

April 3, 2017

Legislative Update

Dwarfing all other legislative news was the repeal of House Bill 2 last Thursday, which Gov. Cooper quickly signed into law once it passed both chambers of the General Assembly. The repeal bill, known as House Bill 142, received praise and criticism from members of both parties, and ultimately passed by a vote of 32-16 in the Senate and a 70-48 in the House. A few members abstained from voting. The new law does the following:

- · Repeals House Bill 2, taking it off the books.
- Establishes a moratorium on local non-discrimination ordinances like the Charlotte ordinance
 that led to the General Assembly passing House Bill 2. This moratorium would run until Dec.
 1. 2020.
- Eliminates the prohibition on local governments from setting rules for private contractors regarding minimum wage and worker benefits.

There is now a new House Bill 2 with completely different content making its way through the General Assembly. The new HB 2 deals with increased property tax exemptions for disabled veterans and their families. The bill would give a complete property tax exemption on the homes of the surviving spouses of emergency personnel officers who have been killed in the line of duty. While property tax breaks for fully disabled veterans is not a new reality in North Carolina, the gist of the bill is that the assessed value limit and coinciding property tax exemption would increase from \$45,000 to \$100,000 of assessed property value.

There is also a hold harmless provision in the legislation, which would provide state funds to make counties whole so long as counties report to the state how much property tax revenue was not collected from eligible claimants utilizing this exemption. An annual appropriation from the General Assembly would be required for counties to actually get this money from the state. The bill now moves on to the Senate for consideration.

House Bill 500 – the marquee ABC omnibus legislation for the 2017 long session – was filed last Tuesday. HB 500 would increase the barrel cap on small business craft breweries from 25,000 barrels to 200,000 barrels a year. The bill quickly gained a bipartisan base of sponsors in the House, among which are many Mecklenburg members. If any bill is to gain traction this session, it is expected to be this piece of legislation. Craft breweries around the state have voiced their

support for the bill, while the Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association opposes the bill. Conversations on a compromise barrel figure are ongoing.

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

Ribbon Cutting for New Compost Central and Recycling Center Facility

Earlier today, Mecklenburg County's Land Use and Environmental Services Agency (LUESA) held a ribbon cutting for the new location of the Compost Central and Recycling Center now located at 140 Valleydale Road in Charlotte. <u>View pictures</u>.

The facility is relocating from its current location on West Boulevard due to the proposed expansion of Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

Compost Central will continue to serve as the County's primary yard trimmings management facility and composting center, producing a compost product for sale from the yard trimmings received. The recycling center is located on the same property as Compost Central.

The facility is expected to open to the public on Monday, April 10 and an Earth Day event is planned for April 22.

For more information, contact LUESA Director Ebenezer Gujjarlapudi at 980-314-3628 or Ebenezer.Gujjarlapudi@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

David Williamson Jr. Pavilion Dedication Set for Wednesday

This Wednesday, April 5, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation will officially dedicate the newly renovated David Williamson Jr. Pavilion at Hornet's Nest Park. The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the park, 6301 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte. Commissioners and the public are invited to attend.

Residents will be able to enjoy the following enhancements to the pavilion:

- Enclosed existing open air shelter for climate-controlled meeting space
- New patio space with grills for outdoor functions
- New accessible walkway from pavilion to Beatties Ford Road.
- Landscape, sidewalk, signage and lake improvements

David Williamson Jr., the pavilion's namesake, is one of seven surviving members of the "Friendship Nine" who were arrested on Jan. 31, 1961 after staging a sit-in at a segregated McCrory's lunch counter in Rock Hill, SC.

As a Charlottean, David has served as a leader in the Beatties Ford/Trinity Park community for many years, including a stint as the Hornet's Nest Optimist Club President from 1988-2007. He also served two terms on the Park and Recreation, Northwest District Advisory Council in the 90s and as the neighborhood and community representative at City and County planning and zoning events.

For more information, contact Park and Recreation Director Jim Garges at 980-314-1012 or James.Garges@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, April 4, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Tuesday, April 4, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Thursday, April 6, 8:30 a.m. County Manager Dena R. Diorio will speak at the NC3C Conference at the Holiday Inn Center City, 230 N. College St.

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