



May 21, 2010

TO: Mayor and Members of Council  
FROM: Rashad M. Young, City Manager   
SUBJECT: Items for Your Information

**IFYI HIGHLIGHTS**

- Contact Center Feedback
- Upcoming Budget Events
- LDO Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Legislative Agenda Update
- Public Meeting on Downtown Design Manual

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**Contact Center Feedback**

Attached is the weekly report generated by our Contact Center for the week of 5/10/10 – 5/16/10.

**Upcoming Budget Events**

1. I will present the FY10-11 Recommended Budget at the budget work session scheduled for Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Council Chambers. The recommended FY 10-11 budget will be made available for the public to view at the start of the May 25<sup>th</sup> Work Session on the City's website: [www.greensboro-nc.gov](http://www.greensboro-nc.gov). This work session is not a public hearing; the public hearing is scheduled for the June 1<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting.

2. In the May 7<sup>th</sup> IFYI, Council was asked to provide feedback on whether you would like to hold additional work sessions on the budget. During past budget processes, the City Council conducted work sessions once the budget was presented by the City Manager. Please notify the City Clerk's Office if you are interested in conducting a work session(s) once the budget is proposed. Also, mention what department(s) you would like to have present their budget and what dates and times you would be available.

**LDO Meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>**

Attached is a memo dated May 21, 2010 from Dick Hails, Planning Director, providing an update on the LDO Public Meeting held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**Legislative Agenda Update**

Attached is a status update on the legislative agenda during week two of the General Assembly session.

**Public Meeting for Downtown Design Manual**

The City of Greensboro will hold a public meeting to give residents a chance to view changes to the Downtown Design Manual, a blueprint for promoting quality design, enhancing urban character and maintaining long-term compatibility in Downtown Greensboro. The meeting will be held at 6 pm, Tuesday, May 25, in the Greensboro Cultural Center's Board Room, 200 N. Davie St.

The City's Planning Department has worked with Downtown Greensboro Inc., Action Greensboro and other downtown stakeholders to address specific concerns of downtown property owners since the last public meeting was held on the manual in August 2009. Changes to the manual include

several new options for property owners to meet voluntary design guidelines, while preserving the main content and general design aspects of the original manual developed by the Citizen Steering Committee, a team of downtown stakeholders.

The revised Downtown Design Manual can be viewed online at [www.greensboro-nc.gov/downtowndesign](http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/downtowndesign). For more information about the meeting or the manual, please contact Mike Kirkman with the City's Planning Department at 336-373-4649.

## Public Affairs Department Contact Center Weekly Report Week of 5/10/10 - 05/16/10

### Contact Center

5351 calls answered this week

### Top 5 calls by area

#### Water Resources

Balance Inquiry – 1232

New Signup – 180

Bill Extension – 144

Cutoff Request – 123

Phone sign up - 123

#### Field Operations

Bulk Guidelines – 76

Dead Animal Pickup – 53

Repair Green Can – 47

Appliance pick up - 38

No service – trash - 37

#### All others

Police/Watch Operations – 365

Warrants – 211

Landfill/Transfer/HHW – 144

Courts/Sheriff - 135

Overgrown Lots - 54

### Comments

We received a total of 23 comments this week:

#### Budget Comments

- Lake Higgins - do not close. They fish there frequently, once or twice a week. [It is] their top choice for a fishing place. [They] come from High Point to fish and bring friends.
- Email comment: It has come to my attention that funding may be eliminated for City Arts Cultural Outreach and Festivals from the Parks & Recreation upcoming budget. I am writing to request your thoughtful reconsideration of this action and continue funding these worthwhile programs. These festivals have been offered to the community for more than seventeen years. Area elementary school students, along with their teachers and parents, have visited the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center for the Cultural School Days for ten years. My family has attended and I have volunteered at the African American Heritage Extravaganza for almost 20 years. I have also invited my friends, neighbors, church members and colleagues to attend the African American Heritage Extravaganza. Many have commented on how wonderful it is and how they look forward to it every year! I have also attended the Chinese New Year Festival and the Guilford Native America Festival. These cultural experiences are a great way to promote cultural and ethnic awareness to our diverse triad community. I have met people from other towns who have attended the events and programs in Greensboro because their town did not support cultural festivals.

I do appreciate the City's financial support of the African American Heritage Extravaganza and other cultural festivals. In addition to Greensboro's support, the African American Heritage School Days & Extravaganza receives additional funding to make these events possible. The sponsoring organizations are also facing budget cuts yet have made the commitment to financially match the contribution of the City. I believe this annual event and others celebrate and enrich the cultural and inclusive climate of Greensboro and the surrounding community. These events give the community the opportunity to visit the Greensboro Cultural Arts Center and the businesses and museums housed there.

Please reconsider the proposed budgetary cuts that will eliminate cultural outreach programs and festivals. I urge you to support continued funding of these programs.

- Email comment: I am writing to ask you to keep the financial support for the City Cultural Outreach Programs and the Greensboro parks and recreation budget. I have attended the Chinese New Year Festivals for the last 10 years and I have thoroughly enjoyed the cultural activities and artistic performances that usually represented many ethnic groups in China. I have sometimes invited my colleagues and neighbors to join me in these festivals and some of the comments from them are that these cultural programs have made Greensboro a much

interesting and attractive place for them to live and stay. I have served as volunteers for many years and I appreciate the opportunity to present the Chinese heritage to Greensboro community and explain the richness of our culture to visitors and community members. I have performed in the Chinese New Year festivals and am glad that we can use the art and culture to bridge the understandings and build a harmonious community. I have brought my child to the festival and am very proud to present them with their Chinese heritage. These cultural outreach programs enable me and my family to share with our friends a glimpse of the history and culture and people in China and help create mutual understanding and respect of our differences and our commonalities.

We believe this annual event fulfills the city's mission to promote cultural and ethnic diversity and creates an open and culturally rich environment for residents of Greensboro. I understand that the Greensboro Chinese Association has organized the Chinese New Year Festival since 1992 and has provided additional funding from grants, donations from the association members and numerous volunteers who devoted their time and services to make this event a possibility for more than 18 years. For the amount of funding the city has allocated to support this annual cultural event, the Greensboro city has achieved multitude of returns from your investment.

We supported you because we believe that we share the same vision and value of appreciating and celebrating cultural and ethnic diversity and we hope we can continue to count on you. (received this text from two different people)

- Email comment: We are all aware that our current and former governors have led trade missions to the Far East to drum up business for North Carolina. Our educators at the state and county levels have also traveled there to learn about the best practices of elementary and high school education among industrialized countries. They did that because they were keenly aware of what America is and will be facing in the next century. Either we compete or trade with China, we and our next generation need to understand China and the Far East. Such effort by our leaders at the state level is further evidenced by the official agreement between the State and the Chinese Language Council International known as Hanban signed on April 20, 2010 by Governor Perdue to establish Confucius Classrooms across the State, a first in Chinese language learning in the United States. The Greensboro Chinese Association has been preaching this to our Guilford county residents and leaders since 1986 in the fact that our next generation must be made aware of globalization and its impact at an early age. The impact on them could be business competitiveness and even employment opportunities either here at home or abroad. The Association thus runs a weekly Chinese language school that is open to all residents in this area. The Association is also fully prepared to assist any local businesses involved in transactions with China and the Far East. We have been approached by out of state businesses to assist in orientating their employees who were China or Asia bound. To stimulate the interest of young folks in learning Chinese language, culture and traditions, the Association presents the very elaborate annual Chinese Festival that has been extremely well received by the public. This Festival has thus received state and city support for the past 18 years.

The annual Chinese Festival in cooperation with City Arts/ Greensboro Parks and Recreation seems to be the only steady cultural program available to the residents in the surrounding area. The audience can benefit from a glimpse into Chinese culture, which is hopefully the next best option to a visit to Chinatown or China. We are very proud that through our visual and performing arts programs, we are able to promote awareness of Chinese culture in the community, and in turn some understanding of globalization. The estimated number of people in Guilford County who have benefited from our arts program since 1992 is well over 50,000, a significant impact for a very little investment by the city. Knowing the County and City having such a dynamic Chinese culture promotion conduit in our backyard, how could we even contemplate eliminating this essential cultural promotion tool-the Chinese Festival at

this critical time! Although the Chinese community is small in the county, it carries a big stick in promoting the city to a global world.

- Email comment: I strongly request that you continue to support Greensboro's Cultural Outreach Programs in the upcoming budget for the city's Parks and Recreations Dept. As a longtime volunteer for Greensboro's Chinese New Year celebration, and one who has deeply enjoyed the many services provided by Greensboro's parks and cultural sites, it deeply saddens me to hear that the budget for these programs is potentially being slashed. Greensboro's community health and cultural development is greatly enriched by these activities. Please do your utmost to continue to accommodate the Chinese Association and similar community cultural societies in the upcoming budget. Creative compromises are possible, if you and other city leaders find the will. Greensboro would be much lessened by the absence of her diverse community gatherings and gathering places.
- Email comment: Dear Parks and Recreation Director Jackson: As a former president of Greensboro Chinese Association, I am writing to ask you to keep the financial support for the City Cultural Outreach Programs and the Greensboro parks and recreation budget. I have attended the Chinese New Year Festivals for the past several years and I have thoroughly enjoyed the cultural activities and artistic performances that represent many ethnic groups in China. I have sometimes invited my colleagues and neighbors to join me in these festivals and some of the comments from them are that these cultural programs have made Greensboro a much more interesting and attractive place for them to live and stay. I have served as a volunteer for many years and I appreciate the opportunity to present the Chinese heritage to the Greensboro community and explain the richness of our culture to festival guests and community members. I have also performed in the Chinese New Year festivals and am glad that we can use the art and culture to bridge the understandings and build a harmonious community. I have brought my daughter to the festival and am very proud to present her with her Chinese heritage since she was born in this country. These cultural outreach programs enable me and my family to share with our friends a glimpse of our rich history, cultural splendors and hard-working people in China and help create a mutual understanding and respect of our differences and our commonalities.
- Email comment - Mr. Jackson, Please continue to support Chinese Festival event since this is very important to us. Thanks in advance.
- Email comment: Dear Mr. Jackson: It has come to my attention that funding may be eliminated for City Arts Cultural Outreach and Festivals (Parks & Recreation) from the upcoming budget. I am writing to request thoughtful reconsideration of this action and to continue funding. The festivals have been offered to and received by the community for more than 17 years. Area elementary school students, along with their teachers and parents, have visited the Greensboro Cultural Center for the Cultural School Days for 10 years. Personally, I, along with my family, have attended and volunteered for the African American Heritage Extravaganza for 3 years and have made sure that I invite my friends, church members and colleagues. In addition, I have attended the other cultural festivals offered - Chinese New Year Festival and the Guilford Native American Cultural Festival. These artistic and cultural experience are one way to promote cultural and ethnic awareness and understanding to a larger community. Surely, events and programs such as these enrich our citizens and our city. During these events, I have met people from other cities and town that have come to Greensboro for these cultural festivals.

I do appreciate the City's financial support of the African American Heritage Extravaganza and the other festivals. In addition to the City's support, the African American Heritage School Days & Extravaganza receives additional funding to make these events possible. The sponsoring organizations are financial stakeholders, as well. Their financial contributions match and/or exceeds the City's.

I believe this annual event and others celebrate, enrich, expand and enhance the cultural and inclusive climate of Greensboro and the regional community. Also, these events make available opportunities for attendance, visibility and awareness of the Greensboro Cultural Center and its tenants and the Greensboro Cultural District.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed budgetary cuts that will eliminate cultural outreach programs and festivals. Please support continued funding of these programs.

- Email comment: Dear Parks and Recreation Director Jackson: I am writing to ask you to keep the financial support for the City Cultural Outreach Programs and the Greensboro parks and recreation budget. I have attended the Chinese New Year Festivals for many years and I have thoroughly enjoyed the cultural activities and artistic performances that represent many ethnic groups in China. These cultural outreach programs enable me and my family to share with our friends a glimpse of our rich history, cultural splendors and hard-working people in China and help create a mutual understanding and respect of our differences and our commonalities.

I would add that even though I live in Stokes County, I have enjoyed the cultural events associated with the Chinese association, of which I am a member. I am also a member of the Green Hill Art Gallery and last year had a major retrospective show there. The Cultural attraction of Greensboro reaches quite a distance. Thank you for your consideration.

- Email comment - Dear Mr. Jackson, I understand due to City Budget Reduction, Chinese New Year Festival will not be funded by the city and we will no longer have free use of its cultural center to celebrate Chinese New Year and promote Chinese Culture. We've been Greensboro for almost 10 years, and Chinese New Year Festival is a event we looking forward to every year. It's such an wonderful event and opportunity to promote Chinese culture and there's so many people attend the event. It will be a shame to cut this program. This program has grown over the years, more and more people attend now. We really appreciate your reconsideration about this matter.
- Email comment: I am sending this e-mail to ask that you do not cut the funds for the Cultural Arts Center. Several programs that benefit many minority groups will be eliminated. The Native American, Chinese and Afro-American children are in need of these programs. Please do all in your power to save these programs.
- Email comment - It has come to mine and others attention that funding may be cut for the City Arts Cultural Outreach and Festivals (Parks & Recreation) from the upcoming budget. As a volunteer for at least ten years for the African American Heritage Extravaganza, I am writing to request thoughtful reconsideration of this action and to continue funding. The African American Heritage Extravaganza along with the other cultural festivals have been offered to and received by the community for more than 17 years. Local elementary school students, along with teachers and parents, have visited the Greensboro Cultural Center for ten years. It is very educational as well as entertaining.

I believe these events celebrate, enrich, expand and enhance the cultural climate of Greensboro and surrounding communities. In addition to the City's financial support, the

African American Heritage School Days & Extravaganza received additional funding to make these events possible. The sponsoring organizations are financial stakeholders as well. Their financial contributions match and/or exceeds the City's funding.

Please reconsider the proposed budgetary cuts that will eliminate cultural outreach programs and festivals. Please support continued funding of these programs.

- Email comment - It has come to my attention that funding may be eliminated for City Arts Cultural Outreach and Festivals (Parks & Recreation) from the upcoming budget. I am writing to request thoughtful reconsideration of this action and to continue funding. The festivals have been offered to and received by the community for many years. Area elementary school students, along with their teachers and parents, have visited the Greensboro Cultural Center for the Cultural School Days for 10 years. I have participated in the African American Festival/School Days, Chinese New Years Festival, Native American Festival and School Days in some capacity since its birth. These programs are beneficial to EVERYONE in our community!

I believe these annual events celebrate, enrich, expand and enhance the cultural and inclusive climate of Greensboro and the regional community. Also, these events make available opportunities for attendance, visibility and awareness of the Greensboro Cultural Center and its tenants and the Greensboro Cultural District.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed budgetary cuts that will eliminate cultural outreach programs and festivals. Please support continued funding of these programs.

- Email comment - Greetings, As a City of Greensboro concerned citizen and active participant of Cultural Outreach Programs & Festivals, I strongly oppose the reductions that will Eliminate the Cultural Outreach Section & Festivals from the 2010 - 2011 Budget. I have worked as a volunteer, disseminating information to individuals, organizations and businesses as well as providing hands implementation for African American Heritage School Days (10 years) and Extravaganza (19 years).

These programs provide cultural enrichment to the entire Greensboro Community and surrounding areas and the lack of such programs would actually stifle cultural awareness and advancement. I strongly urge you to reconsider the proposed budget reductions for these programs and services.

- Email comment: Dear Mr. Jackson: I am writing because I would like to express my concern about the proposed budget cuts for the City Arts Cultural Outreach and Festivals (Parks & Recreation). I am hoping that there will be thoughtful reconsideration of these events for continued funding. These festivals have served the community for more than ten years. The area elementary school students, along with their teachers and parents, have benefited by being able to visit the Greensboro Cultural Arts center for the annually held cultural days events. It would be a disappointment for those who look forward to this event and other similar events held each year if funding is cut for such programs. I have volunteered for the African American Heritage Extravaganza in the past and have made sure that I invite my family, friends, and colleagues. From my experience, I saw people from many different backgrounds come together and enjoy the festivities offered, from the singing and African dance to the storytelling. There was at least one thing there that people of all age groups could enjoy. The other cultural activities, including the Chinese New Year Festival and the Guilford Native American Cultural Festival create the same type of atmosphere. The Greensboro community would be missing out if these events were not continued to be funded. All of these cultural events promote cultural and ethnic awareness in the Greensboro community.

I do appreciate all the financial support that the City has provided for the African American Heritage Extravaganza and the other festivals. In addition to the City's support, the African American Heritage School Days & Extravaganza receives additional funding to make these events possible. The sponsoring organizations are financial stakeholders, as well. Budgets cuts would create a strain on sponsoring organizations for the events to possibly still take place.

I believe this annual event and others celebrate and enhance cultural diversity in the Greensboro community. These events make the Greensboro Cultural Center visible to the community, and its tenants and the Greensboro Cultural District. As a local Guilford County resident for the past three years, I wasn't even aware of the Greensboro Cultural Center until I heard about the cultural events discussed above taking place there. I urge you to reconsider the proposed budgetary cuts that will eliminate cultural outreach programs and festivals. Please support continued funding of these programs.

- Email comment: Dear Parks and Recreation Director Jackson: I am writing to ask you to keep the financial support for the City Cultural Outreach Programs and the Greensboro parks and recreation budget. I have attended the Chinese New Year Festivals for the last 6 years and I have thoroughly enjoyed the cultural activities and artistic performances that usually represented many ethnic groups in China. I have sometimes invited my friends and neighbors to join me in these festivals and some of the comments from them are that these cultural programs have made Greensboro a much interesting and attractive place for them to live and stay. I have served as volunteers for many years and I appreciate the opportunity to present the Chinese heritage to Greensboro community and explain the richness of our culture to visitors and community members. I have brought my son to the festival and am very proud to present him with Chinese heritage. These cultural outreach programs enable me and my family to share with our friends a glimpse of the history and culture and people in China and help create mutual understanding and respect of our differences and our commonalities.

We believe this annual event fulfills the city's mission to promote cultural and ethnic diversity and creates an open and culturally rich environment for residents of Greensboro. I understand that the Greensboro Chinese Association has organized the Chinese New Year Festival since 1992 and has provided additional funding from grants, donations from the association members and numerous volunteers who devoted their time and services to make this event a possibility for more than 18 years. For the amount of funding the city has allocated to support this annual cultural event, the Greensboro city has achieved multitude of returns from your investment.

We supported you because we believe that we share the same vision and value of appreciating and celebrating cultural and ethnic diversity and we hope we can continue to count on you.

- Voice mail message: "Hi Mr. Jackson, I'm a Greensboro resident. I have just been made aware that there are some anticipated cuts in the Cultural Outreach area. I'm calling to express my concern and am hoping there would not be any cuts in that area, particularly in the cultural outreach and diversity programs. I've volunteered in that area, mostly with the African American Extravaganza and the school days for the last several years. My hope is that you would consider not cancelling those events for the community, they are very few diversity programs and that is one of the reasons why I moved to Greensboro, because of the diversity that's here. I have two, at this point, college age children but when we moved here initially those were some of the things that really impacted their growth."

- Resident states that one of the things that are in the city budget is cleaning up the city streets. The biggest items on the streets are cigarette butts; they cost the city money to clean up. There is an area in the Lawndale Shopping center that has hundreds. Resident suggests that the city place a tax on cigarettes to help with the clean up
- I hope that the cuts to Lake Higgings and Lake Townsend and the other trails will be minimal at the most. These water shed trails and marinas are City Treasures and at the very core of what makes Greensboro a lovely place to live. I think that these water shed trails need to be better advertised

#### Transportation

- Wanted to thank us for adding turn signal lights at Pisgah Church, Lees Chapel and Church St. It has made a huge difference.

#### Police

- Called to comment about the Police Chief selection: I'm with the Randleman Road Business Association. One of our main concerns is that we get a chief that leans along the lines of being proactive. CRT officers - Chief White did away with them, then put 'em back on, Chief Bellamy almost got them back to full strength (after having pulled them away to help the gang unit). Here in the Southern division we've got 20+ community groups, and several active business groups, and the CRT officers are great and much in demand. I don't have a preference about whether or not we find one from the outside or inside. (In the past we've lost a lot of good officers, they deserve good raises.) We need a good chief who's going to be community minded, community oriented, and have a proactive agenda. The CRT does a lot of work, over and above, that's not noticed because it can't be measured, there's no paperwork involved...they're an incredible resource and should be supported."

#### Water Resources

- Good work! It's much easier to receive and save our bills electronically. Thanks for your efforts.

#### Overall

We received many more email comments than usual this week. Overgrown lot complaints dropped to half of what we received last week. Requests to turn water on or off are ramping up as the moving season begins. Otherwise, calls are the normal mix.

Planning Department  
City of Greensboro



May 21, 2010

**TO:** Rashad M. Young, City Manager

**FROM:** Dick Hails, Planning Director

**SUBJECT: LDO Public Meeting on May 20th**

I wanted to report that we held last night the public meeting on the LDO that Council had requested at their April 20 meeting. As directed, we advertised the meeting heavily as an open house and had several special stations set up in the room to handle questions and comments on the two main issues discussed by citizens at the April 20 public hearing completion – connectivity and property valuation/nonconformities.

The meeting was held in the Coliseum Special Events Center yesterday, from 4-7 pm. We had about 10 staff persons available, including members of the City Managers Office. We also had attendance from 5 members of the Citizens Advisory Team that helped develop the document. In addition, we had about 12-15 other members of the public who stopped in during the 3 hour session.

As a result of discussions with these and other citizens on these two main topics, staff expects to bring forward a few final suggested changes to the LDO text when the LDO comes back up on the June 15 meeting agenda for City Council's consideration.

Please contact me if I can provide any further information on this matter.

RWH

cc: Andy Scott, Assistant City Manager

City Attorney  
City of Greensboro



May 20, 2010

**TO:** Rashad M. Young, City Manager  
**FROM:** Tom Carruthers, Associate General Counsel  
**SUBJECT:** Week Two of the General Assembly

Week two of the General Assembly Short Session has seen progress on several of the City of Greensboro's Legislative Agenda items. All 12 of the local legislation items were submitted to the local delegation; only one Agenda item was pending. This bill would allow the City Council the right to select the City Attorney. The bill to restrict the City Manager's level of authority to enter into service contracts died in committee last year and must be reintroduced.

The 11 new items were submitted to Bill Drafting before the Wednesday deadline. Two of the 11 bills did not survive this level of review. The bill to place the City Council under the State Ethics Act was not approved by Drafting. It was noted that the State Ethics Act was not intended to extend its jurisdiction over local officials. The bill to establish local permits for hotels and motels to ensure they met current housing codes and did not allow undue criminal activity was not approved by Drafting. It was the feeling of the committee that this would require statewide legislation and therefore was not a proper local legislation item. In addition, the local delegation has indicated it will not introduce the local bill to allow past due parking tickets to be collected by the state as unpaid taxes. Two members of the local delegation indicated their opposition to this bill and therefore it will not be submitted by the delegation. The eight remaining new local legislation items still must be considered by the local delegation for submission before the Wednesday, May 26 deadline.

The Senate passed its proposed budget and sent this legislation to the House for consideration. This bill in no way damages any revenue streams currently passed through to the local municipalities. Though other pending bills may affect local revenue streams this was a major hurdle to cross to protect the City's funding levels from the State.

Six statewide bills supported by the City Council have been introduced. These include the local university funding items; S1313, funding for the Nano-science and Nano- Engineering School; S1315, funding for the A&T and UNCG Technology Initiative; and S1316, A&T College of Engineering increased funding.

In addition S1112, ABC Reform Legislation, has been introduced and is focused entirely on ethics and salaries. There are no provisions to alter the beneficial local control or local funding currently in place. S1159, Local Participation in DOT Construction, is also pending. This would allow the City to purchase and bank future highway right of way and ensure these monies are repaid by the DOT. S1334, Suzie's Law is pending in the Senate and is expected to pass.

One bill opposed by the City Council is pending in the Senate. This is S1209, Municipal Broadband; it would restrict funding sources of local municipalities who wish to install fiber optic networks in their cities.

H 524, Annexation, was introduced last year with support of the City of Greensboro but was successfully amended into a restrictive annexation bill the City now opposes. This bill was moved into a Senate Committee and is not expected to be heard this session. No bills mandating collective bargaining have been introduced at this time.

Progress on the Legislative Agenda Items will continue to be tracked weekly.

TC/mm

cc: Denise Turner, Assistant City Manager