

MANDATORY REFERRAL-REPORT NO. 11-01
Proposed Co-location of Future Communications Center on a Site on N. Graham Street

PROJECT PROPOSAL AND LOCATION:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and Charlotte Fire Department propose a shared 911 Communications Center that one day would include the Police, Fire, and the Emergency Operations Center. In addition, discussions are on-going with Medic, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department and the 311 Call Center for possible inclusion into the initiative.

The most favorable site would be one that is outside the Charlotte Central Business District, but being within close proximity to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center and have access to several main roads. Such a site became available behind and adjacent to the future Fire Administration Headquarters at 500 Dalton Avenue, which is currently in design and should be under construction in the first quarter of 2012. (See attached map).

The two parcels will be needed for the new Communications Center; they are:

- o 1315 N. Graham Street (PID #07902104) having 4.79 acres, zoned I-2 (Industrial) and
- o 1419 N. Graham Street (PID #07902105) having 2.14 acres also zoned I-2 (Industrial).

Both properties are improved with vacant aging industrial structures that would be demolished prerequisite to development of a Communications Center.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

The Co-Located Communications Center would have shared space and shared services. There would be:

- o Quicker response to citizen emergencies
- o Elimination of 911 call transfers
- o Shared technology resources
- o Unified tracking of mobile resources
- o Seamless communication
- o Common funding sources

Currently, the Fire 911 Center is located on the second floor of Fire Station 1 on Myers Street and the Police 911 Center is located in Police headquarters in Trade Street. Both crowded facilities would benefit from the re-located 911 functions as a means of alleviating the crowding. The Emergency Operations Center is located at the Police and Fire Training Academy on Shopton Road and its relocation will allow for expansion and relieve crowding. While the consolidation will relieve crowding and allow for growth at existing facilities, the principal justification is to enhance service.

While Council has already authorized purchase of the two parcels, transaction of the properties has not yet occurred.

CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED PUBLIC POLICIES:

Creating a shared 911 Communications Center is a big step toward greater public safety.

CONSISTENCY WITH ADOPTED LAND USE PLANS:

The *Central District Plan* (1993) recommends industrial uses at this location. Although the proposed use is inconsistent with the adopted plan, government uses are allowed in Industrial zoning districts according to the Charlotte Zoning Ordinance.

PROJECT IMPACT:

The City of Charlotte will be making a sizeable investment that may incent the private sector to invest in other new developments in this geography.

The location of the new facility will be entirely on 1-2 zoned property and will not displace any residential housing, nor have any increase in noise or significantly impact traffic. The property will not require a re-zoning.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROJECTS:

As an indirect benefit, co-locating these other services will help to relieve crowding of the current Police and Fire facilities.

ESTIMATED PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:

Land acquisition is occurring in 2011, environmental remediation in 2012 and design and completion of construction in or around 2014.

JOINT USE TASK FORCE REVIEW COMMENTS:

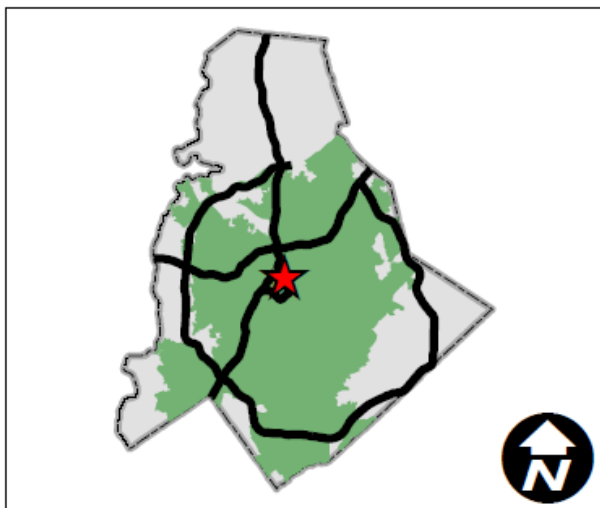
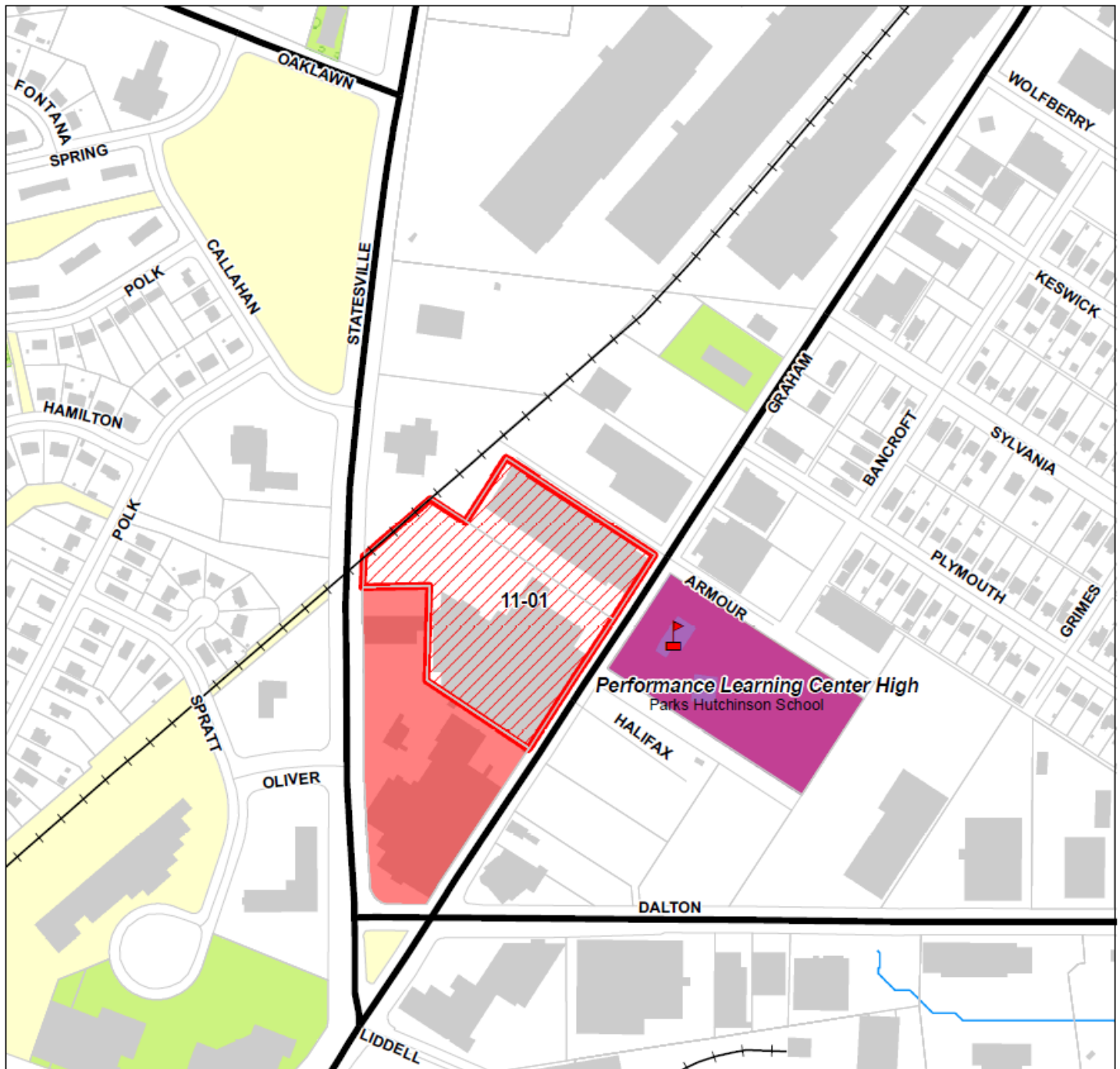
The Joint Use Task Force discussed the matter at their March 2, 2011 meeting and noted that the structure at 1419 North Graham is substantial and the site development phasing suggests that it wouldn't be demolished for at least two years. A recommendation was made to use the undeveloped portion of site for a staging and processing area for the 2012 Democratic National Committee convention in Charlotte.

PLANNING STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Planning staff supports the proposed co-location of the future communications center.

CMPC PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:






At their March 15, 2011 meeting the Planning Committee recommended approval by a 6-0 vote.



Mandatory Referral 11-01

Submitted by: City Real Estate, E&PM

Initiated by: CMPD & CFD

-  Mandatory Referral
-  Building Footprints
-  City Property
-  Future Fire Administration Facility
-  County Property



Produced by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department

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