

City Page

NEWS & INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Nominations for Annual Police Community Relations Awards

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee is accepting nominations for the 27th Annual Police Community Relations Awards. The deadline for nominations is Monday, April 3, 2006.

An annual feature of Charlotte's Law Enforcement Week celebration, the award recognizes officers and work teams from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) for building positive, problem-solving relationships with individual citizens and neighborhood groups.

To nominate an officer, write to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee, 600 E. Trade Street, Charlotte, NC, 28202 or call **704.336.3056** to request a nomination brochure.

Forms also are available on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee website at <http://crc.charmeck.org>.



The Police Community Relations Award recognizes an officer's ability to build relationships with citizens.

Get Involved!

- Do you get frustrated sitting in traffic?
- Is there an intersection that really bothers you?

The Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) is recommending \$3.5 billion be spent to address transportation issues the City will face over the next 25 years as part of a Transportation Action Plan (TAP). Now CDOT wants to engage the public in the process and determine their funding priorities.

Log In or Come Out

Those interested can participate by taking a transportation funding and priorities survey until March 31 at <http://cdot.charmeck.org> or by attending one of the four public workshops listed below.

Saturday, February 18

11 a.m.—1 p.m.

University City Regional Library
301 E. W.T. Harris Blvd.

Saturday, February 25

10 a.m.—Noon
West Blvd. Branch Library
2157 W. Blvd.

Saturday, March 18

10 am – Noon
Eastland Mall Community Room – Entrance E near Belk
5471 Central Ave.

Saturday, March 25

10 am – Noon
Morrison Regional Library
7015 Morrison Blvd.



Focus areas, priorities center of City Council retreat

During its annual retreat February 1—3, Charlotte City Council received an update on the outlook of the City's budget. While still early in the process, current forecasts indicate the City can maintain current levels of service next year without a property tax rate increase. However, demands on services from growth and development have outpaced the City's ability to meet them, which have resulted in several unfunded issues for next year's budget:

- Additional police staffing
- Street resurfacing to prevent potholes and improve overall street quality
- Road, intersection and other transportation improvements to help with traffic congestion and safety issues as well as provide a good network of pedestrian and bicycle
- Neighborhood improvements such as curb and gutter, sidewalks and increased neighborhood assistance.

On March 6, Council will vote on its final plans for work on its major focus areas, in which to concentrate resources. They include Community Safety, Transportation, Economic Development, Housing and Neighborhood Development and the Environment, which is a new focus area. Council also will vote on work plans to address its priorities: Community Safety, Economic Development and Housing and Neighborhood Development. Then, over the next few months, the Council will hold a series of budget workshops to work through various service and financial issues. City Manager Pam Syfert will present her recommended budget to the Council in May after which Council will work through any remaining issues before voting on a final budget in June.

As they begin work on next year's budget, City staff and the Council will continue to look for savings in current services and focus on how to meet service and funding challenges in the future. Among the issues:

- \$3.5 billion in transportation needs (such as roads, sidewalks and bike lanes) over the next 25 years
- \$379 million to meet the City's affordable housing needs over the next five years
- Expanding the job base
- Reducing crime, especially robbery, auto theft and homicide as well as gang violence and domestic violence.



The City can maintain current levels of service; however, several unfunded issues remain for next year's budget.



Don't curb your enthusiasm, just your recyclables.

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311. Your 24/7 connection to city and county services.

