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### **Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, March 21; Lunch Work Session at 11:30 - Lunch Will be Provided**

Council will meet in regular work session at **11:30 A.M.** in the **Council Chamber**. Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the BoardDocs electronic agenda system:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/nc/raleigh/Board.nsf/Public>

The **regular** Council meeting begins at **1:00 P.M.**

**Reminder:** If there is an item you would like to pull from the consent agenda for discussion, please e-mail [mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov](mailto:mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov) by 11 A.M. the day of the meeting.

## INFORMATION:

### [2022-23 Loose Leaf Collection Completed](#)

*Staff Resource: Rob Murray, Transportation, 996-3030, [rob.murray@raleighnc.gov](mailto:rob.murray@raleighnc.gov)*

Seasonal loose leaf collection for the 2022-2023 season has been completed.

Crews completed the second round of loose leaf collection on Tuesday, March 14. The City of Raleigh seasonal leaf collection began on Monday, November 14, 2022.

Loose leaf collection is residential service for citizens living inside Raleigh city limits and features two rounds of vacuuming leaf piles placed between the curb and sidewalk. This season, crews collected 3,476 loads of leaves estimated at over 72,000 cubic yards. This amount would fill an entire football field at a height of over 40 feet.

From March 15 to **March 31**, residents can complete the [Missed Leaf Collection form](#) for any leaf piles that may have been put out late, blocked by vehicles or otherwise missed. The form, and other valuable program information, is available on the loose leaf collection page at [raleighnc.gov/leaf](http://raleighnc.gov/leaf).

*(No Attachment)*

### [Homeless Encampment at Triangle Town Boulevard and I-540 - Update from NCDOT](#)

*Staff Resource: Evan Raleigh, City Manager's Office, 996-4656, [evan.raleigh@raleighnc.gov](mailto:evan.raleigh@raleighnc.gov)*

*Larry Jarvis, Housing and Neighborhoods, 919-996-6947, [larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov](mailto:larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov)*

City staff received an update from NCDOT on efforts to clean up the large encampment site at the intersection of I-540 and Triangle Town Blvd. Representatives with NCDOT informed staff that active cleanup at the site with heavy equipment began last week, and the DOT continues to believe that this particular encampment is vacant. Following completion of the initial clean up, NCDOT plans to send in a biohazard cleaning contractor to remove any hazardous materials that may remain.

*(No attachment)*

### [Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Levels - PER & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#)

*Staff Contact: Ed Buchan, Raleigh Water, 996-3471, [edward.buchan@raleighnc.gov](mailto:edward.buchan@raleighnc.gov)*

On March 14 the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed draft drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for six PFAs including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX Chemicals), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). The EPA is proposing to regulate PFOA and PFOS at levels that can be reliably measured, which is four parts per trillion (ppt). The proposed rule would also place limits on any mixture containing one or more of PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and/or GenX Chemicals. For these PFAS, water systems would use a hazard index calculation to determine if the combined levels of these PFAS pose a potential risk (calculation should be below "1.0").

Raleigh Water has been monitoring for various PFAS compounds since 2013 and during that period has detected very low levels of three specific compounds (PFOS, PFOA and PFBS) in both untreated and treated

water. In 2016, the EPA issued guidance for both PFOS and PFOA which indicated the levels should be below 70 parts per trillion (ppt). Concentrations of these compounds in Raleigh drinking water have usually ranged from *non-detectable* to four ppt (PFOA) and *non-detectable* to 5.5 ppt (PFOS) and from *non-detectable* to 3.5 ppt (PFBS). Based on results to date, the hazard calculation for PFNA, PFBS, GenX and PFHxS is well below 1.0 (0.0017). With the issuance of draft MCLs for both PFOA and PFOS at four ppt, public water providers will likely be required to meet these requirements within 3 years after the MCLs are finalized, which is expected to be by the end of 2023. It should be noted these MCLs were developed around long-term exposure levels (i.e., 70 years of drinking 2.5 liters of water per day) and these contaminants are not considered acute health issues.

In general, conventional water treatment processes are not designed to remove PFAS compounds to extremely low levels, but Raleigh Water treatment plant staff are currently evaluating and optimizing existing systems to improve PFAS removal performance. Staff are also coordinating with consultants to investigate potential additional treatment technologies that may be needed in the future. Ultimately, Raleigh Water will take the necessary steps to stay in full compliance with current and future drinking water limits for PFAS. Staff will also continue to provide information and update to customers through the PFAS webpage: <https://raleighnc.gov/water-and-sewer/perfluorinated-chemicals-data-and-information>

(No attachment)

### **Small-Scale Homebuilders Workshop Scheduled**

*Staff Resource: Katie Dombrowski, Planning and Development, 996-2683, [katie.dombrowski@raleighnc.gov](mailto:katie.dombrowski@raleighnc.gov)*

Registration has opened for the Small-Scale Homebuilders Workshop, scheduled for March 31. The half-day workshop is designed for small-scale, non-profit and minority homebuilders to learn about City development regulations and the “nuts and bolts” of constructing small scale housing, with a focus on missing middle housing. The goal of the workshop is to encourage and support small and non-profit builders who seek to provide more housing options for families in Raleigh. Participants will hear from a panel of industry leaders, participate in roundtable discussions with other attendees, and engage with staff.

Interest in the workshop is high, with 75 people registering within the first 24 hours of opening. As of March 14, there are 131 people registered. Advance registration is required, there is no cost to attend, and attendance will be limited to 150 participants. The workshop will be held at the Jane S. McKimmon Conference and Training Center on the campus of North Carolina State University; check-in will be from 8-9 a.m. and the workshop held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

More information and updates on the event can be found on the [City of Raleigh website](#).

(No attachment)

### **Art in the Public Right-of-Way Pilot Projects**

*Staff Resource: Sarah Powers, Raleigh Parks, 996-4685, [sarah.powers@raleighnc.gov](mailto:sarah.powers@raleighnc.gov)*

Staff with the Transportation (RDOT) and Raleigh Arts have partnered in the past to install art in the public right-of-way. Successful projects have included permanent public art integrated in Capital Improvement Projects, smaller initiatives like commissioning artists to design signal cabinet “wraps” and bus shelter artwork, and the “Artist-in-Residence” program associated with the New Bern Bus Rapid Transit Project.

Prior efforts in this area included also painted decorative crosswalks on Glenwood Avenue and painted murals in the pavement area next to the marked crosswalk on Wilmington Street at One Exchange Plaza. Unfortunately, these installations did not meet durability expectations due to the paint materials used and the traffic the areas experienced, and the artwork at both locations experienced a useful life of only 6-12 months. Also, since those installations were first installed, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has taken a very firm position against including art and designs within marked crosswalks. Based upon lessons learned from past projects and lessons from other successful initiatives, RDOT and Arts will pilot two roadway art projects this Spring.

Selecting an appropriate location for these pilot projects is critical to ensure the City remains within Federal regulations. Based on FHWA’s crosswalk art prohibition, staff has identified the areas on either side of the crosswalk where box trucks sometimes queue illegally, as opportunities for artwork installations. Flexible delineator posts will be used to achieve the same effect of a concrete island, thus creating an opportunity to include artwork similar to the Cincinnati example shown below.

Staff has identified two locations for this pilot. The first location is at the mid-block crosswalk on S. Salisbury Street adjacent to the Wake County Justice Center. The second location is the intersection of Hargett and Salisbury Street and will feature curb extensions that create areas for art murals adjacent to the existing crosswalks:



**Pilot Project Locations and Examples**

The goal of these two locations is to address safety concerns that have been identified by the Vision Zero program and the earlier Downtown Pedestrian Safety Project.

The pilot will also test two different products that should maximize longevity of the artwork. These products come in a variety of colors and have a significantly longer life span than paint, ensuring the art will last with minimal maintenance.

With the two locations and materials identified, the next step is to select artists and develop designs. A selection committee comprised of different stakeholders will also include Susan Woodson, a local artist and pedestrian safety advocate. Community engagement will include working with adjacent businesses to get their feedback and support. Staff will provide Council updates as progress continues including selection of the art/designs and an anticipated construction date.

*(No attachment)*



**Weekly Digest of Special Events**

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, [sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov](mailto:sarah.heinsohn@raleighnc.gov)

Included with the *Update* materials is the special events digest for the upcoming week.

(Attachment)

## Council Member Follow Up Items

### Follow Up from the City Council Retreat

**Community Engagement Board Results –Public Comment Period during Council Meetings**

Staff Resource: Debra Kuffner, Office of Community Engagement, 996-2708, [debra.kuffner@raleighnc.gov](mailto:debra.kuffner@raleighnc.gov)

During the Retreat Council requested that the Community Engagement Board (CEB) provide feedback and recommendations on how to improve the public comment period during City Council meetings. To accomplish this task, CEB members voted at the February 8 meeting to conduct outreach to gain insight from the broader community through an online poll and individual conversations. The board decided to utilize their March 8 meeting to discuss the feedback received and vote on recommendations for improvement to the public comment period. A full presentation of the CEB recommendations will be presented during the March 21 City Council meeting.

The poll opened February 15 and closed March 1. The poll included three questions and invited participants to review the current process via the City of Raleigh website. Poll results and unabridged version of the open-ended feedback are included with the *Update* materials for reference.

(Attachment)

### Follow Up from the February 28 Growth & Natural Resources Committee Meeting

**Dix Edge Area Study**

Staff Resource: Hannah Reckhow, Planning and Development, 996-2622, [hannah.reckhow@raleighnc.gov](mailto:hannah.reckhow@raleighnc.gov)

During the Committee meeting, CP-1-22 Dix Edge Area Study and Z-53b-22 were discussed. Several questions were identified for staff follow up. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which summarizes these questions and responses.

(Attachment)

## Follow Up from the December 6, 2022 City Council Meeting

### **Parade Permitting Process Revisions (Council Member Patton)**

*Staff Resource: Whitney Schoenfeld, Emer. Mgt. & Spcl. Events, 996-2204, [whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov](mailto:whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting staff was requested to evaluate measures the City could institute to enhance safety for participants in parades and similar events occurring in the public right-of-way.

Parades, as well as other events that take place in the public right-of-way like walks, races, and festivals, require permitting and oversight by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. Staff with the Office coordinates with departments across the organization, as well as external stakeholders, in the safety-focused management of special events. Event organizers are required to meet extensive permitting requirements, including development of plans for event-related emergencies, notifications to the community, pre-event site visits, insurance conditions, and meetings with public safety officials. Coordination for some large-scale events begins up to one year in advance of the event date.

Pursuant to the request from Council staff from the City Attorney's Office, Raleigh Police Department, Risk Management, and Office of Emergency Management and Special Events worked together to review current permitting requirements and determine what additional steps could be taken to increase safety at outdoor public events. Based on these discussions, benchmarking with peer cities, and in the mutual interest of the event organizer and the City, the City created a waiver which requires vehicle safety measures for all events that involve non-City of Raleigh drivers, vehicles, and trailers. The document promotes the general welfare of every person at the event and holds the event organizer responsible for ensuring that all requirements outlined in the waiver are met prior to any trailer, vehicle, or driver participating in the event.

Some of the requirements outlined in the waiver include:

- Verifying current inspection, license, and registration for all drivers and their vehicles/trailers
- All vehicles must provide proof of valid automobile liability coverage
- All drivers participating in the event must be at least 21 years old
- To minimize distraction, drivers are not allowed to use mobile devices during the event; passengers may use mobile devices to aid in event-related communication only
- No alcohol or firearms are permitted inside vehicles during the event
- Minors must be accompanied by an adult, whether in a vehicle or on a float
- The City of Raleigh reserves the right to remove any vehicle from the event if there is a clear violation of North Carolina vehicle safety requirements

The new requirements were implemented for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which took place last Saturday, March 11. The event went well and experienced no major safety concerns. Staff will reconvene in the coming weeks to discuss observations made at this parade, as well as to analyze any changes to the waiver or other requirements that should be considered in advance of future parade events.

*(No attachment)*

## Follow Up from the February 7 City Council Meeting

### **Invasive Species Management in Parks (Council Member Harrison and Council Member Jones)**

*Staff Resource: Brian Smith, Raleigh Parks, 996-4789, [brian.smith@raleighnc.gov](mailto:brian.smith@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting Council requested staff investigate opportunities to apply for federal grants related to the management of invasive species. During the February 21 meeting, Council requested staff consider partnering with the Parks Board to address invasive species in the park system and potentially join an invasive species clean-up effort.

With 35 % of Raleigh's remaining forest (6,140 forested acres) located in city-owned parks and greenways, Raleigh Parks has a stewardship responsibility to maintain and enhance these acres and the ecosystem services and citizen experiences they provide. The Invasive Species program plays a vital role in this stewardship. Primary goals of the existing program are to identify infestations; prioritize and prescribe maintenance plans; removal of invasive plants; conduct restoration plantings; educate staff and the public; and to monitor the effects of removal and restoration efforts.

The work of invasive species management is an ongoing process that requires monitoring and maintenance once initial control is achieved. In response to the specific request, staff would like to invite City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board members to participate in an Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Project, April 8 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon, at the Walnut Creek Wetland Park. These projects present a great opportunity for hands on learning and to work alongside staff to make an ecological impact to parks and trails. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which outlines the history and current direction of the Invasive Species program.

*(Attachment)*

## Follow Up from the February 21 City Council Meeting

### **Efforts to Combat Opioid Abuse and Overdoses in the Community (Mayor Pro Tem Branch)**

*Staff Resource: Scott Oosterhoudt, Police, 996-3155, [scott.oosterhoudt@raleighnc.gov](mailto:scott.oosterhoudt@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting Council requested staff to provide a report on efforts to combat fentanyl abuse and fentanyl-induced overdoses in the community. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum in response to the request.

*(Attachment)*

## Follow Up from the March 7 City Council Meeting

### **Public Comment - Follow-up Regarding Housing Insecurity (Mayor Baldwin)**

*Staff Resource: B. Lamont Taylor, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-4278, [lamont.taylor@raleighnc.gov](mailto:lamont.taylor@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting Council requested that staff follow-up with the public speakers that expressed needs related to housing insecurity (Pam Griffin, James Tousignant, Elder Mack). Staff has followed-up with each individual via the email and telephone number provided to the City Clerk.

*(No attachment)*

# Weekly Events Digest

Friday, March 17 – Thursday, March 23

City of Raleigh Office of Emergency Management and Special Events  
[specialevents@raleighnc.gov](mailto:specialevents@raleighnc.gov) | 919-996-2200 | [raleighnc.gov/special-events-office](http://raleighnc.gov/special-events-office)

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## Permitted Special Events

### [Glenwood South St. Patrick's Day Festival](#)

North Street

Friday, March 17

Event Time: 12:00pm - 10:00pm

Associated Road Closures: North Street between Glenwood Avenue and the Blue Ridge Realty parking lot entrance will be closed from 6:00am until 11:00pm.

### [Milk Bar's Annual St. Patrick's Day Block Party](#)

Tucker Street

Friday, March 17

Event Time: 12:00pm - 10:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Tucker Street between Glenwood Avenue and the entrance to the 510 Glenwood parking deck will be closed from 8:00am until 11:00pm.

### [Ella's Race](#)

North Ridge Country Club & Routes

Saturday, March 18

Event Time: 7:00am - 10:00am

Associated Road Closures: Hunting Ridge Road between Falls of Neuse Road and Buckhead Drive will be closed from 5:00am until 11:00am, and routes will be closed from 7:50am until 10:00am. [View routes here](#) for more details and note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event.

## Other Upcoming Events

### [Winter Jam 2023](#)

Friday, March 17

PNC Arena

### [In the Air Tonight: The Music of Phil Collins & Genesis – NC Symphony](#)

Friday, March 17 & Saturday, March 18

Meymandi Concert Hall

### [Spring Break on Hillsborough Street](#)

Friday, March 17 – Wednesday, March 23

Hillsborough Street

### [Raleigh Roasts](#)

Saturday, March 18

Moore Square

### [Monster Jam](#)

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19

PNC Arena

### [Playthrough Gaming Convention](#)

Saturday, March 18 & Sunday, March 19

Raleigh Convention Center



**[Mozart: Symphony No. 40 – Carolina Ballet](#)**

Saturday, March 18 – Sunday, March 26  
Fletcher Opera Theater

**[Meet the Artist: Eduardo Lapetina](#)**

Sunday, March 19  
Sertoma Arts Center

**[Durant Nature Preserve Public Meeting](#)**

Tuesday, March 21  
Campbell Lodge at Durant Nature Preserve

**[Impact Partner Grant Information Session](#)**

Tuesday, March 21  
Virtual

**[Eat Smart, Move More Nutrition Demonstration](#)**

Wednesday, March 22  
John Chavis Community Center

**[National Puppy Day & Movie: Best in Show](#)**

Thursday, March 23  
Moore Square

**[New York Rangers vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)**

Thursday, March 23  
PNC Arena

**Public Resources**

**[Pilot Text Alert Program](#)**: Sometimes spontaneous events happen downtown and in other areas that could affect local businesses. If you'd like to receive notifications when those events happen, including unpermitted ones, sign up for text alerts.

**[Event Feedback Form](#)**: Tell us what you think about Raleigh events! We welcome citizen and participant feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of Emergency Management and Special Events. We will use this helpful information in future planning.

**[Road Closure and Road Race Map](#)**: A resource providing current information on street closures in Raleigh.

**[Online Events Calendar](#)**: View all currently scheduled events that impact city streets, public plazas, and Dorothea Dix Park.

# Council Member Follow Up

## Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

The poll opened on 2/15/23 and closed 3/1/23

- 1192 Views
- 801 Responses
- 432 Participants
- 311 Comments

### GovDelivery email #1 – sent on 2/15/23

- 6,693 recipients
- 95% delivered
- 40% open rate
- 5% bounce rate
- 2,569 unique opens (40%) (over 20% is considered good)
- 183 unique clicks (3%)

### GovDelivery email #2 – sent on 2/28/23

- 5,149 recipients
- 96% delivered
- 43% open rate
- 4% bounce rate
- 2,132 unique opens (43%) (over 20% is considered good)
- 170 unique clicks (3%)

### Have you ever participated in a Raleigh City Council Public Comment Session?

58% NO      42% YES

### If no, what prevented you from participating?

(Responders were able to select more than one choice)

- 47% Not aware it's happening
- 33% Inconvenient time
- 29% Nervous about speaking in public
- 23% Work commitments
- 20% Other (see below)
- 7% Transportation challenge
- 6% Childcare challenges
- 5% Not interested

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## Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

### 20% OTHER

- Still being COVID-cautious
- Routine condescension from Mayor Baldwin, as well as no longer having a full 3 minutes
- I feel it is performative, not substantive
- I often have felt, previous to this new city council that public comments were pointless, and the majority had already made up their minds to pass controversial policies.
- Don't want to be on camera
- Not Covid Safe
- Not sure it's worth it/they really care and will genuinely consider my commentary.
- Other peers were sharing similar comments
- You all do not publicize the voice-mail option.
- Requirement to register and commit in advance
- Haven't had a need
- Unclear how it works / if it makes a difference
- Not understanding Impact my Words will have
- Not believing my comments will have an impact
- Keep forgetting to follow
- More effective to directly connect with city council members outside of public comment
- Difficult to attend in person
- It's such an antagonistic forum, I feel there are more effective ways to communicate to the Council members
- Since of disdain or lack of interest by elected officials
- Sense of disdain or disinterest from elected officials
- very limited time to speak
- Council stopped me from speaking midway.

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Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

- I have commented during a public hearing, but not during the general public comment period. I was addressing an issue that was part of the main council meeting agenda.
- Health
- Lack of confidence that comments matter
- Comments don't seem to matter
- Don't think they'll listen
- too difficult
- I don't have enough factual information to comment publicly.
- Prefer to reach out directly to City Council members and/or Mayor
- Biased attitude of the current mayor re hearing public comments.
- Not able to go in person
- I am not always able to come to the meetings in person to speak. Being able to call in to the meeting would allow me to participate.
- health issues
- Mobility disability

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Q3. What would you recommend the city change to reduce barriers and increase public participation in public comment?

Open-ended comments captured below and organized by theme.

<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
We should be able to sign up and speak that evening. Time should be 3 minutes. Council should at least pretend they are listening.
Ability to attend virtually as well as hold meetings in the evenings with a specific time allotted for citizen engagement. I also think council members should be required to log time connecting with their constituents with the express purpose of soliciting feedback.
These days it should be possible for people to "zoom" into the meeting so that they can be seen and heard on video displays if they cannot attend in person. The CC chamber is becoming too small to accommodate larger crowds, especially if folks are still trying to avoid sitting close together due to covid.
Would also like to hear the Mayor respond at least briefly to each person that speaks.
Council should ADD another evening meeting each month for Public Comments and allow the current evening meeting to remain for Public Hearings. By separating these meetings, you will stop any need to lower the time for comments below 3 minutes and also stop meetings from going too late into the night for the benefit of speakers as well as councilors. If any councilor responds to a speaker the speaker should be allowed to respond back. Too many times Mayor Baldwin takes an opportunity to CLAIM the speaker is incorrect but refuses to allow the speaker to respond to her accusation.
I have participated once but would participate again via live phone calls or Zoom calls. The mayor has been overwhelmingly disrespectful to citizens who take the time to speak up, and that doesn't help anyone. Three minutes is better than one minute, too.
I would recommend hybrid meetings so that those who cannot attend in person can speak by telephone or better yet by Zoom. Also, speakers need to have a set number of minutes to speak so that they can prepare and practice their comments. Reducing the time shortly before the meeting is very frustrating and does not allow them to finish their message. It would be more hospitable to speakers for the mayor and councilors to pay attention and listen to the speakers. Also, some kind of brief acknowledgement to the speakers and their comments rather than just "next."
Hybrid meeting would allow increased citizen participation.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
1) Raleigh needs online interaction. 2) City council or staff should respond to comments at the time they are made! 3) Time limit should be at least 10 mins per person.
Allow Zoom or other remote comments
Make it very easy to find the topics and schedules. Make it easy to get on the agenda. Allow presenter enough time to cover issues and concerns. If this isn't feasible, then create a different forum for concerns to be aired, consolidated, considered, and addressed.
Evening hours, Zoom attendance option
Implement online (Zoom, for example) participation to offer questions and suggestions.
After traditional work hours. Better notice to citizens.
I would like to be available for public participation. I had reached out to the City Council with a concern. When I received the response, it was pointed out that some areas are the City of Raleigh, other areas are part of the state and in addition, there's private property as part of a separate business (not city, not state. I'd like a better understanding of how my "government" works for the people. In addition, notices for zoning changes are posted on a small sign on a traveled road. When I'm driving by at the road's speed limit, how can I stop to make out all the small print? Is that the idea? If we don't read it, we can't know what's being planned for our area!
Virtual Meetings
Virtual public comment
I believe public comment should SIMPLIFY. There should be a sign-up sheet in the lobby before the meeting where anyone who wishes to offer comment can simply sign in (with whatever info Council needs, such as name, address, phone number, and TOPIC). Then speakers may be called forward according to the sign-up sheet. (This would NOT exclude the right to enter public comment ahead of time by written method currently available.) Individual speakers should have a minimum of three minutes. Speakers representing groups should have at least five minutes and availability to present visual material if wanted.
Allow for phone and virtual attendance/comments. Increase speaking time; one minute is insulting. Bring back CACs or a suitable alternative that allows for public discussion outside of Council meetings with summary of feedback then provided to Council. It's clear from the extreme restrictions on public input that Mayor Baldwin wants to eliminate as much public input as possible.
Speaking opportunities available at different times. As it stands now, if you can't make that particular meeting time, you're out of luck.
To allow emailed questions to be read and answered at public hearings and during public comment sessions. And if this is already allowed let us know how to participate.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
I think you're missing an opportunity to hear from a more diverse population by not offering a hybrid format. The City Attorney finally acquiesced a tiny bit by allowing V/M comment. There has only been one and it's not surprising since the recordings are not played during the meeting (the only way to accurately convey the individual's intent is to hear them) and it takes the skills of Sherlock Holmes to find where the transcript resides for comments made. There are residents who, for very good reason, CANNOT be at the meeting in person. There really is no excuse, legally, technologically, or otherwise to not provide for remote participation.
The procedures are too complex, the comment time should not be arbitrarily reduced below 3 minutes, standards for Civility are vague and subjective, and as such the public should not be threatened with misdemeanors if they fail to follow these vague and subjective standards, and there's no transparency as to whether speakers are actually chosen to speak according to the rules set forth or not. The procedures are chilling to public input, as they require extensive planning and calendar juggling by any citizen who plans to apply to speak.
Hybrid meetings that would accommodate folks who can't attend in person.
Think of the disabled, the deaf, and the blind as well as all citizens... Allow call-in comments to be aired. Read written comments (that were submitted specifically to be read during public comments). Give commenters 3 minutes or more. Don't be rude to commenters. The mayor is often rude. Thank all commenters for sharing their opinions.
Keep allowing people to join and comment via technology even after Covid. Allow more than three minutes. Not much can be said in three minutes, especially if someone has several points to make.
Make meetings available for working population. Most struggle to get time off for doctors appointments.
Open up a variety of options (etc.) zoom , and in person.
Allow a pre-meeting sign-in to know about how many persons want to speak but still include persons 'from the floor' to speak as well for both sides of an issue. Meetings will be longer but Council will have better insights into how residents feel.
Online, zoom attendance that coincide with live meetings.
In reading the current process it seems to be a very complex process to speak publicly with a limited window to sign up? Not sure why you can't sign up further in advance?



Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
We're still in a pandemic - and only allowing comment via live meetings (Council is generally non-responsive via email) defies any supposed concerns about accessibility. The mindset of entitlement that doesn't take in people's health concerns into account, nor the fact that many citizens are unable to take off hours of work to attend in-person is not acceptable.
The order of things has required people to wait through long long long agenda items to make their comments. I've been there until after 10 pm before getting to make a comment. And I absolutely abhor the new arrangement where the mayor sits at the long oblong table with the councilors to the side. Eye contact and listening are made strange in this arrangement.
It can be challenging to find parking spaces if you are making public comments during the meetings in the afternoons. For those that are on the list to speak, possibly giving that person a parking pass.
I like the idea of splitting public hearings off from the regular meetings, which should retain the general public comment period as now with 2 or 3 minutes of time. Separate meetings for public hearings could then offer each side up to 15 minutes of speaking time instead of the 8 minutes now afforded each side. I signed up to speak in June 2022 against the 55% tax increase given (yes given) the Hillsborough Street municipal service district, only to have my time cut in half to 60 seconds after preparing my remarks. This itself is not fair. Also, the budget public hearing should be split up into multiple hearings -- there is far too much to cover in a regular public hearing's time slot.
Yes, our community has many seniors who may not have children and/or ways to get the schedule and transportation to these meetings. Timing is another constraint. Taking time off for public platforms seems unfair if you can do it regularly without getting paid. People need to see the value in these meetings and not just more of the same. Decisions already made it seems like.
Virtual/online options
Council should host meetings in different places around the city - maybe different community centers and schools. Commenting should not only be in-person, but should be something people can electronically. Old technology forces different streams of use. The benefit of updated technology is that it can welcome multiple avenues - phone, electronic recorders, video, etc... Limiting avenues of communications creates an exclusivity to who can and will comment.
Make sure there is always a virtual option and notice of important votes on various media
Representatives attend local community and church hosted meetings where residents voice concerns and strategize solutions.
Have them in locations with better, more accessible parking. Do it twice, once during the day and once at 7:00 pm

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
Consider offering a Saturday meeting quarterly with a public comment period.
Schedule public hearings on topics at different times. Also consider allowing submission of video comments that are available online before or after the meeting.
The announcement for meetings where comments can be made is convoluted and too complicated. For instance, rather than having to go to a link on such announcements to see the agenda for meetings, just include the agenda in the announcement. Plus, increase the time for comments at City Council meetings to three minutes, and make separate meetings for public comments and hearing rezoning requests.
Offering opportunities to make public comments via Zoom or in person, increased time per public commentor
Hold them in the community on Saturdays and Sundays. May be able to rotate among the various faith based institutions. I'm aware of several Mosques, Ethiopian and Latino churches. I also like the electronic methods such as this. However, some persons may have limited access due to technology literacy or internet access. Possibly a multiple targeted approach with several meeting and methods.
Allow virtual participation.
Host engagement events outside of the Council meetings and allow the feedback garnered from those events to be presented to Council.
Virtual meetings
hold virtual meetings and more notice to voters
Allow More time on Agendas for each speaker. Expand the Public Comment period to allow more participation. Consider using an Internet or in-person hybrid model for those for whom transportation is difficult or transportation is unavailable.
I think you should set a date like the second Tuesday of the month where every neighborhood meets locally in their own community center and then have Representatives bring their arguments to the main counseling meeting at the whenever the date is I think that would provide an equal standing for the public to have their voice heard for each neighborhood
It needs to be the same every time. Whatever time is ultimately allowed needs to be the same and should not be changed based on the # of people signed up. Virtual comments should be allowed. It would be better to establish a set block of time 1 meeting per month for public comment and let speakers have more time to speak-4 minutes. But, that means that some people might not get to speak each meeting. It will need to be done on a first come, first serve basis. Those that did not make the cut would be automatically registered to

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
<p>speak the next available slot. In other words, establish a 2-3 hour block of time one time per month to allow residents to comment for 4 minutes each.</p> <p>Also should consider limiting the # of times a resident can comment each year to prevent the process from being dominated each meeting by the same people or the same "cause." Council needs to be able to run efficient meetings in order to conduct the City's business. Having meetings operate unpredictably because of varying amounts of interest in public comment periods from meeting to meeting is difficult on staff and residents/businesses attending meetings for specific agenda items. This issue can be addressed by having a set period of time for public comment during regular meetings or by adding a new meeting each month dedicated just to public comments.</p> <p>Remote public comment needs improvement and attention. An hour or more to drive to/from the meeting and park for a (3) minute comment strongly discourages participation. The time slot to attend personally may not be workable for some, managing real time phone calls is more admin work and an unnecessary challenge. The (3) minute recorded comments should be played during the public meeting, same as those comments that are made in person. They are as relevant, as important, should be heard publicly and on the YouTube recorded playback.</p> <p>Virtual participation. Our courts allow this... why not council meetings?</p> <p>1. Allow people to call into the public comment out period.                  2. It would be awesome (and kind and respectful) for city council members to actually engage w/ the community. Rather than an engagement with the public, it is a one way street of people pouring out heartfelt concerns, sometimes with thankfulness, more often with anger. The process appears to be a chore to some of the city council, especially when we are told to line up standing to wait their turn and to make it quicker. I heard the mayor say that and it is insulting.</p> <p>How about we start setting aside dedicated time for the conversations to happen about the concerns that are coming up at these meetings?                  How about we have some accountability from the city council to address what was brought up in the public comment period?                  People need to know they are being heard and that doesn't happen with this city council.</p> <p>Phone calls be allowed.                  Make the comment period appear to be a priority by holding conversations that follow up about the people's concerns.</p> <p>Time. Of speaking, other methods to speak like video or call in, and more evening sessions</p> <p>Council members to visit citizen board and commission meetings on a regular basis</p>

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Childcare at council meetings
<b>Theme: Meetings</b>
<p>Limit requirements for people to register to make comments</p> <p>Opportunities for people to participate in board and commission meetings remotely</p>
<b>Theme: Speaker Time</b>
<p>One-minute time slot is unreasonable, and a three-minute slot can also be unreasonable if the speaker is presenting a complex issue. Three minutes are generally much better than one.</p> <p>Increase the amount of time a person can speak on an issue of importance to the overall well-being of the City of Raleigh.,</p> <p>Increase the time of comments back up to three minutes and insist that the current mayor stop her condescending attitude and comments to statements and people that she doesn't agree with. Better yet, get rid of her entirely.</p> <p>Yes...all voices need to be heard for more than 1 minute. The public has plenty of issues that we'd love Raleigh to address.</p> <p>Mayor Baldwin can stop with her routine condescension towards anyone who speaks out or disagrees with her. Speaker time should be set back to the original three minutes, especially in light of the decision to cut down to two minutes being made BEHIND CLOSED DOORS with NO PUBLIC INPUT.                  Speakers should be allowed one person at their side (for instance, a parent speaking about something that affects their child should be able to have their child stand next to them during public comment)</p> <p>Give 1 or 2 extra minute to speak- and let public know you can leave a recorded phone message to be heard by council on relevant dates. Perhaps having a dedicated portal just for phone messages that's easy to find and navigate would encourage.</p> <p>Do not reduce time to 1 minute at council meetings. Nothing can be expressed fully with a short time like this. 3 minutes minimum, and allow like-minded citizens to give their time to a single speaker to hear a groups opinions or concerns.</p> <p>One minute is absurd and prevents public engagement.</p> <p>Allow three minutes per person. Have a separate "public comment" night each month so that voices are heard. Trying to hear from citizens on a wide variety of issues and then launching into a lengthy City Council meeting is not productive for citizens or Council.</p>

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

One more point . . . Not everyone can physically go to a Council meeting. I think we should allow people to join by phone if nothing else. That will increase the diversity of citizens who can share their ideas with Council.
<b>Theme: Speaker Time</b>
More time to speak and virtual meetings so people who have difficulties getting to live meetings can participate.
Allow a person to speak for more than 3 minutes. Because of the short time allowed, it appears the city council really doesn't want to hear from anyone. Therefore, why go through the trouble to get there if they've already made their minds up. It doesn't seem like they really want to hear from the public.
Increase time that participants are allowed to speak to 5 minutes. Actually listen to & guide policies/decision-making based on public input (as opposed to just this typical pretending to care about anything other than what developers want). Increase trust within the community that the Mayor & Council members truly desire to be stewards of a happy, healthy, mindfully developed and sustainable city. When people do comment during these meetings, it rarely actually changes the outcome (Mayor Baldwin & Council ultimately do what they want regardless).
Allow three minutes for each speaker. Have a staff person ( non-elected) preside over the public comment session
Increase time allowed and look for other forums for feedback.
Have a standard 3 minute time for a person to make comments. Don't change that standard suddenly just before a meeting. Some folks will practice a 3 minute comment, and then have no time to compress those thoughts down to 1 or 2 minutes.
increase the time to 3 minutes min. Reinstitute a new version of CACs. Communities should be supported by the city to come together to discuss neighborhood specific issues and concerns on a regular basis with as needed input from city reps. The Neighborhood/Community Group would then send ONE representative to City Council meetings to report out the neighborhood issues/concerns and good news. There should be support from the city to help new neighborhood groups with outreach and recruitment for participation. New rules rotating leadership roles to ensure new blood. Everyone cannot attend all council meetings to voice neighborhood concerns or attend all neighborhood meetings. CACs needed more city support with social media, getting word out to new neighbors, and setting new bylaws governing how they could better represent and support their respective areas. City Council meeting public comment is now bogged down with neighbors who have no other place to voice concerns and ask questions. You threw the baby out with the bath water instead of reimagining and supporting a good idea gone astray.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Allow 3 minutes for public comment and allow for virtual comments and participation as well. Take the time and attention to actually listen to them, even if there are a lot of people wanting to speak. Despite the massive increase in council's salary, there has not been an increase in level of service to citizens from those who were re-elected. It is perfectly legal for virtual public comments and participation as other municipalities do everything they can, including virtual support, to allow all citizens to have a say.
<b>Theme: Speaker Time</b>
Increase comment time and allow for virtual attendance, please. CACs were beneficial and should come back with council support.
Three minutes per speaker reduces stress. And/or create forums for actual conversations to occur. Have the council and mayor Walk the community being discussed prior to meeting.
4 minute speaking times, no matter what. Unable to be shortened by anyone.
Establish a 3-minute time per commenter: allow for virtual participation. provide a separate evening meeting to hear public comments; provide better communication with residents.
Provide enough time to speak, provide guidance / instructions on how to speak (ex: suggested word count for written statements), technology supporting remote participation
Allow 3 minutes per speaker. It's a barrier to know that your time may be reduced at the discretion of the Mayor.
uniform time limit to speak. rezoning cases should be held on separate day to allow time for comments.
Make 3 minutes the standard - no cuts/reduction in time. Provide childcare. Have an independent citizen facilitator. Request that the council pay attention (no phone/computer) and engage in active listening. Most importantly - allow other citizens to respond with applause to reinforce/second a speaker.
Reinstate 3 minute limits. Add electronic and voicemail feedback to public records. Continue to invite council members to attend community meetings to help encourage conversations rather than comments simply falling on already made up minds.
3 minute per person
Three minutes per person I appropriate
Allow any citizen to speak for 1 min. Remove the formalities and signup.
Increase the time of comments back to 3 minutes, reinstate letting people sign up the day of to make comments, reinstate CACs.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Increase speakers time to three minutes AND expressly state in the comments policy that increased time over three minutes can be permitted by council for especially complex or controversial issues. This increased allowance should not be applied "speaker by speaker" but decided upon at the beginning of a topic and applied to all speakers on that topic.
<b>Theme: Speaker Time</b>
Mandate a 3 minute time for each speaker at public comment. If necessary, add an additional meeting twice each month or add time to Council work sessions to ensure this time frame. Additionally make voicemail or emailed comments available for the record at the time of the meeting.
Allow four minutes
The 2 minute comment is insulting. No one, not even a Council person, can express themselves on a complex subject in 2 minutes.
I suggest that each person making a comment have 1 minute to state their opinion and 4-5 minutes to provide evidence, sources, etc. that support the opening statement.
Further, Council should provide adequate time for everyone to be heard.
Limit the number of speakers, but give 3 minutes to speak. Allow only ~20 speakers & have standbys for no shows. I have spoken several times, and my time was reduced to allow for many speakers on the last occasion. Pick your poison - time or number of comments. Mayor MAB was very accommodating, although I had to drop my most convincing minute! But, the alarming disrespect for our elected officials by commenters, disrespect fellow residents and their voter preferences. Whining and bemoaning continually is getting old, frankly.
Allow for at least five minutes per comment. Offer ALL city meetings, including committee meetings as hybrid meetings so citizens can participate in person or remotely, as suits their particular situation.
Provide methods for citizens to make public comments even if they are not attending the meeting in person, such as leaving voice mail, prerecorded video message, traditional email, etc.
Increase amount of speaking time to more than 3 minutes if needed. Make AV aids available for commentators. Most of the items should be routed through CACs to refine understanding. Poll citizens using media wisely and in a non- prejudicial manner.
Notify residents and allow minimum of 3 minutes to speak
Three minutes per person.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Go back to three minutes and don't allow time change to be dependent on the whim of the mayor. Allow hybrid meetings with a staff person managing a chat feature for comments and questions. Questions could be answered and posted somewhere publicly after the meeting ends. Allow for voice mail comments to be placed into the public record as well. Create staff per council member and request that they respond to emails.
Definitely go back to the 3 minute time to speak and allow uninterrupted call ins as well.
<b>Theme: Speaker Time</b>
Limit comments to 2 minutes. Require repeat speakers to submit their comments in writing if they need to address council more often than quarterly. Council should not editorialize people's comments. Provide monthly district forums with Councilors where people can speak and be heard.
3 to 5 minutes per speaker should be allowed
Give back the three minutes we used to have for speaking before Raleigh City Council once a month on Tuesday nights. In addition, allow the public who can't attend the meetings to call in to speak before City Council.
Returning to giving three minutes of time for citizens to address Council is imperative. Because there are few (if any) other effective means to be heard by our elected leaders, Council should remain present and focused on citizens who have taken the time to be heard - this includes persistent distractions from various devices and lack of eye contact. It is infinitely disrespectful to see Council members on their phones, laptops, leaving for excessive stretches of time, talking to one another, etc., when a citizen before them has endeavored so hard to simply be there.
Also, the City needs to show some leadership and institute a virtual option for citizen participation. It is both elitist and ableist to design a system in which the only way to have your voice heard is to take the time to come to downtown, pay for parking, sit in an entirely unmasked and crowded venue, and sit through hours of other items before having the opportunity to be heard for whatever 60-180 second window is provided. This barrier is significant - whether it's for socio-economic, distance, or health-related reasons, and Raleigh needs to get with the 21st-century and find ALL MANNER of ways to truly make this a city for EVERYONE. Also, I know no one wants to sit in a meeting for upon hours and hear an endless stream of information, but no one sitting up on that dais has been forced into it, and it would be great if the more senior members of Council treated people who come before them with respect - and surely, surely does this start from the top. The amount of disrespect and outright scolding - as if people who come up to the lectern are naughty children - is simply unacceptable. Council maintains that they are where they are because they love this city and want what's best for it - so does virtually every single person to come before them.
Change the time limit on public speaking from total group to individual.
There would be time for 3-minute comments if the mayor did not take so much time speaking between the speakers.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Increase time for speaker back to 3 minutes With current technology - provide other options for presentations
increase the time to 3 minutes min.
<b>Theme: Speaker Time</b> Allow call-in responses, allow 3 minutes, not require that people give their reason for speaking when signing up, respond to all or none but not select commenters, have designated meetings just for public comment
<b>Theme: Comments + Voicemail</b> Allow speakers to call in to the meeting. Despite what the City Attorney says, this is perfectly legal per the UNC School of Government and is practiced in Cary. Mayor and Council members should listen attentively when members of the public are speaking and should respond in some fashion -- not just thanking the speaker or saying "next" but indicating what, if anything, will be the result -- referral to staff, etc.
Allow written comments to be entered into record.
Should be able to give public comment with different options phone or email. All public comments need to be read at the city council meeting.
Public comments should be given in person, on the phone, or through emails. All Public comments should be read during the meeting.
Offer online comment and poll
Given how disrespectful and downright rude the speakers often are, it is a wonder anyone would want to be on the Council. I think the public comments go on too long. The number of public speakers should be limited. Or public comments should be a max of one hour total.
Yes, we need a full 3 minutes to present. Add remote comments. Add another evening meeting to have the public hearings for rezonings on another evening.
The current design of public comments and hearings are INHERENTLY UNFAIR as it often over represents people who are much older (retired w/ a lot of time), wealthy and own homes in the area which OFTEN binds their interest in blocking development.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Comments + Voicemail</b> The current design of public comments and hearings are INHERENTLY UNFAIR as it often OVER-represents people who are much older (retired and bored w/ a lot of time on hand), white, wealthy and homeowners in the local area which OFTEN align their interests in blocking or delaying development for future residents and tackling the housing crisis. Their comments and proposed solutions are often misguided, short-sighted, counter-productive and at worst made in bad faith, simply because most average people do not understand the science of effective urban planning nor do they have economic literacy or the ability to do quality research, fact-check and comprehend statistical data. I'm sure at least half are made with good intentions but good intentions aren't good enough because they don't actually solve problems.
I feel livid and terrified at the possibility that city council allow these bad opinions to even remotely influence their development plans and procedures.
If Raleigh city council ACTUALLY cares about equity and about equal representation, if they actually care about getting equitable RESULTS, instead of only to SEEM like they are for equity, they need to acknowledge the reality that the design of public comments and hearings often lead to INEQUITABLE RESULTS. They always have and they always will no matter how much resources is poured into "community engagement". Letting people speak is fine, but please curtail the influence of comments on real solutions and approval processes.
I do not want a bunch of old wealthy homeowners to decide where I can live and how I can travel. I do not want them to be involved in any sort of design review or stand in the way of professionals who know better. The city should be designed and built for everyone—it doesn't need the opinions or permission of a small and vocal group of rich and entitled homeowners.
The public comment portion of the city council meeting that I attended was a bit confusing and unclear as far as how people were able to speak, who should be going next, etc. it also felt like the council members were less interested in or open to some of the public comments than others and it was pretty clear from their facial expressions, body language, and follow up comments (or lack of).... particularly from the Mayor.
It also was unclear what is done with the info/feedback received from the public comments... it didn't appear that there were plans to follow up on and act on any of the things shared/discussed during the public comments section, and it seemed kind of rushed. It would have been helpful to see a visual list of the order of speakers, and if there was more flexibility with the schedule that provided more time for feedback/comments from the council after people take their time and energy to come to speak to them.
Since public comment can be very long and Council wants to encourage public comment, I support separation of public comment from public hearing to facilitate more community engagement at Council



Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

**Theme: Comments + Voicemail**

If you can accept voice-mail, why not create a web format to accept written comments? (Can limit the number of characters.) Allowing people to write down and submit their system will help allow people to write specific, efficient statements, and are also helpful to increase inclusivity for people that have different communication abilities.

Bring back CACs, so they can help lift up the public's voice from their meetings.

Give people a few minutes to talk, because people are often times cut off mid-thought.

Allow a teleconference comment period. Voice-mail and in-person comments is antiquated. Don't require pre-registration

I would like for council decision making to be informed or influenced by targeted public polling that is demographically representative of the city's full range of diversity. Current public comment and formal engagement opportunities are typically dominated by the most passionate, engaged, politically active or savvy voices. As is evidenced by the familiar names and polarized viewpoints in this comment thread, self-selected participation is not representative of the full breadth of public opinion. Voluntary public participation is highly unlikely to be demographically representative of Raleigh's residents. Statistically representative public polling would help to ensure a broad range of viewpoints are at least accounted for, if not considered. Those advocating for one outcome or another would hopefully be satisfied if public input was proven to be extracted from a broad demographic range of opinions. Let's see what a broad and demographically representative Raleigh public opinion really thinks about the issues instead of relying on pressure groups to self selectively speak for others.

Comments should stay at 3 minutes regardless of signups. Not knowing how much time you will get makes it hard to prepare and not having enough time to fully state your thoughts or concern can discourage people from speaking.

I also really like the idea of having a separate meeting just for public comments.

I think having easy online feedback is really better. When there are public meetings people who are against things come out in force and over-represent. Also, people are long-winded and waste a lot of time. Online community boards could be a helpful way to communicate.

Have the ability to submit a comment electronically. If time is really that much of an issue, have a reasonable character limit.

Allow for both in-person and zoom participation. Allow speakers a 3-minute comment time.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

**Theme: Comments + Voicemail**

Allow submissions ahead of time. Up to 2 min video or certain number of characters written out to be read aloud. That allows people who can't get to council meetings due to other commitments, childcare, or transportation to still provide comment. Also it holds comments to a reasonable amount. Encourage all public comments to be pre-submitted and people can still be present if they chose/can and if council wants to ask follow up questions. Levels the field between the squeaky wheel with access to council and the everyday citizen who can't be at every meeting

If there is a way to send in concerns prior to the meeting that would be helpful.

Allow online comments, rethink time limit, have appointed people work directly with citizens, elevate the voices of the poor over the rich.

Make it easier to comment. Send out Agenda with a survey of Q&A, making it easier for public to comment. Utilize TEAMS or Zoom format. If you are able to ask via this survey, why not use this for comments.

Add a virtual component to the comment period.

It seems workable to limit the number of commenters as you suggest with a few designated alternate speakers. Anything is better than having your allotted time cut by half or more at the last minute.

Web based feedback and CAC session response

Actually make time to read submitted public comments during hearings. The way this has been done in the past, the Clerk would just say "we have X number of public comments being entered into the record", but because they weren't read aloud, Council would proceed and vote without giving them any sort of consideration. In short, the public was not being heard. Not everyone has the time to attend a meeting and not everyone is comfortable speaking in public. Submitted public statements should be read aloud. In addition, cameras need to be on. I feel like not permitting camera use during the live public comment session serves as a way to de-humanize the constituents and is, honestly, disrespectful. If people choose to keep cameras off, that's one thing. But if we want Council to have to look us in the (virtual) eyes and acknowledge that we are people that deserve to be seen and heard, then we should have that option. The meetings also aren't announced in a way that is easily navigable on the city website. People don't know when meetings are - make it easier to find that information and easier to join. Thank you.

Limit speakers to six live comments/meetings a year instead the same people every meeting. People should be encouraged to send short, direct emails. Attending meetings can be a painful waste of time. Same people, same complaints. You were heard, let's hear from others.

Read all comments into the public record and respond to the concerns expressed

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Theme: Comments + Voicemail
Designate an individual to read comments from individuals that are not public speakers. Alternative locations within the city and/or times. Also, actually address the open wound - the lack of low+income housing (action vs words).
Increase the public participation options and require council members to interact more with community groups prior to the council meetings. Currently there is not enough interaction with council members outside of the council meetings.
Perhaps they city could have online comment sections during the meeting or prior to the meeting. Meetings could take place in the evenings.
Be able to submit questions in writing well before meeting times and have them be addressed during the meeting. Allow for longer speaker times (at least 3 min.) Be able to call into meetings with questions or comments.
Make sure that they understand what should be done with comment. What is expected?
It would be helpful if the instructions to register to comment were clearer. It would also be helpful if there are more notifications about Public Comment sessions.
To be allowed to submit questions and responses during a live session via chat
Make it better known how people can sign up to speak and consider increasing the amount of time allowed from 8 to 10 minutes.
Allow people to call into the public comment out period. Leaving a msg a few days before leaves no room for a public commentator to have had a change of opinion or circumstance.
It would be awesome (and kind and respectful) for city council members to actually engage w/ the community. Rather we stand in front of our elected officials and speak for 3, 2 or 1 minute and pour our heartfelt concerns, publicly, sometimes with thankfulness, more often with anger and sometimes with shame
Allow people to call into the public comment out period.
Please begin to have conversations not a one-way street where people never know if their concerns are heard.
Virtual submission but play them live not just in the minutes
I would like the voicemail options to be sent to the public the day before they are due.
Think members of the tax paying community should be allowed to call in and treated with respect.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Theme: Comments + Voicemail
Voicemail comments left for city council meetings should be read out loud at the public meeting. If they are never heard in public, they are not public comment.
Don't rely on public comment/participation as any kind of barometer to help make a decision. The only thing council members should take away from public comments are ideas or concerns that they had not considered. No weigh should be given to how passionate people are or how many people come to make the same argument. City citizens make their preferences known each election and it is the job of those elected in a representative democracy to study the issue and make the best decision. If the public disagrees with the stances of an elected official then that is what elections are for. Making decisions on issues based in any part on a vocal minority is a disservice to the thousands that actually elected that leader. Ineffective and uneducated leaders punt the tough issues to "public opinion" or a "referendum". That's how we end up with things like Brexit. The council members were elected to do the research and make the best decision based on that research. Public comment should only be considered on the fringes, in most cases.
I do not have suggestions. I think that the process is fine.
I think the current process is more than adequate, particularly the time (3 minutes). I haven't spoken at a meeting as I generally address issues directly with my council representative, mayor or city staff, usually via email. There hasn't been an issue that rises to the level of me making a public personal appeal.
I agree. If I have an issue I can email the Council, I don't need to take up time at a public meeting. If I do want to speak at a meeting, then I can follow up with emails. I hear people make the same statements over and over.
I don't note any personal barriers in appearing. No issues that I'm involved in have come up
No single mode of community engagement will reach all members of the public. You need multiple avenues for fostering public input. Add more time for public comment at the meetings, re-constitute the CACs, create a robust online platform for submitting comments and include time on the agenda to review key themes from those comments. Allow more time for public comments to be gathered in advance of important city council discussions/decisions.
I am not certain of any barriers. I have always been able to participate in public comment
Years ago, I spoke on behave of my community, Nottingham Woods, it was a pleasant experience.
Before I answer this question, I would like to say I attended most of the public comment section on the evening of February 7, 2023. I also witnessed all of the public comment section and commented during the afternoon on February 21. I called to sign up in advance (which was an easy process). If I remember correctly you have 3 minutes to comment plus an additional minute to finish up. There is a timer and lights to help navigate that. People can

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

**Theme: Comments + Voicemail**

also write letters and there is a designated line to leave a comment by voicemail. One thing I think needs to be changed is the agenda because it says that the public comment section is Section J of the 1p session but it's at the very beginning of the meeting. Otherwise, I think the system they have is wise. It brings order to the lives of the council members to know what to expect. They are public servants. They aren't our slaves. (We know the difference.) The Tuesday night meeting was long (I left after 80 minutes). And it's at the end of a long city councilor work day! Having attended most of both of those meetings on the 7th, I would rather present to rested, alert councilors than when they are ready to go home, see their families and eat. Now to specifically answer this question. Besides the current public comment sessions, I think each councilor should have a public comment session with the district they serve once or twice per month. There should be at least one other councilor in attendance or the city manager or... whoever. Those meetings can be at a location in their district so it's more accessible to those they serve. Or since the idea has been presented to reinstate the CACs, those should be an open forum for people to officially comment. If possible, the city councilor of their district should atten at least once a quarter, depending on how much per they're giving the CACs. Meetings outside of the Municipal Building should be broadcast live as well as recorded. Another thought is a quarter a public comment session should be held at a senior center or with our elders as special invitees, with a slightly longer time limit. There's so much lived experience to gain. Another thing to consider is adding another councilor to each district in the next election so 2 are serving each area. I moved from a small town in CT with a population of 30-35K and 12 town councilors serve that town. Raleigh needs more councilors, especially without the CACs. I believe instituting some or all of these ideas would reduce the barriers, increase public participation and perhaps even alleviate some of the fears people have about speaking. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

"Leave a public comment remotely via voicemail (919-301-9499). Voicemails are accepted between 5 p.m. Thursday and 5 p.m. Monday before a Tuesday Council meeting, and reviewed by City Council prior to the meeting."--**why does council get to review comments before a meeting and hear them before the rest of the public?**

"Speak in person. If you wish to speak in person during Public Comments, you must sign up in advance using the online form below. The form will appear only when the sign-up window is open. You may also call the Clerk's office at 919-996-3040 to sign up. You are required to sign up by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the meeting. If you intend to utilize a presentation to accompany your remarks, you must submit presentation materials by 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the meeting." **It would be helpful to understand why these limitations are imposed. I imagine that the presentation one is that it allows IT to screen digital media for security issues. If that were articulated it would help people understand why a rule is made. As for the requirement to sign up in advance of the meeting, I am opposed. People's schedules change and if they are able to attend at the last minute they should not be precluded from speaking. Further if an attendee learns new information in the course of the meeting and is**

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

**Theme: Comments + Voicemail**

**moved to speak s/he should have the opportunity to do so without having to meet an arbitrary registration deadline.** "In order to be added to the list of speakers, an individual must provide their name, physical address, telephone number, and email address." **Please acknowledge that some people may not have a physical address (homeless) phone and/or email address and provide language to that effect. As written it appears that without an email address, someone is precluded from speaking.** "Each speaker is allocated 3 minutes to speak. The Mayor or presiding officer may, in their discretion, increase or decrease this time allocation. " **This seems arbitrary and capricious**"A person may speak only if they have signed up to speak in accordance with the City's procedures. " see above. "Any person who violates the order and decorum of a Council meeting shall be guilty of a misdemeanor." **That's a pretty broad and subjective standard** "The council may adopt reasonable rules governing the conduct of the public comment period, including, but not limited to, rules (i) fixing the maximum time allotted to each speaker, (ii) providing for the designation of spokesmen for groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions, (iii) providing for the selection of delegates from groups of persons supporting or opposing the same positions when the number of persons wishing to attend the hearing exceeds the capacity of the hall," **It is unclear who designates or selects speakers in these situations--council? the mayor? the public? Furthermore I don't think it is appropriate to tell one member of the public s/he can't speak because someone else has expressed a similar opinion which is what the language implies.**

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Awareness</b>
Inform the community through their neighborhood spokesperson
Make sure the meetings are given to news channels and etc. Also, have someone available to read for individuals who is uncomfortable speaking in public.
Work with community partners to keep residents with limited resources updated with meeting schedules, issues, and opportunities for residents to participate.
Extend the comment time to 3-4 minutes per person. Share all comments received via phone and email during the meetings. I was disappointed to watch the last city council meeting (last group) on the property in our neighborhood only share with the public what was being stated at the meeting verbally. Many of us wrote and phoned in with our concerns and in opposition. While the staff/ council may have read/ heard these comments, no one acknowledged that they existed nor were they or their sentiment shared with the public during the meeting. This made it appear as if there was only limited concern/ opposition to the issue which presented a false narrative. We are better than that. Bring back the CAC and allow the CAC to help share information with the public. Provide the CAC with a link on the city site so that people new to this process can discover the CAC for their area and learn what is happening/ being discussed by their CAC. Allow for hybrid participation online, phone, actually there at the meeting
Advertise on social media and local media. Use a PSA (Public Service Announcement). Local radio and tv stations do not charge for PSA's (Billboards letting people know that they have a voice in the development of their city and how to participate/ post this type of information proudly at all public venues- parks, sporting complexes, public gathering places as well--- the large billboards as you enter the city daily like the one on Capital near Peace Street and along 440 going toward New Bern Avenue to name two) You can even include a flier in school "take home" folders.
Explore inclusion of information at least about how to become involved with the community referencing the city site with CAC links within local utility bills (partnership)
Include a link to the video of the meeting and the comments (received via phone and digital) so that someone can easily find all the information pertinent to the meeting on the city site.
Increase awareness of the issues that impact neighborhoods and our community by possibly posting notices within those neighborhoods in a timely manner that allows people to plan to comment. Posting information the day before the expiration date just to say you could post this information is not good enough.
Provide touch points of places that the more people know these meeting are happening.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Awareness</b>
Since "not aware it's happening" leads the responses for barriers, institute every Avenue possible to get word out, reinstate local CACs. When I first came to Raleigh, it was the local CAC meetings at Roberts Park, which were always packed, where I learned the most about what is happening in the community and even about Council meetings. I think this would go a long way in Re-engaging the community IF the council is really committed to getting community comment and participation.
Make all aware of what is going on... Full disclosure. Also, allow/encourage equal participation and input
Public Awareness
Create a targeted marketing campaign to educate local residents about the process. Also create pages/groups on Facebook (and other social media platforms) that specifically deal with the public commenting process and have a social media team consistently engage with constituents to encourage people to participate.
I do not know enough about what is going on and maybe that is because the city has not reached out to public. So this may be the reason why she is still serving and not necessarily true people want her there. A lot of people do not participant because they think it does not affect them personally, but it does in the long run. Reach out more to the coming of age (colleges and high school seniors) generation for overall participant. They are the future and rightfully need to know and take part in their future.
Advertise more robustly opportunities for public comment, especially in the communities effected by potential changes. Communicate these opportunities well in advance.
Do more to get the word out pertaining to meetings. I find out about some meetings on next door. I get emails, but they are too numerous!
Make sure in every way possible it is known to the public and encouraged by the city council for public comment.
Make the public aware ahead of time so they can comment electronically and in public sessions.
Send email notifications concerning proposals, etc
Keep citizens informed and mail a post card for reminders of important meetings.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

<b>Theme: Decorum</b>
Breaking rules of decorum should in no way, shape, or form be a criminal offense.
Create more time for speakers by eliminating cheering, jeering and applause. Clear the room if you need to. Also, encourage speakers to address real issues, and discourage the airing of grievances that are not part of the Council's purview. Finally, stop the abuse of public comment by candidates for office and by those who make partisan political appeals.
The mayor and Raleigh City council members should Not multi-task or ignore the citizen speaker. The mayor and Raleigh city Council members should not hold brief conversations amongst themselves while citizens are speaking. The mayor and Raleigh City council should not play on their phones or computers, draw, color or doodle unless taking notes during the citizen speaking time.
A CITIZEN DRAFTED CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL IS NECESSITY.
Disallow Mayor and council members to have a private conversation during the meeting. Many times Baldwin and Knight whispered comments to one another holding up a piece of paper, covering their microphone with their hand to shield their comments from being heard This happened with Baldwin and Buffkin as well. Also saw it once with Mayor and City Manager. All representatives at the council table should make their comments publicly. This is a public forum which requires transparency and may in fact, be against the law to try to hide what they are saying to one another.
Given how the public comment period has devolved into an un-constructive use of everyone's time, residents should submit their comments in writing via a robust online platform (with identity verification) and the Council should acknowledge receipt. The Council and Staff should invite people to join working sessions when they want more context.
Do not bar someone from speaking just because council gets upset with what is being said. Allow 3-minute options again.
I have often sent emails to both the general city council email and to individual representatives. I very rarely got a response. It was unclear if the emails were even read and even less clear if they had an impact or were considered.
The council has been working to about down public input, especially in the last 2 years. Slow more time per speaker and actually listen, with respect.
Listen and respond with respect, and not with predetermined negative thoughts and generalizations.

Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Act like you care and act in the people's best interests, not big business. Of course that's not likely because you feel that growth, uncontrolled, unregulated, everything is a zoning exception and ok to proceed will never be halted. Don't we just love the significant increase in crime it brings?
<b>Theme: Decorum</b>
It would be helpful if Council members would reply to emails.
Full Transparency. Assurance- that all voices will be and are heard, & treated with respect.

<b>Theme: Community Advisory Council (CAC) Structure</b>
Quarterly meetings of citizens like we had in 2015.
Reinstitute the CACs
Bring back the CAC's for starters. Actually listen to them. Weigh your decisions heavily on that input. That should count for the equivalent of at least half the votes for a particular agenda item
Bring back city supported CAC's.
Community level opportunities to engage and comment, something like the CACs.
Reinstate the CACs. Listen to their inputs. Increase the time allowed for comments at council and committee meetings.
Reinstate CACs. A safe place to discuss issues with your neighbors, to better organize your thoughts and to know that your opinion is shared by others. This gives one the motivation to speak up on an issue.
Bring the CAC meetings back. It was a huge mistake to cancel them because the mayor is aligned with the developers and not the citizens.
Restore CACs. A single representative from the CAC can present the positions of the attendees of CAC meetings. This process will hopefully reduce the number of citizens who wish to speak at meetings.
If CACs are reinstated, they need to be changed up. Most people who live in Raleigh have no idea what a CAC was. It is many of the same people with the same opinions who attend. We need to really engage people where they are, not where it's convenient for a few. Parents who have kids and work, may be too tired to get to a meeting, and if they have to use public transit to get there - then they really aren't able to participate because transit is not convenient to those who need it most. We have to do better about engaging citizens in their community about issues that impact them every day.
Reinstate CAC
Reinstitute the CACs and re-establish zoning laws in residential neighborhoods!



## Community Engagement Board (CEB) Public Comment Poll Results

Reinstitute CAC's, maintain the three-minute comment period, allow electronic comments of a certain length and include them in the public record for others to see.

### **Theme: Community Advisory Council (CAC) Structure**

If the CACs were fully operational, the Council would not have so many, seemingly frivolous public comments. The comments often reflect lack of information about city government. These types of comments could be made at CAC meetings where city staff, police and councilors could offer needed info. Instead, every issue seems to come before Council. Is that a power trip for Council or could councilors attending CAC meetings not carry many messages back to Council? Seems this would give Council more time to devote to even more diverse issues.

Go back to CACs so there is an opportunity for more public input than just what is at these meetings. Go back to 3 minutes - nothing of substance can be described in one minute (which sadly may be the point). Allow for some virtual slots so that all the community can participate. Finally, treat those that come before you with respect.

Reinstitute a new version of CACs. Communities should be supported by the city to come together to discuss neighborhood specific issues and concerns on a regular basis with as needed input from city reps. The Neighborhood/Community Group would then send ONE representative to City Council meetings to report out the neighborhood issues/concerns and good news. There should be support from the city to help new neighborhood groups with outreach and recruitment for participation. New rules rotating leadership roles to ensure new blood. Everyone cannot attend all council meetings to voice neighborhood concerns or attend all neighborhood meetings. CACs needed more city support with social media, getting word out to new neighbors, and setting new bylaws governing how they could better represent and support their respective areas. City Council meeting public comment is now bogged down with neighbors who have no other place to voice concerns and ask questions. You threw the baby out with the bath water instead of reimagining and supporting a good idea gone astray.

To	Tansy Hayward, Deputy City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Bynum Walter, AICP, Acting Assistant Director Hannah Reckhow, AICP, Senior Planner Erika Brandt, Housing Programs Administrator Wayne Miles, Stormwater Program Manager
Department	Planning and Development
Date	March 17, 2023
Subject	Follow-up to February 28, 2023, Growth and Natural Resources Committee Questions

During the February 28, 2023, Growth and Natural Resources Committee meeting, CP-1-22 Dix Edge Area Study and City initiated zoning Z-53-22 were discussed. Several questions were identified for staff follow up. This memo summarizes these questions and responses.

**Urban Corridor designation on Fayetteville Street**

The Committee voted to recommend removal of the Urban Corridor designation along Fayetteville Street. This designation recommends medium intensity mixed use development with a maximum of 8 stories. Up to 12 stories may be appropriate if significant public benefits are provided.

The recommended amendments to the Future Land Use Map implement the vision for land use and growth expressed in the Form and Function map, including location of Urban Corridor areas. Removal of this designation implies removal of one portion of the recommended amendment: the change from Public Parks & Open Space to Medium Scale Residential on the east side of Fayetteville Street. Altering the proposed Urban Corridor designation and the Future Land Use Map amendment would support a council decision to deny the city-initiated rezoning request Z-53b-22.

**Survey responses and area demographics**

The Dix Edge Area Study used online surveys for three phases of the project. In an effort to understand who in the study area the project was reaching, optional demographics questions were included at the end of each survey. Because these questions were optional, less than half of survey respondents provided answers. However, the responses that were received prompted the project team to adjust engagement strategy

to achieve a more representative sample of the study area. A study area demographic snapshot and results for all project surveys area available on the [project page](#).

### **Housing education**

With housing affordability as a major community concern, the project included a two-part Affordable Housing Summit with one part oriented to the community at-large and a second part organized for affordable housing developers. Activities for the community included information and discussion questions on common ideas and concerns about affordable housing to help establish a basis of understanding about what strategies are available and helpful to support housing affordability. Materials from the summit are available on the Dix Edge [project page](#).

### **Incentives to support voucher acceptance**

In order for a Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher to be used, a rental unit cannot have a rent that exceeds the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a city. The current FMR for a two-bedroom apartment in Raleigh is \$1,223, which approximately corresponds with the rent that would be affordable to a household earning 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Due in part to this rent constraint, most voucher holders rent units in legally binding affordable housing properties that have rents set at or below FMR. According to recent data from the Raleigh Housing Authority, approximately 75% of local voucher holders live in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit or other subsidized units.

In March 2021, City Council adopted a resolution requiring that any affordable housing project receiving City subsidy (including discounted real estate) cannot discriminate against rental applicants based on source of income, including Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers. This resolution helps ensure that new affordable units that are created are available for rent by voucher holders. In addition, property owners have the ability to commit to accepting vouchers through a zoning condition, if the unit rent is within the required range.

City staff can explore additional incentives to support voucher holders, including in targeted areas such as the Dix Edge study area, if given direction by City Council.

### **Correspondence with Dr. Barbara Doll of NC State University**

Staff has been in contact with Dr. Barbara Doll regarding the letter that she wrote to City Council on December 31, 2022. She initially expressed concerns about floodplain and stormwater issues associated with rezoning of the property located at 1500 S. Wilmington St. In correspondence with staff, Dr. Doll wrote, "As long as the development is focused on the high ground outside of the 500-year floodplain (as shown in the attached file), the project doesn't place fill within the existing 100-year floodplain and the project is equipped with stormwater controls that both mitigate the 100-year storm flow and apply green infrastructure approaches for water quality in addition to quantity, I don't have any concerns about the proposed project."

The image referenced by Dr. Doll (“as shown in the attached file”) showing the 100-year floodplain extents on the referenced property (1500 S. Wilmington St) is provided below. The 100-year flood elevation at this location is 236.5 ft and the 500 year flood elevation is 243 ft. The 500 year floodplain has not been mapped by FEMA in this area, but the buildable area of this site (shown in green on the western side) is approximately 4.5 to 16.5 ft above the 500 year floodplain elevation.

City staff are confident that all the floodplain and stormwater mitigation measures referenced by Dr. Doll could be incorporated into the development plans of an affordable housing development on this site should the City Council decide to move forward with this rezoning and/or development. This could be accomplished by including these provisions as requirements in the affordable housing redevelopment and enforcing these requirements at the development plan review and construction phases.



**Image showing the extents of the 100 year floodplain extents in the vicinity of 1500 S. Wilmington St (outlined in red). The 500 year elevation adjacent to this property is 243 ft and the 100 year elevation is 236.5 ft.**

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Stephen Bentley, Director Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources
From	Brian Smith, Natural Resources and Parks Supervisor Sr. Charles Craig, Assistant Director
Department	Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR)
Date	March 13, 2023
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: February 7, 2023 meeting February 21, 2023 meeting PRCR Invasive Species Program and Council Volunteer Opportunity

In September of 2015 the City of Raleigh created the Invasive Species Program which was housed under Raleigh Parks’ Volunteer Services Program. The Invasive Species Program (Program) was created in response to community concerns about the presence of invasive plants in neighborhood parks. The initial focus of the Program per citizen interest and City Council support was on four neighborhood park locations: Fallon, Cowper, Cooleemee and Marshall Park with the ability to expand efforts from there.

With 35 % of Raleigh’s remaining forest (6,140 forested acres) located in Raleigh’s parks and greenways, Raleigh Parks has a stewardship responsibility to maintain and enhance these acres and the ecosystem services and citizen experiences they provide. The Program plays a vital role in this stewardship. The main goals of the Program are to identify infestations, prioritize and prescribe maintenance plans, remove invasive plants, conduct restoration plantings, educate staff and the public, and to monitor the effects of removal and restoration efforts. The full-time Program Coordinator accomplishes this critical work by leveraging relationships with community groups and volunteers, internal partners within the City of Raleigh, and external partners such as: AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Conservation Corps NC, American Conservation Experience, and Conservation Funds’ Park with a Purpose program. Another approach has been to utilize summer crews through our award-winning work with multiple Youth Conservation Corp groups in 2020, ‘21 and ‘22. Strong collaborative relationships across multiple units within the Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources Department from Natural Resources site staff, to the Greenway Vegetation unit and our Park Maintenance Crews extend the reach of the Program and make the following outcomes possible:

- 100% increase in volunteer engagement within the first three years



- By 2018 restoration plantings had taken place in all the original four properties, but invasive management is a constant cycle. Once restored, it must be monitored and maintained.
- The Invasive Program expanded from focusing on the original 4 properties to 39 properties by 2023 with a total of 41 properties evaluated
- 168% increase in acreage focused on during invasive projects per year since FY2016. (Increase from 1,113 acres in FY16 to 3,000 acres in FY21)
- In total, since 2015 - 4,516 volunteers have contributed 12,234 hours at a value of \$308,398 to the removal of invasive species.

Throughout the life span of the Program staff have strategically pursued multiple sources of grant funding opportunities. Successful applications were made to AmeriCorps in 2016, '17, and '18, although in two of those three years the crew needed to be diverted to disaster relief efforts and were not able to come to Raleigh. Grants were also pursued and awarded through the NC Urban Forestry Council and the Alliance for Community Trees. As we continually evaluate funding and leveraging opportunities, we have recently been able to utilize the skills of an NC State work study student to research federal invasive species programs and summarize those results. Two funding sources identified in this process are worth additional vetting. The first is the Dept of Interior's [Youth Engagement, Education, and Employment](#) program that seems to fit well with our Youth Conservation Corp and Partnership Raleigh Conservation Intern Program work delivered in partnership with Housing and Neighborhoods. The second is the [Invasive and Noxious Plant Management funding](#) also available through the Department of Interior that can be used to develop and implement integrated pest management plans. We will continue strategically pursuing multiple funding opportunities most appropriate to the work in Raleigh, that balance administrative demands, and can be layered with strong partnerships and volunteers.

The work of invasive species management is an ongoing process that requires monitoring and maintenance once initial control is achieved. To that end, Raleigh Parks would like to invite City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board (PRGAB) to participate in an Invasive Species Removal Volunteer Project on April 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 12 pm located at Walnut Creek Wetland Park. These projects are a great opportunity for hands on learning and to work alongside staff to make an ecological impact to our parks and trails.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Through	Estella D. Patterson, Chief of Police
From	Scott Oosterhoudt, Deputy Chief of Police
Department	Police
Date	March 10,2023
Subject	Council Response – Response to Opioid Abuse and Overdoses

This memorandum responds to Councilmember Branch's request for a report on the COR's efforts to combat opioid abuse and overdoses.

Emergency service providers, including law enforcement officers, utilize a multi-faceted approach to combat the opioid overdose epidemic. Within Raleigh and Wake County, those approaches include effectively recognizing the signs and symptoms of an opioid overdose, rapid administration of Naloxone (Narcan), connecting the overdose victim to care providers after surviving an overdose, and encouraging the victim or Good Samaritan to call 911 when an overdose is occurring. These approaches are utilized by Raleigh Police Department personnel to address the effects of overdoses on drugs containing an opioid, typically fentanyl.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 106,699 overdose deaths in the United States in 2021. This number increased to 107,477 in 2022. Between March 2022, and March 2023, emergency medical service providers within the US responded to 186,517 suspected opioid overdoses. Most overdoses (both fatal and non-fatal) are caused by opioids or other synthetic drugs containing fentanyl. Wake County Emergency Medical Services personnel responded to 996 suspected opioid overdoses in 2022. Of the 996 overdoses, 886 persons needed and received the opioid reversal drug Naloxone, and 110 did not. 320 of the 886 patients who received Naloxone refused transport to a hospital (Emergency service providers in Wake County cannot compel a person revived via Naloxone to seek medical evaluation and treatment at a hospital).

NC Department of Health and Human Services reported that during January 2023, NC Emergency Medical Service providers responded to 1,037 encounters for persons suffering from suspected opioid overdoses. This is an increase from 1,008 in January 2022. Of the encounters in January 2023, 709 persons were treated and transported to a hospital, 255 patients declined care or transport, 67 patients were treated but refused transport, and 6 persons were deceased upon the arrival of EMS.

When Law enforcement officers are dispatched to an overdose, the officer's initial goal is to quickly reach the scene and take action to prevent the overdose from becoming fatal. To do this, Raleigh Police officers are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of an opiate overdose. Police department policy indicates that officers issued intra-nasal Naloxone will be trained on patient assessment, indications and symptomology of overdose, and instructions on using Naloxone. This training is part of the NC Justice Academy's Basic Law Enforcement Training curriculum and annual in-service training.

The primary method utilized by all emergency responders, including Raleigh Police Department officers, to prevent opioid overdose deaths is the use of the opioid reversal drug Naloxone (Narcan). Since September 2017, the Raleigh Police Department has purchased 2,630 units of Naloxone at \$98,625.00. Between January 2021 and December 2022, Raleigh Police officers responded to 1209 reported overdoses and administered Naloxone 737 times. The Police Executive Research Forum reported in "Ten Standards of Care: Policing and the Opioid Crisis" that programs encouraging the administration of Naloxone to individuals overdosing on opioids/opiates is linked to a reduction of overdose deaths within the community.

Connecting the overdose victim to care providers is another method emergency service providers utilize to address the opioid overdose epidemic. The ACORNS Unit of the Raleigh Police Department effectively connects persons who previously overdosed to care providers in the community. Within Raleigh and Wake County, if Narcan is administered to an individual overdosing on opioids/opiates and the person successfully recovers from the overdose, they are not required to be transported to a medical facility. In such cases, personnel from Healing Transitions are automatically contacted as a referral. Healing Transitions will send a certified Peer Support Specialist to follow up with the individual. Should the individual be transported to a hospital, ACORNS team members will respond and be the point of contact to connect the person to treatment and support.

Oxford Houses are clean, sober housing options for individuals in recovery. Once an individual who survived an overdose is discharged from a hospital, ACORNS personnel will transport them to Healing Transitions for treatment or help schedule a stay at an Oxford House, if housing options are limited for the subject. ACORNS personnel will also explain options to the individual's family members if treatment is not something the subject requests immediately. However, their support network may be open to learning about treatment opportunities in the Raleigh area.

ACORNS unit personnel also receive referrals from patrol officers and detectives concerned about an individual's substance use. ACORNS officers and Social Workers connect with the individuals and provide options for recovery. ACORNS personnel have responded to encampments and requested Healing Transitions Peer Support Specialists to reach out to persons staying in these areas or found begging along corridors that are highly trafficked drug locations.

The third method utilized to combat opioid overdose deaths is the establishment of alternatives to arrest. An overdose victim or Good Samaritan who may be with the victim may be reluctant to contact emergency services if they believe law enforcement officers will arrest them due to the presence and use of illicit drugs. In 2014, the NC General Assembly enacted NCGS § 90-96.2, which provides limited immunity for a Samaritan if, in good faith, they seek medical attention by calling 911 for an individual experiencing an overdose. Additionally, they (Good Samaritan) must provide their name to the 911 operator, and evidence for prosecution was obtained due to the person seeking medical assistance for a drug-related overdose. These conditions also extend to the overdose victim. Removing hesitancy to summon emergency services in the event of an overdose on illicit opioids increases the survival chances for the victim.

The police department, in conjunction with other Wake County emergency service providers, seeks to prevent opioid overdose deaths by promptly responding to overdoses and administering Naloxone to persons showing symptoms of potential overdose. Training in the Raleigh Police Academy and regular refresher training helps to educate officers on the signs and symptomology of opioid overdoses. Connecting the overdose victim to care providers after an overdose is essential in assisting the victim and their family members. Finally, the statutory alternative to arrest encourages overdose victims and associates to call 911 in the event of an overdose without fear of being arrested.