



# City of CHARLOTTE

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lewis and City Council Members

FROM: Gregg Guetschow, City Manager

SUBJECT: City Manager Report

DATE: June 8, 2018

**Rezoning Request.** Included under communications in the agenda packet is a petition requesting the rezoning of several parcels of property from Two-Family district to Single-Family district. A typical rezoning affects a single property. Its receipt would result in our proposing a zoning map amendment for first reading. As noted, this involves several. Further, the circumstance that has given rise to the request -- concern over neighborhood conversion -- is one that affects a significant portion of the older part of the community that is similarly zoned. Community Development Director Bryan Myrkle and I have discussed this matter a couple of times and wish to take a careful approach to addressing the request. At the same time, we wish to take seriously the concerns that have given rise to the requested rezoning. We also believe it is necessary to consider the implications for owners of two-family dwellings in areas affected by a rezoning to single-family. We intend, therefore, to devote some additional time to this matter and will provide a more comprehensive report during the meeting of June 25.

**Polling Location Change.** Following the November 2016 election, City Clerk Terpstra and I began discussing the challenges of housing both Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 of District 2 at the West Side Fire Station. We concluded that the space is smaller than is ideal resulting in crowded conditions. At the busiest times, lines extend out the door, sometimes in inclement weather. We believe that the current political environment is likely to spur an increase in voter turnout which we should attempt to accommodate in a way that encourages citizens in this civic duty. To that end, Ms. Terpstra has reached an agreement with the pastor of Discovery Fellowship Church, 757 Cherry Street, to host Precinct 1 there beginning with the August 2018 election. It provides excellent space for this purpose and ample parking. In addition, it is close to the West Side Fire Station so any District 2 voter who shows up at the wrong location will not have far to drive. Notices are being mailed now to affected voters.

**Utility Rate Analysis.** Each year, as part of the budget process, we undertake an analysis of the rates charged for water and sewer utilities. DPW Director Gilson and I have been working to complete this analysis. We had hoped to have it available for this meeting but wish to take another two weeks to insure we are comfortable with the recommendation we will be making.

**Vacation.** I will be on vacation the week of June 18 when I will be serving once again as a government advisor for the Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program on the campus of Michigan State University. I will be in the office at times to handle a few matters related to accounting functions and will be regularly checking email. I recommend that you contact Bryan Myrkle if urgent matters arise during my absence.