Council-Manager Memo #87
Wednesday, November 28, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

December 1 – Southside Community Tree Planting
Staff Resource: Gina Shell, E&PM, 704-336-4648, gshell@charlottenc.gov

Charlotte's tree canopy will grow as a result of a collaborative tree-planting event this Saturday, December 1. TreesCharlotte, in partnership with the Charlotte Housing Authority, City of Charlotte and Crescent Resources, will plant more than 300 trees in the Southside Community. Catawba Lands Conservancy is managing the event.

The event, kicking off at 9 a.m. at 3400 Griffith Street, will start with remarks and end with a lunch and celebration. The effort, part of the TreesCharlotte initiative called NeighborWoods, will plant about 240 trees in the Southside campus and 60 more on the adjacent Marie G. Davis School campus. TreesCharlotte's NeighborWoods program is managed by Catawba Lands Conservancy in partnership with the City of Charlotte, with the ultimate goal of planting 3,500 trees each year in neighborhoods across the City.

Within a week or so of the Dec. 1 event, the City of Charlotte will plant an additional 187 street trees in the Southside Community. This planting effort will nearly double the Southside campus canopy, from 27% to 48%, as the newly planted trees mature. Crescent Resources, the event sponsor and a key partner with TreesCharlotte, is providing both capital and volunteers for the event. Trees will be planted by about 200 volunteers from Crescent Resources, Carolinas HealthCare System, Queens University and other groups.

Through its NeighborWoods program, TreesCharlotte will plant more than 1,000 trees this fall and winter in several neighborhoods and school campuses. Ten major planting events are planned for the next planting season. TreesCharlotte also supports reforesting efforts that plant thousands of small trees in natural areas.

Report Released by Environmental Protection Agency Referencing Airport
Staff Resource: Jerry Orr, Aviation, 704-359-4006, tjorr@cltairport.com

The Mayor and City Council received the following information in June 2012 concerning the settlement of an environmental permit violation at the Airport with the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). This information is being provided again in light of the EPA's recent press release of its annual report describing all violations in the southeast region, which includes the Airport's violation:

> "The Airport has recently settled a permit violation with Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") resolving a fine over the City's performance of certain work in connection with the 2010 Taxiway D extension project prior to issuance of the required environmental permit. Because of an internal miscommunication, a contractor for the

City commenced work on the project site causing the discharge of soil runoff into areas designated as a protected wetland and stream. The Airport had applied for the necessary permit and was awaiting approval at the time of the work, but the permit had not yet been formally issued. Once notified of the violation, the City stopped work and began a mitigation process in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). This process was completed to the satisfaction of all parties involved in the fall of 2010.

However, as a result of the violation, the EPA notified the Airport in September 2010 that it was subject to a fine for performing work in environmentally sensitive areas without the required permit. The EPA linked this violation to an issue that arose during the construction of the 3rd parallel runway in which the Airport exceeded the terms of a similar environmental permit. Although the Airport was not fined in this instance, it was required to amend its permit to include the impacted areas and to undertake various mitigation efforts. A process of negotiation followed with the EPA resulting in the eventual settlement in the amount of $70,000. The settlement was finalized in May 2012."

Fare Changes by Passenger Vehicle For Hire Board

Staff Resources: Kirk Young, CMPD, 704-398-6765, kyoung1@cmpd.org
Thomas E. Powers III, City Attorney's Office, 704-336-5877, tpowers@charlottenc.gov

The Passenger Vehicle for Hire (PVH) Manager conducted a survey, both online and by paper, of all taxi cab drivers from September 19, 2012, through October 22, 2012. The PVH Office provided notice of the survey to all taxi cab companies and to any drivers parked in a taxi cab stand. The PVH Office received 103 completed responses from the survey. As of August 31, 2012, there were a total of 738 taxi cab drivers permitted through PVH.

Per the City ordinance section 22-182, the PVH Board is authorized to review the rates charged by taxi cabs. In October 2012, the PVH Board designated a subcommittee to review the survey results and recommend any changes to the taxi cab rates. The Committee met once in October and once in November to formulate its recommendations.

At the November 5, 2012 meeting of the PVH Board, the Committee recommended the following changes to the rates charged by taxi cabs:

(i) *Charge $25.00 from the uptown area (inside I-277) to the airport.*
Currently, taxi cabs charge a flat fee of $25.00 from the airport to the uptown area but charge a per-mile charge from the uptown area to the airport. Taxi cab drivers complained that it led to confusion with passengers.

(ii) *Charge $50.00 for the cleanup of any passenger's bodily fluid inside the taxi cab.*

Currently, the ordinance does not allow for any charges by a taxi cab driver related to the discharge of bodily fluids. Taxi cab drivers complained these events prevented them from earning an income while they remove the bodily fluids and sanitize the vehicle.

(iii) *Allow taxi cabs to charge for "time-on" when the vehicle is traveling 15mph or less.* "Time-on" references the ability of the taxi cab driver to charge for the time used by the passenger to travel to a destination, instead of charging for the distance. Currently, taxi cab drivers are permitted to charge for "time-on" between 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. which is the hours associated with rush hour within the City. Taxi cab drivers complained that "time-on" should be charged whenever traffic is very slow or at a standstill because they are prevented from earning other fares that may be available. Examples of traffic being very slow or at a standstill include Panthers games, ACC Championship, CIAA Tournament, vehicular accidents, or vehicular congestion.

The PVH Board voted to accept the Committee recommendations but delayed implementation of the recommendations no later than March 2013 to permit the PVH Manager's Office to prepare new taxi cab rate sheets and coordinate with the taxi companies regarding the issue of "time-on."

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Energy Star Designation

Staff Resource: Sue Rutledge, E&PM, 704-336-4120, srutledge@charlottenc.gov

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center (CMGC) has earned the Energy Star designation for 2012, the mark of superior energy performance identifying the facility as one of the most energy efficient office buildings in the nation. This prestigious designation recognizes the City of Charlotte as a national leader in limiting the release of greenhouse gases and protecting the environment.

In order to qualify for Energy Star recognition, a facility's energy performance must be ranked in the top 25% of similar existing office buildings as indicated through the US Environmental Protection Agency's Portfolio Manager. In addition to energy-efficiency, conditions for thermal comfort, indoor air quality and lighting levels must be met.

The CMGC earned a score of 93, which means it placed in the top 7% of office buildings in the nation. The score was achieved, in large part, by improving building technology over the past 15 years including the following:

- Change of all fluorescent T-12's to T'8's.
- Change of all incandescent lights to compact fluorescent.
- Change 1,000 VAV (Variable Air Volume) boxes from pneumatic to electronic which significantly reduced energy consumption by fans for HVAC.
- Precise control of building HVAC and lighting through the building automation system.
- Installation of other technologies such as energy misers on vending machines and lighting occupancy sensors in selected areas.

This marks the fourth consecutive year the CMGC has received this designation. It is the largest building in a 4.8M square foot portfolio of buildings managed by Engineering & Property Management.

The CMGC will be included in the registry of buildings on the Energy Star website and staff has received a certificate acknowledging this achievement. The City may use the official Energy Star logo to promote the designation.

Fire Station #42 Certified as LEED Gold Facility
Staff Resource: Bruce Miller, E&PM, 704-336-4469, bemiller@charlottenc.gov

The U.S. Green Building Council notified the City on November 8 that Fire Station #42 has achieved LEED Gold status. This makes it the first Charlotte fire station designated as such since City Council adopted the Sustainable City Facilities Policy in September 2009. The project received a total of 61 points, within the Gold range of 60-79 points out of 110 possible points.

Fire Station #42, at 5620 Central Avenue in the Eastland Mall area, was completed December 28, 2011. The new infill station is now providing quicker emergency response time for the busiest area in Charlotte. This 3-bay, 11,598 sq. ft. facility cost $5 million dollars, well below the FY10 project budget appropriation of $7 million dollars.

The attachment **(see "2. LEED.pdf")** includes a photo and details on sustainable and energy-saving project elements.

ATTACHMENTS:

November 14 Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee **Summary (see "3. HND Summary.pdf")**