. The requirements also include notices and access that are being met electronically as well. You can view this on our Government Channel, the City's Facebook Page, or the City's YouTube Page.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Driggs gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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ACTION REVIEW

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

Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget said I believe there were no outstanding questions. However, item number 36, a property transaction was settled and is going to come back to you in February. So, please note that this is coming off of your consent agenda; again, that's item number 36. Then, also, Mr. Winston mentioned he would like a separate vote on 13 and 14. Ms. Johnson, I believe you wanted to make a comment on number 15. Did anybody else have anything that I missed?

Kelly Stephanie, City Clerk said Marie, I think that property transaction has just been settled, So, it won't be back in February.

Ms. Harris said okay.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Councilmember Johnson said I wanted to acknowledge the work that the CBI, that's been done on the CBI Program. It appears just looking at the agenda tonight, that there are quite a few minority businesses that are being recommended for contract and item 15 has a minority business as a [inaudible]. So, I just wanted to acknowledge the work that's being done by the city and congratulate the [inaudible] and his department on the progress.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda items 13 through 37 may be considered in one motion except for those items removed by a Council member. Items are removed by notifying the City Clerk.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 15: Underground Traffic Signal Communications Locating Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with RDL Private Utility Locating, LLC (MBE, SBE) for underground locating services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 16: Site Preparation for Pre-Construction Utility Relocations

(A) Approve contracts for site preparation for pre-construction utility relocations for an initial term of three years to the following: VHM Contracting, LLC, Full Source Construction & Consulting, Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No.17: Professional Engineering Services for Various Storm Water Services Projects

(A) Approve unit price contracts with the following companies for engineering services for an initial term of three years: Armstrong Glen, PC, D&A Wolverine, PLLC (SBE), Dewberry Engineers, Inc., ESP Associates, Inc., Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., HDR Engineering, Inc. of the Carolinas, Labella Associates, P.C., Land Design, Inc., NV5 Engineers and Consultants, Inc., STV Engineers, Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 18: Utility Coordination Services

(A) Approve unit price contracts with the following companies for utility coordination services for an initial term of three years: STV Incorporated dba: STV Engineers Inc, Utility Coordination Consultants Inc (SBE), Volkert Inc, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 19: McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Process Improvements Construction Administration

(A) Approve a contract for \$2,250,000 with CDM Smith Inc. for McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Process Improvements project construction administration and inspection services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 20: Vest Water Treatment Plant Concrete Repairs

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,326,663 to the lowest responsive bidder CROM, LLC for the Vest Water Treatment Plant Concrete Repairs project.

Summary of Bids

CROM LLC	\$1,326,663.00
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Item No. 21: Water and Sanitary Sewer Service Installations

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$5,293,489.30 to the lowest responsive bidder, Fuller & Co. Construction, LLC (SBE) for water and sanitary sewer service installations.

Summary of Bids

Fuller & Co. Construction Inc	\$5,293,489.30
State Utility Contractors Inc	\$5,338,575.00

Item No. 22: CATS Hi-Rail Bucket Trucks

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$819,504.32 to the lowest responsive bidder Altec Industries Inc. for the purchase of two hi-rail bucket trucks.

* The complete Summary of Bids is available in the City Clerk's Office

Item No. 23: Airport Facility Lease - 3101 Piper Lane

(A) Approve a facility lease with Host International, Inc. for a warehouse facility located at 3101 Piper Lane for a term through June 30, 2030.

Item No. 24: Airport Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,349,360 with Landrum & Brown, Inc. for a Federal Aviation Regulation Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study Update, and (B) Authorize City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 25: AT&T Beacon Tower Lease Extension

(A) Authorize the City Manager to approve a lease amendment with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for an additional five-year term for a telecommunications antenna on the Airport's rotating beacon tower.

Item No. 26: Federal Aviation Administration Reimbursement Agreement

(A) Authorize the City Manager to execute a reimbursement agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the reconfiguration of runway status lights, (B) Authorize the City Manager to execute a reimbursement agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the establishment of communication and surface detection coverage, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to amend the agreements consistent with the purpose for which the agreements were approved.

Item No. 27: Pest Control Services

(A) Approve a contract with Clegg's Termite & Pest Control, LLC for pest control services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 28: Terminal Public Address System Maintenance

(A) Authorize the City Manager to approve price adjustments and amend the City's contract with Charlotte Sound & Visual Systems, Inc. (SBE) consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to purchase such additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance, and support as required to maintain the system for as long as the City uses the system.

Item No. 29: Enterprise Backup System

(A) Authorize the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds to purchase an updated enterprise backup system, using an existing City unit price contract with SHI International Corp., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to purchase such additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance and support as required to maintain the system for as long as the City uses the system.

Item No. 30: Resolution of Intent to Abandon Sears Road

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon Sears Road, and (B) Set a Public Hearing for February 28, 2022.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 441-442.

Item No. 31: Resolution of Intent to Abandon Unopened Lotus Lane

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon unopened Lotus Lane, and (B) Set a Public Hearing for February 28, 2022.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 443-444.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 32: Aviation Property Transactions - 7924 Douglas Drive

Acquisition of 0.689 acres at 7924 Douglas Drive from Larry E. Biggers (deceased) & Helen G. Biggers for \$258,000, and all relocation benefits in compliance with Federal, State, or Local regulations for Aviation Master Plan.

Item No.33: Charlotte Water Property Transaction - Ashe Plantation Phase II, Parcel #1

Acquisition of 8,574.41 square feet (0.197 acres) in Fee Simple at 78636 Quarters Lane from Anthony William Simera and Ashley Marie Jennings for \$60,000 for Ashe Plantation Phase II.

Item No.34: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (Hidden Valley), Parcel #203

Resolution of condemnation of 13,112 sq. feet (0.30 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement, plus 3,300 square ft. (0.08 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 5415 Equipment Drive from North Corridor, LLC for \$120,075 for North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (Hidden Valley), Parcel #203.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 445.

Item No.35: Charlotte Water Property Transactions - North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (Hidden Valley), Parcel #204

Resolution of Condemnation of 6,260 square feet (0.14 acres) in Permanent Utility Easement, plus 720 square feet (0.02 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 5425 and 5435 Equipment Drive from Charles Paul Harrison for \$30,700 for North Tryon Pressure Zone Boundary Change and 960 Zone N-S Transmission Main (Hidden Valley), Parcel #204

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page (s) 446.

Item No. 36: Property Transactions - Dixie River Road WM Extension, Parcel #12

Item pulled and settled by staff.

Item No.37: Property Transactions - Eight-inch Sanitary Sewer to serve 540 Lakenheath Lane, Parcel #3, 4

Acquisition of 1,961 square feet (0.045 acres) Sanitary Sewer Easement, 1,240 square feet (0.028 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at + 616 Bubbling Well Road and 549 Lakenheath Lane from Barbara Faulkner Williams and J. Andrew Williams for + \$10,000 for Eight-inch Sanitary Sewer to serve 540 Lakenheath Lane, Parcel #3, 4.

ITEM NO. 13: GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY - DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED TASK FORCE

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to adopt a resolution authorizing the City to apply and accept a grant award in the amount of \$204,424 from the Governor's Highway Safety Program for the Driving While Impaired Task Force.

Councilmember Winston said this should come as no surprise, as is said in the item, it's something that we vote on every year. I just believe that the issue of driving while impaired is obviously very important to deal with. I think it's the taxpayer-funded solution that are better dealt with prevention. Law enforcement had an excellent program a couple of years ago just before the pandemic, where CMPD (Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department) was working with ALE (Alcohol Law Enforcement), I believe, where they were going to eating and drinking establishments and talking to people before they got into their vehicles. And getting them Uber rides and getting them other rides home. I think that those things, those types of programs are better uses of taxpayer funds to make our streets safer. I just don't know if that has to be law enforcement that does those things. I think taxpayer dollars can go to more effective and efficient solutions, like working with business owners and eliminating things like I don't know, eating and drinking establishments that rely on people driving their single occupancy vehicles to those places to drink. And, you know, when we're dealing with the disruptive nature of folks that become interact with the legal system, those have effects that we try to deal with on the back end. And again, I just think that there are better ways to use taxpayer-funded dollars, to deal with the issues that are very relevant to public safety but probably have better solutions outside of the law enforcement lens.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Harris, would you provide for Council a list of the programs that are operated out of the Highway Safety Program and designated how they would be, so, we would have more information about how that money is used?

Ms. Harris said yes, ma'am.

Councilmember Johnson said I think that is interesting what Councilmember Winston said. I also, looked at this item and I was thinking that we needed more money in the budget for enforcement or something; just Something that we're addressing this problem because, you know, driving under the influence, you know, does kill and it does change lives. So, I would be interested in any discussion in the Safety Committee or somewhere on alternatives that there might be out there or some different initiatives. I've spoken to the Chief about my concern about this problem. It's working with the club owners or whatever it is, but I would love to see more focus and more intentionality around this subject. Again, if it's asking for more money in the budget for police or for a safety task or whatever that looks like, you know. I support this initiative because this is the work and this is the solution that we have on the table right now. But I also would support an alternative or intervene on a strategy in taking a look at this.

Mayor Lyles said so, Ms. Harris, when you tell us which program, give us a brief description So, that we'll be able to provide this inventory of work that's being done.

Ms. Harris said yes ma'am.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt Graham, Johnson, Phipps, and Watlington.

NAYS: Councilmember Winston.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 437-438.

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ITEM NO. 14: GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY - LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution authorizing the City to accept a grant award of in the amount of \$25,000 from the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt Graham, Johnson, Phipps, and Watlington.

NAYS: Councilmember Winston.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 439-440.

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ITEM NO. 2: ACTION REVIEW AGENDA OVERVIEW

Marcus Jones, City Manager said thank you, Mayor and members, of the Council. So, we have three items tonight on the action briefing. I will say they are all action-filled. We'll have Michael Smith and his team present on Charlotte SHOUT! and the planning that's going along with Charlotte SHOUT!. Then we'll have Shawn Heath and I believe Rebecca Hefner will help him with one part of the next two presentations. We had mentioned that we would come back to you periodically with updates from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) or the American Rescue Plan Act. And we have a few items tonight that we'll put in that green category or gold category. As well as a 2022 look ahead for our housing initiatives. As you know, Shawn Heath has helped us with both the CARES ACT (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funding as well as the ARPA funding, and has given him this opportunity to gain a strong understanding of some of the challenges we have in housing. And so, tonight, what we want to do is give you a bit of an update. We have we all miss Pam. It's also, important to make sure that we keep Council apprised of the hard work that the department has done up to this point. Including a playbook that you've been working through over the course of the last two to three years and upcoming votes that you will take as it relates to housing trust fund dollars as well as some other initiatives in that place. So, mayor, that's what we have for the action briefing. And if you're ready, we can turn it over to Michael.

As Michael makes his way to the podium, one thing I'll mention is that we were very very excited to partner with Center City Partners in, I guess it was, 2019 as we had Charlotte SHOUT! which I think you may recall, large bunnies and a lot of great activities. And over the course of the last year or so, even though the pandemic, Michael and I have been discussing how we can do this again. And so, you may recall the county has already indicated they would like to partner in this endeavor. And it's our recommendation that we also, be a partner in this endeavor also. And with that said, I would like to turn it over to Michael and his team.

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ITEM NO.3: ACTION REVIEW ITEMS

Michael Smith, President & CEO of Charlotte Center City Partners said thank you, Mr. Manager. Thank you, Mayor and Council for this opportunity to be with you this evening and share some of the work that's being done by our community and our hopes for what Charlotte SHOUT! has been and can be for our community. Robert Krumbine is our Chief Creative Office. You guys, Robert is a well-known asset for arts and production in our community. And he'll walk you through this proposal for the way we would like to work with you all and our arts community for Charlotte SHOUT!.

Robert Krumbine, Chief Creative Officer of Charlotte Center City Partners said thank you, Michael. And thank you, all, and that's really great to be here and good to see all of

you again. Last time I think we were on a trolley going down Tryon Street for the parade. So, maybe this is not quite as exciting. And thank you for your support of Charlotte SHOUT! in the past, and Mr. Manager, for the opportunity to tell everybody about this. Just to give you a sense of the vision for this event. The mission for SHOUT! is to create a sensory fix that weaves together the talent of internationally acclaimed and locally grown artists, musicians, chefs, and thought leaders. We present a creative, inclusive, and innovative art experience through a series of coordinated festival events designed to bring people together. And our vision and this is a big vision, but we believe in it strongly, is to make Charlotte a premier destination for culturally diverse arts, ideas, and experiences. Let me just give you a little idea just to remind you what we did in 2019. This was the grand finale for clt250; the celebration of our 250th birthday. In that event, we had over half a million people attend. Over 200-plus events and it was across 13 days. And I know many of you actually joined us for that and experienced a great time. Sorry. I pushed too fast there. We had over \$6 million in direct spending and the key piece of this is that the majority of the events were free and open to everybody.

The big, big piece here is that we had such a diverse group of people; we crossed through all of the demographics and reflect the entire community. Everybody was there; young, old, Black, White, Asian, everybody. The entire community was a part of this. To speak to how this event actually affects our artists, I decided to bring a couple of friends with me. So, the first one I would like to introduce is Meredith Connell. You've seen Meredith's work if you've been to the White-Water Center. Some amazing light art. If you've travelled the rail trail last year, there's a beautiful installation of mushrooms, I think it was called fairies. Fairy Ring At the Atherton Mill. And I would ask her to come and speak a little bit about how an event like this actually affects artists. Also, somebody who really doesn't need an introduction to anyone here in this room, but I do have Bluz with us to talk about from that performance art standpoint and how that works.

Meredith Conley, a Local Artist said Hi, everyone. I hope you're having a great day, thank you for having me. Like Robert said, my name is Meredith Connelly and I'm a local artist. I've been working in the community for nearly a decade and bridged over to public art within the last two years. I'm here to talk about community building. It's really, really important that we bring people together through arts experiences. This can be done in a way when we're out in the community and installing on-site, like this particular art piece through SHOUT!. that transcends all ages, stages, and walks of life. Beyond just connecting community members, in a free and open experience. There's also the opportunity to further connect and support the local artists in our local arts community. I, myself, employ a team of creatives that are also, underrepresented artists, and these projects give us those threads to continue growing their careers in addition to ours. Beyond that, it's just, and it's necessary, and it's educational, and we have to really tap into this. Charlotte is such a growing city, and we are on the map this, like other cities, they have art festivals, this caliber, and I think that it's something that is extremely needed in order for us to have artists continuing to grow, and to stay here and to give back to the community. Thank you very much.

Mayor Lyles said no, thank you so, much. Really appreciate it.

Bluz Rogers, A Local artist said Just to piggyback on more what she was talking about, community building. Naturally, this supports a lot of artists in the city, but more importantly, it inspires a generation that's coming up underneath us. Oftentimes, the city is defined as not having any kind of characteristics or culture. Which we all know is not true because we live here, work here and play here. But Charlotte SHOUT! is a defining moment for our city. It's a defining moment for the Carolinas, period. When a lot of artists come here and they see what's going on, they want to know how did you do it. Who to connect with, how do we network, how do we build, and again, more importantly, it's for a generation of kids who don't have art in school. Who goes out and sees a mural or sculpture, and wonders who did that, how did they do that? The first time they come to a festival, it should be here. It should be the experience that's here. Do not go to Atlanta or New York and experience a festival there. Experience a festival in their own hometown. That way they're more inspired to grow here, to create here, to invest their cultural monetary, whatever you want to call it. Invest into our system and into our county and into our city. Y'all already

know how I stand and how I feel about our creatives here. Charlotte SHOUT! is that defining moment for us, creatively, culturally, and of course for our future generations to come. So, it supports local artists as you can see, but it's going to support years and years and years of creative arts in this city.

Mr. Smith said all right, that makes me excited. I just want to go out and do some more stuff. I got you primed. So, what are we going to do this year? So, as you know we were planning on SHOUT! happening in September of last year and unfortunately, we had a surge in the fall that made us postpone. So, we have moved it to April 1st of 2022. It will be a 17-day activation. April 1st through the 17th, we will again have over 200 concerts, events, and performances. We have my CLT grassroots programming effort and to be clear about this; the majority of what we do in Charlotte SHOUT! is local. We do bring in aspirational installations and performers, but we want to support 90 percent; 90 percent of what we do is local. There will be amazing installations this year. The seesaws are back. I think most of you may have seen the bunny has already happened because they've already scheduled for September. So, those have already been in place. But the bunnies left Something behind and it is easter. So, I'll just leave that to your imagination. There may be Something we all get to see. We have some great partner activations, and it will continue to be diverse, and inclusive for everyone. I just have to say, you know, I've been doing this in Charlotte now for 30-plus years. I created Charlotte SHOUT! that was what brought me to Center City Partners in 2001. The first event was in 2002. The event ran for many, many years until the great recession, where we had to put it on the shelf. When clt250 came around and we had the opportunity and I sat with the Manager and said, what if; it was just So, natural, to bring it back and dust it off, And shine it up and make it Something So, special for the city. I have to just tell you all that your support has gone So, far, and continues to do So. So, we appreciate it. We hope you will continue to support it and we look forward to seeing all of you at Charlotte SHOUT! 2022. Thank you very much.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, Robert. We were on the call today, and we all talked about the portraits on the side of all of the kids, the bunnies, of course, but more importantly, I remember being down on the Plaza, at the Nascar Hall Of Fame, and just seeing blues get this group of people out there to dance and sing. The bike rider came through and they started following all of the SHOUT! event for their bike ride. It was fascinating and amazing and we are grateful for your creativity and the activation that you're giving us, particularly at this time when So many things are going on for our mental health, and for our kids to be able to see Something greater than what we have right now. So, look forward to April. What are the dates again?

Mr. Rogers said April 1-17.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, Mayor and members of the Council again. And thank you for the presentation. I will say that the ask is \$500,000. It's a combination of financial support and in-kind services. And a lot of times the in-kind becomes support, police support, c-dot (charlotte department of transportation), and solid waste and so, I wanted to let the Council know what the ask is and you know, my recommendation in terms of hospitality funds. This is something that we can take out of that because of the way that it will support hospitality. I know that the concept, Robert, and I love the way that you staged this tonight, was to test it out last time. It seems like this isn't going to be a one-and-done. So, thinking of a long-term funding strategy for the SHOUT! is something that would be discussed after this event.

Councilmember Winston said thank you very much. Mr. Jones, kind of segued into two of my requests for this money as I think anybody that followed the art discussions that we had around the new arts policy last year and just, you know, my values lie in general. As I work in the arts. Something that I would like us from a city to be proactive on; I expect us to approve this money, is how do we make this Charlotte SHOUT! an institution that operates and is programmed year-round. Right? How can we have things that are going on just so, that this isn't just a two-or three-week period, but there's programming, there's action, there's art being made around this? That culminates in this large festival. That really does take advantage of honestly, a bit of a unique performance and art

infrastructure that we have particularly in our urban core. I would suggest that we perhaps look towards any, that doesn't make it to anybody. Let's look towards Austin and Austin city limits or the South By Southwest Festival that again, is something that is a year-round entity.

But second of all, and this is to us here, the city, and the Charlotte Center City Partners, this is something that I've worked on. I consider Bluz a colleague and this is something that we talk about a lot, but it's one thing to involve local artists and give them a platform. But it's another thing to involve local artists and ensure that they are getting paid. That needs to happen, again, when we talk about supporting art students and Economic Development lens, art is work. Right? And while some works of art are priceless, there are ways to measure and pay the artist. And when I say pay, I don't just mean a nominal amount. I mean, making sure that individual artists are getting the rates that they deserve and that they command and that is not necessarily an arbitrary task to do. There are tons of data and area standards that we can look into. But again, if we do, which I expect us to approve this money from a city perspective, I want us to take that responsibility on the nose and ensure that that is happening. Thank you.

Councilmember Eiselt said I'll first say that I support what everybody has already said that we are really I hope that we're going to think about this in a permanent matter, that it won't be "are we doing Charlotte SHOUT! again", we know we're doing it every year and supported and Something that we can grow and as Mr. Winston said, branch into different areas. So, I'm really excited about it because I think this city is hungry for this. I too, have just really memorable things from Charlotte SHOUT! a couple of years ago, laying on third street, while people were dancing down the side of the Government Center. It was amazing And everybody was out there with blankets and chairs and really cool. And then, being up on North Tryon, at 11:30 at night, and sitting out in a restaurant having I drink, it felt like you're in a European city. There were families, there were people of all backgrounds walking around the streets enjoying the free entertainment on the seesaws. It really gave me so much hope for our city and we need more opportunities to all to come together for recreation, for the arts, and that we get to be with people that we typically aren't within our own either self-selected bubbles or elsewhere. I think that it's one of the greatest opportunities that we have and one of the best examples that we've had in the past few years of being able to do that. It shouldn't be the only festival in Charlotte. I will say that as well. It's exciting that we're going to have this and I hope that we become a city of festivals and that we're supportive of that. Thank you.

Councilmember Ajmera said a couple of comments. So, I agree with Mr. Winston and Mayor Pro Tem about the activation year-round. It's not just a few months' activities but a year-long one. Also, what I've enjoyed the most about Charlotte SHOUT!, especially in the middle of the pandemic, is the bunnies. I remember near First Ward Park, how we brought communities together, where there were a lot of events that got canceled, and it used open space very creatively to have this exhibit for the community. I think that was a really good use of our open space and a great way to bring communities together. I hope that we continue to bring those kinds of exhibits in our center city and in our uptown area. These are the exhibits that are larger than life and really breathe life into uptown. I think that's what we need more of, to activate the uptown, especially where many people are working from home, we need more traction, we need more activity in uptown. But how do we replicate this also in our neighborhood, on the east side, west, north, and south? Obviously, Charlotte SHOUT! may not be the organization who would be doing it all, but I think that we do need similar approaches throughout our neighborhoods to really bring that sense of feeling and sense of pride in all of our communities. But certainly, I enjoyed the work. I have enjoyed what Charlotte has been doing and how they're activating the space in the uptown area. So, keep up the great work, and I look forward to attending some of this. Thank you.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said I think that Robert and Michael and the team have come to realize that what I've known for a while now, the Council has a very healthy appetite. So, we get excited about the great things that are happening. So, what we'll do is we'll get the safety discussions completed and anything that I need to bring back to the Council for approval, we'll bring back to the Council in terms of the financial commitments.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, all, for what you give back to our city.

Shawn Heath, Special Assistant to the City Manager said thank you very much.

Mr. Jones said so, the next item that we have on the agenda, Shawn Heath will come in and give us an update on the ARPA funds. What occurred last time, the concept is we would take things from ideation. I think Shawn is actually going to take ideation off of the slide tonight. I think everything is past the ideation stage and anything that has been vetted to a point that we feel comfortable to bring to you. We're doing that tonight in this next update with the assumption that with some nod tonight that we would have this on an upcoming business agenda for a vote. I think the last time the Council, had some items that same night you unanimously asked to put it on the agenda for a vote. But what we're trying to do tonight is, as we get more information feel comfortable with bringing some things in front for a discussion. That's what Shawn is doing tonight. Before I turn it over to Shawn, you know, a lot of hard work has gone into this and there's a number of conversations with the county and the school system that also, has ARPA funds. And what you'll find tonight is at least one example of where two jurisdictions are putting money towards the same initiative and we hope to have more of that collaboration in the future. So, Shawn, I'll turn it over to you.

Mr. Heath said good evening, everybody, and thanks for the setup as well. On the presentation objectives tonight, as Manager Jones referenced, we have a batch of recommendations that are ready for Council discussion. Across the few categories, you can see it's about \$20 million worth of opportunity related to small business workforce development, and hospitality. That's a cluster of opportunities that I've been working closely with Economic Development Director Tracy Dodson and her team on. The \$5 million is related to various opportunities to support the grassroots nonprofit sector through programming grants, as well as possible capacity-building programs. And then, finally, an effort to dress food and security with the project on the northwest side of town. And then we'll round out this evening's discussion with a little bit of a peek into the future as it relates to some of the investment opportunities that are not yet ready for Council conversation. But we're working hard behind the scenes to get them ready. Then also of course, in May of 2022, we're expecting our second transfer of ARPA funds to the tune of \$71 million.

This is a slide that will look familiar from our December 6th conversation. Going back to even an earlier point in time. The first installment of ARPA was \$71 million. The allocation decision was that \$60 million would be devoted to community-facing investment, \$11 million focused on city operations. This is the stacking of possible investment opportunities, building with up the \$60 million. As Manager Jones indicated, when we met on December 6th, there was the first phase for any given recommendation. It was referred to as ideation. We had a couple of items in the ideation phase because we were still sorting out what type of opportunities would we want to move through and design. And we've seen a lot of progression in the colors on this slide from December 6th. Moving them forward with a few ready for discussion tonight that are flagged in greens, which I referenced on the prior slide. No changes in the broad investment categories are shown in if first column compared to December 6th. No changes in the dollar amount shown in the middle column, but in the recommendations, we'll discuss tonight, what you will see in each instance is much more granularity in terms of what are the specific investment opportunities that we're putting in front of the Council for discussion. I would make one point before I leave this slide and that is, for the items flagged in blue, digital inclusion, housing at the top, public safety, and arts and culture, those are areas where staff is continuing to cultivate opportunities, fleshing out potential plans, with the intent that we'll be back in front of Council as they are ripe. I would mention to you because it's a little bit hot of the presses on public safety, that the Umbrella Center is an opportunity that's been discussed at the committee level. It's been discussed at a high level with the full Council from time to time over the last year or so. Just in the last couple of weeks, I've received some information from the Umbrella Center. It appears they're making very meaningful progress associated with both the project itself, which of course is focused on domestic violence, as well as the fundraising. So, Mecklenburg County, for instance, has committed

\$10 million in support of a roughly \$30 million-plus overall project. So, just wanted you to be aware that we're really turning our attention to digging into that one.

The last thing that I would mention on this slide, and I feel good about where we've landed on this because there's real clarity, is just as a reminder, where we left off on December 6th, was as Manager Jones had referenced, the only way we move an investment opportunity for ready for Council discussion in green to the Council endorsed in, I called it gold, I guess it's really orange, isn't it, through Council action. So, I think we have a clear sense, of how we move recommendations into the Council-endorsed phase, where we know at the staff level that we have clear authority to start making investments.

Mr. Jones said before you leave that slide, I just want to underscore what Shawn said about the Umbrella Center and hot off of the press. If we had a few more days, the public safety piece, the \$5 million, which we've held as a placeholder related to the Umbrella Center, could have been in green tonight and we really believe that the next time we come before you, it will be ready for the Council discussion, but just a little bit of timing. So, the point there is that with this additional information that would be teed up to go into that green category to be ready for the Council discussion.

You may recall from the last slide on housing that we do not have any housing-related recommendations that we're bringing for consideration tonight. But we did want to take just a few minutes to set the stage for future conversations, So, we're starting from the same point in terms of what available funding there is associated with these particular opportunities. What we've captured here are three, what we're referring to as nonrecurring funding opportunities related to housing and homelessness. They're not really opportunities but funding sources. And maybe the best thing to do on this slide is to start at the bottom, which is simply a recognition that with the Staying In Place pilot geographies that were identified last year: Washington Heights, Winterfield, and Hidden Valley and the emphasis on leveraging those three geographies as an opportunity to explore and pilot some ideas associated with Staying In Place that will grow into a body of work, which I'll talk about a little bit more later tonight in the second presentation, related to housing. We know the NEST (Neighborhood Equity & Stabilization) Commission being just stood up now with the first meeting on February 10th, will be hard at work, to identify possible anti-displacement strategies and tools to consider adding to the toolbox, Great Neighborhoods had its first committee meeting of the year and in the process of developing its work plan, and we also know that the 2025 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing And Homelessness effort is in the midst of transitioning from their strategic framework phase into an implementation planning phase. That entire body of work will likely generate opportunities and it will be quite helpful to have funding available to support opportunities. So, just going from top to bottom here, very quickly, the \$17 million is the direct reference to the funding that was identified on the previous color-coded slide. So, that's been earmarked with intended uses associated with neighborhood stabilization and anti-displacement strategies, it will be beneficial to have that money available as specific recommendations emerge from the initiative such as Staying In Place and the NEST Commission. The ARPA Hud Home Program, we've talked about that at length before. In particular, on December 6th. Where you authorized the staff to move forward with an overall \$4 million contribution to the Charlotte Rescue Mission. Two million of which will be sourced from the ARPA Hud Home Program, and \$2 million sourced from some residual CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) dollars that were available. All with the intent of allowing the rescue mission to expand capacity and serve up to 100 more men per year. We also discussed and you approved the staff moving forward with an RFP (Request For Proposal) associated with the remaining \$9.6 million balance for that particular allocation. And that we would tether that to opportunities that would be very aligned with the 2025 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing and Homelessness strategy. So, that RFP is underway and you'll hear more about that tonight as well in the second presentation on housing.

And then finally, just a reminder that there's a little bit of PAYGO (Pay-As-You-Go) money earmarked for Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization in the fiscal year 2021, that we have available and at our disposal. It's about a million and a half dollars. and then your FY22 PAYGO, including an overall \$14 million focused on corridors with half of that being

emphasized here related to neighborhood stability. So, just a long-winded way of staying there's funding available to support strategic initiatives of interest to the Council, as we move through the balance of the year.

Now, transitioning into the specific investment opportunities, these next three slides to a degree, go together. So, \$5 million for small businesses and \$5 million for the workforce, and \$4 million related to the hospitality sector. One thing I wanted to reinforce here is really just reflecting on and thinking back to how we handled investments during the CARES Act. Early in the CARES Act, when the economy, everything was, literally shutting down. There was a compelling need for a lot of relief and Access Charlotte for small businesses was the signature program with the CARES Act and \$30 plus million that was provided in small business relief. As you move through the CARES Act, there was more of an emphasis to go from the survival type of programming into the thrive programming. Things that would help the business community pivot and become more resilient and grow their business. So, I just wanted to recognize and acknowledge that at the staff level, we heard that feedback, and as we've been evaluating the opportunities with ARPA funding to move forward, with small business investments and workforce investments, and hospitality sector investments, there is an intentional focus on not completely moving away from the relief because there are elements of relief in here in certain places, but really having a heavy dosage of investment that are focused on jobs, that are focused on reskilling and skilling individuals in the community. How can we help small businesses and or individuals grow and prosper?

So, specific to this slide here with small business investments, the two opportunities here, each at \$2.5 million, are both programs that were initiated in the CARES Act, and that were fully funded, and then, those resources were deployed in the community we're successful were successful. So, the Small Business Partner Support Program, under the CARES Act, was \$2 million that was invested in 12 organizations. That are in the small business ecosystem, so, to speak. So, the Latin-American Chamber Of Commerce, and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg African American Chamber of Commerce would be two examples of the 12 that received an aggregate of \$2 million in funding. And the benefit to a program like this in our view is it's a very efficient way to reach a lot of small businesses, So, when you go across the 12 organizations that were included in the CARES Act funding, they reach up to about 15,000 small businesses in the community. So, you know, this is not relief funding, this is an opportunity for the City of Charlotte to provide funding to these ecosystem partners, that then take actions and deploy programming that helps their particular constituents remain healthy. So, that's the first item here.

And the second item is the Small Business Innovation Grant Program. Which was stood up during the pandemic originally by Charlotte Center City Partners and Honeywell. Ultimately, other funders like the City of Charlotte and Bank Of America, and Duke Energy got involved. And the idea here with the Innovation Grant Program is it's not a relief effort but it's an application, small businesses would apply for this money in the CARES Act believe it was up to I believe \$40,000 per small business. There were 45 small businesses that received funding during the CARES Act, where we deployed \$1.5 million in total and the emphasis here is on actions that the small business could take with this funding to make themselves more competitive, and more resilient. That could include new products and services, e-commerce, platform, retrofitting, and either exterior or interior facilities, in order to make themselves more attractive to customers that are sensitive to pandemic concerns. So, once again, both of these were stood up during the CARES Act, successfully deployed, and in terms of the investment rationale. I know that Tracy and her team did a small business survey that went to 250 small businesses here locally, where they identified their greatest needs. Not surprisingly relate to attracting new customers, increasing capital, and of course, the bullet point, in the middle of the page, just emphasizing how important the strength of the small business sector is to our overall economy. So, depending on Council's reaction and feedback to these particular opportunities. The next steps would be for the partner's support program, similar to the CARES Act, this is the type of program given the size of it, that we would administer on our own. We would look to solicit proposals from members of the Small Business ecosystem here locally and we go through a competitive evaluation process. For the Small Business Innovation Grant Program, for that, similar to the CARES Act, where we

relied on Charlotte Center City Partners as the administrative partner, we would pursue that path again. And allow Charlotte Center City Partners to solicit requests from small businesses that were eligible for that programming. So, that's at a high level of how we've been thinking about small business investment opportunities. Lots of words on the slide here. I'll hit the high points. So, moving from small business to workforce and this is an overall \$5 million proposal broken out into two component pieces, both of which should look familiar because we've had conversations about these. Some as far back as the CARES Act and then some more recently in Economic Development Committee discussions in calendar 2021. The first one is the EY employment study for corridors where we had talked about and decisions were made to provide some funding for the design and development of that work by EY. As that work has progressed, there's opportunities to leverage federal stimulus funds to activate some of those recommendations. As you're aware through previous conversations, this is really just intended to be a very targeted focused effort on corridors, with the recognition that to the extent there's a secret sauce here. It's both identifying the opportunities to have opportunity employers so to speak, expand operations, or establish operations in corridors. While at the same time, looking for opportunities to develop the pipeline in those particular corridors, recognizing. Then this is where the EY study is quite helpful but recognizing that there's one challenge associated with barriers to employment. Where there could be some programming that the city sponsors would enable us to, as I mentioned in parallel, both grow the jobs and grow the capacity of the individuals in those corridors to be qualified applicants for those opportunities. So, that's the thrust of that around the EY employment study.

The second category here really focuses on skilling and reskilling. The \$2 million would be spread across two initiatives. Renew is a program that you'll likely remember from last year. And when this was stood up under the CARES ACT, there's a particular emphasis on skilled trades, HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) training, and partnership with the Urban League and with Goodwill. So, now, the idea would be to continue with that sort of work, possibly moving into some different industry focus area. One area that the team mentioned to me is electric vehicle manufacturing and maintenance. And might there be an opportunity to stand up some training programming in an emerging area such as that. In the CARES Act, we also invest a similar dollar amount. As I mentioned here the emphasis is really on identifying opportunities to boost skills in high-demand areas. With the capacity-building grants for workforce educational partners, in the CARES Act, we did \$3.5 million for this type of programming, and it was spread across about three dozen local community partners and the training and workforce development space, including city startup labs, Road To Hire, UNC-Charlotte, etcetera. This would be a similar program to what we had done before. It would be administered the same way. Internally, we assembled a collection of individuals that reviewed the applications, including local organizations independent from the City of Charlotte. This would be done in the competitive process. Everybody who had training programs here locally would have an opportunity to apply and we would go through an exercise to identify the most compelling opportunities for funding.

Lastly, in these third of the three suites of small business workforce and hospitality, opportunities is the hospitality sector investment at the \$4 million level. In CARES, there was really an emphasis on relief. So, we stood up the access to capital food and beverage and the access to capital for hotels. Those two programs combined were about \$13 million in relief that were provided. In the city here, this is an intentional pivot away from pure relief and really focused on leaning heavily on CRVA (Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority), our community partner. This is really laser-focused on visitor spending, and job creation and looking to this as an opportunity to support marketing efforts and other programming considerations around hotel occupancy. So, really allowing the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority to activate their programming and expand on their programming. Everything that they're doing is really in support of hospitality and tourism. Clearly, it's been a challenging two years for the sector. There's been signs of improvement in the last six months and walking around the city with football games and concerts, but the recovery in that regard is still inconsistent. Business travel and conventions and conferences and that sort of thing certainly aren't where they were before the pandemic. We will work with CRVA around programming priorities and look to them

to evaluate the hotel industry in particular as it relates to particular opportunities to increase occupancy.

Mr. Jones said I think it would be good if Council would be able to ask questions after each segment. That's the workforce development employment segment.

Mr. Heath said thank you, yes.

Mayor Lyles said so, I know that several folks have had their names up and wanted to speak. Which one are we on, small business investment?

Mr. Heath said Just for reference, this was first, yes.

Councilmember Egleston said for my first of a couple of questions actually was two slides before that. So, I don't know when the appropriate time for that is, but the blue-green-yellow community support recommendation status [inaudible]

Mayor Lyles said can we come back to that?

Mr. Egleston said sure.

Mayor Lyles said we'll come back to community vitality, let's do the small business investments now.

Mr. Egleston said minor workforce and hospitality.

Mayor Lyles said I wanted to ask, a question about this one. You know, we have small businesses that we're working with along our corridor programs where we've worked with the private sector to provide funding for those small businesses and grants, and I'm just wondering, in this case, how are we actually not duplicating or duplication is necessary? Has that been discussed or how that might work? Does that make sense? If I'm on a corridor, and I get corridor money and private sector money, would I also, be eligible for small business support program money? I want all of the buckets to be empty. I just want everybody to have a shot at them.

Tracy Dodson, Assistant City Manager said good evening, great question, Mayor. I think when we enacted this program, before with CARES money, it was really about offering more of what I'll call the mentoring support to the businesses. I think some of these programs that we're starting with the private sector are loan programs, grant programs, and things like that. So, what we're really looking to do is make sure that if there's an opportunity to marry those up, where one side they might be getting support for the business, but then another side, they then can then access loans from that support that they've gotten through this other private sector. So, that would be the goal that we're really trying to layer in more services rather than overlap with the same things.

Mayor Lyles said okay, I think that is really an important part of this communication on what's going on. I would also like to think about this. You know, we've done a lot of work in the small business arena and it would really be great if they spoke up about what happened. Even if you said, tell me the top three things that you did, you could do it with a video or a picture or whatever. But we need to explain to the community how much money we've put back into the community. I mean; you know, we've worked really hard to make sure that all of our staff was compensated. We kept the services going, but keeping this program going, I think, was key to the retention of the small business employing over 80%, and I think that we ought to figure out a way to tell that story.

Ms. Dodson said we did pull testimonials from the CARES money and the money we spent there. So, I will make sure that we get those out for you.

Mayor Lyles said I want to make it easy and simple, but I also think that it's necessary for us to document the successes we have. So, you may want to stick around. Shawn, what was the next item that you had after small businesses? I'm Sorry, Ms. Watlington, were you on small businesses?

Councilmember Watlington said I just had two questions. The first one I wanted to dive into, I don't know if it fits into a small business or community vitality, but the Three Sisters Market. Shawn, I know you had some conversations with Rickey Hall. I wanted to lift that up and hear what the current thinking was in regard to supporting that organization. Also, the also the Veterans Hall Of Fame.

Mayor Lyles said okay so, why don't we do community vitality and hit that group. I know we're asking you to jump around, but there's a lot of things on there that I think people have an interest in.

Mr. Winston said small business and work [inaudible]. I think that it might fit in the middle of small business and workforce development and I'm wondering if there's a missing middle around small business incubation. So, I'm thinking about as he mentioned HVAC; some of that training that we were looking to. I think back to for instance when we were doing the renovations on the Convention Center. One of the things that drove up those costs was HVAC and a big part of that was just supply and demand of HVAC techs and getting that size of a job installed. That is something we generally [inaudible] that we're dealing with. So, what I'm hearing is that we are finding ways to support business innovation grants and business partner grants for existing businesses. And I'm hearing getting people trained to enter into industries but I'm wondering if we can get people into industries and also, and also launch existing workers that are already in those industries into some other small businesses? Therefore, compounding the increases in employment opportunities. For instance, can we stick with the HVAC model? Can we identify people that work or provide opportunities for people to take advantage of that already work in the HVAC business, but aren't business owners, but could be business owners, but for having the opportunity to kind of raise their business acumen and go through that? And therefore, they can have their own business model that trains other workers and so we're hitting all of those things left, right, and in the middle. Does that make sense? Are we doing Something like that?

Mr. Jones said Mr. Winston, yeah, that's the right way to think about this and look at it. And So, I believe we are, but I'll have, you know, Tracy and Shawn challenge me a little bit. The way I look at it is if we go back to the Fall Annual Strategy Meeting, and we talked about those six priorities that the city has been working on, the foundation, whether it's affordable housing or the job strategy, is it the priorities of the city or the strategies of the city, then pulling other funds? So, much of what you're talking about will take place for the jobs strategy that we're working on. So, how do we utilize funds in the corridor, funds in the CARES Act, the ARPA, and funds even in the racial equity initiative, to supplement the programs that are important to the city? And so, the HVAC is a great example. I don't know if I get the right terminology with this one Shawn, but that's a little bit of a pivot because now, we're looking at another category of work that can be done through the Urban League. So, if I understood your question, I think I did, is that we're in the initial stage to make sure that we're leveraging all of these funds, but we're also spending them appropriately and wisely based on the priorities that are coming out of these various studies that the Council is doing.

Mr. Winston said okay so what I'm hearing is a good idea, something we should and want to look into. Not necessarily germane to the ARPA dollars. But for perhaps other spends that are not happening in the silo, but a part of the same conversation.

Mr. Jones said and I'll use one example which you know, I may have gained a little bit of ground in that example, and maybe I'll lose a little bit in this example, okay. So, I heard a question earlier from Councilmember Watlington about the Three Sisters Market. And So, the three Sisters Market is a part of the West Boulevard playbook, which predates a lot of the discussion about CARES and ARPA and what have you. While we did seed money and there's great things that are happening there through the corridors to get it started, there was this other opportunity which Shawn will talk to tonight about another food desert where the county had put \$3 million in and we thought putting a \$1 million five in would show collaboration and an opportunity. This doesn't mean that we're not going to double down with the Three Sisters Market, but we know that thinking is the right thinking and how to bring more partners in to help with the food deserts.

Mayor Lyles said you know what I like about that example is that the Three Sisters Market is also working with the other market that's being proposed. The collaboration and the effort around how to do this in a way that makes it best for each to be successful. I think is remarkable. Do you remember the Women's Business Program that we funded for years; they have spent more time preparing people to go into business than they have in terms of staying in business after the first year of COVID. We're beginning to see these collaborations as Tracy said making all of this work. And then one day, we'll have to figure out how much more is needed. So, Mr. Winston, thank you, that was a really good comment and we need to continue to keep those connections going. Ms. Ajmera wanted to speak about small businesses.

Ms. Ajmera said I have a couple of comments. I have a few questions. Shawn, thank you very much for the details on each one of these line items. I think this is what we need. Last year our focus was on the short-term. So, getting the relief out in time. But now, we've got to focus on long-term sustainability. So, I like what we see here that's being proposed. If we can go back to open for business details? What are some of these programs? I know there was a line item for open for business. Can we go back to that slide? What are some of the enhancement work and programming worth that has been done for under open for business strategy?

Mr. Heath said yes Councilmember Ajmer, that was really a continuation of building out the strategy, you know, open for business is intended to really be a hub for small businesses around training and economic development resources. So, that work was initiated under the CARES Act. And then when we met on December 6th, there was the million-dollar opportunity put forward and authorized by Council really just as an opportunity to just sustain and enhance that platform.

Ms. Ajmera said is this a website maintenance that \$1 million is towards networking? I'm trying to understand what kind of support are we providing for sustainability for the long-term success of this business. You may not have all of the details right now, but I'm interested in understanding how \$1 million is spent towards long-term sustainability. That could be part of our follow-up if you don't have the details.

Mayor Lyles said Ms. Ajmera, I think about the funding that we did to open our hospitality businesses hospitality outdoors and it looks like we will need that this Spring and the Summer. So, the preparation of keeping our streets open and allowing for people to operate differently and innovatively as we begin to change from pandemic to endemic, I think was part of the strategy. It can be used this way this Spring. Maybe even during the time that we're having Charlotte SHOUT!.

Ms. Ajmera said yeah and I think that is a great way to really support businesses and hospitality industries; bars, restaurants, hotels, motels, So I am just trying to understand how some of the strategies would be implemented. The Innovation Grant, last year Innovation Grant was focused only on center city businesses. So, with this city contributing toward the Innovation Grant, would that be open for all businesses to apply?

Ms. Dodson said to Councilmember Ajmera, that when we contributed our city money through the CARES for the Innovation Grants, we expanded it beyond just the center city. The initial phase of the Innovation Grants, that Center City Partners led was center city focused. I think it was a two-mile radius, but when we contributed our money that grant cycle was opened up to all of Charlotte and we'll keep it the same way.

Ms. Ajmera said got it, thank you. The last question I have is on employment. Some of these training programs, we have such Renewal and a few other employment programs. So, will there be employment followed by the completion of these training opportunities?

Ms. Dodson said yes, that is the intent. One of the things that we've seen a lot of success with Renew has been connecting the jobs and the training together. So, there are jobs at the end of the training. I think in the first rounds of Renew, we've had about 73% of graduates are working full time.

Ms. Ajmera said that's great to see. I think we need to continue to see those numbers higher. Training is great, that's the first step. However, how do we ensure that graduates from this program are guaranteed employment at successful completion? So, that's all I have. Other questions on other topics. I'll save them for later. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much, Ms. Ajmera. I think there's a lot in community vitality. Should we start with that one? Go to that category?

Mr. Heath said for each of the items shown on this slide in green, there are actual presentation slides behind this one. So, local food production distribution that Manager Jones references there's one. Only the ones in green on here are ready.

Ms. Watlington said I recognize that the investment right now is not [inaudible] the Three Sisters Market investment later. I happened to speak with them late last week and just wanted to lift up that they are still actively seeking support, especially as the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) project comes together. I think you mentioned they are working with Stratford [inaudible] YMCA on the upcoming development at that location. But certainly, I want to see what we can do in terms of support. Secondly, the Veterans Hall of Fame, where does that fit?

Mr. Heath said I'm not familiar with that. Councilmember Watlington, I'm not familiar with the Veterans Hall of Fame. That's one I'll have to take as a homework assignment.

Ms. Watlington said okay, please do, it's one that we've talked about a couple of times before. I think the Manager can update you on that one.

Mr. Heath said on three sisters, I want to be careful that I don't jump around too much, but there's content at the back of this presentation related directly to the food and security opportunity on South Hoskins Road, which I could discuss as a way to get into the Three Sisters conversation. I don't want to muddy the waters.

Ms. Watlington said that's separate and apart.

Mr. Jones said I will say, Ms. Watlington, the recommendation tonight for food and security for a million five was to partner with the county in an initiative that they believe is very important. It's not an either-or, as it relates to the Three Sisters Market. As I mentioned earlier, the Three Sisters Market, we've been talking about that since the playbook. So, it does not mean that we wouldn't make that investment. It would mean that we would hope that even the county could come along with us in that investment, too.

Ms. Watlington said totally understand, yep and the county has committed investment to the Three Sisters Market. I totally recognize it's not an either-or, but I'm going to keep bringing it up until I see it, so.

Mr. Jones said that's fair.

Councilmember Driggs said I'm a little unclear where we are in this process. I had a question about the workforce. Are we going to talk about that?

Mayor Lyles said yes, we're going to get there. I think that Mr. Egleston, which group did you have? The workforce was as well. So, why don't we start with workforce and Mr. Driggs, do you mind if Mr. Egleston kicks us off?

Mr. Egleston said this one is tied into my hospitality question and I will do the specific hospitality stuff, I guess when we get to that slide. But the part that's tied into the workforce is, I think, and I have a fairly front-row seat, being that my day job is in the hospitality industry. One of the dire needs of the hospitality industry right now is the workforce. And So, I'm curious and I don't have a ready-made solution for that, that we can put money towards but I'm curious what we have done to consider what we might be able to fund or support in that realm in terms of trying to help. So many of our restaurants have stopped lunch service or have started closing more days of the week. Not because the business is not there for them, though, for many of the uptown restaurants, the business is still soft

during the week, but even outside of our uptown core, many restaurants have cut back on their hours and days, simply because they don't have the staffing levels they need to be able to support that and keep the mental health of the employees they do have where it should be. So, I'm curious if there's a way that we can help the workforce side of the hospitality sector. Whether that comes out of the workforce investment or the hospitality investment. And if that's something that we've put any thought into? Because while I do want to train people for, you know, tech jobs and the jobs of the future, and these career path type jobs, the hospitality, and tourism industry provide, I believe it's still 1 in 9 jobs in our community. Many of those are career path jobs and not just hourly jobs. And they're better-paid jobs now than maybe they were two years ago because of some of the labor shortage. So, is that something we've looked into?

Mr. Jones said Sean and Tracy, I'll take a shot at this. When we started this, I guess, last Fall, there was a recommendation related to the hospitality industry. The CRVA, V as in visitor's association came in and asked for \$3 million for marketing, and we also had a million dollars set aside for the hotel industry. Since that time our thinking has evolved, and we believe that giving the \$4 million to CRVA to help decide what's going to be best for that sector is a better way of moving forward. And in Sean's slide, I guess it's 8, I think. It talked about providing direct financial support for CRVA programming or [inaudible] spending, support for job creation, as well as hotel-specific needs. So, that was the thinking. And we believe that Tom with his data is best equipped to help us with that.

Mr. Egleston said maybe that's what job creation means. Job creation to me means the creation of new jobs. And what I'm saying, I'm talking more about filling the pipeline, the talent pipeline to make sure that the industry can staff the jobs that already exist. And So, if that's included in the larger umbrella of job creation, then that's fine. I mean, I've got some specific remarks in regard to the hospitality sector, I can save. The creation of new jobs would be a natural by-product of much of the recovery, but I think doing what we can to fill the vacant jobs that already exist is equally important for that sector.

Mr. Jones said then I'll leave this alone and let you two guys make the presentation. I think that Mr. Egleston, you would have to look at the three together because some of it is a small business, some of it is workforce development, and some of it is specific to the hospitality sector. So, I think that I would be misstating if this \$4 million was designed to, let's say, give folks money to come and work for these businesses as opposed to being more along that thrive aspect. Not just to survive but thrive and see how we can help that sector. Did I get that right, Sean?

Mr. Egleston said I'm not proposing we pay money to take jobs, but I think that we could put money into things like job placement services that help connect qualified potential workers, or underemployed people with good paying jobs in the hospitality industry, that that industry needs to fill. That's all for the workforce.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Driggs, [inaudible]. Go back to hospitality, back to the workforce in general. But of course, as Mr. Egleston pointed out, they're really somewhat the same.

Mr. Driggs said I've noted in the past that the businesses themselves, the hotels, in particular, went through a huge downturn as a result of covid and were harmed, financially. Their ability to provide those jobs is impaired by that. I think I asked in the past once whether we had looked into what the condition was of the hotels or whether there was some way we could identify a path to sort of helping create jobs in the recovery by working with the hotels and analyzing their needs. I don't think we've heard anything more about it. I thought \$1 million in relief for those businesses compared to what we're doing elsewhere was small. I realized that's because a lot of people think that if it's a larger business, then their opportunities to recover are better. But the airport, for example, got a huge amount of federal support. I'm wondering if by not doing more for the hotels, we are limiting one aspect of the recovery that we hoped for. That's my first question. I have one another as well.

Ms. Dodson said to Councilmember Driggs, first, we have spent some time talking to the hospitality industry. And a lot of conversations is about what's working. First, let me say

it's my understanding that the hospitality industry is going to receive a significant amount of state money. And So, the conversation now has shifted to how is that money going to get utilized. And where are the gaps? We've had conversations to Councilmember Egleston's point, connecting the people with the jobs, whether it be in the f and b side; food and beverage, or hotel staff, if you will, and where the gaps are and how to best help them fulfill that. But we have had data and continuously talked to people, specifically in the hospitality industry, as well as CRVA, as to what hotels are being hit the hardest. What has rebounded? And what has not rebounded? We have found that obviously, the hotels that depended on the most on business travel, are the ones that still continue to hurt the most. A lot of weekend travel, we have found, has rebounded. That made ebb and flow from month to month. Depending on what variant we're dealing with at the time. But for the most part, they've seen a lot of visitor travel and come back. It's the hotels that really are still impacted by business travel.

Mr. Driggs said I just think that's something to continue to monitor. My other question had to do with Ms. Dodson, conversations that you and I have had about apprenticeship-type programs. Does it want to make any sense to actually designate some money to invest in and promote apprenticeship programs? Because I think they are responsive to concerns like Ms. Ajmera's, about whether or not the training we're providing actually leads to employment. If we can get the sort of [inaudible] model, the German model apprenticeship programs going and maybe inject a little bit of the support to motivate employers to adopt the model like that, that brings with it employment and the prospect of a job.¹

Ms. Dodson said that is Something that we can look at as Manager Jones mentioned, we wrap up the Hire Charlotte, where our gaps in the industry, we know this is one that will have a gap and how do we help best fill that? So, it's something definitely with the apprenticeship programs that you have brought forward and then others too, to look at as a possibility

Mr. Driggs said okay thank you.

Councilmember Johnson said I have a couple of comments, the first thing I want to say since we're talking about apprenticeship programs. I want to give a SHOUT! out to the Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council in District 4. That is an apprenticeship program that leads to jobs. It's a registered program. Individuals are able to work and earn a livable wage while they are learning and gaining their journeyman or their certification. So, that's a great program and I think that we need more programs like that. But I want to ask about workforce development, specifically. Tracey, we've discussed in the Ed Committee, the need for more attention or more tools or resources for individuals who are formerly incarcerated. I wanted to know if that population or any initiative was a part of this presentation. Or if it's tied into here in any type of way?

Ms. Dodson said I would have to go back and look for the groups that were awarded within the workforce development if they have anything specific. I have a list of the groups that were awarded granted in the Workforce Partner Support Program. I don't know if any were specifically targeted toward the recently incarcerated. I do know that we have incorporated that into some of the discussions we've looked at in Hire Charlotte. Before this first tranche within the ARPA money, we were just doing the same programs that we had seen through the CARES money and had worked and we had had success with. So, I can get back with you on that. Previous programs as well if we have any we're looking at specific to Hire Charlotte.

Ms. Johnson said okay, I would like information about that. Some of the council members received a letter over the weekend from a Mr. Readfield and who had been incarcerated and talked about the challenges of coming home and the difficulty in finding employment and how the discouragement and just the denial of jobs can lead to recidivism for so many people and we know this. You know, I serve on several reentry Committees and I've talked about this population. It's so important that we serve this population. There are federal bonds to incentivize employers to hire individuals with a criminal background. There's state tax credits. So, I don't know if the city can come up with some type of

incentive for employers who hire individuals with criminal backgrounds. Mr. Egleston mentioned you know, perhaps funding some job placement services. If there's any incentive for that, there are companies that say that they can't find employees but yet won't consider anyone with a felony record. There's a whole population that's not being served and these are some of our most vulnerable residents. If we can help those individuals to find a job, that going to help with our deficit in affordable housing and so many areas. It's truly serving the least of these as the bible says. So, if there is a way that we as a Council could really take a look at that, if there's programming for individuals with criminal backgrounds such as matching with employers or incentivizing employers or coming up with some type of, again, credit or bond or something or just really target that population. We know that 95% of individuals who are incarcerated come home. So, we can't just ignore that problem. I think that addressing that problem would really solve so many of the other challenges that we have as a large city. So, I guess I would be asking if we could consider and I don't know if this is an ARPA fund or some other fund that we can take a look at, assisting this population because again, this problem with not being able to find employees. I would say before we assist employers, let's ask the question. You know are you doing everything you can to mitigate this problem? Are you considering hiring individuals with a criminal background? So, I would like to see that employers are open to at least considering spanning the box before the city, you know, assists or provide assistance for them. Let's partner together to solve some of the problems in the city. Thank you.

Mr. Jones said mayor, this is a robust discussion. We will do whatever the will of the Council is. As Sean mentioned earlier, simply tonight, we are in the green zone, which is ready for discussion. This discussion can continue, and we can bring it back to the strategy session. There's nothing that is pending in such a way that the decisions have to be made tonight, which is not the design. So, I wanted to make sure this Council is having this great conversation that we give you all the space that you need to actually have it.

Mayor Lyles said I want to remind everyone; we're going to do committee information first. It's supposed to be a Council discussion earlier. So, we'll do this, But the discussions are robust and we do need to continue them before these projects come forward. Hopefully, we've gotten several discussed and asked and answered. If there are additional questions asked and answered, it might be good just to send an e-mail and copy the Manager and Sean, and the Council so we can follow and track what everyone is saying. I think Denada has provided everyone with a copy of either the deck or the e-mail to everyone. So, as just how we order our meetings, let's wrap this one up. Mr. Egleston has a process question. And then we'll start with our formal meeting.

Mr. Egleston said I'll use one thing as an example because I imagine that there are others with similar questions about maybe separate line items on the community support recommendations slide with the color-coded where it is, and what phase it's in. But using the public safety umbrella center, simply because it's the chair of that Committee, that is something that in the committee, we've discussed a couple of times, it has been my sense that the members of the committee the wait was previously comprised, we all had a shared interest in seeing that project come to fruition and being partners in that project. So, using that as an example that's blue right now. You said maybe it could have been green, give it another week or two for staff. What's the proper course of action for the Council if there are a majority who share my opinion if we want to see that come to fruition? For instance, would that be appropriate to ask to be referred back to the committee? Is that something that we would simply as a point in the near future make a motion towards in a Council meeting? How would you like to see that or others proceed?

Mayor Lyles said I would like to see it back in committee because I've said this many times, I've never seen the actual written words and report and process and how it will work. Until we see that, I think that the committee should see it first and be able to comment and build on what the submission is. So, I know that you've probably are asking the Manager how he feels about that.

Mr. Egleston said I'm not sure it left our committee; we just sort of put it on ice until we got more details. It sounds like there are more details, so.

Mayor Lyles said if there's more details I think we should leave it in committee.

Mr. Egleston said then we would take it up and bring it back to Council as a recommendation for approval, which would then take it from green to yellow, Mr. Jones? Mayor Lyles said but this is just for ARPA money, is it for ARPA money?

Mr. Jones said one of the reasons that we didn't feel comfortable going to green was because it's still in committee. I think you have a committee meeting in the first week of February. If we could get that on the committee agenda it would be an opportunity for you to have more information. If you did get the thumbs up, we would move it to the green to be ready for Council discussion. That could be done as quickly as I guess the next Strategy Session.

Mr. Egleston said so, that's how you would like us to handle those, to bring them back as recommendations? And that one is in committee.

Mr. Jones said that one is in committee, correct?

Mayor Lyles said okay. So, with that Sean, you've done a ton of work. Tracy, thank you for all of the time that you've invested in this. Ms. Johnson, did you have an additional comment?

Ms. Johnson said I do, one of the slides in that presentation, looked like the next one was going to be to discuss catalyst organizations. I wanted to hear about that. There are members of the public that wanted to hear about that. So, if we're out of time today, can we bring that back for another meeting?

Mayor Lyles said they will come back for the next Strategy Meeting, on February the 7th. So, this concludes this portion of our briefings. I'm always encouraged that we have this kind of dialogue, but at the same time, I often wonder how we fit these things in between 5 and 6:30, Mr. Jones? It's just not workable to do this much work and the heavy lift that's necessary for feedback among 11 people. We have to get this better organized. So, thank you very much, everyone. So, right now, we are going to go back into our session. We're going to begin our session with awards and recognitions and with that, I would like to start out with a proclamation from the city of Charlotte for Charlotte Sister Cities Day. I believe we have several people in the audience that want to speak to this day. So, I'll just start out.

ITEM NO. 4: CLOSED SESSION

There was not a closed session.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

ITEM NO. 7: CHARLOTTE SISTER CITIES DAY

Mayor Lyles read the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte has long embraced civic diplomacy and mutual understanding through global Sister City Partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte and the City of Arequipa, Peru established North Carolina's first Sister City Partnership in 1962; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte, North Carolina has long embraced civic diplomacy and mutual understanding through global sister cities partnerships; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte and the City of Arequipa, Peru established

North Carolina's first sister cities partnership on February 5, 1962; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte has since established and maintained sister cities partnerships with the cities of Krefeld, Germany; Baoding, China; Limoges, France; Voronezh, Russia; Wrocław, Poland, and Kumasi, Ghana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte wishes to affirm our support of the mission of Charlotte Sister Cities to provide gateways that foster grassroots connections between our community and cities around the world; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of sister cities partnerships will encourage interconnectedness between our citizens, schools, and businesses through the efforts of the Charlotte Sister Cities Association; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of economic, cultural, and educational exchange can cultivate growth and community development, while signaling our hopes of a future of even greater global collaboration and sustained peace:

NOW, THEREFORE, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim February 5, 2022, as

“CHARLOTTE SISTER”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

Mayor Lyles said in Charlotte, and encourage all businesses, schools, families, and individuals to join in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Charlotte Sister Cities and the continuation of peaceful connections with our partners around the world. With that, thank you very much to those in attendance, but before we end with this proclamation, I'd like to recognize Councilmember Greg Phipps.

Councilmember Phipps said thank you, Mayor. I would like to take a moment to recognize one of our guests from Sister Cities Intentional. He is not aware of this, I don't think. So, it should be a surprise. Sam Farnham is a senior at Charlotte Country Day School, where he is a member of the State Champion Tennis Team, debate team, and various service clubs. Sam is the oldest of three siblings, and his parents are here with us tonight, I do believe. Are they here?

Mayor Lyles said they're the ones with the cell phone, Mr. Phipps.

Mr. Phipps said okay, they're here tonight to help celebrate. So, Sam's involvement in Charlotte Sister Cities dates back two years when he took on responsibilities for creating the organization's first website. He also took a lead in gathering historical data, which included interviewing six prior Charlotte Mayors, to chronicle their global contributions. Following his internship, Sam was invited to join the Sister City Steering Committee, which evolved into a Board Directors role in February of 2021. Sam was unanimously elected to serve as the first full-voting student representative on the board and would go on to establish the Youth Leadership Committee bringing together a dozen students from six different Charlotte area schools. His team is currently working on a project to create a curriculum focused on connecting themes related to Charlotte's Seven Sister Cities, as well as North Carolina curriculum standards for third-grade Social Studies. Sam and I had the pleasure of paddling together on the Sister Cities Velden Team at the recent Charlotte area festival Dragon Boat Race earning second place.

Last year, Sister Cities Intentional, which oversees a little over 2,100 partnerships and 145 countries announced that Sam is this year's recipient of the Annual Youth Leadership Award. He is the first youth leader from Charlotte, from the Carolinas to receive this great honor. So, I'm pleased tonight to present this special plaque to Sam, this evening and congratulate this young man, So, Sam, if you would come forward? This is a beautiful plaque here. I don't know if everybody can see it, but I want to present it to you and congratulate you on your accomplishments.

Sam Farnham, 2946 Wheelock Road said thank you very much.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. Congratulations to you Sam, really appreciate the interest and the work that you've done in this organization. So, with that, we are now going to move into our Public Forum, where I would really like instead of presenting this proclamation during the Public Forum, I believe that the proclamation for Sister Cities should go to David Lynn, who is President of Charlotte Sister Cities.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Neglect in Hidden Valley

David Fogg, 915 Pondella Drive said I want to thank the City Council. I'm coming here on behalf of the community of Hidden Valley; we are homeowners there. But actually, I'm just a concerned homeowner in Hidden Valley. Not necessarily, I don't particularly live in Hidden Valley, but being that we own a home there, it's just like I live there and I still am there to notice what's going on in the city and in the community. But I have a few concerns. I do a lot of work on the home there and try to keep it up and looking nice being that its part of a historic neighborhood. And I think more attention should be paid to Hidden Valley. But from my observation, I'll start with the drainage. I've noticed for the last seven years that when I go in and do work on the yard [inaudible], keeping things up and looking nice, I noticed in the drainage is an overgrowth of trash. I know some people don't think Hidden Valley, a lot of times the community is not one of the highly valued communities, like we don't pay much attention to, but I think we should pay attention to all communities. I'm really concerned about the drainage. That'd really be one of the concerns. I've noticed no attention has been paid to that for the last seven years. Summertime overgrowth, a lot of trash. When you clean your property up in the backyards, it's overgrowth over the fence. It's just something that needs attention. I think that if we get the community involved, the owners are the community and the city; I think if you paid attention to that we as owners, homeowners, and the city could come together and really get that looking presentable. I think if you put some attention to that it will give the community a little boost to where people can do things on their own. Not necessarily all complaining because it's not always depending on the city, it's amongst ourselves too. So, I just think that just really means a lot to me. And I noticed the leaves, it Sounds petty, but I bought 60 bags of leaves, 60 bags. That's a \$100 sum. I don't know if everybody in the community can really, it's \$2 a bag, but to us, okay. We can sustain that. There are people in the community, I'm quite sure, that would have problems with that. I think something should be done to where maybe we could compensate the community, [inaudible] that are really not as fortunate as Highland Creek residents where I live and give assistance. Then maybe the yards to be up kept. Just something to show that, hey, we're here to assist.

Neglect in Hidden Valley

Yvette Fogg, 915 Pondella Drive said basically just really being concerned for the residents there Hidden Valley. A lot of times it's not intentional, but areas start to look neglected and it feels neglected. I think attention in those areas that my husband David just mentioned would really be highly valued and highly needed. He talked about picking up leaves, it seems so, trivial to us, but Hidden Valle was a beautiful historic subdivision way back in the day. It's just kind of sad to see the state that it's in now. So, we do what we can to maintain our property. But then there's an elder there as well. They can't tack the leaves up and put them in these paper bags. So, we're just asking for some sensitivity and attention in those areas.

Mayor Lyles said I just want to say, you're the kind of residents that we have great love and respect for. Knowing that you cared enough to come down and talk about the specifics of what needs to be done are very important. Thank you very much for doing that. The Manager will do some follow-up with the staff and we'll talk. I'm sure there'll be some conversations about that.

Ms. Fogg said thank you.

60th Anniversary of Charlotte Sister Cities

David Lynn 4930 Broken Saddle Lane said greetings, Madam Mayor, members of the City Council, City Manager Jones, and all who are present. I'm honored to speak this evening on behalf of Charlotte Sister Cities. Thirty-eight years ago, Charlotte resident Gerald Melbourne, who's with us this evening, visited a humble school on the outskirts of Arequipa, Peru, where students sat on stone seats under a tin roof sharing pencils and using pieces of wood on their laps as desks. Moved by their resourcefulness, Gerald returned to Arequipa over 30 times in the years that followed. Each time bringing Charlotteans, including three Charlotte Mayors. They worked in partnership with prominent members of the Arequipa community to explore approaches to support the school. Friendships were established, resources shared, and solutions found.

Today, that same school is a technical high school with hundreds of students enrolled. With a cafeteria, a computer lab, a soccer field, and solar panels on the roof, and at the main entrance when you look at the sign it proudly recognizes our community with the name The Charlotte School. The movement to create Sister Cities Partnerships began during the early years of the Cold War when President Dwight Eisenhower called for American cities to establish relationships with peer cities around the world with the goal of promoting civic diplomacy. Sixty years ago, Charlotte was the first city in North Carolina to respond to this calling. Long-time Charlotte Sister City supporter, Mayor Harvey Gant said it best; that Sister Cities built city-to-city connections that are mutually beneficial. Having an impact on the industry, business, education, and cultural understanding. Today, hundreds of intentional businesses call Charlotte home, while students remain connected with their global peers even during a pandemic, using virtual pathways. Through Sister Cities connections we have shared art, music, food, sports, and as well as developing links between police departments, fire and rescue, and medical communities. A personal highlight has been observing visiting students from Arequipa, [inaudible], this very government center, proud to see the displays on the outside hall on the second floor and briefly occupying the same seats that you would normally sit in the Council Chambers.

As Charlotte Sisters embarked on re-establishing itself as a nonprofit organization two-and-a-half years ago we have remained devoted to our mission of providing gateways that foster grassroots connections between Charlotte and cities around the world. Thank you. Thank you.

Niketa Mittal, 312 Vintage Creek Drive said greetings, Madam Mayor, members of the City Council, City Manager Jones, and all who are present. I'm proud to speak [inaudible]. It was a beautiful morning in September of 2019, in the same room the Charlotte International Cabinet Meeting was underway. A question was asked about the future of Charlotte's Sister Cities. Four members decided to pursue that question and presented the cabinet with various options in October of 2019. One of them being the recreation of a nonprofit organization. The idea was that the organization would provide a sustainable way of maintaining the legacy of Charlotte Sister Cities in collaboration with the city of Charlotte. The 21-member Charlotte Sister Cities Steering Committee came into existence at this time. The committee met monthly for over a year, working to re-establish the Charlotte Sister City Association. On February 5th, 2021, our 59th anniversary, Charlotte Sister Cities rechartered, appointing a diverse slate of 18 boards of directors. New bylaws were approved and Charlotte Sister Cities once again became a 5013c nonprofit. 2021, being a challenging year, we reached out to solidarity through the pandemic and sent our support to [inaudible] Germany when they were impacted by last year's flood. We celebrated many anniversaries of our relationship with Charlotte Sister Cities. Many students from various schools became Sister City scholars. A fun fact here, the youngest certified scholar is a fourth grader. This program is open for all ages, from 8 to 80 and there's no to enroll. Over 600 individuals joined at least one of our seven [inaudible]. Each features a different Sister City. I'm So, proud to say that our youngest member of the Charlotte Sister City Association is an eighth grader. We participated in the Asian Dragon Festival to celebrate our relationship with Baoding, China. Under the honor of the captainship of Councilman Phipps, we placed second in the category.

A personal highlight has been working alongside a magnificent member group of our diverse board of directors including educators, culture leaders, corporate executives, government representatives, and even a high schooler representative with voting rights. I'm so proud to say that Charlotte Sister Cities live and breathe diversity. Thank you.

Sam Farnham, 2946 Wheelock Road said good evening, Madam Mayor, members of the City Council, and all who are present. I'm a senior in high school at Charlotte County Day School as well as a member of the Board Of Directors For Charlotte Sister Cities. As we near our 60-year anniversary with Arequipa, I can't help but reflect on Charlotte's Sister Cities immense impact on me over these past two-year. If Charlotte's global involvement in the coming years is anything like the past years of creative and international cooperation, then our city is in for an amazing future of local citizen diplomacy. To gear Charlotte Sister Cities towards the future, I'm currently leading a committee of 12 culturally diverse high school students from across Charlotte from over six different independent and public high schools.

While we may be rivals in the sports fields, we have come together as a united youth leadership committee and created a third-grade curriculum that connects Charlotte's Sister Cities diverse cultural connections to North Carolina State education standards. Just as we come together as the diverse student committee, Charlotte Sister Cities brings together incredible cultural communities. We create our lesson plans and partner with local teachers, CMS administrators, and even UNCC (University of North Carolina Charlotte) professors of education. However, Charlotte Sister Cities goes so far beyond curriculum development.

In the coming year, we are excited to work with the city on strengthening people-to-people relationships. We are proud to have created a website that tells our stories, shares our community events, and provides opportunities for anyone in the community to get involved. We want to use our newfound understanding of technology to continue offering virtual and hybrid opportunities while embracing in-person interactions. With the strength of our city's government, we can form new international connections and form new business partnerships, while strengthening our existing connections.

In addition, we can bring our intentional curriculum to life, through international exchanges of [inaudible] schools. Looking to the future of international collaboration, we want to spark a passion for civic diplomacy in our city's next generation of leaders. Whether hosting a Charlotte Sister Cities event uptown or funding another event through our matching grants, we are open to all who are ready to inspire people to continue this legacy of friendship, partnership, and peace. Most importantly, we the students want all of you to be involved with Charlotte Sister Cities and further the mission of conducting Charlotte with the world. We appreciate this support of the city and welcome the involvement of both public servants and elected officials. I look forward to watching the future of our international collaboration blossom as Charlotte Sister Cities Partners with the city of Charlotte. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said we appreciate your presence here today. Thank you for all that you do. One day after a pandemic and perhaps a little bit more settling, we will have the opportunity to do more global activities and so, keep doing this good work so when that opportunity comes, Charlotte will be ready. Thank you very much for attending tonight and congratulations to Sam's parents as well.

Dangers of Horse-drawn Carriages

Penimah Tehilah, 2929 Giverny Drive said Mayor Lyles and city council members, thank you for allowing me to speak today and share my concerns with you. I am here to express the urgency of implementing a full ban on horse-drawn carriages in Charlotte. Let me tell you a few short stories all from the last year. In Niagara, on December 6th, a five-year-old boy fell from a horse-drawn carriage and was run over. In Ohio on November 1st, a 74-year-old man and his horse were hit by a car. Henry [inaudible]; a man who was killed when he and his carriage pulling horse were hit by a car in Maryland on October 27th. And Queen Charlotte, the 14-year-old horse who was attacked by a dog who broke

free from their leash in Waxhaw; just 30 minutes outside of Charlotte in April. This attack was captured on video and ended with the dog being killed. The horse sustained 15 bite marks, a handler in the hospital, and a family and children were mentally scarred. Note that these are a fraction of the injuries and deaths caused by horse-drawn carriages. When Queen Charlotte's owner was interviewed about the attack, he "said a horse, their instinct is to fight or flight. That's their tendency." Imagine if she was in busy, loud, crowded Charlotte city streets when her fight or flight kicked in. The urgency of this issue should come as no surprise to you council members as I and many of my fellow concerned Charlotteans have emailed, tweeted, Facebook messaged, and called you multiple times a month for nearly a year. I have a petition that amassed almost 3,000 signatures and a Facebook page dedicated to seeing the end of horse-drawn carriages in Charlotte, followed by 300 concerned animal advocates and Charlotte citizens.

This support should certainly not come as a shock to Mayor Lyles, as you stated in a WCNC article on July 4th this year 2021. When asked what the number one issue in your inbox is; you said carriage horses. We've been asked to go from regulating more to actually banning them. In cities with Welfare mandates and anything less than a full ban, their attempts at regulation are unenforceable and continue to cause suffering to the animals and injuries to our citizens. In Chicago, despite strict regulations, animal advocates still observed horses working nearly 12 hours when the law states they're only allowed to work six. Horses working in 90-degree plus temperatures, horses having no access to the water, drivers washing their hands in their water and horses constantly bombarded by noise. It is for all of the above that 17 cities in the U.S. Alone have already banned horse-drawn carriages including Asheville, North Carolina. Since the start of the pandemic, there has not been a single public horse carriage in Downtown Charlotte. No one will lose their livelihood with this ban. Nearly will the city lose any revenue. The only thing that will result is a safer city that values public safety and animal welfare over profit.

I hope you will do the humane thing and introduce a ban on horse-drawn carriages on the agenda in the future. Thank you.

Horse Carriages in Charlotte

Trey Morrow, 608 S. Georgia Avenue, Chesnee, South Carolina said thank you so much for letting me speak today. In March of 2021 when I first began emailing city officials about the dangers of horse carriage rides, I was forwarded a message from the owner of Charlotte City Carriage Tours. He assured those of us who had concerns of how safe these rides are. One month later, 31 miles from where we stand, a dog escaped his or her leash and attacked a horse while she was carrying several people, including children who are lucky to be alive. The horrifying video of this went viral with over three million people seeing just how wrong these rides can go. An employee of the carriage company suffered from multiple head wounds, a broken foot, and medical bills upward of \$25,000. The horse, Queen Charlotte, suffered agonizing injuries to her throat, lips, and other parts of her face. The dog was sadly euthanized. This was the same company that assured us of how safe these rides are. When will something tragic happen in Charlotte and will it be worse? Horses are unpredictable and they belong in the wild or reputable sanctuaries; not forced to carry people around against their will in dangerous streets. Lives are in the hands of this council. I ask that if you haven't seen it already please watch the video I'm referring to. It's easy to find. Please also do the right thing by proposing and passing a bill to ban horse carriage rides in Charlotte. Thank you so much.

Gloria Carbajal, 509 Pecan St., Ferris, Texas said, first of all, thank you for allowing me to speak. I am nervous. I am a social worker out here in Texas. I have been helping advocates get this out, the issue of placing a ban on a horse carriage. I, as an animal lover, when I see horses out in the streets, it saddens me. It's depressing. There's a growing movement of people that see animals as having feelings. I just ask you that you please join other progressive cities to introduce humane tourism. That will be great for the city to show that you are on board with the compassionate movement. There are a lot of people that love animals as myself and we're just asking you to please do the right thing and introduce a ban to end this. Thank you again for your time.

Jodie Wiederkehr, 7056 North Damen Avenue, Chicago, Illinois said thank you for your time this evening. I'm speaking on behalf of the nearly 5,000-member of the Chicago Alliance for Animal and the partnership to ban horse carriages worldwide. The video is very difficult to watch. A 12-year-old horse collapsed and stumbled before more than 15 minutes before handlers tied up her legs and dragged her into a trailer. No veterinarian was called to the scene. This happened in New York City, but it could have easily happened in Charlotte or anywhere else. Isha is dead because of an archaic, cruel, and highly dangerous relic. Then there's Cash, who ran into an icy river at Christmas time and drowned in the Missouri River with the carriage still attached to his body. There are so many other horses that have been exploited, harmed, and killed by this inhumane excuse for entertainment. The abject cruelty is just one of many reasons why horse-drawn carriages should be banned. Even if you don't care that much about animal suffering, I would hope you would care about the safety of Charlotte's residents and visitors. Many humans have suffered serious accidents and some have lost their lives due to this trade. Including an American couple in Ireland who were killed when their pony lost his footing and flung them 20 feet down a rocky ravine. Then there's Fonda Friedman, a carriage operator who died when an SUV crashed into her horse-drawn carriage. The list goes on and on. Responsible tourism researcher, Dr. Clare Weeden, of the University of Brighton, UK states that tourists are becoming increasingly concerned at the commercialized use of animals in tourism.

According to Weeden, such concern is likely to increase. To be sustainable, tourist destinations must respond proactively to these concerns and ensure animal welfare is at the forefront of tourism policy. Many alternative forms of tourist transportation exist, such as electric horseless carriages, called Mr. Egleston said carriages. Of course, pedicabs are growing in popularity around the world. While horse-drawn carriages are increasingly being banned officials citing animal cruelty as the prime reason. Chicago's ban went into effect in 2021. Montreal's ban went into effect in 2020. Many other cities are banning them or working on bans. Beyond the exploitation and risk of injury or death, there's also, the fact that this is a very difficult trade to monitor. For example, Chicago's horse carriage operators racked up 334 violations in one year alone. They were taken to court by the city. Even then they failed to comply with the terms of their settlements and continued to break the law. Overworked horses by double with the law allowed workhorses when it's too hot, and work horses during rush hour operate during times they were not allowed and on and on. It's high time that horse carriages be put out to pasture. So, I hope you will work on this and I thank you very much for your time and consideration

Mask Mandates

Randall Sargent, 7319 Firespike Road said my voice isn't that strong. I am staying socially distanced. Thanks for the opportunity to speak. I just wanted to be here because we are at the point where we need to take a little bit of a stand against some of these band-aids that are coming down from the federal government. It's obvious our medical system is under the control of big industries driven by greed and power right now, and here's what it's brought us lately during the pandemic. The U.S. has had the highest mortality rate of any industrialized country in the world, mandate lockdowns have caused dramatic increases in small businesses going bankrupt, child abuse, suicides, obesity, mental illness, developmental delays, depression, and severe educational deficits in children. We went from the healthiest citizens on the planet in the 1970s to the least healthiest industrial nation now. I have lived in Charlotte for 30 years now and this time Charlotte's always trying to be progressive. Now we need to be progressive enough to stand up to these draconian rules. We need to start by removing these stupid face masks immediately. Other countries, including the U.K., are seeing the light and stepping away from their mandates. Can we at least be as progressive as England? These were supposed to be temporary solutions. The mask, when designed specifically for a situation can be worn for a limited time as a means of protection. Much like a scuba dive has a breathing apparatus. No mask is designed to be worn for extended periods. Wearing a mask not designed for the purpose it's being used for will result in harm rather than a level of safety. Mandating to wear a mask for the general populous has many issues. The mandate is not a law. We have a constitution that gives us citizens unalienable rights, like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Mask mandates take away all three of these

rights. There's no constitutional law that says we must follow a mandate. We're not a kingdom. We're a democracy that follows the rules established by the rules of law established by Congress. Masking without consent is the act of making a person a slave. President Lincoln signed the emancipation proclamation in 1862 freeing all slaves. I am not a slave and will not be treated like one. Masking without consent is a means of silence. The Constitution has given me the right to free speech. Not muffled and censored speech. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 says will not be denied the same participation and equal rights as everyone else. I see the politician and uber-rich at parties and restaurants with no masks. You can go to a football game and not wear a mask. You can go to church and wear a mask. You have to put on a mask. Sit down, you don't wear a mask. It's crazy. According to the U.S. Federal regulations and the Food Drug and Cosmetics Act, the face mask mandated for public health is defined as a medical device. As such, every one of these devices or masks needs to be approved and regulated by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration).

Currently, there are no masks generally available in the public that meet this requirement; making it impossible to buy it by the mandate. Above all, god made us free individuals and no governing body has the right to take away that freedom.

Section 8 Housing

Ethel Ward, 1125 Kohler Avenue said good evening. Thank you, Mayor Lyles, City Manager Jones, and the city council. I'm an 80-year-old senior citizen. I'm here on behalf of Stephanie Veal. I want to talk about housing, Section 8. However, before that, I would like to talk a little about Mrs. [inaudible] Ms. Veal. Ms. Veal is a 34-year-old mother of six. Ms. Veal does work and she's been working for quite a while. She's also active in the community. She takes care of the senior citizens and also me. Her children are the ages from 16 to 2. They're very active in the school, active in the community, they sing on choirs, and she's very a very good mother. However, Ms. Veal is also on section 8. She's been having a few issues with that in reference to the way some things are done now because of the pandemic and the prices is rising. I'm not reading because if I read, I'll never get through because I can't see it. So, that's why I'm trying to talk verbatim.

Mayor Lyles said it's okay.

Ms. Ward said everything has risen in this city and most cities because of this pandemic. Most of the services that we receive now also have risen in price. More so in housing. As far as I'm going to give you what I know. Not everything but some of the things I do realize. When you do have section 8, there are prices that you pay for houses. However, because of the rising of housing, things have changed and so when they're sending out information to the client not realizing that inflation is all over. Also, in grocery stores and every place else. Ms. Veal has been very very active in trying to get some of the social workers in housing to listen to her about the things that are happening. As we have heard on the tv possibly from the Mayor. I don't remember who it was about the firing of social workers. Social workers have been fired also.

Mayor Lyles said to Ms. Ward. Thank you so much for starting the story. I believe you are going to ask Ms. Veal. We would love to hear the remainder of the story and the problem.

Ms. Ward said I will tell her to speak.

Stephanie Veal, 8152 Ottawa Lane said thank you, to Mayor Lyles and the city council members. My grandmother, Ethel Ward, has presented some issues. I have been dealing with section 8. As I presented information concerning my section 8, section 8, it's in the packet I gave you guys. I was told that I was qualified for a five-bedroom voucher. However, after having so many social workers, the voucher I received was a four-bedroom with a maxed amount of \$1,675. For a four-bedroom, I have six children They are 16 to two and this is why I think I need a five-bedroom for my children. \$1,675 wouldn't be enough for a four bedroom or a five due to the price rising of housing. As you can see in the packet, I have been constantly trying to contact all my workers and supervisors. Enclosed in the packet is all the information, too. All of the houses in the four or five

bedroom is between \$1,995 and \$2,400 a month. I've looked for houses in the \$1,675 area and I have not found any in Mecklenburg County at all. I can only move to Mecklenburg County. I was finally contacted by Katrina Wilford on January 7th to inform me that I would receive a voucher for a four-bedroom for \$1,675. The answer to my email was given to me three weeks before I could vacate my current residency, which is actually January 31st. Even though I started the process of my transfer last August 2021, I'm asking for a four-and-a-half or five bedrooms, preferably not in the lower income areas. So, my kids can grow up and have a happy home. I would really appreciate your assistance with this matter. And everything is enclosed in the packet. I think that's it. Thank you so much for everything. I appreciate you guys.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, Ms. Ward, and thank you, Ms. Veal. We understand the difficulty of the cost of housing in the community and we understand the difficulty of four- and five-bedroom houses as well as you say in places where your kids can have great schools and be able to live safely and comfortably. We will send this information over to Inlivan and have a discussion there and we wish you the best. I know that the time is short and it's a difficult situation to manage. So, just preserver. It makes a big difference and thank you for doing that.

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PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING FOR ARRIVAL AUTOMOTIVE USA INC. BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against a motion was made by Councilmember Egleston seconded by Councilmember Winston and carried unanimously to close the public hearing and approve the City's share of a Business Investment Grant to Arrival Automotive USA Inc. for a not to exceed amount of \$143,800 over five years.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 9: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Marcus Jones, City Manager said yes so, thank you, Mayor, members of the Council. I believe Denada sent out earlier the 30-day memo. I will make a couple of adjustments to that. We will come back to you on the 7th. Well, initially we have city-owned land for affordable housing and that's an update. As you may recall, mid-year last year, we had a presentation to the Council about a number of properties that are city-owned that could be used for affordable housing. So, what we'll do is use a little bit of a setup that we had tonight, combine that with that update and there's a possible vote on those projects as early as February 14th. That's why we would like to get those out in front of you. I believe Mr. Baker sent to you earlier today that he would come before the Council on the 7th to talk about updates on city ordinances and we've also allowed some time on February 14th if that's something that the Council would need to discuss further. I know that Councilmember Johnson had some questions about Charlotte Business Inclusion Program. So, we believe that the February 14th action briefing is a good time to talk about that as well as what would be coming later in the spring. You may recall I believe in 2017, we had an update as it was related to a disparity study and that's something we do every five years. We wanted to make sure that we bring you up to speed on where we are with that and I know you guys love seeing Steve [inaudible]. So, I will make sure he's there also. Mayor, that's what we have in terms of the next 30 days.

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BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 10: CITY BRIDGE INSPECTION CONTRACTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Newton, and carried unanimously to (A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$110,153.82 with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, L.L.P. for the inspection of bridges not qualifying for federal funds, (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$847,394.77 with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, L.L.P. for the inspection of bridges that qualify for federal funds administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, (C) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to share the cost of inspecting 184 City-maintained bridges and culverts in the amount of \$677,915.82, and (D) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. O-19 appropriating \$677,915.82 from the North Carolina Department of Transportation for bridge inspections into the General Capital Projects Fund.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 433-433.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 64, at Page(s) 578.

ITEM NO. 11: SUPPORT A NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROJECT

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Newton, and carried unanimously to Adopt a resolution supporting a North Carolina Department of Transportation safety project on NC 24/27 (Albemarle Road) at Reddman Road to improve traffic safety in support of the Vision Zero Action Plan.

Councilmember Newton said I just wanted to take a moment and thank NC-DOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) for recognizing the need at this intersection and for providing the full funding for this request. Then I also wanted to thank C-DOT. As well, and Angela Berry in particular, for their hard work on this; especially understanding taking a proactive role here and understanding how traffic is going to increase in the area given the Eastland redevelopment. So, once again, thank you so much to everyone, and kudos for all of your hard work on this.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 434.

ITEM NO. 12: AMEND THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY OF CABARRUS COUNTY

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Winston, and carried unanimously to Adopt a resolution amending the Water and Sewer Interlocal Agreement with the Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County to implement and jointly fund the Rocky River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 52, at Page(s) 435-436D.

Mayor Lyles said I want to just say that during this bad weather that we've had, I wanted to thank all of the city employees, the workers that made sure services were available, trees were removed, roads weren't blocked, all of the hard work, including you know, constant communication. Not just with the community but they actually had constant communication with all of us. So, we really appreciate the efforts that people undertake

just because we have an incident that means that we're all in. And so, I wanted to say thank you to every city employee, everyone that worked so hard to make it possible for the rest of us to be able to enjoy a cold weather week and a little bit of snow.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 2 Hours, 28 Minutes
Minutes Completed: September 12, 2022