



Charlotte City Council
Great Neighborhoods Committee
Summary
January 20, 2021

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- I. Legacy Commission Report (Action)
- II. Source of Income Discrimination (Action)
- III. Great Neighborhoods Committee 2020 Year in Review (Informational)

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee Members Present:	Malcolm Graham (CMGC), Tariq Bokhari (virtual), Julie Eiselt (virtual), Victoria Watlington (virtual), Braxton Winston (virtual)
Committee Members Absent:	n/a
Staff Resources:	Pamela Wideman, Housing & Neighborhood Services Willie Ratchford, Community Relations Anna Schleunes, City Attorney's Office Tiffany Blackwell, Strategy and Budget
Meeting Duration:	12:00 PM – 1:05 PM
Video available online:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b0WORNrN7c

MEETING MATERIALS

All meeting materials are available online at https://charlottenc.gov/CityCouncil/Committees/Pages/Neighborhood_Development.aspx

- 1. Presentation – Legacy Commission
- 2. Presentation - Source of Income Protections
- 2. Presentation – 2020 Year in Review

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Council member Graham called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Pamela Wideman provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

Legacy Commission

Tiffany Blackwell reviewed the Legacy Commission recommendations and proposed next steps for the internal work team.

Council member Bokhari asked that consideration be given to creating a policy wherein streets are no longer named for people, to avoid similar issues in the future.

Council member Graham asked that a pilot case be undertaken to develop a process for changing a street name, and that the process be shared with the Committee, Council and the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt asked about the status of relocating the beam from the national lynching memorial, memorializing the lynching that occurred in Mecklenburg county. Ms. Blackwell explained that the Community Relations department is engaged with the Equal Justice Initiative to do this.

MOTION AND VOTE. Council member Watlington made a motion to accept staff's report, to include the addition of a pilot case to develop a process for changing a street name, and to move the report forward to full Council for consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt seconded the motion. The vote was 4:1 in favor of the motion (Council member was not present for the presentation and voted no as a result).

Source of Income Discrimination (SOID)

Pamela Wideman reminded the Committee of the specific recommendations shared with the Committee at their December meeting. She explained the work that would be undertaken by the proposed ad hoc Advisory Group (ahAG), and the timeline for that work. If approved by City Council, the ahAG would be appointed and convened in the February/March 2021 timeframe. The ahAG would then begin metric setting research and developing proposed enhancements to the Housing Choice Voucher program (HCV), and finalize the metrics and enhancements by May. Following this, the success of the enhancements and metrics would be monitored over the 18-24 month timeframe, with a final report and recommendations based on the outcome of the implemented enhancements and established metrics at the end of this period.

Council member Watlington shared that she was pleased with the thought that has been put into how to move this item forward, the metrics development process, and the proposed monitoring. She would like to see reports on an on-going basis. She shared that she believes that the proposal is fair and captures the need for data to support a source of income ordinance should that be needed.

Council member Winston shared that a big issue with SOID has to do with the contract that landlords must enter into with HUD. He encouraged staff to help Council understand the issues around this so that we can learn how to deal with it. He also encouraged staff to consider SOID as it pertains to all sources of income and not just HCVs. He would like to see a market analysis to be able to see what potential rent increases might look like across the spectrum of housing.

Council member Bokhari shared concerns about unintended consequences to market forces. He also encouraged the Committee to spend time on tools to connect housing to broader issues that create upward mobility, such as jobs and training plans.

MOTION AND VOTE. Council member Watlington made a motion to accept staff's report and move it forward to full Council for consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

2020 Year in Review

Pamela Wideman reviewed the 2020 Great Neighborhoods Committee briefings and activities, as well as the affordable housing, community engagement, and CharMeck 311 accomplishments. She also shared various items that the Committee will be reviewing in 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt shared that she believes we have had a housing effort like none other, compared to our peer cities.

Council member Watlington suggested that an effort be made to help get the information and data out to the public, to highlight all the work accomplished and help dispel false narratives. Council member Graham and Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt agreed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:05 pm.