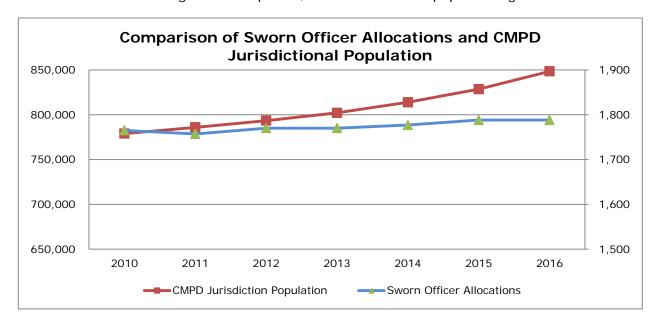
# Questions and Answers May 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum

**Question 1:** What is the ratio of CMPD Police Officers to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg population served by CMPD?

As of 2016, the population of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area served by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD Jurisdiction) is 848,403. CMPD currently has 1,788 sworn police officers serving within this jurisdiction, or one sworn officer for every 474.5 residents. The last significant increase in the number of police officers in Charlotte was in 2009, when 125 sworn officers were added. Between 2010 and 2016 however, the City has added a total of 23 sworn police officers, an average of 3.3 new officers per year, and a total increase of 1.3%. During the same period, CMPD Jurisdiction population grew 8.9%.



<u>Question 2:</u> What is the Housing Rehabilitation/Critical Home Repair Program, and how does the public access and utilize its services? How will the two new positions recommended for addition in the FY2017 Recommended Budget support this program?

The City's Housing Rehabilitation Program, also known as the Safe Home Program, assists with the preservation of Charlotte's existing housing stock by addressing housing code violations, safety issues, energy efficiency retrofits, and accessibility modifications. The program generally covers the home structure, but if exterior items such as trees are a threat to the home (in danger of falling on/near the structure) they will also be addressed during the rehab process.

Eligible participants are homeowners earning 60% (\$40,320) or below of the Area Median Income, as well as elderly and disabled homeowners. The program provides up to \$42,000 per housing unit per eligible homeowner. The City's Neighborhood & Business Services Department's community engagement and code enforcement staffs make people aware of the program through neighborhood association meetings and their daily activities. Due to the growing need in the community for these services and the limited funding available, this program is often oversubscribed and generally has a waiting list. The application period for this program is currently suspended to allow staff to work through the current back log of

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over 200 applicants. However, it will reopen in October 2016 and elderly applicants are a city preference for receiving services. For more information on housing rehabilitation programs, please call 704-336-3311.

The two requested positions will join the Housing Services division to enhance service delivery of the Safe Home Rehabilitation, Emergency Repair and other housing programs. Currently, the City has a waiting list for housing rehabilitation services and these positions will further current efforts to reduce wait times.

<u>Question 3:</u> How does the City plan to get the word out on all the proposed new jobs that will be created from the City's investments?

The City's capital infrastructure investments are anticipated to create many new jobs both directly from the construction of the infrastructure and indirectly from new private development spurred by the City's capital investments. As the City-funded construction projects get underway, new construction-related jobs will be created in the Charlotte economy, boosting employment opportunities for area residents. As these construction projects are approved by City Council, information on the selected contractors and sub-contractors will be available on the City's web page at <a href="http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/epm/Pages/default.aspx">http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/epm/Pages/default.aspx</a> for those interested in seeking employment with those businesses. Additionally, the City Manager's recommended FY2017 budget includes new positions that will work directly on the City's capital infrastructure projects. If approved by City Council, these positions will be posted online at the City's website at (<a href="http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/HumanResources/Pages/default.aspx">http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/HumanResources/Pages/default.aspx</a>). The City also uses a variety of recruitment strategies to identify candidates, including:

- Posting positions and sourcing candidates on job and Social Media sites (e.g., LinkedIn, indeed.com, careerbuilder.com, etc.);
- Partnering with agencies that offer job assistance and job training services, such as CharlotteWorks, the Employment Security Commission, etc.;
- Participating in area job fairs; and
- Hosting City job fairs.

Finally, a demand market analysis conducted by the City estimates that the capital infrastructure investments planned over the course of the four bond referenda between 2014 and 2020 will generate \$2.2 billion in new residential and commercial development and stimulate 18,495 new jobs over the next 20 years.

#### **Question 4:** What is the "Happiness Index"?

According to the World Happiness Report 2016 Update, happiness data and subjective well-being research are increasingly being used by governments to enable policies that support better lives. The City of Charlotte's FY2016 Environment Strategic Focus Area Plan includes a Smart City Community initiative to "Develop the Happiness Index for Charlotte." Through March 31, 2016, work had begun with UNC Charlotte's Data Science Initiative and Shift Design to begin this process. In addition, the City has applied for a Knight Cities Challenge grant to move forward with this effort. Measures typically found in Happiness Indexes include quality of life measures such as physical health, social connectedness, and economic opportunity. For more information on the World Happiness Report, please visit <a href="http://worldhappiness.report/">http://worldhappiness.report/</a>.

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Question 5: What are the funding sources for the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority?

The Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) manages and promotes Charlotte's publicly-owned assembly facilities, which include the Charlotte Convention Center, Bojangles Coliseum, Ovens Auditorium, the NASCAR Hall of Fame, and specific contracted services with Time Warner Cable Arena and Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The CRVA's funding is derived from a portion of the proceeds from hospitality-related taxes including the Occupancy Tax, Prepared Food and Beverage Tax, and Rental Car Tax.

### Occupancy Tax/NASCAR Occupancy Tax:

The current Occupancy Tax (generated from hotel/motel occupancy) is 6% and is expected to generate approximately \$39.8 million in FY2017. Revenues from the occupancy tax are used to support the CRVA's marketing efforts and the debt service on projects such as the Convection Center and Bank of America Stadium improvements. In addition, occupancy tax revenues are collected for all jurisdictions across the County and portions of the collected occupancy tax are distributed to each town and Mecklenburg County based on the inter-local agreement.

The NASCAR Occupancy Tax of 2% is in addition to the countywide 6% Occupancy Tax. The NASCAR Occupancy Tax is expected to generate approximately \$13.3 million in FY2017. Revenues from the NASCAR Occupancy Tax are used to support the debt service on the NASCAR Hall of Fame, as well as maintenance and repairs of the facility.

### Prepared Food and Beverage:

The current 1% Prepared Food and Beverage Tax is expected to generate approximately \$30.7 million in FY2017. Revenues from the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax are used along with the Occupancy Tax to help support the CRVA's marketing efforts and debt service on projects such as the Convection Center and Bank of America Stadium improvements. Each of the six towns also receives an allocation equal to 75% of the previous year's Prepared Food and Beverage Tax collections.

#### **Rental Car**

The current 1.5% Rental Car Tax is applied to rental cars and cargo vehicles under 6,000 lbs. The Rental Car Tax is expected to generate approximately \$3.3 million in FY2017 and is primarily used for the original debt service on the Time Warner Cable Arena.

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