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INFORMATION:

North Carolina State University Initiative for Community Growth + Development - Housing Study

Staff Resource: Keegan McDonald, Planning and Development, 996-4630, keegan.mcdonald@raleighnc.gov

Planning and Development Staff is in active discussions with the North Carolina State University *Initiative for Community Growth and Development* to study the impact of recent zoning reforms on residents of Raleigh. Specific areas of study may include: the motivations and desires of residents moving into housing made possible by recent policy changes; the trade-offs people evaluate when choosing one type of housing, or one neighborhood, over another; how individual housing choices effect other residents down the migration chain; at the neighborhood level, where new residents come from and what other neighborhoods were they considering in their move; and quality of life metrics associated with different types of housing such as proximity to employment, available amenities, and sense of community/connection.

This study will be conducted by one (1) faculty member and one (1) PhD or Advanced Master's Research Associate and will take approximately one (1) year to complete. While the project estimated budget of \$81,500 is below the threshold needed for Council approval, staff is providing this information in the event Council has any specific questions or concerns. If no concerns are forthcoming, staff estimates contract execution soon after the start of the new calendar year (2024).

(No Attachment)

Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Sarah Heinsohn, Office of Special Events, 996-2200, 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 November 7 Council Meeting

Investment Portfolio - State of Israel (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Allison Bradsher, Finance, 996-4970, allison.bradsher@raleighnc.gov

Sadia Sattar, Budget & Management Services, 996-4273, sadia.sattar@raleighnc.gov

During the public comment session several references were made regarding taxpayer funds being allocated to Israel; Council requested that staff review the budget and financials for any funding or financial support provided to the State of Israel. Staff confirms that no budget appropriations exist for the State of Israel and, in addition, there are no active vendors with an address in Israel that conduct business with the City.

As a result of the City's broad investment authority, the investment portfolio holds funds with investment companies, such as Vanguard. Investment companies often hold shares in international equities and currently the City, via this investment vehicle, has a small exposure to Israel which equates to 0.07% which is less than \$100,000. In addition to the investment portfolio, the City's supplemental retirement plan offers investment options, such as the JPMorgan *SmartRetirement Blend*, which also hold international equities. The City has exposure of approximately 7% across all investment options, which is less than \$155,000. In addition, the City invests in assets backed by the Federal government which in turn does provide support to the State of Israel.

(No Attachment)

Follow Up from the December 5 Council Meeting

Speed Compliance Concerns and Multiway Stop Eligibility - Harvey & Jarvis Streets (Mayor Baldwin)

Staff Resource: Will Shumaker, Transportation, 996-4175, william.shumaker@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council reported that they had received concerns from the neighborhood regarding the intersection of Harvey and Jarvis Street as it relates to speeding and intersection safety. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to this request.

(Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, December 15 – Thursday, December 21

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events
specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

[Illuminate Art Walk 2023](#)

Locations throughout Downtown

Through Friday, January 5

Event Time: 4:45pm - 11:00pm daily

Associated Road Closures: No roads will be closed for the event. Market Plaza, Exchange Plaza, and the off-street portions of City Plaza will be used until 8:00pm on 1-10-24.

Other Upcoming Events

[Selfies with Santa](#)

Friday, December 15

Barwell Road Park

[Soulful Holiday Open House 2023](#)

Friday, December 15

John Chavis Memorial Park

[Gingerbread Showdown](#)

Friday, December 15

Greystone Recreation Center

[Raleigh Music Collective Winter Showcase](#)

Friday, December 15

Dorothea Dix Chapel

[Nashville Predators vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Friday, December 15

PNC Arena

[Elf the Musical – North Carolina Theatre](#)

Friday, December 15 – Sunday, December 17

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Cuts & Christmas](#)

Saturday, December 16

Sanderford Road Park

[Breakfast with Santa](#)

Saturday, December 16

Tarboro Road Park

[The Raleigh Ringers Holiday Concerts](#)

Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17

Meymandi Concert Hall

[La Chocolatada de Luisito](#)

Sunday, December 17

City of Raleigh Museum

[Washington Capitals vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Sunday, December 17
PNC Arena

[Vegas Golden Knights vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Tuesday, December 19
PNC Arena

[Saint Louis vs. NC State](#)

Wednesday, December 20
PNC Arena

[The Dessertery](#)

Through Saturday, December 23
Kennedy Theatre

[The Nutcracker presented by PNC – Carolina Ballet](#)

Through Sunday, December 24
Memorial Auditorium

[THE RINK presented by UNC Health](#)

Through Monday, January 15
Red Hat Amphitheater

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 feedback and encourage you to provide comments or concerns about any events regulated by the Office of 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

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Paul Kallam, Transportation Director
From	Will Shumaker, Mobility Development Supervisor
Department	Transportation
Date	December 15, 2023
Subject	Harvey & Jarvis Street- Speed Compliance Concerns and Multi-way Stop Conversion Eligibility

Speed Limit Reduction

Per the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) policy, the first strategy for improving quality of life along a neighborhood street is to reduce the speed limit and these requests are usually initiated by residents. Speed is a major contributing factor to the severity of a crash and the negative impacts associated with crashes. A pedestrian hit by a driver at 20 mph has a 90% chance of survival. A pedestrian hit by a driver at 30 mph has a 60% chance of survival while a pedestrian hit by a driver at 40 mph has a 20% chance of survival. By lowering residential speed limits to a consistent 25 mph speed limit, safety for those inside and outside of vehicles is dramatically increased from a statistical perspective and helps the city reach its Vision Zero goals.

Residents contacted city staff regarding speeding concerns along Harvey Street in February 2023 and requested a traffic calming project evaluation. Upon investigation, it was identified that Harvey Street was still the state statutory unposted 35 mph speed limit. Staff began the neighborhood engagement process, and a street wide ballot was administered in April 2023. The residents along the street overwhelmingly supported this speed limit reduction with a 96% approval rating. The speed limit reduction agenda item was approved at the October 3rd Council meeting and the 25 mph signs were installed shortly thereafter.

The timeline between the initial February request to implementation for this specific street was longer than typical because the intersection of Harvey Street and Glenwood Avenue is controlled by a NCDOT traffic signal. When this occurs, city staff works with NCDOT to update the signal plans to accurately reflect the changes in signal timing for the approaches due to the lower speed limit. Where signals are impacted, such as Harvey Street, typical implementation timelines are increased by 2-3 months due to these required coordination and engineering efforts.

Transitional Period and Further Evaluation

Once a speed limit is implemented, the city requires a minimum 3-month transitional period before any further traffic calming evaluations are performed. This is because humans are creatures of habits and lowering the speed limit introduces a change to their normal habits. Any immediate evaluations/additional changes would not accurately capture how drivers have adjusted their behaviors to the new speed limit. It is approximately 2 months into the transitional period for Harvey Street and staff is observing but not processing any new traffic calming evaluation requests in this area. Staff has communicated this to the neighborhood and shared that if they feel drivers are still speeding in early January to please contact staff. An evaluation can be done to determine the impact the speed limit reduction has had on drivers which will determine the appropriate next steps.

Within the first week of the new speed limit being posted in October, concerned residents did not feel the new speed limit was having an impact on reducing driver speeds and reached out to discuss with staff what other evaluations could be performed in the interim to assist in moving safety efforts forward. Staff shared other traffic control tools available but advised that layering different evaluations in one area without allowing appropriate transitional times can create scenarios where data is being collected that could lead to the wrong recommendation being presented going forward. The residents weighed these concerns and requested to move forward with a multiway stop evaluation for the intersection of Harvey and Jarvis Street.

Multiway Stop

Multiway stop conversions are governed by the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which is a federal document outlining the appropriate application of traffic control devices and it is fully adopted by the City of Raleigh. In this document, it explicitly calls out that multiway stop conversions are not a tool to be used for speed control and are a tool specific for intersection safety. This is because stop signs are not an effective tool to slow drivers down along a street. When installed under improper warrants, conditions along a street could worsen. Evaluations have found that when installed for speed compliance reasons, drivers can feel unjustly stopped and they will attempt to make up the perceived lost time by driving more aggressively and some instances have found that driver speeds increase along streets with improperly installed stop signs. Also, when installed for speed related reasons, intersection safety can deteriorate. If drivers feel the stop signs are not needed, stop compliance typically becomes poor with drivers consistently rolling through the stop sign. This creates fewer safe intersections as drivers on the side street or pedestrians attempting to cross assume the approaching driver will stop, but in these scenarios can sometimes lead to an increase in intersection crashes.

Staff performed the multiway stop evaluation based on the resident request in October 2023. The conditions at that time were identified and are shown below:

- Harvey Street

- 85th Percentile Speed (speed at which 85% of drivers are going at or under): 26 mph in the 25 mph zone.
- Volume: 744 vehicle trips on average daily
- Jarvis Street
 - 85th Percentile Speed (speed at which 85% of drivers are going at or under): Not applicable as this approach is a stop condition.
 - Volume: 706 vehicle trips on average daily
- Intersection Crashes: Zero reported intersection crashes in the previous 5 years at the time of this evaluation being performed.

The conditions identified during the October 2023 evaluation do not meet conversion warrants per the MUTCD. Staff was preparing a recommendation for denial based on this data.

However, on December 2, 2023, staff received emails from residents stating an intersection crash took place at Harvey and Jarvis Street. This resulted in a pause in finalizing staff's recommendation. RDOT staff worked with the Raleigh Police Department (RPD) to review the intersection crash report.

Staff Recommendation

With this latest information and working with RPD, staff is recommending approval of the multiway stop conversion at Harvey and Jarvis Street. This recommendation will be shared through the resident engagement/notification process established for all multiway stop conversions. This implementation has a tentative timeline for City Council review in the first quarter of 2024.