



Dear Friends,

It's been a busy few weeks! I have been making all sorts of progress: from gaining approval to bring in experts to expedite the Eastland Mall redevelopment, to ensuring the Idlewild Bridge opened on time, to bringing new vibrancy to East Charlotte with the UniverSoul Circus!

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## **City Council Approved the first step of the Eastland Mall Site Redevelopment Plan**

The City Council has decided to move forward with the Eastland Mall redevelopment plan. They voted to authorize City Manager Marcus D. Jones to negotiate and execute a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. This decision to continue the project I have been working on is an exciting advancement towards my goal of bringing new economic opportunities to East Charlotte.

Some of the goals used to guide redevelopment of the site include:

- Enhancing the perceptions of the Eastland area and East Charlotte
- Unifying local communities
- Creating connectivity and walkability for surrounding neighborhoods
- Taking advantage of natural features
- Create opportunity for civic development and equitable economic development

To read more about City Council's approval and our plans for the redevelopment, click [here](#). To watch a short news clip about the decision, [click here](#). Watch me advocate for East Charlotte at Monday's City Council meeting:



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## **Bringing Vibrancy to East Charlotte: UniverSoul Circus**

Another part of my plan to make East Charlotte a destination point was to bring the UniverSoul Circus here to our own backyard! The circus brought new energy and drew more than 27,000 visitors to the area.

I have been working around the clock to bring events of this magnitude to our district, and I'm happy to report the Circus was a huge success. Stay tuned for more exciting events this summer.

Everyone who attended the Circus enjoyed an extraordinary two hours of awesome family entertainment, music, acrobatics, and even audience participation, but Thursday, March 16th was a special night for neighborhood leaders. I worked with the UniverSoul Circus to secure seating for important neighborhood leaders, and I had the great honor of welcoming them to the east side.

The circus hopes to return soon, once again providing community bonding and boosting the local economy.



Photo: UniverSoul Circus [on Facebook](#)

Watch me and the City Council recognize UniverSoul at Monday's meeting:



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## Idlewild Road Bridge Opened Last Week

The N.C. Department of Transportation shifted traffic to a new bridge taking Idlewild Road over Independence Boulevard Monday night, March 20. This bridge, the third to open under the Independence Boulevard widening and improvement project, allows drivers to travel more easily through East Charlotte, especially through our district.

To learn more, read this [Charlotte Observer](#) article.

For real-time travel information, visit [DriveNC.gov](#) or [follow NCDOT on Twitter](#).



Photo credit: [Charlotte Observer](#)

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Thank you to everyone who came out to the City Council meeting and the UniverSoul Circus. And thanks to all of you for your continued support and feedback. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, concerns, and suggestions!

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"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

– Howard Zinn



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