

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Dinner Briefing on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 5:37 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Al Austin, John Autry, Edmund Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers LaWana Mayfield and James Mitchell

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**Mayor Roberts** said I am going to explain a little bit about our agenda. We had some Dinner Briefing items on Airport Technology, and those are going to be rescheduled, so if you are here to hear about those, they will be at a later date. We are going to reschedule our appointments to Boards and Commission; there were several appointments that were on our agenda to various Boards and Commissions, and we are going to reschedule those. We are going to conduct a public hearing for a street closure. The public hearing for the General Obligation Refunding Bonds needs to be done in the Chamber in open session, so we will do those at 6:30 p.m. We are going to do Consent Items here in the Dinner Meeting as well.

The other thing I want to announce is that we will extend the Citizens' Forum, which will take place in the Chamber, by adding up to two hours of citizens' comments, beginning at the conclusion of speakers who have previously signed up to speak, and there are nine of those. Individuals may sign up to speak during this additional two-hour time period in the Lobby of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center. There will be a table in the lobby for people to sign up to speak during that additional time. Each speaker, including those nine who previously signed up on different topics, will be limited to 90 seconds. That is in order that we have time to hear as many folks as we can. Speakers are not allowed to yield their time to someone else.

**Councilmember Kinsey** said is there still a stop time at 9:00 p.m.?

Mayor Roberts said it will be a two hour time period from when the last speaker, so it will be pretty closes to 9:00 p.m. Our Attorney said it is better to limit it to two-hours.

Ms. Kinsey said I wish we had known that earlier.

Mayor Roberts said if we start at 6:30 p.m. and we have a few speakers that will be 9:00 p.m.

**Councilmember Driggs** said are we going to have a fixed number of speakers, or are we just going to cut off and whoever is signed after that let them speak?

Mayor Roberts said that is correct because sometimes people don't show up or don't stay the whole time and instead of saying a certain number of speakers we will let people know throughout that process that we are going to cut it off at two-hours. As we get further into the two-hours, people will know when we are not getting close to their number that they are probably not going to get a chance to speak.

**Ron Kimble, Interim City Manager** said Mayor I believe the City Clerk has checked with the speakers that were signed up under your regular Citizens' Forum and have they indicated that none of those people intend to show up tonight.

**Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk** said all ten of those have requested to be moved to October 10, 2016, so the nine that are there are people that were on the waiting list.

Mayor Roberts said we have nine from the waiting list that will now be moved up, and again we couldn't reach them I guess, and we don't know if they will come or not. We will start with those and the two-hour extension will start when those are finished.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Austin, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, with the exception of Item No. 45 which has been settled.

**Item No. 16: 2016 Justice Assistance Grant**

(A) Accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$493,021 from the Justice Assistance Grant Program, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 8130-X appropriating \$493,021 in grant funds from the U. S. Department of Justice.

The ordinance is recorded in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 225.

**Item No. 17: U.S. Department of Justice DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program**

(A) Accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$306,102 to continue funding four existing DNA positions and a quality assurance audit in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department DNA Crime Laboratory Division, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 8131-X appropriating \$306,102 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice and an estimated \$20,000 generated from program income through agreements between the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and other Mecklenburg County police agencies to process DNA samples.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Pages 226-227.

**Item No. 18: Emergency Rescue Equipment**

(A) Approve the purchase of Hurst Jaws of Life products, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G.S. 143-129(e)(6), (B) Approve a contract with Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. for the purchase of Hurst Jaws of Life products 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 City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 19: Fire Uniform Shirts**

(A) Award unit price contracts to the following lowest responsible bidders for the purchase of fire uniform shirts for the initial term of three years: MES Carolinas and Reads Uniforms, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two additional one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Summary of Bids**

MES Carolinas	\$ 799,056.20
Reads Uniforms	\$ 807,147.74
Madhouz Fire	\$1,245,230.85
Galls	\$ 335,700.75

**Item No. 20: Fire Light Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans**

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Ben Mynatt Chevrolet for the purchase of light duty pickup trucks and passenger vans for one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to four additional, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Summary of Bids**

Ben Mynatt Chevrolet	\$569,503.26
Parks Chevrolet	\$577,076.00
Steve Moore Chevrolet	\$585,515.00

**Item No. 21: 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,032,761 on behalf of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization with RS&H Architects-Engineers-Planners, Inc. for assistance with the preparation of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

**Item No. 22: Cost Estimation Tool for Metropolitan Transportation Plan for Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

Approve a contract on behalf of the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization in the amount not to exceed \$400,000 with HNTB of North Carolina, P.C. for the development of a cost estimation application to be used in the preparation of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and other transportation planning tasks in the Charlotte Region.

**Item No. 23: Metropolitan Planning Program Grant Municipal Agreement**

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to support transit-planning activities for the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 657.

**Item No. 24: Municipal Agreement to widen Lakeview Road**

(A) Adopt a resolution to authorize the City Manager to execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and accept \$9,000,000 in Bonus Allocation funding for improvements along Lakeview Road in association with North Carolina Department of Transportation Lakeview Direct Connect Interchange project, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 8132-X-appropriating \$9,000,000 in North Carolina Department of Transportation funds.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 658-659.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 228.

**Item No. 25: Intelligent Transportation Systems Project**

Award a contract in the amount of \$1,528,198.89 to the lowest responsive bidder, Whiting Construction Company, Inc. for the Intelligent Transportation Systems Project.

**Summary of Bids**

Whiting Construction Co., Inc.	\$1,528,198.89
ALS	\$1,873,846.92
Brooks-Berry Haynie & Associates, Inc.	\$2,010,168.64

**Item No. 26: Traffic Signal Communication Infrastructure**

Award a contract in the amount of \$188,922 to the lowest responsive bidder, Whiting Construction Co., Inc. for traffic signal construction activities.

**Summary of Bids**

Whiting Construction Co., Inc.	\$188,922.00
Utility Service Contractors, Inc.	\$203,711.00
Bryant Electric Repair & Construction, Inc.	\$229,971.25
ALS of North Carolina, Inc.	\$378,928.78

**Item No. 27: Specialized Roadway Construction Services**

(A) Award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$4,852,550 to the lowest responsive bidder Zoladz Construction Co., Inc. for Specialized Roadway Construction Services (Fiscal Year 2017 C), (B) Award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 to the lowest responsive bidder B & N Grading, Inc. for Specialized Roadway Construction Services (Fiscal Year 2017 D), (C) Award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$2,272,137.50 to the lowest responsive bidder Red Clay Industries Inc. for Specialized Roadway Construction Services (Fiscal Year 2017 E), and (D) Authorize the City Manager to approve up to two renewals and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

**Summary of Bids**

**FY2017 C**

Zoladz Construction Co. Inc.	\$4,852,550.00
Blythe Development Company	\$5,446,750.00
Carolina Cajun Concrete, Inc.	\$5,471,050.00
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$5,943,700.00

**FY2017 D**

B & N Grading, Inc.	\$ 500,000.00
Red Clay Industries	\$ 504,540.00
Carolina Cajun Concrete, Inc.	\$ 528,550.00
Armen Construction	\$ 747,550.00
Blythe Development Co.	\$ 797,150.00

**FY2017 E**

Red Clay Industries, Inc.	\$2,272,137.50
Carolina Cajun Concrete, Inc.	\$2,448,500.00
J. T. Russell and Sons, Inc.	\$2,548,500.00
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$2,548,600.00
Blythe Development Company	\$2,696,500.00

**Item No. 28: Storm Water Incidental Water Equality Services**

(A) Award a contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,325,645.82 to the lowest responsive bidder Onsite Development, LLC for the Storm Water Incidental Water Quality Services Fiscal Year 2017 project, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to approve up to two renewals and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

**Summary of Bids**

Onsite Development, LLC	\$1,325,645.82
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,995,601.30
Blythe Development Co.	\$2,866,329.50

**Item No. 29: Airport Centralized Receiving and Distribution Center**

(A) Approve contract in the amount of \$360,150 to LS3P Associates, LTD for project planning and scope services for a centralized receiving and distribution center, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 8133-X appropriating \$360,150 from the 2016 Bond Anticipation Notes Proceeds to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 229.

**Item No. 30: Airport Longo Term Parking Lots 1 and 2 Shuttle Lane Repair**

Award a contract in the amount of \$351,125.25 to the lowest responsive bidder, The Lane Construction Corporation for the long-term parking lot reclamation project.

**Summary of Bids**

The Lane Construction Corporation *	\$334,405.00
Carolina Site Concepts	\$399,625.00
Blythe Construction, Inc.	\$440,032.50
Showalter Construction Company, Inc.	\$550,995.00

\* The award amount includes additional contingency amounts in the contract.

**Item No. 31: Airport Terminal Lobby Expansion Phase 1**

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$4,962,659 with GS&P/NC, P.C. for programming and design services for the Terminal Lobby Expansion, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 8134-X appropriating \$4,962,659 from the 2016 Bond Anticipation Notes Proceeds to the Aviation Community Investment Plan Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 230.

**Item No. 32: Blue Line Extension Landscape Installation Contracts**

Award the contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Champion Landscapes, Inc. for Landscape Installation as part of the Blue Line Extension Project: \$384,947 for Segment B, \$485,280 for Segment C, and \$183,320 for Old Concord Road Park and Ride Lot.

**Summary of Bids**

**Segment B**

Champion Landscapes, Inc.	\$384,946.32
Ingle & Son Landscape, Inc.	\$614,685.67
Metrolina Landscape Company	\$864,321.96

**Segment C**

Champion Landscapes, Inc.	\$485,279.72
Ingle & Son Landscape, Inc.	\$578,746.77
Metrolina Landscape Company	\$818,871.90

**Segment F**

Champion Landscapes, Inc.	\$183,319.40
Ingle & Son Landscape, Inc.	\$204,843.87
Metrolina Landscape Company	\$242,933.90

**Item No. 33: LYNX Blue Line Extension Maintenance Shops and Exhaust Fans Upfit**

Award a contract in the amount of \$2,665,999.60 to the lowest responsive bidder, China Construction America of South Carolina, Inc. for the construction of the Maintenance Shops and Exhaust Fans Upfit project.

**Summary of Bids**

China Construction America of South Carolina, Inc.	\$2,665,999.60
TEC Electric, LLC	\$3,091,000.00
New Atlantic Contracting, Inc.	\$3,135,000.00

**Item No. 34: Innovation & Technology Department Training Contract Amendment**

(A) Approve contract amendment #1 in the estimated amount of \$125,000 with OneTeam Leadership, LLC for continued consulting Services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for one additional, one-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Item No. 35: Mail Remittance Depository Services**

Authorize the City Manager to designate Branch Banking & Trust as the City's official depository.

**Item No. 36: refund of Property and Business Privilege License Taxes**

(A) Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessor error in the amount of \$1,542.55, and (B) Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of business privilege license payments in the amount of \$43.75.

The resolutions are recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 660-661 and 662-663.

**PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

**Item No. 37: Sale of City Property: 8500 Idlewild Road**

(A) Adopt a resolution proposing to accept the offer in the amount of \$9,000 from Jose P. Sanchez to purchase 0.46 acres of vacant land at 8500 Idlewild Road (parcel identification number 165-101-03), and (B) Authorize the advertisement of the proposed sale for upset bids in accordance with the resolution and authorize the City manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the sale of the property in accordance with the resolution.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 664-665.

**Item No. 38: Exchange of Right-of-Way along the LYNX Light Rail Corridor – Atherton Mill LLC**

(A) Adopt a resolution authorizing an exchange of right-of-way between the City of Charlotte and Atherton Mill (E&A) LLC or its successors and assigns (property owner) involving parcel tax identification #12103109, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents to complete the exchange of right-of-way between the City of Charlotte and Property Owner.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 666-667.

**Item No. 39: Airport Property Transactions – Lot on Snow Ridge Lane**

Acquisition of 12.418 acres on Snow Ridge Lane from Hang Nhut Doan for \$185,000 and all relocation benefits in compliance with Federal, State or Local regulations for Airport Environmental Impact Statement Mitigation Lane.

**Item No. 40: Property Transaction – City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #54**

Resolution of condemnation of 122.46 square feet, .003 acre in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 13.58 square feet in Utility Easement at 1601-1635 West Trade Street from Mosaic Village Holdings, LLC for \$1,100 for City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #54.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 668.

**Item No. 41: Property Transactions – City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #56**

Resolution of condemnation of 196,44 square feet, .005 acre in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 127.86 square feet, .003 acre in Utility Easement at 1545 West Trade Street from West End Investments – Charlotte, LLC for \$2,325 for City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #56.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 669.

**Item No. 42: Property Transactions – City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #58**

Resolution of condemnation of 254.38 square feet, .006 acre in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 147.54 square feet, .003 acre in Utility Easement at 1527-1535 West Trade Street from West End Investments – Charlotte, LLC for \$2,100 for City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #58.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 670.

**Item No. 43: Property Transactions – City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcels #63, 65 and 67**

Resolution of condemnation of 2,292.51 square feet, .053 acre in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 705.21 square feet, .016 acre in Waterline Easement, plus 228.54 square feet, .005 acre in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 153.86 square feet, .004 acre in Utility Easement at 1512-1520 West Trade Street from TA&S Enterprise of NC, Inc. for \$37,150 for City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2; Parcels 63, 65 and 67.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 671.

**Item No. 44: Property Transactions – City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #69**

Resolution of condemnation of 760.42 square feet, .017 acre in Waterline Easement at 1500 West Trade Street from 1500 West Trade, LLC for \$4,850 for City LYNX Gold Line Streetcar Phase 2, Parcel #69.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 47, at Page 672.

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF GREENWOOD CLIFF**

**Ron Kimble, Interim City Manager** said Agenda Item No. 7 is the public hearing on the resolution to consider closing a portion of Greenwood Cliff, and staff would recommend that you continue the public hearing to November 14, 2016.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs and seconded by Councilmember Kinsey to continue the public hearing to close a portion of Greenwood Cliff to November 14, 2016. The Pearl Park Tax Increment Grant was/will be considered as follows: Mecklenburg County Economic Development Committee: September 19, 2016, Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners: October 4, 2016.

**Councilmember Phipps** said is there a limit on the amount of time that an item like this can be deferred?

Mr. Kimble said I believe there is as long as Council consents to it, but now you will see specific dates where we anticipate that the County will be willing to consider action. We've had this in committee; there was a presentation I believe last Monday, and it will be coming to Council and then back to Committee, and we think this will line up with your November 14, 2016 agenda for potential consideration, and we are trying to line everything up for that date. If it all goes as planned, the County is likely to have taken all of its action by the time this comes to you for consideration.

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

**Mayor Roberts** said we can't start the public hearing for the refunding bonds until 6:30 p.m.; is that correct?

Mr. Kimble said that is correct and you will do that in the Chamber as your first business item at 6:30 p.m. Your one and only business item for 6:30 p.m., and the other would be the Citizens' Forum waiting list and then the extended Citizens' Forum. The reason we are waiting is because we advertised the bonds for 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was recessed at 5:45 p.m. to move to the Council Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

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**BUSINESS MEETING**

The City Council of the City of Charlotte reconvened for the Citizens' Forum and Business Meeting on Monday, September 26, 2016, at 6:24 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Al Austin, John Austin, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

**ABSENT:** Councilmembers LaWana Mayfield and James Mitchell.

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**Mayor Roberts** said we have extended the Citizens' Forum by two hours to allow more time; our typical meeting allows only 10 speakers, but in the interest of hearing from the public, we are extended that by two hours. Also in the interest of hearing as many people as possible, we are going to limit each speak to a minute and a half. We have a process for signing up out in the lobby; our Clerk will get those names to me, and I will be calling out your name to have you come down to speak, and you can use either of the two podiums. We recognize that this is a time when people have very strong feelings about incidents in our community. I want to remind everyone this is a formal meeting of the City Council; we are on live stream video, and it will be recorded on the website. I'm asking for decorum and respect; we want to listen to each speaker. We want to hear

each speaker, and if we have as few interruptions during speaking and in between, that will help us hear. I also want to point out that during a Citizens' Forum the Council and Mayor are here to listen; it is a time for us to not speak and not respond but for us to hear from you our citizens. I am very hopeful that we will have a smooth process so we can hear as many folks as possible in the time that we have this evening. We appreciate so much your cooperation, and we will work together to make this a productive time to hear from everyone.

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### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Reverend Ray McKinnon gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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### PUBLIC HEARING

#### ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS

**Mayor Robert** declared the hearing open.

There being no speaker, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Austin, seconded by Councilmember Kinsey, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilmember Lyles, seconded by Councilmember Austin, and carried unanimously to (B) adopt the bond order and resolution to provide the issuance of General Obligation Refunding Bonds in the amount not to exceed \$150 million, and (C) adopt a resolution to authorize a new construction period financing program for us to \$150 million to be used for projects approved in the 2010 and 2014 referendums.

The resolution is recorded in Resolution Book 47, at Pages 623-656.

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### CITIZENS' FORUM

**Mayor Roberts** said first, I want to extend condolences to both the Scott and Carr families. I also wanted to take a moment to thank our officers, police, fire, medic, as well as every City of Charlotte Department, from Solid Waste Services to CATS to so many of our employees who have gone above and beyond to keep our community safe while also allowing citizens to be heard. I also want to thank our State Troopers and our National Guard, who have been here as well to provide community safety. Our Police Officers are tasked with an immensely difficult task; they serve a remarkable, vibrant, and changing community. Their response to this week's crisis and their hard work to protect all citizens is a testament both to their training and their love of this City; however, in order for us to restore trust with all of our community, I have spoken with officials in Loretta Lynch's Department of Justice to monitor the investigation into Mr. Scott's death and to review our procedures more broadly. I know that an increased commitment to sharing of information, coupled with a Justice Department review of our procedures, will help point to changes we can make to insure that we live up to our promise of spreading opportunity and restoring trust. In the coming days, weeks, and months, I and the members of the City Council will lead a series of Town Hall Meetings across the City, to work with our community and discuss what we can do better in sharing information and what actions we can take to restore trust and most important to improve the lives of people who live here. We look forward to working with our community partners to implement the recommendations of the Opportunity Task Force, and those should be out soon, recommendations about what we can do to spread opportunity across our City. We will be hearing many important ideas, but now with renewed focus we must make a commitment to implement them to take action. Thank you all for caring about our great city; thank you all for caring about the future for all of us. With that, I will call on the speakers who are here.

### **Support Police Chief Kerr Putney**

**Marcus Philemon, 325 Fannie Circle** said I am a citizen of Mecklenburg County and a Charlotte native. I'm here tonight for two reasons, the first reason is to thank all parties involved who were part of the decision making process for making our current Police Chief, Kerr Putney our Chief. The other reason is to express support and appreciate for our Chief, Kerr Putney. One of the few comforting moments during this trying time is know that we've had someone very competent representing our City nationally. I have personally worked with Chief Putney, not only with our program CharMeck Court Watch, but other community involvement programs that help insure a safe community to reside in. I've found the Chief to be a man of very high integrity who does what he says and is dedicated to the public safety of all in our community. I decided to speak tonight to maybe offset the conversation and calls for our Police Chief to resign. I'm sure you will hear a lot of emotional testimony tonight based on how people are feeling about our current situation. I am here to remind our Councilmembers that although expressions of feelings are important, feelings can't outweigh or ignore facts.

### **Wrongful Death of Keith Scott**

**Nichel Dunlap, 1412 Baxter Street** said first I would like to take this opportunity to tell you thank you for allowing me this minute and a-half to speak. Away from that minute and a-half, we came here let us be heard you all. Let's do this decent and in order. Last evening, when the protestors walked through my neighborhood, 1412 Baxter Street on the other side of Queens Road there were several police officers; there were fire department workers. There were medic that were driving close by, and I don't know if they were there for us or if they were there for that area. I came out of my house, and I immediately joined the protesters. We got to Presbyterian Hospital right at Fourth Street and Hawthorne Lane; there were over 200 officers that blocked that intersection that did not allow us to go any further. When we got to Seigle Avenue no-one followed us; the helicopter even left the sky. You all showed us last night, the route that we took, showed us how much you all do not care about us. We have voted you all into these positions; would you all please start to do your job? Our lives matter, we mean something; the tax bracket has nothing to do with it, because at the end of the day you all know for yourself that this is not justice.

### **Protests in Charlotte**

**Kevin Marcuse, 13824 Queens Harbor Road** said first, I want to offer by condolences to the Carr and Scott families. I have lived in Charlotte, North Carolina for 25-years, and I've lived in uptown for many years; I own a small business in uptown Charlotte. I attended the peaceful protest on Tryon and Fifth on Wednesday night; I came back uptown at 8:00 p.m. that night, because I saw what was transpiring, and it obviously unnerved me, and I'm sure everyone in this room. I went up there to kind of protect my business, try to speak to protestors, try to understand what is happening. I understand the anger that people feel. I was angered by what happened in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and I think people were angered last year when an unarmed man was shot in South Carolina. I'm not going to get into the specifics of this particular case, but I think the anger in this room was what we saw for the last five or six days in Charlotte, and we need to come together as a group and rationally, calmly try to figure out a solution here, because if we don't this is going to get much worse.

### **Extended Citizens' Forum**

**Charles Carson, 9551 University Terrace Drive** said I am a spiritual minister; I'm also the director of Charles Carson Ministries of North Carolina, a non-profit. I will start out by saying condolences to the Scott and Tyson Family, and we are praying for you. My body of believers are praying for you. Keep fighting for the cause. I'm here to speak on the social justice dilemma that affected our City on many dimensions this week. I think it is prudent and reasonable to say that a lack of judgment and accountability is and has been a major issue in our City and the United States. It is embarrassing on how the City chose authoritarian methods that presented to be excessive at some points, and this is evident by many of the peaceful protestors, including my professor at UNC-C who teach criminal procedure being assaulted by police officers using tear gas and rubber bullets. I urge this City to reconsider who you are being advised by, and I urge this City to seek spiritual and community leaders on how to better create a community oriented policing plan on how to deal better with the protest and measures of social diplomacy to foster a better report with the

community at large and noted African American community at large who has served your community going way back. Some of you up here, it was our parents who watched you. They clothed you. They cleaned your houses for your parents.

**Raymond Carver, 9001 Nations Ford Road** said I'm going to start off by saying, I'm not even going to speak on the many injustices that we as Charlotteans, as black men and women, as equal citizens in this country and in this state have had to endure; however, what I will speak on is this: you talk about equal opportunity, how about putting some after school programs in some of these impoverished communities that you have here in Charlotte? I own a barber shop in this community, and I see both sides of the fence. I see children that don't have the family at home to teach them what they need to know because they have to work two and three jobs in order to feed those children. I look at the impoverished every day, and I look at the wealthy as well, and I see the difference in between them. The main difference in between what we have to deal with on a day to day basis when you are talking about the color barrier is white society has the opportunity to only have to worry about in general where their next dollar is going to be spent. We as African Americans, because we've been injustice impoverished and been educated with a very minimal education throughout generations, not all of us, but throughout generations, we have to settle for worrying about how we are going to make our next dollar instead of how we are going to spend it. We know how we are going to spend it, on bills, on taking care of our children. You want to give us equal opportunity in this community, stop spending money on the police force and start spending money on these children.

**Rev. Philip Benham, 761 Harris Street, Concord** said here is a word, the best word you are going to hear because it comes right from the Word of God. See how the faithful city has become a harlot; she was once full of justice and righteousness that used to dwell in her, but now murders your silver has become dross, your choice wine diluted with water, your rulers are rebels, companions and thieves. They all love bribes and chase after gifts; they do not defend the cause of the fatherless, the widows case does not come before them; therefore, the Lord Almighty has spoken to you on July 25, 2016 these very words that if you continue this rebellion against Almighty God, blood is going to course down the corridors of our schools, our work places and our streets. You need to turn back to Him; it is you that unleashed hell in our City when you tried to say that boys and girls are not dead; you did it. Now repent Jennifer Roberts in the name of Jesus Christ, because if He doesn't fix us there is no National Guard, no Department of Justice that can fix, because there is not an army big enough to make a man do what is right, but there is a King named Jesus that if he gets in the heart of that young man he will set him free. Instead of laying everybody else life down, he will lay His life down for others. That is the truth.

**Henry Lee, 945 North College Street** said first and foremost I would like to give my condolence to the families, and I'm also here to ask for Chief Putney and your resignation Mayor. This is all you're doing, the way it was handled, the secrecy, the lies. We don't deserve this; innocent people are losing their lives, and you are backing these people with your policies and your procedures. You do not deserve to be the Mayor of this fine City. You are on the verge of bringing this fine City to its knees, and there is no need to, because as a people we are loving. We are caring; we are kind. You shake your head no. Don't shake your head.

**Mayor Roberts** said I am nodding.

Mr. Lee said you need to step down. You and Putney the Chief, he needs to go too.

**Pierre Gee, 3851 Brookchase Lane** said I'm here to speak all "minorities." We put a lot of these people on the panel into office; we put people in the county level in office, people in the state level in office, people in the federal level in office to get stabbed in the back, to get shot in the chest, to get shot in the head, repeatedly. We've been fighting the same war for 397 years, so my challenge to each and every one of you, be methodical and hold your vote. Do not put another person who does not represent us, who sends billions of dollars overseas to others who are "suffering" when we have oppression and suffering in our communities. Let's get methodical and come up with a plan since these people don't want to represent us; you don't speak for us. You don't represent us, and until you represent us we should not give you our devotion, because you are not deserving. I challenge each and every one of you to hold your vote until someone actually fills the policy that speaks to you.

**Reverend Trevor Beauford, 300 North Summit Avenue** said as I stand here tonight, it pains me to know that there is a wife preparing to bury her husband and children preparing to bury their father. We are in crisis, but a crisis reveals one's true character, so tonight Mayor and members of Council, we need to see and hear your true character. We need leadership that is willing to stand up and speak boldly for truth and justice. This isn't a time for leaders to hide behind PC statements. Our police department is responsible for the safety of our City, but they are overseen by a City Manager who is voted on by members of Council. Please say something about police transparency; please be bold and say something about a strengthened Citizens' Review Board. Say something about a man who died and deserves a full investigation. Say something to no more business as usual. It is not what is easy or PC but what is a true testament of your character; what you see when you look at yourself in the mirror in the morning, your character. If you are silent or not saying anything that silence is deafening to your people.

**Dennis Reed, Jr., 3811 Yorkford Drive** said my condolences to the family as well. I'm a Charlottean. As many of you guys know on the Council, I serve the community through non-profits reaching out to hundreds of youth. When situations like this arise, as a community leader, I wonder what to do. Completely dumfounded, completely astounded, watching Facebook live, seeing how it was young people who took to the streets in anger and rage, and I knew that I couldn't be silent, and I knew that I couldn't stand back just do nothing; therefore, I found it appropriate to join my brothers and sisters in protest. Being the voice of young people and hearing them, I saw young people crying out, and the only thing I will say to this Council is that young people represent about 20% of our population in this City and 100% of our future. I urge you guys to do what is right, the same thing that we expect of our young people, accountability, taking responsibility for your actions, strong leadership. That is what I urge you to do; again, my prayers are going out to our City and thank you for your time.

**Claire Middleton, 2831 Heather Glen Lane** said condolences to the family and to our City. My question is, what is going on in terms of the people who are hired to be police? Are they being exposed to any kind of diversity training and being held for how they feel about different issues? If that is not in place, it certainly needs to be in place. If it is in place, it needs to be improved. I also want to quickly address the idea of not voting. Our sisters and brothers laid down their lives to be able to vote.

**Theresa McCormick-Dunlap, 204 Sylvania Avenue** said there were some predictions made the last time we were here, and they have dismally come true. There is blood in the street flowing from black bodies in the streets of Charlotte; there is a riotous energy in the air. We are at a time when we have a decision to make as a City; we can dismantle a system that has never worked for some of us and can only be described as terribly, terribly wrong, or we can try to continue with business as usual. We can continue to fight each other, but I will say this, only fools fight in a lifeboat, only fools. I don't have much to say tonight except Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Council, City of Charlotte, what will we do next? The honest is upon us, amen?

**Kass Ottley, 5112 Sunburst Lane** said I wasn't really planning to speak this evening, but I kind of come with a list of demands, because we've come here several times before, and it seems like there is some kind of disconnect, and I'm not really sure what it is. We've come here three or four times; we talked about police reform. We talked about some of the things we need and still nothing is being done, but our people are still dying in the street. At this time, we demand an independent investigation into the killing of Keith Scott and also into the killing of Justin Carr, the protestor that was shot in the crowd by an officer. He was not shot by a civilian, and they know that, and that is what sparked the riot that ensued after that. It was a peaceful protest up until that point. We were shot with tear gas; we had pastors shot. We had cameramen shot, and we need an independent investigation into that. Also, need Chief Putney to step down; we cannot trust him. He has not been honest; he has done a disservice, not only to the police department and the way he is leading the police department, but also in the way he is treating the community. We were treated like criminals; we were protesting. We had a very diverse group. We were peaceful; we were chanting, and then all of a sudden, they are shooting tear gas into the crowd, and they are wondering why it escalated. That is why it escalated so we can't have this going on in Charlotte. All of this funding that is going to the police department for all of these military things they have it needs to be put into the community.

**Melissa Kirchner, 10016 Forest View Lane** said I am a Charlottean; I'm a wife of a black man, I'm a grandmother of black kids, young grandkids. What you all are doing to our City right now is ridiculous. You are making it unsafe for my grandkids; you are putting innocent people in jail like my husband. You are not doing full investigations and when you all get reports from these federal informants, and I'm completely tired of it. I have to read everything you all do; I have to do my own investigation. I got a brother who was a lawyer; I'm getting tired of this. You are spending money on stuff that has nothing to do with our City and our community and our black people and my husband and my heritage. I want it done; I'm not paying taxes for no reason, so use those taxes we are paying to do something about it and do more training to these police officers, because I'm tired of it. I'm tired of my people being killed; I'm tired of my grandkids being scared. I can't even do anything with my grandkids. I'm tired of it. Thank you for letting me talk.

**Amanda Moss, 3200 Sudbury Road** said the first thing I want to say is condolence to the Scott, Carr and all the families affected by the police brutality across the United States. We do not want any more uniform officers until they have been thoroughly trained in psychology and human behavior and understanding of human motivation. Until they understand why we do what we do, they need not be on the streets anymore. I have a 10-year old son; we need to know my son is black. He has wanted to be a police officer his entire life, until a week ago. My son does not trust the police anymore. I don't trust the police, and I fear for his life. I have a degree in psychology; if I can understand human motivation and behavior then, there is no reason why our uniformed men and women cannot understand why humans behave the way they do, what causes us to behave the way they do, and how to respond to humans when behaving the way they do.

**Tashia James, 1264 Polk Street** said I am a mother of a young black son; Taje is my son, and he will speak next. I'm here; I don't have any demands like everybody else. My demand is I shouldn't have to expect anything different from my son than anybody else in the community. I pay taxes; you make sure of that, and when I don't you come and get yours. I should not have to explain to you why son is important. We were protesting and let me put it in a different term. We have the Cancer Walks. We race for the cure. We fight for the cure. We have catch and the predator. My son has a life threatening disease right now, and it is called cops killing black people, and I think we should be able to protest without being treated like criminals. My 10-year old baby was in that street on Wednesday night; he was protesting along with us for his right to live. My baby was afraid, not because of the black people, he was stark scared of the police because they were standing there point guns at everybody black, not just black men, not black women, black children, so what I need you to do is make sure that you know that my child, just like everybody up there, is important, and I want you to think real hard and tell me the things that you would not do to save your child from dying, name anything because those are the exact same things that I would not do. There is nothing that I would not do, so I need you to remember my face and my name and his name and his face, because if anything were to ever happen, what we saw on Wednesday night is a very minor turn out.

**Taje Gaddy, 1264 Polk Street** said I attend Croft Community School, but I live in Greenville. The reason why I'm here is to protect the black community, because every morning when I wake up I'm scared that I will grow up to be black man. I'm here to protest for my kind; I hope that black people don't go extinct. I'm mad, but I'm also sad that all these police think they have the right to kill all these black people for no reason. They kill them all over America for no reason.

**Nicole Jackson, 1264 Polk Street** said I came here about to say something, but after hearing an eight-year old child say he fears not growing up to be a grown man, that is a problem, and I'm very emotional about it. I'm disgusted with our leadership because if you all lack integrity, morals, self-respect and dignity, then what does that mean for the rest of the citizens? If you are going to continue to kill us for protesting peacefully, if you are going to continue to kill us because we are black, if you are going to continue to kill us for no reason, then why are you taking our taxes? Give us our tax dollars back, all of it. It is a shame that we have to fear officers that serve and made an oath to protect our community; that is a shame. It is a shame that I cannot go down the street without fearing if I get stopped what would I do and if that is the case, if your officers can break proper protocol, is it okay for me to shoot back, because I fear for my life? Is it okay, because your officers are breaking the law? So, can I protect me and my family? Can I shoot back and not be send under the jail for protecting myself? I need that question answered right now. Can I shoot back, because I fear for my own life?

**Elsie Marie Greene, 3307 Pikes Peak Drive, Gastonia** said I kind of feel like we've had this conversation before. Looking into your eyes reminds me of the evening of September 20, 2016 and September 21, 2016 when we were approached by officers who wouldn't look us in the eyes, absolutely cold and sole less of no affect, just like you this evening. You have rolled from name to name, not allowing anyone a moment to feel what the last speaker felt. You have smiled and welcomed people, and it is interesting to me that the Reverend that did the invocation was the same Reverend who put out his stole that covered the camera right after Justin Carr was murdered. I looked him in his eyes, and I cussed him out. He covered a camera after a man was murdered at my feet. The man laid at my feet and died; he was dead. He was not put on life support, he was not shot by a fellow protestor. He was shot by a police officer. I know because I was shot with a rubber bullet. I'm four feet, 11 inches, 164.8 pounds, and I was shot by a rubber bullet. Someone looked at me, sized me up, aimed at me, and you better hope you are not next.

**Tameshia Byrd, 415 Pine Lane** said I just want to say how many more young black men are we going to bury; how many more women are not coming home? How many times are we going to have this conversation? Every single year somebody gets shot; we protest, we march, we come to the Council, people give us answers, and there are no answers. How many more times are these people going to be heartbroken? How many more times are people going to fear for their life? Do you all have an answer? Do you all really have an answer that can help people? I am so heartbroken right now, because I grew up in this City in Hidden Valley. Matter of fact one of my friends brother is a police officer. This man raised me; this man baby sat me, and I'm sitting here right now trying to figure out why in the hell there is a black body being buried because a police officer shot him, while he was waiting for his son? Why are we having this conversation? Can we just not get it together, can people just not sit down and have a solution? Does it have to be this? Do I have to be here and do these people have to be here explaining their case pleading with people to say hey, could you stop killing us? Could you stop pointing guns at us? This makes no d--- sense; we are grown people, and we are still fueled by hate. Hate is why we are here; hate is why people do not want to come to a decision of how the hell we treat each other.

**Isaiah Milton, 815 East 15th Street** said I am here because since I was born I've been fed this story of American Dream, a county of equal opportunity, a country where a man and a woman can come here from poverty and die wealthy. I was born here, and this government and this country has proven to me that that is nothing further from the truth. As I got older, I realized the American Dream wasn't meant for woke individuals; that is why it is called the American Dream. Your eyes are closed if you believe this. Your eyes are closed to what is going around; you don't see the corruption in the system to make money off our black and brown brothers and sisters that lack justice when time after time our unknown people of color are shot down and even if we get an indictment, we rarely ever get a conviction. I'm here for a call for justice and for hope that our officers actually practice, protect, and serve rather than comply or die.

**Justin Stewart, 3408 Avalon Avenue** said my condolence to the Carr Family and my condolence to all parties involved. Dr. King once famously said if you can't fly then run. If you can't run then walk. If you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have got to keep going forward. Tonight, I employ the City of Charlotte to just simply bite the bullet and give up on the corrupt politicians, to give up on their political donors, to come together and declare that Patsy Kinsey in the first District is done, that Al Austin in the second District done, that LaWana Mayfield in the third District is done, that John Autry in the fourth District is done, that Claire Fallon At-Large is done, that Vi Lyles At-Large is done, that James Mitchell At-Large is done, all incumbent politicians should be defeated out of office because they have proven themselves incompetent, insufficient, or a combination of both, but lives are at stake here and we can no longer wait on our corrupt political system to fix itself. It is time for the people of Charlotte to be a beacon for the nation and rid ourselves of the incompetent politicians that we keep electing and re-electing and re-electing, and they do nothing.

**Darcel Chandler, 1264 Polk Street** said I didn't even plan on speaking today; somebody else signed me up, but I'm glad they did. I am an attorney in this community, so I'm generally looked at as part of the system. As part of the system, it is our job to protect everyone out here. We can't choose who we want the law to apply to, and if any one of them came and murdered somebody else they would be going to jail, but these police get to murder and abuse their privilege. It is your job to make sure that doesn't happen and nothing is happening to prevent that. I was out there marching everyday with these protestors; I was out there the night Justin Carr got killed. I was tear gassed,

and there was no reason for it; it was a peaceful protest. I was out last night, and we had an officer come through, get out of the way before I run you over on his bike. How dare you speak to citizens that way when we are doing nothing but exercising our rights? I challenge all of you, if you are going to stay in your position to do what you are there for, not just to collect a check. We don't need people just collecting checks. If you can't do your job, let's find somebody who can.

**Marquis Oliphant, 5503 North Stream Drive** said I come to let you know how I feel today. I feel like our black fathers shouldn't have to be buried and black children shouldn't have to go to the graveyard and bury their fathers. We need our fathers to help our mother take care of us children, and we need to stop racism. We need to be equal and us black community and black people need to come together and fight for our rights. Us in our schools need to be fair and treat all people how they want to be treated, equally. I just wanted to say how I feel today.

**Zianna Oliphant, 5503 North Stream Drive** said I come here today to talk about how I feel, and I feel like we are treated differently than other people, and I don't like how we are treated. Just because of our color doesn't mean anything to me. I believe we are black people, and we shouldn't have to feel like this; we shouldn't have to protest because you all are treating us wrong. We do this because we need to and have rights. I been born and raised in Charlotte, and I never felt this way until now. It is a shame that our fathers and mothers are killed, and we can't see them anymore. It is a shame that we have to go to their graveyard and bury them, and we have tears, and we shouldn't have tears. We need our fathers and mothers to be by our side.

**Amen Ra, 1901 South Pine** said I didn't come up with a prepared statement, and you know why, because I don't need one. I don't need one to look you in your face and tell all of you all you are a bunch of devils; you all are a bunch of crooked devils. Since we have been in this country, you all been raping my ancestors. You all have cut off and castrated my ancestors; you all done raped the women that you brought over here. You all murdered the Native Americans, and you all talk about peace; you all are hypocritical devils, and I'm looking in your face, and I'm telling you that you are devils. You say you want peace, but you don't practice peace. You say you want peace, but you don't practice peace. If you really want peace then let's talk about it. Let's talk about real peace; let's talk about what you did to my ancestors 400 years ago. Let's talk about what you are still do to my ancestors and to my people to this very day. What you hear right now, this is not peace. This is hatred; this is rage. This is black rage ,and you are going to feel it one way or another. You are going to feel Ned Turner; you are going to feel the spirit of Ned Turner. You are going to feel the spirit of Malcom X. You all are going to feel it, and you aren't going to like it when a gun gets turned around. I promise you that.

**Shavon Rivers, 8805 Dahlia Drive** said Councilmember Phipps, I live in the 4th District. I've been proud to say that I felt save there until this week. I don't feel safe in my neighborhood, and more importantly, there is a whole neighborhood of children that don't feel safe anymore because they got home from school one day and saw a body lying on the concrete. I don't have all the answers; I don't expect that any of you have any of the answers right here today, but I want I do want to say, as a concerned citizen of this City, is that we have children we need to look out for. You heard the children tonight; that breaks my heart. My heart is still beating fast, because tonight when she goes home that speech she just gave us isn't going to stop playing in her head, and it shouldn't stop playing in yours. We need to work together, that means transparency, that means honesty, that means a concerted ongoing effort to not just please these cameras but to make a real difference, so I will be back to every Council meeting until we start to see a viable difference, until we start to see programs, until we start to have more communication. I'm committed, I hope you all are too.

**Andrew Fede, 774 North Davidson Street** said I am one of the organizers who have been calling for the resignation of the Mayor, resignation of the City Manager, resignation of Chief Putney, immediately. Mayor, I really believe that your response and the fact, and I am a criminal justice reform advocate, legal background, one of the best law schools in the county, but the fact that it has been days, and I haven't heard the word criminal justice reform, police brutality. I don't hear those words; all I hear is the word dialogue. This is the only community that you are asking to have dialogue with the police, and the thing is we as a community, and this is anybody else who wants to become Mayor, we really don't have time for on the job training for the black experience and police brutality and criminal justice reform. You've got to know this stuff and your response to it, like I said the Democratic Party of North Carolina calls for the tape to be released. Hilary Clinton called for the tape to be released; even Donald Trump called for the tape to be released. Then the response

to do martial law in the state of emergency on protestors, they are right; there are kids out there. There are priests and pastors out there that you guys were gassing. I stumbled off the curb, and I almost got jumped on, and I'd been working with the organizers, I'd been working with Chief Putney; they've been doing great, and I really appreciate the good cops in this City, and I thank you very much Mayor, and we are asking for your immediate step down.

**April Newkirk, 12702 Planters Ran Drive** said I've lived here my entire life, me, my mom and my brother, and I'm here today because I fear not only for my brother's life but for my life too. For those kids that were just talking, I fear for their life as well. I'm afraid of the people who are supposed to be protecting us, like is that right? I feel like my skin is a target for automatic suspicion like just walking down the street, just being me like that is a threat to some people. That is a threat to people with guns; that is my brother. That is my uncles; that is my aunt. That is my family. That is all of these people. Why are we afraid of the people who are supposed to protect us? Why? When they do something to hurt us all they get is a slap on the wrist and a paid vacation. It just makes no sense that murders get off for killing one of us because we shouldn't have been there. We should have been doing this, we should have been doing that; what about due process? When did a police officer become judge and jury, an executioner?

**Ashika Weekes , 2220 Red Pointe, Indian Land, SC** said I think like everybody else here; I didn't plan to speak, but I got off work and came straight here because, why not? You can't watch TV and see people die and pretend you don't see it. It is just not possible. I'm looking at your guys and in looking at you, you look physically here but emotionally absent, and it is an impossible situation. I want to extend my condolences beyond the families; I'd like to extend my condolences to the community, because these are kids watching us. The families didn't just lose a member; there are kids who are living in fear. That is shame; you should have shame for what you are allowing to happen, and if you don't, you do not have a soul. You can't sit back and watch kids die and watch people die and say that's okay; I got my check so I'm alright. You are an elected official; you can be a part of the problem or be a part of the solution. MLK said that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. This is the anywhere; you can decide to not have the uncomfortable conversation, but it gets us nowhere. You can either be a part of the solution; you can make the example. You can train your officers. You can tell them that just because I'm black, I am not to be feared. I pay my taxes. I go to school. I'm a foster parent. I help in the community; anyone who needs my help gets it. You cannot decide that I don't matter.

**Gerry Burney, 9140 Prestwick Lane** said when you started this off, you only gave praise to the police department. I was one of those protestors that had been out there since Tuesday, been pepper sprayed, hit with bullets and everything. Second of all, all of you all are scared. I just want you to know that, because the reason we are mad is if you had been out there you could have stopped a lot it. McCrory could have stopped a lot of this. Putney could have stopped a lot of this. The only thing you all did was run just like you try to do out of here tonight, and the only thing you all did was call the National Guard on us and you still got to deal with the same problem and these same issues, but guess what though, we are getting smart, because we know how to hit you now. We don't hit you no more with fist; we already did that. We are going to hit your pockets, because we've got to elect you and just know this. Your time is coming up so enjoy it now. I'm going to start campaigning; I'm going to talk about it. I'm going to use my influential face that it is for the best reason to get you all out, because you all need to go. I don't like none of you all.

**Sanchez Huntley, 2337 Bancroft Street** said first of all I want to say rest in peace to Keith Lamont Scott. I wasn't going to speak at first, but I am a product of the environment you all created. I made it out thought. You all are not going to take my life; I look at your face and see how you look at these kids when they are speaking; all you got your hands on your chin like you are so concerned but you aren't. I only see three black member of that board, and I want to know how you all feel? I know it is eating you up man; this ain't where you want to be. You want to be right here with us. Quit that damn job; you know what, I was going to get up here and say some disrespectful things, but I don't want you all to get me as another ignorant black man because I am not. That is all I got to say man; black lives matter baby.

**Carolyn Graham, 901 Eaglewood Avenue** said I am a senior citizen in this community; I've worked with the government most of my life, and I've never took stuff. I have supervised every race of people in this City, and I've never been prejudice toward anyone. I'm a Christian, and I believe in treating people as one. Mayor Roberts, I campaigned in my neighborhood; I met her at the Black

National Convention here a few months ago, because I know she is a good woman, but let me tell you something people, when you step into a corrupt system you cannot change it overnight. Mayor Roberts stepped into a corrupt system. My son was arrested in 2007, Joey P. Graham for something called an illegal drug operation by CMPD. They called my husband to call my son to set him up for a drug deal, not saying anything about what the situation was. He gave it a fake name; this is these drug people going around taking drugs from our boys and charging them with all these drugs, putting the money in their pockets, and then taking the drugs and giving them to their families and their friends. I contacted CMPD to report it, and they said it was illegal; he went to court, and the DA hid the evidence they used a confident informant who had just been caught with three guns, 55 grams of something and another five grams of something.

**Shartiera Wilkerson, 4845 Ashley Park Lane** said I just want to say rest in power to all of the fallen, they have fallen at the hands of police, police brutality and when they can't get you that way it is mass incarceration. I am a film maker and a contributor and writer the publication Level 21 Magazine here in Charlotte. I was born and raised here, and I am raising my son here. I want to start by saying, as a police officer, people run from you; people move toward you, but you have to couple that with what type of threat does that person actually present to you. This was said by the former Police Chief Monroe after Jonathan Ferrell was murdered. We have problems, several problems, overreaching authority and abusing the integrity of the badges that you are supposed to be representing. Miscarriage of justice, lying to the public, transparency is an issue. You need to be transparent with the public. All of this deviant does nothing but illicit already deep rooted feelings of distrust toward law enforcement. That is all it does; it propitiates that and I want to speak to my people. I want to tell you all this is a system that is not built for us. It is not; we are part of an institution that has been designed to oppress us. I don't want to spend my tax dollars to fund my own oppression, to fund the oppression of those who look me around me. That is not what I'm paying my tax dollars for; I'm paying to be protected not killed, not murdered, not in fear of my life from police.

**Garreth Douglas, 9024 Hunter Pointe Drive** said it is a shame that we have to have these conversations over and over and over again, and there is nothing happening. You all have been put in the position to make the changes and nothing is happening. Over time there is supremacy; there is white supremacy. I'm going to call it for what it is. You all have been put in office and generations stay in power, and we just stay under your feet, and you put laws in place to keep us under your feet and try to control us, but we've not having that no more. We are not having it. You all need to make a change. Everybody is saying we are looking at your faces, and you've got the smirk on your face man. This is serious; if your kids were out here and it was happening to you it wouldn't be like that, but you all have a certain privilege, so you don't feel the same thing we are feeling. We get up, and this is every day; every day we have to walk outside and we have fear our lives, and you all don't have that. We come in here to make a change; I'm here for the people, I'm the voice of the people, and we are going to make a change.

**Thomas Vinson, 3830 Arvin Drive** said I wanted everyone to know Tuesday and Wednesday nights were not valid protest; we did not start the battles. Out on Old Concord Road they started tear gassing us; that is how we ended up on I-85. It wasn't us that started the riots; it was your officers. Mr. Smith you've smirking the whole time, but we've been keeping an eye on you. We need to vote you out; we need to vote this whole Council off. We need to vote them out. We need to keep our money in our pockets. The black community, I've been loving what we've been doing these last six days, but we can't stop our eulogy with this. It is sad that these two murders had to bring us together but we have to continue to love one another. When we see one of us down, we have to pick them up; if we see one of us doing wrong, we have to hold each other accountable. We have to tell our young brothers and our young sisters, this ain't the way to go. Some of us OGs out here, been here and done that. If we see them going down the wrong path let's pick them up and hold them accountable, because we can't allow to keep seeing our children murdered in the street. Justin was murdered right beside me; didn't nobody shoot that man. One of your officers shot that man; his blood was on my shirt. Not on none of your shirts, my shirt, and it came from one of your CMPD overseers, because they are not officers. You all are overseers.

**Reverend Raymond Johnson, Marion, SC** said I was called by the Lord when I was 12-years in the field down in Marion, South Carolina. I want to say to you up here, I don't have a PhD degree, don't have a Master's Degree, don't have a BA Degree, don't have a Bachelor of Theology, but I have my BBA Degree, which represents I've been born again and beside my God. I come to the

Council here and you know these folks up here, I've been listening to them and I've been praying over this thing for the last few days. These folks are thirsty for the truth; all they want is a drink of the truth, and you all need to give them the tape. Let them see the truth; don't give them a pacifier and say go lay down, because we are not going to lay down with a pacifier. We're going to keep standing up and fighting until we receive all the evidence. Now, we can stay here and wait for it, or we can go home; what do you want us to do? We want the truth, and I want to say to the Scott Family, we are praying for you.

**Bill Fiesser, 724 Governor Morrison Street** said first I want to say condolences to the Carr and Scott Family. To Chief Putney, you have stated that your father taught you to always do the right thing. How is not releasing all the tapes immediately not the right thing? How is releasing one body camera's footage when there were four officers present the right thing? If only one officer was wearing a body camera that is unacceptable. Mayor, there is your money funding them, why are your officers not required to wear name tags or badge numbers when policing the public? The proof is over there; ask him for his name tag or his badge. They don't wear them out there. We want the right to vote in our Chief as well as our Mayor. To you Ms. Roberts, I say you have been known to speak up for certain minorities, gays and transgender, which is appreciated, but I wonder what are you doing to help with House Bill 982. This bill will serve only to protect crooked cops; are you okay with that? Now, on to the greater issue, why is Charlotte one of the hardest cities to escape from poverty if you are born into poverty? I'm not saying people can't escape from it; I'm saying it is one of the hardest, and it is proven. What measures have you proposed to help change that?

**Paris Hopkins, 6185 Balsam Fir Drive** said I didn't come here to speak tonight; I was just really coming here to listen, but just hearing the outcry of everybody in here, I've been through this. Last year the CMPD Officer took my cousin's life, Janisha Fonville. I know the hurt; I know the feeling, but this is the way we hurt them more, don't hold your votes – vote. That is the whole reason why they are in these positions, because we've always decided not to vote or our vote don't count. It does count. I'm tired of coming to these meetings and saying the same stuff over and over and over. Also be mad; put that anger towards the media and how they manipulate what we say, how they say that we are thugs. When a white person goes out and does the same thing, oh he was a troubled kid, oh he had a great upbringing. I am so hurt right now, because we as black people need to stand together more than ever. It was ingrained in us to fight each other; we need to come together at this point and fight together and fight them. If you don't like what you are seeing then let's join together and fight them. I am so hurt right now, and Mayor Roberts we've had luncheons together. I do respect you, and I understand the system you are in right now. I do, but also I don't understand why nobody didn't want Pat McCrory out. That is the main person that you need to worry about.

**Horatious Harris, 1233 Cooper Way** said to the Council and to my fellow citizens of Charlotte I'm a pastor in this City; I've been in the riots every night. When it first started, I did get tear gassed; I did get hit in the back with a billy club by one of the police. I'm here, because I'm concerned, but more than anything, I'm looking at your non-verbal communication. It is saying a lot, and yet there is a disconnect, and I'm just concerned that you are in position, but you are not serving the people the way they need to be served. I just want to understand one thing, as a public servant myself, I understand that you've got to go out in the community; you have to be a part of the people. You have to let the people know that you care. That is why I was out there to make sure that another black young man doesn't get hurt, put in jail, or killed. I was there, because I was concerned. We have to be a part of the people's lives; you have to understand this is important for you to do so. I don't know why you just sit and you look senseless; you look cold. You look callus, and I'm just figure this out, like why are you in the position if you don't want to serve this community? That is everybody in the community. I understand that many of you up there are doing what you are supposed to do, but guess what, birds of a feather flock together. You get lumped to the same feature; you are going to be associated. You are guilty by association. So, I just want you to understand that we are as a people. We are not going anywhere.

**Blanche Penn, 2207 Century Oaks** said I've been fighting for years, and I come down here all the time for a lot of different causes. I was out there Tuesday night, and when I saw those young folks out there, I was proud of you. Now, keep in mind, I'm nonviolent, and Justin Carr was a friend of my friend, and they call me odd Blanche. I told the police officer on Tuesday night, I'm here to check on my kids; my kids weren't even there. These were my kids. My kids had me on the phone saying, mama I know you ain't down there, and I said you know better. I'm right here, but the thing is they are going to take a stand; they are going to take a stand. So if you all don't listen to them,

they are going to keep marching and the day Justin died I was there too. Let me tell you, I went and spoke at his candle light vigil, and I'm going to tell you something when I spoke there, the hurt was here. You all don't know what hurt is.

**Tina White, 4120 Carlyle Drive** said I've been coming down here since Wendy Gail Thompson was killed back in 1999, a female and she was unarmed. We fought for the Citizen Review Board; just before she was killed about three other black unarmed was killed in the 1990's. I want to know why you don't publish in the paper about how many people have been killed unarmed here in Charlotte, North Carolina. When people asked me if I was going to stay at home and watch the debate. No, I'm not watching any debate and you need to stop trying to character assonate all of us and also the Scott man that was killed, and condolences to his family and the Carr family, because if you let an idiot like Donald Trump run for President and nobody character assassinate him and put him out of the running, then you shouldn't say anything about any of us. You talk about broken windows; what about lives being taken? You can replace a window, but you can't replace a life. You know what, I asked the U. S. Department Loretta Lynch along with the black congressional caucus up there in DC, they did a news press conference. I'm along with them enacting Loretta Lynch to investigate from the U. S. Department to come in here to the Charlotte Police Department, and I asked President Obama to do a moratorium like if another police cop kills any black person unarmed or anybody unarmed that they should automatically get life or the death penalty.

**Beth Henry, 3066 Stoneybrook Lane** said I've lived in Charlotte since 1983; I've been out with the protestors every night since Wednesday. I want to say Wednesday night I felt totally safe in a huge crowd of mostly young, black people until the riot police showed up. I can't tell you how many wonderful, young people came up and thanked me and showed me love for being out there. It has been very sad to witness the pain over the death of Mr. Scott and also over all kinds of systemic oppression in our community. I'm the mother of two sons and one grandson and because I am a mother I can imagine what it must be like to be afraid every time your child goes out, and I honestly believe I would be in a rage all the time if I had to feel that way. I'm really calling on other people who think they are white to use our imagination to think what it must be like and to have understanding for the pain and the anger that is understandable, and I am also asking you all to do what you can to increase transparency to have better training of our police and to dismantle the systemic oppression and racism that does still exist.

**Barry Morrison, 1312 Grass Meadow Court** said everybody here has been with me seven days; I've been out there since Tuesday at 8:00 o'clock. I go home no less than 3:00 o'clock every night; I've walked almost 43 miles according to phone, and I'm from New York. I've been here a year; I love Charlotte. When I got here I saw the people; I loved the people. I love the environment. I've been out there every night and a lot of people that I can recognize have been out there with me. I'm a 23-year retired Army veteran, but when they see me outside of anything other than a uniform, I'm just a nigger. I remember being pulled over when I first got here, had a Lincoln MKX, and I pulled up in the gas station and the police pulled up behind me, and I had New York plates. No, I stand corrected; I had Texas plates, and they said what are you doing here. I said well officer I'm getting some gas. They said well we haven't seen your car around. I didn't know not seeing your car around was a crime; I didn't know being new in town was a crime, but I calmly did what they asked, got on the side of the car, let them pat me down. I didn't have nothing, had nothing in the car. I went in my pocket showed them my ID, and they said oh, man you are a soldier. That shouldn't have to matter. I was a black man getting gas. I wasn't causing anybody any harm. I wasn't playing any loud music, but the point I have to stand up here shaken, because I just want to say so much, but I don't have much time. I will tell you as I look at all of you, there is nobody that needs training not to kill nobody.

**Judah Alexander, 7333 Canyon Drive** said good evening all of my black people and everybody in support of the movement man. First off, I want to say that I have been a leader amongst these marches with a lot of my brothers and sisters since Tuesday; this is day seven for me as well. Last night, I watched a young man get run over by a police golf cart and pulled into a parking lot behind a wall where we couldn't see, handcuff, and arrested, and as we try to video tape it, Greensboro officers pepper sprayed the whole crowd. I would like to say to the police, you have declared a war upon us, and me and my people are ready to go to war with you all. I don't come in peace, I come for justice, and if the blood has to be on our side, it will be on your side as well. I have daughters, and I have a son that I would die for, and I cannot allow my daughters to wonder if daddy is coming home every night because they are scared. If I get police behind me my daughters have a natural

anxiety and a fear of police at nine-years old. That makes no sense at all, and I want to make sure you all know, every Councilmember if I have to have fear for my life in Charlotte, North Carolina in the public I promise to God each one of you will have the same fear every day in this City.

**Taylor Alexander, 7333 Canyon Drive** said I want to say to the Mayor, you need to fix what you are doing. I'm tired of seeing black bodies lying in the street with blood dripping from their bodies every time I drive by. I'm tired of getting scared when my dad is driving in the street when I see a police car get behind him. I'm tired of having anxiety to freak out; I'm tired of that, fix it.

**Duane Young, 651 East 8th Street** said I've been out here since this started; I've lost my voice, and I want to say rest in peace to everyone from slavery from my ancestors to police brutality, because it is the same. It is modern day genocide, and I also want to say I have no love for none of you, because if any of you were righteous, you would stand for what is right and that is not being seen. How do you expect us to have peace when you don't show us none of this, so if it was your baby getting murdered you would feel the same way. All of you of up here desensitized, showing no emotion, and I've got anger. I'm getting tired of being sad; I've been sad long enough. My grandfather was in the war; my father was in the army, and I know at any moment they can get killed. My grandfather just passed, but do you care about that? No and that is all I've got to say. I also want to say this you are never going to see peace if you don't show us justice.

**Carl Grier, 634 Brookhill Road** said I would like to send my condolences to the Scott family. I wasn't going to say nothing, but after hearing that little girl speak, I'm not even from here. I'm from New York, but this is getting out of hand, and you've got to ask yourself do you really want these people to shoot back? Ask yourself; you giving people a time limit to speak. Do you really care because I don't think you care, because if you cared there wouldn't be no time limit. You would sit here and hear everybody out, everybody. There should be no time limit on hearing people out on how they feel on what is going on with their people. People are dying out here; innocent people are dying, and you are giving people time limits to speak. I don't think you care. In New York we had a saying vote or die, because if we don't vote these people out we are all dead. They are knocking us off one by one, and you all don't care. This dude right here has had a smirk on his face the whole time that little girl was speaking. I don't even know you, but I don't like you; one you look like Donald Trump, so I definitely don't like you.

**Rodney McGill, 1705 West Boulevard** said what I want to talk about off the top is I want the game to be over. Everybody up here and everybody up here, there's some people up here that might be like them if they sat there, and there is somebody down here that is one of us. A year from now when it is time for us to have something else happen if another killing, we can't be protesting. What I'm telling you is this is nothing new; this killing has been going on forever, but it ain't just the killing, the killing is an effect, the cause of this is the way we are treated every day in economics. The way we are treated when we walk in stores, the way we treat each other; all these things are factors. We've got to get and find out who the good people because it is really good against evil because. Whether you are black or white, it has been coons and clans since the beginning of time. If there is a good person up there; I'm Rodney McGill. I'm the owner of Save the Children Movement; I live on West Boulevard, and I'm the streets every single day, not just when something happens, and what we do is, you've seen the children speaking today, they are expressing a frustration more than anything. I've been mad since Rodney King, so I can feel the children. You know it wasn't no cameras there, and what I'm saying is Mayor. I met you before, in was in passing before the election. Some of the City Council people, here I have a degree in government, political science. I understand the process, so I know what can be done and what can't be done, and all I'm imploring you do today is, you have hundreds of community organizers around Charlotte and cities around America. You have funds that come through every City; help out those community organizations that are the mentors, the ones that are teaching the children what respect is, teaching them how, put officers inside the program so they can deal with the children. We can't just sit here and talk, holler, scream back and forth and then later on tonight somebody get killed. We have to find whoever is good. If you are really good and about helping people and you are not just here listening, listen to the frustration of the people. Take heed in that they are saying, because there is really an alternative, because we are looking to do this thing in a civilized way, but as you can see, this thing is getting worse. I think an ounce of prevention is really better than a pound of cure.

**Orlando Tate, 9407 Willow Ridge Road** said I think you guys have said just about everything that I could possibly say if I wanted to say something bad or if I wanted to say something angry, the people have said, the people have the power, so we as a people, we've got to stand together and not be so angry and not be wanting to kill everybody, because those children did something to me tonight. Save the babies and the children; he just gave you the platform, the gentlemen before. They have the resources for us right now; you've got to demand it. You are the people; you vote them in. Understand, I don't work for the NAACP; I march all over the country. I've been at the Edmund Pettus Bridge and could feel the fire, the blood and the burning of the people that marched with Martin Luther King, so that is the reason why I say what I say. Anyway, to your perspective Councilmembers with this and you hear the concern of the people, I feel and I'm quite sure definitely most of them feel that there should be a timeframe that you guys should set because the demand is high between you and the Chief and the Councilmembers. I would say within a week or so because I'm ashamed of Charlotte; we're on CNN, not because we won, well we didn't win the super bowl, and we haven't won the NBA championship, but we look stupid.

**Joyous Watson, 4511-S Rose Vine Place** said Vi Lyles I need your attention, because I'm talking directly to you. As a black woman sitting up here on this board as well as you Mr. Austin, you all should be over here with us. You guy should be outraged that Chief Kerr Putney lied to us; you guys should be outraged that this is the sixth of seventh homicide of an unarmed black man in Charlotte, North Carolina this year. I am here to speak for Ava Winchester. I'm here to speak for Quinn Miller. I'm here to speak for Justin Carr, the people who were gunned down by the people that we pay to serve and protect us, not to kill us. I am pissed off that you guys are sitting up here with no emotion whatsoever at the fact that we have been marching in the streets endlessly since Tuesday, because you guys decided to lie to our face, to come on air after an hour that you guys killed this man and to tell us that he was armed that he was an eminent threat against you guys, then for us to see this video and to see with our eyes that you lied. You knew that this man did not make any threatening jesters toward the police officers and he was still murdered in the streets, and before you told his family that he was dead you came on the live news and told us that he was dead, because he was a threat to your police officers. We saw with our own eyes that you lied. Mayor Roberts, you need to resign. Chief Kerr Putney, you need to resign. Robert Pittenger, you need to resign. Governor McCrory, you need to resign. We won't stop until all of you resign.

**Brandon Miller, 2016 Teresa Hill Drive** said thank you for allowing me to speak. I'll be quite honest with you; yesterday was my first day out with the protest, and I saw things that I liked, and I saw things that I didn't like. I saw a group of people that are angry; I saw a group of people that are dying to be heard, and I don't think you guys are hearing us. Yesterday, not only did I walk with protestors, but I handed out hugs and probably gave more hugs that I could ever remember. We are missing love here, and that starts with you guys. You all are our leaders; we have elected you to be here and whether they [inaudible] or not you represent our city. This is my city; I grew up here before there was a NoDa, there was a North Davidson Street. There was Earle Village, so just to let you know when you go around that corner and make that left you are going straight down Piedmont Courts. Just to let you know, I'm from here, and I also know the re-gentrification process is how we were removed from there too. What we are looking at now, this is the effect; that is the cause. The policies are the causes; we need to change the policy, and if you all refuse to change the policy, allow us to put you on notice that we are going to get you out of here. Now, it is not about voting all Democrat; it is not voting all Republican. It is about voting each and every last one of you, our vote counts for something. My last statement is you all, if you are familiar with Malcom X, he mentioned the ballot or the bullet; you are staring at it right now, and this is on you. You can help us unify and have peace. This is not a one-man army here; this needs all of us.

**David Underwood, 402 East Hill Drive** said the question I want to ask is, could the officers not have paused their assault on Keith Scott's vehicle for a few second to get some information about the suspect from his wife, who was standing right there desperately appealing to those officers not to kill her disabled husband? A few seconds of prudent, rational, calm, level headed, inquiry could have saved a man's life, could have saved a wife from losing her husband, children from losing their father, and a community from being outraged by yet another stupid, senseless killing of a harmless citizen by police. Those few seconds of restrained inquiry could have saved Charlotte from the ordeal of outraged citizens taking to the streets in protest and all other ramifications of that. Now, we all ask, what are the consequences of this latest shooting for the Charlotte police? Well unfortunately, we've all seen this movie before. We can be pretty certain that whatever outside agencies investigate, the SBI, the FBI, they will come back with a report that no disciplinary

action will be taken. That is the crux of the problem; these officers were following standard procedure, which produced a horrific and completely unnecessary result, so it is the procedures that have to change. The protocol of shoot first and ask questions later is unacceptable. I read that the City Manager has supervisory responsibility over the Chief of Police. Some cities have Citizen's Review Boards; something needs to be done to give police officers a strong incentive to do everything they can to avoid situations that require deadly force. The ongoing protest by the citizens' of Charlotte are sending a powerful message that we are fed up with the killing of black men by overzealous police officers.

**Sean Benton, 4600 13th Street** said I give prayer and condolences to the Scott Family, the Carr Family and also Jonathan Ferrell's family; we didn't forget. Mayor Roberts, you've been charged with accurately training or overseeing proper training for our Police Officers here in this community; you are coordinating with Chief Putney. You guys are charged with proper training as head and leaders in this community. There is no way you can tell me that those officers that engaged Mr. Scott couldn't step back and get out of the way of line of fire and just take a moment, just step back from the situation and understand what is going on before they engage in ultra-violence, before it even has to happen that way. You have to have the de-escalation processes in place; you can't always have escalation to deadly force immediately. You have to have proper training to deescalate situations in regards to disabilities, in regards to cultural differences. That is very important. We want measured and tactful steps that you can put in place right now so that no other citizen should have to be engaged with deadly force with a police officer. What would the climate of Charlotte be like if a bunch of rash black officers killed unarmed, white citizens? Would there be a law of legislation being right out? Absolutely, let two of that happen and it would look totally different and you know that.

**Braxton Winston, 1401 Anderson Street** said I am here to indict the Charlotte government for crimes against the humanity of the City of Charlotte. Everything I say has evidence on tape; I have been here since day one. I am calling for the resignation immediately of Mayor Jennifer Roberts; I'm calling for the immediate resignation of Chief Kerr Putney. I am also calling that the City Manager, who is in an appointed position, who has much more power than the Mayor; the Mayor is a part-time job in the City of Charlotte, be moved from an appointed position where he takes care of the economic advantage needs of a few and move that to an elected position that takes care of the needs of all. I have been here since day one, and I saw how the police attacked us; they attacked us; they pulled that crime scene line after we were expressing our first amendment rights to those uniformed officers. We were not disrupting the crime scene. They pulled that tape and instead of standing there and taking our grief, our anger, they tried to drive a cop car through a crowd of people; they tried to drive a cop car down over a woman holding a child. There was a woman with her hands on the hood, and they tried to drive her over. You incited this; you did this. I was there, less than 10-feet away from the gentleman that was killed at the Omni Hotel. That bullet could have been for me. I saw him bleed out, so I ask you, I ask the President of the United States, where is the call that you gave to every leader of Arab Spring that to say there is no time limit on freedom of speech. You should not lock people up for trying to show people the truth. Sometimes the freedom of speech is ugly. It is nasty; it is hard to deal with, but that is one we have the Constitution. You are making a mockery of the Constitution, and we are making the Constitution lived right here in the City of Charlotte, and you know what, the world is seeing right now.

**Scott Jordan, 6118 Heatherstone Lane** said I am a native Charlottean, born and raised in Charlotte. I just move back a few months ago, but prior to that living in Charlotte, I'm a white guy from the suburbs. I grew up in Country Club, and I don't have a lot in common with a lot of people in this room, so I can't relate all the way to their experience. Having said, that I have at times in my life had a cop put his gun to my head; I've been beaten up by State Troopers. A lot of people don't know that, but it has happened. If that has happened to me, I can only imagine how seeing these people are treated. Recently, Senator Tim Scott took to the floor of the United States Senate and talked about being targeted by the police. He is a black senator. He is a Republican from South Carolina. If he is treated that way, how do you think these people feel? Having said that, I don't have solutions for the black community; I shouldn't tell them how to live. I have no idea; when I moved back all this stuff started happening, but prior to that I was the Policy Director of the North Carolina Young Republicans, and basically as the government grows and there is more laws Eric Garner, can be killed for smoking a cigarette in New York, because certain people thought that maybe is should be illegal to sell cigarettes, maybe government is too big, and I would implore you not to expand government and not put new programs in place. You don't know what is best for

these people. They need less laws; every time you pass a law, the cops have to enforce it at the barrel of a gun ultimately. If someone disagrees and doesn't want to pay attention to them, the police will have to enforce the law against them, and a lot of people don't have much respect for the law anymore. There are too many; no-one in here knows all the laws. I don't know all the laws, and I've probably broken three laws today.

**Josh Murray, 1409 Reffield Road** said I would like to express my condolences to the Scott and Carr Families. To everyone in this room and to those who have been out since Tuesday, I really appreciate seeing black, white, young, old, rich, and poor coming together for the sake of justice. The diversity of the crowd to let our elected officials know that it is untrue, that the rioters don't like white people. I want to say two things, one to the Mayor and to the Police Chief. How do you determine that someone is an imminent deadly threat? That is what the media printed about a man who was sitting in a car minding his own business. This past week has shown that Mayor you care about the image of Charlotte but not the people of Charlotte. Police Chief, brother I do not want you protecting me, and Mayor I think you need to resign.

**Curtis Hayes, 9709 Veronica Drive** said I have been out here with a lot of these people behind me for six days straight. A lot of people try to call me the peace maker. My question is, when do we hold police accountable for what they do? I've been out there six days straight holding my peers accountable for not getting out of hand, for not breaking the law. When I did that, I'm being pushed to my back by your police officers shields, and I'm holding my peers accountable for what they do. If you want us to hold our peers accountable for what they do, whether it be breaking the law, steeling a snicker bar, cursing in the streets, playing loud music uptown, when are you guys going to hold police officers accountable for what they do? We had one Captain, Captain Mike Campagna was out there for the whole six days. The City of Charlotte is the biggest City in North Carolina and you are telling me that the only thing you could produce us with is one Captain to dialogue and converse with us and that we can address our concerns to? Mayor Roberts, I heard you say you were out there in the protest. I didn't see you, and I am just being honest with you. My thing is I officiate high school basketball; I referee Little League Football in North Carolina. When I'm out here and I'm officiating these kids, do you want me to tell these kids to respect the police or do you want me to tell these kids to be scared of the police? What do you guys want me to tell these kids? I'm a big influence out in the community. When I'm referring these high school basketball games, when you all say fear your life, well when I'm in Cabarrus County, and I have a basketball game and the fans are up there yelling, I'm in fear of my life. So, should I take my pistol that I own rightfully, that I own legally? If I'm walking to my car after officiating a basketball game in Cabarrus County where these Caucasians hate me already, because I'm an official, and they already think that oh, because I'm a black man officiating this basketball game that I have something against them. Should I take my pistol because I'm in fear of my life to get to my car and fire my gun on one of these people? Will I be justified? How many times you can't sit here and tell me out of all the cases that we have in the United States on police brutality or police officers killing black men that all of them are justified. There is no way; something is wrong with that number. You can sit here and say every shooting is justified by the police across the United States of America. If we have Congressman Pittenger on the Board of North Carolina that creates the laws and he sits here and say that protestors hate white people, or we are mad because white people are successful, and we are not. Let me tell you something; I'm a very successful black man. I have worked in corporate America; I have left corporate America. I run a \$250,000 business, that I am the CEO of, so I am very successful, not a criminal. I've never been arrested; I'm very articulate, so we have a Congressman on the Board that sits there and says those type of things, how do you all expect us to trust you guys? What I'm asking from every last one of you from Councilmember to Mayor to Mayor Pro Tem, to Chief, to Sherriff, Captain or whatever, hold each other accountable. Don't give our young people a reason to be angry, give them a reason to be happy. The only thing that you all hike them up for is because they can catch a damn basketball or football or shoot a three or dunk the ball.

**Nickie Boyd, 500 East Morehead** said I am a Charlottean, born and raised in Charlotte. I am disgusted. The City Manager, Putney, you Ms. Roberts, I want all of you out of here, done. do not represent anything, nothing that I stand for that I believe in as it relates to my city. This is murder. My background is mental health, and I do believe that there are police officers that are good, but I believe there are so many police officers that are abusing their power. They have no checks and balance; there is no mental health evaluation for any of your officers between day one and the first day that they murder. Ferrell would be here right now if there was an evaluation on Kerrick file.

He was not capable of having a gun and a badge. Our police officers are the biggest gangs, the biggest bullies, and you do not deserve to be our Mayor if you do not see that. If you are numb and you live in this City or you see these TV cameras and you are numb you do not deserve to represent us. I don't care what color you are.

**Jasmine Talbot, 208 Clark Boulevard** said I start off my saying my mama found out that I was coming out the first day, and she told me to take my armor of God with me. I'm not a religious person, so I grabbed my wings I got from Gay Pride, and I put them on my back. I'm a lesbian; my brother laid on the ground; this guy I don't even know laid on the ground, and this is what he said; why would you hurt me I'm no threat to you. They threw gas at our feet, and I immediately took my bandana off place it over his face and laid my body over his. I will protect you at all costs. You all don't give a f--- about us. My little brother has cerebral palsy. He was afraid that you all were profiling him. He can't move his f---ing legs, but he is afraid. I've never been afraid to be black; I've never been afraid to be black in Charlotte, and I'm terrified. That person right there is my wife. She is Caucasian; we got pulled over because she was speeding 20 miles over the speed limit. He told her to have a nice day I'm just going to give you a written warning. She told me herself that is white privilege. You do not care Mayor; you were our friend when you needed votes, but when we are out here dying in the street you don't give a f--- about us, none.

**Tigress McDaniel m 201 South McDowell Street** said you remember me, don't you? I know you do and the rest of the Board that got up every single time I would speak before you and walk out, find some convenient way to walk out so you wouldn't hear the things that I was saying. I'm been here for a year, and I've visited this City Council Meeting forum more than I have attended any game or Epicenter event because I intend to keep speaking out. The things that I have spoken out before, you should not be in office at all. I've been spoken about it; you've been subpoenaed to court on October 17, 2016 as well, and Lyles you concern me so much. I saw your face when we were singing the National Negro Anthem, and you seemed so detached. You are not far from removed from it. There are people that have marched for your freedom to be able to sit in that seat. You should be more respectful. It is not your choice at all to stay in office; it is not your choice to resign. We can recall you; we can impeach you. There is John Autry; I know he is interested in standing up. I've received your e-mails. You should stand up, and you should call her out and be the first person to ask for her impeachment. Al Austin you would be number two, and then we would keep moving along, because Mr. Smith you are not really doing too well with the crowd. I would suggest you probably join the crowd that would be against her to impeach you. It is not your choice, and I challenge everyone, as I have done at every rally that I have attended in Charlotte, run with me, because I will be coming after your seat very soon.

**Krista Talbot, 208 Clark Boulevard** said you don't have to welcome me. Everybody in here has pretty much spoke on what I wanted to say, but the fact of the matter is what someone has not spoken on yet is white silence is violence. I saw that on a sign outside; that is the best thing I've heard yet, because I'm Caucasian and the media loved to cover everything, but I spoke to Sarah Morgan Blake, or whatever her name is, from WBTV the other night and told her exactly how I felt about the racial issues going and the Caucasian people sweeping everything under the rug, exactly what this whole committee does, and guess what, it didn't get played. At the end of the day, guess what, the only thing I have to say is that racism is real. The cops are corrupt; all of you are corrupt, none of you even care about anything that is being said about anything in this room by anybody. You all don't care; you are sitting here acting like you are writing s--- down on paper, but I'm sitting up there watching you all not doing s---, because none of you care. I don't understand how any of you can sleep at night sweeping everything under the rug the way you do. The only thing I have to say to each and every one of you is f--- all of you all.

**Sheana Shirley, 5828 Reddman Road** said I am Daquan Westbrook's mother. Do you know who Daquan Westbrook is? First of all, I want to let you guys know Chief Putney ain't s---. When this s--- happened to my baby in Northlake Mall Christmas Eve, he promised he would let me know every step of the way what goes on and everything. I go sit down with the Citizens' Review Board; all the evidence came up against Ferguson. You all swear my baby was shooting in that store, but they didn't find no f---ing bullets. The only bullet was the officer's bullet. The main witness stated the only shot was fired was from the officer, and Ferguson admitted he did not tell my baby to put down no weapon, because first of all you didn't see no weapon. You swear the boy got shot in the store, why the only blood was Daquan's? Why this man had a trail down a hallway going towards Dick's, why? In the Citizens' Review Board swept this s--- under the rug. Ferguson lawyer kept

telling them, Chief Putney gave Ferguson an award when he came back to work. That is why they swept this s--- under the rug, but it is not over. If I've got to get up the money to get me a lawyer Ferguson is coming out. Then again this mother----er worked for the North Division for 19 years where my boy was raised at. He wanted my baby dead. That is why they said over force when he killed my baby like that. My baby weighed 120 pounds; you all hit him three times. You made like he still got a gun in his hand on the ground and turned around and pointed at you, no and then you shoot him some more, two times in the back and one time in each side. Are you serious? Chief Putney ain't s---. This is Sheana Shirley, who you told me that you would be with every step of the way. You have kids of your own, but if it happened to your kids, then what? You would let everything out on CMPD, everything would be coming to the light then. Your family, watch out; Citizens' Review Board, all them need to be fired too. They are too old; they need to be fired. It is not over.

**Ronnequeh Stinson, 8208 Seymour Drive** said giving honor to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I would like to all the families, Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, Michael Brown, Keith Scott, Justin Carr, and many others, we will not stop until the police stop. I have a two-year old son and he is a boy, a young man. How many of you have children? If that 9mm was turned around to your son, shot in the back for coming to the store because he had on a hoodie, how would you feel? We pay our taxes on every carton of milk, every pack of cigarettes, and we are entitled to those body cameras and the dash cam footage; we are entitled to it. We pay our taxes. We need to make every meeting public on the news; why is mass murder who bomb movie theaters and terrorists come out alive, but black men [inaudible.] You got no answer; all of you are fired.

**Halima Ahmed, 6720 Courtney Park** said before I say what I have written here, I want to get two things out for the media; one please stop provoking us when we are out there and then painting us a violent people. Two, because of my accent and my scarf does not mean I am not from Charlotte; I live in Charlotte. I work in Charlotte, so stop portraying this thing as people who are coming from outside the state are the ones causing the trouble. It is a shame that we are protesting and having this forum just to convince you all that to bring about policy changes, transparency, and accountability. We are tired of having to convince you and everybody else in this country, that we are humans and that our lives matter. You know we matter because when you come asking for our vote, we matter. We are communities who galvanize our people to vote. So please, even if you don't do it for the same of humanity, do know that we vote; we pay taxes. Our money goes in the community. The state is more concerned about things being damaged, than lives being lost, people being murdered. Your concern is mainly focused on being exposed; that is why you have curfews, which have been lifted, but you also have tear gases; you have military police. You have police officers out there trying to deter young people from coming out. I have many friends who want to come out but they are scared to because you are infringing on their constitutional right to be out. This whole strategy has been clearing the street rather than holding those people who have done wrong, bringing them to justice. You are concerned about clearing the streets instead of trying to bring changes, trying to bring transparency. Many people have said this, if this had been happening to white people this would have been a national crisis a long f---ing time ago.

**Corine Mack, 2317 Sonoma Valley Drive** said I am speaking on behalf of the Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice, the NAACP, and NCSAFE. In 2013, Robert Dawkins, myself, along with other partners, began to author a document. It ended up being called the Civil Liberties Ordinance. That ordinance speaks directly to the escalation, how police have to encounter African Americans, what the responsibilities were for those officers when they did so, and only for the first time in the history of Charlotte got aggregated data, data that would now tell folk how cops interact with people who are black and of color. Last Tuesday, none of that was done. Not one thing in that ordinance was done. So, when we hear people talk about what needs to be put in place, I'm here to tell everybody it is already in place. I know, because I help author it, and this City did not make the police officer accountable to that document, number one. Number two, when we talk about who needs to be removed first, before you make a decision, before any of you make a decision, I want to know why the Home Land Security Director [inaudible] removed and why the Emergency Management Director [inaudible] removed, because I know they have the most input, and they give the call when we have the people like the National Guard in this City. That is a problem for me, because my City now looks like war torn Europe. Black people on a regular basis for hundreds of years have to deal with this issue. As a black woman who is a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother, I can't deal with this. I have spoken to each and every one of you about how serious it is to understand my plight and out plight. You have never walked in our shoes; you have never seen

the fear we go through, the hurt we go through, the pain we go through every single day in this county. When we talk about systemic racism and systemic oppression, we are not just talking about the fact that you are killing us, though that is the most egregious. We are talking about the fact that we don't have jobs in this City. The jobs that you give us only pay \$7.40 per hour, which is really working (inaudible) wages. The fact that we have high recidivism for black people; that is called enslavement. That is what that is. When we look at the prison industrial complex, every time you make a dollar on our back you are saying once again, we don't matter. We have no work and so what you want to look at is how (inaudible) in the pipeline. We have four-year olds going to jail with handcuffs because a white teacher said feared of that particular child. If you cannot do your job without implicit bias, you shouldn't have that job. If you can't do that job without oppressing people, you shouldn't have that job. As City Council people, I'm calling all of you on the carpet. Everyone is saying Mayor Roberts but I know you get the count six votes to get anything done. Though you signed the document and you are held accountable first, at the end of the day I'm looking for leadership. The one person I want to call out first is Al Austin, because you've been in the streets. I've seen you in the streets, and I'm going to give you that; you've been in the street with me. I saw you cry because they came out here, so I'm not going to paint you all with the same brush; that is wrong. This brother here cried like a baby when they called the National Guard in, and I'm to say that publicly. Thank you for caring about us. John Autry, I know you wanted to stand up, and you felt uncomfortable as a white man, but let me tell you this, it is not about a white man. I need the white man to stand up right now. Stand up and tell white folks how wrong they are, how racist they are. That is what you are supposed to be doing. Claire, as much mouth as you've got, start talking.

**Sean Baldwin, 1812 Genesis Park Place** said I was born and raised in Charlotte. First, I just want to say that I don't want any skittish, scared police protecting me, because I protect myself. Secondly, we need you guys to support us, and you all have been sitting there nodding, taking notes, but we need your help. Those people out there in the lobby, I've been with those people this week, and when I leave here, I'm going to be with those people this week because we are the people that are going to make change in this City whether you guys like it or not. The last thing I want to leave you with is a little bit of Langston Hughes. Negroes, sweet and doubtful, meek, humble and kind beware the day they change their mind. Our mind has been changed.

**Patience Lynch, 8436 Oak Arbor** said I don't like you all sitting here like you all don't care, so I'm in school to take one of your spots, and I'm an African woman. I go to work every day, and I've been out here six nights, and you all still ain't doing nothing for us, so if you all won't fix it we will. If you all don't want to take justice in hand then how about this; if your kids die then let us know how you cry, and let us know how you all feel.

**Shayna Ashley, 9754 Old Gate Drive** said I know you've heard this like 20 times tonight, but I honestly didn't come here to speak. I'm a transplant here in Charlotte, four years I've been living here. I was a soldier in the United States Army as a military police woman for eight years. I know the rules and the laws of engagement, and I know that what is being done is not legal. You can sit up here, and you can try to tell these people that it, that is okay that you came to arrest another man, serve a warrant on another man but yet someone else winds up dead. Does that compute or make any type of logical sense to anyone that a man can't sit in his car and read a book or whatever he may have been doing, that these cops don't understand that the first rule of engagement is to deescalate if you can? Not run into the situation of danger and hurting or harming someone and even more importantly, harming your d--- self. If that man had a gun, you running up on his car what sense did that make? If he fired and he shot you not knowing who you were what sense did that make? If you are not going to be smart enough to protect the people of this City at least be smart enough to protect your d--- self. That is just common sense. It is not right to sit here and try to withhold evidence; I know how dash cameras work; I know how body cameras work. I've worn them. I've operated them. To say that you had five officers out there, but you show me two videos; the f---ing math is not adding up, and if you want to really know why people are mad, I have a three-year old son sitting right there. He is 10-years from being the age that Tamir Rice was gunned down for playing with a BB-gun. You know why I'm angry, because as being a former cop, I don't even know what to tell him about police officers. I don't know whether to tell him to trust them; I don't know what to tell him that if he is in danger, if he is in trouble that he should run to a cop, because that cop he runs to ain't going to see a 13-year old kid needing help. He's going to see a black boy that he might be afraid of.

**Khasha Harris, 10919 Northgate Trail Drive** said there has been a lot of emotion here this evening, and I'm going to try not to go in that route. My first concern is paying my condolences to both families, the Scott family and the Carr family. After that, I would like to address why do we feel the need for HB972? how is that okay to not disclose the video? We already don't trust the police; you are only going to make it worse. We need to repeal this bill, which is unlawful on some level. Why are we hiding? We are already seeing corruption from the bottom to the top, from the cops that are on the scene, all the way to our highest form of government here, and you are giving us another reason not to trust you, not to trust CMPD. We don't trust them; we have good reason not to trust them. Even the little clips of the video that you edited the crap out of, we can tell that there is vital evidence missing there, but even with what you showed us, it didn't justify a shooting. We are sick and tired of being sick and tired. We should be able to trust our police officers; we should feel like we can go to them when there is something wrong, but we don't feel that way because they are lying to us. Now you are finding another way for them to lie to us; they can say whatever they want. They can plant evidence. They can disqualify the victim by making him a criminal. Even he had a criminal past, they didn't know that when they got there on the scene. Now, he is somehow a threat, and they know nothing about him. Now you are going to take the video that may show the truth and hide them from us. What is the sense behind that? What is your objective, except to keep lying? We have no reason to trust you and you are giving us even less. We need to be able to trust our officials; we need to be able to trust our police, and we are not getting that from you guys. I do understand this is supposed to be a business meeting or some type of government meeting, and I understand why you are not showing emotion or showing how you feel about what we are saying, but you need to take heed. Things are only going to get worse; we are sick and tired of being sick and tired. Somewhere deep down your conscious has to be bothering you, and I also want to point out real quick the media. I was out there Wednesday night and Friday night, notice the difference. The difference really came with the National Guard, and some of you may be mistaken in thinking that the protestors behaved because the National Guard was there. No, CMPD behaved because the National Guard was there. We were out there Wednesday night, and it was peaceful until they put on riot gear and started pushing us and shoving us and yanking on people and beating people and firing shots and throwing gas bombs at us. We were peaceful, and the moment I saw the riot gear I started telling the people around me, back up. They want trouble; don't give them an excuse to hit you. Don't give them an excuse to gas you; don't give them an excuse to shoot you and that is exactly what they did. They started the riot but now that the National Guard is here they have been on their best behavior. As a community, we need to repeal HB972. It serves no purpose except for more corruption.

**Reverend Milton Williams, 2535 Oakboro Lane** said I was not going to say anything; I came to bring someone else here, and I was out in the Chamber. I broadcasted something on Facebook live, and one of my colleagues sent me back and said you are there for a reason, so I decided to put my name on the list and come on in and maybe share a little thing about what is going on. I think I know why I'm here, because I'm not what would be considered a big preacher here in Charlotte; I pastor a moderate smaller size church, and I was at the press conference on Wednesday. I was there at the press conference when Chief Putney came out with his statement. I didn't know why I was here at first, but my role I know for sure is to speak truth to power, and after the press conference where Chief Putney gave his statement, I know why I'm here, because I'm a preacher, and I'm not looking for nothing. I'm not looking for a job from government; I'm not trying to get cushy with the politicians; my job is to stand with my people and voice the dis-content of my community. It is amazing because you came to my church one time Mayor Roberts, and it was a good day, and it was alright, but it is easy to come when nothing is going on and when it is an election year and it is time schmooze with the folks on our side of town. It ain't that type of season right now, because we now we need your leadership; we need some leadership, but we don't see any. Everything in these streets you can say is a product of poor leadership, and I'm angry, and I'm upset just like everybody in this Chamber and on the streets, and I've been out there every night marching, walking, protesting with the people. I was there when Putney gave his statement, called the man a gunman, didn't know that man, didn't have all the evidence. He says he is a gunman in one sentence, but the next says we don't have enough evidence to determine what is going on. After that meeting, you met with some of preachers; I probably wasn't supposed to be in that meeting, and it just so happened I was kind of heading out when another preacher who pastors a much major charge than me. He was heading to the meeting with you, and because I know him I said I'm going to go with you; I'm going to get in, because I'm walking with you. We get in the room, and we talk to you and we urged you after that statement Putney made, there is going to be trouble in the streets. We told you, if Putney doesn't come back out and if he does not come back with a different tone, and if he does not come out with

a better sensitivity to what happened, and he does not take direct action against those officers who did not have on their body cameras there is going to be a problem in the night. We urged you. You listed; you nodded your head, and we got out of there and just as we predicted there was trouble that night which did not have to happen because the police escalated all of that. We were out there as eye witnesses; the police did that, knocking people over, hitting people with billy clubs. All of that and it did not have to happen. We told you that and later on that night we met with you again in the Command Center. I wasn't supposed to be there either, but I'm still riding on the coattail of all these big preachers, so I'm in the room, and we are talking to you again about the pain in the streets and the hurt of our people and the frustration about this situation. You were there and you talked about how the Governor imposed the National Guard and all this state of emergency and whatnot and how that was done and had to sign the paperwork, because it was already in the works. We've got to call you out on that Mayor, you are the Mayor of this City, and you didn't have to sign nothing, and if he came without your consent that is another thing, but for you to sign on to him coming in, raising the temperature in our City, calling for a state of emergency, that is wrong, and that is very poor leadership. I'm extremely disappointed with you. Here we are and our City is in an uproar and you did nothing. We said he needed to be transparent, and you did nothing. Police escalated that temperature out there, and it did not have to end that way, and you were even moved to tears in that meeting. I was like sister, get yourself together, because it is a problem in these streets; it ain't time to be crying; it is time to be abreast of the issue. What is the plan? What is your strategy? How are we going to get out of this, because now we are in this uproar? My job as a prophet to speak to this room and this Council and let you all know it is going to be rough in these streets until you all give justice to our people. The Bible said there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun, so it is not time for us preachers to be singing kumbaya. No justice, no peace; I'm going to be preaching it every Sunday. I'm going to be in the streets tonight preaching it; I'm going to be marching with my suit on, with my shoes on with my blistered up feet and my hurt back and my hurt legs. I'm going to be marching and protesting with my people, because I've got to minister to these people every Sunday. There are all kinds of issues because of the systemic racism in our country, and I've got to try to put people's lives back together with the Grace of God. We are not having this. It is time out for playing these games; I had kids in my office the other day; I was watching on TV the footage that has been released, and I'm watching it. I'm like I'm conflicted and now you are nine year old and a 13-year old. Do I turn this off so they don't have to see this situation going on? I was like what should I do here, and I said I'm going to let it play, because this is our reality, but I shouldn't have to make that call that a nine-year old and a 13-year old we have to have a conversation about why people are getting shot in the street that looked like them. The little girl said it looks like they are trying to kill all the black people. Mayor, Council, I'm not on your side on this; I'm with my people on this, and we are going to fight and fight, and we are going to pray, but we are going to protest. We are going to do all those things that are necessary. We are going to love, but we are not going to leave this battlefield, because we've got work out here in these streets.

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#### **ITEM NO. 17: MAYOR AND COUNCIL TOPICS**

**Mayor Roberts** said we are now at the end of the speakers and we appreciate you coming here this evening and we have a few Councilmembers who do want to speak.

**Councilmember Austin** said this week Charlotte became part of a national dialogue about the relationship with police officers and people of color but even more broadly about the systems that exist in our society that continues to keep those who are marginalized with little opportunity, to move out of their current situation. One result of societal structure like this is civil disobedience and unrest, and that is what we are hearing; that is what we are feeling. Nationally, the unrest has been decades in the making; Charlotte is now the flash point. This unrest in Charlotte didn't begin on Tuesday; Tuesday was the boiling point, and it is getting hotter. Mayor and Council what you are seeing, feeling, and experiencing is the frustration and the anger of a people who have heard the doctrine of this American that states, we hold these truths that all men are created equal. The problem is the protestors say, America's video is not matching the audio. These systems have entrapped, hindered their movement and their civil disobedience as one way they express their truth. These systems include our criminal justice system, our food security system, healthcare system, housing and many more that maintain the status quo.

As I marched with protestors around this City over the few days as a peace maker, and I did march, most were peaceful in their civil disobedience and wanted real solution and real change. A smaller number wanted something else, but that is all part of the unrest and the discord. Now, I don't condone any type of destruction of property or lawless acts; that is not my God-spirit, but I do understand. My faith tells me that in the midst of things that look extremely bad that is where God works best; that is when God shows up and shows out. So Mayor and members of Council, we need action; I'm actually kind of tired of task force, committees, and conversations. What things or actions can we begin to do to put a wrench in the systems? I know the issues of our systems are multi-governmental and multi-layered, but we've got to start somewhere. We have a group that has been working on an opportunity task force, but it has been going on a year or so, and we need to get on with it. I've cried for this City; I've cried for the Scott Family; I've cried for the Carr Family and the men and women of our police force. I would ask our national, state, and local business and political figures to put aside your campaign agendas and your media sound bites; take a hard look at what we are doing in our national and our world. Listen to the voices of those who have expressed that they are not participating in the prosperity of this country. Find the humanity that is deep within you; change and make this nation live up to its creed that all men are free, and we have justice and opportunity.

**Councilmember Autry** said first I have to find some way to offer condolences to the Scott and the Carr Families. I know I have white privilege, and I also know that the pain and the anger and the frustration that is exhibited in the City of Charlotte right now is very real. Racism is a human construct, invented by humans, and humans can take it apart just as well as they put it together. Change will require some painful work to dismantle the entrenched systems; changing such mechanisms will not be easy, even things like land use decisions, even decisions about where highways and roads are built. This body has that opportunity that never presented to itself before. The young people who spoke here tonight, none of them should ever see their fathers lowered into the ground, but also they should not see their fathers hauled away to prison for non-violent, drug crime. It must be exhausting to be a person of color; I cannot speak of what that experience is and the talk that mothers and fathers have with sons. I was in Marshall Park Saturday afternoon, and it was an overwhelming experience to see the unity and the diversity of all the people of all the colors of the earth that were gathered there that afternoon. This Council should cease this opportunity, no more task force, no more consultants, no more lip service; it is time for action.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I ran for office on public safety; I started in 2007 as the victim of a crime when the police didn't show up, and it made me mad. What I found out is there are a lot of people in this City that are a lot madder than I was. That got me out of my bubble; did it make me understand everything right away, no. So, I spent from 2007 until the time I decided to run to try to learn; I've reached out to a lot of you who are here tonight, and you know that and you wouldn't take my calls because I'm white, and I understand that. As a white person, I had to learn to understand that and listen to people as to why they felt that way, and it is painful to hear, but the only way that anyone can understand it is by sitting down to listen and to talk. So, when you tell me you hate me I hear that; I have spent time saying to people I'm sorry when they say that is not what we want to hear we want to hear change. I'm speaking to everybody here, so I spent a lot of time looking at the system; I've tried to spend time looking and learning about the system. I have gone when I was a citizen to the city and the county and then to state; the state spends no money on the criminal justice system. We were 50th in the country when I looked at this in 2008. What that means is that people aren't being treated fairly; what that means is that we've got a criminal justice system that isn't serving anyone, and in particular those that have been wronged the most, and we know that. It hurts me, and it is hard on me to think that I could have gotten elected 10-months ago and couldn't flip a switch and change it all, and that is hard to accept. It is hard to accept not being able to come in here and change the minds of everybody here like that, because we are 12 different people on this board, and we all come from different perspectives, and we are 850,000 people in this City, and we all come from different perspective, and we've got to sit down and be willing to talk to each other. I know some of you hate me, and I can't change your heart unless you take the time to know who I am and what is in my heart, and then I will go with you; I will go with you to Raleigh to get that bill repealed. When I first heard about the bill I said I'm sure that transparency is everything it is cracked up to be. When the bill was passed what I learned was that our local police department, no matter who is in charge, now has no power to speak to the community and show them tapes as of October 1, 2016. They have no power unless you go to a district court judge. Who has got the money to go to a District Court Judge? Secondly, there are laws in this state; we are one of the only states, and we are about to be the only state if New York gets rid of their law that treats

16 and 17-year olds as adults in the criminal justice system. Why, because our state doesn't want to pay for juvenile systems with programs. That means that our 16 and 17-year olds who make a mistake end up in jail and that is on them the rest of their life, and they don't stand a chance. It has got to be changed, but we can't do it alone; we've got to do this together. I ran as a citizen; I had never run for office before. My last forte into public service was in Seventh Grade in Student Council. Yes, I did it because somebody took away my sense of security, and yes, I was entitled, and yes, I was privileged, and I didn't know what that felt like. Can I tell you that I know, I've been in your shoes? No, I can't. I never will; I am who I am, but I can only say that if we don't work together, if we don't threaten each other's safety and spew hatred on each other, nothing will change. People who you need to change their heart will leave town because they are afraid and you can say good riddance, and you can say let them go, but what if they take with them a company that employs 1,000 people or 5,000 people. What if they employed your sister or your brother?

**Councilmember Smith** said I want to say coming in tonight, I may have misjudged some of you, but I think I was misjudged tonight. We need to talk, and I'm willing to overlook everybody saying they are going to come to my house; my wife and kids didn't have anything to do with it, but if you want to come over let's break bread, let's talk. I'm a conservative Republican, but if we are going to fix this we need to fix it together, and it would work. I don't pretend to know what you all are going through, but I know it felt pretty crappy up here with everybody telling me I'm smirking. I don't look like Donald Trump, but telling me I look like Donald Trump, and you are telling me I'm smirking, you are telling me you are coming to my house. That is not fun, but we need to be in this together; it needs to be Republican, Democrat, Independent, we need to talk; my number is on there and some of you gave me a ration of s---, and I will meet with you, and we will sit down, but let's start over. I'm willing to overlook some of the stuff that was said to me if you are willing to overlook what you thought my facial expressions were. Let's talk; we need to do it together. It is not political party. It is people; it's humanity, and I can tell you when you are sitting here it is not fun, and you all are saying we are coming to your house, and you all said come up there. You all want us to feel what you feel; I heard your anger. I have three kids I heard your damn anger; feel what we feel too.

**Councilmember Lyles** said I've lived in Charlotte over 40-years; I raised my children, and I've got a granddaughter that I am watching them raise right now. My son was wrongly accused of a crime. When people say well you've got this or that; every one of us, I've lost a husband to cancer. I have raised two children in an environment that is black and African American, and when I think about this, I want you to know I'm sitting here, because I love this City, and I love the people of this City. I love each and every one of you, and that is why I'm sitting here. I believe in every one of you taking the chance to go out and protest. I was in Marshall Park; I've been around for the last couple of days listening and talking to people, but I want to say this, and this is my final statement, this is about the conversation to build trust, and it is not just trust with the police, it is trust with government at every level. What we are dealing with is something that is a national. I'm a sister of five brothers, and I have a son, and it doesn't matter. I don't want them to be in this situation of fear, and I have that fear. I have that anxiety every time; I've had that talk, so what I want to say about this is let's take the opportunity. There are some things that are big on our agenda. It is trust; it is jobs. It is giving people a decent place to live so they can work and raise a family without fear. That is our commitment. no more talk; it is time for some action. We need to talk about building jobs or creating jobs for people to work, because I truly believe work has meaning. Building a house so people can have a decent place for their family to be and building a sense of trust in the community, including our department. We are going to do something together; we must do it together.

**Councilmember Fallon** said I'm going to stand up because I'm only four foot nine inches; to the Scott and Carr Family, it is devastating to lose someone you love, but there are solutions that I want you to hold all feet to the fire. This Council and the Council before cut After School Programs; I fought for it. I talked for it, and it did me no good and they gave \$50,000 to the county to keep that conference, and the thing they will do will be put on the shelf and nobody will ever look at it again. That could have gone to 50 children after school programs. We cut \$600,000 to two; do you know what it is to funnel 300 kids into a community that have a chance to be doctors and lawyers, because we get them and teach them to read and get them out of the community so they know there is another world. Hold our feet to the fire; come down and yell when we do a CPI that that money has to go to the community.

**Councilmember Phipps** said I would like to give the condolences to the Scott and the Carr Families and would also like to thank the faith community in and around the College Downs Community that have already reached out to the Scott Family in tangible ways with care packages. I saw the videos that were released, both the family video and our own police video, and quite frankly they were very hard to watch. All I can say is I would hope that the community and you all out there would give the investigation a chance to precede, so we can take appropriate action based on those results. I would hope that we would do that and move forward. We have a lot of efforts that we are going to definitely take; I have a lot of good suggestions here that I know we've already considered, and we are going to take a close look at. I would just implore this community to just let the investigation run its course so we know how to proceed.

**Councilmember Driggs** said we have sat quietly tonight and listened to you, some of you said impassively. I can assure you that nobody on this side of dais is going to forget or take slightly what you said. It is clear that business as usual is not an option for us; at the same time, we need to get to the bottom of what happened; we need to get the information in order to make a judgment about whether the officers acted improperly or whether our procedures are wrong, and Mayor and Council we cannot turn our backs on our police department. We have got to continue to support the men and women who honestly protect us from crime and disorder. We have to continue to support our Chief, who is an honest man who is working hard, and we will certainly be talking about how we can respond to the things you've said tonight.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Autry, seconded by Councilmember Austin, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 4 Hours, 35 Minutes  
Minutes Completed: October 7, 2014