Council-Manager Memo #62
Friday, August 17, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Aug 20)	Tues (Aug 21)	Wed (Aug 22)	Thurs (Aug 23)	Fri (Aug 24)
11:45 AM Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room 280				

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, August 20

11:45 am Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: City Attorney's evaluation

August and September calendars are attached (see "2. Calendar.pdf").

INFORMATION:

CATS Buses at DNC

Staff Resource: Carolyn Flowers, CATS, 704-336-3855, cflowers@charlottenc.gov

At the Council meeting on July 23 staff shared with Council that, because CATS is a public transportation agency that receives federal assistance, it is only allowed to provide charter bus services if it has received a waiver from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Waivers are only granted in certain situations and are only given if all private charter providers that are willing and able to provide services within the specific geographic area have been exhausted.

In January 2012, the DNC Host Committee began its process to secure buses needed to transport delegates during the DNC. Notices of the charter opportunities were sent to charter providers registered on the FTA's charter website for the Charlotte geographical area. CATS has and continues to work closely with the DNC and the FTA to assure that private charter providers are utilized to the maximum extent possible, in compliance with any and all requirements of the FTA. However, even when all charter providers are exhausted, the DNC anticipates it will be unable to meet all its needs or its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements solely through the use of private providers. Therefore, CATS has taken the necessary steps to be in the position to provide buses if needed.

On June 1, CATS submitted a petition for waiver of the charter regulations for an event of national significance to the FTA. It updated that request on August 8, 2012 with additional information on the number of private providers being utilized and the total number and types of buses to be provided if needed by the DNC. CATS is awaiting a response from the FTA.

By letter, dated August 14, the American Bus Association, a trade organization representing charter bus operators filed a request with FTA seeking denial of the CATS petition. It is not unusual for trade organizations or private providers to object to the FTA issuing a waiver. Some are successful in persuading the FTA and some are not.

CATS will continue to seek guidance from the FTA and will only provide charter service during the DNC if the FTA grants a waiver and the private providers are unable to satisfy the needs of the DNC. Any charter service provided will not affect CATS regular service.

House United Project at CarolinaFest
Staff Resources: Mary Gaertner, N&BS, 704-432-5495, mgaertner@charlottenc.gov
Pamela Wideman, N&BS, 704-336-3488, pwideman@charlottenc.gov

The House United Project is a collaborative effort between delegates at the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Tampa and the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Charlotte. The project is sponsored by Rebuilding Together of the Carolinas and Sears - Hero's at Home program.

Delegates attending each convention will work on a "½ house build." The DNC ½ house build will take place during the CarolinaFest Labor Day festivities taking place along Tryon Street. City Council members are invited to participate in the build on Monday, September 3, 2012.

Ty Pennington, television host from Extreme Makeover, will kick the project off at CarolinaFest. Thirty-minute work shifts for the house are available between 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. To register to work on the house, please contact Lisa Curran at 312-396-9736 or via email at Lisa.curran@zenogroup.com.

The DNC delegate portion of the house will be moved to a lot donated by the City of Charlotte in the Belmont community on September 4 where the "½ house build" from the RNC in Tampa will arrive. Construction to connect each half will run through October. The completed home will be donated to a deserving military veteran and his/her family. Rebuilding Together of the Carolina's will hold a move-in celebration once the project is complete.

Heros at Home is a program Sears Holdings has created in partnership with Rebuilding Together in response to an urgent need to assist military families facing hardship. Rebuilding Together is the nation's largest all volunteer home rehabilitation organization committed to bringing warmth, safety and accessibility to homeowners who do not have the financial or physical resources to complete home repairs and other necessary improvements.

***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 Aug. 16 – Sept.1 edition includes information on City services and the organization's preparations as the host city for the DNC, why using the Charlotte Area Transit System is more convenient than ever especially during convention week, how to improve breathability, and why Charlotte's water is so tasty and "award-winning".

This information 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. Consult the flier **(see "3. CitySource.pdf")** for list of stories in the next episode.

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

Renewed Commercial Building Retrofit Program Launches Request for Proposals
Staff Resource: Nicole Storey, N&BS, 704-336-2929, nrstorey@charlottenc.gov

The Commercial Building Retrofit Program (CBRetro) 2012, administered by N&BS, has launched a new Request for Proposals. The program provides funding for energy efficiency improvements in commercial buildings and apartment communities within the Business Corridor Revitalization Geography. The grant is being offered for a limited time in conjunction with the recently expanded Façade Improvement Program. This opportunity will allow for enhancements to a building or community's exterior in addition to improving energy efficiency.

Funding was initially provided through the City's $6.8 million dollar Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). An additional $400,000 was granted through the federal Better Buildings Program. In recognition of the program's success, the City recently received another $207,005 allocation through the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance and a 14-month extension of the EECBG grant to allow for reinvestment of recaptured funds.

Previous rounds of the program provided funding assistance for 25 projects encompassing more than 540,000 sq. ft. of non-residential space and 1,300 residential apartment units. These investments will leverage more than $6.8 million dollars in private investment. Goals of the program include creating or maintaining jobs, inspiring sustainable behaviors and achieving at least 15% energy savings for participating projects. Applications for the next round are being accepted through September 14, 2012.

More information on the CBRetro 2012 grant opportunity, including the required application, can be found at the following link:
http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/ed/financialprograms/Pages/EnergyPrograms.aspx

ATTACHMENTS:

July 9 Budget Committee Summary **(see "4. BCSummary.pdf")**
July 19 Economic Development Committee Summary **(see "5. EDSummary.pdf")**