

June 24, 2019

Legislative Update

Last week was a busy time at the legislature. The major issue being discussed continues to be the state budget, however, several bills were considered that may have an impact on the County. An update on the bills can be found here.

In addition, I'd like to thank our congressional delegation for their continued work in Washington, D.C., on behalf or Mecklenburg County residents. A link to Congresswoman Adams questioning possible changes to the SNAP program can be found here.

If you have questions, please contact Starla Tanner, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at 980-314-2884.

Equity Action Plan Update

I am pleased to announce that my Cabinet has formally adopted Mecklenburg County's first Equity Action Plan as a part of our Equity and Inclusion Initiative.

The Equity Action Plan was designed with the intent of creating long lasting institutional and structural changes within the County through the implementation of specific goals and strategies that support racial equity. Implementing these strategies will not only improve how we operate within Mecklenburg County, but it will also benefit the community we serve.

The Equity Action Plan has six main goals:

- Goal 1: Infrastructure & Tools Mecklenburg County employees and residents have an understanding of and ability to advance equity.
- Goal 2: Workforce Equity Mecklenburg County is a model employer advancing racial equity.
- Goal 3: Inclusive Engagement Mecklenburg County residents are engaged in the community where they live, learn, work and recreate.
- Goal 4: Health Equity All residents in Mecklenburg County are healthy.
- Goal 5: Economic Opportunity Mecklenburg County's small businesses and non-profits share in the County's economic prosperity.
- Goal 6: Criminal Justice All residents in Mecklenburg County live in a more just and equitable community.

The plan includes corresponding strategies and "action" items within each Goal area with a target date of when each action will be implemented by Departments.

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Most of the action items are scheduled to begin this summer. Some target dates run through Fiscal Year 2022. All action items will be measured for effectiveness.

To learn more about the Equity Action Plan or the Equity and Inclusion Initiative, please <u>click here</u>. If you have questions, please let me know.

County Assessor's Office Receives International Honors

I am pleased to announce that our <u>County Assessor's Office</u> has received international accolades for its outstanding work surrounding the 2019 Revaluation.

Recently, the department was selected by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) as the winner of the 2019 Distinguished Assessment Jurisdiction Award and the 2019 Public Information Program Award.

Over the past several years, the Assessor's Office has worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth, efficient and accurate revaluation; these awards are a true reflection of staff's dedication to that goal.

Both awards will be presented to the Assessor's Office during the IAAO annual conference in early September.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Public Health, Atrium Health and Novant Health Team up to Provide Access to HIV Screenings

ONE Charlotte Health Alliance, formed by Mecklenburg County Public Health, Atrium Health and Novant Health, is providing free human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screenings to the Charlotte area on June 27 in recognition of National HIV Testing Day. Free screenings will be offered on the ONE Charlotte Health Alliance mobile health units from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 27 at the Hal Marshall Center parking lot in uptown Charlotte (700 N. Tryon St.) and in the Walgreens parking lot at the corner of Freedom Drive and Ashley Road. No appointment is required.

The Charlotte Metropolitan area, including seven counties in North Carolina, has one of the highest rates in the nation for new HIV infections according to the CDC. Together, ONE Charlotte Health Alliance partners are teaming up to encourage community members to get screened as well as receive education materials and case management services, if needed.

ONE Charlotte Health Alliance, a coalition intending to address barriers to health care by improving access to health services and resources in the communities that need it most, has identified HIV and STD prevention as one of the top nine health issues ranked in our County. While HIV infection rates among adolescents and adults declined 18 percent between 2014 and 2016, each year an average of 250 to 300 new HIV infections are reported, adding to the growing number of people living with HIV across Mecklenburg County.

Outside of June 27, <u>HIV and STD screenings</u> are offered around Mecklenburg County at a variety of locations and alternative hours with no appointment needed. For more information, call Mecklenburg County Public Health at 704-432-TEST (8378).

If you have questions, please contact Public Health Director Gibbie Harris at 980-314-9020.

DVAC Hosts Domestic Violence Awareness March on June 27

As a partner of the <u>Domestic Violence Advocacy Council</u> (DVAC) and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD), <u>Mecklenburg County Community Support Services</u> (CSS) is proud to invite you to a Domestic Violence Awareness March on Thursday, June 27 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Join CSS staff, local advocates, survivors and County partners as we support domestic violence victims and remember those lives lost to domestic violence. The march will begin and end at Hickory Grove Church located at 7200 E W.T. Harris Blvd, Charlotte. Signs will be available to attendees.

DVAC advocates to solve problems, increase public awareness and support educational efforts for victims of domestic violence. CSS partners with them on several additional events throughout the year, including monthly meetings and a tree lighting ceremony.

To learn more about CSS' partnership with the council, contact <u>Elyse Hamilton-Childres</u>, CSS Prevention and Intervention Services Division Director, at 980-314-8940.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

- Tuesday, June 25, 12:30 2 p.m.– County Assessor's Office staff will speak about the 2019 Revaluation during a CRC luncheon at the VCW Conference Center.
- Tuesday, June 25, 1:30-2:30 p.m. BOCC Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting, CMGC 11th Floor Large Conference Room
- Tuesday, June 25, 2:30 p.m. BOCC Budget/Public Policy Workshop CMGC Room 267

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