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INFORMATION:

Special City Council Meeting - Tuesday, July 14 - 4:00 P.M.

Reminder that Council will convene in a **special meeting** on **Tuesday** beginning at **4:00 P.M.** This will be a virtual meeting conducted via *WebEx Events* software; you will receive instructions for joining the meeting on Tuesday morning.

The agenda for the special meeting has been posted to the electronic agenda management system.

Connected Communities Conference Announced

Staff Resource: Beth Stagner, Information Technology, 996-5485, beth.stagner@raleighnc.gov

The Connected Communities Conference, formerly known as the Triangle Smart Cities Summit, brings together government, industry, business, and academic leaders to engage in discussion and share ideas on how to make the region a smarter and more connected community. The event is organized by the Information Technology department with partners at NC State University and Research Internet of Things (RIoT). The conference is scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2021, at the Raleigh Convention Center.

The January 2021 event will focus on the following themes:

- Digital inclusion

- Transportation & mobility
- Pandemic response using data and tech
- Smart city accomplishments
- Artificial Intelligence
- Future technologies
- Connectivity & IoT
- Building smarter & more connected communities

This is the fourth year for this event. In 2019, more than 500 attendees participated in a day-long program. For this year, the event has moved from October to January to set itself apart from other technology events that typically take place in the Fall. A variety of City departments were represented at the 2019 event, including Housing and Neighborhoods; Parks Recreation and Cultural Resources; and the Open Data and GIS teams from IT.

(No attachment)

On-Street Parking in the Hillsborough Street Corridor - Resumption of Metered Parking and Enforcement

Staff Resource: Matthew Currier, RDOT-Parking, 996-4041, matthew.currier@raleighnc.gov

As Council may recall, Raleigh Parking temporarily suspended payment requirements for on-street parking in order to minimize the public contact and interactions with payment kiosks in light of the ongoing public health crisis. Subsequently staff has also relaxed enforcement of parking violations except for those violations related to safety, loading zones and access (e.g. parking in front of fire hydrants or obstructing driveways). Staff have been working closely with the Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation (HSCSC) on the response to the pandemic.

The HSCSC held a virtual Parking Town Hall meeting on June 30 that pulled together City staff, NC State University as well as merchants and residents of the Hillsborough Street district to dialogue on the current parking conditions. During that meeting staff shared our proposed plan to reinstate metered parking and parking enforcement along the corridor that coincides with the return of NC State students. There were no concerns raised during the virtual meeting to the proposed plan and the City and HSCSC agree on the plan outlined below.



Effective July 20, parking meters will be turned on and accepting payment along the Hillsborough Street corridor. This will encourage on-street parking space turnover allowing more space on the curb for customers to access businesses and in anticipation of NC State students moving back to campus starting August 1 and classes beginning on August 10. NC State University began their parking enforcement on July 1 and with an increase in the scope of online classes, the University expects to issue less semester long parking passes and have more daily parkers. Parking along Hillsborough Street is half the price of visitor parking on campus, so we expect to see increased parking pressure from University attendees.

To help ensure customer safety, Raleigh Parking Ambassadors are taking the following steps:

- Parking meter touch pads will be regularly sanitized;
- Staff will wear personal protective equipment to protect themselves and keep others safe; and
- Staff will remind customers they can pay for parking without touching the meter by downloading the Passport app, available for free to any mobile phone user.

Signs were posted on parking meters and on parking signage along the Hillsborough Street corridor starting Monday July 6; staff will provide soft enforcement, by issuing warnings until August 3, to provide ample time for customers to readjust. After two weeks of soft enforcement staff will return to issuing live citations for parking infractions. Curbside pickup zones will stay in place for the foreseeable future and staff continue to work closely with merchants to adjust, expand or remove curbside zones.

(No attachment)

Ready Raleigh Emergency Preparedness Guide

Staff Resource: Megan Anderson, Office of Sustainability, 996-4658, megan.anderson@raleighnc.gov

The Ready Raleigh Emergency Preparedness Guide is a new [online tool](#) to help Raleigh residents *Be Connected, Be Prepared, and Be Informed* in order to promote resilience to natural disasters and other emergencies at the household and community level. In the City of Raleigh Strategic Plan there are several initiatives and objectives aimed at improving community resiliency and keeping residents safe. This guide furthers these aims and encourages residents to strengthen their communities by helping each other prepare for emergency situations. Evidence shows that communities that are connected to one another and informed about what actions to take are more resilient to disasters. The multi-departmental team responsible for this publication made a conscious effort to encourage Raleigh residents to build relationships with their neighbors to promote broader community resilience.

The Ready Raleigh Guide is divided into three sections.

- **Be Connected:** This section gives contact information for organizations, City Departments, and other local, county, state, and national agencies that offer forecasting, response, or preparedness information. The section includes a chart for residents to document contact information for their specific service providers to help them find these numbers quickly during an emergency.
- **Be Prepared:** This section guides residents through three processes: Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Lend a Hand. It includes checklists for creating a household emergency plan, creating an emergency kit, and for compiling important documents and papers to ensure that vital records are not lost during an emergency. The section also encourages residents to reach out

to their neighbors, share their household emergency plans, and know what kinds of questions to ask in order to help neighbors prepare for emergency situations. It includes a chart for residents to record contact numbers and check-in plans for their neighbors, friends and family.

- **Be Informed:** This section addresses 16 potential emergency or disaster situations that could occur, outlines the potential risks and impacts of each, and details actions that should be taken before, during, and after each emergency type. Each section also includes additional resources and relevant City departments. The section concludes with guidance from the Planning and Development Department on rebuilding damaged or destroyed properties.

Staff from Raleigh Police Department, Raleigh Fire Department, Emergency Management and Special Events, Housing and Neighborhoods, Solid Waste Services, Planning and Development, and the Office of Sustainability all participated in drafting this guide. Each department involved plays a different emergency-related role: response, recovery, community engagement, and resilience. And each brought their unique perspectives to the content and organization of this manual. This guide will act as an engagement tool as we work with our community to build their resilience to natural and man-made disasters.

While initially this Guide will be an online resource, staff are seeking opportunities and funding to integrate the Ready Raleigh Guide into outreach and engagement efforts as a printed resource to distribute to community members. Staff are also working to make the document available in Spanish.

The document will be promoted in the upcoming Connect Raleigh event focused on hurricane preparedness, referenced later in this *Update*.

(No attachment)

Connect Raleigh Lecture Series: Hurricane Trivia at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Staff Resource: Megan Hinkle, City Manager's Office, 996-4668, megan.hinkle@raleighnc.gov

"Connect Raleigh" – the City lecture series that highlights issues of interest in city government - continues this month with a new approach. On Tuesday, July 21, the City will partner with the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and the Carolina Hurricanes for an online trivia event to raise awareness about hurricane preparedness. Shane Willis, analyst with FOX Sports Carolinas, Manager of Youth and Amateur Hockey for the Carolina Hurricanes, and a former player for the Carolina Hurricanes, will read many of the questions, which will challenge participants' knowledge of both the NHL team and the science and history of hurricanes in North Carolina. The trivia questions were prepared in consultation with the City's Stormwater Management Program, the City's Office of Emergency Management and Special Events, the Carolina Hurricanes, and the NC Museum of Natural Sciences. Participants have the chance to win prizes from the Carolina Hurricanes', including equipment signed by team players.

This unique partnership with the Carolina Hurricanes will highlight how our hometown NHL team's mascot reflects a long history of hurricanes in the Carolinas. With the many challenges already facing our community in 2020, the possibility of an impactful hurricane season is something that residents, businesses, and organizations should prepare for now. The event will also promote the Ready Raleigh Emergency Preparedness Guide, available now on the city website.

The trivia event will be held online on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:00 pm. Participation is free, but registration is required. For more information or to register, visit <https://raleighnc.gov/SupportPages/hurricane-trivia-night-tropical-storms-and-hometown-hockey>.

(No attachment)

Virtual Neighborhood Meetings for Rezoning Requests

Staff Resources: Bynum Walter, Planning & Development, 996-2178, bynum.walter@raleighnc.gov

During the April 21 special meeting, Council authorized a temporary procedure for virtual neighborhood meetings during the period of restrictions on in-person gatherings. Virtual neighborhood meetings continue to be scheduled in conjunction with applications for property rezoning; detailed information about all virtual neighborhood meetings is available at this [link](#).

(No attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

Follow Up from the June 2 City Council Meeting

Five Points Safety Update (Mayor Baldwin)

Staff Resource: Jed Niffenegger, Transportation, 996-4039, jed.niffenegger@raleighnc.gov

Background

During the meeting Council requested staff to provide an update on any traffic safety enhancements implemented at the Five Points intersection and any potential future safety options. Five Points is actually a six-legged intersection; the main corridor is Glenwood Avenue (US 70) which falls on the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) State Highway System for maintenance. Fairview Road, Whitaker Mill Road, and Glenn Avenue intersect at this location as well. Over 30,000 vehicles pass through the intersection on a normal business day with majority of the traveling motorists utilizing Glenwood Avenue (~24,000 vehicles/day).

Crash History

Reviewing the reported crash history of a location allows engineers to look for certain patterns. Some patterns will exist regardless of design types or mitigation measures. For example, rear end crashes almost always occur when an intersection is signalized. Crashes such as angle crashes (T-bones) are usually more severe and have a higher likelihood of causing injuries. The City has over 8,000 intersections in its jurisdiction. NCDOT develops an annual, statewide list that identifies intersections with higher than average crash metrics. These metrics include crash frequency, crash types, number of injuries, type of injuries, etc. The list can be broken down by area and every year, the City of Raleigh has over 100+ locations that are deemed "Potentially Hazardous Intersection Locations." Over the last 5 years the Five Points intersection

only fell on this list once (in 2018). Although Five Points was not on the list in 2019, this does not imply the intersection cannot be improved.

Crashes Involving Vehicles Leaving the Roadway

The Five Points intersection used to be controlled by a traffic signal comprised of wood poles and span wire. Due to the unique geometry of the intersection, the pole placement and span wire arrangement was atypical. In the course of 12 months during 2014/2015, a wood pole that was used to support the signal span wire was hit 4 times. This pole was located in the sidewalk area on the east side of Glenwood Avenue next to the retaining wall for the Hayes Barton Baptist Church. (Figure 1 below)



All 4 times the wood pole was hit, the overhead wire span fell. City staff had to rebuild the signalized intersection which put a strain on City forces. The City has a municipal maintenance agreement with NCDOT to maintain their traffic signals (~650) within the City. City resources are sized and equipped for routine maintenance. These emergency reconstructions are a significant stress on our City resources.

At that time, most crashes involved a lack of compliance with traffic laws (e.g. speeding or driving while impaired). The area between the back of curb and the retaining wall was not wide enough to accommodate both a guardrail and the required ADA minimum sidewalk width. Therefore, NCDOT redesigned the intersection with two metal mast arms. Construction was completed at the end of 2016. (Figure 2 below)



Figure 2

Since the rebuild, the current crash pattern reflects vehicles leaving the roadway just north of the Five Points intersection and south of White Oak Road. Glenwood Avenue traveling northbound has a slight left curve through the intersection. Based on the police reports, staff surmise that drivers are either traveling too fast or are under the influence and may overcorrect, resulting in a crash involving vehicles leaving the roadway. Crash reports show 17 crashes involving vehicles leaving the road between March 2015 and March 2020. Of the 17 “run-off the road crashes”, 15 of 17 involve speeding and/or driver impairment. Crashes occurring as a result of a lack of driver compliance are often difficult to mitigate. In 2019, NCDOT and City staff discussed possible mitigating measures. Since Glenwood Avenue falls on the State Highway System, all mitigating measures must meet NCDOT standards. City staff installed oversized chevron signs, additional pavement markings, and raised reflective pavement markings to better alert drivers of the horizontal curve in 2019.

Future Improvements

In late May 2020, a fatal crash occurred at the Five Points intersection involving a motorcycle leaving the roadway. NCDOT and City engineers met to discuss additional mitigating measures. In the next few months, City staff will be installing supplemental chevron signs along the Hayes Barton Baptist Church retaining wall and an additional white edge line along the right edge of the northbound lane of Glenwood Avenue. This line can help guide drivers through the intersection. NCDOT is pursuing other mitigating measures that take a bit more time for implementation. NCDOT plans to install speed actuated, flashing chevron signs, on the northbound approach to the intersection. We do not have a specified time for installation at this time.

Lastly, NCDOT Engineers have begun some preliminary investigation into the benefits of converting the current signalized intersection to multi-lane round-a-bout. A round-a-bout would have significant safety benefits; however, impacts to private property and to vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle traffic have not been studied nor quantified.

(No attachment)

Support of Black Owned Businesses (Mayor Pro Tem Branch)

Staff Resource: Veronica Creech, Office of Econ. Dev. & Innovation, 996-2707, veronica.creech@raleighnc.gov

Niki Jones, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-4278, niki.jones@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Mayor pro tem Branch introduced requests received from a recent District C meeting. Following discussion, Council requested staff to provide an update on how the City invests in black business. Included with the Weekly Report materials is a memorandum from the Office of Economic Development & Innovation and the Housing & Neighborhoods department which details detailing how the City supports black businesses through contracts, vendors, affordable housing, and economic development.

(Attachment)

Follow Up from the July 7 City Council Meeting**Public Comment – Andrew McDonald (Council Member Cox)**

Staff Resource: Linda Jones, Housing & Neighborhoods, 996-5707, linda.jones@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting and following public comment by Andrew McDonald, Council requested staff to contact him and determine his interests. Staff contacted Mr. McDonald via telephone; he reiterated that his needs were stated in his proposal which were to:

1. Say Hello and Introduce himself to City Council,
2. Ask City Council to assist him in identifying an underutilized or closed property in need of redevelopment for the purpose operating his GRACE Ministry, and
3. Inform City Council of the organizations he had worked with and that he had a meeting on Thursday, July 9th with Pastor Jeremy Porras with the Raleigh Dream Center to discuss a possible partnership for his ministry.

Mr. McDonald indicated that the three needs were met. He stated that he may return to City Council in August or September to provide an update from a meeting scheduled with Pastor Porras. Staff provided contact information for similar organizations that might represent partnership opportunities that may support components of his ministry. Mr. McDonald expressed that he was very appreciative of the call.

(No attachment)

Council Member Follow Up



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Lou Buonpane, Chief of Staff

FROM: Veronica Creech & Niki Jones

DEPARTMENT: Eco Dev & Innovation and Housing & Neighborhoods

DATE: July 10, 2020

SUBJECT: City's Efforts in Supporting Black Owned Businesses

During the June 2nd Council meeting Mayor pro tem Branch introduced requests he received from a District C meeting he held. MPT Branch requested staff provide an update on how the City invests in black business. Staff from Economic Development & Innovation and Housing & Neighborhood collaborated on providing this memo detailing how the City supports black businesses through contracts, vendors, affordable housing, and economic development.

As a Matter of Practice

- Office of Econ Dev & Innovation works from a place of [equitable economic development](#)
- All ED&I grants have emphasis on engaging black owned businesses and black owners
- All ED&I contracts require contractors have a commitment to DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion)
- Office of ED&I facilitated the collaboration between the City's MWBE program with the Chamber in hosting education workshops for MWBEs (Dr. Cheryl Sutton/Danya Perry)
- Office of ED&I works with 12 business alliances that collectively serve the city ensuring geographic diversity and inclusion
- Office of ED&I works across all city departments to address economic prosperity including serving on the advisory board of the Pathways Center addressing workforce development
- Office of ED&I sponsors the annual Business Expo led by the MWBE team, in its 22 year this year (Dr. Cheryl Sutton), bringing MWBEs together with companies proving contracts
- City of Raleigh has designated Priority Areas for Econ Development, areas that have been historically underinvested, encouraging investment in these areas via the City's incentive policy
- Office of ED&I in partnership with various community, education and business partners support the annual and wildly popular Black Entrepreneurship Week events

Building Upfit Grants (BUGs)

The Building Upfit Grant is a dollar-for-dollar matching grant (up to \$25,000) that helps small business owners pay for building improvements – making it possible for owners to start or grow their business. An application receives

Municipal Building
222 West Hargett Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

One Exchange Plaza
1 Exchange Plaza,
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

City of Raleigh
Post Office Box 590 • Raleigh
North Carolina 27602-0590
(Mailing Address)

preference when the business is located in Raleigh's Priority Areas for Economic Development, especially for locations convenient to public transit stops.

To date, the program has authorized grant awards for 55 small businesses all around Raleigh. Of those, awards have been made to 13 Black-owned businesses (23.6%) for a total of \$255,047. Of these 13 approved projects, 5 have been completed, with paid grant disbursements totaling \$86,553. The estimated economic impact of these 5 completed projects has helped enable \$307,227 overall building improvements, and 29 new jobs for Black-owned businesses. Other upfit projects for Black-owned small businesses are still in the pipeline, with the next one expected to be completed this summer.

The Housing and Neighborhoods Department supports the BUG with an annual budgeted amount of \$50,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds. These funds have been budgeted over the past several years; however, no businesses have taken advantage of the funds to date. In addition to collaborating with ED&I to host education workshops, the City's MWBE team works to promote and increase awareness of BUG amongst the MWBE firms that they assist. The MWBE team does this by including information about the BUG in marketing materials, posting listserv notifications, and providing information about the grant as a resource during outreach and networking events.

Impact Partner Grants

The Impact Partner Grants provide funding for organizations who leverage their own programs and resources, to help underrepresented innovators, entrepreneurs, and small businesses to start, stay, and grow in Raleigh. The second cohort of grant recipients who are already making an impact for black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs include District C: Project Raleigh First will allow District C to recruit educators from local priority high schools to participate in the Coaching Institute. This will ultimately develop the next generation of Raleigh innovators no matter their race, gender, or background through an opportunity to engage with local startup businesses.

Wake Tech Community College / LaunchRALEIGH: Serving Southeast Raleigh entrepreneurs with start-up, business and growth support. LaunchRALEIGH's collaboration with Wake Tech, Shaw University, and Saint Augustine's University remains a valuable resource to the community. With the chartering of Collegiate Entrepreneurship Organization (C.E.O) clubs, entrepreneurial resources and benefits will also extend to students at all three schools

Wake County Empowering Entrepreneurs and Seeding Innovation (EEASI) Challenge: a transformational, cohort learning experience that teaches entrepreneurship as an essential life skill – equipping youth and adults for financial, personal, & professional success. The EEASI Challenge is a program of Social & Economic Vitality (SEV), a collaborative initiative to end the cycle of poverty in Southeast Raleigh and eastern Wake County.

The City Takes Pride in Lifting Local Black Owned Businesses

[Adara Spa BUG video](#)

[Oak City Fish and Chips BUG video](#)

[Impact Partner Grant District C and Bunker Labs](#)

Founding sponsor #BlackDollar [black owned business directory](#)

The Housing and Neighborhoods Department utilizes the Section 3 program to partner with local businesses when using federal funds on projects. An example, of a recent success story is our partnership with a local general contractor. Chris Pugh (dba CB Pugh Enterprises) is a builder in two different projects that the City of Raleigh has sponsored. He is working in East College Park and Martin-Haywood. He is a registered Section 3 business.

Committed to a Diverse and Wide-Reaching Communications Strategy

ED&I is intentional about reaching Raleigh's diverse audiences. Beginning in FY19, the team established a partnership with BlackDollar, an organization founded by Johnny Hackett. Coined the online rolodex of black businesses in Raleigh, BlackDollar promotes black businesses and provides educational and networking opportunities in the community. BlackDollar has represented the black business-owner community through COVID-19 and civil unrest on bi-weekly Economic Development Alliance calls.

ED&I is expanding its reach through traditional, nontraditional and digital media. The Office's communication coordinator will be using FY21 to build a media "beat sheet" that includes diverse media partners in television, radio, print, and social media. This will help with public relation efforts and reach a wider demographic audience across the city of Raleigh.

In partnership with the Department of Administration's Historically Underutilized Business Office (HUB) and the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Office (DBE), the MWBE Unit holds monthly information sessions to provide MWBE Businesses information on how to become certified by HUB or DBE. Additionally, they are provided information about doing business with the City of Raleigh and the benefits of becoming a certified business.

Partner with Organizations with a Proven Track Record of Working with Black and Other Minority Owned Businesses

Carolina Small Business Development Fund, Wake Tech Community College, specifically the LaunchRaleigh effort and Southeast Raleigh Promise

Priority Areas for Econ Dev and Opportunity Zones

Under the City of Raleigh's Business Investment Grant (BIG) the City encourages the creation, retention, and/or expansion of new or existing businesses and jobs within the community. The program provides grants to companies, usually based upon the amount of new ad valorem taxable investment to the city generated from the private business investment made. Grant recipients are encouraged to hire residents of Raleigh and to use local small, minority and women-owned businesses when such goods or services can be obtained at competitive prices to support the City's Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise initiatives. Additionally, companies that locate in an adopted Priority Area for Economic Development are eligible for enhanced terms and amounts.

The City of Raleigh has also designated 10 Opportunity Zones under the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and described them for the public, developers, and investors to view on the City of Raleigh's Opportunity Zone Story Map:

<https://ral.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=497bd2e832a1451f8ad2514bcba67ad8>. Opportunity Zones offer capital gains tax relief for investments in economically distressed areas, which are designed to enhance the flow of capital to new and expanding businesses and create sustained economic growth in communities that have been traditionally left out of Raleigh's most recent economic boom. The Office of Economic Development and Innovation has engaged with community leaders and community members as they work with developers and investors to determine what those opportunities could be and what they could look like. One such potential opportunity is a collaboration between ED&I, Shaw University, and NC State for a 5G tower and technology center on the Shaw University campus in downtown Raleigh. Shaw has presented their project to the Governor's Office to request funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provides funding for institutions of higher education. The grant request would support a technology and broadband infrastructure upgrade project that will be

the foundation for a community engagement plan to fight COVID-19. The project would allow Shaw to have stable broadband access for their students and solve broadband access challenges in the vulnerable communities that surround their campus, including school age children who are no longer able to attend schools due to COVID closures but do not have access to the internet in their homes.
