

**Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2020**

**MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Due to the State of North Carolina's Declaration of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and per NCGS § 166A-19.24, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners conducted a remote meeting using the WebEx application.

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met remotely in Informal Session on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 5:12 p.m. with Chair George Dunlap presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair George Dunlap
Commissioner Leigh Altman
Commissioner Patricia "Pat" Cotham
Commissioner Mark Jerrell
Commissioner Laura J. Meier
Commissioner Elaine Powell
Commissioner Susan Rodriguez- McDowell
Commissioner Ella Scarborough

Absent Until Noted: Commissioner Vilma D. Leake

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Altman led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. During the invocation, Commissioner Altman said she was excited, as a new member of the Board of County Commissioners, to use her opportunity for invocations to highlight the incredible religious diversity Mecklenburg County had. She said for her first opportunity that she asked the Rabbi of Temple Israel, Rabbi Wolk, to write an invocation for her. She thought it was interesting that there were over 10,000 Mecklenburg County residents who were Jewish.

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM CONSENT

21-6630: PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

The following agenda items were identified by Commissioners to be removed from the Consent agenda for clarity, comment, public awareness, and/or to be voted upon separately:

- 21-6615:** Development Agreement with Discovery Place, Inc. by Commissioner Powell
- 21-6616:** Budget Amendment - Health Department by Commissioner Leake
- 21-6620:** New positions - Health Department by Commissioner Leake
- 21-6623:** Huntersville Greenways Partnership Agreement by Commissioner Leake
- 21-6636:** Budget Amendment - Health Department by Commissioner Leake
- 21-6641:** Expanding End of Year Vacation Carryover Limits by Commissioner Leake

CLOSED SESSION

21-6650: CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell, and carried unanimously to go into closed session to Consult with Attorney.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 5:23 p.m. to go into closed session.

**COMMISSIONER LEAKE JOINED THE MEETING AT 5:25 P.M.
DURING THE CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in open session at 6:10 p.m.

AWARDS/RECOGNITION – NONE

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

21-6626: PUBLIC APPEARANCE

No speakers addressed the Board during Public Appearance.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

20-6538: APPOINTMENTS

Air Quality Commission

The Board considered two appointments to unexpired terms expiring August 31, 2022 and one appointment to an unexpired term expiring August 31, 2021 (all in the General Public category).

The following nominations were made:

- Commissioner Altman nominated Janet Garner-Mullins, Lisa Hooker, and Garrison Scruggs
- Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell nominated Luis Tochiki

These appointments will be brought back to the next regular meeting for Board action.

Community Relations Committee

The Board considered three appointments to unexpired terms expiring September 30, 2023 and one appointment to an unexpired term expiring July 31, 2023.

The following nominations were made:

- Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell nominated Michael McIntosh and Michelle Cornish
- Commissioner Powell nominated Cheryl Ivery, Alison Mangels, and Laura Leftwich
- Commissioner Meier nominated Ohavia Phillips, and Joshua Rowan
- Commissioner Altman nominated Gregory Jackson
- Commissioner Jerrell nominated Jacqueline Yelverton
- Commissioner Leake nominated Debbie Nash

These appointments will be brought back to the next regular meeting for Board action.

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Park And Recreation Commission

The Board considered one appointment to an unexpired term expiring June 30, 2021 in the Central Region 3 area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Powell, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and carried unanimously to appoint Eugene Kiser.

Eugene Kiser was appointed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE

MANAGER'S REPORT

21-6643: AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Dan Gougherty, Cherry Bekaert, LLC, the County's external auditor, provided a report with the results of the financial and single audits. He reminded the Board of their role as External Auditors; gave key-highlights from the audit; and went over internal controls that they looked at as part of the audit.

Mr. Gougherty answered Commissioners' questions and responded to comments.

Commissioner Cotham, Chair of the Audit Committee, said she was pleased with what she saw.

Chair Dunlap asked where things were with their funding strategy for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB).

Dena Diorio, County Manager, responded that OPEB was the future claims on retiree medical benefits provided to employees. She said in July 2010, the County stopped providing retiree medical insurance for the retirees in effort to reduce future claims. She said OPEB was essentially what would be seen in a pension plan, which was what was the future value of claims the County would pay over the course of the retirees' lifetime basically. She said there was a change in the Government Accountability Standards Board (GASB). She said there was a requirement where the County had to put the liability on the balance sheet to reflect the liability going forward. She said it was something very important to the bond rating agencies for a long period of time, so the County did start putting money away to fund future claims, but the financial crisis hit, and the County reduced the amount of money it was putting aside in the trust to fund future retiree medical benefit claims. She asked Mr. Gougherty for the current number. She said the County had a fairly significant, unfunded liability at this point in time.

Mr. Gougherty responded that the current total liability was \$514 million, which was net of what the County had in the trust. He said June 30, 2019 it was \$552 million, so that was a decrease of about \$38 million, which they expected to decrease overtime due to having a closed plan.

Chair Dunlap said he thought it was important to share, because it was a big liability for the County and the Board could keep that in mind moving forward, understanding the County's total financial position.

The presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Gibbie Harris, MSPH, BSN, Health Director, provided an update on COVID-19 data and the response in Mecklenburg County. She said over the last week the numbers were moving in the right direction and that by day, the County's average seven-day, case number was 610 per day, which has come down significantly but was still quite high compared to the rest of this pandemic event. She said the County was down to a 10.7% positivity rate. She said the County has seen a fairly significant drop in the hospital census, as they were looking at 372 hospitalizations averaged per day. She said the conversation she had with the hospitals was that although it dropped significantly, the County was still above where they were throughout the entire pandemic, so it was being watched very closely. She said they were all a little concerned about what may be happening with the variants and how it may impact numbers moving forward. She said they just needed to keep a close eye but that they were all cautiously optimistic at this point.

Ms. Harris said there were 63 active outbreaks in congregate living centers as of the 25th. She said that number continued to climb over the last number of weeks and was a significant concern. She said she believed the County has had its largest outbreak in a homeless shelter over the past week. She said the County had been fairly lucky up until this point but that they were seeing it fairly regularly right now in cases in the shelters that they were moving people out of the shelters and into other living-type situations, mostly hotels. She said they were hoping the numbers would drop off a little bit, but they were seeing the numbers in the long-term facilities as well. She said it continued to be a major concern for the County.

Ms. Harris stated tested seemed to vary, as they saw more testing at certain times of the week than others, but testing continued to be readily available. She said they wanted to continue reminding the community that they should not have to pay for testing as it was available in the community. She said she saw a number of pop-up places in parking lots where testing was being made available at \$65 to \$100 a pop. She said this was not necessary at this point in the community as they continued to provide the drive-thru testing Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Health Department off of Beatties Ford Road and the Bojangles Coliseum, and there were other sites in the community. She said people could go online to find out about available sites and that the turn-around times were averaging less than two days. She said they were seeing less testing going on right now and believed there was more emphasis on vaccine than testing, which was good, but she still requested that people who may have been exposed, to continue to get tested to ensure they do not expose others.

Ms. Harris said the County was continuing the focus on Group 1 for vaccines, which was mostly health-care workers who were in patient contact, as well as long-term care staff and residents and Group 2 who are 65-years old and older in the community. She said there were big demands in both of those areas and that they were not ready to move to Group 3 in the community and would continue to work towards getting those groups vaccinated as vaccines were available.

Ms. Harris said there were 11,525 doses that the County has received in total, and 13,274 doses have been squeezed from those vials. She said there had been 8,775 second doses received with 3,135 administered. She said they continued having the vaccination clinics at Bojangles from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. She said appointments were booked out to February 20 but that they were opening appointments as they recognize additional vaccine. She said they were attempting to do that in a way to ensure they were reaching the most vulnerable populations. Ms. Harris said of the 13,274 administered doses, 69.5% of those were administered to white, non-Hispanic individuals; 16.1% to black, non-Hispanics; 5.6% to Hispanics; and 5% to Asians. She said four percent refused or did not provide information about race and ethnicity.

Ms. Harris said people of color were typically underrepresented in this group, and many healthcare workers tend to be white and female, but that did not mean they did not have work to do to make sure they were providing the vaccine equitability within the group. She

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reviewed the percent of individuals 65 and older by race and ethnicity in the community and the percent who received first doses of vaccine thus far in the community. She said 70.5% of vaccines went to white, non-Hispanics; 16.8% to black, non-Hispanics; and 3.8% to Hispanics. She said there was underrepresentation in their people of color with the amount of vaccine they were receiving. She said it was not what they wanted it to be, and they knew the work needed to be continued in those areas and they were continuing to do what they could to do that as they move forward with vaccinations.

Ms. Harris showed where individuals over 65, who received the vaccine, by zip code. She said they have been able to get out into the community some, and that was helping with the numbers and making sure they were making it available to the populations most in need of the vaccine and also showed they still had a good bit of work to do. She said a lot of it was depending on the availability of vaccine, and they had to take that into account as well. She pointed out that the Health Department also went out to 15 long-term care facilities to provide vaccine, as they did not sign up for the Federal program. She said all of the sites had to be visited twice. She said the data was helping them in terms of beginning to understand where they had been and needed to go, and they would continue to watch the data very closely. She said the data was making it much easier to figure out where they needed to be in the community.

Ms. Harris said they developed a vaccine equity plan that looked at four different categories. She said they recognized that they still had significant vaccine hesitancy in some of the priority populations. She said there was still a lot of work to do in that area, and they were focused on outreach and education, working with trusted community leaders and partners. She said they wanted to ensure the information was easy to understand with materials in multiple languages. She said they were hosting educational townhalls and community conversations looking for opportunities to do that. She said they were also sharing documents and stories and perspectives across the board. She said they were looking at low-barrier vaccine appointments, so they have been focused on telephone and online scheduling, especially with the 65 and up, because the online scheduling has been challenging. She said they had a fairly significant telephone opportunity for people to call in to make appointments. She said there was no cost for the vaccine and that they were not requiring IDs or insurance, and there would be minimal paperwork involved. She said they had both drive-thru and walk-up options.

Ms. Harris said they were targeting vaccine distribution by cohosting community vaccine clinics with community partners, as well as at existing events. She said they were coordinating and monitoring their cross-vaccine providers to ensure equitable distribution and dedicating appointments for priority groups. She said they were currently only in a position to be able to monitor the data from the local health department but that the State continued working with the County in coordination to ensure there was county-wide data from the CDMS system. She said she was not sure when that would be available. She said the plan was in place now and that they have been doing some of the work but that it would help continue to drive the work to ensure they were being as equitable as they could in terms of getting the vaccine out.

Ms. Harris said Johnson and Johnson had a vaccine that she hoped would be approved soon, and the County was expecting it would be evaluated in the next couple of weeks with some decisions about whether to approve it for use in the United States. She said the effectiveness was at 66% but that it was in the global studies that have been done, and the test results in the United States were at 72%. She said the vaccine appeared to be fairly effective at preventing hospitalizations. She said it may not always prevent an infection, but if it prevented those acute hospitalizations that were being seen, that would be very helpful in moving forward with conquering the virus. She said it was showing a strong protection against serious disease, and it was more practical. She said it was one shot and could be kept in the refrigerator.

Ms. Harris said the federal government was implementing a pharmacy program, and on the 11th of February they would be putting a million doses out to a number of outlets across the Country. Some of the outlets would be in our area, but she did not know how much vaccine would be allotted in the area or what kind of vaccine would be available or where it would be available. She said that information would be still to come. She said

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they knew the allotment they would be putting out was above and beyond the State allocation, so it should not impact the allocation to the Health Department and healthcare systems.

Ms. Harris answered Commissioners' questions and responded to comments.

Commissioner Leake spoke of the positive experience she had when receiving the COVID-19 vaccination and said she had no problems after her second injection. She urged seniors to get the vaccine.

Commissioner Cotham spoke of the positive experience she had when receiving the COVID-19 vaccination. She gave a shoutout to Safe Alliance, Safe Coalition, and Action NC for volunteering to pay and go canvased neighborhoods for seniors to make them comfortable in getting the vaccine. She said they would start knocking on doors. She urged seniors to get the vaccine.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell shared a story about her 80-year old mother, who originally wanted to wait to go to her doctor instead of the Bojangles Coliseum, receiving a same-day appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccination at the Coliseum. She asked where teachers ranked in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

Ms. Harris responded that teachers were currently considered essential, front-line workers, as well as all of the staff who worked in the school setting. She said they would be a part of Group 3, which would be the group coming up, and unfortunately that group would be a very large group. She said it included law enforcement, fire, the court system, county and city government staff, TSA, grocery store workers, and it was a very large list. She said all of those groups within that group feel they are a priority and need to be prioritized. She said the challenge they were currently having was [inaudible], so it was hard to even get to Group 3 at this point, and hopefully that would change since the federal program for pharmacies would start getting vaccine. She said they were hoping things would start moving more quickly and that Mecklenburg County was working on a plan of how to move forward once they got to Group 3 in order to do it effectively, efficiently, and equitably as well. She said the prioritization process was incredibly challenging and that she received emails from people under 65 but with significant health issues who would not be eligible until Group 4. She said the hope was that the vaccines would start flowing in, and they would be able to get people vaccinated really quickly.

Commissioner Meier asked if staff had been hired so that school nurses could be back in the schools.

Ms. Harris responded absolutely that they were planning for the school nurses to be pulled back into the schools as soon as they open again.

Commissioner Meier asked what contact tracers actually ask. She said she heard a few reports of people saying they were not being asked anything. She asked if Public Health would let the school know when positive cases of COVID-19 are found within the school or if the parent of the child would be responsible for letting the school know.

Ms. Harris responded that the process of contact tracing has morphed some since the beginning of the pandemic, with individuals originally receiving fairly extensive interviews with individuals about their exposure and giving them specific direction. She said based on state recommendations some of it has gone back down, because the State really wanted everyone focused on vaccines right now. She said they were calling everybody but that it did not mean that they were getting everyone. She said they were now calling and leaving people a message and if they were in a priority population like schools, teachers, students, and some different work sites, or anyone involved in a long-term care facility, we would make sure they were followed up on. She said they were asking more intensive questions with those groups. She said in terms of the schools that the County would typically know about a case before the schools will, unless the parents notify the school, and they may do that. She said as soon as the County gets that information, the County gets in touch with the school system if the student has been in the school setting within the last 14 days. She said if the student has not been in a school setting within the

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past 14 days, they have not presented a risk of exposure to anyone in the school. She said they would talk to them about their exposures outside of the school but not push them into the schools as someone they may need to contact tract, because the child was not in the school for 14 days. She said all teacher and staff, regardless of if they have been in the school for the last 14 days or not, we notify the schools about that situation, because we do not want that teacher going back into the school until they have been through their isolation period.

Commissioner Altman expressed her concerns with the inequity of Hispanic residents in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. She said they have had some of the highest severity of cases and fatalities around COVID-19, yet their vaccine uptake is very low relative to their population.

Ms. Harris responded they were recognizing that disparity as well and are doing a lot of work with the Spanish media to get the information out as much as we can and are working with Hispanic businesses to get their support, especially those who work and have the ability to get information out into the community. She said they had a handful of community events already scheduled with organizations who work with the Latino community that would help to get the individuals registered for vaccine. She said the Hispanic community was a younger community, without as many 65-year olds and up but that they would get to as many of those as they could. She mentioned an event that would be coming up at the Hindu Center. She said there would be a maximum of 250 appointments available for that event and already had 225 appointments already. She said there would be 11 languages represented. She said they were working as hard as they could in the Latino community and also in the other communities that have challenges with languages, as well as the African American community. She said they would continue to pound that as hard as they could to get the vaccine where it needed to be.

Commissioner Jerrell expressed his concern about those who were disabled or homebound with lack of transportation, as well as those without access to information, despite the fact the County was using almost every way known to man to distribute information. He said he was hoping within the plans being developed that a plan to go to people was also being developed. He believed there was a large swath of the community that they would have to go to. He asked if there were set targets for vaccination by zip codes based on priority and impact of COVID-19. He asked if she could give indication to where she would like to see the numbers based on race and ethnicity for receiving the vaccination, keeping in mind that there are limited vaccines.

Ms. Harris responded that especially with Group 2, when looking at data around deaths in the community outside of long-term care facilities, they see a significant number of the deaths are among African Americans. She said she would love to see higher numbers in that population in terms of vaccination beyond their representation in that age group. She said they did not have a specific target at this point, and it was hard to come up with those numbers when they did not have all the vaccine they would like to have. She said it would be imperative that they do more significant outreach. She said it would be imperative to do more significant outreach. She mentioned several conversations she had with Robert Dawkins to help with outreach into those communities. She said the County was committed to doing what it could to get the numbers up.

Chair Dunlap said they were doing an outstanding job, but that he did not think that the County had the full picture of the number of vaccines that were being distributed. He knew Novant Health was doing its own thing; Atrium were doing their own thing. He asked if there was an ability to find out from the State any comprehensive data that could tell how many people in Mecklenburg County were receiving the vaccine.

Ms. Harris responded that what she could tell him was that they could get from the State the total amount of vaccine that was going into the County and total number of doses that were given. She said that was about all the information she could get from the State. She said that did not tell them how many of those individuals were Mecklenburg County residents. She said she believed they surpassed 20,000 doses of vaccine given out at the Bank of America over the weekend, but what the County heard from Atrium was that

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they had representation from 70 counties within North Carolina coming to get vaccine. She said that since it was a federal program, they were not turning people away for coming from other places; it was not allowed to be done. She said they also had limited information of what was being done within the long-term care facilities through CVS and Walgreens.

Chair Dunlap stated he raised the issue because as some were concerned about moving into Phase 3, maybe there would be a possibility to getting there faster than they thought, given the other places that were administering vaccine. He urged people to cancel their appointment when they decide to not go.

The presentation is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS – NONE

STAFF REPORTS & REQUESTS – NONE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPORTS & REQUEST

21-6632: NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The following speakers addressed the Board regarding this agenda item:

- Cameron Pruette
- Sandy Ibbetson
- Abigail Head
- Laurel Grauer
- Jill Coward

Chair Dunlap stated he wanted Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell to read the resolution. He said the emails commissioners were receiving were from a marketing firm and that people basically put their name on it. He said what became clear to him was that most people have never read the resolution; even tonight as you hear people speak, you will know they never read the resolution. He said this was not about a bathroom deal and that there was nothing in the resolution which indicated who could or could not use a bathroom; in fact, the bathroom bill, which was previously introduced, was not an issue but was made an issue. He said if you go to the Duke Mansion you would see overhead the word bathroom. He said it had several stalls and you use the stall available, and it was not an issue. to make clear up front so that everyone understood fully what the resolution was about. He said it was not about sports or who competes against who; in fact, you have women and men competing anyway. He said he just heard that a woman is now going to be a coach in the NFL. He said it was not about taking someone else's place or gender identity. He said the resolution was about discrimination irrespective of one's gender or ethnicity. He wanted to make those things clear up front so that they could fully understand what it is the resolution was about.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell mentioned the tsunami of emails and phone calls that the Commissioners have received. She said with any issue that they do not make their decision by counting the number of emails on each side of an issue. She stated they listen to the stories being told, do research, listen, and apply their values, knowledge, life experience, and scope of authority to the decision that is before them, for that was what they were elected to do. She said the morning's avalanche of emails through organized opposition, many of which were quite heated, is proof of why we need to put protections in place. She said it was sad that they had to do it, but she believed they must. She said to the community that they live in a time of great division, with deeply divisive narratives and rhetoric that tears people, families, and friendships apart, and they everyone had to move forward, learning from the past, while stepping boldly into the future. She said every single day they had to choose how to live and decide what was important to them and what they would stand for. She said many on both sides of the issues have reached out

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and shared their stories, and they were all seen and heard. She said there was room for all in Mecklenburg County. She said the resolution they would vote on was a statement on behalf of this body, on behalf of the community, that they did not condone discrimination against any person period, not by businesses, government, institutions, or individuals. She said they believed that Mecklenburg County should be safe community for all and could not succumb to fear that was being fomented by some who would argue that college scholarships for their daughters were more important than the rights of other human beings. She said they could design a new framework around college scholarships but could not condone discrimination against human beings. She said this was not about bathrooms; those issues could be solved. She said they could not condone discrimination against human beings. She said she was also a follower of Christ but that there was no scripture that revealed Jesus dehumanizing others but rather he taught the exact opposite. She said it was man who taught to dehumanize others. She said they were an elected body that represented all of the residents of the County, and their laws and policies must be blind to religion, race, economics, and sexual orientation. She said the resolution did not create victims nor stifled religious liberty, sacrifice safety, nor coerce uniformity of thought. She said that was fearmongering, and they must stand up for what is true. She said if you do not like the program being offered at the library on a certain day, go on a different day. She said they must learn about each other's stories and listen to how people came to be who they were. She said they must stop dehumanizing others and thinking of people as characters; discrimination could not be condoned against some to make others more comfortable. She said they needed to get to know one another and recognize the humanity they all shared. She said she needed to see it in them, and they needed to see it in her.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell read the following resolution:

Whereas, the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners affirms that every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and should be able to live in Mecklenburg County without fear, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Non-Binary individuals, and

Whereas, LGBTQ people in North Carolina are vulnerable to discrimination in many areas of life – including education, housing, healthcare, public spaces, and the workplace because of a lack of statewide non-discrimination protections, and

Whereas, many North Carolinians mistakenly believe that LGBTQ people do not experience discrimination in these areas, but in fact, according to a June 2020 study conducted by the Center for American Progress, 1 in 3 LGBTQ people – including 3 in 5 transgender people – have experienced discrimination in the past year, and

Whereas, Mecklenburg County residents strongly support protecting all people from the indignity of discrimination, and

Whereas, LGBTQ-inclusive non-discrimination laws send a message that everyone is welcome to build a life, raise a family, or start a business, and

Whereas, Mecklenburg County Government will not discriminate against any human being in employment practices or taxpayer-funded programs; will not discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender identity, race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, veteran status, pregnancy or natural hairstyles, texture or type associated with race which includes, but not limited to, braids, locks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, bantu knots, and afros; and welcomes companies and corporations who adopt non-discrimination policies and procedures, and

Whereas, in Mecklenburg County, discrimination will not be tolerated in areas of public accommodations which include places such as hotels, restaurants, hospitals, retail establishments, government buildings, movie theaters, amusement parks, etc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Mecklenburg County Board of County Commission calls upon all of its citizens to treat all persons with respect and dignity and

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calls upon all businesses and municipalities in our local community to adopt non-discrimination policies and procedures.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell and seconded by Commissioner Meier to adopt a resolution addressing discrimination in Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Scarborough stated she agreed with the resolution.

Commissioner Altman mentioned the appropriateness of this conversation during Black History Month due to it marking the history of the ongoing American struggle for civil rights. She spoke about how everyone must strive to be empathetic, as being LGBTQ+ was a statement of how they felt about their self in their heart and who they love, and that was all; therefore, it harmed no one nor attacked anyone, nor did it take liberty nor property away from anyone.

Commissioner Cotham stated what they were doing tonight was a good step and that there would be many more steps but that this was a great step that she was proud to support. She knew this would bring comfort to many of their friends.

Commissioner Leake spoke about discrimination within the black community and how black women suffer more than anyone else in the process. She hoped there would be more said from the perspective dealing with those who have fought the fight and have continued to fight the fight and looked upon as negative or troublemaker.

Commissioner Jerrell stated he was ecstatic and spoke about the appreciation he had for his colleagues for recognizing a need and that action needed to take place to protect those who were vulnerable and marginalized.

Commissioner Meier spoke of the shameful part of history in regard to people fearing for women and children due to African Americans. She said it was about love and a day to celebrate.

Commissioner Powell stated she did not know how she could add anything.

Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell said she thanked her.

Chair Dunlap said he was happy to be the primary drafter and was ecstatic about the way Commissioner Rodriguez-McDowell delivered it.

A vote was taken on the motion and was recorded unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Meier and carried unanimously to direct the County Attorney to undertake necessary legal research to advise the Board of its ordinance-making authority on the subject of the non-discrimination ordinance within the confines of Mecklenburg County.

The resolution is recorded in Ordinance Book 49, Document 76.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Leake, and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

21-6598: SOLID WASTE CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Amend the FY2021 Budget Ordinance to appropriate \$2,167,110 from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (7001) balance for transfer and appropriation to the Solid Waste Management Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (8901).

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21-6617: GRANT FUNDING - NC OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

(A) Affirm the submission of a grant application to NC Office of State Fire Marshal for Smoke Alarm Canvassing Grant for 54 smoke alarms (B) If awarded, recognize, receive the 54 alarms to be used by the Fire Marshal's Office within Land Use and Environmental Services Agency.

21-6619: TAX REFUNDS

(A) Approve refunds in the amount of \$3,271.99 for registered motor vehicles as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor and (B) approve refunds in the amount of \$109,443.71 as statutorily required to be paid as requested by the County Assessor.

Note: This Board action is necessary to approve registered motor vehicle tax refunds resulting from clerical errors, value changes, and appeals processes in the new, statewide, vehicle-tax system.

A list of the taxpayer recipients is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

21-6621: HEALTH DEPARTMENT AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE

Approve new fees for COVID vaccine administration rate of \$16.94 for the first dose and \$28.39 for the second dose.

The amended fee schedule is on file with the Clerk to the Board.

21-6622: PENDING - BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR DOBY CREEK GREENWAY STUDY

Amend the 2020-2021 Annual Budget Ordinance to recognize, receive and appropriate a donation from University City Partners for the planning study for Doby Creek Greenway in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 within the Park and Recreation Department to the General Fund (0001).

THIS CONCLUDES ITEMS APPROVED BY CONSENT.

21-6615: DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH DISCOVERY PLACE, INC. - FIRST AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake and seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute a first amendment to the Project Development Agreement between the County and Discovery Place, Inc. for the design and construction of a replacement building for the nature museum located on a portion of Tax Parcel 151-041-01 located at Freedom Park.

A vote was taken on the motion and carried as follows:

YES: Commissioners Altman, Cotham, Dunlap, Jerrell, Leake, Meier, Rodriguez-McDowell, and Scarborough

NO: Commissioner Powell

21-6616: BUDGET AMENDMENT - HEALTH DEPARTMENT (REVENUE INCREASE)

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to amend the 2020-2021 Annual Budget Ordinance to recognize, receive and appropriate an increase in revenue of \$299,635 from NC

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Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (DPH) in the General Fund (0001) within Public Health.

21-6620: NEW POSITIONS - HEALTH DEPARTMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to approve the creation of two positions aligned with the Health Disparities Initiative - one full-time Health Manager and one full-time Epidemiology Specialist.

21-6623: PENDING - HUNTERSVILLE GREENWAYS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 21-6623

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to approve the Development and Cooperative Partnership Agreement with Town of Huntersville for McDowell Creek and South Prong Clarke Creek Greenways.

21-6636: PENDING - BUDGET AMENDMENT - HEALTH DEPARTMENT (REVENUE INCREASE)

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to approve the temporary amendment to the BOCC Vacation Policy.

21-6641: EXPANDING END OF YEAR VACATION CARRYOVER LIMITS COMMISSIONER REPORTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Leake, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to approve temporary amendment to the BOCC Vacation Policy.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

21-6629: COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Cotham mentioned how emotional people were while receiving their vaccine since people have died from the virus.

Commissioner Leake asked seniors to reach out to those they know to have them get the vaccine.

Commissioner Jerrell lifted up county employees and mentioned that services had not stopped despite the pandemic.

Commissioner Meier mentioned how proud she was of tonight and gave a shoutout to teachers who were working so hard and who did not want to go back to school due to being scared of the virus.

Commissioner Powell mentioned the 1.2M gallon gasoline spill in Huntersville and asbestos in Davidson stating she could not think of better time for environment to be part of their priorities. She stated she loved that reducing racial disparities was threaded throughout board priorities, because yesterday on a call with Davidson- the African American community had complained in 1941 about their concerns with the asbestos factory and were dismissed and ignored.

Commissioner Dunlap thanked Mark Jerrell for doing an outstanding job with the Intergovernmental Relations Committee which allowed both the City and County to work together on a number of things. He announced that City Councilmember Renee Johnson would be having a Virtual Townhall Meeting February 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He stated Commissioner Powell was going to take him on a trip and introduce him to invasive species. He said in reference to the petition going around in regard to homelessness that

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the County had been studying this issue for a while and were preparing something for the community and would not rush it, because they wanted it to be something the community was proud of and something they could all stand behind. He said when they were prepared to do that, they would introduce it to the community and would expect the business community to support it.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Altman, seconded by Commissioner Meier, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Emily A. Kunze

George Dunlap

Emily A. Kunze, Clerk

George Dunlap, Chair