

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Special Meeting on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 3:35 p.m. in CH-14 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II.

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Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield and carried unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to (A) NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, and fitness of the City Clerk. This is discussion of the City Clerk's annual performance evaluation. (B) Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area, and (C) Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the City Council.

The meeting was recessed at 3:36 p.m. for closed sessions in CH-14. The closed sessions recessed at 6:20 p.m. to move into Room 267. The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m. in Room 267 for a continuation of the closed sessions. The meeting returned to open session at 6:52 p.m. in Room 267.

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## **ACTION REVIEW**

### **ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS**

Due to time constraints this agenda item was not discussed.

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### **ITEM NO. 2: AGENDA OVERVIEW**

Due to time constraints this agenda item was not discussed.

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### **ITEM NO. 3: IN REM REMEDY UPDATE**

Due to time constraints this agenda item was not discussed but will brought back to a future meeting.

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### **ITEM NO. 4: AFFORDABLE HOUSING FRAMEWORK**

Due to time constraints this agenda item was not discussed.

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### **ITEM NO. 5: ANSWERS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS**

Due to time constraints this agenda item was not discussed.

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### **ITEM NO. 6: CLOSED SESSION**

All closed sessions were held during the Special Meeting.

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The meeting recessed at 6:53 p.m. to move into the Meeting Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

## BUSINESS MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 6:58 p.m. in Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston II

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## INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

**Councilmember Winston** gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiances to the Flag.

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## PUBLIC FORUM

### **STS Transportation System**

**Charles Moore, 7509 Nutmeg Lane** said since the 90 days that have passed since we last met, you have had some excitement, but one thing about having a handicap person speak to you is I like the ability to jump up on the counter and dance around. With that said, normally I would come to you with sad tidings about STS, the handicap bus service, but this night, I have to talk to you about a City employee who was exemplary and went, what I believe, above the call of duty. She is a newly appointed Assistant City Manager by the name of Angela Lee.

On Saturday morning at 6:00 a.m. she arrived at my house in her personal vehicle on her own time to ride an STS bus with me on a shopping trip. We rode a large bus, and she was bounced around; she was banged around a little bit, and she got to experience to ride. Fortunately, the older buses, because they are about worn out, their suspension systems have relaxed a certain bit, and they ride a little bit easier, so we didn't beat her up too bad this go around. She promised that sometime in the next couple of weeks, we would take a ride, and I would meet her at the bus garage on Davidson, and we will take a ride in one of the new buses. As they say, may Lord have mercy on her soul, but she was trained with me in a training class when we were first new supervisors with the City, and they instilled upon us that when you have an incident or a problem you go out and investigate; you explain and find out what is going on and then you present the facts.

Since November, when I first began talking to you about this, she is the only person with this City that has done that. Everybody else has given me lip service or written letters, and Mr. City Manager, you have a gem there. She used all of her experience, 31 years with the City and managing the Water department to know what to do, and she did it, and for that, I am proud of that.

**Mayor Lyles** said we are proud of her too. That is why she has this new big job.

### **Facial Recognition Technology**

**Cristian Ponce, 6310 Skyline Drive** said I am here to contend on the behalf of the Student Coalition Against Data Abuse, and content that the utilization of facial recognition technology, by law enforcement agencies, is associated with potential error and abuse which render it detrimental to the work of the Council in upholding the values of justice and democracy in our community. It is a common misconception that technology, such as facial recognition, are not yet sophisticated enough for real time analysis in comparison of identities through security cameras, yet advances in the fields of image recognition and commenting have allowed for such systems to be developed.

Proposals for such systems are being made throughout the country, most notably Project Green Light in Detroit. Project Green Light began in 2016 as a partnership between cities and businesses. The business would pay for the installation of a high definition camera

outside of their store, which sends real time video footage to police monitoring sites. Currently, under this plan, 500 cameras are installed across Detroit; however, in March of this year, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan announced the real-time intelligence program, which seeks to install another 500 cameras at Detroit intersections and utilize facial recognition technology to compare faces captured by the cameras against a database of license photos. My fears about the potential for the abuse of this technology, if used by police, do not stem from any negative bias towards law enforcement. I highly respect the work of officers and the work that they do in our community [inaudible] one day investigate federal violations of law in the white collar and cyber-crime domains. In its current state, this technology has consistently shown to misidentify black faces at a much higher rate than white faces, which could lead to potential arrests. I also fear that outright and nefarious abuses of this technology, such as activity reported by Georgetown in the New York Times that ICE reportedly utilized facial recognition technology to pursue undocumented immigrants who legally obtain drivers licenses. Facial recognition technology not only threatens already marginalized communities, it threatens all of us. It provides law enforcement with unprecedented insight into each of our lives and corrodes the qualities of democracy and trust that our country law enforcement agencies are built on.

I ask that you please consider the proposal of legislation similar to that passed in San Francisco, Summerville, and Oakland to help mitigate the threat of utilization of facial recognition technology by law enforcement agencies. The sanctity of democracy, justice, and piracy for my generation lies in your hands Council.

### **Domestic Violence**

**Irish Benton, 1115 Doncastle Court, Concord** said I am an advocate against domestic violence with a nonprofit Diva Nation Against Battered Women, where we assist victims and survivors throughout the State and nation. I also have one of my board members tonight present who has passed along a packet for you all to follow with me all tonight.

I am here tonight to speak out regarding the continuous rising numbers of domestic violence homicides happening here in Mecklenburg County and have questions of concerns to address with CMPD and City Officials. Are we doing enough to save lives of victims? As an advocate, I am concerned how domestic violence is or may have been handled by officers who are called out. I am more interested in discussing a matter of concern after doing extensive research with policy and procedures of responding officers. For instance, with the packets that you are getting now, these packets were created by the Domestic Violence Community Leadership Team, which is DBCLT, also coordinated community response, CCR. It appears that CMPD has no data documented using the lethality assessment protocols from 2017 to current. That is my concern.

These protocols, there is no updated data in the warehouse filing on the Mecklenburg/City government website as of 2018. I would like to know where that data and those numbers are. Out of the seven jurisdictions or police precinct listed on the report, all reported feedback except for CMPD. If you look at page two of this report, Mecklenburg County had the highest rate of DV homicides in 2017 compared to the others that used the lethality assessment protocol. The lethality assessment should have three critical questions when an officer reaches the scene. One, is there a gun present in the home, or does the alleged abuser own a gun? Did you know that when a gun is present in domestic violence cases, the victim is at a 500 percent risk of being murdered? Has the alleged abuser ever strangled you? Abusers who strangle their victims go on to murder them in recent studies. Has the alleged abuser threatened you verbally or with any other weapons? Has he or she said he will kill you or themselves? These are three of the most critical questions that can be asked when officers are responding to these calls. If the answer is yes, time is of the essence. We need to make critical decisions in getting help immediately. Also, one of my concerns tonight is that we have so much empathy and sympathy for the victims, we now need to start looking at abusers. This is a cycle. What are we doing to assist abusers?

Mayor Lyles said we will ask the Police department to give us some information about the LAP protocol and see where we stand before you come back.

### **Concerns with Zoning Process**

**Virginia Keogh, 12301 Portrush Lane** said I am a community activist, and I reside in the Steele Creek area. My concern tonight is with the Planning/Zoning Commission. I have attended many public hearing meetings over the years regarding rezonings, and if I were a developer, I would make a B-line to Charlotte, because they seem to know already who is serving on the Commission and that their project will stand a pretty good chance of being recommended for approval by staff and more than likely will obtain a majority vote to approve, from Council, based on the recommendation.

The perception in the community is that the request for rezonings are just being rubber stamped without regard or consideration for the negative consequences on our citizens. When we attend these hearings, and listen to the pros and cons regarding the requests, you have Ms. Mayfield, Mr. Newton, and Mr. Winston asking pertinent questions that staff has no answers for and giving different scenarios that should seemingly be discussed in committee meetings, before the public hearings, and recommended approval. Perhaps the Council, Mayor, and the BLCC might want to make sure the candidate recommended for the Commission are more diversified before appointing individuals to serve as commissioners who may not make recommendations regarding rezonings that are the best interest of our city and citizens.

### **Minimum Housing Code Standards**

**Lord Nacep, 2605 Booker Avenue** said first of all, I was here last May 18. We are talking about gentrification and the proposed minimum housing code ordinance is up for review, and this is a very good thing to change the minimum housing code ordinance, but I am asking the Council, why now? This ordinance has been in existence since 1962. Since 1962, you want to change it now when the only effect is in our community that now the wealth is about to transfer in our black communities. I am talking about Oaklawn Park, Druid Hills, Lincoln Heights, all of these communities that we have not had time to fix up our houses, and what we object to is the change going from the fine going from \$10 to \$100 a day. The fine going from zero if you have a dangerous situation to \$500 a day. Now, how many people in here can afford \$500 a day? That means tomorrow it is \$1,000; the third day it is \$1,500. It is not going to take but 10 days, and this person is going to be forced to sale their house. Give us a chance to transfer our wealth in our black community. I am speaking on the backs of my father, my neighbor Mr. Gillum, Mr. Brooks, who are no longer with us, but they bought these houses. They built these houses; they worked in these houses. Now, you want to change the housing code right when it is on Beatties Ford Road, and my house went from \$30,000 to \$200,000? This is equity. This is money. When you do this, you are going to force a whole lot of people who are on fixed income, they are not going to be able to fix up their house. They are going to be forced to sale. We are already getting 20 letters a day "I'll buy your house," "I'll give you a fair offer." What is a fair offer? \$20,000? That is not a fair offer. We do not know how much our house is worth. The neighborhood organization is not saying one thing about this. The Council has not put out any information about it, but we say staff, we are going to let staff do this, and staff was supposed to come tonight to recommend this switch from zero to \$500. I have a lady on my street; it is eight new houses going up on Booker Avenue, so these people know that once you change this, all they need is five signatures to start and investigation, and they are going to come out and inspect, then they are going to be cited, then they can't pay and will be forced to sell. I am saying slow down. Where is the reserve? Now, they put a letter on my door last week about the TLC by CLT. This is a loan, but people do not even know about the loan, so I have to make copies and walk in my neighborhood and spread it out and tell them you all better apply now, because as soon as they do this, they are going to take it.

Mayor Lyles said was just telling Mr. Mitchell that Malachi Green would have been proud of you tonight, because he often said, the equity in my house is going to send my children to college. So, I want you to think about that. Thank you very much.

## **Community Engagement**

**Steven Cohen, 4001 Doves Roost Court** said I am here tonight as an affordable housing advocate for the Stan Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice. The Charlotte Housing Framework provided the City a huge opportunity to engage people who usually feel left out. In it, the City committed to seek community input on bond funded housing requests, specifically including those who advocate for, or are personally impacted by displacement and homelessness. The current uproar within the housing advocacy community, and you will hear more of that latter tonight, demonstrates how far the City has missed its spark in keeping its promise. Now, some of my fellow advocates have quite frankly focused on making sure we are giving adequate time into providing input. Today, I want to address the inadequacy of the information that gets provided it us. I am going to do this by referring to the deal summaries for the transactions that are up for approval later this evening.

Now, as you know, the deal summaries include a scoring of each deal based on the City's locational policy, looks at four factors: proximity to transit service and amenities; access to jobs based on commute times; change that is currently occurring in the community; and diversity, an evaluation of the mix of units by income in a proposed development and the overall income level of the surrounding community. Each of these factors are important, but here is the problem, we have no way of knowing why these scores were assigned, considerations that were involved, and ultimately what they actually mean. So, to illustrate, on a scale of one to 10, five of the eight recommended proposals for tonight received a score of five or less on diversity. Keep in mind that the Opportunity Task Force Report on upward mobility addressed directly the need for mixed-income housing scattered throughout the City. One of those recommended proposals actually received a diversity score of 2.2. We simply do not have enough information to know whether from this perspective or in total these deals deserve our support, nor frankly do you.

I want to close with these points, first, please hold City staff accountable to make this right. Second, I encourage you to embrace input from the Housing Justice Coalition. It is the broadest affordable housing advocacy network here in Charlotte. Take their own score card into consideration when you evaluate proposed deals. Finally, in the end, we look to you, our elected representatives, to make informed decisions regarding which deals should be funded out of the trust fund.

## **Too Many Homes Being Condemned in Charlotte**

**Carol Chambers, 3115 Carol Avenue** said I want to speak on behalf of Enderly Park and Seversville District 3 property and transactions. We are trying to figure out right now who is looking out for us in these areas. My concern is that the City or any other parties that have an interest in obtaining properties that are owned by elderly and people who do not have enough income or don't have jobs that will allow them to be able to repair their homes. These people insist on coming in and taking over properties, and my concern is that the people who are in these areas where I live on Carol Avenue and places like that, these people are not able to make repairs on their homes and the thing is that people are coming in and sending letters and asking to buy their properties, and these are just things that we are not able to handle, because the people who are living in the neighborhoods are low income. They are elderly; they have jobs that they would not even be able to pay the money that they are going to charge for taxes. The taxes are being raised, and these people in the City are insisting on making- the organizations are coming in and getting these people to sell their homes for less than what they are worth. The houses are being priced at low prices. They are coming in like real estate people are coming in offering money. They are older people; they do not understand. They are coming in and trying to take over their properties. They have the inspectors that are coming out into the homes and finding some kind of loop holes to cause them to have to give up their homes and sell them cheap or lose them by coming in and inspecting and finding violations in these houses. The taxes are going up, property has gone up, and they need to be able to keep their homes. I am trying to figure out what Council is going to do to help us with this, because we are having a hard time being able to keep up, and nobody is telling us what is going on. The way that I found out was word of mouth from somebody that just came

in and told us that they are getting ready to come in and demolish these certain homes they are picking out in certain areas. They are picking them out, sending the inspectors and finding things that are wrong and saying, okay, your house is going to be condemned. These are the questions that we have, and we need answers.

Mayor Lyles said we are trying our best, but I will tell you, I have gotten some letters, and they claim to be an inspector, and they are not an inspector. They claim that they are helping you with your taxes, and they are not official, so all of us know that there are people out there who are not always working in your best interest, and we have to be really aware, especially seniors. We know that seniors often look at any official letter, and they dress it up and make it look like it has a seal on it, and it has nothing to do with inspections in government or by a government person or whether or not this agent is representing someone from government. I know that it is something that is going on, because I have gotten those letters as well. It turns out to be refinance your home or sell your house. I do not know exactly what we can do about people who are preying on people that are not really aware of what is going on, but your words mean a lot, so thank you very much.

### **Cancelling the 2020 RNC**

**Diana Levitt, 3423 Knob Hill Court** said I emailed all of you ahead of this meeting. I have heard back from one of you, so thank you, but I would like to address with you revoking the invitation to the RNC this evening. I am a born and bred North Carolinian gal, and I have lived in this City for 10 years, and I really like living here. I am also a mental health clinician. I specialize in working with adolescents and young adults in this community. Knowing teenagers, I see Charlotte as a teenager going through a physical growth spurt, wanting to be liked by everyone, and choices for its future with no regard to the consequences. I voted for you members of City Council, because you campaigned on promises focused on fixing these factors, yet when it came time to stand up against the hate, you chose financial opportunity, much like a teenager forgoing their values with no regard for the consequences or its impact on others. The hate has since grown louder and yet you continue to sit quietly. Our community has asked you to revoke this invitation, and you sit quietly. You say I will be treated with respect and equality when they come to town, when just last week, at a Trump rally in our state, I was told to go back to Auschwitz. This goes beyond hate speech. They want to eradicate me and looking at most of the people in this place, most of us.

Secondly, according to the national human trafficking hotline, Charlotte ranks eight highest in sex trafficking crimes. We can easily draw a correlation between our inability to manage this within our own City, as well as the most recent arrest of Trump's best friends, Nader and Epstein and come to the conclusion why they want it here. We have to be fooling ourselves if we think they will not use this opportunity to their fullest advantage for their profiting off of our tax dollars and putting our children at risk. I am wondering what the actual financial gain would look like that you are worth risking the safety and security of your constituents.

Fortune Magazine just released an article showing that the Trump campaign owes close to a million dollars to the City where he held campaign rallies in 2016. The Washington Post today posted that there has been a 226% increase in hate crimes in the Cities that hosted his campaign rallies. We do not have federal grants or budgets in our community to fund the backlash that will occur based on that.

### **RNC Invitation Withdrawal**

**Sue DuChanois, 5852 Coatbridge Lane** said I cannot add on that one, although I am here to say something different than I usually say, so you may be happy about that or you may not. First, I want to follow up about the senior citizens, because I am one of those now, and I get those letters, but I am still pretty good with the brain. You know where these things are happening; you know what districts they are. You must be able to do something. How are you going to help the seniors? You know where they are; you know who they are. The City ought to be able to do something to help them.

Now, for what I really came for, I have to ask myself, when did money become more important than integrity? When did political power become more important than public safety? When did winning become more important than civility? As a society, I believe that we need to reset our thinking. I am looking forward tonight to hearing the City Attorney talk to us about what our options are with the contract with the RNC. I also sincerely hope that we will hear Dr. Harlow's resolution come before this body for all of us to hear and for you to vote on. I think that it is time we stop and think about what we are doing. That is all I have to say.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Baker; I think it would be a good time to talk about the contract for the RNC. Many of us have gotten the email letters saying- There has got to be some way to stop doing this, so we have asked our City Attorney to look at the contract and briefly give us a statement around what the contract requires and how it is structured. I am going to ask him to do that tonight.

**Patrick Baker, City Attorney** said I have had the opportunity to take a look at the contract, and just as a point of reference, last year, you authorized the City Manager to enter into what is called a framework agreement that sets up the mechanics of creating the Republican National Convention here in Charlotte. The framework agreement is comprised by five various parties, the Republican National Convention, the Host Committee, the City, CRVA, and the County. Those are the parties that are actually members of this particular agreement. I have had a chance to take a look at that, and one thing that has been raised is this idea of simply rescinding the invitation to the RNC. There is nothing in your contract that allows you to unilaterally leave this contract. For instance, a termination for convenience clause, I have also heard a morals clause or something like that. There is no such clause in this contract, so essentially, the way to get out of this contract is one of two ways mainly. One is, are any of the parties in breach of the contract? If they are in breach of the contract and it is a material breach, that could potentially absolve you from having to perform any further on the contract. For instance, the Host Committee is required to get insurance and indemnify the City. That is just one of the many things that the Host Committee has to do. If they were unable to do that, I would say that is a material breach that would allow us to not perform under the contract since a material part of the contract was to be insured for damages that could potentially arise out of this convention.

In my review of where we are in the process, I can see no breach of contract on the part of any of the parties that are involved in this agreement. I do need to make it very clear that there are no guarantees in terms of individuals. It is just these parties here, for instance: The Office of the President of the United States is not a party to this contract. It is just the parties that are here. Absent a finding of a breach of contract by any of the parties, then the other way of getting out of the contract is to simply just initially just breach the contract. That happens, say for instance, if a contractor gets in over his or her head and it is just easier to walk away from the job and pay the damages associated with walking away from the job. They just make that business decision to do that.

I would cite specifically Section 11.10, Breach and Cure, which covers breaching this particular agreement. The parties expressly agreed up front that the breach of the material terms or conditions of this agreement may result in irreparable harm to the other parties, and they specifically site appropriate equitable relief, injunctive relief, and specific performance as remedies for the breach of a contract by any of the parties, which would include the City. The equitable relief is typically going to be those lost profits, those monetary issues that result from a particular breach of contract, which is typically standard in every contract, but in this particular contract, there are a couple of things that are unusual that really highlight the magnitude of this particular event that you are hosting here in Charlotte.

Injunctive relief and specific performance, injunctive relief essentially would be the parties could go to the court and enjoin the breaching party from continuing their breach of the contract. Specific performance is to actually have a court require the breaching party, the party that wants to walk away, to get back on the agreement and perform specifically under the terms of the agreement. If you made a decision that you wanted to leave this

contract and you would suffer the financial penalties for instance, I think that you should expect that you would be sued for starters and that there would be a request for injunctive relief to enjoin you from continuing the breach and to actually force the City of Charlotte to specifically perform under the contract. That is, I do not believe that you are going to be able to walk away from this contract even if you were willing to pay the financial penalties for walking away. I do not believe that you would be allowed to walk away under the specific performance clause.

So, with that being said, I am not in the position to recommend that you terminate the contract. We will continue to monitor the situation and certainly if there is a material breaches on the part of any of the parties associated with this contract, we will bring that to your attention and certainly defend the City as best we can.

Mayor Lyles said the City Attorney has prepared a summary of this that we will make available on social media from his office to summarize what he has said. That will be available to you. It is a one-and-a-half-page agreement.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I know we had a closed session, and we had discussed more in-depth about this contract. For transparency purposes, I would like to ask certain questions around the contract so that certain questions that were asked by constituents to us, specifically around risk to reputation, and I had given an example of how the convention was tied to the City of Chicago in 1968. Would our existing insurance policy that is under the contract cover that?

Mr. Baker said those insurance contracts haven't been drawn up yet. The host committee is required to do that I think 120 days before the actual convention. I would take a look at those particular contracts to see what is being indemnified. Typically risk to reputation is not the type of thing that I have seen in an insurance policy, but certainly the insurance and indemnification agreements would definitely have to be in place to assure, because that was a main part of your bargain of getting into this in the first place was to minimize the risk associated to the City's financial coffer being subject to damages, and that is what those insurance policies would cover.

Ms. Ajmera said I know I had asked this question to you also over the call about a certain time frame. After a convention is over, there is a certain time frame that if we have any liabilities, any lawsuits will be covered under that time frame, but let's say after that time frame, who will be responsible if there are any law suites after that?

Mr. Baker said based on the language of the insurance policies that have not been put in place yet, typically what I have seen is a year after an event that you have to file a claim against the insurance. I am not sure what the actual time period would be, but let's just say it is a year for any claims that arose after that period of time. You are typically going to be time barred from suing the insurance company, or that would be the insurance companies defense is that this claim came after the period, but I would need to follow up with the Council about that, because I just haven't seen that contract, but I will see what has happened in 2012 in terms of the period of notice to provide to the insurance company to make a claim if any claims were made on the insurance companies in 2012.

Ms. Ajmera said I would appreciate that information, and after that period ends, who is responsible? Would the City be responsible let's say if it is after one year if there are any lawsuits that are being filed would the City be responsible?

Mr. Baker said under the insurance contract, it is basically the argument that the insurance company would not be responsible. I cannot say that the City would be responsible if there was a third party or some other entity that was out there it is possible that they could still have liability, but again for argument's sake, if the period of time was one year, the insurance company would make the argument that it was not responsible, and we would have to find another entity or we would have to eat the costs ourselves.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

**Mayor Lyles** said I want to take some time to recognize some people in the audience, because one of our speakers is former Mayor Richard Vinroot, who is here to represent somewhere in his real, daily life of being an attorney here in our City but as one of our favorite Mayors. We are glad to see you Mr. Vinroot; I always still call him Mayor Vinroot, but that is just because that is the right thing to do.

I would also like to recognize that we have two County Commissioners with us in the audience. Susan Hardin, I see her out there, and Susan McDowell, I see you out there as well. Glad that you are joining us today.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item No. 21, which was pulled for a speaker, Item No. 25, which was pulled by staff, Item No. 37 which was pulled for separate vote, and Item No. 41, which was pulled for a speaker.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Item No. 23, is a Bridge Maintenance contract of \$1,373,025, and we have a MSBE goal of 10%. They committed 10.29%, but if you just look at the actual break down of what 10% of almost a \$1.4 million contract is, that is a total of \$141,241. We have multiple items that are broken down on here as far as how the work may include, but are not limited to, and if we really have a goal to address opportunities for small business opposed to identifying two or three items and breaking those items up to where you only have a \$4,000 contract going to one company, a \$36,000 contract going to another, there has to be a much better way for staff to break these items up in order to have a true goal based on the businesses that we have. This is not new; Economic Development Committee; I am not sure if Councilmember Mitchell as Chair has received it, but two years ago, a request was given to staff to bring back to the Economic Development Committee a breakdown of where do we have gaps, because if we have companies that are able to fill, it is a lot easier to identify where we have gaps, because there is a clear challenge. We have one project tonight that is a \$9 million contract. Out of that \$9 million, the percentage goals on it are extremely low. So, as we are looking at the updates on the disparity study, and this is for you Mr. Manager, what we have identified is that white women overwhelmingly are who has benefited from the MWSBE goals that have been identified. We are still having a major challenge with African Americans as well as Latino community being able to take advantage of our contracting. Please help give us a better breakdown, and can we be setting greater expectations on our established goals, or are we going with the minimum goal in order to address the MWSBE without having a clear target of how; is there a way to look at the total amount of the contract versus the percentage of the projects. Two different things, if it is \$1.4 million, saying where we have this number of companies, so of this number of companies that we have identified, we can identify 10% or are we saying 10% of \$1.4 million, because 10% of \$1.4 million, that is \$141,000 split between five companies is a challenge. It is the same for Items 23, 24, 25, 28, 32, and another one.

Mayor Lyles said I think that Ms. Mayfield is correct about the idea that we need to look at this. I am very concerned that while we are complying with the federal court ruling, that we have very few contractors that are subs able to make that leap to bid on the actual item, so what I would like to actually see is a research project on what are the construction insurance and bonding requirements that keep our subs subs and not be able to get to a contractor's license, because the real issue, we can increase the percentage, but if we want real action and change on economic opportunity, we have to create African American owned businesses that can do bridge maintenance. That comes with having people that have been trained and qualified in it, and I think often are not able to meet the state legislative requirements for bonding and insurance, and if we are really going to do something and start talking about this real, we are talking about moving subs to something, and I would say to you if I can make a tower in downtown Charlotte and have a minority contractor, wouldn't that be success? We are not on a path that is going to get

us to that success. I agree with Ms. Mayfield, but I think really, we have got to look at our legislative package to see what deters people from growth and opportunity.

**Councilmember Harlow** said regarding Items No. 26 and 27, both of which are part of the West Trade Rozzelles Ferry Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Program, CNIP. As many of you have known over the past two or three business meetings that we have had consent agenda items that have contributed to approving contracts for various CNIP projects in District 2. I want to continue to speak to those and continue to support the staff and say thank you to the staff, particularly this one, Item No. 26, Constructing the Yellowstone Zebulon Street Connectivity Project and Item No. 27 The I-77 West Trade Street Underpass Enhancement Project. These are projects that have gone through extenuous community engagement. The communities in the Five Points area and Lakewood communities are finally seeing these infrastructure projects happen. These are public dollars, \$20 million as a whole in the CNIP for this area, and Lamar Davis and Randy Harris and Cherry Grant and all the staff who have worked on this continue to move these projects through real estate acquisition, through bid. Particularly on Item No. 26, I wanted to acknowledge to Ms. Mayfield's point, there are times when we do reject the low bid. This is an example of one of them where we rejected the low bid of Blythe Construction for the Yellowstone Project and instead awarded the contract to Sealand Contractors for their failure to meet our good faith efforts as a result of our goals as far as Charlotte's Business Inclusion Program. While this is only one of our [inaudible] really, this is one opportunity to show that sometimes we do reject bids, because various goals were not committed to for our Minority Women and Small Business Programs. To these communities, we are going to get a great connectivity for the Stewart Creek Greenway over to Martin Luther King Park into Enderly Park, and for the West Trade Underpass Enhancement Project as you leave uptown and come to the West End near Johnson C. Smith, new wider sidewalks, curb and gutter, this will go along with the new Gold Line Streetcar Project. Also, a cool arts instillation that Arts and Science Council is working on, so some great stuff is happening as you enter the gate to the West End along I-77 and West Trade Street.

A vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

The following items were approved:

**Item No. 22: Fire Emergency and Transportation Fuel**

(A) Approve the purchase of emergency and transportation fuel by the gas, fuel, and oil exception, (B) Approve a contract with Jacobus Energy LLC for the purchase of emergency and transportation fuel for the term of three years, and (C) 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.

**Summary of Bids**

Jacobus Energy	\$62,254.69
James River Solutions	\$65,818.62
Great Lakes Petroleum	\$73,131.80

**Item No. 23: Bridge Maintenance**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,373,025.25 to the lowest responsive bidder Sloan Construction a Division of Reeves Construction Company for bridge maintenance.

**Summary of Bids**

Sloan Construction a Division of Reeves Construction	\$1,373,025.25
American Contracting & Services, Inc.	\$1,575,777.44
Lanford Brothers Co. Inc.	\$1,798,148.89

**Item No. 24: Bridge Painting Services**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$826,903.99 to the lowest responsive bidder Astron General Contracting Company, Inc. for bridge painting services.

**Summary of Bids**

Astron General Contracting & Services	\$ 826,903.99
Titan Industrial Services, Inc	\$1,178,992.60
Lee Construction Company of the Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,229,732.95
Lanford Brothers, Inc.	\$1,505,845.65
M & J Construction Co. of Pinellas County, Inc.	\$1,602,864.56
Southern Road & Bridge, LLC	\$1,617,604.43

**Item No. 26: Construct Yellowstone Zebulon Street Connectivity Project**

(A) Reject the low-bid by Blythe Construction, Inc. for the Yellowstone Zebulon Street Connectivity Project, and (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$2,473,819.38 to the lowest responsive bidder Sealand Contractors Corp. for the Yellowstone Zebulon Street Connectivity Project.

Blythe Construction, Inc. *	\$2,369,035.20
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$2,473,819.38
Dane Construction, Inc.	\$2,727,572.40
Blythe Development Company	\$2,908,339.32

\* Blythe Construction submitted a bid that was non- responsive.

**Item No. 27: Construct I-77/West Trade Street Underpass Enhancement Project**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$2,218,958.35 to the lowest responsive bidder Sealand Contractors Corp. for the I-77/West Trade Street Underpass Enhancement project.

**Summary of Bids**

Sealand Contractors Corp	\$2,218,958.35
Nassiri Development	\$2,262,887.78
OnSite Development, LLC.	\$2,270,612.90
Blythe Development Company	\$3,045,138.59

**Item No. 28: Construct Charlotte Fire Station #43**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$5,880,405.46 to the lowest responsive bidder Southside Constructors, Inc for the Charlotte Fire Department Fire Station #43 project.

**Summary of Bids**

Encompass Building Group, Inc.	Withdrawn
MV Momentum Construction, LLC	Withdrawn
Southside Constructors, Inc.	\$5,880,405.46
Edison Foard	\$6,403,270.00

**Item No. 29: Contracts for the Purchase of Vehicles**

(A) Approve unit price contracts for the purchase of police pursuit and miscellaneous vehicles for one year to the following: Carthage F LLC dba Cooper Ford, Parks Chevrolet, Inc., Performance Ford, Inc. and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to four, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

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

**Item No. 30: Program Management Services for Mallard Creek Basin and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements**

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$4,871,035 with Brown and Caldwell for Program Management Services for Mallard Creek Basin and Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 31: Developer Donation of Design Services for Fuda Creek Sanitary Sewer Pipeline**

Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Rocky River Road Associates, LLC for the donation of surveying, engineering, and easements to the city for the Fuda Creek Sewer Line Project.

**Item No. 32: Contract Amendment for Field Operations Zone 4 Facility Replacement**  
Approve contract amendment #1 for \$949,500 to the contract with C Design, Inc. for architectural design and construction administration services for the Field Operations Zone 4 Facility Replacement project.

**Item No. 33: Airport Environmental Assessment for the Fourth Parallel Runway**  
Approve a contract for \$4,431,087 with Landrum & Brown, Inc. for an Environmental Assessment for the Fourth Parallel Runway and associated projects.

**Item No. 34: Airport Perimeter Fence Upgrade**  
Approve a contract in the amount of \$3,084,018 to the lowest responsive bidder, Fence Builders, Incorporated for the perimeter fence upgrade project.

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

**Item No. 35: Airport Ramp Snow Removal Services**  
(A) Approve a unit price contract with Blythe Construction, Inc. for ramp snow removal 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. 36: Airport Fall Protection Systems**  
(A) Approve the purchase of fall protection systems, by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Atlantic Fall Protection, Inc. for the purchase of fall protection systems for the term of three years, and (C) 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. 38: Installment Financing Agreement for Charlotte Water Vehicles and Equipment**  
(A) Adopt a resolution approving an installment financing agreement up to \$20,000,000 for the purchase and delivery of vehicles and equipment, and (B) Authorize City Officials to take the necessary actions to complete the financings, including the execution and delivery of various documents to complete the agreement, the servicing of debt and all necessary reporting and disclosure requirements.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 749-751.

**Item No. 39: Meeting Minutes**  
Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of:  
May 28, 2019 Business Meeting

**PROPERTY TRANSACTION**

**Item No. 40: Property Transactions - Cross Charlotte Trail Brandywine - Tyvola, Parcel #7.1**  
Acquisition of 21,130 square feet (.485 acres) in Greenway Easement, plus 3,270 square feet (.075 acres) in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 9,510 square feet (.218 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 5200 Park Road from JGL I, LLC for \$91,725 for Cross Charlotte Trail Brandywine - Tyvola, Parcel #7.1.

**Item No. 42: Property Transactions - Lakeview-Reames Intersection Improvements, Parcel #70**  
Resolution of Condemnation of 5,251 square feet (.121 acres) in Fee Simple within Existing Right-of-Way and 1,459 square feet (.033 acres.) in Sidewalk and Utility

Easement, plus 1,872 square feet (.043 acres in Temporary Construction Easement at 8615 Reames Road from Rayanee S. Shah for an amount to be determined for Lakeview-Reames Intersection Improvements, Parcel #70.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 753.

**Item No. 43: Property Transactions - Pamlico Right of Way Phase 2, Parcel #3**

Acquisition of 1,313 square feet (.03 acres) in Right of Way Easement at 1224 Louise Avenue from William C. Davis for \$20,000 for Pamlico Right of Way Phase 2, Parcel #3.

**Item No. 44: Property Transactions - Upper Little Sugar Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase 3, Parcel #1**

Resolution of Condemnation of 6,893 square feet (.158 acres) in Sanitary Sewer Easement at 2000 Canterwood Drive from MM MRA, LLC for an amount to be determined for Upper Little Sugar Creek Sanitary Sewer Phase 3, Parcel #1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 754.

**Item No. 45: Property Transactions - Water Oak Storm Drainage Improvements, Parcel #9**

Acquisition of 184 square feet (.004 acres) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 155 square feet (.004 acres) in Utility Easement, plus 1,465 square feet (.034 acres) in Existing Drainage accepted as Storm Drainage Easement at 1015 Linda Lane from Alex M. Myrick and Maria Alexander Naranjo for \$16,525 for Water Oak Storm Drainage Improvements, Parcel #9.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ITEM NO. 21. POLICE DNA EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**

**Krista Maiden, 16557 Kimbolten Drive, Huntersville** said I am a survivor of a violent sexual assault that took place just outside of uptown in June of 2015. I wanted to take this opportunity to address the Council regarding CMPD's analysis of DNA samples as they pertain to sexual assault investigations and rape kit testing. We can spend millions of dollars on new equipment, software, and other resources to preform DNA analysis of rape kits, and that is great. These kits should be tested, all of them, but until CMPD mandates trauma informed training for sexual assault investigations, we can test these kits until we are blue in the face, but the conviction rates are remaining almost the same, which is extremely low and especially when compared to other violent crimes. While it is extremely important that each and every rape kit is tested, it is of equal, if not more importance, that law enforcement receive training on the neurobiology of trauma, training on investigative strategies on how to respond to sexual assault crimes in victim centered and trauma informed manner. CMPD Captain Melanie Peacock said the following in an interview with WFAE regarding law enforcement training in 2018, "all incoming Detectives are sent to interview schools, and all new Detectives go through a formalized training program in which they are paired with a senior Detective for one on one practical instruction. This training process can last as long as six months. After that, Detectives can handle cases on their own." Is that enough? My answer is no. The CMPD investigation into my assault was almost as traumatic as the assault itself. During my first interview at the CMPD headquarters during the days following my assault, I was told almost right away that I could go to jail. That I, the victim, could go to jail. Why? For making false allegations, mind you, the injuries that I sustained during the assault were so severe that people had to ask me if I had been in a car accident. I had a bruise on my inner left thigh in the shape of a hand print, and my voice was raspy and hoarse as I could barely speak from being repeatedly strangled and choked during my assault. My neck was completely covered in bruises. This is not how a victim interview should be conducted. If I didn't have the support of my family, I would have likely left the interview never to return; 65% of sexual assault victims choose not to follow through with the investigation after their first interview with the Police. My investigation lasted over three years. I will spare you the rest of the details, because they are more disturbing than the content of a Stephen King novel, and I am speaking of the details of my investigation, not of my assault. CMPD failed me and they failed the public as the man who violently sexually assaulted me is walking free among

us today. I dealt with a legal system not a justice system. I never received justice. Had my Detectives been properly trained, I might not be standing before you today. The man who violated me and viciously attacked me might be in prison, if proper training were in place. In closing, I will repeat what I said moments ago, we can test these kits all day until we are blue in the face, but until we get trauma informed investigations in place, these kits being tested are not going to do much good.

**Mayor Lyles** said thank you for the courage to come to us and say that this is a need, so first of all, we really appreciate that. The second thing I say is that we know we owe every person that is investigated the opportunity to face the person who has harmed them. We will look into your case specifically, and we will look into trauma enforcement.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Mr. Manager in this budget cycle an additional two million dollars was approved to CMPD for training. Do we specifically identify, and if we have not, do we have time, because that was a \$2 million allotment over a two-year time period to insure that there is very specific training tied to the DNA equipment that is being used? Have we had any conversations regarding what specific training CMPD is going to go through along with any mandates?

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said we do not have a tie specifically to training other than to identify training, so I will get with the Chief to see how he is going about not just the \$2 million but all of the other training that is related to his budget.

Ms. Mayfield said and you will have that by your next Manager's Report?

Mr. Jones said absolutely.

Ms. Maiden said I would suggest that you guys listed to a podcast by WFAE, called She Says and it went through the navigation of what it is like to go through as a sexual assault victim in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and dealing with CMPD.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt and carried unanimously to (A) Approve the purchase of DNA equipment, software upgrades, and supplies by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Life Technologies Corporation for the purchase of DNA equipment, software upgrades, and supplies for the term of three years, and (C) 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.

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**ITEM NO. 41: PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS - CROSS CHARLOTTE TRAIL BRANDYWINE - TYVOLA, PARCEL #26**

**Richard Vinroot, 101 N. Tryon Street** said I am coming tonight to make really a minor protest as a bit of a call of a technical foul maybe. We represent the Cielo Apartments out on Park Road, down from Park Road Shopping Center, almost at the intersection of Park Road and Selwyn Avenue. Six years ago, the County approached our client about getting a grant of easement behind their property for the greenway, obviously to have access to the folks who come along the greenway and will enjoy that park for the rest of our City's life. We negotiated in good faith then, thought it was resolved, then all of a sudden, the County disappeared. A couple of months ago, the City came back in their place and began negotiating with us, and I think that we have agreed to virtually everything that the City has asked for from our client. Several times the matter has been on your agenda for a condemnation of our client, notwithstanding our cooperation. I understand the reasons why that they want to proceed and have guaranteed access to our property. They have had no difficulty with us whatsoever. I think that they will tell you that; there is an old saying about do not look a gift horse in the mouth; I think in this case, you are not only looking the gift horse in the mouth, you are going to punish the gift horse by condemning on top of that. I do not think that will ever be necessary, so I am simply coming down, as

I say to enter a minor protest of us being treated in a way that seems to our client, in his words at least, as somewhat insulting. We cooperate to beat the band and then you still condemn us. It is just something not right about that picture, so I am protesting mildly. I do not think you will stop; you will go ahead and do what you are going to do. I understand that, but we do not like it none the less.

Finally, on a different subject, thank you for the leadership you give this very good City. I do not know if you folks know, but this is the best City in America. I never went to a Mayor's meeting and didn't come back thinking that I am so glad that I am the Mayor of this City and not that city. We are lucky to have you, and you are lucky to have these good folks in our community.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said I got to speak at length with the great Mayor Vinroot this afternoon, and we pulled in Mike Davis and the group. I think that we are in a position to go forward tonight putting this condemnation in our back pocket, not to be used as a negotiation tactic but to be something that insures that we do not get stopped up giving our summer break that we are about to go on, but as we have been informed, everything that needs to be lined up between the Mayor's client and the City staff pretty much is already there. It is some box checking activities; we believe that when that happens, this will absolutely take the place of it, but I think it is really important to emphasize what Mayor Vinroot said, which is his client has gone through a couple of hands between the County and the City, but they have done everything absolutely right. They view this as a bit of a smack in the face, and I think this is something very important from me and hopefully out colleagues around the dais to say, which is when you work in good faith like they have, that means something to us, and we are very grateful to that, and I am absolutely confident after talking with Mike Davis that we can move forward on this tonight just to make sure that we do not slow down what is a multi-million dollar project, but we need to give deference to the fact that this probably should have been solved before this, and we will make sure that they understand they are appreciated.

Mayor Lyles said I am sure that Mr. Bokhari will write the appropriate letter and make the right phone call to the family.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari, seconded by Councilmember Harlow and carried unanimously to approve a Resolution of Condemnation of 13,537 square feet (.311 acres) in Fee Simple and 8,710 square feet (.199 acres) in Greenway Easement, plus 1,481 square feet (.034 acres) in Temporary Construction Easement at 4943 Park Road from WMCI Charlotte XV, LLC for an amount to be determined for Cross Charlotte Trail Brandywine - Tyvola, Parcel #26.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 752.

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#### **ITEM NO. 37: AMERICAN AIRLINES CARGO AND CATERING LEASE**

**Councilmember Winston** said I pulled this for a separate vote, and I will be voting against this, and the reason I will be doing that is find a way to bring American Airlines to the table. This is a facility that will employ over 350 cargo catering and kitchen staff, and a couple of reasons why American has chosen Charlotte as a hub, mainly because of the low cost it cost airlines to fly in and out. Part of that is because of the facilities and awesome job that the folks at CLT have been doing at executing a master plan that makes us a connecting point to the world, but one of the other truths about it is that too many of our workers at the Airport do not get paid anywhere near a living wage. This is specifically true for folks who will occupy this space. Assumingly, many of these workers will work for another contractor that American Airlines works with, LSG Sky Chefs, and 98% of those workers make less than \$15 an hour. Some of those workers have been over there for over 30 years, and they still do not make \$15 an hour. Many of those make a single digit per hour, and only 34% had company health insurance in 2018, and just 11% had a child or family member covered. We have to find a way to bring folks to the table if we are really

true about the pledges of lessening these equity gaps, so I would be remised if I did not take the opportunity to point this out and find a way to continue to engage American Airlines and bring them to the table to truly help us in partnership to bridge the equity gaps that plague our City and that they benefit from in the immediate and long term.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I understand that this contract is with American Airlines, and American Airlines has an agreement with Sky Chef and HMS Host. I had recently met with some employees who work at HMS Host and Sky Chef who are struggling to pay their bills, because most of them make actually under \$10. I met a lady who had to work two jobs, who is in her 50s, to afford to live in our City. I firmly believe that one job should be enough to play to live in Charlotte. I would like for us to think outside of the box and figure out a way how we as a City can use our influence with American Airlines and potentially their contract with Sky Chef and HMS Host to get a living wage for these employees. Yes, these folks may not work directly for the Airport, but I think that we have an influence in this case that we can use, because this also helps address other issues from housing, to providing good paying jobs.

I would like to understand if there has been any discussion in the past that we have had as a City or as the Airport with American Airlines on wages for the folks who are employed by Sky Chef or HMS Host.

**Jack Christine, Deputy Aviation Director** said from an Airport perspective, we have contractual relationships with the airlines for facilities. We do not have any type of an agreement with any of our tenants when it comes to respect to wages, because they are private companies, nor can we be in that position to directly influence that. Of course, we can tell them what your perspective is and help them understand that perspective, but from a contractual perspective, we cannot do that.

Ms. Ajmera said I understand that maybe from a contractual perspective we do not have necessarily any influence, but in terms of the relationship that we have, we have established for many years with American Airlines, have we used that relationship to advocate for the issues that our workers are facing in terms of wages?

Mr. Christine, yes ma'am, we are always talking with all of our tenants, not just American but all of our tenants about the quality of work life at the facility, and we will continue to do that, absolutely.

Ms. Ajmera said also, I am interested in seeing, if we were to make any changes in the lease agreement, in the amount, would it necessarily result in some sort of change in the wages that we are seeing currently?

Mr. Christine said I cannot speak directly to what American Airlines would do-

Ms. Ajmera said have you tried that?

Mr. Christine said no ma'am, we have not. Again, our relationship in that perspective is for physical facilities, and those lease rates are developed based on the highest and best use for that facility, not other ancillary things that go into the business of how the tenants operate. We can absolutely talk with the tenants about the desires for employees who work at the airport to have a living wage and help them understand the perspective of you and the other members of Council that that is something that is important to you all, but as far as the actual, physical agreements that we have, they are based on market values, and that is how we structure every lease that we have.

Ms. Ajmera said I appreciate that we will certainly use that relationship to at least have a conversation, which we never had in the past, about providing living wage to those folks who work at the Airport. When I met with some of those union workers who came to us and talked about how some of them were working two to three jobs to live in our City, one of them had given us an example of other cities that have used the influence to actually influence some of the wages that employees were making. I would wonder if we could take that route and use that relationship and hopefully have a positive outcome.



**Mayor Lyles** said there is a representative of the airline here, so I think that she heard that very clearly.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said Mr. Christine; would there be any conflicts or challenges if we were to defer this to give an opportunity to have a different conversation with our partners, knowing that legally we do not have the ability to mandate a wage. If we go back to 2015, Council was in the process of having some conversations, then HB2 kind of put all of that on the back burner until 2020 at the minimum, but do you know or can you check with our partner to find out if we were to defer this this evening to have additional conversation to find out what really can we do? It is a clear concern, and almost all of us who have been willing to meet with Sky Chef and others knowing that North Carolina is a right to work state, but there are some clear challenges when we talk about access and opportunity.

Full disclosure, I was out at the last protest with a number of the workers because of conditions, so can you verify or reach out to find out if that would be a challenge if we were to defer this decision for this evening for Item No. 37?

Mr. Christine said I can tell you that American Airlines currently occupies this facility; they have for a long time. Their current arrangement is in a month to month status, so if the Council chooses to defer this item to the next meeting or at some future time, that will not have an undue impact on our ability to have them operating on the field at the moment.

Ms. Mayfield said so, currently we are on a month-to-month basis, and this request is to approve a 10-year lease. So, if it is at the pleasure of my colleagues so that we could get some of these questions answered.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield and seconded by Councilmember Newton to defer Item No. 37 to the next Business Meeting.
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**Councilmember Phipps** said what would happen if for some reason we did not approve this contract, this extension? What would that mean to the employees now what are making less than, what some say less than minimum wage, they would be making like no wage?

Mr. Christine said I can tell you from the perspective of the agreement, this agreement increases the rent. So, to the extent that you all do not approve this, for however long that is, we will continue to charge the current rental rate that we have, and the additional rent, we just would not collect that until we have a new agreement. That is really the extent of any issue that we would have.

Mayor Lyles said we are giving them a break?

Mr. Christine said no ma'am, we are just charging them the rent that is in the agreement as it sits today.

**Councilmember Newton** said I understand that we cannot force Sky Chef or HMS Host to pay their employees a living wage. What prevents American Airlines or us from maybe going with another company? I would assume that they are not the only food service company that exist in this country, and as my colleague beside me would say, that is the free market-

Mayor Lyles said I would hope that you do not ask Jack to represent American Airlines position; I think that you can ask him what his thought is about contracting, but I do not want Mr. Christine to be in the position of speaking for someone that isn't here.

Mr. Newton said to that point, what could you comment on pertaining to that? I will say this too; I hope that our partners in the room are hearing me mention this, because I think

that is something that should be considered and can be on the table and can insure that the living wages that these employees need and deserve are delivered.

Mr. Christine said I understand exactly what you are saying Mr. Newton; unfortunately, I cannot speak for what American Airlines can or should do; in that regard, that really would be a business decision for them. We have no contractual relationship with LSG Sky Chefs, and I will also say that in this particular case, this lease, LSG Sky Chefs are not in this building. This is a building that is adjacent to the LSG Sky Chefs facility. So, this is really for cargo and catering, and catering, when we talk about that it is really the employees that are taking food and beverages from that facility to the aircraft. So, that is what this facility does. It doesn't change anything as far as the perspective.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I want to remind everybody for one, American Airlines is the largest airline in the world, and if we locally negotiate any sort of a deal with them concerning these services, that could then become a template for everyone in their system, so this is not a small issue.

The second thing, I just want to stress the incredible importance of our relationship with American Airlines and our appreciation for their presence here. I hope that this conversation does not in any way take away from that, because if we interfere too much with their conduct or their business, that is not good for us. We need to work for us to their advantage and ours, and understand that the advantage to us of having them here is huge. If you look at the percentages of the traffic that goes through our Airport and all of the connections that are available at our Airport and the advantages that we have because of those connections, I just do not want us to do anything that jeopardizes that. I am not opposed to the idea of having a conversation with them on the things that we are talking about, but I think that deferring this action on the lease, for example, because of these concerns, would send a very bad message, and I would hope that we could approve the lease renewal tonight and just continue the dialog with them on some of the subjects that have been brought up.

**Councilmember Egleston** said two points of clarification, when I had the chance to meet with the same folks from the union, they do have very compelling stories, and one is we are having discussions with our partners at American Airlines and the Airport, we are going to need to cast a wider net too as we encourage them to ask more of their partners. LSG Sky Chef does not only contract with American Airlines at the Charlotte Airport. They contract with many airlines at the Charlotte Airport. It is not just about putting pressure on American Airlines. This is the preferred caterer of most of the major airlines there.

Two, to Mr. Driggs point, it could be a good thing; this is a national contract discussion, so if there are changes made that benefit the workers, and I hope there will be, it will benefit people beyond Charlotte. It is not a problem that we alone will be able to solve, because it will impact the contracts of the union workers for those companies across the country, so it will be something that we will have to cast a wider net on than just talking to American Airlines just here in Charlotte.

Mayor Lyles said I would hope that at some point the Councilmembers would put on paper what the requests are and if they are the union requests get that information so if it goes further we are appropriately aligned with the requests that we are making and get that to the Manager so that we can share that with the Airlines and as a letter perhaps requesting that dialogue from the Council based upon the deferral of that.

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

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

NAYS: Councilmembers Bokhari and Driggs

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ITEM NO. 9: PUBLIC HEARING FOR COGNIZANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS LLC  
US CORP. 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 Harlow and carried unanimously to close the public hearing .

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Newton and carried unanimously to approve the City's share of a Business Investment Grant to Cognizant Technology Solutions LLC US Corp. for a total estimated amount of \$51,161 over five years.

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**ITEM NO. 10: PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOWE'S COMPANIES INC. BUSINESS  
INVESTMENT GRANT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Egleston and carried unanimously to recuse Councilmember Mitchell from Item No. 10.

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Egleston seconded by Councilmember Bokhari and carried unanimously to close a public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Harlow and carried unanimously to approve contracts between the City of Charlotte, the North Carolina Department of Commerce (the State) and Lowe's Companies Inc. for a \$2,000,000 One North Carolina Grant from the State to Lowe's Companies Inc., and approve the city's share of a Business Investment Grant to Lowe's Companies Inc. for a total estimated amount of \$6,031,880 over 10 years, and (D) Adopt budget ordinance 9614-X appropriating \$2,000,000 for a One North Carolina Grant to Lowe's Companies Inc.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 62, at Page(s) 327.

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**POLICY**

**ITEM NO. 11: CITY MANAGER' REPORT**

The City Manager distributed his 30-day report.

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## BUSINESS

### ITEM NO. 12: AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT REQUESTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Newton to (A) Adopt resolutions approving land transactions of city-owned properties valued at \$4,870,000 for the following multi-family affordable housing developments: Parcel Identification Number 080-104-02, valued at \$1,320,000, for the development of 7th Street Apartments, Parcel Identification Numbers 149-012-47 and 149-012-51, valued at \$2,570,000, for the development of South Village Apartments at Scaleybark, Parcel Identification Number 143-051-01, valued at \$980,000 for the development of Tyvola Road Apartments, and (B) Approve \$12,800,000 in Housing Trust Fund allocations for the following multi-family affordable housing developments: 7th Street Apartments, \$1,500,000, Abbingdon On Mt. Holly, \$2,000,000, Evoke Living at Westerly Hills, \$2,000,000, Heritage Park Apartments, \$600,000, North Tryon Homes, \$2,000,000, South Village Apartments at Scaleybark, \$3,000,000, Wendover Walk Apartments, \$1,700,000.

**Kenn Shrader, 2214 Cannonade Court, Matthews** said I am speaking not only for myself and for a number of non-profit organizations and grassroots organizations, but I am also speaking in agreement for Steve Cohen who had spoken earlier. I represent about 78,000 people in the Charlotte-Metro area, many with families. Most live in the City of Charlotte, and all of them have criminal records. For someone with a criminal record, having a stable job, access to health care, a chance to get back on track, is often more difficult because they are denied a safe place to live, even before the application process is complete. The City Council and the press have been calling an affordable housing crisis, but it is actually an equitable housing crisis, yet my folks rarely have a voice in the affordable housing discussion, because the public discussion has been limited by the Council, telling the community what you are going to do.

My group, the Reentry Housing Alliance, works closely with the Housing Justice Coalition, the Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice, Action NC, and other advocacy groups. The City Council pledged community collaboration with groups like these in tackling the housing issues. The housing framework document states that while the City of Charlotte has a role in the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the housing framework, overall success will depend on how well the entire community collaborates to address the needs of people needing affordable and workforce housing. To insure community collaboration, the City will seek community input when bond fund housing support requests, LISC will establish a local advisory council to insure comparable community participation. Ralphine Caldwell with LISC said its grassroots committee is not even going to meet for the first time until mid-August, yet City Council, is considering or actually has already voted or motioned for eight new affordable housing proposals this evening. Meanwhile, Pam Wideman is on record of saying that the City has already completed the goal of the 5,000 affordable housing units to have been created that the Council promised after the 2015 protest.

Ms. Wideman also has said that grassroots individuals are not going to be able to examine the HTC funded housing deals. Her quote in the Charlotte Observer is, "that is never going to happen." These grassroots organizations that I mentioned are made up of y'all's constituents. We can help you, and you need our help.

**Mayor Lyles** said Mr. Shrader; I heard you talking about the reentry, and we are talking about that a lot. It is estimated that over 10,000 people will be coming to Mecklenburg after the federal prison reform. The County added a staff person to the reentry process, and we are working very closely with introducing this conversation with the realtors, because currently we are not going to build our way out of this crisis. We all know that there is a huge deficit, so we have got to try to convince our private sector to accept people who are coming in for reentry to be productive, and we completely understand this problem. The County has a really strong program. They have expended to the federal

system, as well as the State system, so I hope that we will all understand that what we meant by this is that we have to have the community understand that a change has to come all the way across the board, and it cannot just be done by building new projects, because we will never get there for the people who need it the most, so I hope that people know we are looking at other efforts, particularly where we have people coming back for reentry next year.

**Mary Kelly, 3011 Brandon Manor Lane** said I am speaking on behalf of Equitable Communities. We have the opportunity in Charlotte to make a difference in affordable housing tonight; the Charlotte Housing framework urged the Council to increase the focus in the four percent housing trust fund deals, and you all did that, did a great job. The City and LISC have reviewed 14 four-percent deals that have been submitted for funding. The field has been narrowed down to eight four percent deals that are spread across the City: north, south, east, and west, providing 950 apartments, of which 594 are serving at or below 60% AMI.

The commitment to the Housing framework also was asked to approve the community involvement in the project approval process. The process needs work; we all agree there, along with community education of the process. It is, as Ken said, we can all help there. Pam Wideman, with Neighborhood Services and Ralphine Caldwell with LISC have both agreed to meet with affordable housing advocates and grassroots organizations to discuss what changes need to be made and how to improve that process, so we need to work together to make that happen. It is not one side; it is both sides. We are proposing four additions to the current process to improve the collaboration with the advocates and the grass root community organizations and impacted neighborhoods. This work will take a steady ongoing partnership and dialog between City staff and affordable housing advocates and grassroots committees. It is difficult work, but it can be done. I ask you tonight to approve the eight projects; I also ask that you approve City staff to work with us and the grassroots organizations on the process improvement changes for the future projects.

Mayor Lyles said we all said that we wanted to try to get this done; we wanted to get some things moving, and it was time. I do not want to have perfect stand in the way of good, so one of the things that we have committed to, not just with the staff but the Council Committee on Neighborhood and Housing will actually review the overall process. I am sure the staff has many improvements that they would like to see, and we need to have a discussion about that before the next round comes, so I appreciate your participation in helping us as we do this review and bringing your ideas forward. I am waiting to hear from LISC and our team. We are about to go into that phase where, how do we make it better? That is what we all deserve the opportunity to do.

**Ricky Woods, 1801 Oaklawn Avenue** said I am the Senior Minister at First Baptist Church West, the Vice Moderator of United Missionary Baptist Association, and a former member of the Opportunity Task Force. I am here tonight to speak in support of the staff recommendation of the projects that will be eligible for housing trust dollars. The projects include a number of things that housing advocates lobby to see in order to support the housing bonds. Projects create more housing for those at 60% and below of AMI that many pass projects. The project includes high opportunity areas in uptown and along the light rail, opportunities that have been missed in the past. The projects do not add to high-density areas of affordable housing and low-income housing, and the projects preserve some natural occurring affordable housing, NOAHs that may lead to a model for future use. There is much to feel good about these proposals; however, the timing of the project proposals raise serious questions and concerns about community input, whereas developers have had to host community meetings, the impact areas of the project, the City has not provided adequate information to the larger community about those meetings. The two community forums that the City provided were weeks apart, with one meeting discussing on the process of grading the proposals and then next one on the proposed deals that Council would vote on tonight. This approach has left too many members of the community dissatisfied and has eroded a fragile trust. To the City staff's credit, they see this problem and are committed to improving this process with any future recommendations of housing trust dollars. Many in the community were in hopes of a

community group that would be a part of the discussion plans on spending public funds for affordable housing. No such group currently exists, and LISC is in the early stages of putting together their grassroot advisory board to assist in the work of affordable housing. I would request that the projects be approved and that the City revisit whether or not a community advisory board, on spending public dollars, should be established separate and apart from LISC. I would also request that the City develop a communication plan for how input will be received from the community and a timeline so that citizens may be clear on what to expect. It is critical that the City not lose the broad support of the community for the work that has been done because of breakdowns in communication and differences in understanding of what is meant by citizen collaboration.

**Peter Kelly, 3011 Brandon Manor Lane** said I am speaking on behalf of Equitable Communities also. As stated earlier, we do offer our support for the approval of the recommended deals. We do recognize that the projects that are proposed reflect listening to the requests from the community in the past. There is an increase in the 30% AMI. In fact, a total of 161 families will benefit that would not have benefited if we had done our historical percentage of AMI for 30%. Historically it was four percent; we have increased that to 21%. That equates to 161 families, so there is real change that is happening. While we agree that the processes themselves need to be improved, as the Mayor stated, this is the first time that this process has been implemented with the new partnership. It has a lot of opportunity for improvement, and we look forward to being part of that process; however, what we do not want to do is lose sight of the fact that the frame work noted that building is not the only solution. It is a broader problem we have in the affordable housing crisis. We should not limit our discussions to just the Housing Trust Fund issues but also the broader issues. We have discussed before, you spend a lot more money on other issues that are related to supporting housing issues and income disparity, and those should be discussed more broadly into a comprehensive plan. We continue to promote a community-wide plan that includes all of the different aspects, not just the trust fund bonds. In that, as Ricky stated, we would like to see more community engagement in a formal capacity to represent the interest and make sure that the ideas and concerns of the community are well heard. With that again, we suggest that you do vote for the projects this evening but commit to making the changes in the future.

**James Lee, 3501 East Independence Blvd** said I am a veteran that is homeless and now living in veteran housing. I am affiliated with Greenspon Center for Peace and Social Justice, the Housing Justice Coalition, LISC Grassroots Committee, both of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Committees, the Ambassadors and Strategic Advisors. I am here to talk about the process improvement that is part of your Charlotte Housing Framework. In the document, it says to insure the community collaboration, the City will implement a process improvement to inform and seek community input on the board funding housing support request, specifically including those who advocate for and who are personally impacted by displacement and homelessness, me.

I am here to talk about what that looks like; this process improvement must include those, like myself, who are allowed to play a role in their own futures. Being a homeless veteran living in veteran housing in Charlotte, I have experienced what that looks like. I still want to have a voice in this conversation. Working with the before mentioned organizations and groups, I have an opportunity to voice the opinions of this community, the homeless and veteran's community. The process improvement that is talked about needs to include those who advocate and speak for those in this city who are always the ones who are overlooked in this process, who's voices cry out to you for help. I was born and raised in Charlotte, but at the present rate of the growth of Charlotte, I may not be able to live here in the City of my birth, so I believe that it is important that you listen to these groups and others who talk to you about how important it is for community collaboration and community input, because you are making decisions in people's lives, and it is important that you listen, and hopefully it will not become a broken record to you, but hopefully in it being a broking record, you put that penny on that stylus, so it can level out and we can make this City number one and not 50.

**Tony Lathrop, 401 North McDowell Street** said I am a member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation, but I am really here wearing several other hats. As you all know,

I have served on the Planning Commission for six years and chaired it for three. I chair the UDO Advisory Committee for the Planning Commission, but I am also here as a member of the Board of the Little Rock AME Zion Church CDC, along with Reverend Walker and Ms. Anderson and a lot of folks from that church. Transportation, infrastructure, and economic opportunity are closely connected and I am here in support of the 7th Street Apartments project, which is in the heart of our City. It is near the transit center; it is close to the Gold Line. It is close to the Blue Line. As you all know and supported, we have updated our TOD ordinance, and specifically in the process of doing that, we talked a lot about affordable housing in TOD areas as this is, and that kind of access translates into economic opportunity. This action here, with all of these projects, speaks loud and clear about our values and not just in Charlotte but rippling well beyond Charlotte, the economic opportunity and inclusion, especially in our booming Center City.

To move forward on transportation and planning items in the arena and things like this, you need collaboration, and we have here a magnificent collaboration on this project and on others, but on this one, with the City, faith community, development community, and it is just a wonderful thing, and I do not think you can draw up a better opportunity to create an outstanding affordable housing project, so I respectfully urge you all to support the 7th Street project.

**Dwayne Walker, 401 North McDowell Street** said good evening Madam Mayor and the members of City Council and to all of the citizens of Charlotte and especially members of Little Rock AME Zion Church who join me here tonight. Let me say to you Madam Mayor and all of the wonderful members of our Council how much we appreciate your find work that you continue to do for our City, especially as it relates to the crisis that we are facing as it relates to affordable housing.

I have been profoundly impacted by a commercial of my childhood that continues to haunt me. It is a commercial that features two gentlemen who were in a park who were walking. One was eating a chocolate bar, and the other was eating a jar of peanut butter, and they collided. One said you put your peanut butter in my chocolate; the other said, you put your chocolate in my peanut butter. They tasted it and eureka, Reece's Peanut Butter Cups were born. I bring that up to say that we have a wonderful opportunity and that we can bring the best of what we all have to offer. We have the Little Rock Church and Little Rock Community Development Corporation. We have Lauren Street Residential Developers, and we have the City of Charlotte, and we can bring the best of who we are to really fix this crisis that is facing our City, not only the crisis of homicide, crisis of educational disparities, the crisis of health disparities, but the crisis of housing that we have opportunities to fix it, and we are so happy as members of Little Rock and the community to be a part of this wonderful opportunity. I want to thank you in advance for supporting and for the funding that would be provided for 7th Street Apartments. We look forward to that development, as well as all of the other great developments that will help to aid the crisis of affordable housing in the City of Charlotte. Thank you so much for what you are doing and thank you for your continuous support for our City and all the things that continue to make Charlotte work. We know this will be a model, not only for the City of Charlotte but also for the United States of America, God bless you.

**Brenda Anderson, 401 North McDowell Street** said I stand before you as a member and steward of AME Zion Church here in Charlotte. I am also a small business owner and entrepreneur and business leader here in this community. My life's work has been about creating a diverse and inclusive environment, building communities that create cultural humility that increases access and equity. So, as I move about this community and dedicate my life's work, it is about creating an environment where all are included and where we are diverse and equitable. I am also a member of the Little Rock Community Development Corporation, and I serve as the Chair of our Governance Committee.

In doing my life's work and serving on this committee, I am able to fulfill a core value of integrity, which is to do the things that I am committed and I have been asked to serve the people of this community, as well as this world. In doing that, I support our vision of the Little Rock Community Development Corporation to be a catalyst in this community that builds a legacy through empathy, inclusion, and self-sufficiency, accountability, and

empowerment. Our mission we stand on is to strive to be a resource for empowerment, offering a hand up, not a handout, by providing essential quality of life services that uplift and edify the whole person. So, I stand before you to reiterate a variation of the poem, No one Spoke Out, by saying, when it came time for us as a City to address homelessness, no one spoke out or acted, because we were not homeless. When it came time for us to act as a City to address affordable housing situations, no one spoke out or acted, because we live in homes that we could afford.

So, I encourage you as Council to vote and support the 7th Street Apartments for affordable housing, as you have already heard, it is a crisis. So, I want us to live up to the core value of integrity, to do the things that we are committed to do in this community, to make it a more diverse and inclusive environment, to create an environment for cultural humidity, where we create access and equity. Thank you for your time and attention.

**Bethany Morrison, 6704 Cord Wood Circle** said I am here as a member of the Housing Justice Coalition. You have heard from several of our members earlier, but I want to reiterate the need for community input in this process. I understand wanting to get some change underway and get some things built, but like we have heard said several times, we know that we cannot build our way out of this. So, we are spending money and spending money, and some of these sound like great plans, but that has not gotten us out of this yet. So, we really need as a community, we are asking you to let us be a part of this. Share with us the data that you are using to come to these conclusions on how the locational policy is applied. We are here; we are meeting twice a month every month, talking about ways that we can be a good partner in these decisions.

I also wanted to speak on what we heard from some of our senior citizens in the audience. We should not have vulnerable members of our population be faced with either I keep living in a house that is unsafe because I cannot afford repairs or I pay hundreds of dollars, potentially for code violations that I cannot get out of, or I sell my house, the one piece of equity that I spent my life building. So, when we talk about the way that we are spending public dollars, why are we not putting more money to helping people who are existing homeowners in affordable housing that they are about to lose and it is about to come irreputably out of our naturally affording stock? I fear that we are not looking at how our community is about to change with outside investment coming in and buying up these lower price homes, bulldozing them and building half a million-dollar houses, and we know we are already short, I do not know the latest number, maybe 35,000 units. Is that taking into account all of the properties that are already owned by outside investors that are just waiting to flip that property? So, those are just some things that I think that we need to consider as we spend public dollars; we are spending it pretty quickly, and we are not having these conversations with the public, so please include us.

Mayor Lyles said I do want to say that we are spending half of what we spent when we had the projects just approve before we got the funds in place, so our cost has gone down by 50% with public dollars by the way that we structured these deals, but that doesn't offset the idea. Investors are coming in to this community, and they are buying. It is not just even in the low income. We have a lot of things as a growing City that we have got to deal with, and I hope that everyone knows that this Council cares deeply about all of the issues that you will bring up. We are trying to move as well as we can, and we will always look to do better, and that is why I think the overview after this is done and we get these units out and underway, because it is 18 to 24 months before one of the doors will be open, and that just means that more people are going to be losing their homes until that is done, so I really believe that supporting this effort and continuing to work hard at it is going to be what we are doing for the rest of our lives. It is just the way the world is these days. Problems that could be solved easily were already done. The ones that are hard, they are leaving it up to us, and we are really glad that you are with us on the idea of how to solve very complete problems. I am going to recognize Ms. Mayfield, who probably started us more on this journey more than several of us on this Council. She has been at it for a while, and I would like to recognize her for comment on the action items that we have for adoption tonight.



**Councilmember Mayfield** said I want to always to the best of my ability have conversations that are very transparent. So, what we are looking at tonight with these projects is a request of \$4.8 million and some change. That is 950 units; that is around 198 units that is under 30% or below area median income, meaning that rent is around \$300, \$350, \$370. An example, Mezzanine on Freedom, 185 units, the wait list is over 400. Every development that comes out of the ground takes about 18 months or so. That development is already 85 to 98% at capacity by the time that it is completed. We do not, and I have asked the attorney. We are on a new attorney, but I have asked the question, and by law, we do not have a Charlotte First. Meaning, I have gone to a number of ground breakings throughout District 3 and other areas and talked to residents that have moved into our area within the last six months, year, year and a half. There is nothing that we can do that creates a pipeline for local residents who have been here, to put you at the head of the line. So, as we champion, and I agree with all of you, that community needs to be a part of this conversation, on the front end, I will admit that I misunderstood prior to the realignment of committees. The understanding that I had of the framework and community input would be that community will have more input on the front end, not as an update, because I shared from this dais, as well as in committee, on more than one occasion that with speaking to community organizers in other areas and speaking to fellow elected officials in other cities, to be perfectly honest, LISC doesn't have a good relationship in community for what I researched, so we were very intentional to try to make sure that there was communication on the front end prior to recommendations coming before council. We have realignments of committees. I do not know where that is at, but what I am concerned about is while we have conversation of affordability, we are doing a lot of things, and I need you all to understand that. We created a targeted rehab program. We went in and knocked door-to-door to give people the opportunity for grants in order to get their homes repaired. TLC in CLT was created and started in 2015. It started in District 3 as well as District 2; it is being expanded. We tell people every day, do not sell your home. We receive the same notices that you all receive. I am right off of Columbus Circle, so I see it every day where the house that was next to me had renters in it paying about 500 or 600, that house was sold. By law, I cannot stop that, because in 2015/2016 I knocked on your door and gave you paperwork and asked you, fill this out, and we will be able to keep you in this home or better yet help you buy it so you can own it, because only do you own do you control the conversation.

I want us to be honest with each other. I want us to have genuine, real conversations. I don't want us to get caught up in this ra, ra, ra look at what we are doing. We are doing great things, but we are not keeping up with the pace of the impact of what is being sold, but again, we cannot mandate local first. I cannot say all the Charlotte residents that live in this community that are being displaced. Nobody asked what happened to people who lived in Westwood Apartments that is now Bryant Park. We have no idea what happened to all of those people that were displaced. That was 650 families that were displaced. We see it all over the City, so as we get excited and you want to hold us accountable, I want you to. I want you to hold all of us accountable, this Council, next Council; hold us accountable so that we do our best to do the right thing, but that also means that I am being honest with you and have a very real conversation, and those conversations are tough, because I am not going to lie to you. We have hit some goals. We have a lot more than we can do, but recognize, 30% out of this 950, 198 people approximately are who are going to qualify for rents under 500 hopefully. We do not get to say those are Charlotteans.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said when it comes to affordable housing, it is one of those issues that the more we are trying to tackle, the problem just keeps getting bigger, not because we are not doing enough, it is because we are not able to keep up with the demand that is out there. I remember when I served on the Housing Authority Board before I started serving on Council, there were over 25,000 people on our waiting list. As we have seen more affordable housing development because of your support with \$50 million in housing bond referendum and the private match, still it is just a drop in the ocean. So, while I do understand many folks who have reached out to us about community engagement and I do agree, we need to strengthen our process where we have enough community engagement, but it is equally as important that we go ahead and get this development approved soon so that we can house more people. I think the

development requests that are here in front of us today, there is some great development happening throughout the City where we really need to start moving the needle in the right direction approve this as we strengthen the process when it comes to community engagement. I'll be looking to our City Manager and our Housing Director Pam Wideman and LISC for strengthening that message to ensure that we have community's voice at the table.

I often hear this from many folks that let's not make perfect the evil of good, and I think that is what we are seeing today. Yes, we may not have the perfect process when it comes to community engagement, but we will make it better, and I hope to continue to see more engagement from community throughout the process, and I will be supporting this, and I hope my colleagues will also join in approving this.

**Councilmember Egleston** said this has been mentioned that we need to continue to improve this process, but I do not want to lose sight of something that the Mayor pointed out, which is that this new process, while not perfect and it never will be, is far improved, and we have nearly cut in half the cost per unit of the units that we are going to be putting forward here, so our ROI is doubled in that regard. Anytime you start doing something completely different than how you have historically done it, there are going to be bumps in the road, so I appreciate everybody in this room, and I think that the voices that we have heard, the nine speakers that we had speaks to the fact that even our housing advocates are not always going to agree on exactly what the best course forward is, but I think that the more people we have engaged, the more different perspectives, the more people that are challenging us and challenging each other and challenging our staff, we will get better outcomes, and we have gotten better outcomes here. So, for the things that we have not done perfectly, I do not want to lose sight of the things that we have done so well and the things that we have improved on and continued to improve on. Thank you to everybody here who has been engaged in this process for varying amounts of time; thank you to the faith community who is stepping up. Thank you to our developers who make these things possible. We are making progress, and the problem will continue to grow, but it will continue to get better. I do not want everything to sound negative tonight, because there is a lot of good stuff that is about to get approved here, and we should be excited about it and get back to work tomorrow about the next set of stuff.

**Councilmember Winston** said I will be voting in favor of these requests. What I will say is that we figured out some math that when I honestly first started paying attention to City Council, just three years ago, people said that this couldn't be done, that this was impossible. That is not impossible anymore. We have made the math work as the Mayor said. We have done it in a way that has cut the cost per unit in terms of public investment in half, which is incredible, and it leverages private investment in ways that it has never done anymore. I would say now that we have figured that out, we need to make sure that happens every year, every cycle and that this is not just a one off, and we have to go a step further. I know we cannot build our way out of this, and it has to be a multi-prong effort, but now we have to figure out how to increase the scale, because we have to have more than 950 units come on per year. So, we figured out that one part of the equations, and now we have to move on to the next equations and get more out of it at the end. We also need to know as we make more informed decisions year after year, cycle after cycle. We need more metrics, not just simply the number of units that are put in. We need metrics to inform us what kind of effect our investments are having on the situation as a whole. Are we not better this year over where we are last year? Just simply saying that we put a certain number of units at a certain level does not tell us that. I might sound like a bit of a broken record to some of my colleagues and staff, but we need to make sure that those metrics that we are able to evaluate year over year also crosscut other kind of spends and initiatives that we are taking across the different departments in terms of bridging that equity gap. For instance, our economic development dollars, how do we invest that? I have concerns in the ways that we do that at times that we are cannibalizing the effects of these affordable housing dollars that we are spending in the light of trying to continue to bring jobs in here at a certain level. We do not know how those two pieces are working together and talking together, and we need to do that if we are truly going to make informed decisions about trust fund dollars or putting city-owned land into development deals. Those metrics need to be quantitative, but they also need to be

qualitative, and that is what we are hearing from not just the activist community, people who do the work to advocate for those who do not have the voices to do it for themselves, but we need that qualitative information to come from people who are affected by our efforts around the affordable housing crisis, however you want to term it. I am talking about having people that live, for instance, in Charlotte Housing Authority spaces now, people who have been homeless or are homeless now that are advising us of what is happening on the ground that are not going to get wrapped up in any kind of economic data or property value data that comes to us when we are evaluating these deals. This does not mean that they will get to approve up and down deals, but I think [inaudible] to us having a Bicycle Advisory Committee who guides us and tells us what they think about our transportation infrastructure investments that we are considering or certain projects that are coming like the 6th Street protected bike lane, then we take that information from this group of people, and we still as, City Council, have the final decision to guide staff how we best think is fit. I think that is something I thought we were going to have when we were starting this, putting together an advisory group. I think that other colleagues thought that was what was happening. Now we need to continue to do the work to make sure that in fact does happen. We do not need LISC to do that. We can do that ourselves.

Finally, I would say that one of the next steps also has to be we have to find a way as a Council to make sure that this is a type of affordable housing and this type of priority is something that is always at the forefront of our brain, and I think that is again what I am hearing from the community when they are saying that they want this input, because it is a fact that affordable housing and building neighborhoods and communities where people from all levels of the economic ladder can comfortable, safely exist and thrive, has not been a priority of City Councils in the past, so we need to look at passing whatever it needs to be passed. I know we passed a letter in 2016 that set out an arbitrary number of 5,000 units. We need to do something that gives a charge to staff that when this Council is gone, this Mayor is gone, this Manager is gone, when the senior staff that is here today is gone, that they have the same priorities regardless of where we find ourselves on the curve of the economic upswing or downturn. If not, this truly will be something that never gets figured out.

**Councilmember Harlow** said just echoing the sentiments, really want to thank a few folks and Mayor you might be the first one to thank. When many of us were elected along with you, a lot of us ran on the platform of affordable housing, and often we are asked, where are the units? People are still on the streets; people cannot get housing. We have a lot of people moving here every day. This strategy, which I know took a lot of different conversations. The Manager should be thanked as well for helping usher in our new partners LISC. The community, thank you for voting for this \$50 million bond last year. The faith community that is here from Little Rock and other places that have donated land to help contribute to this effort. The banking community, the private sector, the non-profit sector, our existing affordable housing partners who have been doing this with us for years and some new players who have come to help us solve this problem as well, so many different segments of the community have come together to help try to tackle this. The numbers do make sense. If you look over the past two years, 2017 and 2018, your Housing Trust Fund dollars, your public input in investment only built 937 units. That is about \$30,000 per unit. We are approving tonight 950 units, so the same amount but just in one year for about half that cost at \$17 million of public investment. That in my opinion is a wonderful job by this public, and it might be the best public investment that we have ever made in this City, even including light rail and all of that, because putting a roof over people's heads is so fundamental and important; 594 of those units are for people who make incomes of 60% and below of AMI, of which 198 of those are for 30% AMI, our biggest need. There are a lot of wins here. I know that we have heard a lot about the public engagement of it, the community and grassroots committee. We certainly want to continue to improve that process to make sure that those that are affected the most by this and also those directly affected by this have a position at the table to continue advising our City staff, continue advising us as elected officials to make sure that we are investing your money the best way. In my opinion, this has been a great way to do it. I look forward to watching this Council continue to make investments like this moving forward.

**Councilmember Newton** said I don't just look at the numbers; I think the best way of measuring success when it comes to our contributions and investments in affordable housing and all the other areas that we tackle as a City Council, the best way we measure success is looking at the quality of life that we create for the residents here in the City of Charlotte and in the upward economic mobility that we create for everyone. I think that when I look at this item tonight, I think we, with a few exceptions, check all the boxes here, and I am in support of this. I wanted to touch on those couple of exceptions here. Certainly, community engagement, moving forward we can do a better job. We owe it to the citizens of this great City to do that and make sure that everyone's voice is included in the process, everyone's voice is heard. I think that it is fantastic that we have the turn out that we have here tonight encouraging us to move forward with this. That is engagement in and of itself, but more specifically, making sure that as LISC moves through the process of evaluating the four-percent deals in the future, maybe even nine-percent deals, that community group that was promised is also consulted.

Speaking of LISC, I want to thank Ralphine for her hard work on this; I want to thank Pam and Miles in Neighborhood Services for your hard work on this. I will bring together the packet that we saw just two weeks ago. I know that took a lot of time and effort, and that wasn't lost on me. I will say this too, I think that it is important. We talked about making sure. From an equity lenses, from a standpoint of fostering desegregation in our City. We talk about making sure that affordable housing opportunities are realized throughout every corner of the City of Charlotte. When we first looked at these deals a couple of weeks ago, we were shown a map. It was clear that we have yet to tackle the affordable housing problem in the wedge. So, my hope is that as we move forward this comes back to committee. My hope is not only do we talk about ways of improving the process in the future but we also talk about viable ways to make sure that we are incentivizing new development in the wedge. I proposed the idea of TOD being added so that TOD designation being added to the Cross Charlotte Trail. I think that we can also look at ways that we can secure and preserve existing lands that we own in the wedge and make sure that we have some development interests there. Get on the front end frankly of this process with developers.

Having said that, I do look forward to going back to committee and talking about all of these things. I am support of this, and I will be voting in favor of it. I kind of get the impression we all are going to be.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I thank this great audience for coming out, but in the area of community engagement, I would have a favor for people in the audience. As you know, I am in the twilight of my Council career here in Charlotte, but there are going to be other people coming and filling these seats, and I want you to know that when you are out in the Districts and out in the community, we do not always have people like we have in this dais that understands the criticality of the problems that we are facing when it comes to affordable housing. We still have people who are not averse to using sugar terms like poverty, subsidized housing, low-income housing, to talk down affordable housing. We still have a lot of nembizmn in our community, so when you come and get these seats and go out into your community, you are not always going to have neighborhoods that want to embrace the vision that we are trying to portray here tonight, and I am going to vote for this, and I would hope that we would finally get to vote for this so we can start getting it.

In last week's rezoning meeting, there were some comments made in one of the staff analysis by the Zoning Committee that along the Blue Line Extension, they thought that we were beginning to see a concentration and over saturation of affordable housing units along the corridor. So, I had to use my time to sort of lightly admonish them to the fact that along that corridor, that is a corridor that is gurgling in high-rent, market rate apartments. So, the fact if you get a couple of projects on the line is not an indication that we are getting a concentration or saturation, so I would encourage the community when you are doing your community engagement, when you can talk this affordable housing and make people aware of the need of it so we can have less resistance when we go out and try to promote the vision. These are some tough decisions, and you do not know the veracity to which some communities would fight against certain projects that we are trying

to make available to a lot of our citizens, so I look forward to voting for this tonight and hope now we can finally approve these projects so that we can get them closer to construction.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said I support it and will be voting for it.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I just want to reframe it a little bit. As we all said, this is a very organic process that depends on the community's engagement, and we appreciate all of that. I was recently in Philadelphia at the National League of Cities meeting for large City Mayor Pro Tems are also called Council Presidents, and the convener of the meeting pointed out that all those cities are really watching Charlotte, because this is something that hasn't really been done in terms of creating a housing frame work. Different cities are doing different great things on certain projects, but they are watching to see how we do this, because this is something that really could create a blue print for other cities and other large cities. Everybody has this crisis. I want to thank everybody who has participated and has put a lot of blood, sweat, and equity into this process, both the community and staff, and I will be supporting these proposals as well.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said thank you to staff for being creative and actually putting our land, city land to make it work; thank you to the community for your feedback, how we can improve the process, and to the developers, this is not an easy task. So, thank you for having the passion to make Charlotte better and to Little Rock AME Zion Church. Thank you, Pastor Walker. You said to make sure that I raise my hand high, and I will raise my hand high tonight.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I just want to say that we should take a moment to feel good about how far we have come in a short time, and I believe that we should pass this and then continue to work on the issues that you have heard about tonight.

Mayor Lyles said you know what I say, if you work in Charlotte, you ought to be able to afford to live in Charlotte. If you live in Charlotte, you ought to be able to work in Charlotte, so let's take a vote.

A vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

Mayor Lyles said I am looking forward to the ribbon cutting; it has been a lot of work, and all of us deserve the opportunity to stand there.

The resolutions are recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 729-734.

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#### **ITEM NO. 13: BROOKSHIRE BOULEVARD APARTMENTS BOND ISSUANCE APPROVAL**

<p>Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Harlow and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution granting the Charlotte Housing Authority's request to issue multi-family housing revenue bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$11,500,000, to finance the development of Brookshire Boulevard Apartments.</p>
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The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 735-736.

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**ITEM NO. 14: UPGRADE AND ENHANCE THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING FACILITY**

Motion was made by Councilmember Harlow and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to accept \$1,000,000 in funding and ratify a Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for training facility enhancements and the FBI's use of the training facility.

**Councilmember Winston** said I will be voting against this; some of the explanations behind this are a little disingenuous. It says the FBI is seeking the funding enhancements to the firearms range in exchange for use of the facility without fee for a period of 20 years. I asked staff what will we charge them if they didn't provide these upgrades? The answer from staff was zero. We would not charge the FBI for the use of the firing range. Also, I asked them how much money have they invested in other types of training, like cultural awareness training, CIT training, de-escalation training, and they said the FBI does not fund any of those efforts. I think we will be fine with the firearms training that we have. We do not need this million dollars, so I will not be voting in support of this.

**Mayor Lyles** said I think that Mr. Winston there are a number of mutual aids between a lot of law enforcement agencies. I do not know if this one has a mutual aid agreement or not, but I understand your comment.

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

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

NAYS: Councilmembers Mayfield and Winston

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**ITEM NO. 15: ASHE PLANTATION WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES PROJECT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera and carried unanimously to (A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,245,075.70 to the lowest responsive bidder Basinger Contracting Company for the Ashe Plantation Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades project, (B) Approve a non-reimbursable developer agreement with Carolina Development Services, LLC for sanitary sewer construction of a portion of the Ashe Plantation Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades project, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9615-X appropriating \$270,270 from Carolina Development Services, LLC for a portion of the Ashe Plantation Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades project.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 62, at Pages 328.

**Summary of Bids**

Basinger	\$1,245,075.70
MB Kahn	\$1,530,100.00
Harper	\$1,653,960.00

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**ITEM NO. 16: CHARLOTTE WATER REVENUE BOND REFUNDING**

Motion was made by Councilmember Harlow, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a bond order and resolution that makes certain Statements of Facts concerning the refunding of Water Sewer Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$75,000,000, (B) Authorize City Officials to take the necessary actions to complete the financing, including the application to the Local Government Commission, the servicing of debt and all necessary reporting and disclosure requirements, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9616-X appropriating \$75,000,000 to the Charlotte Water Revenue Bond Debt Service Fund.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 737-745

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 62, at Page(s) 329.

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**ITEM NO. 17: CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY CAPITAL FUND**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell to (A) Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Self-Help Credit Union to extend the City's participation in the Charlotte Community Capital Fund for an additional one-year and six months term to extend its expiration to June 30, 2020, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to approve additional programmatic changes including but not limited to future terms, fund administrators, and other administrative adjustments consistent with the purpose of the Fund.

**Councilmember Egleston** said with the Self-Help Credit Union, Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt, Councilmember Bokhari, and I had the opportunity to join them last week for their ribbon cutting over near the intersection of Providence and Queens. It is a great organization that is doing a lot around financial literacy in our community, and it is giving people the opportunity to pursue homeownership who might have some barriers to traditional paths to homeownership. I think that this is a great organization for us to be partnering with and is doing some awesome work in our community. I want to comment them for it.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said what he said.

A vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

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**ITEM NO. 18: ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROJECTS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Phipps, seconded by Councilmember Harlow and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting safety projects at Brookshire Boulevard and Old Plank Road and at Brookshire Boulevard and Pleasant Grove Road to improve traffic safety in support of the Vision Zero Action Plan.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 746.

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## ITEM NO. 19: APPROPRIATE PRIVATE DEVELOPER FUNDS FOR TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Harlow, seconded by Councilmember Phipps and carried unanimously to (A) Approve a developer agreement with QuikTrip Corporation for traffic signal installations and improvements, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9617-X appropriating \$17,500 in private developer funds for traffic signal installations and improvements.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 62, at Page(s) 330.

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## ITEM NO. 20A: RESOLUTION OF THE CHARLOTTE CITY COUNCIL

**Mayor Lyles** said earlier today, I sent a memo out to the Council, and I am just going to briefly read it that I, as Mayor, had the opportunity to speak about the Greenville Rally, which took place last week, including the chant of “send her back,” and I know that that rally and the agreement to host the RNC lies at the forefront of our resident’s concern, all of us, for it is our duty to deny racist and xenophobic voices, and such voices are not consistent with the community values of inclusion and diversity.

Today’s agenda includes action issues most pressing to the City, and for me as Mayor, I believe that we have to continue to address democratic principles of the democratic party, and I am a democrat, for people in the poor and working class, and for example, I am grateful for all of the unanimous vote for the residents facing housing insecurity and the actions that we took this evening. I hope that everyone in this City understands my focus at all times is on Charlotte’s success, not just today but for the future years to come, and for anyone that wishes to serve or ever wished to serve as Mayor, I hope that there is a constant in allowing citizens to see our government as a non-partisan one, as well as being open to dialog and debate.

So, today I was asked to deviate from our council rules and procedures that are currently in place when Council considers placing an item on this agenda. I do not take our rules and procedure and process lightly, because we are a country of laws, and I think that our procedures are done in a way to try to encourage people to give the public notice of items, and to give all of the public notice of items, so it was a really difficult decision for me, but tonight, I am adding to the Council agenda a resolution concerning the Republican that several Councilmembers drafted over the weekend, and I just really believe that we could have had a long discussion up here tonight about rules and procedures. In fact, I was told there would be the idea that well, the votes were there, and that would happen. I do not stand by people who are saying, well the votes are there, because that is not why I service this City. I am going to do this tonight to prevent the chaos that we often have on this dais when we do not have planning and discussion in advance of items that are important, and I believe that, so instead of having that long discussion about who is on first or whether or not first was the right base to hit for, we are going to go right into a resolution that I am asking the Clerk to read that is on the agenda for tonight as Item 20A.

**Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk** read the following resolution into the record:

**Whereas**, on May 26, 2015, the Charlotte City Council unanimously adopted a Resolution on the Protection of Civil Liberties, which the Resolution states that “the Charlotte City Council recognizes that the community is comprised of a diverse population, which is vital to the City of Charlotte” and “the Council seeks to foster trust with all members of our community”, and



**Whereas**, on December 19, 2016, the Charlotte City Council unanimously adopted a Resolution stating the Council's opposition to discrimination, and

**Whereas**, in June 2017, President Donald Trump said 15,000 recent immigrants from Haiti "all have AIDS" and that 40,000 Nigerians, once seeing the United States, would never "go back to their huts" in Africa, and

**Whereas**, in August 2017, President Donald Trump called some of those who marched alongside white supremacists in Charlottesville, Va., last August "very fine people."

**Whereas**, on May 16, 2018, President Trump referred to undocumented immigrants as "animals."

**Whereas**, on July 14, 2019, President Donald Trump suggested that four minority United States congresswomen, all of whom are American citizens and three of whom were born in the United States, should "go back to "the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came."

**Whereas**, on July 17, 2019, President Donald Trump held a rally in Greenville, NC where his supporters chanted "Send her Back" in reference to Congresswoman Ilhan Omar.

**Whereas**, the Council deems it imperative to condemn such racist and xenophobic language that only serves to stoke fear of others and perpetuate division everywhere based on ethnicity, religion, and/or race.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Charlotte City Council hereby: (i) acknowledges that many of the City's residents are immigrants and/or people of color; (ii) believes that Charlotte should always be welcoming and inviting of people of diverse and different ethnicities and background, so long as those differences do not lead to personal insults or violent discourse;(iii) strongly condemns all of President Donald Trump's racist and xenophobic social media tweets and comments; (iv) condemns all hate speech, bigotry, racism, and discrimination, wherever it may occur, especially from the highest levels of government.

**Ray McKinnon, 5720 Brookfield Pointe Drive** said everybody knows that I was opposed to the RNC, but I agree with everyone that we have passed that point where we can pull out of the RNC. Because we have passed that point, I think that it is imperative that we let the guest who we have invited into our City know who we are. We let them know what we stand for, and we will let them know what we will accept.

I appreciate that this resolution might be for some folks a little too forceful or a little too to the point. Many of you know that I am a pastor. I used to work with people in recovery before I came to Charlotte. One of the first things that we tell people is that before you can start dealing with something, you have to be able to name the thing. I think it is vital for us to name the thing. When we are faced with racism and bigotry, it does nobody favors to not call it racism and to not call it bigotry. It only serves to normalize what should never be normalized. When we as a City invited to our City people who we knew who they were a year ago, this is not new behavior, it is on all of us to say without equivocation, to say without any sense of fear, this is not okay. There is nothing wrong with it.

I appreciate that your jobs are so much different than mine. I am not sitting here acting like I do not know that. I appreciate that you have the opportunity and obligation to govern for all people, but I also believe that you have an opportunity. As Councilmember Winston said, we invited these folks into our home, and we have to let them know what are the rules of our home. I believe this resolution says unequivocally that what you did and what you have done is not okay, and I encourage the Republican members of this Council to stop acting like the President doesn't speak for them. I encourage the Democratic members of this Council to not hide behind, well we cannot do that, because it is on all of us when we invited them into our house, to say that is not okay. He did it in North Carolina.

It was said last year that we are going to show these folks our southern values, our southern hospitality when we invited them. I think that it is time for us to show them why they refer to us as a hornet's nest of rebellion. We are not going to let that happen in our City. We have to be unequivocal and name the thing. Call racist, racist. Call white supremacist, white supremacist. Call Islamophobics Islamophobics. Call xenophobic, xenophobic. It is the right thing to do.

**Jibril Hough, 13328 Calloway Glen Drive** said first of all, I want to say to the Councilmembers who supported Trump and the RNC coming to Charlotte, you should be ashamed. You really should be ashamed. This is not a partisan thing with me; it is the principle. This is the party of Trump; the Republican party is no longer the party of Lincoln, the party of Regan, and not even a Bush, either one of them. Currently, it is the part of racism and white supremacy, white nationalists. That is who is running their party. The racist tweets and chants didn't start in Greenville. The dark underbelly of racism has been on the rise since Trump began campaigning. You can even go back to when he was questioning President Obama's birth certificate. He has been at this for a long time. I have been at his rallies, and I have heard people shouting at me, get the Muslims out. This is a chant that has been going on for a long time. I am here tonight to support the resolution condemning hate speech and racism. What we really need to be doing is resending the invitation to host the RNC, one of the most racist conventions that we have seen in this country since George Wallace and the KKK. Is that what we want Charlotte to be known for? We cannot have it both ways. Either you support trump and racism or you oppose it or you are complicit. I welcome free speech and diversity, but there comes a time when one must draw the line. I am sure that there are folks in Nazi Germany that regretted practicing tolerance when Hitler was on the scene, so I have heard from the City Attorney, and I understand what he says, but what I am here to say is, sent him back. Send him back. No to racism.

**Jorge Millares, 11231 Quiet Wood Court** said as many of you all know, I am a son of immigrant parents. Last week when I sat there and I listened to the chants of "send her back," it was really just one thing that I could think of, and that is my mother. What if they were saying that to her? What if they were saying it directly to me? When the RNC comes next year to Charlotte, I may just find out what that feels like, and to me, when it comes to the RNC, it is interesting because, the folks who were up in Greenville who were saying those chants, it wasn't the first time. It wasn't just them. They were simply repeating the words that were said by the Republican President of the United States of America. They were just following suite. I fully support the resolution. I got to really, really just commend Councilmember Harlow for taking the lead and moving swiftly, and thank you so much, because you are calling it for exactly what it is, but if we truly believe the words that are on that document, we have to rescind our invitation to have the RNC right here in Charlotte.

If you really think about us being a welcoming City, we talk about that a lot, but that does not meet we have to welcome racists. That doesn't mean we have to welcome those that are xenophobic. That is not being a welcoming City. That is actually the antithesis of being a welcoming City, and while not all Republicans are racist, the words of our President Donald Trump are, and those who subscribe to his ideology are simply racist, and by allowing the RNC to come here, what we are doing is we are bringing the same people who chanted "sent her back" right here to Charlotte, and it puts the lives of our residents in danger, specifically the lives of people of color, because I remember Charlottesville. I do not know if you all remember Charlottesville, but I am sure you do, and we lost some lives there, and that same unrest and that same potential to lose life here can happen in Charlotte on a grander scale, so for me, I understand the financial consequences. I understand that it will not be easy to breach this contract, and I understand that there will be big, big problems to deal with. I totally understand that, but to me, there is no price tag that can be put on a life, and there is absolutely no price tag that can be put on the integrity of our City. I love Charlotte, and I want the rest of the world to know what we are all about, and it is not about bigotry, and it is not about accepting them to come here, and there is still time. Literally, there is still time on the clock. I love sports, and you never give up until the clock ends, and there is still time on the clock for us to be that inclusive City that we claim to be, that city that does not welcome racism and xenophobia, and I know it is not

a popular opinion, but we should rescind the invitation to host the RNC here in Charlotte and show the rest of the world what Charlotte is truly all about.

Motion was made by Councilmember Harlow and seconded by Councilmember Newton to approve the resolution of the Charlotte City Council.

**Councilmember Harlow** said thank you for those who came to speak. Mayor, thank you for adding this to the agenda today. I spoke to all Councilmembers at least once. Everyone actually except for one of you twice and maybe even three or four times to put this together. The first draft was sent on Friday. Multiple drafts were in and out of inboxes, and phone calls were made, so folks who gave their opinions and input, I really appreciate the back and forth. It does show that this Council can work together, can move swiftly on items when we want to. It is unfortunate that we have to actually have this resolution. In my opinion, we shouldn't have to openly and unequivocally speak against racism in 2019, but that is the reality. So, we are, and we should. I believe that people should know where we stand as elected officials on this, while these comments come from our highest levels of government, as local elected officials, we are responsible to the people that we see every day in our neighborhoods, our grocery stores, and those people often are immigrants. Those people often are people of color, so this resolution seeks to not talk so much about a convention or political parties but simply about what should not be debatable, simply what should be a non-starter all the time. Racism, xenophobia, bigotry, hate speech, these things should be non-starters period. I would have written this draft resolution that I hope we adopt tonight, whether it was an election season or not, regardless of our status of hosting this convention or not, whether we were in Charlotte or not. We should be speaking out against racism and xenophobia always, every day.

We have a responsibility to make clear where we stand. We have a responsibility to make sure that the values of this City are known and are spoken in our vocal. If we are neutral in these situations of injustice, as Desmond Tutu said, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. So, we should never be debating or defending racism. We should be direct and firm in our stance against it, all of it and all the time. I appreciate those that will support this tonight. I still hope that this can be unanimous. I am hopeful of that; I still hope that, and there is still an opportunity there, but either way, I hope that this Council votes to adopt this tonight.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said "send her back" or "go back," that brings tears to my eyes, because I have been called that many times, and I have been said that many times, especially about two years ago when I had introduced the Charlottesville resolution. I was approached by many folks and have been told to go back to the shithole country that I came from. So, when those words were said at the rally, it brought tears to my eyes, and unfortunately, this has become the norm, and it should not be. When I look at this resolution, it is not about being a partisan, instead, it is about condemning dangerous rhetoric. We live in unprecedented times where hate crimes have gone up in double digits based on race, religion, in double digits, and this is not time to be neutral. Recently, I came across this video. It was a commencement address by Congressman John Lewis, and he had said to graduates, find a way to get into good trouble. Find a way to get into good trouble to make America a better country. He added, history will not be kind to us, so you have a moral obligation, a mission, and a mandate to speak up, to speak out, and get in good trouble. We all live in the same house, and that is the American house. So, from this house, we are telling the White House that racism, xenophobia, and hate has no place in our City and will not be tolerated, so to me, this is very personal.

**Councilmember Newton** said after hearing the update from our City Attorney earlier about the RNC contract, it appears as though we are beyond the presupus; there is this specific performance clause within it that states that even if we were to back out of this arrangement, we could still be forced to move forward by the parties of the contract and the courts. So, essentially, we did not just enter into the abyss with this contract; we actually dove in head first. I was always told growing up that when a mistake is made, at the very least, you do the best you can to fix it, and I think that under the circumstances there, the question is how do we fix this? I think that this resolution, and thank you

Councilmember Harlow for drafting this and doing it in such a quick, condensed time frame, but I think that this is a damn good start, and I think frankly is the least that we can do for the residents of my district. I live and I represent the most diverse district in the entire City. Frankly, the case can be made, I make it all the time, that it is the most diverse area or district in the Carolinas, and we are proud of that. We champion our diversity. We know it is our strength; in every single respect for every resident in east Charlotte, it is the promise of the City of Charlotte, and I think that it behooves us all to uphold that promise. We have two questions before us here when we are considering this resolution, and the first question is whether collectively or individually any of the statements included in the resolution, I would go one step further and say any statements that we know even if they are included in the resolution, whether they constitute from our President, xenophobic, racist, bigoted, hateful language, and if so, you may deny that, but even if so, whether any of us are willing to stand by that xenophobic, racist, bigoted, hateful language.

To the first question, it is undoubtedly hateful to say, "go back where you came from." All immigrants from Hatti have AIDs; go back to your huts; anyone who has traveled to our great country from Nigeria, unequivocally it is xenophobic, racist, bigoted, hateful, frankly unamerican, unconstitutional, and wholly unacceptable. So, to that second question, whether I am going to stand for this, I will not stand for this, and I am voting wholeheartedly in favor of this resolution.

**Councilmember Driggs** said first of all, I want to express my strong objection to making an exception to our rules to accommodate this political statement. Thank you very much. Okay, if there is somebody you do not agree with, and right away it starts, and that is exactly my point. I want to make it clear that I do not personally endorse the way that the President has chosen to express himself on this occasion and others. I think those of you who know me realize that I am kind of in the mold of a Reagan Republican. I do not conduct myself this way. I wouldn't want to be measured by that behavior; I do believe that the President has pursued policies that will benefit our country, which is why I continue to support him in spite of my disagreement with some of his utterances I guess I will call it. He would not be where he is today if he were not tapping into the anger of many Americans who feel that they have been treated badly by people on the other side of the isle. He didn't create the tension that we are experiencing. It isn't of his making; it was there before. He is actually the result of the tension. How does a guy like that get elected to be President of the United States in the first place? I mean seriously, and that did not happen because of the action of one man or one party. That is a product of this manifest warfare that is going on at a national level.

My second point though is that I do not think that it is wise for City Council to get drawn into the turmoil of national political discourse, when we have so many local issues to address. We have generally managed to avoid this kind of vitriol that you are objecting to tonight here on City Council, and I do not see any value in joining into it now. When Congresswomen Ortiz referred to the detention centers for immigrants as concentration camps, she did so intentionally knowing the shock value that it would have, because just about everyone associates concentration camps with genocide. Why is no one offended by that? I do not think that we have really good behavior on either side, and I am not prepared to lay the blame for the situation, that we are in that none of us likes, entirely at the feet of one man. We should all look inside ourselves. Listen to the anger here tonight, racist, bigot, racist, bigot. We are here to express our hatred of a guy that we consider to be hateful. Look at yourselves. It takes two. It really does. I do not feel we should be joining the national thing. I think that we should try to conduct our business locally here and not every time another occasion arises, in which somebody says something that we do not like, come back with another resolution and sit here as the arbiters of discourse on the national level. We have a whole lot of stuff that we should be dealing with locally.

Concerning the convention, I am still in favor of hosting it in Charlotte for the same reasons I advocated for it in the first place and for the same reasons, by the way, that 10 out of the 11 people on this Council were okay with the idea for the first several months that we pursued it knowing perfectly well what kind of a President the man was. I think it is clear that the reason, at that time, we were able to agree about that is that we recognized that this is not a campaign event for Donald Trump. It is an important event in

our democratic process. Our willingness to host this event does not constitute an enforcement of our President. It is simply that we want to be a City that has hosted both conventions; we want to demonstrate real inclusiveness and not the kind that only gives expression to one side, and we also want to pursue the advantages that having an event like that offers, which was one of the drivers behind our decision to peruse it in the first place.

We have heard now tonight that we do not have a real option not to host the convention, because of legal implications, but I will suggest to you that we made a commitment when we signed that contract, and it is not just a legal technicality that we cannot walk away from it. It is also simply a moral obligation; we signed a bunch of agreements. We committed ourselves to do things, and we knew at that time that the President was controversial and that there was a lot of strong feeling about him even then, and at this point, we should honor our commitment, and I can tell you, if we did actually find a way to walk away from this contract, we would discredit ourselves to the purposes of any kind of business negotiation with anybody else for a long time. We would identify ourselves as absolutely unreliable and not true to our word, so the question of whether we should have pursued the convention in the first place is something that should have been answered back in the beginning, and frankly, if it had not have been for the fact that 10 members of this Council were fine with it for several months, we probably wouldn't be here, but it is too late. It is just too late, and it is not just legally too late. It is morally too late for us to tell those guys at this stage take a hike.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said when the Charlotte City Council voted to support the Republican National Convention and I was one of the Councilmembers that did, for me it was about democracy and a political party's right to organize. As our City's 2015 and 2016 resolution state, which was in tonight's resolution, we seek to foster trust with all members of our community, and we are opposed to discrimination. I still take those pledges seriously, even when it is difficult; however, I do believe that the President of the United States has increasingly abused the powers of his office, which are unit to the office of other people in this country, including Congress people. He has done so with his dehumanizing, racist, and xenophobic behavior, which is already jeopardizing the safety of our community by inciting extreme factions on both sides, but no one in a position of power has stepped in.

At this past week's rally in Greenville when his porters chanted "sent her back," the Republican leadership stood by quietly and silently unwilling to denounce this disturbing behavior. It seems that there is nothing that he can say that crosses the line of decency and safety that is enough to spark action from the leadership that surrounds him. Recently, the former head of the GOP, Michael Steele said that when a white man of a certain age and certain time tells a black woman to go back to where she came from, I can tell you that what a black person hears is racism, and yes, it is racism. We must not stay silent. I cannot be silent. We must set a higher standard and demand that our leaders follow, and that is not just Republic leaders; it is Democratic leaders. It is all of us, but it is Republic leaders, and I am asking right now that Republican leaders step up with us and denounce this kind of behavior and set the tone and the standard for this City that honors the values that were expressed in tonight's resolution. I ask that we do that together, because this is our home, and I am asking that we all together honor all the people of this City and the value of our City is expressed in the resolution.

**Councilmember Winston** said I wanted to just vote yes and not say anything, but I wish that we were sitting here having a conversation where we discuss politics. Where was debating the use of tax policy and spending and tariffs and entitlements and what we need to advocate for in our federal legislative agenda or what we ask our lobbyist to engage the federal government to do, but that is not what is going on here. The people who have pushed this resolution are not here because of political philosophical differences. We have a man in the highest office of the land who is the epitome of what a racist is. Racism doesn't just exist; it is not something that you pick off a tree. It is a power structure that is built on the belief of a superiority of one race. A racist is a person who employs that power system to his or her advantage and creates things, beliefs, speeches, entities, built on that power structure, and we have a man who sits in the most powerful

office in the world who does that, who does not speak to a political philosophy that identifies with any one political party. So, I would hope that as the Mayor Pro Tem just mentioned, that regardless of the party that you are in, recognize who we are. We are America. We are the greatest country in the world, but we are also an idea that has been based on racist ideologies, systems, philosophies, and governments, and there are those of us Americans who would wish for that to continue to be, and as I spoke to one of my colleagues, she mentioned that what this President is doing is ripping off that top soil and exposing that dense red clay has always been there. So, join us; I hope this can be a unanimous decision to say that this is not about political ideologies; this is about a power structure build on racial superiority, the believe that there is a racial superiority that has always been present since before this great experiment was codified by the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and every action of government since then. So, I will be voting yes, and I will ask, I hope and pray that all of my 10 colleagues who have the power to send a message of where this City Council, therefor, where the City stands will vote in favor of adopting this resolution.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said let me start by saying a very simple statement. I oppose phrases like “send her back,” in the strongest possible way that I can relay to you. I think it is unconstitutional. I think it is tyrannical. I think it is wrong, and I think if you are out there and you think that is something that is okay to say, do not associate yourself with my Republican party, and do not associate yourself with the form of government that we have here and what is okay. So, for those of you looking for someone to call out and say this is not okay, let me be the first to say it, this is not okay. I oppose all forms of hate speech, racism, xenophobia, and bigotry, but now, let me take you on a little bit of a side journey here, because do not be mistaken, that is not what we are here doing today.

One, this is not a comprehensive list. This is a list that we see today, and it is not all forms. It is some forms, and if we want to be in the business of going out and being the sole source of capturing all forms of racism and bigotry and xenophobia, we are going to need more City staff. We are going to need a lot more people that are going to keep a comprehensive list of all of this, because I am not sure that this is what the voters of Charlotte asked us to do when we ran for City Council, but we are not going to be able to just be able to randomly jot things down that we hear. We are going to have to take it very seriously and create this comprehensive list, but that brings a second problem to play. Once we have that compete list, two, it is hard to determine what is in the hearts of the people that are saying this stuff, so we are going to need another staff of phycologist and people to look and say well, does that person really mean a racist thing, or are they just saying their opinion in another view? You know what is so bothersome to me about this, in this day and age, it feels like the word racism is thrown around a lot like the word “witch” was in the 1600’s. Oh you do not like that, right? I bet not, but in the 1600’s, you never knew what motivated the accuser of calling someone a witch, and the accused had a near impossible task in proving that they were not. That seems very similar to how we use the word racism today, and I am not by any stretch trying to say that there are not people with racism in their heart saying things out there that we are condemning right now; I am saying how are we to be the judge of all that, and isn’t going a little bit too far?

You know what bothers me the most of all of this? How we decide to spend our time as a Council. Let me give you a couple of examples. For the folks who say, you can do more than one thing at once. We have three direct reports that report to the City Council here. One of those is the City Clerk; 25% of the people on this dais could not take the time to do a 10-minute survey for her annual review, 25%, yet this Council decided to spend an entire weekend crafting and negotiating this. We are 50 out of 50 in upward mobility, yet we have spent zero time almost for the last year focusing around this dais talking about workforce development, yet we spent hours over the weekend wordsmithing these items. We cannot engage the housing and homelessness groups and affordable housing decision making process to a level that is acceptable, yet we can sit back here for the last four days and come up with the perfect wording that a majority of people are going to be okay with, and the thing that should really have people upset is we have 64 homicides; 51 year old Mathew Chaplin, 15 year old Jenna Hewitt, seven-month old Jade Williams, 27 year old Kendal Crank, 19 year old Reed Parlier, 21 year old Riley Howell, and 58 more people. Fifty-eight more people other than those names that I mentioned, yet we

spent four days talking about presidential politics at a national level, and finally, Darnell Harris, 48 years old, lost his life last week, yet around this dais we couldn't muster up the amount of time, a fraction of which we spent this weekend on here.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Bokhari and seconded by Councilmember Driggs to amend the wording to the resolution to: Whereas, we condemn some forms of racism and xenophobia where it fits our narrative, and in doing so, we are prepared to make assumptions as to what is in the heart of those saying it. Furthermore, we understand when we play outside of our lane, it never ends up well for our city, but nonetheless, we want to directly engage in 2020 presidential campaign policies.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said so, valid points have been made by the majority of my colleagues. We had this discussion in closed session; I clearly stated for me it was not about the Republican party. I have built great relationships with legislative members in Raleigh and in Washington D.C. with the Republican Party; it was specifically concerns about the safety of our City under this administration. I do have concerns with a resolution being created, mainly because it has absolutely no authority. It is a feel-good moment to make people feel like something was done. The time to do something was last year; you have nine Democrats and two registered Republicans on this Council. You had five Democrats that voted no after the community became involved and reached out to people. You had four Democrats who voted yes with the two Republicans for us to get here. We knew exactly who this man was; we knew exactly what his rhetoric was going to be. We knew exactly that his every-day tweets could trigger 100,000 people plus to come out and protest. There are votes around this table; sometimes we are going to win the vote, and sometimes we are going to lose the vote depending on what side you are on. It was a six to five vote. This Council was completely comfortable, as Mr. Driggs said, 10. Only one person was like, from the beginning, no, because there were clear concerns about the impact of the diversity of our community and the direction we were going in. I think that there is going to be a lot of work, and whoever is going to be on this Council is going to have to do going into 2020 in order to make our community feel safe. The idea of a recension, the reality of that is none, so even throwing it out there, that is a cute idea. It looks good for the camera, but the reality is the contract was signed. Not just that, the commitments were made, so you do not make a contractual agreement. The time to have said no was when we were in closed session before coming to a public hearing. The majority of people who are emailing us now are people stating, I supported the RNC coming here, but now after what happened in Greenville, I want you to rescind. Well guess what, Greenville isn't new. It has been happening since the man got in office in the first place, so I do not know why all of a sudden, we are like, oh my god I am woken up. He is a racist.

I am going to support the resolution, because it is a great idea. The idea of it, there is no cause, no teeth to it, nothing we can actually enforce. At the end of the day, we have to make a decision as a community of what type of community we want to be. Here is my ask, here is my charge, and here is my challenge to the religious community. Along with everything that was shared, along with the increase number of deaths we have in our community. Along with the housing conversation, religious community you are coming to the table. You are identifying land; you are identifying opportunities. Here is a great opportunity for us to reclaim our neighborhoods, reclaim our communities, reclaim our streets. Here is an opportunity to work with those groups who have been on the ground doing the work all along that are not part of the big fancy groups and have all the executive boards and all the fancy people sitting on their boards. Here is an opportunity for us to show up and say who we are as Charlotte, outside of what this man and what individuals do. We say that only love can conquer hate, but you know what, we are going to have to start proving that. I agree with my colleague, even though it is far and few between. Ed Driggs and I have now worked together many years. We have seen it on both sides where people have automatically jumped at each other. If we are going to make the business case, I made the business case of why it would not be good for our community. My colleagues made the business case of why they thought it would be good for the community. They voted five to six. The question is, how do we move forward now? There

are plenty of times that I have gone the heck off on Twitter regarding what that man has done across the nation. At the end of the day, all we have control over, as hard as it is, is our reaction. So, if we are going to be the people who we claim to be, the people that I believe we want to be, we have got to come together regardless of what he does, regardless of those who want to have hatred in their heart. We are going to have to love them through it. I am not saying do not protect yourself. I am not saying do not pay attention to your surroundings. I am not saying go out blindly. We tell you exactly who we are. I just hope that at some point you all will wake up and recognize that we told you exactly who we are, so it is up to you to believe it.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said one of the advantages of being on this Council long enough is you get to experience things that some of my colleagues probably did not have a chance to. So, this community and this City was so excited when we were awarded the DNC in 2012. It was a whole different excitement. It was a welcoming; it was like a parade every day, and we couldn't wait until 2012. My comment for all of us who sit around this dais, leadership matters. When we take these roles of leadership, our words matter. So, here we are now preparing for 2020, and it doesn't feel good to a lot of folks in Charlotte. I have never been a fan of resolutions myself, but I am so frustrated because if anything, I think that this resolution talks about what type of City Charlotte is. We are the 16th largest city but we have a certain culture, a certain integrity in how we embrace diversity.

Dr. Harlow, thank you for taking the leadership on this resolution. I will be supporting it, and I will ask my Republican colleagues to support it as well, because whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or Independent, you live in the 16th largest city in America called Charlotte, and you should want to protect Charlotte and sent the right message to the White House. We might not control what you say, but we are going to tell you how we feel about it in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I had the opportunity over several days over the weekend to add input to the draft resolution, and I certainly do thank Mr. Harlow for listening to several concerns that many of us had expressed about some of the content, and believe me some of it was removed, and we have a better product, I think one that I will certainly support. I think that my biggest disappointment so far, with just a few exceptions, is the silence from the Presidents own party to rebuke his comments in a manner that clearly separates his views from those committed to decency and civil discourse, and I appreciate the comments of my colleagues, Mr. Bokhari and Mr. Driggs, and I can recall also the many times even in my own neighborhood where I have had Republican elected officials to come and participate in simple things in the neighborhood, like National Night Out; Congressman Hudson, he has been to my neighborhood several times for National Night Out. Robin Hayes, so you look at those individuals and you know just through your dialogue and working with them, from our times going up to Washington to visit our own delegation we have to work with all members of our delegation and different parties of persuasion. You know over the years of just working for them, what is in their hearts. I am in a mystery as to why something like this cannot be called out, because like I said, my biggest disappointment was the silence and lack of wanting to encourage the President to pull back some of this destructive rhetoric in a way that we all could appreciate. I think that the resolution speaks for itself, and I hope we can get to a point to where we can vote it up and down, but I am going to be supporting it.

**Councilmember Egleston** said I am going to be supporting the resolution. I hope that the one thing that could come out of this, to Ms. Mayfield point, and should more of us 18-months ago have stopped and given thought to some of the things that Ms. Mayfield, who was the person who did point out, at that time, maybe so, but we are where we are now. I think that we are focused on making sure that this convention goes as safely and smoothly as possible for Charlotte, but I think one thing that could come out of this resolution, I know that resolutions by nature do not necessarily have any teeth or enforcement mechanism, is I hope that the Republic leadership locally, statewide, national level, this will get their attention in a way that I think that honestly in the wake of the Greenville thing it must have to some degree, because the President the next day kind of tried to separate himself from it. He did not do a great job of doing so, but clearly, I think that the people around him and we even heard from one of the Republican



Congressmen from North Carolina who said, this is bad; we cannot have this associated with our party. I hope that more people will start to feel that way and say that we have got to distance ourselves from this kind of speech, from this kind of rhetoric, from this kind of behavior and attitude. I wouldn't say that I am highly optimistic, but I think that there is a chance, so I hope that in seeing some of the people who said yes, we will allow a party to who we very much disagree with on a lot of things, come and have their convention here, I hope that they will see that some of us who said we will accommodate the convention and allow you to gather here and proceed with the democratic process, as they see us supporting the resolution tonight they will realize that there is a line in the sand at some point and they need to be part of enforcing that, because the President isn't going to listen to Democrats who say this is unacceptable, but he might listen to Republicans who say it is unacceptable, so I hope that more Republicans will step up and start to say this is unacceptable, and I hope that we can continue to move forward with the focus of making sure that this goes as smoothly and as safely as possible for our community, so I will be supporting it tonight.

Mayor Lyles said last week I submitted a post and a statement about the rally, and I am not going to go through that again, but I was really just saying this to the Charlotte Observer Editorial Board; once I read that editorial where they actually talked about this was us, I thought, I wish I had written that. I wish I had had the thoughtfulness around that, so for me, what this means is that we have to double down deeper and figure out where racism and xenophobia and misogyny exist and own it. I can say so many things about the President. He hasn't changed, but what changes us? What makes us better at this? I would hope that this resolution and the way that we got to it, no matter how hard and difficult in examining, and I think that this Council has examined and been very thoughtful about it, but I would say that it is beyond our thoughtfulness. It is actually something for all of us to figure out, why is this still us? Why in this state in North Carolina do we still have that statement, and that statement isn't reflective just- You cannot talk about down east and love the BBQ and hate the people. You have to start thinking about it for all of us across the state. I grew up in the segregated south, so I actually know all of these things, all the phrases that anybody has used. I tell the story about my dad working one day and not getting paid and not being able to come home to his wife and say, for a hard day's work, I wasn't paid, because he was an African American man who had no recourse in life. So, when you talk about what it means to understand racism and misogyny, we all know. I think most of us, even if we do not want to admit it, we know it. We know we have committed it; we know that we disparage people in a way that belittle them, and the thing about this dais and I work hard is that respect for everyone and the ability for everyone to recognize that we can do better all the time.

A vote was taken on the substitute motion and recorded as follows.

YEAS: Councilmembers Bokhari and Driggs

NAYS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mayfield, Mitchell, Newton, Phipps, Winston

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

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

NAYS: Councilmembers Bokhari and Driggs

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 49, Page(s) 747-748.

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## ITEM NO. 20: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS

**Councilmember Newton** said I wanted to briefly mention that Meck PreK, which are classes offered to four-year olds throughout the entire county for pre-k education. One of the quintessential things that promotes upward economic mobility throughout life that is also free. Enrollment for those class is now open. You can go to Meckprek.org. If you have a four-year old or you know someone who does have a four-year old that would like to take advantage of these free pre-k classes, go there and sign up.

**Councilmember Mayfield** said last week, I had the opportunity to join 200 plus of my colleagues from around the nation, African-American elected officials through the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, and I want to share that we are all having the same conversations across the nation regarding housing, small business creation, job creation, access to resources, development. One of the greatest opportunities that we have is to utilize our local communities. We had some really good recommendations and suggestions and sharing the best practice on how a number of our collages across the State are really utilizing their community groups and being lock stock arm in arm with them leading the conversation instead of government trying to lead the conversation, so there are some suggestions and recommendations in there that might be really beneficial to us, but those since it is summer times are about to wind down. If you have the opportunity and you have an hour or so of your time, please sign up as a Harambe reader or freedom school reader to go read to our middle eight grade students, as well as our preschool students and kindergarten. That would be a great way to one fill your heart with love and two to have a positive impact. So, I look forward to seeing my Harambe readers first thing tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m.

**Councilmember Mitchell** said to Herb and Felicia Grey, thank you so much for the success of a great classic. That is an event that the Greys have been doing for quite some time to give back to the 100 Black Men organization. Herb and Felicia thank you for a bang-up job.

Happy Birthday to my aunt, Ms. Lafretta Wallace. Her birthday is today, and in advance, happy birthday to my oldest blessing Kayla who will be celebrating her birthday on Wednesday.

**Mayor Lyles** said I want to wish my lovely daughter Iyesha Alexander happy birthday; I cannot say enough about her. She is now on YouTube, and I am giving a lecture on racial equity and strategy for foundations and philanthropy. She spoke in Charlotte a couple of weeks ago at Bank of America again on how equity impacts the philanthropy in this country. So, Iyesha, I know you are not going to be watching this now, but you are the love of my life in so many ways, my only daughter that gave me a beautiful granddaughter, and I am just so proud of you, so happy birthday. I do not get to say that often; I miss her a lot.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I just want to say that on Friday, Heal Charlotte is going to have a highway cleanup event; they have adopted the highway on Reagan Drive from Sugar Creek Road to North Tryon, and for those of you who know that area, it has been a problem area for a long time, and I am proud of Heal Charlotte for taking it upon themselves to adopt that stretch of highway. They are going to work together as a team to clean it up. It is there first clean up on Friday, July 26 at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to sign up to help, please go to the heal Charlotte Facebook page and you can sign up under their community clean up event.

**Councilmember Winston** said I have to say happy birthday to my mother, Stella Winston whose birthday was this past Friday who might be watching in New York City. She tunes in every once in a while, so happy birthday mom.

On a little heavier note, I would send my wishes for quick healing to one of our City employees, a bus driver that was shot today at the Charlotte Transit Center just a few blocks from here. I do not know too many of the details; what I do know is that it has been

said time and time again from this dais, we have to treat each other better. We have a problem in this City and state and country where somehow not enough of us are equipped to deal with our conflicts and disagreements with words and thoughtfulness. This continues an alarming trend in our City, but again, I know that we have a lot of people at this dais, within our organization, and within our City that are doing work to put a stop to this, but again I wish to our City employee, our bus driver a quick and speedy recovery after this unnecessary, tragic [inaudible].

**Councilmember Driggs** said so, since we are making personal announcements, I would like to announce that my son Ted proposed to his girlfriend Jackie this week. She accepted, and we are thrilled about that, so Ted and Jackie, congratulations, much love to you both, and good luck with the future.

**Councilmember Egleston** said shout out to Salem Egleston, the newest member of the Egleston family who is an eight-year old miniature poodle. He is settling in nicely.

Mayor Lyles said I wanted to do one other thing; our next Council meeting will be August 26, but National Night Out is August 6, so the City will be busy with all of the neighborhood meetings that are doing this, and I think that they are getting bigger and better every year. We will continue to take that break and have everyone spend some time away. I did want to mention to the Council, I will be out of town tomorrow, because as a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank, we have continued to participate in their housing program, and they have awarded us a \$400,000 grant that we have put into down payment assistance, and we are applying for an additional \$500,000 grant that would help us in some of the areas that we want to try for some of our newer, more experimental, and innovative programs.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Harlow, seconded by Councilmember Egleston and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.
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The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Meeting Length: 6 Hours, 41 Minutes  
Meeting Completed: August 14, 2019