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DISTRICT 2 UPDATE: 100 Days In and beyond

Councilman Justin Harlow [bounce@bounce.myngp.com] on behalf of Councilman Justin Harlow [justin.harlow@charlottenc.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:18 PM

To: Steve Johnston



Friends and Constituents,

I just wanted to check back in with you. It has been just over 100 days since I was sworn in and there are a lot of updates in District 2. Saturday, before joining my family at the St. Patrick's Day parade, I had the opportunity to speak to our newest class of Charlotte Civic Leadership Academy about our "shared story" and how strong diverse neighborhoods are our biggest asset in tackling mobility. There were 39 emerging leaders (6 from District 2) taking a 11 session crash course in City of Charlotte Government and civic leadership. Being there reminded me why I ran for city council - to help our city grow in a sustainable, people-first way, while protecting our senior citizens who have paved the way for younger emerging leaders.



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS - I attended the following Lakewood Community Meeting on February 8th, the Garden Park/Northwood Estates with Precinct 16 Meeting on Feb 13, and both of the Historic West End Neighborhood Association Meetings on February and March 10th. I will be attending the CMPD North Division Monthly Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting on March 27th.



TOWN HALL - On February 21, I hosted my first town hall. The town hall was an informal community workshop where over 65 constituents came to have discussions with City of Charlotte staff from Housing and Neighborhood Services, the City Clerk's office as well as CMPD, Mecklenburg County Social Services staff and members from the Tax Assessor's office were present as well to field questions about upcoming property revaluations and new programs for senior citizens.



BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – There are currently 33 active advisory boards/commissions with a total of 409 seats/positions appointed by the Mayor, Council and City Manager. My last update included that District 2 had **three new appointments** to our city Boards and Commissions. I will continue to encourage all to apply for ongoing vacancies so that we can increase District 2 participation and utilization. After finding out that there were no people of color on the Historic Landmarks Commission, I urged our city council to appoint a District 2 resident to bring a much needed voice for diversity's sake. I'm proud to say that Oaklawn Park resident (and former neighborhood association president) **William Hughes** applied and was appointed with a 7-4 vote. There are ongoing vacancies so keep applying! Learn more [here](#).

AFFORDABLE HOUSING – I am happy to be serving on the Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee. We are actively looking at our Housing Locational Policy and our Strategic Housing Plan. As we tackle, our affordable housing crisis, I have been vocal on encouraging our city to not try to own the problem as our own. This is all of Charlotte's problem so we need help from other governing bodies, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors. Over the past few weeks, I've had meetings with Charlotte Center City Partners (March 6 and 13), Foundation of the Carolinas (March 8 and 13), Knight Foundation (March 15), Laurel Street (March 6), and Crosland Southeast (March 14) to discuss how to help developers build affordable housing faster while also continuing ongoing conversations around a private equity fund to help leverage our city's Housing Trust Fund. This is a billion dollar issue, so we need all hands on deck to create collective solutions. I also have a meeting set up with Charlotte Housing Authority to discuss more partnerships.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE – My predecessor, Councilwoman Carlenia Ivory, was the first to point out that NC16/Brookshire Blvd did not have adequate lighting. Our community is literally in the dark! I've accepted the task to continue her work and have had two meetings with CDOT and NCDOT around lighting on NC-16/Brookshire. I was able to secure a written commitment from NCDOT that new lighting would be added between I-85 and Beatties Ford Rd, but we are still working to establish a definitive delivery date. We had conversations with State Representative Chaz Beasley and State Senator Joel Ford about infrastructure projects on some of District 2's busiest thoroughfares. I am especially concerned about the lack of planning from NCDOT on Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd and NC-16 near the Coulwood, Bellhaven, and Mountain Island Communities. I will continue to lobby our state delegation to do everything they can to alleviate traffic concerns and congestion on our interstates and state roads.

I attended a community meeting with petitioners of NVR, Inc to hear their plans for a new for sale housing subdivision on Cindy Lane (between I-77 and Statesville Rd). The plan calls for 180 townhomes and 166 single family homes. This would be the first new for-sale market rate development in District 2 in a very long time. The nearby residents support it, and the developer is making some needed optional infrastructure developments too. There is currently a senior housing development planned adjacent to the Park Church on Beatties Ford Rd. A community meeting hosted by Laurel Street Residential was well received by the surrounding communities like Hyde Park and Trinity Park on March 8.



STREETCAR CONSTRUCTION: Utility work continues in preparation for the CityLynx Gold Line (streetcar) to come to the west side. W. Trade Street between Rozzelles Ferry (5 Points) Intersection and I-77 S On-Ramp will be closed to thru traffic on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM and will re-open on Monday, October 1, 2018 at 6:00 AM.



The city council Economic Development committee is looking at business impacts and remedies due to these road closures.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) - There is a UDO Summit being held on March 24th from 8:30am-1:30pm at UNC Charlotte Center City campus. City of Charlotte is trying to be better at planning and be more proactive about our growth. We are in the process of updating our "place-types" and zoning ordinances into a more simplified ordinance that will guide land use and development in the future. This is a multi-year effort that is now entering into the community engagement phase. I need your help in making sure that our voices are heard. This UDO is important. It will set the guiding principles and policies that will shape how Charlotte grows for the next 30-50 years. [ALL UPCOMING UDO EVENTS CAN BE FOUND HERE.](#)



Neighborhood Board Retreat - On February 24, I was happy to see 5 District 2 neighborhoods participating in the Housing and Neighborhood Services Neighborhood Board retreats. The 5 were [Lakewood CLT](#), Thomasboro Neighborhood Association, [Biddleville-Smallwood Community Organization](#), [Peachtree Hills Community](#), and Brookfield Neighborhood Association. Out of 15 associations/groups attending, District 2 had the most!



Support THE MALES PLACE, a great D2-based nonprofit - On February 24, Kiara and I attended the Males Place Black Tie Dinner to support their journey to send 17 young boys to Ghana for a life changing week of cultural immersion. Reggie Singleton started the Males Place in 1993. The Males Place, Inc. has mentored over 3000 CharMeck youth. They provide comprehensive and prevention-based behavior health educational programming, mentoring and life skills training necessary for manhood development for African American boys ages 12-18; while creating a safe environment for young men to grow experientially, in community settings in the United States and abroad. Support this group by donating to their cause! www.themalesplace.org.



Proclamation - On February 19, I had the opportunity to join in celebration and read a proclamation signed by the Mayor. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library System rededicated and named a community room at the Beatties Ford Rd Library after a west side stalwart, Ms. Elizabeth S Randolph.



Other meetings & events attended: Tour of Charlotte Rescue Mission (Jan 30), City Council Retreat (Jan 31- Feb 2), Exodus Foundation (Feb 5), Savona Mill update (Feb 6), Junior Achievement Visit (Feb 6), Meeting with new JCSU president (Feb 9), Meetings with pending or prospective developments (Feb 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 26, 27, 28, March 1, 7, 8, 12, 14) One-on-one with new planning director (Feb 20), Attended Essentials of Municipal Government training in Asheville (Feb 22-23), Black History Month quiz bowl (Feb 24), Breakfast Conversations for Small Businesses (Feb 27), Supportive Housing Communities Luncheon (March 7), One-on-One with John Lewis CEO of CATS (March 8), Beatties Ford/Sunset CNIP Meeting (March 8), Trees Charlotte Meeting (March 8), Envision Charlotte Meeting (March 8), Lakewood Tolley meeting (March 9), Tour of Carolina Theater (March 13), Building Futures Symposium on Affordable Housing (March 15), Charlotte Housing Authority (March 19)

LET'S CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR DISTRICT 2 AND ALL OF CHARLOTTE.

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