

Jan. 14, 2019

Legislative Update

Members of the Mecklenburg County Legislative Delegation were sworn in last week during the opening of the 2019 session of the North Carolina General Assembly. Rep. Kelly Alexander was elected as chairman of the delegation during this occasion.

Committee meetings and consideration of legislation will begin Jan. 30. We are still working to confirm the date of our annual legislative breakfast. As soon as it is confirmed, we will let you know.

On Feb. 8 from 5-7 p.m., the delegation will seek public feedback during a listening session at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center in room 267.

We look forward to working with legislators on issues affecting the County and our residents.

For more information, contact Starla Tanner, legislative affairs liaison, at 980-314-2884 or Starla.Tanner@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Mecklenburg County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee Planning Begins

The 2020 Census will officially begin in April of next year, but the work to administer it is already underway. The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring 11,000 people to work in North Carolina. Our GIS department has been working with the Census Bureau to validate and update addresses. The County will assist in another important way also – the creation of a Complete Count Committee (CCC).

Sometimes we forget all the ways census results affect our citizens. Most visibly, they determine North Carolina's number of representatives in Congress, and are used for redistricting at the federal, state and local levels. The federal government also allocates critical funds based on decennial census-derived data.

In collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau and the North Carolina Governor's Office, the County will be establishing a Complete Count Committee (CCC). The goal of a CCC is to increase participation of individuals who are less likely to respond or are often missed by the decennial census, such as young children, homeless individuals, migrant populations, non-English speakers, and renters. The committee will include representatives from local government, business, education, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations. The greatest barrier to census participation is often fear and misinformation, so we want committee members who are trusted

1 of 3

voices in their communities.

The Complete Count Committee will begin meeting by April and will continue to work through May 2020. Their objectives will be to identify target "hard to count" populations in Mecklenburg County and to develop an outreach plan tailored to the unique characteristics of those communities.

For more information, contact Deborah Goldberg, Mecklenburg County management analyst, at 980-314-2934 or Deborah.Goldberg@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

'North Carolina Convening on Racial Equity' Event Set for Jan. 16 and 17

This week, Mecklenburg County, the <u>Government Alliance on Race and Equity</u> (GARE) and several other NC jurisdictions will host the first "<u>North Carolina Convening – Advancing Racial Equity:</u> <u>Building a Movement for Impact through Local Government Act</u>" event. GARE is a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. GARE is a program of Race Forward and the Haas Institute for a Fair & Inclusive Society.

The two-day event will be held at the CPCC Harris Conference Center on Wednesday, Jan. 16 and Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019. The agenda will include conversations about "Organizing, Normalizing and Operationalizing" to advance racial equity through education, cooperation and collaboration. BOCC Chairman George Dunlap will provide welcome remarks on day one.

The North Carolina Convening on Racial Equity is a unique gathering that will bring together 300 people, including representatives from several government jurisdictions and an array of community-based organizations. Goals of the Convening include:

- Defining the role government can play in advancing equity
- Sharing local and national best practices to advance racial equity that are already in place
- Exploring strategies for operationalizing racial equity in areas such as housing, employment, education, transportation and the environment

For more information, <u>click here</u> or contact Phin Xaypangna, equity and inclusion manager, at 980-314-2174 or Phin.Xaypangna@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

Volunteers Prepare for Point-in-Time Count

Mecklenburg County, in partnership with the City of Charlotte, is preparing for the 2019 Point-in-Time Count: Everybody Counts Charlotte on Jan. 30, 2019.

The Point-in-Time Count is when our community comes together to survey and count every person experiencing homelessness on one night. Last year, 1,688 people were counted. This number included 167 families, 77 youth and 209 people sleeping outside in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Last week, volunteers were invited to attend the EverybodyGathersCharlotte event to receive information on how to support this important work, such as giving time, donating items and raising awareness.

For more information, <u>click here</u>. You can also contact CSS Director Stacy Lowry at 980-314-8903 or Stacy.Lowry@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will speak at the Newcomers of North Mecklenburg/South Iredell County meeting about the 2019 Revaluation.
- Tuesday, Jan. 15, 5-6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Informal Session, CMGC CH-14
- Tuesday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m. BOCC Regular Meeting, Formal Session, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Tuesday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m. Budget Priority Public Hearing, CMGC Meeting Chamber
- Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 a.m. County Assessor Ken Joyner will speak at the CPG Real Estate Group meeting about the 2019 Revaluation.

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