



Charlotte City Council  
Great Neighborhoods Committee  
Summary  
June 16, 2021

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**COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS**

- I. Legacy Commission Update (Informational)
- II. Fair Chance Housing Update (Informational)
- III. Rental Subsidy Requirements in City-supported Housing (Informational)

**COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

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**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:** Shawn Heath, City Manager's Office  
Pamela Wideman, Housing & Neighborhood Services  
Emily Kunze, City Manager's Office  
Nicole Storey, Housing & Neighborhood Services  
Willie Ratchford, Community Relations  
Patrick Baker, City Attorney's Office  
Todd DeLong, Economic Development Office

**Meeting Duration:** 12:00 – 1:00 PM

**Video available online:** <https://www.facebook.com/CLTgov/videos/510779610359799/>

**MEETING MATERIALS**

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All meeting materials are available online at [https://charlottenc.gov/CityCouncil/Committees/Pages/Neighborhood\\_Development.aspx](https://charlottenc.gov/CityCouncil/Committees/Pages/Neighborhood_Development.aspx)

- 1. Presentation – Legacy Commission Update
- 2. Presentation – Fair Chance Housing Update
- 3. Presentation – Rental Subsidy Requirements in City-supported Housing

**DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

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Council member Graham called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Pamela Wideman shared about the success of the Mayor's Youth Employment Program and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

**Legacy Commission Update**

Emily Kunze provided an update on the Legacy Commission recommendations. A proposed timeline has been developed for changing the name of applicable streets. Community engagement will be rolled-out in stages as each street is addressed, allowing time for behind the scenes activities such as GIS updates and notifying police and fire of pending name changes. Jefferson Davis Street has been identified as a pilot. Phifer Avenue has neither residents nor businesses and will be addressed simultaneously with Jefferson Davis Street. Each street will take approximately 150~ days to complete the name change process.

Ms. Kunze also provided an update on the discussions for bringing the lynching memorial to Charlotte from the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, exploring opportunities with the local arts community to create commemorative spaces,

interpretive signage for cemetery markers, and educational markers for renamed streets, educational opportunities, and funding for these items.

The Committee discussed the role of City Council in approving name changes. Community input from residents and businesses on impacted streets is crucial. City staff and City Council will also play a role. Councilmember Bokhari suggested that streets should not be named for individuals going forward.

#### **Fair Chance Housing Update**

Willie Ratchford provided an update on Fair Chance Housing, including the partnerships that the Community Relations Department has developed with organizations like Reentry Housing Alliance, the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association and CMPD. Mr. Ratchford explained that the number of complaints received based on potential criminal background discrimination has increased since April 2021, suggesting that education and outreach initiatives are having a positive impact. Community Relations will continue to focus on this issue going forward, including updating education and outreach materials, exploring new partnerships and providing periodic updates to the Committee.

#### **Rental Subsidy Requirements in City-supported Housing**

Pamela Wideman explained that City Council directed staff to develop a policy requiring acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers and other forms of rental subsidy in all City supported housing. The proposed policy will prohibit prospective tenants in City-supported developments of affordable housing from being disqualified from participation based on a refusal to consider any lawful source of income. This is currently a practice for Housing Trust Fund developments and will be further codified to put the requirement in all the City's affordable housing development documents (loan documents, etc.).

Patrick Baker shared that special or general legislation from the state of North Carolina would be needed to require this through the rezoning process.

Todd DeLong shared that economic development is continuing to determine if the policy can apply to tax increment grant supported affordable housing developments.

#### **Next Meeting**

Mr. Graham reminded the Committee that it will not meet in July. The next meeting will occur on August 18, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.