

## **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission**

### **Livable City Policy Statement**

Adopted: March 7, 2016

Amended: November 7, 2016

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission has adopted this Livable City Policy Statement and Guiding Principles to articulate the Commission's priorities for the growth and development of Charlotte and guide the Commission's work in advising the governing bodies it serves.

This policy statement is founded in the City's adopted *Centers, Corridors and Wedges Growth Framework, General Development Policies* and area plans, and serves to focus and prioritize the Commission's work and recommendations. In particular, the Commission will use this policy statement to guide the development of the City's Zoning Ordinance Update, Community Character Policies and area plans, and inform the Commission's recommendation of zoning petitions and mandatory referrals.

### **Livable City Policy Statement**

*Develop a livable city where Charlotteans of all incomes can achieve, "a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being"<sup>1</sup> through the design of neighborhoods, public infrastructure and open spaces, and through easy access to employment and housing choices.*

### **Guiding Principles:**

- **Create a state-of-the-art transportation system** that equally provides for the health and safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists and is accessible to people of all ages and abilities;
- **Promote a mix of land uses** within a close proximity so that Charlotteans can live, work, play, shop and worship in a neighborhood without the need for an automobile;
- **Ensure access to affordable housing** by supporting the dispersal of a range of housing types throughout the city, so that the availability of transportation does not limit access to economic opportunity;
- **Build vibrant and activity-filled public streets and open spaces** that promote community engagement so that Charlotteans of all ages and abilities can participate in a public life;
- **Promote access to affordable and healthy/local foods** so that income and location don't limit dietary choices; and
- **Protect the air we breathe**, and the trees that filter it, while also shading us from the hot, southern sun.
- **Build safe communities**, by using planning tools to prevent crime and violence through environmental design.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt of World Health Organization definition of public health