



CHARLOTTESM
CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG
PLANNING

Internet Sweepstakes and Internet Café

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

September 29, 2011



Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Meeting Objective
- Background
- Staff Identified Issues
- Citizen Advisory Group Role
- Timeline / Next Steps
- Questions





Greetings



- Name
- Organization or interest you represent





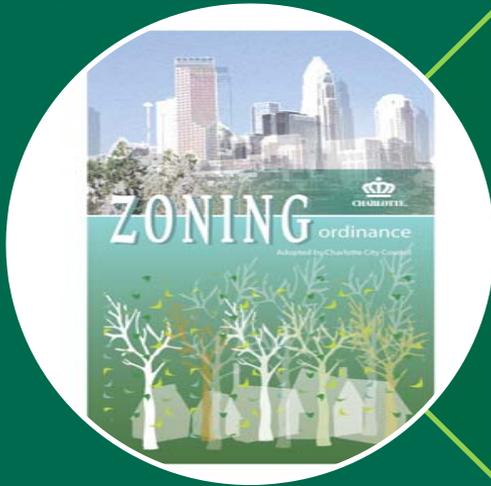
Meeting Objectives

- Provide Project Background
- Explain Process
- Recruit volunteers for Citizen Advisory Group





Background



April 25, 2011, Councilmember James Mitchell requested and City Council approved a request that Planning staff conduct an analysis of electronic gaming operations (Internet Sweepstakes and Internet Café)



At the June 20, 2011, dinner meeting City Council directed staff to proceed with a public process to create a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance related to these uses



Background

In 2008, North Carolina General Assembly adopted legislation to ban server-based electronic game promotions;

Effective December 1, 2010, North Carolina General Statute 14-306.4 banned the use of "electronic machines and devices" to conduct sweepstakes that involve "entertaining displays" ;

Gaming operations modified how they carry out their activities by allowing customers to purchase time on computers and win credits in online sweepstakes;

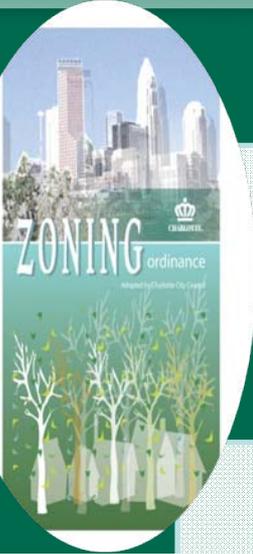
Two lawsuits were filed challenging the constitutionality of the ban and these cases are pending in North Carolina Court of Appeals;

Char-Meck Police Department is under an injunction prohibiting arrests in internet sweepstakes operations.





Background



The City of Charlotte Zoning Ordinance was adopted in 1958 and last major overhaul was conducted in 1992.

The Ordinance currently does not define or list Internet Sweepstakes and Internet Café establishments as a permitted use by right, under prescribed conditions or as an accessory use.

Over the past several years, these uses have located throughout the community as they have become enormously popular.

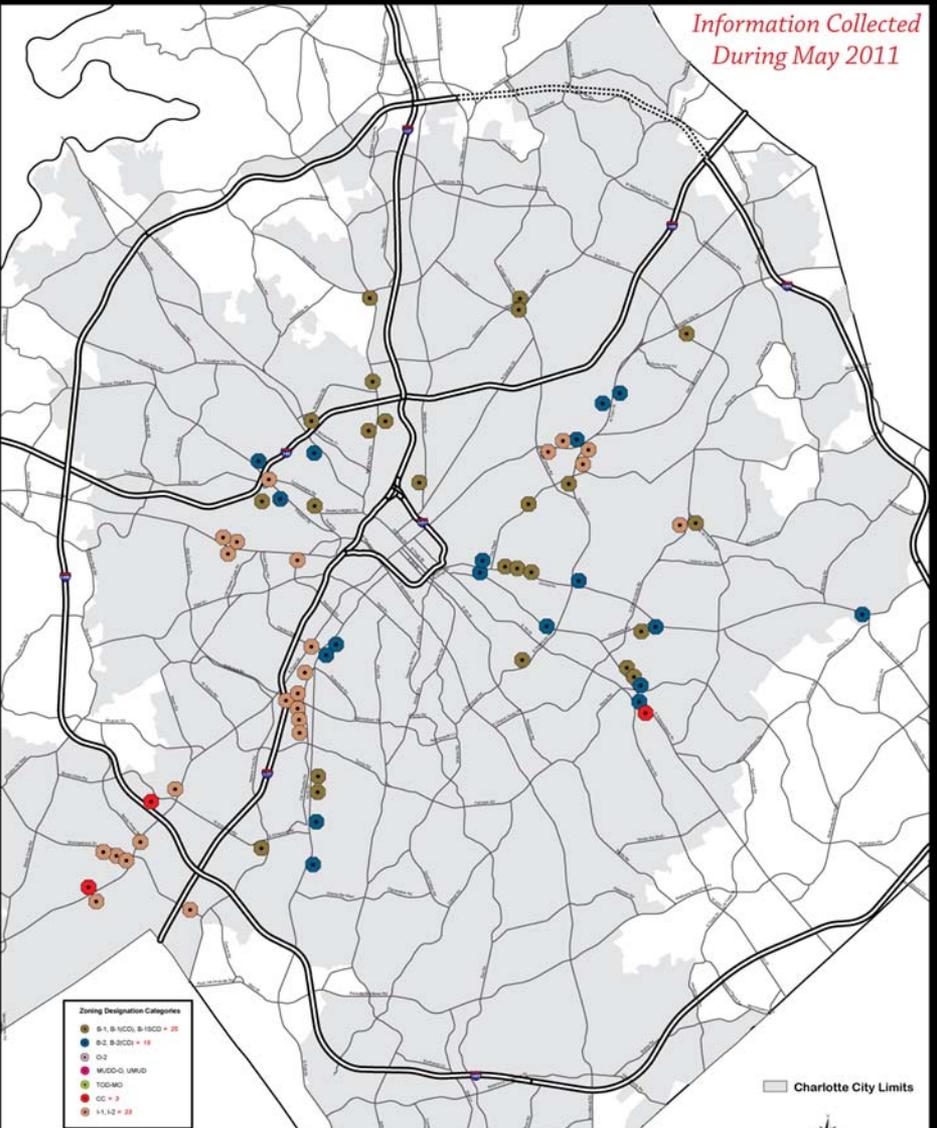
Zoning Ordinance changes may need to be developed to ensure that these uses are appropriately regulated to minimize any potential adverse impacts to adjacent uses.



Background

Sweepstakes Locations

Information Collected
During May 2011



Data collected May 2011, revealed 69 active sweepstakes /caf  locations within the City of Charlotte

Note: Sweepstakes Location Data verified by Police Department May 4, 2011 through May 12, 2011 and by Code Enforcement May 13, 2011 through May 20, 2011.
Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, Mecklenburg County Business Tax Collectors Office, and City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services Code Enforcement Department.



Staff Identified Issues

- Zoning Ordinance does not define or regulate these uses;
- Establishments are allowed in a wide array of zoning districts;
- Secondary impacts such as overflow parking, trash, resident and business owner complaints, and possibly criminal activity that may be associated with these establishments requires further study; and
- Hours of operation, age restrictions, food and beverage, parking, screening and other development standards specific and unique to these uses requires further study.



Citizen Advisory Group (CAG):

- Attend and participate in meetings
- Help identify issues and concerns
- Help identify zoning related issues
- Provide feedback on staff recommendations
- Other opportunities to participate



Timeline/Next Steps

Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting Dates:

- October 11, 2011
 - October 27, 2011
 - November 10, 2011
- } **Tentative**



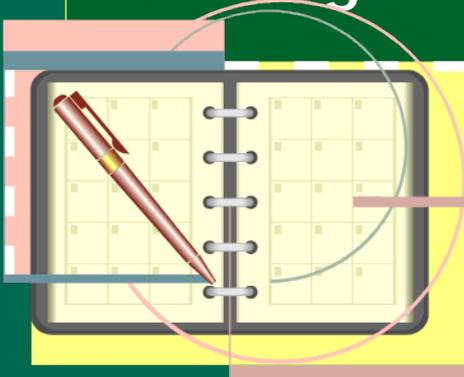
Please indicate your willingness to participate in the CAG process by filling out cards or by contacting:

Barry Mosley, *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department*
704-336-8314 bmosley@charlottenc.gov

Please respond by October 5, 2011

Tonight's presentation and future CAG materials, including meeting minutes, will be posted at:

www.charlotteplanning.org





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Questions

