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INFORMATION:

Crowns of Enterprise Awards Ceremony – May 1, 2014

Staff Resource: Krystle Hampton, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-432-3303, khampton@charlottenc.gov

The Mayor and City Council are invited to attend the third annual Crowns of Enterprise Awards ceremony on May 1, 2014. The event will be held at the Foundation for the Carolinas, located at 220 N. Tryon Street, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Crowns of Enterprise Awards is a partnership between the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County created to recognize local Minority, Women and Small Business Enterprises that demonstrate exemplary leadership and business strategies. Now in its third year, the event displays the hard work and resilient efforts of local businesses, and highlights their positive economic impact.

At the May 1st event, awards will be given to one business in each of the following categories:

- Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) of the Year
- Woman Business Enterprise (WBE) of the Year
- Small Business Enterprise (SBE) of the Year

To RSVP for the 2014 Crowns of Enterprise Awards ceremony please contact Krystle Hampton, or complete the [online registration form](#).

ATTACHED: [Crowns of Enterprise invitation](#)

Charlotte Named Among the Top 25 Energy Star Cities

Staff Resource: Rob Phocas, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-7558, rphocas@charlottenc.gov; Laurie Sickles, E&PM, 704-336-4811, lsickles@charlottenc.gov

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named Charlotte 11th on the list of cities with the most Energy Star certified buildings. Charlotte is home to 176 Energy Star certified buildings totaling 23 million square feet. Charlotte's Energy Star buildings include schools, government buildings and private business offices. The City has two Energy Star buildings, Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center and Old City Hall. Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools has 59 Energy Star facilities. The number of certified buildings illustrates how Charlotte and other cities across America are embracing energy efficiency as a simple and effective way to save money and prevent pollution.

Energy use in commercial buildings accounts for 17 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions at a cost of more than \$100 billion per year. Per square foot, Energy Star certified office buildings cost \$.50 less and use nearly two times less energy than average office buildings. Charlotte's facilities have saved \$13.7 million on utility bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions in an

amount equal to the annual electricity use of 11,400 homes.

Commercial buildings that earn EPA's Energy Star rating must perform in the top 25 percent of similar buildings nationwide and must be independently verified by a licensed professional engineer or a registered architect.

For more information on the Top 25 Cities with the most Energy Star certified buildings, please visit <http://www.energystar.gov/buildings/press-room/top-10-cities-2014/top-25-cities>.

ATTACHMENTS:

[April 2 Environment Committee Summary](#)