

Manager's Update

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City Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed on Monday, January 19** in observance of the **Martin Luther King Jr.** holiday.

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, January 20; Lunch Work Session at 11:30 - Lunch Will be Provided

Council will meet in regular work session at **11:30 A.M.** in the **Council Chamber**. Please note the agenda for the lunch work session is included with the regular meeting agenda and may be accessed via the eScribe electronic agenda system:

<https://pub-raleighnc.escribemeetings.com/>

The **regular** Council meeting begins at **1:00 P.M.**

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

INFORMATION:

Solid Waste Services Yard Waste Center Composting Pilot Update

Staff Resource: Shikha Gupta, Solid Waste Services, 996-7692, shikha.gupta@raleighnc.gov

In April 2025 staff presented the Organics Management Feasibility Study Phase 1 Summary and Results to Council to assess the scope of expanding processing and collections services currently offered by Solid Waste Services (SWS) to develop a sustainable food waste management solution.

The Yard Waste Center (YWC) does not accept food waste for processing and there is currently no other alternative within Wake County. There is interest from surrounding municipalities in a potential solution. The Yard Waste Center staff will explore pathways to enable viable food waste processing beginning in FY26 by initiating a six-month Food Waste Processing Pilot Program timeline.

Within the scope of the pilot, the Yard Waste Center will process 55 tons of pre-identified food waste supplied by a designated private partner over a six-month time frame. No additional food waste from other sources will be collected or processed as part of this pilot.

On January 5, SWS launched a soft opening of the Food Waste Processing Pilot Program. A third-party vendor delivered 8 tons of food waste to the Yard Waste Center. The food waste was mixed with organic matter, piled on pad, and capped in mulch with temperature probes to monitor the progress. It will take 30 to 35 days for the food waste to fully breakdown using the Aerated Static Pile method; the process differs from the turned windrow method used for yard waste processing. The table below lists the program timeline:

Timeline	Start	Finish
Site Preparation	7/1/25	11/30/25
Compost System Install	9/25/25	12/23/25
Batch #1 - Process	1/5/26	3/27/26
Batch #2 - Process	2/2/26	4/30/26
Batch #3 - Process	3/2/26	5/29/26
Project Data Review	6/1/26	6/30/26
Final Report	6/30/26	7/10/26

It is anticipated the pilot program will assess the feasibility of organic food waste processing at the Yard Waste Center and identify optimal operational approaches to support data-driven decision-making. While the pilot does not include a collection service, Solid Waste Services is evaluating potential collection models and regional partnerships. Findings from the pilot will inform whether the site should be considered for conversion to a permanent food waste processing facility and will play a key role in determining a potential future approach to residential food waste collection. Long-term site improvements will be required and may include facility design, construction, and re-permitting by the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

(No attachment)

Design Review Commission - Legacy Project Revamp

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

For the past several years, the Design Review Commission (DRC, formerly the Appearance Commission) has operated the Legacy Project program to award small grants - typically in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000. The program assists projects and initiatives that enhance aesthetic character through research, creative programming, and improvements to the built environment. Using past projects as a guide, the Commission plans to modernize the program and align with other similar grants awarded by the City. More information is included in the attached memo and will also be included in the DRC's Annual Report and Work Plan.

(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

General Follow Up

Suburban and Urban Development Trends: Initial Analysis (Mayor Cowell)

Staff Resource: Benton Tripp, Planning and Development, 996-2652, benton.tripps@raleighnc.gov

Council inquired about historical and recent development trends throughout Raleigh, with a focus on whether prior decades saw a majority of growth in suburban areas and if current trends reflect a majority of growth in urban areas through infill and redevelopment projects. The Planning and Development Technology unit conducted a proxy analysis of Wake County tax data to provide an initial answer and reflect development trends. That analysis is attached for reference. Planning and Development is committed to completing a deeper analysis of historical and recent development trends through the Reflecting Raleigh Comprehensive Plan update process.

(Attachment)

Community Enhancement Grant Information

Staff Resource: *Ashley Tucker, Housing & Community Development, 996-6935, ashley.tucker@raleighnc.gov*

The Housing and Community Development department prepared the following information in response to questions staff received regarding the Community Enhancement Grant (CEG) program. The CEG program supports eligible public service activities benefiting low- and moderate-income residents and is administered in alignment with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requirements and the adopted Consolidated Plan.

Program performance is monitored through contractual requirements, required reporting in the grants management system (Neighborly), and ongoing staff oversight. Standardized outcome data (including households served, services delivered, and progress toward project-specific goals) is used to assess effectiveness and fulfill HUD reporting obligations through the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). Applications are evaluated using a standardized scoring rubric and staff review committee to support a consistent and transparent funding process.

The information below is intended to support transparency around program design, oversight, and accountability and may be used for broader Council awareness.

Community Enhancement Grant (CEG) Program Overview

The CEG program supports eligible public service activities that benefit low- and moderate-income residents, consistent with HUD CDBG requirements and the City's Consolidated Plan. Program-level outcomes focus on:

- Improving access to essential community services
- Supporting housing stability and neighborhood well-being
- Strengthening nonprofit service delivery capacity

Outcomes are established at both the program and project level through approved scopes of work tied to eligible CDBG national objectives.

Performance Measurement and Oversight

The City measures program success through multiple mechanisms designed to ensure accountability and alignment with approved goals, including:

- Contractual performance metrics outlined in each grantee's Statement of Work
- Required reporting through the City's grants management system (Neighborly)
- Ongoing reimbursement reviews tied to documented activities and outcomes

Grantees report progress throughout the program year, allowing staff to monitor performance and address issues as they arise.

Data Collection and Reporting

The City collects standardized data across funded projects, including:

- Number of individuals or households served
- Type and scope of services delivered
- Progress toward project-specific outcome measures

This information is used to evaluate overall program performance and fulfill federal reporting requirements, including inclusion in the City's CAPER submitted to HUD.

Program Performance

Performance is assessed based on compliance with federally approved scopes of work and contractual requirements, consistent with HUD CDBG regulations.

Application Review and Scoring Process

Grant applications are reviewed by a staff review committee composed of employees with relevant experience in community development and nonprofit program administration. Applications are evaluated using a standardized scoring rubric that assesses:

- CDBG eligibility
- Program design and service delivery approach
- Organizational and financial capacity

This process is intended to promote consistency, transparency, and alignment with federal requirements and local priorities. The scoring rubric included in the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Request for Proposals is available upon request.

(No attachment)

Follow up from the January 6 Council Meeting

Anticipated Revenue from Sale of Environmental Credits (Council Member Patton)

Staff Contact: Erika Bailey, Raleigh Water, 996-3713, erika.bailey@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council adopted a resolution to authorize the sale of environmental credits, called Renewable Identification Numbers (RINs), generated by the production of renewable natural gas at the City's Bioenergy Recovery Project Facility and its use as a sustainable fuel for the GoRaleigh transit compressed natural gas bus fleet. The resolution authorizes the sale RINs generated between July 1, 2025 and February 15, 2026 via a public auction. The proceeds from this sale will support operation and maintenance of the City's water and sewer enterprise. Council inquired about anticipated RIN revenues and requested an example of what this projected revenue could support in operation and maintenance of the City's water and sewer enterprise. This follow-up summary is being provided to further explain RIN revenue projections and to provide an example of how this would help to cover a major operating expense for the water and sewer enterprise.

To date, the City has a total of 529,532 RINs available for sale under this adopted resolution. Each RIN represents the equivalent of a gallon of renewable fuel generated by our Bioenergy Recovery Project and used for transportation. These RINs were generated between July and November 2025, with the majority generated between August and November following initial start-up of the renewable natural gas production at the Bioenergy Recovery Facility. It was noted during the Council presentation that RIN prices are variable and depend on market conditions. The Environmental Protection Agency reports on unit price sales trends. The most recent listed unit price on the EPA website was from late November 2025 and was reported at

\$2.45 per RIN. If this unit price were obtained, the available RINs currently available to sell under the adopted resolution represent a potential revenue of \$1.297 million.

Looking forward, if an average of 120,000 RINs per month can be generated, then the projected annual RIN production would be 1.4 million RINs with an estimated annual revenue of \$3.5 million at the current reported unit RIN price.

The Raleigh Water utility Fiscal Year 2026 budget includes \$3.3 million in anticipated RIN sales. Projected annual RIN revenue assumptions are included in the water and sewer rate model in Fiscal Year 2027 and beyond. RIN revenue will help to offset operating and maintenance expenses of the water and sewer enterprise. For example, it can help to offset wastewater treatment power costs, which is one of the largest operating expenses associated with wastewater treatment. The Fiscal Year 2025 total power cost for the Neuse River Resource Recovery Facility (NRRRF), which is currently the largest wastewater treatment plant in North Carolina, was just over \$4.3 million or an average of approximately \$360,000 per month. The potential revenue associated with the first RIN sale would help to offset almost 4 months of power costs at the NRRRF. Looking forward, the projected annual RIN revenue may cover up to 80% of the total NRRRF power costs.

(No attachment)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director
From	Keegan McDonald, AICP, Land Development Manager
Department	Planning and Development
Date	January 16, 2026
Subject	Design Review Commission – Legacy Project Revamp

Overview

For the past several years, the Design Review Commission (DRC) (formerly the Appearance Commission) has operated the Legacy Project program to award small grants—typically ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000. The program assists projects and initiatives that enhance the City's aesthetic character through research, creative programming, and improvements to the built environment. For example, in FY25 the program funded enhancements to fencing and landscaping at the new Moore Square Dog Park, in partnership with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

Despite the program's success, it has remained relatively informal. The Commission has relied on its members to solicit proposals from their personal and professional networks and there is not a defined set of application and/or review criteria. Using past projects as a guide, the Commission believes now is an opportune time to modernize the program and align it with other similar grants awarded by the City. This effort will include several enhancements, such as:

- Dedicated Webpage and Application Portal on RaleighNC.gov
- Minimum Application Requirements
- Evaluation Criteria
- Eligible and Ineligible Expenditure List
- Detailed Application Process and Timeline
- FAQs
- Staff Contacts

In addition, the DRC proposes changing the program's name to the Design Impact Grant, to better align with their mission and the purpose of the program.

Last, the DRC will incorporate information related to this revamp into its Annual Report and Work Plan in the Spring of 2026.

Budget Considerations

The Legacy Project program is funded using residual funds from the DRC's Sir Walter Raleigh Awards budget (\$30,000) and Operating budget (\$10,000). After other expenses they are usually left with \$10,000 to dedicate towards the Legacy Project.

In light of these funding sources, there are no associated compliance/sub-recipient compliance requirements for these grants. All other procurement requirements will continue to be followed.

Proposed Timeline

Staff proposes the following timeline for the next award cycle:

- February 2026: Applicants may submit proposals using the online form.
- March 2026: Staff and the Design Review Commission review proposals and contact finalists.
- April 2026: Finalists present their proposals to the Design Review Commission.
- Early May 2026: The Design Review Commission selects awardees.
- Mid-May 2026 through June 2026: Depending on the award amount, awardees work with staff to complete necessary contract paperwork.
- July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027: Funds are dispersed, and awardees implement projects in accordance with the proposed timeline.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, January 16 – Thursday, January 22

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events

specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

Permitted Special Events

46th Annual Triangle Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial March

Fayetteville Street District & Capital District

Monday, January 19

Event Time: 11:00am - 11:45am

Associated Road Closures: Edenton Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 10:00am until 12:00pm. The march route will be closed from 10:50am until 12:00pm; note that all cross-streets will be detoured during the event and see below for turn-by-turn details:

- Start at Edenton Street between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street
- Left onto Salisbury Street
- Left onto Morgan Street
- Right onto Fayetteville Street
- Right onto Lenoir Street
- Left onto Salisbury Street
- Left onto South Street for disassembly on Martin Marietta Center property

Downtown Raleigh Home Show

Raleigh Convention Center & Cabarrus Street

Friday, January 23 - Sunday, January 25

Event Times: 10:00am - 8:00pm on 1-23-26 & 1-24-26; 10:00am - 6:00pm on 1-25-26

Associated Road Closures (for load-in and -out only): W. Cabarrus Street between S. McDowell Street and S. Salisbury Street will be closed during the following dates and times:

- 8:00am - 8:00pm on 1-21-26
- 8:00am - 12:00pm on 1-22-26
- 6:00pm - 12:00am on 1-25-26
- 8:00am - 12:00pm on 1-26-26

ARTivation: The Iceberg Trail

Market Plaza

Through Monday, February 16

Event Time: 8:00am - 11:00pm daily

Associated Impacts: Market Plaza will be used until 11:45pm on 2-17-26.

Other Upcoming Events

Florida Panthers vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Friday, January 16

Lenovo Center

Revolution: The Music of The Beatles Presented by NC Symphony

Friday, January 16 & Saturday, January 17

Meymandi Concert Hall

Georgia Tech vs. NC State

Saturday, January 17

Lenovo Center

City of Oaks Challenge

Saturday, January 17 – Monday, January 19
Raleigh Convention Center

Plant Swap

Saturday, January 17
City of Raleigh Museum

Loudon Wainwright III Presented by PineCone

Saturday, January 17
Fletcher Opera Theater

When Community Gathers

Sunday, January 18
John P. “Top” Greene African American Cultural Center

Gabby's Dollhouse Live! Presented by Walmart

Sunday, January 18
Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

Triangle African American Theater Preview '26

Sunday, January 18
Raleigh Little Theatre

The 46th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Noon Ecumenical Service

Monday, January 19
Meymandi Concert Hall

King Day: A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, January 19
John Chavis Memorial Park

Buffalo Sabres vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Monday, January 19
Lenovo Center

National Day of Racial Healing

Tuesday, January 20
City of Raleigh Museum

Chicago Blackhawks vs. Carolina Hurricanes

Thursday, January 22
Lenovo Center

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.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, January 16 – Thursday, January 22

City of Raleigh Office of Special Events

specialevents@raleighnc.gov | 919-996-2200 | raleighnc.gov/special-events-office

New Amplified Noise Ordinance Takes Effect January 2026

The City Council approved a [new amplified noise ordinance](#), which went into effect Jan. 1, 2026. Stadiums, arenas, and outdoor sports or entertainment venues, including amphitheaters, are exempt. Parades, outdoor events, races, festivals, and concerts that receive a permit from the Office of Special Events are also not subject to the ordinance.

Council Member Follow Up



memo

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning & Development Director
From	Ray Aull, Technology Supervisor Benton Tripp, Technology Analyst Tia Francis, GIS Analyst
Department	Planning and Development
Date	January 16, 2026
Subject	Suburban and Urban Development Trends: Initial Analysis

Mayor Cowell recently inquired about historical and recent development trends throughout Raleigh, with a focus on whether prior decades saw a majority of growth in suburban areas and if current trends reflect a majority of growth in urban areas through infill and redevelopment projects.

Unfortunately, there is no existing dataset that identifies whether a project was greenfield or redevelopment without a lengthy analysis. The Planning and Development Technology unit conducted a proxy analysis of Wake County tax data to provide an initial answer to Mayor Cowell's inquiry and depict overall development trends. Planning and Development is committed to completing a deeper analysis of historical and recent development trends through the Reflecting Raleigh Comprehensive Plan update process.

As a proxy, the Technology unit analyzed Wake County tax data for Year Built and presumed that if the property's annexation year was within 10-years prior to that date or development occurred prior to annexation, it was greenfield/"suburban" land. Development long after annexation was presumed to be more likely to be infill. For the percentage math, staff analyzed all Heated Square Footage built within each time frame versus the estimated Suburban/Infill split.

This initial analysis will inherently miss some projects that annexed and then stalled with market conditions and developed later or those that had incredibly long lead times. As a quick turnaround analysis with some caveats, the table and chart below reflect the findings. The analysis is divided into 5-year intervals for comparison purposes.

Key Findings

- Prior decades (1970-2004) saw 68-73% of growth in suburban/greenfield areas, while current development (2015-2024) shows 73-74% occurring through infill and redevelopment.
- Infill development first exceeded suburban development around 2010-2014 (54% vs 46%).
- The shift accelerated post-2010, coinciding with recovery from the Great Recession and potentially reflecting changing market preferences and implementation of the more urban growth pattern envisioned in the 2009-2030 Comprehensive Plan.
- Peak total development occurred in 2000-2004 (67.9 million sq ft), driven primarily by suburban growth. Recent periods show strong infill activity despite lower total volume.

Years	Infill Development Activity (Heated Sq Ft)	Infill % of Total Activity	Suburban Development Activity (Heated Sq Ft)	Suburban % of Total Activity	Total Development Activity (Heated Sq Ft)
1970 - 1974	7,938,053	27%	21,750,360	73%	29,688,413
1975 - 1979	5,829,158	30%	13,329,756	70%	19,158,914
1980 - 1984	10,515,513	32%	22,459,693	68%	32,975,206
1985 - 1989	13,846,345	32%	29,480,084	68%	43,326,429
1990 - 1994	7,673,659	29%	18,997,452	71%	26,671,111
1995 - 1999	13,568,558	27%	36,207,249	73%	49,775,807
2000 - 2004	19,451,388	29%	48,404,856	71%	67,856,244
2005 - 2009	23,588,997	42%	32,717,579	58%	56,306,576
2010 - 2014	15,652,715	54%	13,182,521	46%	28,835,236
2015 - 2019	28,878,319	73%	10,639,035	27%	39,517,354

2020 - 2024	36,337,867	74%	12,991,345	26%	49,329,212
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