

An update to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners from the County Manager

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## **Legislative Update**

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Senator Harry Brown filed Senate Bill 126 last Thursday, which would change the local option sales tax adjustment factors for every county in North Carolina. The General Assembly's fiscal research division projects that – if the bill passes - Mecklenburg County would increase its net sales tax receipts by approximately \$2 million for the upcoming fiscal year. County governments, however, are calculating their own figures based on Senator Brown's new, proposed categories.

In summary, the bill would reorganize every county into one of three Tiers, based on its overall socioeconomic strength – with large urban counties like Mecklenburg falling into Tier 3. All five of the bill's sponsors are from Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties.

On Thursday, the bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee. To view a statewide map of the 2017 Tier Designations, visit the following link: https://www.nccommerce.com/research-publications/incentive-reports/county-tier-designations.

In response to Gov. Cooper's call for a compromise repeal of House Bill 2, House Bill 186 - a bipartisan bill to repeal HB2 - was filed last week by Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-Henderson) in the North Carolina House of Representatives. In short, House Bill 186 would repeal HB2 while prohibiting local governments from regulating private restroom facilities.

The measure was met with sharp criticism from action groups on both sides of the political aisle, with conservative groups stating that the bill does not go far enough to protect citizens in public restrooms and liberal groups stating that it still leaves the door open for discrimination against transgender individuals in private bathrooms. The North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association, the North Carolina Realtors Association, and the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce are all supportive of the bill.

For more information, contact Legislative Affairs Liaison Jonathan Sink at 980-314-2884 or Jonathan.Sink@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

#### **Pap Test Update**

I wanted to update you again on <u>Public Health's Cervical Cancer screening program</u>, including changes I announced last Friday.

Public Health has completed a comprehensive review of all pap tests to ensure that the 185 impacted patients have been contacted. We have reached all but a few, providing them with

instructions and appointments for any follow up screenings. Public Health disease investigation specialists continue looking to locate those we have not yet found.

In addition, a number of changes to the program are being made, including:

- All patients will be notified of their pap test results within 30 days of the test regardless of the
  result.
- New reporting procedures have been implemented that track adherence to the abnormal pap test notification process. These reports will be reviewed and monitored by Dr. Plescia.
- We have hired an additional experienced medical assistant to ensure timely follow up of pap test results.
- A plan to centralize follow up activity is being developed. Recruitment of a full time, experienced case management nurse to oversee follow up of all clinical tests is in progress.
- Recruitment of an experienced clinic manager to provide oversight and management of this clinic operation is in progress.
- On Feb. 27, Barbra Azzara was retained by the County as a contract clinic manager. She will
  oversee all operations of the clinic until a permanent clinic manager is hired. Barbra will
  report directly to Dr. Plescia so there is clear direction and accountability.
- The County's Internal Audit Department is conducting a formal review of the internal controls
  to assess and resolve vulnerabilities that may negatively impact patient care.
- Contacted the NC Division of Public Health to request assistance with an assessment of Public Health Department operations and compliance with state and federal rules and regulations.

Public Health will provide a progress update to the Board at an upcoming regular meeting.

# **Cathy Bessant Named North Tryon Advisory Committee Chairperson**

Ron Kimble (as Interim City Manager) and I have asked Cathy Bessant to serve as chairperson of the North Tryon Executive Advisory Council. Bessant is the chief operations and technology officer at Bank of America. Her experience at Bank of America and her commitment to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community make her the perfect choice to lead this effort. Bank of America is also a key property owner in the North Tryon Corridor.

Under Bessant's leadership, the executive advisory council – comprised of property owners and local community leaders – will develop the strategies, timelines and resource needs to make the North Tryon Vision a reality. Debra Campbell, Assistant City Manager and I serve as co-vice chairs of the council.

The North Tryon Vision Plan focuses on a 50-square-block district in Center City Charlotte, and will build upon North Tryon's already rich arts and cultural offerings to cultivate a dynamic and inclusive new uptown neighborhood. Implementation will take place over the next 15 years.

If you have questions, please let me know.

### **LUESA University Day Set for March 7**

The Mecklenburg County <u>Land Use and Environmental Services Agency</u> (LUESA) will hold its annual LUESA University Day on Tuesday, March 7, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the UNC Charlotte Student Union, 8845 Craver Road, Charlotte.

Commissioners are invited to attend the event, which will include sessions on team building, communication, customer service and community interaction.

Offices and facilities of the six LUESA divisions will be open during the event with staff rotating to ensure no service interruption to our customers.

For information about the LUESA University Day, contact Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi at 980-314-3628 or Ebenezer.Gujjarlapudi@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

## CALENDAR REMINDERS

• Tuesday, March 7, 6 p.m. - BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber

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