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## INFORMATION:

### **National League of Cities – Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness Forum**

*Staff Resource: Mary Gaertner, NBS, 704-432-5495, mgaertner@charlottenc.gov*

Councilwoman Patsy Kinsey and City staff member Mary Gaertner will participate in a Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homeless Forum at the National League of Cities Conference, 2—5 pm on Saturday, March 7 in Roosevelt Room 4 in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

Council members and City of Charlotte conference attendees are encouraged to attend the forum. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Our Heroes initiative will be highlighted as a local example of coordination and best practices segment of the forum. See attached draft forum agenda for more details.

The [Housing Our Heroes](#) initiative began on July 6, 2014 and was officially announced on Veterans Day, November 11, 2014. Using the federally mandated annual Point in Time Count, the Housing Our Heroes implementation team has set a goal to house 204 homeless veterans by the end of December 2015. As of February 20, the initiative has helped house 145 Veterans.



Forum Agenda.pdf

## ATTACHMENTS:



4 -- March.pdf

**Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness Forum**  
**DRAFT**

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel  
Roosevelt Room 4  
Saturday, March 7, 2015  
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**2:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

*Welcome & Introductions*

Salt Lake City Mayor & NLC President  
Mayor Ralph Becker

Bill Block  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Anthony Love  
Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement  
VHA Homeless Programs  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Jay Melder  
Director of Communications and External Affairs  
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

*Local Examples of Coordination & Best Practices*

Councilmember Patsy Kinsey &  
Mary Gaertner, Neighborhood Programs Coordinator  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Washington, DC representative  
*(To be determined)*

Linda Kaufman  
National Movement Manager  
Zero: 2016 / Community Solutions

Baltimore, MD representative  
*(To be determined)*

Question and Answers

**3:30 – 4:15 p.m.**

*Overview of key resources*

VA Resources  
Kevin Morton, Director  
Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center

HUD Resources  
Marvin Turner, Field Director  
Washington, D.C. HUD office

Other Federal Resources (e.g. HHS, DoL, etc.)  
Jay Melder, Director of Communications and External Affairs  
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Philanthropic Resources  
Heather Pritchard, Senior Manager of National Partnerships  
The Home Depot Foundation

**4:15 – 4:55 p.m.**

*Questions and Answers*

**4:55 – 5:00 p.m.**

*Closing Remarks*



**CHARLOTTE**<sup>SM</sup>

**City Council  
Follow-Up Report**

**March 4, 2015**

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**February 23, 2015 – City Council Business Meeting**

**Criteria Used for Key to the City**

*Staff Resource: Carol L. Jennings, City Manager's Office, 704-336-7285, [cljennings@charlottenc.gov](mailto:cljennings@charlottenc.gov)*

During the Dinner Briefing, the City Council requested details about the criteria for Keys to the City and how this started.

The Office of the Mayor is responsible for initiating the presentation of a Key to the City. The criteria used for presenting Keys to the City are:

- Dignitaries of unique and recognizable national or international stature;
- Citizens who have been recognized for their extraordinary achievements or who have brought positive benefits or acclaim to the City and community through their long and dedicated service.

In the past year, Keys to the City were presented at City Council meetings to Jimmie Johnson, Patricia McBride and Thomas Davis.

**Employment Barriers Facing Ex-Offenders**

*Staff Resource: Alban Burney, City Manager's Office, 704-336-4947, [aburney@charlottenc.gov](mailto:aburney@charlottenc.gov)*

During the Citizens' Forum, two speakers spoke about employment barriers facing ex-offenders. Specifically, their comments focused on discrimination based on their criminal records. City staff contacted each speaker on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with the contact information for The Exodus Foundation. The Exodus Foundation's mission is to stop the flow of African-Americans to prison and to create a more sane, humane and safe world where color and class discrimination cease to contaminate justice and its resources.