

City Manager's Weekly Report

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City Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day

Reminder that City administrative offices will be **closed** on **Monday, September 7** in observance of the **Labor Day** holiday.

Work Session - Tuesday, September 8 - 4:00 P.M.

The regularly scheduled monthly second **Tuesday work session** will be held, remotely, beginning at **4:00 P.M.**

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

INFORMATION:

Presidential Executive Order – Payroll Tax Deferral

Staff Resource: Allison Bradsher, Finance, 996-4970, allison.bradsher@raleighnc.gov

Council may be aware from various media reports that a Presidential Executive Order was issued August 8 regarding withholdings on the employee portion of social security taxes. Subsequent guidance from the Secretary of the Treasury was released last week. The Executive Order allows employers the option to not participate in this voluntary, tax-deferral program.

The Executive Order provides for a deferral of employee social security tax through December 31, 2020. However, the entire amount deferred is required to be subsequently collected and remitted to the Internal Revenue Service - no later than April 30, 2021. In practice, any "savings" to the employee in the last quarter of 2020 would be depleted through a doubling of the tax withholding during the first quarter of 2021. In addition, collection of the deferred taxes is ultimately the responsibility of the employer and the City would be liable for any taxes and applicable interest or penalties not collected from, for example, current employees that were to leave employment with the City during the period of deferral.

Staff has benchmarked with other large local governments in North Carolina, and the results indicate no entities plan to implement deferral of payroll taxes and withholding. The City will follow by not participating in the program and employees will be notified next week.

(No attachment)

2020 Census Update: Reporting Deadline Revised

Staff Resource: Sara Ellis, Planning and Development, 996-2234, sara.ellis@raleighnc.gov

As Council is aware from previous reports and updates, the 2020 Census has been underway since April 1. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau earlier this year requested permission from Congress to move the deadline for reporting the Census results to the President. The requested extension would have moved the reporting deadline from December 31, 2020 to April 30, 2021. The Census Bureau anticipated the extension would be approved and had promoted October 31 as the new deadline for households to respond instead of the original response deadline of July 31, 2020.



In August, the Census Bureau retracted its request for the extension, and the Senate majority leader has indicated that the Senate will not act on legislation which had been introduced to implement the extension. As a result, the Census Bureau has rolled back the response deadline to September 30, 2020. The September 30 deadline applies to self-response as well as home visits (which the Census calls Non-response Follow-up or NRFU).

Typically, Census enumerators visit households that have not responded to the Census up to four times. The shortened window for home visits will reduce the opportunities for the Census to produce an accurate count. North Carolina is particularly vulnerable to the shortened counting period. As of September 1, North Carolina had the tenth lowest response rate (including NRFU) of any state, with an estimated 75.9% of residents counted. Raleigh is also struggling with the response rate. The rate is consistently below the Wake County average, even after the start of home visits in late July. Additionally, Raleigh is home to some of the

Census tracts with the lowest response rates. Nine census tracts in Wake County have response rates below 50%. All nine are located in Raleigh.

(No attachment)

GoRaleigh Bus Shelter Update

Staff Resource: David Eatman, Transportation, 996-4040, david.eatman@raleighnc.gov

During the March 3, 2020 City Council meeting the GoRaleigh bus shelter contract was authorized and staff provided information regarding requested design alterations.

The vendor has delivered 20 of the 30 shelters (with design changes as requested) and expects the final ten units to be delivered by the end of September.

GoRaleigh staff installed the first shelter this week on Poole Road at Ralph Drive. The shelter is located about ½ mile west of Sunnybrook Road. Additional sites are being selected from new bus stop construction sites currently in progress. GoRaleigh intends to have up to ten (10) additional sites installed by the end of October as construction on new sites is completed.



(No attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

General Follow Up Item

Greenway Safety

Staff Resource: Marchell Adams-David, City Manager's Ofc., 996-3070, marchell.adams-david@raleighnc.gov

In response to the recent incident on the Walnut Creek Trail (South Saunders Street portion) on Thursday, August 20, staff held a meeting to discuss additional preventive measures to enhance safety throughout the greenway system. The following is a list of items under consideration across several departments.

Volunteer Trail Patrol – PRCR will work with partners to recruit additional volunteers who can serve as volunteer trail patrols/stewards in order to broaden our network of people to provide eyes/ears on the trail system. RPD will continue to engage its volunteers whose participation has waned since COVID-19. Staff will consider opportunities to recruit and retain young volunteers to assist the 100+ volunteers currently in the rotation.

Surveillance Cameras – Staff will research costs for potential mobile surveillance cameras that can be moved from location to location which may serve as a deterrent and potentially provide footage of any incidents that may occur.

Safety Signage – PRCR will review existing signage and make recommendations for improvements which may also include signage showing location, mileage markers, geo-locators and soft reminders to be aware of surroundings.

Park Rangers – PRCRR is researching possibility of starting a non-commissioned Park Ranger program that will provide a presence on parks and trails. Focus will be on guest services, education and compliance. RPD will consider the deployment of resources such as the mounted unit to assist with park & greenway coverage.

Periodic Safety Campaigns – PRCR, RPD and Communications staff will continue pushing out PSAs via website and social media channels encouraging trail users to practice the “buddy system” when possible. Staff will also develop an Adopt a Greenway Program to garner additional support for greenway safety.

CPTED Review – As citywide efforts continue to enhance crime prevention through environmental design, we will assess sites and make the necessary adjustments for better sight lines, means of egress, and appropriate lighting along trails.

The table below depicts greenway incidents for 2019 and 2020 YTD

	2019 YTD	2020 YTD	% CHANGE
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	24	10	-58%
ARSON	2	1	-50%
ASSAULT	22	24	9%
BURGLARY/COMMERCIAL	1	1	0%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	6	4	-33%
DRUG VIOLATIONS	88	59	-33%
HOMICIDE	0	1	N/C
HUMANE	8	15	88%
LARCENY	7	6	-14%
LARCENY FROM MV	9	21	133%
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	6	2	-67%
MISCELLANEOUS	54	34	-37%
MV THEFT	1	0	-100%
ROBBERY	5	2	-60%
SEX OFFENSES	3	3	0%
STOLEN PROPERTY	9	1	-89%
TRAFFIC	6	0	-100%
VANDALISM	11	22	100%
WEAPONS VIOLATION	5	12	140%
Grand Total	267	217	-19%

(No attachment)

Follow Up from the September 1 City Council Meeting

Website Link to Wake Network of Care (Mayor Pro Tem Branch)

Staff Resource: Larry Jarvis, H&N, 996-6947, larry.jarvis@raleighnc.gov

At the Council meeting on September 1, Council requested that staff provide a link to communicate to residents concerned about eviction or wanting to obtain information about services provided by the Wake

Network of Care. The link for the housing crisis resources page is:

<https://raleighnc.gov/services/housing/are-you-homeless-or-experiencing-housing-crisis>

Located on this page is a link to Wake County resources which will connect to the Wake Network of Care.

(No attachment)