

Manager's Update

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INFORMATION:

City Offices Closed in Observance of Independence Day

Please note City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Friday, July 4** in observance of the **Independence Day** holiday.

Regular Council Meeting Tuesday, July 1 - Afternoon and Evening Sessions

Reminder that Council will meet next **Tuesday** in regularly scheduled sessions at **1:00 P.M.** and **7:00 P.M.** The agenda for the meeting was published on Thursday. Due to the adopted annual meeting schedule reflecting one (1) meeting in July, there will be a **public comment** period during the **evening session**.

New Agenda System Online

With implementation of the new agenda and meeting management software (**eScribe**), Council will receive a system email notification followed by an email notification from council staff following publication of the meeting agenda. As a reminder, other boards and commissions will migrate to the new platform over the

remainder of this year; those boards will continue to utilize the previous system (**BoardDocs**) until converted. The public may continue to access both current and prior City Council information via the [City Council Agendas and Minutes](#) page on the city website. In addition, information from prior City Council meetings including agendas and meeting minutes will continue to be accessed via BoardDocs until completion of data migration.

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

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

Permit Process Improvement – Progress Update

Staff Resource: Daniel Stegall, Planning & Development, 996-2712, daniel.stegall@raleighnc.gov

Staff has undertaken many process improvements and operational changes to make the development review process more timely, predictable and customer oriented over this past fiscal year. These efforts have been made possible due to implementation of a department *Innovation Team* which is tasked with prioritizing stakeholder engagement, investigating issues, identifying solutions and documenting process changes. The efforts of the *Innovation Team* have contributed to the framework for the Planning and Development department business plan.

Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which provides a glimpse into progress of improving the development review process.

(Attachment)

“Streeteries” Art Project

Staff Resource: Whitney Schoenfeld, Office of Special Events, 996-2204, whitney.schoenfeld@raleighnc.gov

The [streetery art initiative](#) brought public murals to 11 city-funded streetery locations. Developed through a collaboration between the Office of Special Events and Raleigh Arts, with vital support from the Transportation Street Maintenance team, the art project was implemented to deter graffiti, support local artists, and contribute to the atmosphere of downtown.

Streeteries, which convert on-street parking spaces into outdoor seating areas for adjacent businesses, have become an important asset of the downtown urban landscape and continue to contribute to the economic recovery of local businesses. Repeated instances of “graffiti tagging” prompted City staff to explore a creative deterrent that could proactively incorporate public art.

After issuing a call for artists, Raleigh Arts received 291 proposals, the largest number of proposals received for any art project to-date. From the submissions, 13 North Carolina artists were selected and assigned to

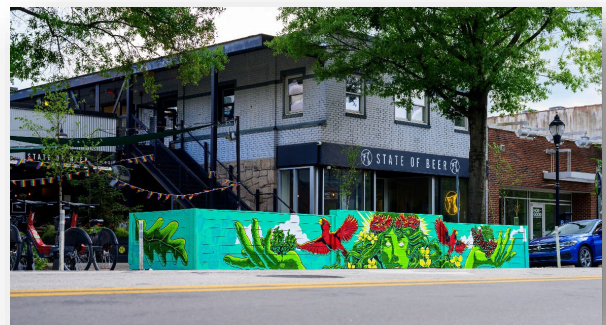
work with businesses that have city-funded streeteries. Each artist brought an individual and unique style and transformed the streeteries into works of public art. The project recently wrapped with artist Sean Kernick creating art with a historical nod for the streetry located adjacent to the Raleigh Times Bar on Hargett Street.

Other participating artists include: SpclSigns, Allison Hawkins, Clark Hipolito, the team of Ray and Jun, Zac Bender, Anna Payne Rogers, Dino Valentini, Sarahlaine Calva, Britt Flood, Matt Mahler and Chris Frisina.

Now completed, the city initiative of streetry art provides a demonstration of cross-departmental collaboration to solve an urban issue, while improving quality of life for residents, locals, visitors, and businesses alike. Through the integration of visual art into everyday city infrastructure, the project helps to promote Downtown Raleigh as a destination for creativity, culture, and vibrancy.

Below are photos highlighting just a few of the painted streeteries.

Streetry Art:



Photo(l): RTN; Artist: Sean Kernick; Business: Raleigh Times (14 E Hargett Street)
Photo (r): Andrew Miller; Artist: Zac Bender; Business: State of Beer (401 Hillsborough Street)

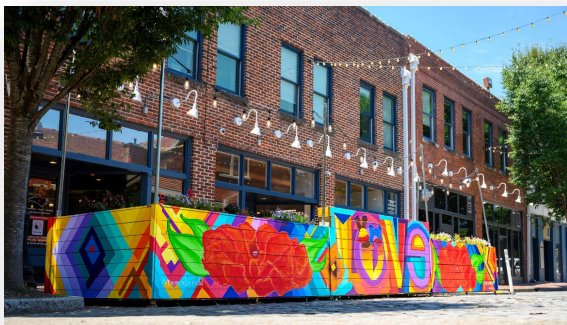


Photo (l): Andrew Miller; Artists: Ray Henderson and Jun Vasconcelos ; Business: Woody's @ City Market (Parham Street)
Photo (r): Andrew Miller; Artist: Dino Valentini ; Business: Flour & Barrel (400 W North Street)

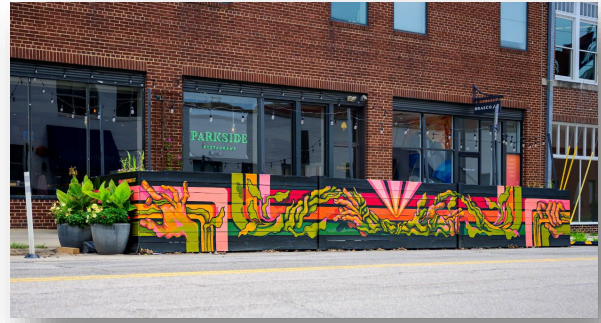


Photo: Andrew Miller; Artist: Sarahlaine Calva ; Business: Virgil's (126 S Salisbury Street)
Photo: Andrew Miller; Artist: Anna Payne Rogers ; Business: Parkside (301 W Martin Street)

(No attachment)

Comprehensive Plan Monthly Update: Reflecting Raleigh

Staff Resource: Sarah Shaughnessy, Planning & Development, 996-2234, sarah.shaughnessy@raleighnc.gov

Reflecting Raleigh, the process for developing the Next Comprehensive Plan, is nearing the end of the first phase and gearing up for what comes next. The staff memorandum included with the *Update* materials provides information regarding first phase engagement activities, as well as the citizen assembly and technical teams that will support the development of the plan going forward.

(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 to the May 6 Council Meeting

Preserving Black Churches

Staff Resource(s): Tania Tully, Planning & Development, 996-2674, tania.tully@raleighnc.gov

On May 5 and June 9, the Raleigh Historic Development Commission hosted public events to build relationships with pastors of black churches and to share information about the National Trust for Historic Preservation *Preserving Black Churches* grant program. During the meeting, Council Member Branch shared

his experience attending the initial informational meeting and hearing about the desire of various churches to preserve church history.

Council requested coordination with the City of Raleigh Museum and the John P. "Top" Greene African American Cultural Park. Included with the *Update* materials is a staff memorandum which outlines the coordination efforts.

(Attachment)

Follow up to the June 10 Public Comment Session

Street Name Change - Resident Petition Process

Staff Resource: Will Shumaker, Transportation, 996-4175, william.shumaker@raleighnc.gov

During the Public Comment period, several residents spoke to a desire to rename Hill Street to 'Jesse White Street'. The City has an established and adopted process for residents to request street name changes and facilitate the process of renaming an existing street.

Following the June evening public comment session, staff coordinated a meeting with the prospective applicants on June 17 to discuss the street name change request and to answer questions about the necessary submittal materials and the overall process. At that meeting, staff heard from multiple generations of representatives of the White Family, who shared information regarding ties to the adjacent neighborhood and the legacy of family and community. The prospective applicants were able to ask questions of staff and received feedback on what is needed to successfully complete the submittal package to request and initiate the street name change process.

Staff confirmed that 'Jesse White Street' complies with existing naming guidelines. The family received a draft petition form along with a roster of property owners of the relevant properties; this information allows them to begin garnering the necessary public support for the street name change. Staff remains available for any questions while the family works to gather the required number of signatures for a valid petition. Once the applicant completes the resident approval petition and resubmits it to city staff, the application will be processed.

From a process perspective, efforts to rename an existing street is a resident-initiated process. Once a valid and complete petition package is received by staff, it is estimated to take from eight to ten months for the change to take effect, contingent upon Council adoption of the petition. Street name changes typically have an effective date of six months from adoption to provide transition time for residents, businesses, the Wake County Register of Deeds, mapping software companies, and other impacted entities to have sufficient time to reflect the new street name with the new address information. During this time transportation staff will also create new sign blades with the newly adopted street name and install on the effective date.

(No attachment)

Follow up to the June 17 Council Meeting

Communications for Transition to Enhanced Yard Waste Collection of Leaves (Council Member Silver)

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

Gregory Jenkins, 996-3475, gregory.jenkins@raleighnc.gov

Staff have begun work on a three-year communications plan to inform residents that, beginning in the fall of 2026, the loose-leaf collection service will be combined as part of weekly yard waste service. Initial communications in the plan resulted in coverage from all local news outlets following the program approval in early June.

The second round of communications will begin in late summer of 2025 with website and social media updates, followed by a physical mailer, likely taking the form of a mailed postcard. This will lead into fall outreach events from Solid Waste Services; communications will continue in partnership with Transportation throughout the 2025-26 loose leaf collection season. In summer 2026, staff will begin the launch of communications for weekly yard waste service.

Communication plans have been informed by media sentiment, social media comments, and other input received by the City. Messages for the first campaign phase include an explanation of the rationale for the service change - more predictable service; more service; and the rededication of resources to sidewalks, landscaping and other transportation projects. Reducing the number of leaves piled in streets and flowing into storm drains is also a key point. As each phase of the plan commences, communication tactics and sometimes messaging will be adjusted to account for community reaction. The overall goal of the communications plan is to inform all residents of the change and to persuade residents of the program benefits whenever possible.

(No attachment)

Raleigh Beach Safety Measures (Council Member Patton)

Staff Resource: Stephen Bentley, Parks, 996-4784, stephen.bentley@raleighnc.gov

Robin Deacle, Communications, 996-3002, robin.deacle@raleighnc.gov

During the summer of 2025 staff with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department implemented several safety measures at Raleigh Beach aimed at the prevention of drownings. Measures implemented include locking of the gate at the entrance to the park, which helps to facilitate emergency vehicle access only with no public parking allowed. The City also installed an extensive number of signs, onsite, in both English and Spanish. The signs read: Strong Currents! Steep Drop!

Communications staff has re-shared previous public service announcements in English and Spanish with local media. Staff is also following up on last year's ad campaign with Spanish-speaking media outlets. The [RaleighNC.gov story](#) has been updated for this year, and pinned to the front page, with cross-links as appropriate through the site.

In addition to sharing on social media, the story link appears in the City's heat emergency banner when the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory. Finally, the City is a participant of the Wake County [Swim Smart](#) campaign, which will help broadly reinforce safe practices throughout the county. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and work to keep everyone safe.

(No attachment)

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning & Development Director
From	Travis Crane and Daniel Stegall, Assistant Directors
Department	Planning and Development
Date	June 23, 2025
Subject	Update on Permit Process Improvement

Overview

The City of Raleigh continues to advance its efforts to enhance the development review and permitting process. The process plays a critical role in shaping the physical and economic landscape of the City Raleigh. To fulfill this mission the process must foster the following:

- Protect the public interest and provide a safe built environment
- Uphold the Council's policy goals
- Prioritizing the customer service experience

With this in mind, the Raleigh Home Builder's Association, Development Stakeholders, Matrix Departments and Planning and Development identified an opportunity for process improvements through incremental changes with a focus on permit timeliness, predictability, and quality of review. Below is a summary of our progress and upcoming initiatives.

Permit Timeliness

Current Progress:

- Residential Plan intake reduced from 5 to 7 down to 2 to 3 business days.
- Commercial intake reduced from 5 to 7 down 3 to 5 business days.
- Emergency Responder Radio Communication applications and Fire Alarm shop drawings are separated from Building Plan Revisions to create clear, distinctive permit processes.
- Cross-training to address high-volume permit intake categories.
- Combined processes, Site plans meeting specific criteria can be reviewed and approved with a Building Permit.
- Updated submittal checklists to ensure permits submittal coincide with regulations.
- At-Risk Permit issuance process expedites qualifying projects.
- Delayed Issue retaining wall permits as needed rather than batch permits, applicants typically do not need these permits at the time other site permits issued.
- Standardize permit descriptions to minimize delays in permit review.

- Developed a digital dashboard to share review timelines for permit reviews.
- Eliminated unnecessary steps to allow a commercial building permit into review.
- Infrastructure and maps for development no longer require a triage step.
- Created a matrix for triage and intake to create certainty and clarity in the processes.
- In April, Planning hosted a discussion on reducing permit benchmarks.
-

Upcoming Improvements:

- Concurrently, route projects and issue invoices rather than pause for payment
- Further automation of routine permitting tasks to reduce manual processing time.
- Reduce standard review times to ensure compliance with State permitting laws
- Develop criteria to determine what projects can have an expedited review.

Predictability

Current Progress:

- Standardized permit processing timelines and established clear service level expectations.
- Improved transparency by providing applicants with detailed guidance on submission requirements.
- Facilitate pre-application meetings to clarify requirements and reduce re-submissions.
- Updated and simplified application forms.
- Created an online application for external text change requests that can be submitted through the EnerGov portal.
- Implemented the first phase of the “Decision Engine” software to assist in automated submittals.
- Redefined the change of use process to provide greater certainty and created bookings to assist in information sharing with applicants.
- Responded to new State law to classify three- and four-unit residential dwellings as Tier 1 site plans.

Upcoming Improvements:

- Refinement of submittal process related to preliminary plans.
- Redefine the “triage” process to include matrix departments.
- Enhance the residential addition permitting process.
- Develop “How-To” videos to assist applicants.

- Create certainty related to plan revision process to allow minor modifications post-approval.
- Introduction of new applicant education materials, in-person discussions and FAQs.
- Establish in-person events for Plan Review Staff to engage the Public.

Quality of Review

Current Progress:

- Provided additional training to plan reviewers to ensure consistency in interpretations of State of North Carolina codes and Unified Development Ordinances.
- Introduced peer review mechanisms to enhance accuracy and thoroughness in evaluating submittals during the intake process.
- Strengthened coordination amongst Review Staff to minimize conflicting feedback by hosting weekly projects meeting.
- Supervisors audit review comments provided to applicants from staff

Upcoming Improvements:

- Refine a performance audit system to track and report review quality metrics.
- Expansion of customer feedback mechanisms to identify recurring issues and address them proactively.
- Implementation of a continuous improvement framework to refine review processes based on data-driven insights.
- Adopt a “Project Coordinator” role for staff to be a singular point of contact on large or complicated requests.
- Publish Power Business Intelligence (Power BI) reports for intake processes.

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to improving the permitting experience at the City of Raleigh. More specifically Staff’s focus is to become more efficient, predictable, and reliable. We will continue to assess and refine these initiatives to meet the needs of the development community and ensure the City's growth is managed effectively.

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Planning & Development Director
From	Sarah Shaughnessy, AICP, Principal Planner
Department	Planning and Development
Date	June 27, 2025
Subject	Monthly Update on Reflecting Raleigh: The Next Comprehensive Plan

Overview

Raleigh's Comprehensive Plan serves as the city's long-term vision for the built environment and is required by state law to enforce zoning and development regulations. Originally adopted in 2009 and updated in 2019, the plan includes policies that guide Raleigh's growth in alignment with adopted Vision Themes, Growth Framework, and tools such as the Future Land Use Map and Urban Form Map.

[Reflecting Raleigh](#) is the process of developing the Next Comprehensive Plan, which will include a focus on sustainable and equitable growth, aligning adopted city plans and priorities, and enhanced community engagement. Reflecting Raleigh includes five phases.



This memo provides an update on the project to date and includes information about upcoming events.

Phase 1 Wrap Up

Phase 1: Initial Engagement is nearly complete. Over the last year we have hosted 11 community conversation events on the six topics below and heard from nearly 700 members of the Raleigh community in person, with even more watching online.

Topic	Date	Video Recordings
<u>Housing Choice & Affordability</u>	August 17, 2024	<u>Full Summit</u>
<u>Weathering the Storm: Stormwater Management & Priorities</u>	December 4, 2024 December 9, 2024	<u>Keynote</u> , Ted Brown <u>State of the City</u> , Wayne Miles & Rev. Jemonde Taylor
<u>A City in Motion: Traffic & Transportation Solutions</u>	February 12, 2025 February 26, 2025	<u>Keynote</u> , Charles Brown <u>State of the City</u> , Het Patel
<u>Branching Out: Trees & Urban Ecosystems</u>	March 11, 2025 March 18, 2025	<u>Keynote</u> , Greg Levine <u>State of the City</u> , Zach Manor & Justin Bucher
<u>Rooted & Growing: Neighborhood Change</u>	April 15, 2025 April 22, 2025	<u>Keynote</u> , Alan Mallach <u>State of the City</u> , Bynum Walter
<u>Sustain-A-City: Infrastructure & Services</u>	May 29, 2025 June 5, 2025	<u>Keynote</u> , Joe Minicozzi <u>State of the City</u> , Pat Young
<u>Coming Soon: Housing Summit Recap Conversation</u>	July 10, 2025	<u>Keynote from Aug. 17</u> , Gregg Colburn

For anyone unable to attend these events, we have created a Community Conversation toolkit with a resource guide to host a conversation event and provide input to Planning and Development staff. The toolkit is available [here](#) in English. A Spanish language version of the toolkit will be available next week.

Staff will also host a final Phase 1 event on July 10 to revisit the topic of Affordable Housing and provide another opportunity for conversation. More information including a link to register is available on the [Reflecting Raleigh events webpage](#).

Staff are currently preparing a full report of Reflecting Raleigh engagement to-date, which will include key themes from all community conversations, online surveys, and other Phase 1 engagement activities. That report will be provided to City Council and the public in August. City Council received an early [briefing](#) on input during the March 11 work session.

Weekly Events Digest

Friday, June 27 – Thursday, July 3

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

Permitted Special Events

[Raleigh Food Truck Rodeo](#)

Fayetteville Street

Saturday, June 28

Event Time: 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Associated Road Closures: Fayetteville Street between Morgan Street and the south end of City Plaza, and Hargett, Martin, and Davie streets between Salisbury Street and Wilmington Street will be closed from 7:45am until 8:00pm.

[Fayetteville Street Streetscape Plan: Ask-A-Planner](#)

Exchange Plaza

Monday, June 30

Event Time: 11:30am - 1:00pm

Associated Impacts: No roads will be closed for the event. Exchange Plaza will be used from 11:15am until 1:15pm.

Other Upcoming Events

[Gun Lock Giveaway Events](#)

Friday, June 27

Multiple Locations

[Hauser](#)

Friday, June 27

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Carolina Theater Company](#)

Friday, June 27

Kennedy Theater

[Skate Moore Square](#)

Friday, June 27 – Sunday, June 29

Moore Square

[Rolling Together: A Community Resource Fair](#)

Saturday, June 28

Green Road Park

[Traffic Garden Grand Opening](#)

Saturday, June 28

Dix Park, Gipson Play Plaza

[Pedro Fernandez](#)

Saturday, June 28

Memorial Auditorium

[Kansas & 38 Special with The Outlaws](#)

Saturday, June 28

Red Hat Amphitheater

[Rocket League Championship Series: Raleigh Major 2025](#)

Saturday, June 28 & Sunday, June 29
Lenovo Center

[BrickUniverse](#)

Saturday, June 28 & Sunday, June 29
Raleigh Convention Center

[The Color Purple](#)

Through Sunday, June 29
Raleigh Little Theatre

[Summer Concert Series](#)

Sunday, June 29
Fred Fletcher Park

[The Midweek Market](#)

Wednesday, July 2
Moore Square

[FeTNA's 38th Tamil Convention](#)

Thursday, July 3 – Saturday, July 5
Raleigh Convention 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.

Council Member Follow Up

To	Marchell Adams-David, City Manager
Thru	Patrick O. Young, AICP, Director Stephen Bentley, Director
From	Tania Tully, Historic Preservation Supervisor Troy Burton, Historic Resources and Museum Program Administrator
Department	Planning and Development Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources
Date	June 27, 2025
Subject	Council Follow-up Item: May 6, 2025 Meeting Preserving Black Churches

On May 5 and June 9, 2025 the Raleigh Historic Development Commission (RHDC) hosted events to build relationships with pastors of black churches and share information about the National Trust's Preserving Black Churches grant program. During the May 6 Council meeting, Councilmember Branch shared his experience attending the May 5 informational meeting and hearing the churches' desire to preserve their history. Councilmember Branch suggested that there be coordination with the City of Raleigh Museum and the John P. "Top" Greene African American Cultural Park.

Historic Preservation and Historic Resources and Museum Program (HRMP) staff met to discuss avenues to incorporate RHDC's current research related to Black churches into HRMP programs specifically as well as more broadly how to support the preservation of Black church history and records.

- John P. "Top" Greene African American Cultural Park: Staff agreed that church history is an appropriate interpretive topic for the site. HRMP staff agreed to consider incorporating the research into future interpretive efforts. Historic Preservation staff agreed to collaborate on any interpretive efforts. The Park is scheduled to be closed for renovation and expansion starting summer 2026 through Spring 2028.
- City of Raleigh Museum Exhibit Program: Staff agreed that church history is an appropriate interpretive topic for the Museum. For example, COR Museum previously curated an exhibit on the history of Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church. Anyone can contact Museum staff to discuss exhibit ideas. Curatorial control for all Museum content such as exhibits remains under the purview of the City of Raleigh. *

- HRMP Community Exhibit/Program: There is an existing Community Exhibit process for community stakeholders to request exhibits and programs managed by the HRMP. The program is facilitated by the Historic Resources and Museums Advisory Board using an application process. Anyone, including Churches, interested in an exhibit or program can use this existing process. *
- HRMP Community Engagement: The HRMP regularly offers free community programs intended to educate and empower the public including History Harvests, Topical Lectures, and/or Conservation Workshops. These programs engage subject matter experts with community members. For example, an upcoming workshop produced by the HRMP *How to Preserve Your Family History Documents* is being offered September 9, 2025, at the Five Point Center for Active Adults. This program would be of great value to anyone looking to preserve records including churches interested in preserving their history.

*The production time for any approved exhibits with the HRMP is typically three (3) years.