Council-Manager Memo #76
Wednesday, October 17, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

October 18 – Four Seasons Plaza Shopping Center Ribbon Cutting
Staff Resource: Chris Hemans, N&B , 704-432-3025, chemans@charlottenc.gov

Council members are invited to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Four Seasons Plaza Shopping Center located at 6300 - 6500 Albemarle Road on Thursday, October 18 at 11:00 a.m. Council member John Autry will be participating in the program for this event. The improvements to the shopping center were made possible, in part, through a Façade Improvement Matching Grant through the City's Business Corridor Revitalization Program.

On January 9, 2012, Council approved a $175,000 grant to the Neighborhood Revitalization Group (NRG), owners of the center, to assist with the renovation of the building façade, installation of new signs and parking lot improvements. Total cost of the renovation was $350,000.

Since 1999, the City's Façade Improvement Program has assisted 125 property owners to improve the appearance of their facilities, and helped leverage an additional $14 million in private investment in the City's designated business corridors.

Smart Growth America - Technical Assistance Workshop Application
Staff Resources: Dan Gallagher, CDOT, 704-336-4984, dgallagher@charlottenc.gov
Melony McCullough, Planning, 704-336-5993, mmcullough@charlottenc.gov
Tom Warshauer, N&BS, 704-336-6522, twarshauer@charlottenc.gov

Each year, Smart Growth America (SGA) offers free assistance to communities that are pursuing smart growth initiatives. SGA undertakes these workshops through funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SGA is a national organization that advocates for smart growth principles and provides technical assistance and research to communities.

SGA provides technical assistance workshops across 12 topic areas. An interdepartmental staff team is developing an application that will focus on "Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health". The application is due by October 25, 2012. The purpose of the workshop is to focus on ways in which smart growth can position Charlotte to attract new business, reduce tax burdens, invest public funds to stimulate private investment and continue to provide a foundation for long-term fiscal and economic health and competitiveness. The link below provides more information on the issues that will be looked at during the "Planning for Economic and Fiscal Health" workshop:

http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/planning_for_fiscal_and_economic_health.pdf

If Charlotte is selected, SGA will provide technical assistance in the form of a 1-day or 2-day workshop. If selected to receive this technical assistance, there will be no cost to the City other than staff time.

Some of the past recipients of these technical assistance workshops include Gwinnett County, Tacoma, Pittsburgh, Pima County (Tucson), and Oklahoma City. If Charlotte is selected, City Council will be asked to participate in portions of the 1-2 day workshop. The workshops are expected to take place in Spring/Summer of 2013.

***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 Oct. 18- Oct. 31 episode explores the Healthy Children, Healthy Families Legacy, why Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is one of the top ten airports for healthy food options, CFD's Fire Investigation Task Force, tree banding to stop cankerworms, and how Carolina Brotherhood is honoring the fallen, plus more.

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. Click here to view a list of upcoming episodes.

ATTACHMENTS:

September 27 Economic Development Committee Summary **(see "2. ED Summary.pdf")**