



City of CHARLOTTE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

DATE: November 23, 2016

Holiday Closings. We are entering that season of the year when City offices are closed for several long holiday weekends. As a reminder, essential City services are always available during these times. In addition to police and fire responses, public works is also available to handle emergency needs. The telephone directory and the City's website both list a phone number – 543-8874 – to be used to contact the Public Works Department for services during hours when offices are closed, including holidays and weekends.

Health Insurance Rates. Christine Mossner, Ginger Terpstra and I participated in our annual meeting with representatives of Austin Benefits, the agent for our health insurance benefit through Blue Cross. After a couple of years of very modest changes in premium costs, a larger increase is now forecast for the benefit year that commences January 1. This is due in part to a change from treating groups our size as "community rated" to treating them as "experience rated." Separating retirees from the group plan would enable us to return to a community rated premium. We have asked Austin Benefits to explore the impact on premium cost of such a change. If it is determined that this will be beneficial, a change in Council policy related to retiree health insurance benefits would be required.

Mock Interviews. Bryan Myrkle and I participated again this year in Olivet College's mock interviews which were held last week. This is a great opportunity to assist students in improving their resumes and interviewing skills. Olivet College is an important part of the greater Charlotte community and I appreciate the opportunity to play a part in the experience it offers to its students.