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## INFORMATION:

### **McGill Rose Garden Lease Extension**

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McGill Rose Garden is a City-owned property that was acquired in 1976 as part of the First Ward Urban Renewal Program with the intent that this parcel was to remain as a rose garden. It is located on the former Avant Fuel and Ice Company property at 940 N. Davidson Street, next to the Charlotte Transit Maintenance Operations Center facility. Henry McGill, founder of the McGill Rose Garden, Inc. passed away in 2007 and it has since been managed by a Board of Directors of a non-profit corporation known as "McGill Rose Garden". The McGill Rose Garden is proud to be only one of four gardens in the state to be recognized as having the "All American Rose Selection" (AARS) distinction.

In 1996, the City Council approved a lease of the City-owned property for \$1 per year to McGill Rose Garden Inc. (the Garden). Through the Landscape Management operating budget, the City provides the Garden with financial support of approximately \$34,000.00 per year plus in-kind support such as pesticide spraying, debris/material hauling, tree pruning, etc.

The Garden relies primarily on volunteers, donations and rental revenue from events held at the facility. The original 10-year lease allowed for two additional 5-year terms. The Garden has notified staff that they wish to exercise their second 5-year extension. Under the original lease provisions, the City Manager has the authority to approve extensions. The City Manager has approved the lease extension.

Below is additional information about the McGill Rose Garden:

- The Garden has cultivated over 1,000 roses (over 200 varieties) and a wide variety of other attractive flowers and shrubs.
- As a revenue generator, the Garden is gaining popularity by hosting weddings and other catered social functions.
- The Garden enjoys partnerships with many civic groups including WingHaven, CPCC, the Nevins Center, the Carolina Raptor Center, the Arts and Science Council, CMS, UMAR, Lifespan, Common Ground and Sharon Towers.
- The Garden currently has partner programs with Mecklenburg County Therapeutic Recreation (Project Shining Star), Presbyterian Hospital Hospice, Witherspoon Nurseries, Christ the King Pre-School, Trinity Episcopal School, and Garinger High School. Life Span published their annual giving report whereby the Garden is listed prominently.
- The Garden has expanded their gardening interests to include herbs and spices which they also sell. The Herb Society of America has a picture of the Garden in their 2012 National Calendar.

The Garden's Board Members have been good stewards of the City's property. The Garden's hours of operation are from 10 AM to 4 PM, Tuesday through Saturday. From May through September, the Garden is also open on Sunday from 1 PM to 4 PM.