## Council-Manager Memo #08 Thursday, February 23, 2017



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## **WEEK IN REVIEW:**

Mon (Feb 27)	Tues (Feb 28)	Wed (Mar 1)	Thurs (Mar 2)	Fri (Mar 3)	Sat (Mar 4)
12:00 PM	8:30 AM	5:30 PM			9:00 AM
Governance &	Unity Breakfast 2017,	Community Letter			District 5 Town Hall
Accountability Committee,	Little Rock AME Zion	to the Community,			Meeting,
Room 280	Church	Belmont Center			Memorial United
					Methodist Church
5:00 PM					
Council Business Meeting,					
Room 267					
6:30 PM					
Citizens' Forum,					
Meeting Chamber					

## **CALENDAR DETAILS:**

## Monday, February 27

12:00 PM Governance & Accountability Committee, Room 280

**AGENDA:** Awards and recognitions guidelines; Nominations and appointments

process

5:00 PM Council Business Meeting, Room 267

6:30 PM Citizens' Forum, Meeting Chamber

## Tuesday, February 28

8:30 AM

Unity Breakfast 2017, Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 N. McDowell Street The Unity Breakfast is sponsored by Community Relations and the Faith Based Advisory Board of the Mecklenburg County Sherriff's Office. Faith leaders, and others in the community will gather for breakfast and have small group discussions about race.

## Wednesday, March 1

5:30 PM

Mecklenburg Youth Council "Letter to the Community" event Belmont Center, 700 Parkwood Ave.

Mecklenburg Youth Council host this event, where several Council members will

speak about Council's October 2016 letter to the community

## Saturday, March 4

9:00 AM

District 5 Town Hall Meeting, Memorial United Methodist Church, 4021 Central Ave. **AGENDA:** Eastland Mall update; Independence Blvd. construction; Neighborhood improvement plan; Safe neighborhoods; Gold Line phase 2

## February and March calendars are <u>attached</u>.



## **AGENDA NOTES:**

## Agenda Item #11 - NC Clean Water State Revolving Fund Application

Staff Resources: Barry Gullet, Charlotte Water, 704-336-4962, <u>bgullet@charlottenc.gov</u> Scott Greer, M&FS, 704-336-5883, <u>sgreer@charlottenc.gov</u>

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – formerly the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources – administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program offering interest free loans for projects that demonstrate a significant energy

savings -Green Projects- and low interest loans -1.9% or approximately half the market ratefor other qualifying clean water projects. At this Monday evening's Council Business Meeting, Charlotte Water seeks Council approval to apply for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan in an amount not to exceed \$76,460,000 for the construction of the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Management Facility Clarifier and Aeration Rehabilitation Project.

This project will rehabilitate vital parts of 16 secondary clarifiers and 28 aeration basins, which are nearing the end of their useful life cycle. In addition to ensuring a more reliable system, installation of new more efficient blowers, improved instrumentation and control systems, the project will provide a more energy efficient wastewater treatment process with lower operating costs. The project will also help ensure discharge permit compliance.

Funding for this project is currently included in the Charlotte Water Community Investment Plan funded through revenue bond proceeds. However, if this project is selected for a CWSRF Loan, the City will realize an estimated savings of approximately \$12 million over the 20-year term of the loan, compared to traditional financing. Additionally, the loan provides for an interest free construction period with payments beginning after completion of the project.

This is the third CWSRF Loan for which Charlotte Water has applied. Charlotte Water previously received funding approval for one CWSRF Loan in the amount of \$3,266,736 and 0% interest for the McAlpine Combined Heat and Power Project. Charlotte Water also recently received funding approval for a second CWSRF Loan in the amount of \$21,881,929 with a 1.08% blended interest rate for the Sugar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Reliability Upgrade.

## **INFORMATION:**

## **GovPorch Project To Launch Soon on CMGC Plaza**

Staff Resource: Monica Holmes, Planning, 704-336-8316, monica.holmes@charlottenc.gov

Last summer, KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the lives of kids, launched a competition called the Play Everywhere Challenge. The Challenge was designed to stimulate ideas aimed at bringing play to everyday spaces, making play easy and available for kids.

The City of Charlotte was one of fifty winners across the country awarded a \$35,000 grant for the project entitled GovPorch. GovPorch aims to reimagine Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center Plaza as a fun space where kids, their families, and people of all ages want to spend time and exercise their active minds, bodies, and souls.

Starting this spring the Planning Department, Engineering and Property Management and other City and County partners will launch Gov Porch as a pilot project by with fun additions and programming (vibrant seating, art, games, and more) in the plaza. Minor construction will begin in March, and the project will run from mid-March through June. A rendering is <u>attached</u>.

This project is also an example of the collective creativity of City employees. The concepts were developed, over the past year through a design-thinking process where employees generated ideas that answered the question "what would make the plaza a welcoming place for employees and the public?" During a one day event in June, those ideas were put into action. GovPorch is the next evolution, and an opportunity to pilot how the plaza might be permanently redesigned in the future. Council can follow #GovPorch on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.



## **Balancing Act Online Budget Simulation Tool**

Staff Resource: Rachel Wood, Strategy and Budget, 704-336-3656, <a href="mailto:rwood@charlottenc.gov">rwood@charlottenc.gov</a>

During last Saturday's Neighborhood Board Retreat, the City launched Balancing Act, a new online budget simulation tool to help residents learn what the City budget includes, how the budget process works, and how the budget impacts them. The tool can be accessed online at: CharlotteNC.abalancingact.com.

Focusing on the City's General Fund, Balancing Act presents users with General Fund revenues and expenditures for each General Fund department. The interactive tool allows users to practice balancing the City's budget – they can make increases or decreases to departmental budgets, with the only requirement being that the budget must be balanced once all changes are made. Balancing Act is currently based on FY 2017 adopted budget totals and will be updated after the FY 2018 budget is adopted.

Balancing Act captures response data from each participant who submits a balanced budget. Strategy and Budget will use the feedback provided through the simulation tool to track trends regarding how residents believe the City should be prioritizing its funds. Several of Charlotte's peer cities also use the Balancing Act tool, including: Greensboro, Kansas City, Nashville, San Antonio, and Virginia Beach.

The Strategy and Budget Team is available to share the tool and information about the City's budget process at neighborhood and community meetings. Interested groups are encouraged to contact to contact the Need A Speaker program (704-336-2175 or <a href="meedaspeaker@charlottenc.gov">needaspeaker@charlottenc.gov</a>) or call the Strategy & Budget Department at 704-336-2306 for additional information.

Since its initial launch last Saturday, over 140 residents have completed the online simulation and more than 5,100 people have viewed the Balancing Act promotional video. Further information related to the City's new Balancing Act budget simulation tool, including an instructional video, can be found online

at: <a href="http://charlottenc.gov/mfs/budget/Pages/BalancingAct.aspx">http://charlottenc.gov/mfs/budget/Pages/BalancingAct.aspx</a>.

## 2017 State Legislative Report #3

Staff Resource: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704-336-2009, <u>dfenton@charlottenc.gov</u>

Attached is the Week 3 State Legislative Report.



## **ATTACHMENTS:**

City Council Follow-Up Report



16--February.pdf

- -- CMPD Year End Numbers
- --Proposal for Additional Protection of Animals
- --Tracking Hate Crimes
- --Sexual Assault Cases

January 25 Metropolitan Transit Commission Summary



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sim	Mon		3:00 pm Food/Beverage MWSBE Event at CLT, CLT Center	2	3 10:00am Open Streets 704 Press Conference, 2007 Commonwealth Ave.	4
5	6 12:00pm Environment Committee Mtg., Room 280 5:00pm Council Workshop/Citizens' Forum, Room 267	7	8 12:00pm HAND Committee Mtg., Room 280	9 12:00pm ED&GC Committee Mtg., Room CH-14 1:30pm Budget Committee Mtg., Room 280	10	11
12	2:00pm Transportation & Planning Committee Mtg., Room 280  5:00pm Council Business Mtg., Room 267	14	15	16 12:00pm Community Safety Committee Mtg., Room 280 6:00 pm Districts 1& 2 Town Hall Mtg., St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church – 1600 Norris Avenue 6:00pm – 8:00pm Rea Rd. Sidewalk Public Mtg., Good Shepherd Presby Church – 3307 Rea Rd. 6:30pm–8:00pm Brown Grier and Sandy Porter Rd Public Mtg., Kennedy MS – 4000 Gallant Lane	17 12:00pm Equitable ED Recommendation s, Hyatt House – 435 E. Trade St.	18 8:30am - 1:30pm Neighborhood Board Retreat, Goodwill Opportunity Campus – 5301 Wilkinson Blvd.
19	20 12:00pm Council Zoning Briefing (optional), Room 886  1:00pm Intergovernmental Relations Committee Mtg., Room 280  5:00pm Zoning Mtg., Room CH-14	21 6:00pm-7:30pm Providence Rd. Sidewalk Mtg., St. Gabriel Catholic Church – 3016 Providence Rd.	1:30pm Budget Workshop, Room 267 5:30pm MTC Meeting, Room 267 6:30pm – 8:30pm Old Providence Sidewalk Mtg., Wesley UMC – 3715 Rea Rd.	23 12:00pm ED&GC Committee Mtg., Room CH-14 5:30pm Uptown Connects Study Public Workshop, 7 <sup>th</sup> Street Public Market – 224 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> St.	24	25 8:00am - 12:00pm Budget Simulation (CM Eiselt / Strategy & Budget / MPHS IB Leadership Program), Myers Park Presbyterian Church, 2501 Oxford Pl.  9:00am - 3:00pm CityLYNX Gold Line Job Fair, Fairfield Inn, 201 S. McDowell St.
26	27 12:00pm Governance & Accountability Committee Mtg., Room 280 5:00pm Citizens' Forum/Council Business Mtg., Room 267	28			20	17

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Sun	Mon	Тие	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm Letter to the Community, Belmont Center – 700 Parkwood Ave.	2	3	9:00am District 5 Town Hall Mtg., Memorial UMC 4012 Central Av
5	6 12:00pm Environment Committee Mtg., Room 280 5:00pm Council Workshop/Citizens' Forum, Room 267	7 6:30pm – 8:00pm District 6 Town Hall Mtg., Sharon UMC – 4411 Sharon Rd.	8 12:00pm HAND Committee Mtg., Room 280  5:30pm - 7:30pm Idlewild/Rama/ Monroe Intersection Proj Mtg., Independence Library - 6000 Conference Dr.	9 12:00pm ED&GC Committee Mtg., Room CH-14  1:30pm Budget Committee Mtg., Room 280  6:30pm – 8:00pm MPT Lyles Town Hall Mtg., Elevation Church – 8105 IBM Drive	10	NLC Congressiona Cities Conference, Washington
12	13	14	15	16 12:00pm	17	18
	NLC Congressiona Washing			Community Safety Committee Mtg., Room CH-14		
19	20 12:00pm Council Zoning Briefing (optional), Room 886  1:00pm Intergovernmental Relations Committee Mtg., Room 280  5:00pm Zoning Mtg., Room CH-14	21	22 12:00pm HAND Committee Mtg., Room 280  1:30pm Budget Workshop, Room 267  5:30pm MTC Meeting, Room 267	23 12:00pm ED&GC Committee Mtg., Room CH-14 6:00pm – 7:30pm Districts 2 & 4 Town Hall Mtg., University City UMC – 3835 WT Harris Blvd.	24	25 10:00am – 1:00 Female First Responders Ope House, Police/F Training Acader – 1770 Shopton
26	27 12:00pm Governance & Accountability Committee Mtg., Room 280 2:00pm Transportation & Planning Committee Mtg., Room 280 5:00pm Citizens' Forum/Council Business Mtg., Room 267	28	NCLM Town Hall Day Raleigh, NC	30 1:30pm Budget Committee Mtg., Room 280	<b>2</b> 0	17





## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM

February 23, 2017

**TO:** Marcus Jones, City Manager

Randy Harrington, Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Dana Fenton, Intergovernmental Relations Manager

**SUBJECT:** Week 3 State Legislative Report

## What You Need to Know

For information about the bi-partisan bill to **Repeal HB2** / **Nondiscrimination Policies** (<u>HB 186</u> <u>- McGrady, Lucas, Goodman, Davis</u>), please refer to the City Attorney's e-mail of late Wednesday for bill specifics. <u>Staff will keep Mayor and Council updated as appropriate</u>.

House Judiciary II Committee held "discussion" on the **Citizens Protection Act of 2017** (<u>HB 63 – Warren, Collins, Jordan, Adams</u>), which amends the 2015 sanctuary city legislation (HB 318) to add penalties for cities and counties that enact "sanctuary city" ordinances, resolutions, policies, etc. Penalties involve withholding revenues attributable from beer and wine, telecommunications, video programming and piped natural gas taxes, which total approximately \$21.1 million annually for the City of Charlotte. <u>In the event HB 63 starts to attract widespread</u> support or is scheduled for a Committee vote, then we will inform Mayor and Council.

Strategic Transportation Investments: STI/Regional and Division Weighting (<u>HB 81 – Torbett</u>) shifts the share of local input that is used to rate regional and division needs projects from a balanced 50/50 share between NCDOT division engineers and metropolitan planning organizations to an approximate 1/3 share for NCDOT division engineers and a 2/3 share for metropolitan planning organizations. HB 81 was referred to House Committee on Transportation. Senior leadership in both chambers is concerned that the proposed imbalance favoring metropolitan planning organizations will only serve to inject more politics into the data-driven STI process.

Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws (<u>HB 173 – J. Bell, Shepard, McElraft, Wray</u>) specifies the factors to be used to determine just compensation in the condemnation of outdoor advertising. There is other language that appears to preempt local authority that is being analyzed at this time. <u>More on this legislation will be provided further to Mayor and Council</u>.

**Police Recordings:** Staff is working on this statewide request through the NC Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, which has convened a workgroup of city attorneys to work through this issue and recommend legislative changes.

#### **Citizens Review Board:**

- Staff is working to secure, prior to introduction, bi-partisan support for local Charlotte legislation to extend subpoena power to the Charlotte Citizens Review Board. Bill filing deadlines for local bills, of which this request is one, is March 15 in the Senate and March 29 in the House.
- Statewide legislation Citizens Review Boards Established (HB 165 R. Moore, Quick) allows all counties and cities to establish Citizen Review Boards and specifies that the powers of these Boards <a href="mailto:shall">shall</a> include, among others: (1) receive and investigate complaints by members of the general public against law enforcement officers that allege misconduct; (2) subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and compel the production of evidence; and (3) make findings and decisions on disciplinary action of a law enforcement officer alleged to have committed misconduct. In other words, HB 165 is much more ambitious than the local legislation being pursued by the City of Charlotte. In the event HB 165 is scheduled for a Committee hearing, then we will inform Mayor and Council.

As updates are available for legislation featured in past reports, staff will be in contact with Mayor and Council.

## **Status of State Legislative Agenda**

**Rural Development:** The **BRIGHT Futures Act** (<u>HB 68 – Szoka, Saine, S. Martin, Brenden Jones</u> / <u>SB 65 – Meredith</u>) focuses on accelerating the deployment of digital infrastructure in rural and unserved areas including broadband, retail online services, internet of things, Grid Power, healthcare and education. HB 68 referred to House Energy and Public Utilities. SB 65 referred to Senate Rules.

Charlotte Firefighters Retirement System (<u>HB 58 – Dulin, Autry, Belk, R. Moore</u> / <u>SB 54 – Waddell, Tarte, Bishop</u>) is local legislation that enables the Retirement System to comply with the Voluntary Correction Program entered into with the Internal Revenue Service, by which the method for computing a firefighters final average salary is determined. The bill has no fiscal impact upon the System. HB 58 referred to House Committee on State and Local Government I. SB 54 received serial referrals to Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Pensions, Compensation and Benefits and Senate Rules Committee.



## City Council Follow-Up Report

## February 16, 2017

## February 6, 2017 - City Council Workshop

## **CMPD Year End Numbers**

Staff Resource: Kerr Putney, CMPD, 704-336-2360, kputney@charlottenc.gov

During the presentation, the Council requested the 2016 numbers on larcenies from vehicles, including those larcenies where guns were stolen from the vehicles.

<u>Attached</u> for Council's review is the 2016 police report of Part I crimes classified by offense. As also requested, of the 12,186 larcenies from auto (LFA), 688 guns were stolen from vehicles (of the 617 LFA cases, some included the theft of more than one gun).



## **Proposal for Additional Protection of Animals**

Staff Resource: Charles Bannerman, CMPD, 704-336-7552, cbannerman@charlottenc.gov

During the Citizens' Forum, Ms. Amy Wayman, indicated that she runs a business as a service dog trainer and wanted to talk to the Mayor and City Council about making stricter laws governing owners who leave animals outside in extreme weather.

Ms. Wayman is well known to Animal Care and Control (AC&C) and has previously adopted shelter animals from AC&C to train as service animals. The shelter animals are required by law to be given free of charge to anyone requesting them to be trained as a service animal.

Ms. Wayman is knowledgeable of AC&C ordinances, and she and Captain Bannerman have discussed a section of the ordinance passed by City Council in 2010 that governs animal abuse and requires any person in possession of an animal to protect it from extreme weather (heat, cold, rain etc.). In one instance, Captain Karl Bannerman with AC&C spoke with Ms. Wayman on February 7, 2017 about her concern that her neighbors' 7-week old puppy is being left outside in extreme cold conditions. Ms. Wayman stated that the structure her neighbors provided for their puppy is too large and that the puppy cannot keep warm. Ms. Wayman also stated that the same structure in the yard is also for three other full grown dogs and that it is not large enough for all of them to use. She stated that dogs do not like to use "doghouses", implied that such dwellings are against their natural instincts, and that all dogs should be kept indoors. Ms. Wayman indicated that she has contacted AC&C previously about this situation and that AC&C did not take any action to protect

the dog. A staff member is re-inspecting the property to ensure that the dog house and fence are adequate for the animals at the residence.

Ms. Wayman has proposed an ordinance change that would require all dogs to be brought inside a heated or cooled area when the temperature drops below 32 degrees or rises above 90 degrees, respectively. AC&C's contract veterinarian, Dr. Elizabeth Stack, DVM, provided the opinion that some of the factors for consideration include the age and health of the pet, whether they are acclimated to the current temperature, the housing provided, and their body condition. The breed of dog also makes a difference. For example, brachycephalic breeds (dogs such as bulldogs, pugs, and Boston terriers), dogs with relatively short muzzles and noses and throats and breathing passages that are frequently undersized or flattened and, subsequently, have a much harder time with heat; these breeds typically have thin coats and, subsequently, have a much harder time with cold temperatures. Cats, overall, tend to fare better as they are typically not tethered or confined so they can seek appropriate shelter.

The current ordinance provides protection for the animals and is general enough to allow for the specific circumstances that are encountered on a case by case basis. The fact that not all homes have air conditioning makes enforcement challenging to require that animals be provided with a cool environment when the residents themselves do not have the same. Furthermore, Ms. Wayman's suggested revisions to the existing ordinance could pose a challenge for animals of homeless individuals who may be unable to provide them with a heated or cooled environment.

Ms. Wayman has offered to provide training to CMPD officers on the applicable law governing service animals, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. These laws are enforced by federal law enforcement officers, not local law enforcement. Although CMPD appreciates Ms. Wayman's offer, any necessary legal training for CMPD Officers is formally developed and regulated by the CMPD attorney's office. A copy of this write-up will also be forwarded to Ms. Wayman.

## February 13, 2017 - City Council Business Meeting

## **Tracking Hate Crimes**

Staff Resource: Kerr Putney, CMPD, 704-336-2360, kputney@charlottenc.gov

During the Council Dinner Briefing, Council requested data on actual convictions for hate crimes reported over the past six years.

Attached for Council's review is information that includes a summary of statistical data for hate crimes reported over the past six years.



## **Sexual Assault Cases**

Staff Resources: Melanie Peacock, CMPD, 704/458-5273, mpeacock@charlottenc.gov Matthew Mathis, CMPD, 704-591-2768, mmathis@charlottenc.gov

During the Council Business Meeting, Council asked for an update on how and when outstanding sexual assault cases are closed out.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) clears cases based on uniform guidelines established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Sexual assault cases remain open until a suspect is identified and charged with the crime or until the investigation determines that no crime occurred.

When sexual assault kits are tested for DNA and result in the identification of a potential suspect, the individual's information is provided to a detective. The detective thoroughly investigates the suspect and works with the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office to decide whether or not to prosecute based on the circumstances of the case.

However, there are situations in which charges may not be filed; such as when the victim declines to prosecute the suspect, the District Attorney's Office rejected the case, or the offender is deceased. A case is considered closed when the investigation results in a suspect being charged or the investigation determines that an actual crime did not occur. Additionally, the case would be considered closed if the investigation were transferred to another police agency if the offense occurred in another jurisdiction.

Cases progress at different rates, especially older cases in which CMPD has to locate victims, suspects, or witnesses who may no longer live in the area.

# CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT INDEX OFFENSE STATISTICS JANUARY - DECEMBER 2016 COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEAR

Report Compiled: January 30, 2017

			%
INDEX OFFENSES	2016	2015	CHANGE
HOMICIDE (MURDER & NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER)	68	60	13.3%
RAPE TOTAL	276	282	-2.1%
ACTUAL	210	197	6.6%
ATTEMPT	13	15	-13.3%
PREVIOUSLY DEFINED AS SEX OFFENSE	53	70	-24.3%
ROBBERY TOTAL	2120	1947	8.9%
ARMED	1592	1445	10.2%
STRONG-ARM	528	502	5.2%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT TOTAL	4148	3725	11.4%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - FIREARM	2670	2324	14.9%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - KNIFE or CUTTING INSTRUMENT	602	591	1.9%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON	764	716	6.7%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC	112	94	19.1%
BURGLARY TOTAL	6745	6832	-1.3%
RESIDENTIAL	4758	4974	-4.3%
COMMERCIAL ****	1987	1858	6.9%
FORCE	4689	5014	-6.5%
NO FORCE	1364	1267	7.7%
ATTEMPT	692	551	25.6%
LARCENY - Theft TOTAL	27156	24104	12.7%
\$200 AND OVER	13312	11994	11.0%
\$50 TO \$200	5559	5185	7.2%
UNDER \$50 * * * * *	8285	6925	19.6%
FROM AUTO	12186	9218	32.2%
BICYCLE	435	404	7.7%
SHOPLIFTING	5253	5008	4.9%
OTHERS	9282	9474	-2.0%
VEHICLE THEFT TOTAL	2763	2208	25.1%
ARSON TOTAL	228	224	1.8%
TOTALS	43504	39382	10.5%
VIOLENT	6612	6014	9.9%
PROPERTY	36892	33368	10.6%

#### Notes:

<sup>1.</sup> Report based on National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) standards for compiling FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) summary statistics.

<sup>2.</sup> Totals for Rape statistics include the updated, more comprehensive definition of sexual assaults per UCR federal reporting standards.

## Hate Crime Statistics in Charlotte

- The report (statistics) on the next slide details CMPD hate crimes reported annually to the FBI during the past six years.
- These cases were flagged by the reporting CMPD officer as a hate crime and then reviewed to determine which incidents met the basic elements of a hate crime per the FBI.
- Leeway is afforded to the sworn officer who chose to flag each incident since they were on scene to personally collect the details from the reporting person/victim.
- All subsequent narrative supplements added to each hate crime case as of the date CMPD's annual review are also considered to determine if the FBI's basic elements of a hate crime are met.

#### Hate Crime Statistics in Charlotte

Year	Race/ Ethnicity/ Ancestry	Religion	Sexual Orientation	Disability	Gender	Gender Identity	Total
2016	16	3	8	0	0	0	27
2015	16	3	9	1	0	0	29
2014	14	5	5	1	0	0	25
2013	11	4	6	0	0	0	21
2012	11	1	2	0	0	0	14
2011	3	3	1	0	0	0	7

## **January 25 Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting Summary**

Staff Resource: John Lewis, CATS, 704-336-3855, John.Lewis@charlottenc.gov

MTC considered one action item and heard two information items at the meeting:

## Selection of MTC Vice Chairman

MTC members unanimously approved the nomination of Davidson Mayor John Woods for MTC Vice Chairman, a role he has held for several years.

## FY2017/18 Budget Overview

The FY18 budget is a structurally balanced budget, with expenditures balanced with revenue, compliant with financial policies approved by MTC. New mobility options in the FY18 budget include additional service on the I-77 corridor to assist the maintenance of way efforts in the construction of the I-77 managed toll lanes project. Developing the FY18 budget was a challenge as CATS continues to move the 2030 Plan forward and bring on new operating lines and service demand continues to increase. The current service model, which allows CATS to deliver a new rapid transit corridor about once every ten years, is not sustainable under the current funding model and is insufficient to expand services as demanded by area residents. Later this spring, staff hopes to present a series of options that may enable CATS to deliver all of the corridors outlined in the 2030 Plan. This will require CATS to explore Public Private Partnerships and other revenue sources such as value capture along the LYNX Blue Line Extension (BLE) and near Charlotte Gateway Station (CGS).

One of MTC's financial guidelines is that the base operating budget should increase annually by no more than 3.6 percent. Another guideline is depositing funds in the Revenue Reserve Fund (RRF), a safety reserve to be used in the event that CATS is not able to cover debt service. CATS' sales tax revenue in the FY18 budget is allocated to different areas, with portions allocated to the RRF and some to debt service, and portions to the operating and capital budget areas. Twenty seven percent of revenue comes from fares and service reimbursements; the anticipated revenue increase of about \$5.7 million is due to the opening of the BLE. CATS will also receive about \$1 million from UNC Charlotte. The Maintenance of Effort funds received annually from the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the Town of Huntersville comprise about 14 percent of revenue and will increase about 3 percent next year, as the City's contribution increases annually by that percentage. Operating Assistance will increase next year. CATS anticipates receiving about \$3.8 million in federal funds to operate the new BLE service, a short-term revenue source which will continue for two years as the Federal government's way of assisting new services. A portion of the Operating Assistance increase will be from a one-time revenue allocation from NCDOT and other construction partners as we increase service to mitigate delays in the I-77 corridor. Revenue will also be received from parking and rental fees with smaller amounts from equipment sales. Beginning in 2012, CATS saw a fairly steady increase in sales tax revenue. Since FY15, sales tax revenue increased about 5 percent yearly. The increase this year is expected to bring in \$92.3 million, due to an increase in the tax amount and the General Assembly's action to impose sales tax on some services.

The largest area of operating expenditures is Personal Services, which comprises about 69 percent of the budget and will increase about \$3 million from last year. Staff has built in a 10 percent increase for employee health insurance and reserves for the category Other Post Employment Benefit Costs (primarily costs for retirement benefits), areas which have seen a substantial increase. Inventories and Risk Insurance have also increased. The majority of the increase for Risk Insurance is associated with the opening of the BLE. One of the ways to adjust for market uncertainty in fuel costs is to lock down advance pricing. CATS has managed fuel costs through its forward purchase program to reduce the cost of fuel. The average cost of fuel in the current fiscal year is forecast to be \$1.75 per gallon. For FY18, CATS anticipates being able to stay within \$1.70 per gallon, the lowest CATS has been able to buy fuel since the recession. Staff has locked in pricing for about 81 percent of fuel requirements for next year.

The largest service level change in the next fiscal year will be the opening of the BLE, a transformative project. The BLE project's impact will reshape North Tryon Street and implement an urban design framework. This budget projects about ten months of BLE service and will add about 7.2 million riders a year. The \$26 million cost is absorbed within current revenue projections.

CATS will add a total of 10,169 additional bus revenue hours in FY18. Areas that will see increases in bus revenue hours include the North Mecklenburg Express services, with enhanced weekday service to help mitigate issues with I-77 construction, and bus/rail integration at UNC Charlotte where buses will meet the trains at stations and on campus. CATS receives some reimbursement from NCDOT and the construction contractor for the I-77 corridor, as well as from UNC Charlotte. The third area that will see an increase in bus revenue hours later in the year is the Amazon Headquarters extension route near the airport. Some service will be decreased as service near the Amazon Headquarters is implemented, but the net increase will be about 433 hours.

CATS will have \$21.3 million in the debt service budget next year to pay for capital projects such as the LYNX Blue Line, BLE and the South Tryon Bus Garage. CATS will issue no new debt during FY18. Expenditures planned for the five-year FY18-22 CIP will be in areas such as the BLE's completion and transit asset maintenance and replacement, as well as preventive maintenance, passenger amenities, new equipment purchase and other areas. The CIP also provides funding for Alternative Analysis studies for the West and Center City Corridor and the LPA and Mobility Study for the North Corridor LYNX Red Line.

#### All-access Pass Discount Program

CATS and UNC Charlotte are in negotiations to add an all-access pass to the UNC Charlotte student ID card via a transit application added to the UNC Charlotte student ID pass chip. CATS is moving to a contactless fare collection system for light rail and buses. This all-access pass will allow UNC Charlotte students to ride transit through a simple tap of their student ID on a farebox. Students' IDs will have unique information to identify the fare as a UNC Charlotte fare, but the system will be set up so the CATS app will have no information on the specific student associated with the fare. The UNC Charlotte contactless ID will not allow students, faculty or

staff to exit the parking deck without paying an additional parking fee. Regular customers will have free access to the decks.

UNC Charlotte and CATS staff are negotiating the terms of the multi-year contract for the allaccess pass, including how to determine student ridership through sampling, surveying for students who do not tap and determining multi-year price increases. CATS will work with UNC Charlotte to determine how to handle drop/add students and students who apply for emergency release. Transfers will be included in the pass, which will be required of all students whether they use it or not, except for long-distance learners who do not enter the campus and would not benefit from a transit pass. Pricing factors include a ridership review from UNC Charlotte and enrollment during the usual school year as well as summer school sessions. The cost will be included in students' transportation fees. The agreement was reviewed and approved by UNC Charlotte's Student Government Association in November. The process for faculty and staff is still under development, whether it would be optional or a requirement and whether it would be payroll deduction or provided by UNC Charlotte. Projected revenue for the annual payment, based on student enrollment estimates, is \$1,050,000 for FY18, based on a price of \$50/year as an annual cost to students; faculty and staff revenue would add to that total. UNC Charlotte is still determining the cost for summer sessions. CATS received \$25,611 in FY15 and \$27,891 in FY16 through individual UNC Charlotte student, faculty and staff pass purchases. Since the pass will be part of students' ID, CATS will save about \$33,000 yearly in pass ticket printing costs. UNC Charlotte will handle replacement cards, which will save CATS money. The UNC Charlotte family of students, faculty and staff will receive significant cost savings, while CATS will receive a significant revenue guarantee and ridership.

## CATS CEO Report

Under the CEO's report, Mr. Lewis discussed:

## **Regional Transit Engagement Series Update:**

In early January, the Charlotte City Council approved the contract with Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) for the Regional Transit Engagement Series. The series will engage various stakeholders to discuss and advance transit at a regional level to raise awareness with the public and elected officials. Regional participation and collaboration will build on several key initiatives to take the public pulse and gather public opinion on transit. The series will include two phases of engagement. Phase I will gather input from managers, transit directors, transportation planners and planning directors. Phase II will expand the engagement effort to include local, state and federal elected officials and staff and economic development organizations, as well as institutions and private sector stakeholders and including the stakeholders from the first phase. CCOG will conduct a public survey on transit following the input from Phase I, and a regional transit summit will be held after Phase II, probably in November.

The next MTC meeting will be February 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.