CHARLOTTE

City Council
Follow-Up Report

August 27, 2010

August 23, 2010 – City Council Business Meeting

Citizen's Forum – Scottie McCluney
Staff Resource: Kim Pearson-Brown, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2180, kpearson@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Mr. Scottie McCluney appeared before the City Council on March 1 and most recently on August 23, 2010 to request that the Mayor and City Council address his allegations of theft by the Social Security Administration (SSA) during his incarceration. This memorandum details the efforts to assist Mr. McCluney over the past several months. Staff believes we have made every reasonable effort to be responsive to him.

On March 1, 2010, Scottie McCluney appeared for the first time in front of City Council with allegations that the Social Security Administration had taken money from his bank account during a time when he claims that he was erroneously incarcerated. Subsequently, the Mayor asked staff to assist Mr. McCluney. The following day, Kim Pearson-Brown contacted Mr. McCluney who provided the names of additional persons he had called: Bud Berro in Governor Perdue's office, Mayor Foxx, Senator Charlie Dannelly, and Congressman Mel Watt. Ms. Pearson-Brown confirmed later in a conversation with Bud Berro that he had been in contact with Mr. McCluney as well as the Social Security Administration who conducted their own investigation and concluded that they could not substantiate his claims. Ms. Pearson-Brown sent an email on Thursday, April 29 to the City Council and the Mayor's staff to this effect.

During the Citizens' Forum of August 23, 2010, Mr. McCluney requested assistance with his claims against the SSA in addition to a housing issue relative to his mother. The City Attorney was asked to contact Mr. McCluney and provide him with information about possible legal aid. The City Attorney's staff contacted Mr. McCluney on August 25 and has since determined that there is no legal aid available to Mr. McCluney short of him hiring a private attorney for which he claims he does not have the financial resources.

On August 23, Council also asked staff to contact the County to see if they could assist Mr. McCluney. We have learned that Mr. McCluney has been in previous contact with the County. Within the past 6-12 months, the County Manager's Office and Health Department staff have made contact with Mr. McCluney, investigating all his claims and allegations, including

information he sent to staff where the SSA clearly stated that they could not substantiate Mr. McCluney's claims. County staff concluded that they did all they could to assist.

In an August 24 telephone conversation with Mr. McCluney, Willie Ratchford spent 30-45 minutes attempting to reason with Mr. McCluney (he believes the Mayor has authority to direct the County to help him), but he stood firm on his intention to come to future Council meetings until the Mayor and City Council have resolved his issues.

City staff has made every reasonable effort to respond to Mr. McCluney. If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding this issue, please feel free to contact Kim Pearson-Brown directly.

A copy of this report is being provided to Mr. McCluney.