

# Manager's Update

[raleighnc.gov](http://raleighnc.gov)



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July 18, 2025

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## INFORMATION:

### **Duplex Village Redevelopment – Request for Proposal Update**

*Staff Resource: Angelina Blackmon, Housing & Community Dev., 996-6934, [angelina.blackmon@raleighnc.gov](mailto:angelina.blackmon@raleighnc.gov)*

The City purchased the Duplex Village site along New Bern Ave in April 2021 utilizing bond proceeds from the 2020 Affordable Housing Bond to fund the acquisition. The acquisition included approximately 3.55 acres and cost approximately \$3.7 million. The site was rezoned in March 2024 from R-10 to RX-5-GR with the Transit Overlay District (TOD). Demolition of existing duplex structures located on the property was completed in December 2024.

Following a reassessment of site conditions, staff worked closely with Community Engagement staff to solicit input from the development community to further refine project goals and strategy. Based on feedback received, a Request for Proposals (RFP) process is now scheduled to be posted to the State of North Carolina electronic vendor portal. The [North Carolina electronic Vendor Portal](#) (eVP) is the State system to connect vendors with state government organizations that purchase goods and services. The RFP is scheduled to be posted July 23, with a deadline for the submission of proposals of October 17.



**Site Location Map**

Goals of the RFP are aligned with the 2030 Comprehensive Plan as well as the *New Bern Area Plan*, with a focus on increasing affordable housing and promoting land use density in proximity to high-capacity transit along the future Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

*(No Attachment)*

### **Residential Solid Waste Collection - Needs Assistance Program - Service Schedule Adjustment**

Staff Resource: Gregory Jenkins II, Solid Waste Services, 996-3475, [gregory.jenkins@raleighnc.gov](mailto:gregory.jenkins@raleighnc.gov)

The Solid Waste Services (SWS) department provides curbside service to residential customers, the Needs Assistance Program (NAP) offers additional help for residents that cannot physically wheel the **recycling**, **yard waste**, or **garbage carts** to the curb and have no one living with them who can assist. Currently, participants in the NAP program exceed more than 1,900 customers with additional assistance.

To be considered for participation in the NAP program, customers must submit a completed application and agree to abide by program policies, procedures, terms, and conditions. To qualify for NAP, a resident must:

- Be a current Raleigh SWS customer who receives residential curbside services;
- Have a **permanent or temporary disability** and live without a non-disabled person in the residence who can move the carts to the curb;
- Submit a completed NAP application, including **Part B**, which requires a healthcare provider's signature. Only customers with complete applications are considered for eligibility into the Needs Assistance Program; and,

- Acknowledge that NAP participants may be subject to annual audits to verify continued eligibility.

Recertification may be required if circumstances change, such as a non-disabled person moving into the home or if the property is sold.



*City of Raleigh*

Beginning August 4, Solid Waste Services is implementing a schedule change for NAP customers to establish a more balanced, efficient, and consistent service model. The purpose of the schedule change is to promote consistency, operational efficiency, and a balanced workload within the special services team. Garbage and recycling collection for NAP customers will occur on the same day of the week, and all NAP staff will be under one supervisor.

Additional information on the program and eligibility requirements is available on the City [website](#).

*(No Attachment)*

### **Weekly Digest of Special Events**

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

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

*(Attachment)*

## Council Member Follow Up Items

### **Key to the City Research (Council Member Patton)**

*Staff Resource:* Louis Buonpane, City Clerk's Office, 996-3040, [louis.buonpane@raleighnc.gov](mailto:louis.buonpane@raleighnc.gov)

Earlier this year, Council requested information on and background on the custom of presenting a Key to the City. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum prepared in response to the request.

*(Attachment)*

## Weekly Events Digest

Friday, July 18 – Thursday, July 24

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

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### Permitted Special Events

#### [Run the River](#)

Neuse River Trail

Saturday, July 19

Event Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Associated Impacts: No roads will be closed for the event. The Neuse River Greenway parking lot on Settle In Lane will be used from 7:00am until 12:00pm. The Neuse River Trail extending .5 miles to the north and 1.25 miles to the south of the parking lot will be used from 9:00am until 10:00am.

#### [Live After 5](#)

City Plaza

Wednesday, July 23

Event Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Davie Street and the south end of City Plaza will be closed from 10:30am until 11:45pm.

#### [GalaxyCon Raleigh](#)

Raleigh Convention Center & Cabarrus Street

Thursday, July 24 to Sunday, July 27

Event Time (for Cabarrus Street): 2:00pm - 8:00pm on 7-24-25; 10:00am - 8:00pm on 7-25-25 & 7-26-25; 10:00am - 5:00pm on 7-27-25

Associated Road Closures: W. Cabarrus Street between S. Salisbury Street and S. McDowell Street will be closed from 10:00am until 10:00pm on 7-23-25, 1:00pm until 8:30pm on 7-24-25, 9:00am until 8:30pm on 7-25-25 and 7-26-25, and 9:00am until 5:30pm on 7-27-25.

### Other Upcoming Events

#### [NCMA Outdoor Films at Moore Square: \*The Wild Robot\*](#)

Friday, July 18

Moore Square

#### [Nate Bargatze](#)

Friday, July 18

Lenovo Center

#### [Big Time Rush](#)

Friday, July 18

Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

#### [Plant Swap](#)

Saturday, July 19

City of Raleigh Museum

#### [Resource Fair: Celebrating 35 Years of the ADA](#)

Saturday, July 19

Raleigh Convention Center



**[Find Your Glimmer Vinyl Listening Session: SEEK Raleigh](#)**

Saturday, July 19  
Artspace

**[Foodie Fare](#)**

Sunday, July 20  
Moore Square

**[Find Your Glimmer Live Jazz Jam with Harvey Cummings & Friends: SEEK Raleigh](#)**

Sunday, July 20  
Artspace

**[Summer Concert Series](#)**

Sunday, July 20  
Pullen Park

**[Cyndi Lauper](#)**

Tuesday, July 22  
Coastal Credit Union Music Park at Walnut Creek

**[Primus](#)**

Wednesday, July 23  
Red Hat Amphitheater

**[The Midweek Market](#)**

Wednesday, July 23  
Moore Square

**[“Weird Al” Yankovic](#)**

Thursday, July 24  
Red Hat Amphitheater

## **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 & 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	Mayor and Council
Thru	
From	Louis Buonpane
Department	City Clerk's Office
Date	July 18, 2025
Subject	'Key to the City' Research

Earlier this year, Council requested information on and background on the custom of presenting a Key to the City. Records from the minutes of the Raleigh City Council indicate that last time a Key to the City was presented in Raleigh was in 1998.

The information provided below is the result of staff research of the City Council minutes and internet searches.

## **Key to the City**

### Background and Context

The tradition of presenting a Key to the City was first awarded in 1702 by Mayor Phillip French, when he offered "Freedom of the City" to Viscount Edward Cornbury, Governor of New York and New Jersey. By the mid-1800s, it became customary to award the Key to the City as a direct symbol of the City's wish that a guest feel free to come and go at will.

In the modern era, the Key to the City is a symbol of civic recognition and gratitude reserved for individuals whose service to the public and the common good rises to the highest level of achievement.

In New York City, the current Key resembles the large skeleton key that opens the back door of City Hall but is now purely symbolic – it does not open any locks or doors.

**Source:** New York City [website](https://www.nyc.gov) (nyc.gov)



**Below are excerpts from minutes of the Raleigh City Council where a "Key to the City" was referenced.**

*In 1974, Mayor Lightner presented a key to the City of Raleigh to the North Carolina State Basketball Team and their Coach for bringing recognition to the City. Mayor Lightner read a proclamation granting the players and coaches the privileges and rights of honorary citizens.*

**03/18/1974**

**WOLFPACK COUNTRY - PROCLAMATION - KEY TO THE CITY PRESENTED**

North Carolina State Basketball Coach Norman Sloan was at the meeting and Mayor Lightner asked him to come forward. He indicated the City wants to pay tribute to the North Carolina State Wolfpack Basketball Team and staff who has brought recognition to the City. Mayor Lightner then read a proclamation declaring the Wolfpack players and coaches be granted the privileges and rights of Raleigh Citizenship as honorary citizens and declaring Greensboro Wolfpack Country for the week of March 17, 1974. In accepting the proclamation Coach Sloan explained the players were unable to be at the meeting today and asked Sports Director Ed Seamans to stand. Mayor Lightner then presented the State Basketball Team and Coach a key to the City of Raleigh to be displayed in their trophy case.

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*In 1975, Mayor Pro Tem Keeter presented Mayor Lightner and Councilman J. Oliver Williams with keys to the City, thanking them both for their expertise and guidance while serving the citizens of Raleigh.*

**11/18/1975**

**APPRECIATION - MAYOR LIGHTNER AND COUNCILMAN WILLIAMS - EXPRESSED**

Mayor Pro Tem Keeter asked that Councilman J. Oliver Williams come forward and presented Mr. Williams with a key to the City. In making the presentation Mr. Keeter expressed the Council's appreciation for Mr. Williams' guidance, expertise and knowledge during his tenure on the City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Keeter then presented Mayor Lightner with an inscribed key to the City as well as a City of Raleigh flag in appreciation for his service as a Council member, member of the Law and Finance Committee, Chairman of the Law and Finance Committee, Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor of the City of Raleigh. Both Mayor Lightner and Mr. Williams made remarks upon receipt of the expressions of gratitude from the City Council.

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*In 1977, Mayor Pro Tem Keeter presented Mayor Jyles J. Coggins with a plaque of appreciation and key to the City.*

**11/15/1977**

MAYOR - PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION, KEY TO THE CITY AND BOOK - PRESENTED

Mayor Pro Tem Keeter presented Mayor Jyles J. Coggins with a plaque of appreciation from the City Council, a key to the City of Raleigh, and a book entitled "Raleigh". Mayor Pro Tem Keeter then recognized members of Mayor Coggins' family who were in the audience.

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*In 1979, Mayor Cannon presented a key to the City to Mayor Pro Tem Wilson, thanking him for his work as a Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem.*

*Later in the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Wilson presented Mayor Cannon with a key to the City as a token of appreciation from Council.*

**11/20/1979**

MAYOR PRO TEM WILSON - PLAQUE AND KEY TO THE CITY PRESENTED

Mayor Cannon presented an engraved plaque and key to the City to Mayor Pro Tem Wilson for all of his work as a Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem during the past two years. Mayor Pro Tem Wilson accepted the plaque and key and expressed appreciation.

MAYOR CANNON - PLAQUE AND KEY - ACCEPTED

Mayor Pro Tem Wilson presented an engraved plaque and key to the City to Mayor Cannon as a token of appreciation from the Council for the work done by Mayor Cannon in the past two years. He indicated we have had a great two years; the Council had differences but have had fun and accomplished a lot. He indicated it was felt by all that Mayor Cannon has done an amazing job and has served the City well. Mayor Cannon accepted the plaque and key, indicating the past two years have been marvelous, exciting and challenging years. She indicated she had learned a great deal and had tried to serve the City well. She indicated she felt the Council had done many great things during the past two years. She expressed appreciation to those who have supported her and the Council who worked with her.

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*In 1979, City Council awarded Ernie Barnes, a native of Durham, with a key to the City for his work on an art exhibit, which was featured in the Legislative Building.*

**05/15/1979**

ERNIE BARNES - TO RECEIVE KEY TO THE CITY

Mr. Knight indicated Ernie Barnes, a native of Durham, North Carolina, will be in Raleigh kicking off an art exhibit on Sunday, May 20, pointing out his work will be displayed in the Legislative Building. He explained the ceremonies that will take place and indicated he had requested the Mayor to present him a key to the City. Mr. Knight briefly explained the activities that will take place and pointed out Council members are invited to attend the reception, etc. Mr. Knight MOVED THAT

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IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION THAT THE COUNCIL AWARD ERNIE BARNES WITH A KEY TO THE CITY OF RALEIGH. His motion was seconded by Mr. Womble and put to a vote which resulted in all members voting in the affirmative. THE MAYOR RULED THE MOTION ADOPTED. Mr. Knight indicated he will be at the ceremony and will be happy to present the key to the City to Mr. Barnes on behalf of the City of Raleigh.

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*In 1980, Mayor York presented a key to the City to Councilman William R. Knight, for his service as a City Council member.*

**01/08/1980**

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL AWARDS

KNIGHT - WILLIAM R. - PLAQUE AND KEY TO THE CITY - PRESENTED

Mayor York called on former Councilman William R. Knight and recognized him for the service he rendered to the City as a Councilman during the years 1973-79. Mayor York presented an engraved plaque to Mr. Knight and a key to the City. It was pointed out that it happened to be Mr. Knight's birthday and the Council and the audience joined in singing happy birthday. Mr. Knight accepted the plaque and the key, indicating he felt there has got to be a better city than Raleigh, North Carolina, but as of yet he hasn't found it.

.....  
*In 1980, City Council presented Mackie (Mary) Hamilton with a key to the City for her work on various unique activities to help revitalize neighborhoods in Norfolk, VA.*

**09/16/1980**

KEY TO THE CITY - PRESENTED TO MARY HAMILTON

Mrs. Block asked for a point of personal privilege to introduce a friend of hers attending the meeting. Mrs. Block introduced Mrs. Mackie (Mary) Hamilton from Norfolk, Virginia. Mrs. Block explained that she had known Mrs. Hamilton since her days at the Citadel and explained Mrs. Hamilton and her husband have lived throughout the country, pointing out when they moved to Norfolk, Virginia, they were part of the model cities program and moved into a neighborhood and helped completely revitalize the neighborhood. She explained other activities of a unique nature that Mrs. Hamilton has participated in. Mrs. Block asked for permission to present Mrs. Hamilton with a key to the City of Raleigh. Without objection, this was agreed to and Mrs. Block presented the key.

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*In 1984, Mayor Upchurch presented a key to the City to Vice Presidential Candidate Geraldine Ferraro, recognizing her as the first woman to ever be nominated as Vice President of the United States.*

**10/02/1984**

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VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GERALDINE FERRARO - KEY TO THE CITY

Mayor Upchurch indicated yesterday, he appeared at the Geraldine Ferraro rally and presented her with a key to the City of Raleigh. He stated he did this in honor and respect to the first woman to ever be nominated as Vice President of the United States.

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*In 1984, Mayor Upchurch presented a key to the City to Waltye Rusulala for her contributions to the City, including her work on the Arts Commission.*

**11/06/1984**

PRESENTATION - KEY TO THE CITY AWARDED TO WALTYE RUSULALA

Mayor Upchurch indicated Waltye Rusulala has recently moved to Cary. He indicated, during her residency in the City of Raleigh, Ms. Rusulala has made great contributions including serving as chairperson of the Arts Commission. He indicated Ms. Rusulala helped in the dedication of the Municipal Building by singing the National Anthem. He presented Ms. Rusulala with a key to the City.

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*In 1986, City Council established various recommendations for gifts awarded by Council, included the "key to the City".*

**05/20/1986**

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

\*\*\*COUNCIL GIFTS - APPROVED - TRANSFER OF FUNDS AUTHORIZED - POLICY HELD IN COMMITTEE

Chairman Walters reported the following recommendations:

- (1) The Committee recommends that the Council appropriate \$8,000 for the purchase of gift items for disbursement by the Council to officials and dignitaries.
- (2) The Committee recommends that the following assortment of gifts be purchased from this appropriation in minimum lots:
  - a. Jeweler Medallion (City Seal) set in lucite
  - b. Walnut memo boxes bearing City seal
  - c. Porcelain mugs in green with City seal
  - d. City seal (die struck) set in brass key chains
  - e. City seal (die struck) set into lapel pins
- (3) The Committee recommends that pencils, rulers and plastic litter bags be purchased for distribution to school children visiting the Municipal Building.
- (4) The Committee recommends that the presentation of the Key to the City be continued and that each recipient of the key also receive an Honorary Citizenship Certificate.
- (5) The Committee recommends that the Public Affairs Department develop a video tape of Raleigh.
- (6) The matter of disbursement policy for these gifts is held in committee for further study.

Mr. Walters moved that the Committee's recommendation be approved and the transfer of funds authorized. His motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell.

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*In 1986, City Council further discuss their policy for gift distribution, included a key to the City.*



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*In 1991, Mayor Upchurch presented twenty-two representatives from Belgium a key to the City, pointing out that it was a symbol to the City of Raleigh opening its door to its visitors.*

**04/02/1991**

**BELGIUM - GUESTS RECOGNIZED**

Merle Creech expressed appreciation to the City Council for their support of Artspllosure and her personally during her tenure as Artspllosure Director with the City of Raleigh. She indicated her last representation of the City of Raleigh is concluding the 1990-91 Raleigh Belgium Exchange Program. She explained the program puts people in home situations and pointed out last summer 36 persons from Raleigh, Smithfield and Durham spent two weeks in Belgium. She indicated she is happy today to be a part of the return portion of that exchange. She introduced 22 Belgium residents who are in the area on the return visit. She explained the Belgium visit was coordinated by the Fire Chief of the town, pointing out his particular town has 3 nuclear stacks in the middle of the City. Representatives of Belgium, through an interpreter, expressed appreciation and gratitude for the hospitality they have received since they have been in the area. They presented the Mayor with a framed

4/2/91  
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print from their area as well as a chocolate bar with the presenter pointing out the first time he ever saw an American was when a black American soldier gave him a chocolate bar. Mayor Upchurch presented the delegation a key to the city pointing out it was a symbol to the opening of the door of the City of Raleigh to its visitors.

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*In 1992, Mayor Upchurch presented Jenó Manninger, a member of the Budapest City Council, with a key to the City.*

**06/16/1992**

**BUDAPEST CITY COUNCIL MEMBER - JENÓ MANNINGER - RECOGNIZED**

Mayor Upchurch recognized Jenó Manninger, a member of the Budapest City Council. He explained Mr. Manninger is assigned to the Council's Committee for World Exhibition to be held in Budapest in 1996. He sits on the Council's City Management Committee which handles urban transportation and environmental issues. He is a member of the Hungarian Democratic Forum which emphasizes political and personal freedom, human rights, a social protective net and espouses the desire to belong to the new European Community. He explained Mr. Manninger was a campaign organizer for the party's parliamentary and municipal elections. He is a lecturer at the YBL Miklos Technical College of Engineering where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering. Mayor Upchurch explained Mr. Manninger has been in the area since June 8 touring North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina, the Institute of Government, and attended the City/County Managers' Conference. Mayor Upchurch welcomed Mr. Manninger as an official representative from Budapest and presented him with a key to the City of Raleigh.

In accepting the key, Mr. Manninger indicated this is his first visit to the State and expressed appreciation for all of the courtesies extended to him.

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*In 1993, Mayor Upchurch presented a key to the City to Dominique Barber, who was the Poster Child for Sickle Cell Anemia for North Carolina.*

**10/06/1993**

Mayor Upchurch called the meeting to order and the following items were discussed with action taken as shown.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL AWARDS

**SICKLE CELL ANEMIA - POSTER CHILD - INTRODUCED**

Mayor Upchurch several weeks ago, Mayor Pro/Tem Franklin participated in an event that they would like to repeat. Mayor Pro/Tem Franklin stated a few weeks ago that she had an opportunity to meet the North Carolina Poster Child for Sickle Cell Anemia. She explained Dwight Spencer was the organizer of the event which was put on to help raise funds for research in that area.

Mr. Spencer introduced Eric Echols and Dominique Barber, pointing out Dominique is the North Carolina Poster Child. Mr. Spencer explained each year the Young Christian's sponsor the fund raiser to help out research in Sickle Cell Anemia. He explained that is a disease that predominately affects the African American people and a lot of education and research is needed. Mayor Upchurch presented a key to the city to Dominique Barber, pointing out the key is something we give to special people who work on special projects and he hopes that all of us working together can make a difference. Dominique's mother express appreciation to the Council on be half of Dominique and all people across the country pointing out many are affected by Sickle Cell Anemia. She stated they would like an opportunity to help educate as many people as they can as they live with this day in and day out. She stated they are available to go to clubs, organizations, etc. and talk about the problems and efforts to alleviate the problems. Dominique presented tee-shirts to all Council Members and the representative from the North Carolina Sickle Cell Anemia Association was recognized.

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*In 1998, Mayor Fetzer presented local television anchor Kelly Wright with a key to the City, as a symbol of the City's gratitude for his work in the Raleigh area.*

**08/04/1998**

**RECOGNITION - KELLY WRIGHT - PRESENTED**

Mayor Fetzer recognized Kelly Wright pointing out we have many good electronic broadcast media in the City of Raleigh and he was not singling out any particular one. He stated however, he would like to recognize Kelly Wright who has worked behind the camera and on the anchor desk at one of the local electronic broadcast medias. He stated Mr. Wright is leaving our community and going to serve a new community and presented Mr. Wright with a key to the City of Raleigh as a symbol of the City's gratitude for his work in the area. Mr. Wright pointed out that the Mayor and Council members will never know who much they have touched his heart. He stated Raleigh has always been like his home. He stated he is going back to an area to be closer to an ailing relative and he will miss Raleigh and called on the Council to continue on the work to make Raleigh one of the best cities in the United States. He stated it has been a pleasure to serve the area. He stated his present job has left the door open for him to come back at some point if he so desires. He expressed appreciation to all.



### North Carolina Results from Online Research

Durham	<p>Durham awarded a key to then DHHS Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen in 2021 for her work during the COVID pandemic</p> <p>Durham also gave their outgoing city manager a key at the end of last year.</p>	<a href="chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.durhamnc.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5073">chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.durhamnc.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/5073</a>  <a href="https://www.dukechronicle.com/article/2024/12/duke-university-durham-city-council-appoint-new-city-manager-bo-ferguson-replace-wanda-page-civil-rights-proclamation-sam-cooke-a-change-is-gonna-come-william-v-bill-bell-way">https://www.dukechronicle.com/article/2024/12/duke-university-durham-city-council-appoint-new-city-manager-bo-ferguson-replace-wanda-page-civil-rights-proclamation-sam-cooke-a-change-is-gonna-come-william-v-bill-bell-way</a>
Charlotte	Charlotte awarded a key to the city in 2022 to NBA player Stephen Curry, a Charlotte native	<a href="https://www.wsoc.tv/news/local/steph-curry-receives-key-city-charlotte/ZBG4IKTFPNAHNMVPFXZD4K2C3Y/">https://www.wsoc.tv/news/local/steph-curry-receives-key-city-charlotte/ZBG4IKTFPNAHNMVPFXZD4K2C3Y/</a>
Asheville	Asheville awarded a key to the city to Ani DiFranco in March of this year. DiFranco is a singer/songwriter and I'm unsure what her connection is to Asheville	<a href="https://828newsnow.com/news/228822-video-watch-ani-difranco-receive-key-to-the-city-of-asheville/">https://828newsnow.com/news/228822-video-watch-ani-difranco-receive-key-to-the-city-of-asheville/</a>

### Information from Other US Cities

#### New York City

- December 11, 2019: Kenneth and Kathryn Chenault, for their leadership in the arts, business, and philanthropy
- September 17, 2019: Det. Luis Alvarez (*posthumous*), for his advocacy for 9/11 survivors and first responders
- July 10, 2019: U.S. Women's National Soccer Team, World Cup Champions
- June 29, 2019: 1969 "Miracle Mets" World Series Champion Team
- December 11, 2018: Laurie M. Tisch, for her leadership in the arts and philanthropy
- December 7, 2017: Richard Parsons, for his leadership in the arts, business, and philanthropy
- April 28, 2017: Dwight "Doc" Gooden, member of the 1986 Mets World Series Champion team who did not receive a key in 1986
- January 9, 2016: Ray Pfeifer, for his advocacy to pass the Zadroga Bill to provide health care to 9/11 survivors and first responders

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- October 20, 2015: Joan K. Davidson, for her leadership in philanthropy and her service as the founding chair of the Gracie Mansion Conservancy
- July 10, 2015: U.S. Women's National Soccer Team, World Cup Champions
- July 26, 2024: Mayor Adams Awards Key to the City of New York to Legendary New York Musician and Philanthropist Billy Joel

Source: New York City [website](https://www.nyc.gov) (nyc.gov)

### Pittsburgh

- The key was used as an incentive for people to purchase war bonds during World War II. In 1944, the Pittsburgh Press noted that the individual who bought the most bonds would be awarded "permanent possession of a gold key to the city and the privilege of hearing Councilman A.L. Wolk sing, 'We're Here, We're There, We're Everywhere.'"

### Detroit

- In 1980, Detroit presented a key to the city to Saddam Hussein.

### **List of Keys Awarded in North Carolina, by City** (source: Wikipedia)

#### Boone

January 21, 1980: Special Olympics North Carolina

July 5, 1983: The Motor Maids

#### Charlotte

Stephen Curry, professional basketball player for the Golden State Warriors of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and fellow Charlottean received the Key to the city from Mayor Vi Lyles in 2022.

#### Fayetteville

May 27, 2025: J. Harrison Ghee, actor, singer, and dancer.

#### Hickory

November 19, 2021: Sheri Everts, Chancellor of Appalachian State University.

#### High Point

Billy Quick, a High Point native and a Special Olympics athlete and ambassador.

October 13, 2017: Kathy Ireland, American model and actress, turned author and entrepreneur; received the key from High Point mayor Bill Bencini.

December 3, 2023: Danny and Dolly Jennings were given a Key to the city from High Point Mayor Jay Wagner. This was in honor of all they have done for High Point. They are owners of Bicycle Toy and Hobby Sales.

June 16, 2024: Fantasia Barrino was given a key to the city in honor of her music career

#### Huntersville

March 15, 2021: Two teenagers, Owen and Walker, were awarded keys to the city for alerting authorities to the 2020 Colonial Pipeline oil spill.

#### Wilmington

June 20, 2013: Stephen King, author, was awarded the Key to the City at an advance screening of the CBS series Under the Dome, based on a novel by King.

March 28, 2025: Alex Highsmith, NFL linebacker.

#### **Summary**

Although the Raleigh City Council minutes are varied, typically the presentation of a Key to the City is within the prerogative of the Mayor. As with all recognitions of living persons, the bestowing of a Key to the City may subsequently reflect poorly based on the actions and choices of a recipient later in life (see Detroit entry on previous page).