



*"...providing opportunities to build community through collaborative efforts of communication, engagement, and education..."*

June 22, 2023 MEMORANDUM

Position on Adult Arcade/"Fish Table" operations Beatties Ford Road Corridor

The Historic West End Neighborhood Association (HWENA) is a voluntary consortium of 18 residential communities along the Beatties Ford Road Northwest Corridor, City of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County. The purpose of the consortium is to provide opportunities/create space to build community through collaborative efforts of communication, engagement, and education. Each neighborhood, united by the richness of its cultural heritage, maintains its own autonomy to preserve the unique aspects of respective histories and avoid duplication of missions/efforts. In addition, as stewards of respective neighborhoods/Beatties Ford Road Community, members engage with elected officials and staff from City, County, and State government along with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police, Mecklenburg County Sheriff Department, and other entities involved in the welfare/vitality of Charlotte.

This memorandum is submitted to express the position of the consortium opposing the location of adult arcades/"fish table" operations on the Beatties Ford Road corridor. As the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department's own Special Investigations Bureau said, these operations are "havens for criminal activity"<sup>1</sup>. Businesses that promote these types of activities are not part of the design/planning of residential communities with these types of businesses bordering on the out-skirts of the communities. As our interest in economic development on the corridor soars, we also feel the need to spread the protective wings that direct the importance of positive investments that illuminate the many possibilities of the corridor. It is our position that consultation with members of our communities is essential in addressing and keeping issues and challenges facing our ever – changing communities in front of decision makers and members of the Charlotte Community.

We believe that the idea of placing these types of operations on the corridor threatens to reverse the positive steps forward we have taken. We therefore do not support the idea or intentions of these operations on the corridor. We encourage careful attention to the mantra identified as "Corridors of Opportunity" and hopefully encourage visioning that intentionally directs positive/productive "corridors of opportunity."

Respectfully submitted,

President

<sup>1</sup> Coin, J. (2023, Apr 6) "Once all over, Charlotte's fish game arcades have gone dark – for good?," *The Charlotte Observer*. <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article273467320.htm1#storylink=cpy>