CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2024-07 February 23, 2024

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INFORMATION:

Structure Added to Public Comment

Staff Resource: Evan Raleigh, City Manager's Office, 996-3070, evan.raleigh@raleighnc.gov

At its Feb. 20 regular meeting, the City Council added additional structure to the public comment sessions. The action taken:

- Creates a speaker cap and closes sign-up once the cap is reached.
- Sets a speaker cap of 165 for the second Tuesday session and 50 for the third Tuesday.
- Adopts a system to reduce speaking time as the number of speakers grows.
- Shifts the sign-up deadline to 3 p.m. the Friday before the meeting.

City staff will also create a formal process for collecting physical documents shared by speakers. Council will discuss its July and December public comment sessions at a later date. The regular sessions fall during a scheduled Council break.

The 3 p.m. Friday deadline will also apply to speakers signing up for a public hearing.

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For the dedicated session on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m., the public comment period will be approximately three hours. The speaking time is set as follows:

0 – 55 speakers: 3 minutes each
56 – 82 speakers: 2 minutes each
83 – 165 speakers: 1 minute each

The third Tuesday, during the Council's 1 p.m. session, public comment will be approximately one hour, with time allotments as follows:

0 – 16 speakers: 3 minutes each
17 – 25 speakers: 2 minutes each
26 – 50 speakers: 1 minute each

The changes build on productive conversation and consensus from the Council retreat in January. They will take effect for the public comment session on Tuesday, March 12.

(No attachment)

Municipal Election Filing Fees

Staff Resource: Louis Buonpane, City Clerk's Office, 996-3040, louis.buonpane@raleighnc.gov

As Council is aware, municipal elections for the City Council will occur later this year in November; staff has been contacted by the Wake County Board of Elections with a request for the filing fee to run for office. Listed below are the fees established by Council for previous Mayor and Council elections:

2019 Election Filing fee for Mayor/Council seat \$100 2021/22 Election Filing fee for Mayor \$250 Filing fee for Council seat \$200

An agenda item will appear on the March 5 City Council meeting agenda requesting Council to set the filing fees for the November 2024 election.

(No attachment)

Prince Hall Historic Overlay District Owner Survey Update

Staff Resource: Tania Tully, Planning and Development, 996-2674, tania.tully@raleighnc.gov

In response to the recent removals of parcels from the Prince Hall Historic Overlay District (HOD) and questions from property owners and the City Council, a property owner survey was conducted. In August, September, and December 2023, property owners in the Prince Hall HOD were asked to participate in a survey and share their experiences with the HOD. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum with updated data analysis.

(Attachment)

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Former DMV Headquarters Site Acquisition

Staff Resource: Nadia Moreta, Community Engagement, 996-2708, nadia.moreta@raleighnc.gov

During the January 2nd Council Meeting, the Office of Community Engagement presented a community engagement plan for the former DMV site. The office has now started the search for community members to participate in the working group dedicated to the former DMV property. The working group will be made up of seven to nine community members who can bring innovative ideas and perspectives to the planning process. The goal of the working group is:

- To honor and preserve the rich history and culture of Southeast Raleigh.
- Elevate the voices of legacy residents and those who will be most affected by this project.
- Explore creative approaches to gathering input from community members.
- Share information about potential site possibilities with the public.

The application period will close on **March 17**th. To learn more about the project and view the application, please visit the City's website.

(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 Council Retreat

Property Tax Benchmark Rates (Council Member Patton)

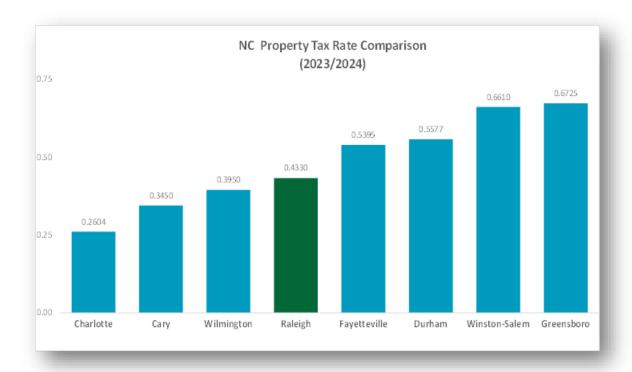
Staff Resource: Allison Bradsher, Finance, 996-4970, allison.bradsher@raleighnc.gov

During the retreat Council requested a benchmark of property tax rates of municipalities in North Carolina and select national cities. The setting of a property tax rate is a decision of each local government and is based upon priorities and needs within each community.

The graph below summarizes Raleigh and seven NC municipality property tax rates.

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The range of property tax rates varies and depends on many factors such as the underlying assessed value of properties in the community; services funded from property tax vs user fees, and the types of services funded. For example, some communities use property tax to fund Solid Waste Services rather than establishing a rate-funded enterprise.

Information included in this update is limited to North Carolina cities where the tax structure is consistent. If there is interest in benchmarking against national peer cities, more work will need to be completed to understand and depict differences to tax structures, along with tax rates. For example, states that have given cities more diverse revenue tools, such as local option sales tax or business fees, may experience lower property tax rates.

(No attachment)

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memo

То	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Tania Tully, Historic Preservation Supervisor
Department	Planning and Development
Date	February 23, 2024
Subject	Prince Hall Historic Overlay District Owner Survey

In response to the recent removals of parcels from the Prince Hall Historic Overlay District (HOD) and questions from property owners and City Council, a property owner survey was conducted. Property owners in the Prince Hall HOD were asked to participate in a survey and share their experience with the HOD.

The Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) formed the Prince Hall HOD Ad Hoc Committee in 2023. A report from the RHDC's Prince Hall HOD Ad Hoc Committee will be made April 2, 2024. The RHDC will discuss the Committee's recommendation at the April 16, 2024 regular meeting. It is anticipated that the RHDC will bring a recommendation to City Council in May or June 2024.

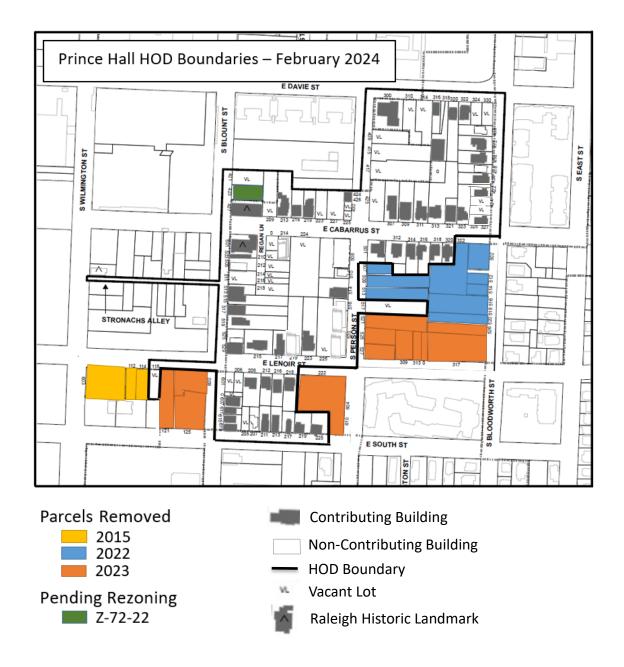
Engagement

In summer 2023 and mid-winter 2023/2024, property owners in the 2023 boundary of the Prince Hall HOD were asked to participate in a survey and share their experiences of being in the HOD. Owners were also invited to attend the meetings of the RHDC's Prince Hall HOD Ad Hoc Committee.

Property owners were initially contacted via first class mail and hand delivery. After the initial closure of the survey, phone numbers and email addresses were gathered and owners were called and/or emailed. Since the last City Manager's Update in November 2023 (issue 45), certified letters were mailed to all owners that had not yet responded. Additionally, door to door canvassing occurred one weekday and one Saturday. Six additional responses were received.

To date responses have been received from 40 of the 102 parcels. Two parcels are owned by the City of Raleigh and not included in the survey data, so statistics are based on 100 parcels.

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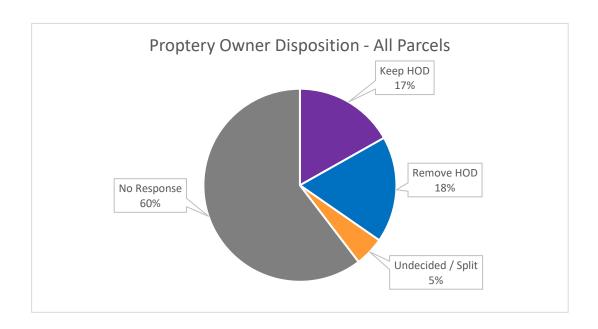


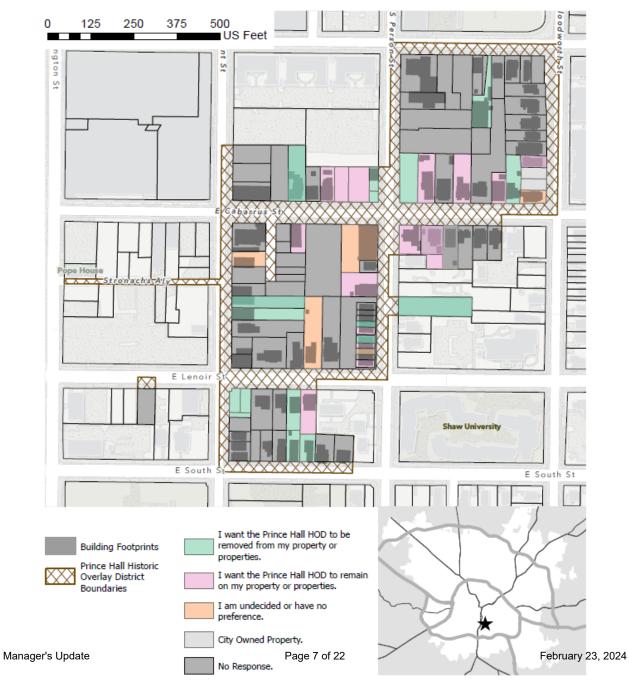
Survey Responses

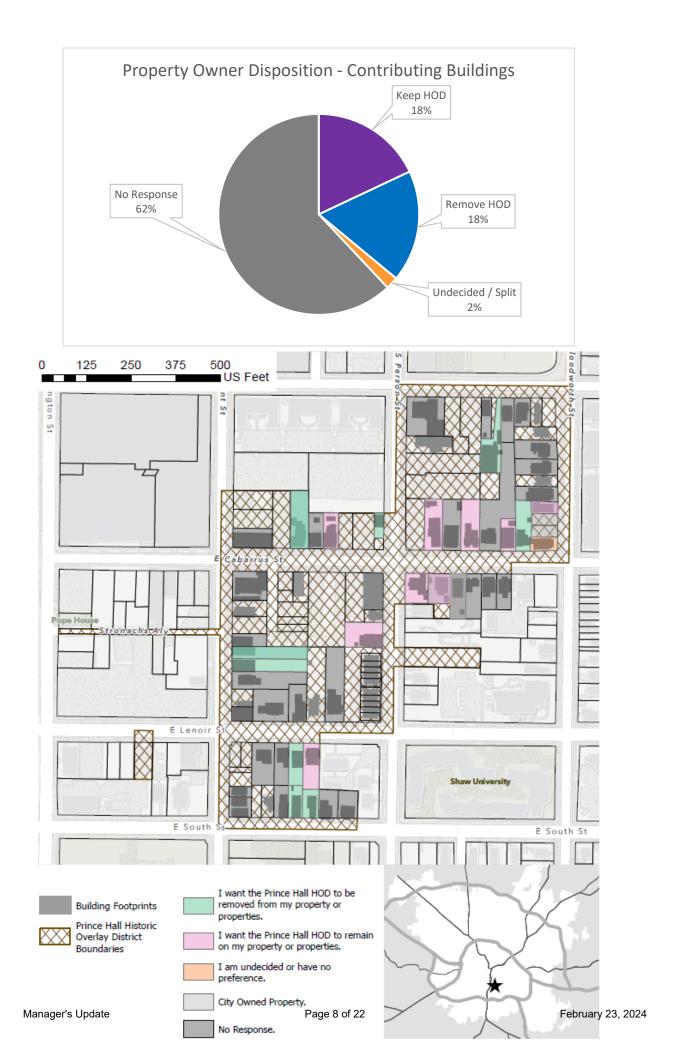
The data below is based on the December 2023 boundary and ownership (including 2012 owners where applicable).

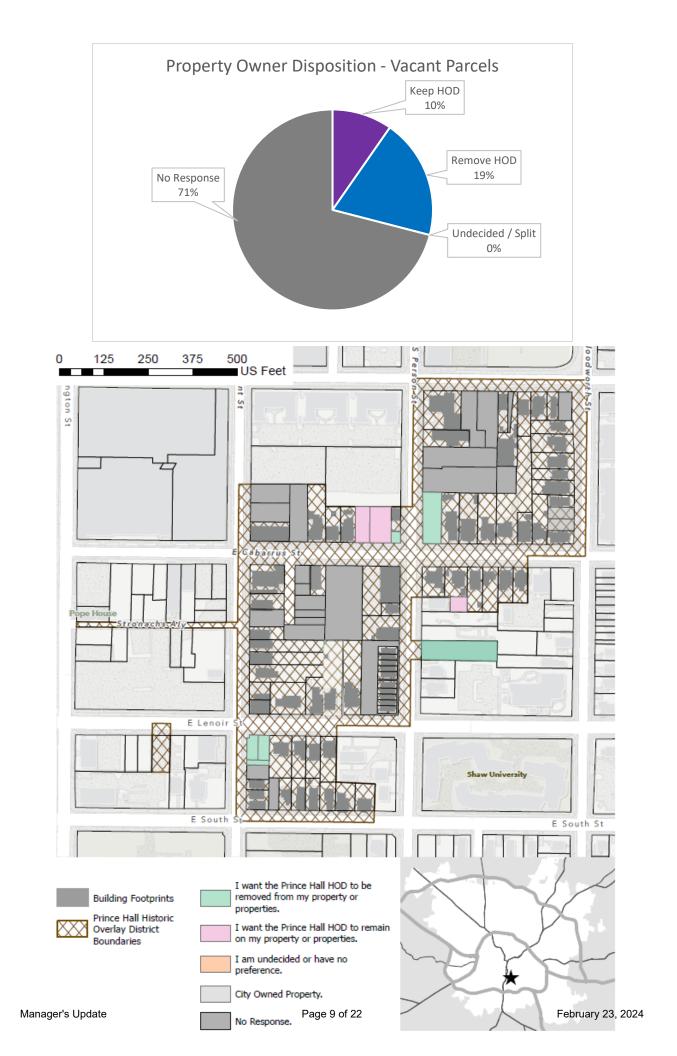
Property Owner Disposition

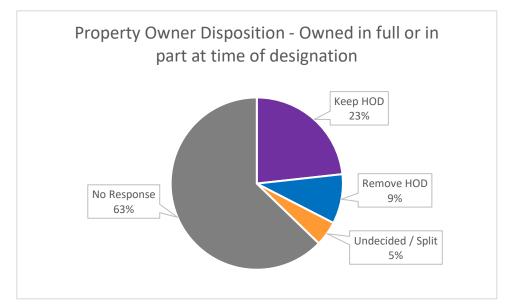
Of the 100 parcels, there was no response from 60 parcels, 5 were undecided or split, 18 want to be removed front the HOD and 17 wish to remain in the HOD. Charts and maps are provided below for the owner responses based on historic buildings, vacant lots and if the property was owned at the time of designation.

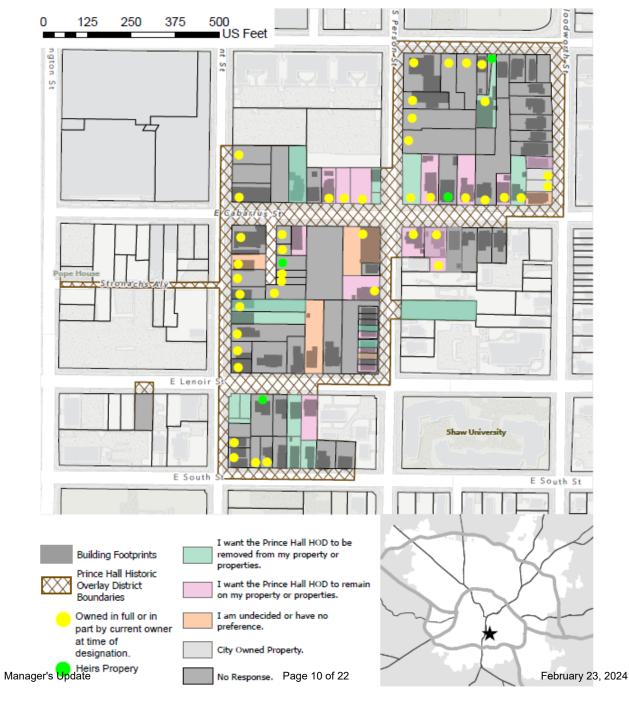












RHDC Prince Hall Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

Despite the lack of a quorum at the August 10 meeting, Commissioners Serxner and Kasefang held a listening session. Of the ten attendees, half were current owners of property in Prince Hall and two grew up there. Stories about the Black professionals that used to lived in the neighborhood were told and Ms. Rich-Ballentine shared her recollections of the late J.E. Williams and his role in starting the process of making Prince Hall a place of its own. Frustration was expressed by owners who participated in the designation process in 2011 and 2012 that are having to defend the district again. Speakers acknowledged supporters that remain and those who have passed. There were counter statements about whether or not the HOD prevents generational wealth.

At the November 15 Ad Hoc Committee meeting, staff shared the results of the survey. Again, half of the attendees owned property in the Prince Hall HOD. Comments at this meeting were primarily based around data questions and the validity of the area as a HOD. It was noted that very few owners of vacant properties responded. For the few owner-occupied houses, staff knocked on doors and left hard copy surveys. Some alternative analysis requested included information on property use and by owner rather than by parcel.

The most recent RHDC Prince Hall Ad Hoc Committee was held January 31. Staff presented on the updated owner responses and some possible options/configurations for the HOD. Because responses were not received for 60% of the parcels, the Committee opted to hold an additional meeting to seek feedback and allow for a final attempt at obtaining additional responses.

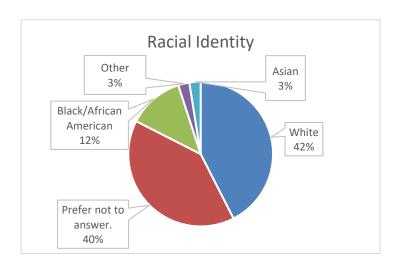
Next Steps

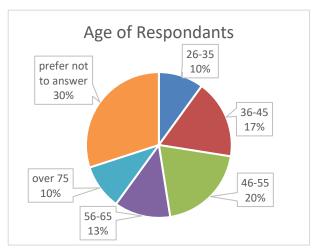
The next RHDC Prince Hall Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for March 20. The meeting will be a listening session and discussion on options for the future of the district. It is anticipated that the Committee will vote on a recommendation to take to the full Commission at its April 16 meeting. In advance of that meeting, RHDC will share the Committee's recommendation with City Council on April 2.

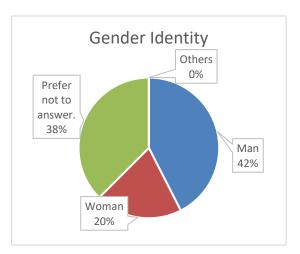
(Demographics and survey comments are attached)

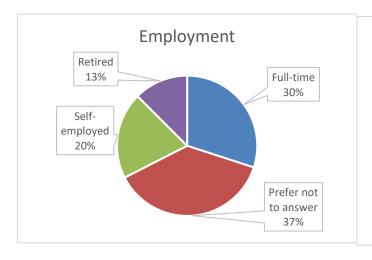
Response Demographics

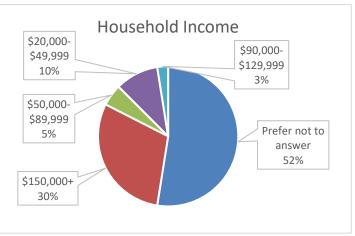
Of the 40 responses (by parcel ownership)











Prince Hall HOD Owner Survey Questions

- 1. Please enter the Unique Survey Code included in your mailed flyer below.
- 2. Please enter your email address below. (We will use this information to deliver the gift card if you are one of the winners)
- 3. How long have you owned property in Prince Hall?
 - 0-3 years
 - 4-7 years
 - 8-11 years
 - 12-15 years
 - 16-19 years
 - 20+ years
- 4. Did you know your property was in an HOD when you purchased it?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I bought it before HOD designation.
- 5. Have you ever applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)?
- 6. Do you or your family have historic connections to the neighborhood?
- 7. What do you currently enjoy most about owning property in the Prince Hall HOD?
- 8. What do you currently enjoy least about owning property in the Prince Hall HOD?
- 9. Check one of the boxes below to indicate your preference for the future of the Prince Hall HOD.
 - I want the Prince Hall HOD to remain on my property or properties.
 - I want the Prince Hall HOD to be removed from my property or properties.
 - I am undecided or have no preference.
- 10. Is there anything else you would like Raleigh City Council to know about your experience living in the Prince Hall HOD?

Prince Hall Owner Survey Answers to Open Ended Questions

Do you or your family have historic connections to the neighborhood?

31 Nos, 8 Yesses, 1 nonresponse

Comments:

- My home is the family home of three generations of Bryants.
- Irrelevant and none of your business.
- Have been in neighborhood over 70 years.

What do you currently enjoy most about owning property in the Prince Hall HOD?

- Proximity to downtown
- I appreciate the guidelines of the housing district that support the style of the historic period
- Equity
- Up and coming area
- Historic Piece of Property
- character, scale and proximity
- Character and historical significance of the neighborhood. Protections that it provides through zoning regulations.
- I like what remains of the historic character. I like the location. I like the friendly neighbors sitting on porches.
- proximity to downtown.
- The location
- Proximity to downtown Raleigh
- Nothing
- We enjoy living in downtown Raleigh.
- walking around downtown
- Nothing
- Living close to downtown. Oak City market
- I like the area, its historic nature, and seeing the mix of old and new, I have been on this property long enough to see enormous changes in Raleigh's downtown.
- The History of the former residence, and the memories the buildings and homes in the area hold..
- The location
- Proximity to the heart (Fayetteville St) of downtown
- Historic buildings have some level of protection
- Its proximity to downtown.
- The diversity of housing types and neighbors.
- I love the proximity to work, church and social activities.

- Proximity to downtown
- "We are very proud to be stewards of the important, necessary, tangible history that is found throughout Prince Hall; its designation was nearly two decades overdue. Unlike the rest of the East Raleigh-South Park National Register Historic District, which is now nearly gone in its entirety (as it has no protection), not a single historic structure has been demolished since Prince Hall's 2012 designation. Instead, being in an HOD has done precisely what it was intended to do: until the chaos created by City Council last year, it's provided predictability and stability for property owners and residents - old and new; it has supported the preservation and rehabilitation of many historic structures; it has not hindered new development and has instead facilitated a myriad of infill opportunities through contemporary, multi-family development and singlefamily projects designed with a nod to the past; it has supported the rehabilitation, and preservation of historic structures relocated to previously vacant lots; and it has preserved a culturally and historically significant neighborhood, long-pommeled by destructive City of Raleigh policies and associated disinvestment.
- We enjoy the fact that Prince Hall is not frozen in amber, under glass, or time but is instead a living, thriving, dynamic historic neighborhood that respects and appreciates its past while allowing for well-managed change and infill/new development.
- I'm not ready to lose my second neighborhood because of no protection.
- Close proximity to downtown. Living in an older/historic house. Living in a diverse neighborhood.
- I enjoy its proximity to Downtown, Chavis Park, NCSU and other centrally located amenities.
- Proximity to downtown.
- Close proximity to downtown.
- The thing I like most about the HOD is the *idea* of it and what it intends to do
 at a high level. Per rhdc.org, Prince Hall is "Raleigh's First African American and
 Mixed Use District". I love the idea of celebrating the history of black Raleigh,
 and acknowledging the historically mixed-use nature of Raleigh's old
 neighborhoods.
- Being in close proximity to the heart of downtown Raleigh.

What do you currently enjoy least about owning property in the Prince Hall HOD?

- Shaw University's run-down buildings.
- Cost to maintain property based on COA guidelines
- More yuppies everywhere
- Crime, drugs, homeless people trespass on my property

- The sidewalks are in terrible condition. The lighting could be improved. Crime has gone up. Litter is an issue by the homeless.
- N\a I appreciate the districts role in celebrating the history of this part of the city. Especially as. Mixed use space.
- inflexibility
- Some of the properties which are currently in disrepair.
- The threat of being surrounded by 12 story buildings that have no reason to build in a manner that fits with the neighborhood.
- The HOD is not fairly applied. City-owned properties and others are excluded, and more-an-more owners apply to be excluded. This has led to a situation where many properties are just left to decay.
- Going through RHDC to do anything
- Don't have any
- It has become a joke as no one really cares to preserve the neighborhood. The COA committee is a joke - their rulings are inconsistent. And now that City Council has let properties leave Prince Hall, it no longer has any relevance or power.
- The Prince Hall HOD is being slowly destroyed. The City Council doesn't care about it. It is time for it to go away.
- trash on the sidewalk, broken sidewalks, no parking for residents, streets are not cleaned, scooters left on our property
- Having to apply and submit request to COA. This is costly to homeowners with limited and fixed incomes.
- I dislike having to get permission to cut down a tree. The historic district is supposed to dictate the feeling of predictability and stability, but it appears that this is not happening because the City Council continues to approve any request that seems to destroy the district.
- All the things that come with growth and popularity -- traffic, noise, etc. But
 most of all it is unsettling to see people and businesses that have been in the
 neighborhood for a long time being pushed out by development and high tax
 bills.
- Being in a restrictive HOD
- RHDC
- Increase in homelessness due to low supply of affordable housing
- This property has been a vacant lot since purchase. It makes no sense to limit
 the style and character of new development on vacant parking lots because
 there are historic buildings in the vicinity.
- Restrictions on vacant lots or other properties that are trying to develop and beautify the area.
- Removal of the Overlay District and elimination of regulations-I was one of the members who worked on making this district come to being
- Crime, drugs, homeless people trespass on my property.

- "What is enjoyed least about owning property in the Prince Hall HOD has nothing to do with the HOD itself, and everything to do with the precipice this neighborhood is constantly teetering over thanks to the prevailing whims of City Council. City Council, through now various iterations, has made clear that Black history only matters so long as it doesn't stand in the way of their political aspirations or the developers/land use attorneys who fund their campaigns. Historically white HOD's like Oakwood and Boylan Heights have long-enjoyed a steadfast commitment from the City towards the preservation of their history. In stark contrast, Prince Hall the City's first Black HOD, the first mixed-use HOD, and the smallest of all the HOD's has been picked apart now time and time again, with absolutely no meaningful justification provided by City Council as to why they consistently vote against their own Council-appointed boards, recommendations from the State Historic Preservation Office, and against the wishes of the residents/property owners who are the most affected by these careless decisions.
- Whereas a historic overlay district is intended to discourage speculative development by providing that necessary predictability, Raleigh's City Council has instead welcomed and encouraged speculative development in Prince Hall by inviting a free-for-all through now-layered precedence that has aided to destabilize the district; to destroy an already miniscule repository of historically Black resources. Since 2012, numerous property owners have successfully navigated the COA process for projects both large and small within the confines of preserving the character and history of this HOD. Despite these plentiful, successful efforts, City Council has now repeatedly written blank-check rezonings on an immense scale, without any justification to entities who are simply trying to circumvent a well-established process for their own personal agenda/greed, with no concern as to long-term effects, destruction, and displacement."
- The changes that have been made and the elimination of the historic nature of the community.
- That there is a HOD overlay that tries to regulate this district in the same manner that Oakwood is regulated.
- The HOD artificially decreases our property value, and the exterior renovation restrictions allow boarded-up, dilapidated properties to remain untouched for "historic preservation" purposes, perpetuating further blight in the neighborhood.
- I don't like that HODs are often viewed as permission, and even a moral imperative, to oppose any change. The Prince Hall HOD seems to protect a contiguous swath of existing structures for the sake of it without much regard for their actual historic value or what value they add to the neighborhood and the city overall. It makes perfect sense that the Masonic Temple is in the HOD, but why so many empty lots? Why are Estey Hall and the Pope House *not* in the HOD?

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- Extra step with RHDC to do any improvements on property.
- Many vacant lots and abandoned/vacant homes that are unable to be improved due to HOD restrictions.
- I do not enjoy the lack of commercial amenities within the neighborhood such as coffee shops or corner stores. Also the large number of undeveloped dirt lots and abandoned properties detracts from the neighborhood
- Rising crime rate, but this is a general downtown Raleigh issue and not just a Prince Hall issue. Lack of permanent residents in many of the houses in the neighborhood which impacts the sense of community. What areas and buildings that fall within the Prince Hall District are difficult to determine at times due to the somewhat odd boundaries of the district and because of this, I think this district lacks the cohesiveness that other historic districts have (ie. Oakwood or Boylan Heights). This neighborhood is also a cut through for many drivers. Eliminating any remaining stop lights and having 4 way stops at all intersections (not on Person and Blount Streets) would help to slow traffic down. This neighborhood also needs more street trees to help improve the character of the neighborhood and reduce the effects of an urban heat island.

Is there anything else you would like Raleigh City Council to know about your experience living in the Prince Hall HOD?

- NO
- Like many owners in Prince Hall, I have been putting in a lot of effort (and money) to save a piece of history and make/keep the church the way it is.
 Please do not remove the HOD designation of Prince Hall and let our collective effort over the past few years go down the drain in a few seconds.
- We have spent a lot of time and money on the rules so its confusing what this survey means for all that.
- Once Shaw was removed from the regulations-horse is out of the barn
- We would like to develop this property, but are limited by the HOD. The HOD status should be removed from properties that are already vacant.
- There is not a good reason for most of the properties in this HOD to be preserved, also, some of the properties no longer fit in given the development going on in the surrounding area.
- You all don't value this historic district as has been proven time and again by your votes. A lot of people didn't want it in the first place (e.g., the Mayor), and it shows.
- While the intent of creating the historic district was to preserve it's character,
 what impact does this actually have when developers can simply ask to be
 removed from the district? As I mentioned previously, I think the boundaries of
 this district are part of the reason why this neighborhood lacks the cohesion that
 other historic neighborhoods have, but in addition to this, having such an oddly

shaped boundary also allows developers to more easily argue to have lots within the district removed from the district in order to avoid the design regulations that the rest of us have to follow. Over time, this continued erosion will lead to a historic neighborhood completely lacking any cohesion to the point where having a designated historic neighborhood seems pointless. If the intent is to preserve a residential neighborhood that mostly consists (or it did at least at one time) of single family houses (one and two stories), then the zoning for this area needs to reflect that intention and not be zoned in a manner that allows for something on a larger scale, both in footprint and in height. I understand the strategy and intent for increasing density within the city, but some of this zoning is in conflict with the attempted measures being taken to preserve the character of this neighborhood. I would like to see a Prince Hall district with a strong and simple boundary that is easy to define and stick to that boundary and not allow it to be manipulated for development purposes. In addition to this, the zoning should be consistent with the design and character intent of the neighborhood and the zoning shouldn't offer people the opportunity to argue or propose developments that would be at conflict with the existing context of the neighborhood.

- Legally required historical preservation is a great asset to a community and should apply to single properties where a significant historic event took place or a significant figure of history or cultural importance resided. Those properties deemed historic should be financially supported by the government in order to properly maintain them. Blanket historic neighborhoods, however do not improve a community and end up ensuring only those wealthy enough to pay for the continuous costly maintenance of old buildings can afford to live there. The numerous crumbling buildings in the neighborhood are a reflection of this. They will continue to decay as they're now too expensive to fix, but HOD rules prevent them from being demolished and replaced with something that can actually benefit the neighborhood; defeating the purpose preservation in the first place. Abandoned properties don't preserve a community. Thriving residents do.
- The fact that *the* major black institution in the Prince Hall district want to leave it is a sign that the HOD needs rethinking. Who is the HOD for, and is it helping or hurting the neighborhood and the history it's supposed to celebrate? There have been multiple projects here, of a mix of uses, that have been impeded. Throwing up hurdles to investing in the neighborhood seems like losing the forest for the trees, when we have so many empty, underutilized and abandoned lots.
- I don't think anyone's vision for the Prince Hall HOD, if perfectly realized, would look anything like the neighborhood does today. Prince Hall was never intended to preserve the neighborhood in amber when it was instated (2012). My vision for the future of Prince Hall is a place where the actually historically relevant buildings are protected and shown off, and the neighborhood around those anchors is allowed to evolve and grow while steeped in that history. I want to us

- to showcase the once-thriving historic Prince Hall neighborhood *amidst* the NOW-thriving Prince Hall neighborhood.
- The City Council needs to take action on the abandoned yellow house located at 519 S. Blount Street. My neighbors and I have filed countless police reports regarding drug activity, trespassing, vandalism, squatters, etc. - to no avail. The house needs to be renovated and occupied, moved to another site, or torn down immediately! Why doesn't the Council/HOD enforce accountability with these property owners? Neighborhood blight is not a historic characteristic that needs to be preserved.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, February 23 – Thursday, February 29

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

Permitted Special Events

No permitted special events are scheduled during this time.

Other Upcoming Events

African Americans and the Arts

Friday, February 23 City of Raleigh Museum

Appalachian Road Show - PineCone

Friday, February 23 Fletcher Opera Theater

Lauren Daigle

Friday, February 23 PNC Arena

Carlos, Thibaudet, and Pines of Rome - NC Symphony

Friday, February 23 & Saturday, February 24 Meymandi Concert Hall

QuiltCon Raleigh

Friday, February 23 – Sunday, February 25 Raleigh Convention Center

Feathered Friends Feeder Frenzy

Saturday, February 24 Pullen Park Amusements

Mark Normand: Ya Don't Say Tour

Saturday, February 24 Memorial Auditorium

Boston College vs. NC State

Saturday, February 24 PNC Arena

Rouge: A Cirque & Dance Cabaret 2024

Saturday, February 24 Fletcher Opera Theater

Dallas Stars vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Saturday, February 24 PNC Arena

Dix Park Project Summit 2024

Wednesday, February 28 The Chapel at Dorothea Dix Park

Guided Conversation: It Ain't All Black and White Exhibition

Thursday, February 29 Block Gallery

Enrique Iglesias, Ricky Martin, Pitbull: The Trilogy Tour

Thursday, February 29 PNC Arena

Black History Month 2024

Through February 29
John Chavis Memorial Park

Public Resources

<u>Event Feedback Form</u>: 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.

<u>Road Closure and Road Race Map</u>: 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.