

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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Greetings:

Last week several meetings were scheduled at the General Assembly. I attended meetings in the district to continue to inform the community of happenings from the General Assembly and to understand what the needs of the community.

Joyce Waddell

New Charters

New North Carolina charter school applicants are undergoing greater scrutiny this year following the closing of a charter school in Raleigh.

The State Board of Education closed the school in June after accusing the charter school of conflict of interest violations and questioning how funds were spent. Members of the N.C. Charter Schools Advisory Board said Monday during their review of new applicants that they want to avoid a repeat of last year's fiasco.

CSAB members said it was good to have these kinds of detailed discussions now before they recommend which applicants should be approved by the state board. Applicants were told that the questions were not an indication that the board distrusted any of them in particular.

Mecklenburg Evictions

Forced evictions are steadily rising in Mecklenburg County and are nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, based on new data from the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. In response to a request from WFAE, the sheriff's office provided data showing the number of writs of possession the office received on a monthly basis dating back to August 2019.

Average rents in the Charlotte area have risen 14.5% over the past twelve months, according to ApartmentList.com. That is above the state average of 14.2% and the national average of 10%. It was also reported that eviction court cases seen disproportionately involve tenants of color, especially African American women.

Firefighting Equipment

Firefighting is an occupation that comes with inherent risks. In addition to the physical demands, there are also health risks associated with the job. For instance, the rate at which firefighters develop cancer outpaces the general population by 9 percent, and their risk of dying from cancer is 14 percent higher, according to a study published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

North Carolina fire officials want to push down those cancer numbers for the more than 50,000 volunteer and career firefighters in North Carolina's more than 1,200 fire departments. "I would like to see a law in place that says, 'North Carolina firefighters will be in PFAS-free gear by 2025,'" said a firefighter who is the president of Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of North Carolina.

Research shows that firefighters' cancer risks are related, in part, to extended exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds, also known as forever chemicals because of their lasting presence in the environment. Since the 1940s, PFAS have been used in the manufacturing of oil and water-resistant products, as well as products that resist heat and reduce friction. There are more than 12,000 different PFAS compounds used in products such as non-stick cookware, cleaning products, water-resistant clothing and firefighting foam along with firefighting turnout gear.

Conversations have begun to address this issue when the General Assembly reconvenes.

Fundraiser



*Thanks to everyone
for a successful
fundraising event.*



Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. Many of her precincts have changed which makes the election much more competitive. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

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Hopefully, everyone is ok after Hurricane Ian. That storm dropped a lot of rain and hard winds blew through Charlotte.

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