Council-Manager Memo #13
Wednesday, February 20, 2013

CHARLOTTE

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INFORMATION:

BigBelly Solar Six-Month Pilot Update

Staff Resource: Victoria O. Johnson, Solid Waste Services, 704-336-3410, vjohnson@charlottenc.gov

Six months ago, Solid Waste Services launched a pilot project featuring eight BigBelly Solar waste stations. Since the launch, Solid Waste Services has noticed a reduction in the need for trash collection at these stations from two to three times a week to once a week or less. This improvement has allowed management the ability to re-assign staff to other service functions as needed. Staff has also been able to provide assistance with other services such as maintenance of the Uptown Central Business District area.

The solar-powered trash receptacles are compactors that hold up to five times the capacity of traditional 32-gallon steel bins and pebblestone waste containers. This has resulted in fewer collection trips, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, less wear and tear on the infrastructure and increased operational efficiencies. Solid Waste Services also noted that due to the enclosed design of the BigBelly Solar units, no work-related injury claims, such as insect stings, were reported. In addition, there were no incidents reported of scavenging of discarded recyclable materials as the design bars public access to the materials in the containers. Solid Waste Services has collected 10,790 gallons of recyclable material and 6,480 gallons of trash since the installation of containers in August 2012. Staff will continue to collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot and provide a more detailed report at the conclusion of the first year.

***City Source* Tells Stories of Citizen Service**

Staff Resource: Sherry Bauer, Corporate Communications & Marketing, 704-336-2459, sbauer@charlottenc.gov

City Source is the City of Charlotte's unique 30-minute program for citizens to learn about the City's services as well as how its employees serve the community. The program airs the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. on Cable 16 (Time Warner Cable), AT&T U-verse and is streamed LIVE online at www.charlottenc.gov.

The Feb. 21 – Mar. 6 episode features the City Council Retreat and highlights the Focus Area Plans. The episode also allows viewers to take a virtual tour of each of the seven Council Districts. **See "CitySource.pdf" for a flier.**

This information in *City Source* is also promoted in CMail, the City's electronic newsletter, emailed to more than 1,100 subscribers and distributed by City departments whose services, programs and employees are featured in an upcoming episode.

ATTACHMENTS:
City Council Follow-Up Report **(see "FollowUp.pdf")**

Contents include:
--Firearms and Ammunition Purchases