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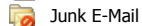
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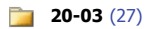

16-12 Grants Committee



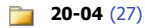
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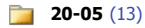
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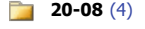
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2020 Reimagining



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Community Ties: gap in equal access to public spaces in Charlotte

Charles Thomas, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 11:44 AM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



**KNIGHT
FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITIES

Dear Sarah,

As we navigate COVID-19 and engage in a national reckoning on race and equality, it's important to ask ourselves what improves our quality of life and increases our connection to Charlotte as we work collectively to determine its future.

To better inform that conversation, Knight Foundation is sharing today a landmark study conducted by the Urban Institute, "[Community Ties: Understanding what attaches people to the place where they live,](#)" which surveyed 11,000 metro area residents in the U.S., including Charlotte. It revealed that access to jobs, recreational spaces and other urban amenities increase residents' feelings of attachment to their communities and their likelihood of investing time and resources in them. But there are racial disparities:

- Local Charlotte data from the study shows that 59% of residents say recreational areas such as parks and trails are very important to them, and 83% feel they are easy to access. But among residents of color, 78% feel they have easy access to recreational areas versus 86% of white residents. This echoes the national gap of 79% versus 88% respectively.
- Likewise, 87% of Charlotte residents say safe places to live, work and play are very important, and 75% report easy access to them. However, that figure drops to 68% for residents of color. Nationally, about 77% of respondents reported easy access, including 69% of people of color.

Conducted prior to the COVID-19 shutdowns, this groundbreaking report leverages a survey of over 11,000 Americans residing in 26 metro areas across the country -- including Charlotte — to create one of the [richest datasets](#) on what drives attachment to place, perceived access to urban amenities, and what cities might do to deepen a sense of connection to their community.

We encourage you to explore Community Ties and use its rich local and national

data to inform your thinking and planning about creating a more equitable Charlotte, where people want to live, work, play and stay.

Charles Thomas
Director/Charlotte
Knight Foundation

[@cthomasclt](#)



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John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
200 S. Biscayne Blvd, Suite 3300
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