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**WEEK IN REVIEW:**

Mon (Sept. 2)	Tues (Sept. 3)	Wed (Sept. 4)	Thurs (Sept. 5)	Fri (Sept. 6)
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY			12:00 PM Economic Development Committee, Room CH-14	

## CALENDAR DETAILS:

### **Monday, September 2**

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

### **Thursday, September 5**

12:00 pm Economic Development Committee, Room CH-14

**AGENDA:** “Ban the box”, Mecklenburg County food environment

**ATTACHED:** [September and October calendars](#)

## INFORMATION:

### **Final 2013 “Long” Session North Carolina General Assembly Report**

*Staff Resource:* Dana Fenton, City Manager’s Office, 704-336-2009, [dfenton@charlottenc.gov](mailto:dfenton@charlottenc.gov)

Staff’s final report for the 2013 “long” session of the 2013-2014 North Carolina General Assembly is linked below. The report and the list of enacted bills of interest have “hot” links where bills may be accessed on the North Carolina General Assembly website. The General Assembly will reconvene on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 to consider two bills vetoed by Governor McCrory.

**ATTACHED:** [Final 2013 NCGA report](#)

### **Governor’s Executive Order “Limiting Clear Cutting around Local Billboards”**

*Staff Resources:* Don McSween, E&PM, 704-336-3459, [dmcsween@charlottenc.gov](mailto:dmcsween@charlottenc.gov)

Karen Weatherly, City Attorney’s Office, 704-336-5878, [kweatherly@charlottenc.gov](mailto:kweatherly@charlottenc.gov)

The NC General Assembly passed legislation in July 2011, with corresponding permanent rules effective in November 2012, which increased the size of the removal zone where outdoor advertisers were allowed to cut and remove trees and vegetation around billboards. Municipalities were given the opportunity, by special request to NCDOT, to comment on the requested tree removals, but any local government authority to prevent or limit tree removal was taken away. Within the first year after passage of the legislation, 4,000 trees were removed within the City of Charlotte.

During this year’s legislative session, the General Assembly amended the 2011 legislation to allow the outdoor advertisers to include highway acceleration and deceleration ramps where they can request tree removal and pruning.

On August 23, 2013 Governor Pat McCrory signed Executive Order No. 23 titled “Limiting Clear Cutting around Local Billboards.” This order allows the advertising company to “modify”

(increase in size) their billboard cut zone, voiding the cut zone size limitations in the 2011 statute. The billboard's larger cut zone then becomes permanent, with local governments having no ability to appeal NCDOT's "modifications."

Further, the order does not give any additional authority to local governments, but gives them an automatic opportunity to provide comments on the tree and vegetation cutting and removal requests whether they have requested that opportunity or not. Local government comments are still not binding.

### **Report on New Development Services Technical Advisory Committee**

*Staff Resources: Laura Harmon, Planning, 704-336-4565, [lharmon@charlottenc.gov](mailto:lharmon@charlottenc.gov)*

*Mike Davis, CDOT, 704-336-3938, [madavis@charlottenc.gov](mailto:madavis@charlottenc.gov)*

*Dave Weekly, E&PM, 704-336-4103, [dweekly@charlottenc.gov](mailto:dweekly@charlottenc.gov)*

Planning, CDOT and E&PM have been working closely together to enhance and better align the City's land development services. One initiative is reevaluating the format and structure of stakeholder committees in order to improve collaboration between staff, the development industry, and community representatives.

To enhance collaboration with the development community, staff has:

1. Discussed with, and received input from the existing Subdivision Steering Committee and the CDOT Director's Roundtable, two ad hoc committees made up of representatives from the development and design communities and staff that meet to discuss technical and procedural issues regarding development in Charlotte.
2. Drafted and finalized a charter for the new Development Services Technical Advisory Committee (DSTAC) to replace the SSC and CDOT Roundtable, which were subsequently disbanded.

DSTAC will serve as one comprehensive committee providing a forum of discussion and feedback of technical issues regarding land development services. Staff is now working with the development industry in the selection of the committee's 16 members: eight from government (seven City, one NCDOT), and eight from the development industry (five self-appointed by Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition, NAIOP, Urban Land Institute, Home Builder's Association, Greater Charlotte Apartment Association; three appointed by the Department Directors of CDOT, CMUD, E&PM, Planning, N&BS). Appointments should be finalized in September with the first meeting in October.

Staff is simultaneously developing strategies to improve collaboration with community representatives and will provide a status update at a later date.

### **Animal Rescue and Fostering Operations within Neighborhoods**

*Staff Resource: Eric Campbell, City Manager's Office, 704-336-5158, [ecampbell@charlottenc.gov](mailto:ecampbell@charlottenc.gov)*

Recently, several City Council members have received complaints from residents regarding nonprofit animal rescue and fostering groups operating within residentially zoned neighborhoods. These residents have concerns that barking, odor and traffic generated by these operations are compromising the quality of life within their neighborhoods. Similarly, animal rescue and fostering groups have contacted City Council members concerned they are being targeted and required to purchase animal licenses even though the animals are only being held temporarily with the ultimate goal of finding permanent placement.

Animal Care and Control (ACC) has cultivated partnerships with over 100 animal rescue groups. These groups assist ACC by transferring pets from the shelter into homes and foster network to maximize adoptability.

The City Manager's Office has convened a staff working group consisting of the City Attorney's Office, Planning, CMPD-Animal Care and Control and, NBS-Code Enforcement to review the current Zoning Ordinance related to this issue, the definitions of private versus commercial kennel, and the operation of these groups within residentially zoned areas. The working group's goal is to provide a balance between the mission of ACC while simultaneously protecting the rights of property owners in residentially zoned areas. Staff will keep City Council abreast of the working group's progress.

### **September Community Meetings Calendar**

*Staff Resource: Kim Oliver, City Manager's Office, 704 336-2180, [koliver@charlottenc.gov](mailto:koliver@charlottenc.gov)*

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

[City Council Follow-up Report](#)

Contents include:

- Charlotte Housing Authority
- Airport: Neighborhood Task Force
- Citizens' Forum: Concerns of Karen Jensen

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