Council-Manager Memo #88
Wednesday, November 30, 2011

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

December 13 – Lake Norman Transportation Commission "Red Line Rail Report" Summit
Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov

The Lake Norman Transportation Commission is hosting a special "Red Line Rail Report" Summit on Tuesday, December 13 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Charles Mack Citizen Center at 215 North Main Street, Mooresville, North Carolina. The consultants for the Red Line Task Force will present the recent project work, including the proposed Business/Finance Plan that was developed to fund, construct and operate the Red Line Regional Rail Project from Charlotte to Mooresville. The Red Line Task Force Committee, a committee of the Metropolitan Transit Commission, is proposing a dual benefit (transit and freight) corridor expected to attract over $4 billion in private capital and generate over 23,000 jobs over a 20 year build out with an estimated cost of $358 million in current dollars.

Street Tree Planting Contracts
Staff resource: Don McSween, E&PM, 704-336-3459, dmcsween@charlottenc.gov

The City has negotiated contracts with five private landscaping firms to plant almost 1,000 street trees. The trees will be planted in the Uptown area and the neighborhoods of Third Ward, Fourth Ward, Dilworth, Hampshire Hills, Robinson Church, Oakhurst, Belmont, North Charlotte and others. Crews will be at work from December through April; residents may see them at any time throughout the season.

Part of the "50% by 2050" tree canopy program approved by Council, these contracts were awarded under RFP and cover the cost of purchasing, planting and guaranteeing the trees for one year. Some of the trees are replacing ones that had to be removed; others are being planted in locations with no previous street trees. Additional small contracts will be implemented as the planting season progresses. The contracts are funded with PAYGO capital funds designated specifically for tree planting and maintenance.

North Carolina Redistricting Information
Staff Resources: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2009, dfenton@charlottenc.gov
Bob Hagemann, City Attorney's Office, 704-336-2651, rhagemann@charlottenc.gov

Pursuant to a request from the Government Affairs Committee, attached are maps of the recently revised North Carolina General Assembly House and Senate Districts and US Congressional Districts representing Mecklenburg County (Attachment 1). The Committee also requested a summary of the changes made in redistricting affecting Mecklenburg County and the status of lawsuits filed against the redistricting plans.

Summary
Mecklenburg County will be represented by 12 members of the NC House of Representatives

picking up two seats (88th and 92nd) since the 2001 redistricting. The 88th was formerly located in Alexander and Catawba counties, and the 92nd was formerly located in Surry, Yadkin and Iredell counties. In keeping with the 2001 redistricting, all House districts are wholly contained within Mecklenburg County and will represent portions of the City of Charlotte.

Mecklenburg County will be represented by five state senators. All five seats are wholly contained within Mecklenburg County whereas only four of the five seats from the 2001 redistricting were wholly contained within the County. The one shared seat from the 2001 redistricting, the 35th Senate District, is now wholly contained within Union County and will no longer be part of the Mecklenburg Delegation. The newest Mecklenburg Senate District, the 41st, was formerly located in Gaston, Lincoln and Iredell Counties. Finally, all five Senate Districts from the 2011 redistricting will represent parts of the City of Charlotte.

Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte are still represented by three members of the US House of Representatives, all of whom also represent areas outside of Mecklenburg County.

Following is basic population and related data used in the redistricting process, which can be accessed at http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gis/randr07/redistricting.html. The data listed, which was from the 2000 and 2010 censuses, was utilized in the 2001 and 2011 redistricting processes.

Data Elements	2001	2011
North Carolina Population	8,049,313	9,535,483
Mecklenburg County Population	695,454	919,628
Charlotte Population	540,828	731,424
NC House of Representatives		
NC House Districts	120	120
Ideal House District Size	67,078	79,462
Mecklenburg House Districts	10	12
Mecklenburg House Districts Shared with Other Counties	0	0
88th House District – Charlotte Population	--	75,622
92nd House District – Charlotte Population	--	39,422
98th House District – Charlotte Population	18,440	15,115
99th House District – Charlotte Population	51,281	74,061
100th House District – Charlotte Population	68,466	75,886
101st House District – Charlotte Population	58,318	69,176
102nd House District – Charlotte Population	69,833	75,518
103rd House District – Charlotte Population	18,642	16,520
104th House District – Charlotte Population	69,237	75,077
105th House District – Charlotte Population	65,154	64,266
106th House District – Charlotte Population	68,952	75,539
107th House District – Charlotte Population	52,505	75,222
NC State Senate		
NC Senate Districts	50	50

Data Elements	2001	2011
Ideal Senate District Size	160,986	190,710
Mecklenburg Senate Districts	5	5
Mecklenburg Senate Districts Shared with Other Counties	1	0
35th Senate District – Charlotte Population	0	--
37th Senate District – Charlotte Population	156,760	166,788
38th Senate District – Charlotte Population	131,184	170,846
39th Senate District – Charlotte Population	141,045	171,834
40th Senate District – Charlotte Population	111,839	179,458
41st Senate District – Charlotte Population	--	42,498
US House of Representatives		
US House Congressional Districts	435	435
NC Congressional Districts	13	13
Ideal NC Congressional District Size	619,178	733,499
Mecklenburg Congressional Districts	3	3
Mecklenburg Congressional Districts Shared with Other Counties	3	3
8th Congressional District – Charlotte Population	100,756	10,671
9th Congressional District – Charlotte Population	243,947	350,090
12th Congressional District – Charlotte Population	196,125	370,663

Litigation

Earlier this month, two lawsuits were filed in Wake County Superior Court challenging the constitutionality of the new North Carolina House and Senate Districts and US Congressional Districts. **Attached (see "2. Maps.pdf" and "3. Captions.pdf)** are the captions of the two lengthy complaints (113 and 96 pages) which identify the plaintiffs and defendants (copies of the full complaints are available upon request). The numerous state and federal Constitutional claims are based on assertions that many districts: (1) are not sufficiently compact; (2) are irrationally shaped; and/or (3) excessively split counties and precincts. In addition, the complaints assert that race was a predominant factor in the drawing of certain districts, specifically that African-Americans were "packed" or concentrated in a relatively small number of districts thereby diluting the African-American vote.

Pursuant to state law, the cases have been assigned to a three judge panel. It is too early to tell when the cases will be heard or decisions rendered.