Council-Manager Memo #24
Friday, March 23, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Page

Calendar Details 2

Information:
Eastway Drive and Sugar Creek Road Intersection 2-3
Recap of Interfaith Summit on Affordable Housing and Homelessness 3-4
March 27 – Citizen's Information Workshop for the Proposed Passenger Locomotive and Railcar Maintenance Facility 4-5
March 28 – CATS Recycling Program Kickoff 5

Stimulus Information:
March 26 – Electric Vehicle and Charging Stations Debut 5

Attachment:
March 7 Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee Summary 5

WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Mar 26)	Tues (Mar 27)	Wed (Mar 28)	Thurs (Mar 29)	Fri (Mar 30)
10:00 AM Debut of City's electric vehicles/ charging stations, 1st level CMGC deck 11:45 AM Council agenda briefing, Room 280 2:30 PM Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room CH-14 4:00 PM Council Business Meeting, Room 267		12:00 PM Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280 1:30 PM Budget Committee, Room 280 5:30 PM Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, March 26

10:00 am	Debut of City's electric vehicle fleet/charging stations, first level CMGC parking deck
11:45 am	Council Agenda Briefing, Room 280
2:30 pm	Council-Manager Relations Committee, Room CH-14
4:00 pm	Council Business Meeting, Room 267

Wednesday, March 28

12:00 pm	Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee, Room 280 **AGENDA:** Incentive based inclusionary housing action plan update; FY13 annual action plan; Substantial amendments to the FY12 annual action plan for housing and community development
1:30 pm	Budget Committee, Room 280 **AGENDA:** Review April 11 budget retreat agenda; Employee pay and benefits; Property and sales tax update
5:30 pm	Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267 **AGENDA:** LYNX blue line extension light rail project update; Capital improvements plan FY13-17, New starts update

March and April calendars are attached (see "2.Calendar.pdf").

INFORMATION:

Eastway Drive and Sugar Creek Road Intersection

Staff Resource: Debbie Self, CDOT, 704-336-3935, drself@charlottenc.gov

On March 13, Garinger High School student Brittany Palmer was crossing Eastway Drive near the intersection of Sugar Creek Road where she was struck by a vehicle. She later died of her injuries. City staff immediately began investigating the circumstance around the accident, particularly with regard to the design and amenities of the intersection and whether it is safe and accommodating for pedestrians.

The CDOT and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are working together to develop preliminary intersection modifications. The intersection does not currently have marked crosswalks or countdown pedestrian signals. Over the past decade, the CDOT has been

systematically installing pedestrian countdown signals and crosswalks throughout the city. Currently, about 27% of the signalized intersections within Charlotte are awaiting pedestrian enhancements. Current funding levels permit about 10 intersections to be modified per year. The intersection of Eastway Drive and Sugar Creek is part of the 10 moving into design this year. Funding for construction will be determined once a design is approved.

CDOT staff has reviewed the crash statistics for the intersection, and has found:

- In the last five years, there have been a total of 62 vehicle crashes.
- More than half of the crashes (56%) involved rear-end collisions, which is not uncommon at signalized intersections.
- More than half of the crashes (59%) did not involve injury and resulted in vehicle damage only.
- There is no other pattern of crashes.
- There was one crash that occurred in March 2011 involving a pedestrian.
- There were no pedestrian crashes in the five-year span on the adjacent segments of Eastway Drive or Sugar Creek Road.

CDOT staff will be visiting the site to conduct an assessment, and determine if there are other appropriate amenities that can further enhance pedestrian safety.

Recap of Interfaith Summit on Affordable Housing and Homelessness

Staff Resources: Mary Gaertner, N&BS, 704-432-5495, mgaertner@charlottenc.gov
Pamela J. Wideman, N&BS, 704-336-3488, pwideman@charlottenc.gov

The Interfaith Summit on Affordable Housing and Homelessness was held on Friday, March 9, 2012. The Summit was hosted by Mayor Foxx, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Coalition for Housing, Community Relations Committee, Mecklenburg Ministries and Community Building Initiative. Summit sponsors were Wells Fargo and Foundation For The Carolinas.

Total attendance was approximately 300. There were 154 congregations and organizations represented. The Summit provided the opportunity for congregations to talk collectively about the issue of affordable housing and homelessness.

The program included a keynote address by Rev. Floyd Flake, Senior Pastor, The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral Church. Rev. Flake has established a reputation for developing innovative initiatives to revitalize urban commercial and residential communities. He shared The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral's model of a church-centered development corporation. He presented ideas for developing his model of addressing affordable housing by using transformational, transparent, transactional and transcendent leadership within congregations. Rev. Flake said people who have an investment in the community will transform it. He urged the audience not to be afraid to make hard decisions.

Summit attendees watched the documentary *Souls of Our Neighbors*, a copy of which is included in Council's mail packets, with a breakout discussion on the fears and facts around the

issue. The breakout groups also brainstormed ideas on what congregations can do to address the homeless issue in the community.

Current congregational initiatives were presented. These included specific information about:

- Supportive Housing Innovative Partnership with the Salvation Army, St. Matthews and St. Gabriel Catholic Churches
- Elizabeth's Caldwell House at Caldwell Presbyterian Church
- H.O.P.E. Team/Room in the Inn at Sanctuary Church Charlotte

Summit attendees were also given a presentation on utilizing www.solvethepuzzleCharlotte.org, a website created as a portal for community volunteer opportunities with Homeless Services Network (HSN) agencies. HSN agencies showcased their important work at the Summit and were able recruit more volunteers.

Rev. Claude Alexander closed the Summit with a Call to Action that challenged attendees to:

- Commit to helping the most vulnerable in the City during "The Year of Our Neighbor";
- Visit the Solve the Puzzle Charlotte website and partner with a Homeless Services Network agency to support neighbors in need;
- Arrange a viewing of Souls of our Neighbors in their neighborhood or workplace;
- Engage in a dialogue about the fears and facts around affordable housing and homelessness.

Staff is developing a process for continued engagement with attendees to measure congregational initiatives around ending and preventing homelessness.

March 27 – Citizen's Informational Workshop for the Proposed Passenger Locomotive and Railcar Maintenance Facility

Staff Resource: Tim Gibbs, CDOT, 704-336-3917, tgibbs@charlottenc.gov

The North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division will hold an informational workshop on Tuesday, March 27 between 5 p.m. -7 p.m. at the Clanton Park Pavilion, located at 3132 Manchester Avenue. The workshop's purpose is to discuss alternatives being studied for a locomotive and railcar maintenance facility project near Uptown in an area roughly bounded by S. Mint Street, Summit Avenue, S. Clarkson Street and Interstate 277.

NCDOT representatives will be available in an informal setting to answer questions and receive comments about the rail project. Interested citizens may attend the workshop at any time during the above mentioned hours. There will be no formal presentation.

The project will replace the current facility adjacent to the Norfolk Southern Railway yard near the Amtrak Station on N. Tryon St. The proposed facility will serve the increasing number of conventional passenger trains and support the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor.

March 28 – CATS Recycling Program Kickoff
Staff Resource: Krystel Green, CATS, 704-336-6999, kmgreen@charlottenc.gov

Council members are invited to attend Charlotte Area Transit System's "Think Outside the Trash" Recycling Event on Wednesday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m. at the LYNX 7th Street Station. CATS is launching its first recycling program with the installation of 56 green recycling bins at all 15 LYNX Blue Line Stations. This project was made possible through a 2011 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant that CATS received from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and through assistance from Solid Waste Services.

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

March 26 – Electric Vehicle and Charging Stations Debut
Staff Resource: Catherine Bonfiglio, Corporate Communications and Marketing
704-336-4936, cbonfiglio@charlottenc.gov

On Monday March 26, the City will debut its electric vehicle fleet and charging stations program, two of Charlotte's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the first level of the parking deck at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center. The program includes remarks by Mayor Foxx and Michael Smith, President and CEO of Charlotte Center City Partners.

With these projects, the City of Charlotte is now plugged into the nation's electric vehicle infrastructure with the installation of 26 charging stations over seven locations, and the purchase of eight electric vehicles for the City's fleet. Both are pilot projects to determine the practicality of electric vehicles for Charlotte's fleet and to gauge public use and demand for strategically-placed electric vehicle charging stations.

ATTACHMENTS:

March 7 Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee Summary **(see 3. "HND Summary.pdf)**