

Manager's Update

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INFORMATION:

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, February 6 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published on Thursday:

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

Please note there will be a **Closed Session** immediately following the afternoon session of the Council meeting.

Reminder: If there is an item you would like to have pulled from the consent agenda for discussion, please send an e-mail mayorstaff@raleighnc.gov by 11 A.M. on the day of the meeting.

Affordable Housing Summit Planning Update

Staff Resource: Emila Sutton, Housing and Neighborhoods, 996-6947, emila.sutton@raleighnc.gov;
Holly Sharp, Communications, 996-3010, holly.sharp@raleighnc.gov

Planning is underway for the 2024 Affordable Housing Summit. The Summit will be an opportunity for ALL Raleigh residents to learn about affordable housing in the City. The goals of the event are:

1. Education: teach Raleigh residents about what affordable housing is and strategies available to the City.
2. Engagement: cultivate space for residents to share dialogue about affordable housing challenges and needs in our community.
3. Innovation: identify new tools and ideas from the community and/or neighboring municipalities that the City could utilize.

The date and location of the Summit is tentatively planned for **Saturday, August 17** at the Raleigh Convention Center. The strategic choice of a Saturday aims to enhance accessibility for Raleigh residents, accommodating those who may face constraints in taking a typical workday off. We project the capacity to accommodate 150-300 attendees.

The format of the Affordable Housing Summit will follow a progressive structure, designed to facilitate a continuous learning experience for participants throughout the day. There will a diverse range of topics discussed by presenters, activities, and roundtable conversations. Our draft agenda is outlined below.

9-10	Check-in tables open
10-10:30	Welcome + Event Overview
10:30-11:30	Opening Session: Homelessness is a housing problem
11:30-12:15	Affordable Housing 101: The state of housing in the City of Raleigh
12:15-12:45	Lunch service (attendees can eat during following session)
12:45-1:30	Affordable Housing 201: How affordable rental housing is developed
1:30-2:15	Panel: Innovation in Affordable Housing
2:15-3:30	Facilitated Roundtable Discussion: Community Input Comprehensive Plan
3:30-4:00	Closing remarks/thanks

A key component of the Affordable Housing Summit is creating an environment in which attendee's voices and opinions can be heard and reflected in the City's future plans. The Summit coincides with the City's Comprehensive Planning. City staff will be gathering resident feedback through guided conversation, a survey, and more during the Summit.

The planning team welcomes ideas and questions from City Council regarding the 2024 Affordable Housing Summit.

(No attachment)

Five Points Intersection Safety Improvements

Staff Resource: Sean Driskill, Transportation, 996-4088, sean.driskill@raleighnc.gov

As part of the FY23 Capital Improvement Program, the Five Points Streetscape and Safety Study, initiated in Spring 2022, is dedicated to enhancing safety and accessibility at the intersection of Glenwood Avenue, Whitaker Mill Road, Fairview Road, and Glenn Avenue. Over the past two years, collaboration with Kittelson & Associates, residents, and stakeholders in the Five Points area has assessed current conditions, identified operational and safety issues, and engaged the public in narrowing down potential options for this intersection.

The Vision Zero Program has focused on addressing crash patterns at this intersection, employing a low-cost, high-impact approach. Recent improvements include a state-funded Spot Safety Project outbound (northwest) involving a speed feedback sign and flashing chevron signs on northbound Glenwood Ave. Before NCDOT implemented these changes, city staff upgraded pavement markings, added warning signs, and installed reflective markers for the northbound approach, particularly addressing nighttime crashes.



Speed Feedback Sign



Flashing Chevron Signs

Additional enhancements by city staff encompassed a protected left turn phase for Whitaker Mill Road, a Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI), extended pedestrian walk times, and replacing "green balls" with directional arrows for outbound traffic, enhancing safety at the signalized intersection near Hayes Barton Baptist Church.



Directional Arrows on Signal Heads

Now that some time has passed since the improvements were installed, recent crash reports post-implementation shows a substantial improvement, with the annual average of crashes involving vehicles running off the road dropping from 3.8 to 1.6. This also includes the reduction of 1 fatal crash to 0 over the study period. The City's Vision Zero Program has successfully demonstrated that strategic, low-cost measures can result in a significant (~60%) annual reduction in targeted crash types. With Council's support and investment in the City's Vision Zero Program, this memo serves as an example that improvements can be made utilizing a low cost and tactical manner resulting in positive outcomes.

Previous information regarding this item may be found in *Update* Issues 2023-35 (September 8), 2023-03 (January 28), and 2022-38 (September 30).

(No attachment)

New Community Grant Program for Performing Arts Center

Staff Resource: Kerry Painter, Performing Arts Complex, 996-8503, kerry.painter@raleighnc.gov

The Martin Marietta Center for the Performing Arts is launching a new grant program that will assist community organizations who have difficulty affording the cost of both renting and producing events in the venue. The grant will provide financial support to help offset venue rental and production costs for organizations that produce community-enriching events that are free and open to the public. One recent example of an event this grant program would cater to was the series of free events that were hosted in the Center in celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Applications for the program will launch next week and awardees for the program's initial round of funding will be notified at the beginning of March. While the program is not designed to support the entire cost of an event, evidence from recent events fitting the aforementioned criteria suggests that program support will significantly ease the financial burden for organizers of these events. The overarching intent of the program is to help accommodate and encourage future public events that add value and richness to the community.

(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 January 16 Council Meeting

Economic Development and Innovation HBCU Roundtable Follow-Up (Council Member Melton)

Staff Resource: Evan Raleigh, City Manager's Office, 996-4656, evan.raleigh@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, Council requested staff provide information via the *Manager's Weekly Update* on the action items that emerged from the most recent meeting of the Economic Development and Innovation

Committee. Specifically, the committee requested staff to engage with the Research Triangle Foundation and other community partners regarding the prospect of establishing a Racial Equity Initiative that could provide financial support to local HBCUs similar to the effort in Charlotte. The attached memo summarizes the discussion staff had with leadership from the Research Triangle Foundation and Research Triangle International.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from the January 25 Council Retreat

Provision of Basic Sanitation at Encampments on Government Property (Council Member Forte)

Staff Resource: John Niffenegger, Housing and Neighborhoods, 996-6961, john.niffenegger@raleighnc.gov

During the retreat, Council requested an update related to an August 15, 2023 inquiry on the City providing basic sanitation at encampments on government property.

Recap

Staff previously provided the following updates on this topic.

- Most known large-scale encampments in Wake County exist on state-owned NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT) or private property. The May 22, 2023 Manager's Update summarized NCDOT's position on the installation of basic sanitation equipment (Porta Johns, portable showering facilities, trash collection receptacles, etc.) on sites maintained by NCDOT. Due to the significant threat to motorists, basic sanitation equipment is not generally permitted on NCDOT right-of-way.
- For City-owned property, the August 15, 2023 Manager's Update addressed potential legal implications identified by the City Attorney's Office (CAO) should the City choose to provide sanitary services.
 - In general, the CAO advises that the provision of these services directed on or at encampments could be viewed by an observer as at least tacit permission for the use of the property as an encampment.
 - This could create difficulty in enforcing code provisions such as camping, building and minimum housing code, and zoning code issues. (8/15/2023 update attached).
- Best-practice strategies for ending homelessness and closing encampments were also highlighted, including the [US Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\) 7 principles for addressing encampments](#). These principles underscore the importance of interagency cooperation; involving residents in solutions; conducting thorough outreach; meeting basic needs, providing shelter access; creating pathways to permanent housing; and planning for encampment site closure.
- The [Cities of Houston](#) and [Boston](#) were also cited as two examples of cities who have implemented coordinated policies based on these principles and seen success in addressing encampments and reducing unsheltered homelessness.
- Short term strategies to address health and safety should be balanced with long term solutions to end unsheltered homelessness. City staff will be exploring both in their interagency encampment strategy efforts. For both interventions, additional resources need to be identified.

Updates

- Staff is exploring funding options that would support the hiring of a consultant to help create an encampment response strategy. The creation of such a plan would help focus resources and strength outreach efforts to connecting people to services and housing. Staff plans to release a Request for Proposals to secure a consultant later this winter.
- An inter-departmental workgroup has been convened to better assess the impacts of homelessness on other departments with the goal of better coordinating efforts and resources. As part of this work, a training has been scheduled for March 15, 2024, during which attendees will learn about root causes, historical context, and the traumatic impacts of homelessness, as well as evidence-based practices and principles; trauma informed care, strengths-based problem solving, low barrier, harm reduction, and housing first, through a four-part breakdown.

(No attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, February 2 – Thursday, February 8

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

Permitted Special Events

[Krispy Kreme Challenge](#)

Hillsborough Street & Downtown

Saturday, February 3

Event Time: 8:00am - 10:45am

Impacts: Hillsborough Street between Chamberlain Street and Pullen Road will be closed from 4:00am until 12:00pm. N. Person Street between Polk Street and E. Pace Street will be closed from 4:00am until 10:30am. Roads along the route will be closed from 8:00am until 10:45am; note that all cross-streets one block in each direction will be detoured during the event and see below for turn-by-turn details:

- Start on Hillsborough Street at the NC State Bell Tower heading east
- Left onto N. Boylan Avenue
- Left onto W. Jones Street
- Right onto Saint Mary's Street
- Right onto W. North Street
- Left onto N. West Street
- Right onto W. Peace Street
- Right onto N. Wilmington Street
- Left onto Polk Street
- Left onto N. Person Street
- Left onto Pace Street
- Left onto N. Blount Street
- Right onto E. Peace Street
- Left onto N. West Street
- Right onto W. North Street
- Left onto Saint Mary's Street
- Right onto Hillsborough Street to Finish at the Bell Tower

Other Upcoming Events

[First Friday Raleigh](#)

Friday, February 2

Downtown Raleigh

[Theo Von](#)

Friday, February 2

PNC Arena

[The Barber of Seville – NC Opera](#)

Friday, February 2 & Sunday, February 4

Memorial Auditorium

[Rhapsody in Blue – Carolina Ballet](#)

Friday, February 2 – Sunday, February 18

Fletcher Opera Theater

[Living In Color: Artist Exhibit Opening Reception 2024](#)

Saturday, February 3
The Chapel at Dix Park

[Georgia Tech vs. NC State](#)

Saturday, February 3
PNC Arena

[Astronomy Days](#)

Saturday, February 3 & Sunday, February 4
NC Museum of Natural Sciences

[Lunar New Year Celebration](#)

Sunday, February 4
Lake Lynn Park

[Carolina Classic: NC State IcePack vs. UNC Tar Heels Hockey](#)

Monday, February 5
PNC Arena

[Vancouver Canucks vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Tuesday, February 6
PNC Arena

[Pittsburgh vs. NC State](#)

Wednesday, February 7
PNC Arena

[WakeMed Career Fair](#)

Thursday, February 8
Raleigh Convention Center

[Colorado Avalanche vs. Carolina Hurricanes](#)

Thursday, February 8
PNC Arena

[Black History Month 2024](#)

Through February 29
John Chavis Memorial Park

Public Resources

[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	Evan Raleigh, Assistant City Manager
From	Emily Lapel, Senior Policy Analyst
Department	Office of the City Manager
Date	January 24, 2024
Subject	Research Triangle Park Meeting Summary

At the direction of the ED&I committee meeting, staff met with Research Triangle Park’s Research Triangle Foundation (RTF). RTF is an organization focused on orchestrating industry, university, and government collaborations. Staff met with two stakeholders from RTF: Tamara Terry from RTI International and Scott Levitan the President and CEO of RTF.

Staff provided RTF stakeholders with a briefing of the work of the ED&I committee and its conversations with Raleigh’s two HBCUs, as well as a summary of the Mayor’s Racial Equity Initiative in Charlotte.¹ Tamara Terry discussed the RTP DEI Collective, a group comprising 50 companies in the RTP area that convene monthly to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) matters.² Tamara emphasized community efforts with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), particularly North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and North Carolina A&T.

Tamara inquired about the alignment between the HBCU roundtable and the HBCU caucus³, expressing a desire to replicate successful initiatives from Charlotte in Raleigh. Scott highlighted his efforts to build results-oriented relationships with HBCUs, focusing on partnerships with North Carolina A&T and Shaw University. Scott outlined plans to advise Shaw University's Development Committee and create opportunities for internships and job placements with companies in the park, fostering collaboration between universities and corporations. Scott suggested that the continued promotion, cultivation, and ultimate success of the collaborations currently underway would increase the likelihood of successful fundraising efforts in the future.

The meeting concluded with RTF expressing interest in staying involved and connected, suggesting the replication of RTP's corporate partnership program in Raleigh. The

¹ [City of Charlotte Mayor’s Racial Equity Initiative](#)

² [RTP DEI Collective](#)

³ [State’s new bipartisan HBCU Caucus wants to highlight, expand NC10’s impact](#)

conversation between staff and RTF emphasized a commitment to DEI, economic development, and fostering partnerships between universities and corporations to create meaningful opportunities for students.