



# City of CHARLOTTE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: Sustainability Committee Ordinance Sunset Date

DATE: January 22, 2016

The City Council agenda includes a first reading of an ordinance amendment that, if adopted, would extend the sunset date of the ordinance establishing the Sustainability Committee to March 16, 2020.

The Sustainability Committee was established in 2014 for the purpose of “involving Charlotte citizens in researching and advising the City Council regarding policies and initiatives designed to better enable humans and nature to exist in productive harmony while addressing long-term economic, environmental and energy needs and trends.”

The Committee prepared and provided to Council a report with recommendations but Council did not identify or act upon any specific initiatives that it wished to pursue. A copy of the report will be found elsewhere in the agenda packet.

As previously reported, current Council policy encourages the establishment of sunset dates for most ordinances. This policy helps to ensure that ordinances come up for periodic review and discussion, providing Council an opportunity to modify ordinances to address problems with clarity or enforcement or changed circumstances affecting the issue the ordinance was intended to address and to eliminate ordinances that no longer serve any useful purpose.

Council has several choices with regard to the Sustainability Committee. It can allow the Committee to expire by taking no action to extend the sunset date of the ordinance. It can extend the sunset date. Finally, it can extend the sunset date and make other amendments to the ordinance establishing this committee. The latter would require an additional ordinance amendment beyond that extending the sunset date.