CHARLOTTE

City Council
Follow-Up Report

September 21, 2011

September 12 – Council Business Meeting

Sign Language Interpreter
Staff Resource: Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk, 704-336-4515, sckelly@charlottenc.gov

During the Awards and Recognitions segment of the Council meeting recognizing Deaf Awareness Month, Mayor Pro Tem Cannon asked that City staff research the possibility of the provision of a sign language interpreter at Council meetings.

Currently, various accommodations, including sign language interpreters, are provided for on an "as needed" basis. This information is posted on the City Clerk's Office web page and is included in the published notices of public hearings. The sign language interpreter who attended the September 12 Council meeting works with Choice Translating and Interpreting, Inc., with whom the City is currently on contract on an as-needed basis at a cost of $79.00/hour.

In addition, all televised City Council meetings are closed-captioned. No one who has ever attended a City Council meeting and may have been hearing impaired has requested a sign language interpreter for the Chamber. With this in mind, hiring a full-time sign language interpreter for each Council meeting may be cost prohibitive.