

Manager's Update

raleighnc.gov



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INFORMATION:

Budget Work Session – Monday, June 9 - 4:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will meet on **Monday** in a scheduled budget work session at **4:00 P.M.**

The agenda for the work session was posted to the electronic agenda management system Friday. Additional materials will be distributed in advance of the work session.

Work Session - Tuesday, June 10 - 4:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in a scheduled work session at **4:00 P.M.**

The agenda for the work session was posted to the electronic agenda management system Thursday.

Public Comment Session - Tuesday, June 10 - 7:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in a scheduled public comment session at **7:00 P.M.**

RaleighNC.Gov Website Redesign - Project Update

Staff Resource: Robin Deacle, Communications, robin.deacle@raleighnc.gov, 919-996-3002

In October 2024, Council authorized a contract to revise and update the City's main website, RaleighNC.gov. This project kicked off with the vendor, MRM, in March 2025. After some initial work to establish goals and working groups, the project has moved forward on two paths: a content audit and developing and testing a prototype.

The content audit has reached significant completion today, thanks to the efforts of staff across the City to evaluate more than 4,000 pages sitewide. The participants designated pages to keep, improve, or remove and noted additional information that will be added. This information will guide migration of content from the old site design to the new. It has also informed tweaks to the navigation.

The first site prototype, a partially developed version of the new site, is also now complete. MRM will begin testing next week. Test participants will view and comment on the home page layout, specifically the location and usefulness of the navigation elements. Then, they will navigate specific tasks to test the organization of content. In the first round, up to 12 testers will participate – a mix of city residents and business owners representing various ZIP codes and other demographics.

Following the prototype tests, MRM will incorporate input, make final prototype adjustments, and run another round of tests. This is followed by site design, then development, content migration and testing. At that point, the project team will begin the rollout plan to share the new site with residents. Estimates for development and community engagement indicate the site will be ready to launch in early 2026. Additional updates will be provided as the project moves into technical development.

(No attachment)

On-Street Parking Accessibility Survey

Staff Resource: Tony Howard, Transportation, 996-4047, charles.howard@raleighnc.gov

History: In 2018 City staff, in coordination with the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, initiated Raleigh's first on-street accessible parking spaces. Sixteen (16) spaces were approved by City Council in November 2018. Since then, collaboration with businesses and property owners has led to the addition of fourteen (14) more spaces, with a proposal for an additional anticipated for consideration by Council in July.

At the time, formal placement guidelines were limited, so staff relied on committee input and national best practices. Accessible spaces are typically placed near curb cuts to allow safe and convenient access for mobility devices. Each location is evaluated to ensure lift clearance and a safe path to the sidewalk.

Despite these efforts, staff acknowledges ongoing gaps in fully understanding the day-to-day challenges faced by people with mobility, vision, and/or hearing challenges. Lived experiences often reveal barriers not evident during planning. In 2022, a resident reported uneven cobblestone near an accessible space prevented her ramp from deploying. This issue, promptly addressed by staff, underscores how subtle barriers can impede accessibility and highlights the importance of ongoing community input in identifying and rectifying such challenges.

Solution: To enhance accessibility, the City is launching a Parking Accessibility Survey in partnership with Passport Labs and a third-party accessibility app, iAccess Life (<https://www.iaccess.life>).

iAccess Life allows users to provide real-time feedback on accessible spaces via QR code signs at each location. The mobile-friendly survey invites users to share real-time feedback on ease of locating a space, sidewalk access, and any issues encountered. Participants can also suggest new accessible space locations and provide optional contact information for follow up. Importantly, the survey tool is free for users, and no payment information will be requested or required.

This effort aims to put user experience at the center of accessibility improvements and reflects the City's ongoing commitment to building an inclusive public infrastructure.

Implementation: Signage (see below) installation is scheduled for the weekend of June 14, with the survey going live June 16.



The goal of this initiative is to better understand the experiences of individuals navigating public spaces, especially those with mobility, vision, and/or hearing challenges. User feedback will help identify problem areas—such as missing curb ramps, blocked pathways, or unsafe crossings and where they're needed most. Above all, this program offers a platform for the community to share ideas and experiences, helping to shape a safer, more accessible, and more inclusive city for everyone.

(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 June 2 Budget Work Session

FY2026 Council Budget Questions Follow-Up

Staff Resource: Sadia Sattar, Budget and Management Services, 996-4273, sadia.sattar@raleighnc.gov

Following presentation of the Proposed FY2026 operating and capital budgets on May 20, Council Members have requested further information on a variety of topics. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared with staff responses from Budget and Management Services, Human Resources, and the Finance Department. Responses to Council questions were presented during the June 2 Budget Work Session and are included in this issue of the *Update* at the request of Council.

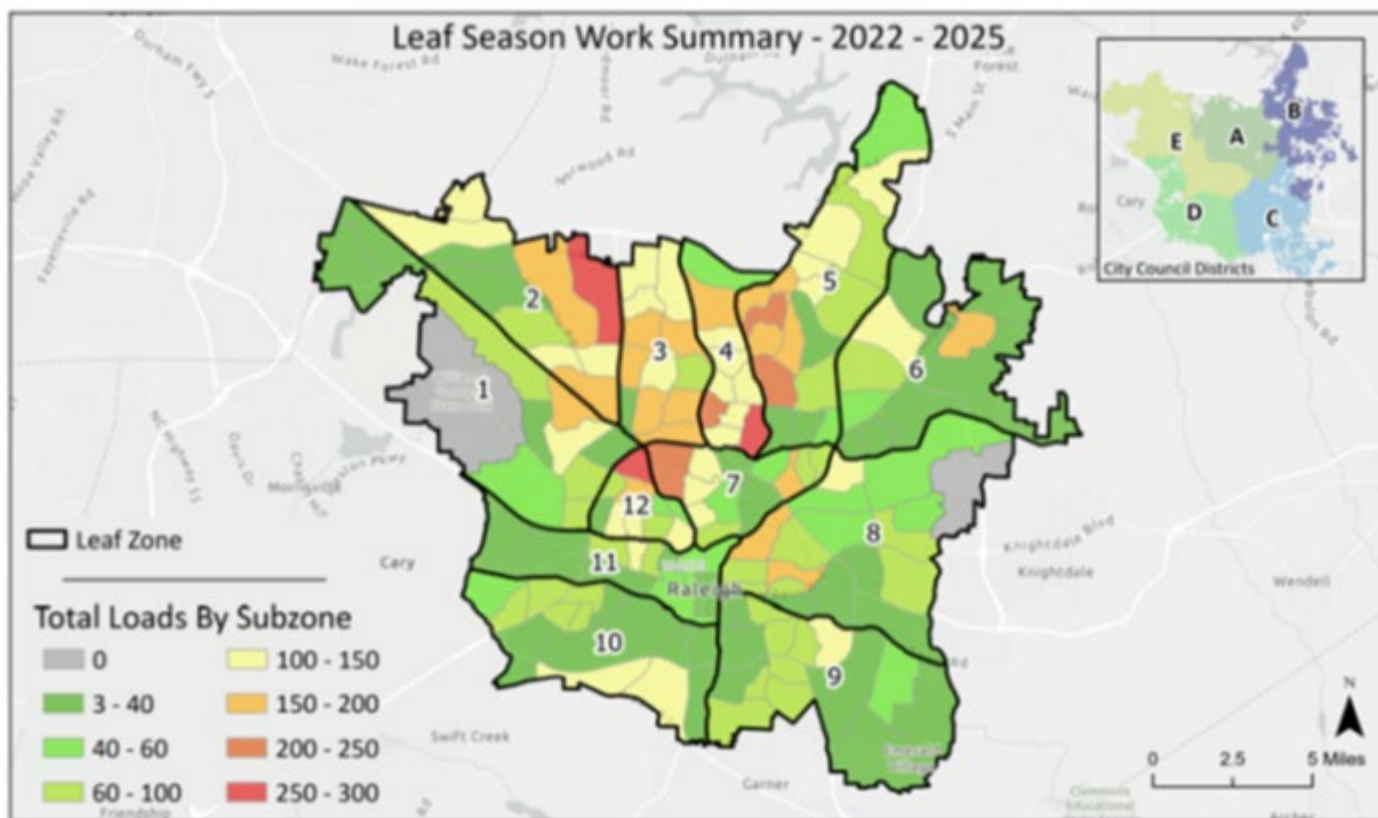
(Attachment)

Follow up to the June 3 Council Meeting

Leaf Collection Heat Map (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Steve Halsey, Transportation, 996-5755, steven.halsey@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting, staff presented the proposed transition of the City's loose leaf collection program to an enhanced yard waste program delivered weekly by the Solid Waste Services Department starting in Fall 2026. During the meeting, Council asked staff to share a heat map of the 4-year loose leaf collection program totals. The map shows the twelve leaf collection zones, and the cumulative range of loads collected per subzone from 2022-2025.



(No Attachment)

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 6 – Thursday, June 12

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

Permitted Special Events

Pride First Friday

Commerce Place

Friday, June 6

Event Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Commerce Place between W. Martin Street and the Empire Properties parking lot will be closed from 2:00pm until 10:00pm.

First Friday at The Times

Hargett Street

Friday, June 6

Event Time: 7:00pm - 11:00pm

Associated Road Closures: E. Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 5:30pm until 11:59pm.

Gipson Play Plaza Grand Opening

Dix Park

Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8

Event Time: 4:00pm - 10:00pm on 6-6-25; 9:00am - 10:00pm on 6-7-25 & 6-8-25

Associated Road Closures: Biggs Drive from Whiteside Drive continuing onto Palmer Drive, up to Black Drive, will be closed from 6:00am on 6-6-25 until 11:45pm on 6-8-25.

Raleigh's International Food Festival

Fayetteville Street District

Saturday, June 7

Event Time: 11:00am - 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Morgan Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Hargett, Martin, and Davie streets between S. Salisbury Street and S. Wilmington Street will be closed from 6:00am until 11:45pm. The 500 block of Fayetteville Street will remain open for local traffic only.

Raleigh Game & Geek Expo

Raleigh Convention Center & Cabarrus Street

Saturday, June 7 & Sunday, June 8

Event Time: 10:00am - 8:00pm on 6-7-25; 10:00am - 6:00pm on 6-8-25

Associated Road Closures: W. Cabarrus Street between Gale Street and S. Salisbury Street will be closed from 9:30am until 8:30pm on 6-7-25 and from 9:30am until 6:30pm on 6-8-25.

Other Upcoming Events

First Friday Raleigh

Friday, June 6

Downtown Raleigh

First Friday Market & Movie: Shrek 2

Friday, June 6

Moore Square

Raleigh Dance & Tumble Recital

Friday, June 6
Fletcher Opera Theater

The Color Purple

Friday, June 6 – Sunday, June 29
Raleigh Little Theatre

Dispatch Summer Tour 2025

Saturday, June 7
Red Hat Amphitheater

North Carolina Heritage Awards – Pinecone

Saturday, June 7
Fletcher Opera Theater

Luke Bryan

Saturday, June 7
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

Pride Ride: LGBTQ+ Trolley Tour

Sunday, June 8
Mordecai Historic Park

Prince Lunsford Lane's Return to Raleigh, 1866 – A Talk with Dr. Craig Friend

Sunday, June 8
City of Raleigh Museum

The Raleigh Ringers

Sunday, June 8
Fletcher Opera Theater

Raleigh In Motion Open House

Wednesday, June 11
John Chavis Memorial Park Community Center

WALLOWS Model & More Tour 2025

Wednesday, June 11
Red Hat Amphitheater

Live Big Band and Dancing

Wednesday, June 11
Pullen Community Center

Wake County Public School System Graduations

Wednesday, June 11 – Wednesday, June 18
Raleigh Convention Center

The Black Keys

Thursday, June 12
Red Hat Amphitheater

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 6 – Thursday, June 12

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events
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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 Dix Park.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Ryan Bergman, Assistant City Manager Michele Mallette, Chief of Staff
From	Sadia Sattar, Budget and Management Services Allison Bradsher, Finance Jennifer Stevens, Finance Sharnell Jones, Human Resources
Department	budget@raleighnc.gov
Date	June 2, 2025
Subject	Council Follow-up Items – FY2025-26 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget

Below is a summary of questions that have been received from members of the City Council to seek additional information or clarification about the City Manager's FY26 proposed budget.

1. **CM Patton: Can you poke HR or whomever to get those post-employment benefit details? At what age and length of service can employees access their: OPEB, 487, et al.**

ANSWER: The Internal Revenue Service oversees the regulations concerning access to retirement funds, and the City itself does not establish these rules. Each retirement plan offered by the City comes with unique features that dictate how employees can withdraw funds, both with and without penalties.

Information regarding the City's Supplemental 457 plan:

- Age for Penalty-Free Withdrawals: The City allows in-service withdrawals from the 457 plan only for individuals aged 59½ and older, except in the case of hardship withdrawals, which may be available under specific criteria.
- Separation from Service: Individuals can access their 457 contributions without penalties once they leave their position, regardless of their age.
- Hardship Withdrawals: Our 401(a) plan allows hardship withdrawals for pressing financial needs, although eligibility criteria can change between plans.
- Early Withdrawal Penalty: Like the 401(k), employees withdrawing funds before age 59½ without qualifying exceptions may incur penalties alongside regular income taxes.

Information regarding the 401(k) plan:

- Age for Penalty-Free Withdrawals: Employees can withdraw from their 401(k) without incurring a penalty once they reach age 59½.

- **Separation from Service:** When an employee leaves city employment—whether due to retirement, resignation, or termination—they can access their 401(k) contributions regardless of age, although taxes might still apply.
- **Hardship Withdrawals:** Many 401(k) plans permit hardship withdrawals for immediate and significant financial needs, such as medical costs or buying a primary residence.
- **Loans:** Our 401(k) plans allow employees to borrow against their balance, which must be paid back, usually with interest, within a designated timeframe.
- **Early Withdrawal Penalty:** Employees who withdraw funds before reaching age 59½ without qualifying for an exception (like hardship or leaving employment) may face a 10% early withdrawal penalty, in addition to regular income taxes.

Information regarding the Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERS):

Vesting: Employees earn vested status in the LGERS after completing at least five years of creditable service. This means they are eligible to apply for lifetime monthly retirement benefits according to the retirement formula in effect at the time of their retirement, provided they do not withdraw or transfer their contributions.

Service Retirement (Unreduced Benefit): Employees can retire with an unreduced benefit after they:

- Reach age 65 and have five years of creditable service.
- Reach age 60 with 25 years of creditable service.
- Complete 30 years of creditable service at any age.

Early Retirement (Reduced Benefit): Employees may opt for early retirement with a reduced benefit after they:

- Turn 50 with 20 years of creditable service.
- Reach age 60 (or 55 for firefighters or rescue squad workers) with five years of creditable service.

Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) Service Retirement (Unreduced Benefits for Local Law Enforcement Officers) with an unreduced benefit:

- Reach age 55 and complete five years of creditable service in LGERS; or
- Complete 30 years of creditable service in LGERS at any age

LEOs Early Retirement (Reduced Benefits for Local Law Enforcement Officers) with a reduced benefit:

- Reach age 50 and complete 15 years of creditable service in LGERS

The early retirement benefit is calculated using the same formula as a service retirement benefit but multiplied by a reduced percentage based on their age and/or service at early retirement. Since this benefit may be disbursed over a longer duration than if they had waited for full-service retirement, it will be reduced.

Vested Deferred Benefit: If employees leave the LGERS for any reason other than retirement or death, they can choose to receive a refund of their contributions plus interest. Alternatively, they may leave their contributions in the LGERS to retain all creditable service they earned up until that point. They could later be eligible for a deferred benefit once they

have met the criteria after completing five years of creditable service if they do not withdraw their contributions. The benefit calculated will be based on the formula effective at the retirement date, considering the average final compensation and years of creditable service.

- 2. CM Patton: Can we know the specific value of the compensation study wage adjustments by department? So, within the 35M how much is attributed to wage increases in RPD, Fire, etc. I'm particularly interested in the public safety break out.**

ANSWER: The table below shows the **ten-month** implementation cost and the percent of total cost of the classification and compensation study by departments Citywide.

Department	FY26 Cost	Percent of Total
Budget and Management Services	115,130	0.3%
City Attorney	345,565	1.0%
City Clerk	30,707	0.1%
Communications	259,313	0.7%
Community Engagement	147,825	0.4%
Convention Center Complex	1,215,786	3.4%
Emergency Communications	783,204	2.2%
Engineering Services	2,466,960	7.0%
Equity and Inclusion	95,183	0.3%
Finance	488,672	1.4%
Fire	6,093,130	17.3%
Housing & Neighborhood	426,787	1.2%
Human Resources	367,585	1.0%
Information Technology	875,065	2.5%
Office of Internal Audit	36,313	0.1%
Office of Strategy and Innovation	63,547	0.2%
Office of Sustainability	49,228	0.1%
Office of the City Manager	257,832	0.7%
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources	2,969,910	8.4%
Planning and Development Services	1,559,907	4.4%
Police	8,244,067	23.4%
Raleigh Water	4,575,542	13.0%
Solid Waste	1,533,998	4.3%
Transportation Services	2,297,041	6.5%
Total	35,298,297	100.0%

The total amount budgeted for the public safety departments (Police, Fire, and Emergency Communications) in the City of Raleigh is \$15,120,401. This accounts for 42.8 percent of the total cost of implementation of the classification and compensation study Citywide.

- 3. CM Harrison: My question is how could the separation benefit be covered for firefighters by using their planned salary increase instead to pay for the benefit? What is the total expense of the firefighters' salary increase? What would their salary increase need to be lowered to cover the separation benefit?**

ANSWER: To implement the classification and compensation study for the Raleigh Fire Department, the FY26 proposed budget includes \$6.09 million. A planned salary increase of 11 percent for public safety departments in the City (including Raleigh Fire), includes raising the minimum salaries of firefighters from \$51,194 to \$56,825 as well adjusting salary ranges to align with peer organizations and to be competitive in the market.

A breakout of the implementation cost, by uniform and civilian employees, in the Raleigh Fire Department is shown in the table below.

Raleigh Fire	FY26 Class & Comp Study Implementation Cost
Uniform	\$5,830,964
Civilian	\$262,166
Total	\$6,093,130

To implement the separation allowance in the FY26 budget for Raleigh Fire would cost \$4.69 million. Therefore, to add the separation allowance for Raleigh Fire, would mean lowering the salary increase for uniform employees to \$1.14 million only. Furthermore, to implement the separation allowance without lowering the firefighter pay increases, the City would need to increase the current tax rate of \$0.3550 per \$100 of assessed value by \$0.0040 for a total tax rate of \$0.3590.

As part of the City's strategic plan, the City is committed to review and refine the City's compensation and benefits package to maintain market competitiveness. Over the past few years, the City's compensation has fallen below market. As part of the FY24 budget, the City provided funding to conduct a comprehensive classification and compensation study. Based on the data from the market survey, the starting salary for firefighters was adjusted as well as salary ranges to align with our peers and to be competitive in the market. For implementation, the City proposed a 11 percent pay increase for public safety. For Fire, that adjustment is roughly \$5.83 million (for uniformed personnel) before benefits. The proposed cost for separation allowance is approximately \$4.69 million. As can be seen from the numbers, using the pay increases to supplement separation allowance would leave uniformed firefighters with a very small pay increase and little to no change in starting salaries or salary ranges.

The decision to use the pay increases to supplement the separation allowance would have an impact on the City overall. The City would lag the market in comparison to our peers with starting salaries and overall salary ranges for the ranks in the Raleigh Fire Department. Additional impacts to the City include:

- Potential for increased turnover and low morale in the department and other departments across the City caused by inequities of giving some groups pay increases and others additional benefits.
- Negates the validity of the classification and compensation study conducted by a consultant as well as the use of City funds to pay for a study and not implement.

- Decreases current firefighters' earnings potential at retirement due to not receiving the pay increase. (Once a member meets all retirement eligibility requirements, the employee's annual retirement benefits calculation uses the employee's average final compensation, which includes the employee's salary during their four highest-paid years in a row.)
- Potential for a higher price tag down the road for the City to align with the market due to not implementing the increases now creating a double increase for fire employees.
- Impedes the City's ability to attract applicants due to not aligning our pay with our peers to be competitive in the market.
- Changes to the recommended proposal would require additional work or feedback from the consultant, which would require additional time. Additionally, we would have to configure the pay administration guidelines of a new program, and it is possible that it may not be achievable by September 2025.
- It is not common for a subset of an employee group to determine pay administration or negotiate terms of compensation for the group. Classification and Compensation recommendations are made on a citywide basis. A 11 percent salary increase is equal to \$695/month (before taxes) for an average Raleigh sworn Firefighter. Many employees may prefer the immediate financial flexibility that a salary increase provides.

It is important for the City to offer competitive compensation to our employees. It not only helps to resolve all the potential impacts listed above for not giving a pay increase, but it also helps to align compensation with the economic changes, like inflation, and assist employees with maintaining their standard of living. Lastly, employees that feel that they are compensated fairly are generally more engaged and motivated.

4. CM Lambert-Melton: What amount of the compensation study funds allocated for salary increases in allocated specifically to the fire department?

ANSWER: See response to Question #2.

5. CM Lambert-Melton: How much would their proposed raises need to be cut to fund a separation allowance instead from their designated portion?

ANSWER: See response to Question #3.

6. Mayor Cowell: How do we compare to Charlotte, NC? A number of departments seemed large to me. I benchmarked against Charlotte. Charlotte's General Fund is 43% bigger than Raleigh. Roughly, one would expect them to be 43% larger in staffing. I welcome more benchmarking of other cities. Concerned that we are staffing heavy vis-à-vis our peer not investing enough in IT. I saw that we have investments for replacement of PeopleSoft and document management, but not seeing other major investments. We have an AI effort and also the customer service effort. What sort of investments are we making in these areas? Questioning additional community engagement position and HR?

We have listed our general admin expenses at 12% but then have the large bucket of special appropriations. I'd like to understand what percent of that 20% can be attributed to general government overhead. Given how large some of our centralized departments seem like we are over 12%.

Department	Charlotte 2026 B	Raleigh 2026 B	C vs. R %
City Attorney	\$6.7	\$7.2	-7%
Communications	\$4.3	\$4.7	-9%
Community Relations	\$2.5	\$3.7	-33%
Human Resources	\$8.6	\$7.2	+19%
IT + Innovation	\$53	\$30+\$1.2	+70%

ANSWER:

City Attorney: Charlotte uses a different accounting structure to receive reimbursement from enterprise funds. For example, the CLT Attorney's Office has a \$10.7 million expenditure budget, and then a negative \$4.0 million department charge, which is repayment from Water, Aviation, Stormwater, etc. This is different practice than the City of Raleigh. To compare, the Raleigh City Attorney's Office has \$6.1 million in personnel expenditures, while Charlotte has \$10.0 million. Proportionally that's quite similar when considering the sizes of both local governments.

Communications: Unlike the City of Raleigh, Charlotte also has a decentralized communications model, with communications personnel embedded in departments citywide. Raleigh has a more centralized operation. In addition, operating a television network (like RTN) is a large, standardized cost regardless of how big the network's audience is.

Community Relations: In comparison to Charlotte's Community Relations, the City of Raleigh has a Community Engagement Department. In Charlotte, Community Relations does ADA, fair housing, and runs a very big community relations committee. However, they are not the overseer of overall public engagement, which is handled by individual departments. In the FY26 proposed budget, the City has dedicated funding for a Community Relations Analyst within the Organizational Development Division to support City departments with specialized engagement training and strategy.

Human Resources: This comparison to Raleigh the same as the accounting difference described between both city's Attorney's Offices. For example, Charlotte HR receives \$1.2 million in reimbursement from the healthcare fund and has \$8.8 million in HR personnel costs, in comparison to Raleigh's \$5.6 million. Charlotte also has several more HR employees embedded in departments and reporting to the HR Director, but not in the HR budget. In the FY26 proposed budget, the City has dedicated funding for two Human Resources Business Partners, Sr. to provide better support to employees and ensure alignment within the organization.

IT: Charlotte has Police, Fire, and 911 technology staff embedded in the Charlotte IT budget. In Raleigh, those functions are in the department budgets, making Charlotte's appear bigger and Raleigh's appear smaller. It's also notable that Charlotte is in the midst of a \$50 million ERP replacement project. The City of Raleigh is also currently engaged in an ERP replacement project for PeopleSoft. Over the course of the five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the City has budgeted \$33.8 million for this effort.

In addition, the City is dedicating \$500,000 toward customer experience management program improvements to ensure focus on high quality, responsive, innovative services efficiently and effectively. By allowing customers to contact the City via phone, email, and other technologies as well as in-person, the City will be continuously expanding and improving services to meet customers where they are.

Special Appropriations: The City of Raleigh Special Appropriations budget reflects services or functions that are not specifically associated with a particular department. These functions are grouped into five categories: Employee Benefits, Intergovernmental Payments, Non-departmental Expenses, Risk Management, and Transfers to Other Funds. There are no general government overhead expenses budgeted in special appropriations.

7. Mayor Cowell: There were a number of things I liked about the Charlotte financial report. They grouped topics that are important to the public so that one could see the total dollars spent on areas, including:

- housing/affordable housing (programs, operations and capital)
- youth programs
- workforce development
- mobility (operations and capital)
- transit (operations and capital)

Could we please incorporate this practice into our financial reporting? would like to see total dollars spent on buckets above.

ANSWER: Staff will review Charlotte's budget and financial report and determine if this methodology would work for the City of Raleigh.

8. Mayor Cowell: Charlotte mentioned investments related to Americans for Disability Act plan – do we have a stream of investments or plan like this?

ANSWER: Raleigh Transportation has contracted Cole Associates to complete an ADA Transition Plan for the City's right-of-way. The Plan will provide a roadmap for investments to make the City's streets and sidewalks safe and welcoming for everyone, and as well as compliant with recently adopted accessibility standards. Transportation continues to update curb ramps and signals with each new capital investment.

Similarly, Engineering Services' Facilities Division updates and upgrades City Parks, Public Safety, and General Government Facilities based on their current ADA Transition Plan. Improvements

are made with each new capital improvement project and through regular program upgrades. These upgrades are not specifically “called out” but are included in the annual budget process.

- 9. Mayor Cowell: Overall, our monthly household services and property taxes are lower than charlottes for a median household. Most of this because our water is significantly less expensive. Our solid waste is 2.5X as much as Charlotte’s \$26/month vs. \$10/month? Curious as to why this is and how we can gain more efficiencies. From a financial reporting perspective, it seems we listed annual property tax and monthly fees instead of annualizing fees to get the annual cost for a median homeowner.**

ANSWER: Charlotte currently contributes \$45 million in property tax dollars toward Solid Waste Services, meaning that the city’s solid waste fee is currently lower as it covers less than half of the operating costs of the department. In the city’s FY2026 budget, they announced a plan to increase the solid waste fee to cover 50 percent of costs within four years. With the FY26 proposed budget, Raleigh will fully convert Solid Waste Services into an enterprise operation.

- 10. Mayor Cowell: Charlotte has added a new civilian crash investigation unit to free up sworn officers. Have we thought about this?**

ANSWER: Raleigh Police Dept received legislative support for a civilian crash investigation unit in late 2023 and implemented the program in 2024. The unit(s) help to address non-injury car crashes and prepare reports.

- 11. Mayor Cowell: If we took police off noise complaints and added a civilian code enforcement unit that worked on noise with individual businesses, how many positions and what kind of equipment would this entail?**

ANSWER: The City of Raleigh moved code enforcement positions from Planning and Development Services a few years back to deal with noise violations and overall vibrancy. Due to the volatile nature of the work, it was determined that sworn personnel should accompany these staff members. As a result, we have re-implemented NetForces as a force multiplier. We hope to deploy the unit more regularly to address nightlife issues.

- 12. Mayor Cowell: Parking decks – what are the assumptions around deck disposition? Would like to see more frequent cleaning of stairwells based on feedback from DRA board.**

ANSWER: Unless approached by the development community, parking deck dispositions are in a holding pattern until market conditions are more favorable to the City for a sale. Currently, Car Park, the City’s parking contractor, is in each of the City’s garage’s twice a day providing janitorial services. If they receive a call from the public or from DRA about a specific area that needs cleaning, they dispatch someone to complete that cleaning. Parking Staff has recently requested a quote from Car Park to provide an increased level of janitorial services.

13. Mayor Cowell: If money for the S-Line is non forth coming/put on hold, how does this impact our budget? What assumptions are baked into the budget around this project?

ANSWER: We have not included any funding for City costs in this budget. The S-Line is a state-led project. If federal project funds are not forth coming, it will not have a direct impact on our budget and may allow additional time to relocate some City facilities from West Street.

The City's project responsibilities rest in the future conveyance of right of way to the project, and in any potential betterments we may desire to see. These betterments, if there are any, aren't know at this time and will be developed during the project's design and engineering phase.