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December 8 – First Ward Park Dedication Ceremony

Staff Resources: Todd DeLong, NBS, tdejong@charlottenc.gov, 704-432-2989

Bill Cronin, NBS, bcronin@charlottenc.gov, 704-336-3857

The Mayor and City Council members are invited to attend the [Dedication Ceremony](#) for First Ward Park on Tuesday, December 8 from 10:30 a.m. - Noon. The ceremony, hosted by Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation, will include light refreshments and musical presentations by area schools. The Dedication Ceremony will be the first of several events during the day concluding with a Light Up the Park Ceremony at 5:15 p.m. Parking will be available at 422 E. Ninth St. To RSVP for the event please email Lori.Saylor@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov by Dec. 4.

The park is the first major phase of the First Ward Redevelopment Project, a public-private partnership between the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, UNC Charlotte, and Levine Properties. As part of this redevelopment, Levine Properties will receive a 45% tax increment grant up to \$23.7 million for 1,300 public parking spaces. Additional components of the redevelopment project include a mixed used redevelopment of eight city blocks in First Ward, improvements to 8th and Brevard Streets, and provisions for 10% (up to a maximum of 50 units) of rental residential units to be reserved for 20 years as workforce housing.

December 10 – Mobile Engagement Strategy Community Workshop

Staff Resource: Twyla McDermott, Innovation & Technology, 704-451-0555 tmcdermott@charlottenc.gov

The City of Charlotte's Innovation & Technology Department is leading the development of a new Mobile Engagement Strategy to chart the roadmap for modern, accessible, and useful digital public services for Charlotte residents. The first phase involves a community workshop to identify and prioritize needs for digital services on mobile devices. Feedback received at this workshop will be used to inform recommendations and prioritized digital services that will be presented in the FY17 budget process.

The workshop will be held on December 10, 5:30 p.m. at UNC Charlotte's Cone Center, 9201 University City Blvd.

The Strategy is being developed in conjunction with CharMeck 311, Corporate Communications & Marketing, and external partners UNC Charlotte, the Code for Charlotte Brigade, and Digital Charlotte. Subsequent phases will focus on the technical architecture and human-centered design of services. Notifications have been sent to the mailing lists of the external partners. The event has also been advertised through the City's social media outlets. Residents interested in attending the workshop are asked to [RSVP here](#) by December 8. Residents who cannot attend can share thoughts through [MySidewalk](#).

December 11 – 20th Anniversary of the Charlotte Transportation Center

Staff Resource: Kim Taylor, CATS, 704-336-7309, khtaylor@charlottenc.gov

CATS will commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Charlotte Transportation Center on Friday, December 11, at 10 a.m. The celebration will take place at the Transportation Center, located at 310 E. Trade Street.

The Charlotte Transportation Center is the result of a private-public partnership between the City of Charlotte and Bank of America. After 19 years, CATS assumed full operational control of the Center in July 2014. When the Center opened on December 11, 1995, it became a premier facility for riders of the City's public transportation system. The Charlotte Transportation Center is widely recognized as one of the best downtown area transit centers in the country, and CATS routinely receives requests for information about the Center and its unique design.

The building serves as the central hub and main transfer point for CATS' services. An estimated 4.5 million passengers used the facility in its first year. When the Charlotte Transportation Center opened, the City's public transportation system consisted of 153 buses operating 42 routes with ridership of approximately 11.6 million. Over the last two decades, much progress has been made improving mobility and access of the public transportation system. Investments in new buses, service expansions, including the addition of the LYNX Blue Line, and CityLYNX Gold Line have resulted in transporting more than 25.6 million customers.

CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Small Starts Grant Agreement Application

Staff Resource: David McDonald, CATS, 704-336-6900, dmcDonald@charlottenc.gov

Tonia Wimberly, E&PM, 704-353-1931, twimberly@charlottenc.gov

The CityLYNX Gold Line, as adopted by the MTC in the 2030 Transit Corridor System Plan, is a 10-mile streetcar system from Rosa Parks Place Community Transit Center to the Eastland Community Transit Center. The CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 project will extend the recently completed CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 1 project by 2.5 miles, add 11 new stops, and replace the Gomaco replica trolley vehicles with modern streetcar vehicles. The Phase 2 project will extend the line to French Street near Johnson C. Smith University and to Sunnyside Avenue at Hawthorne Lane just north of Independence Boulevard. This will result in a four-mile operational segment.

On September 8, 2014, City Council adopted a resolution which authorized the City Manager to execute a Federal Small Starts Grant Agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, under the Section 5309 Capital Investment Grant Program for a total project cost of \$150,000,000 with a 50% maximum federal share of \$75,000,000 and a 50% local share of \$75,000,000 contingent upon federal approval of the Small Starts Grant Application.

On November 25, 2015, CATS sent the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 4 Administrator a letter formally requesting a Small Starts Grant Agreement for the CityLYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Project. Staff also submitted the required project documents to the FTA. CATS will continue to work closely with FTA staff during their review of CATS' application. Staff anticipates

the application and grant agreement being finalized over the next 3-4 months contingent upon congressional appropriation of the federal funding.

Changes to Solid Waste Services Coming During the 2015 Holiday Season

Staff Resource: Victoria O. Johnson, Solid Waste Services, 704-336-3410, vjohnson@charlottenc.gov

There are several changes coming to Solid Waste Services during the holiday season including: a modified Christmas collection schedule just for 2015, changes to the Curbit! App, and changes to the recycling calendar.

These changes are posted on the main page of the City’s website, and on the front page of Solid Waste Services’ website. A news release will be disseminated next week, and ads will run throughout December on a number of print and online publications.

2015 Christmas Holiday Collection Schedule

The entire Solid Waste Services staff will observe the Christmas holiday from Friday, December 25 – Sunday, December 27 to allow everyone to celebrate the holiday with their family. This means collection days have been moved to an earlier day. The grid below explains the 2015 Christmas collection day changes:

Normal Collection Day	Holiday Collection Day
Mon., Dec. 21	Sat., Dec. 19
Tues., Dec. 22	Mon., Dec. 21
Wed., Dec. 23	Tues., Dec. 22
Thurs., Dec. 24	Wed., Dec. 23
Fri., Dec. 25	Thurs., Dec. 24

This change is for the Christmas season only. Solid Waste Services will return to its normal schedule the following week.

Recycling Calendar Change

In an effort to protect the environment and be good stewards of tax dollars, recycling calendars will no longer be mailed after the 2016 calendar distribution, which will be included in the December water bill mailing. Calendars will be mailed by request only; request via email curbit@charlottenc.gov or by calling 704-336-6684.

Customers can view their collection day on the MyCharlotte mobile app, curbit.charlottenc.gov, or by calling CharMeck 311 (704-336-7600).

MyCharlotte App will contain Curbit! App

After December 31, the Curbit! app will be discontinued. Customers can view their garbage, recycling and yard waste collection day as well as schedule bulky waste collection from the MyCharlotte mobile app, curbit.charlottenc.gov, or by calling CharMeck 311 (704-336-7600).