



Charlotte City Council
Great Neighborhoods Committee
Summary
November 18, 2020

COMMITTEE AGENDA TOPICS

- I. Nuisance Abatement – Non-Residential Building Code (Informational)
- II. Reentry Housing (Informational)

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Committee Members Present:	Malcolm Graham (CMGC), Tariq Bokhari (virtual), Julie Eiselt (CMGC), Victoria Watlington (virtual)
Committee Members Absent:	Braxton Winston
Other Council Members Present:	Renee Johnson
Staff Resources:	Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Assistant City Manager Pamela Wideman, Housing & Neighborhood Services Willie Ratchford, Community Relations Jane Taillon, Housing & Neighborhood Services
Meeting Duration:	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Video available online:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duMJQVx4fLE

MEETING MATERIALS

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

1. Presentation – Non-Residential Property Code Enforcement
2. Presentation – Reentry Housing – Fair Housing For People With Criminal Records

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

Nuisance Abatement - Non-Residential Property Code Enforcement

Jane Taillon provided an overview of how the City approaches enforcement of non-residential property. This agenda item is a follow up from the September 2020 meeting. Ms. Taillon discussed the process for enforcement through the Non-Residential Building Code (NRBC), potential changes to the code that have been identified by staff, and a proposed timeline for engaging stakeholders as part of a full review of the code. Ms. Taillon also explained that CMPD is the lead agency for enforcing the noise ordinance, including chronic noise issues.

Council member Graham asked how Code Enforcement collaborates with CMPD on addressing commercial properties that get numerous calls for service, and when should City Council be involved on specific problem properties. Ms. Taillon explained that Code Enforcement participates in an inter-agency group to address issues at nuisance properties. CMPD is the lead agency of the group, and the group consists of, among others, CMPD, Charlotte Fire, and Mecklenburg County.

She also shared that because Council may be hearing from residents when staff may not be, Council members can make a referral to both CMPD and Code to investigate a specific property.

Mr. Graham asked staff to consider how to elevate commercial properties to the city Council that have chronic problems such as selling of drugs, gang activity, loitering, etc.

Reentry Housing – Fair Housing For People With Criminal Records

Willie Ratchford provided an overview of Charlotte’s Fair Housing ordinance, and the challenges that residents with criminal backgrounds face when seeking stable housing. He shared details about the 2016 guidance for landlords, provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for considering criminal backgrounds when evaluating housing applications. He also shared the request from the Reentry Housing Alliance.

Mayor Pro Tem Eiselt encouraged Mr. Ratchford and his team to work with the Sherriff’s office to educate individuals being released from prison.

Council member Johnson shared that she believes that people with criminal backgrounds represent the new Jim Crow. She would like the process for filing a fair housing complaint to be as easy as possible. She also recommended approaching the issue of helping to remove housing barriers for people with criminal records not as reentry housing, but as the right to fair, non-discriminatory housing.

Mr. Ratchford proposed the following next steps:

- Survey Landlords and gather other data to determine current practices and scope of the problem locally.
- Develop and enhance education opportunities for landlords, people exiting prison, the court system, etc.
- Bring back recommendations to the Great Neighborhoods Committee meeting for consideration.

The Committee approved the proposal. Staff will update the Committee at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.