

Mecklenburg County, North Carolina
Board of County Commissioners
FY2027 Annual Retreat
Central Piedmont Community College - Harris Conference Center

*Mecklenburg County will be a community of pride and choice
for people to live, learn, work and recreate.*

January 28, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM - 9:10 AM Introduction
Michael Bryant, County Manager

9:10 AM - 9:40 AM Icebreaker

9:40 AM - 9:50 AM Agenda Overview & Binder Materials
Adrian Cox, Budget Director

9:50 AM - 10:00 AM Welcome
Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President of Central Piedmont Community College

Housing & Homelessness

10:00 AM - 10:05 AM Introduction
Dr. Kimm Campbell, Deputy County Manager

10:05 AM - 10:15 AM Budget & Performance Scorecard Snapshot
Michael Griswold, Director of the Office of Strategy & Innovation

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM Housing & Homelessness Panel
Rebecca Hefner, City of Charlotte Director of Housing & Neighborhood Services
LaShonda Hart, Interim Director, Office of Housing & Community Development
Karen Pellitier, Division Director - Housing Innovation & Stabilization Services (CSS)
Jessica Lefkowitz, Founder & Executive Director, Hearts for the Invisible Charlotte Coalition
Fulton Meachem, CEO of Inlivan

This presentation will provide County Commissioners with a comprehensive overview of the status of affordable housing in Mecklenburg County, highlighting both the creation of new affordable units and the preservation of existing affordability across the community. An overview of the city's contributions to addressing affordability will be offered, in addition to a discussion on promising practices, financing options, and common challenges impacting progress. Panelists will also present an overview of homeless trends and county programs and services available for the unhoused population and provide an update on recent federal policy impacting the ways in which services are funded.

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Board Discussion on Housing & Homelessness

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch

Violence Prevention for Justice-Involved & At-Risk Youth

2:00 PM - 2:05 PM	Introduction Derrick Ramos, Deputy County Manager
2:05 PM - 2:15 PM	Budget & Performance Scorecard Snapshot Michael Griswold, Director of the Office of Strategy & Innovation
2:15 PM - 3:05 PM	Violence Prevention for Justice-Involved & At-Risk Youth <i>A Panel Discussion Moderated By Suzette Nedrich, Director of Public Information</i> Corey Edwards, Chief Court Counselor - Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (NCDPS) Sonya Harper, Director of Criminal Justice Services Dr. Kimberly Scott, Interim Health Director, Public Health Department Dr. Raquishela Stewart, Deputy Director, City of Charlotte, Youth Opportunities Programs W. Hope Knuckles, Mecklenburg County Program Director, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. The Board will receive an update on programs and services the County, City, State and non-profit partners are providing for justice-involved and at-risk youth in Mecklenburg County. The panel will discuss current strategies to strengthen community safety, support for youth, and opportunities for improved collaboration and partnerships.
3:05 PM - 4:35 PM	Board Discussion on Violence Prevention for Justice-Involved & At-Risk Youth
4:35 PM - 4:55 PM	Break
Tentative	
4:55 PM - 5:55 PM	Dinner
5:55 PM - 7:25 PM	Economic Outlook Brandon Simmons, County Economist Ken Joyner, County Assessor The Board will receive an economic update from the County Economist and a briefing from the County Assessor on real estate market trends and their impact on the County's tax base.
January 29, 2026	
Recess due to a short notice demand from a North Carolina House Oversight Committee.	

January 30, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **Breakfast**

9:00 AM - 9:20 AM **Icebreaker**

Workforce Development

9:20 AM - 9:25 AM **Introduction**

Dr. Leslie Johnson, Deputy County Manager

9:25 AM - 9:35 AM **Budget & Performance Scorecard Snapshot**

Michael Griswold, Director of the Office of Strategy & Innovation

9:35 AM - 10:30 AM **Workforce Development Panel**

Dr. Melissa Balknight, Deputy Superintendent, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Dr. Virginia Covill, Assistant County Manager - Workforce Development & Upward Mobility

Yulonda Griffin, Director of Community Resources

Dr. Heather Hill, Provost, Central Piedmont Community College

Anna London, President & CEO, Charlotte Works

Building pathways of opportunity for ALL is a vision shared by nonprofits, public and for-profit partners in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Panelists will share relevant education and workforce data, highlight current programs and initiatives, discuss the barriers and gaps associated with upward mobility, and present the strategic and collaborative path forward.

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM **Board Discussion on Workforce Development**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **Lunch**

Environmental Leadership

1:00 PM - 1:05 PM **Introduction**

Dr. Leslie Johnson, Deputy County Manager

1:05 PM - 1:15 PM **Budget & Performance Scorecard Snapshot**

Michael Griswold, Director of the Office of Strategy & Innovation

1:15 PM - 2:00 PM **Environmental Leadership Panel**

Ebenezer S. Gujjarlapudi, Director of Land Use & Environmental Services

Mark Hahn, Director of Assets and Facility Management

Erin Stanforth, Environmental Sustainability Program Manager

Nick Walker, Director of Park & Recreation

Mecklenburg County's Environmental Leadership Action plan includes strategies and sets goals for the County to operate in a manner that protects natural resources, exemplifies model environmental stewardship, and uses County resources wisely for the benefit of residents. The plan guides activities of the County for results-oriented outcomes to include but not limited to achieving net zero carbon emissions, meeting or surpassing national air quality standards for ozone and other pollutants, waste reduction, flood mitigation, creek restoration, invasive species removal, and increased parkland by 2035. The plan also emphasizes the importance of environmental justice and community partnerships to ensure equitable environmental protection for all residents. Panelists will highlight the County's progress to date, discuss the challenges and complexities of accomplishing the goals, share strategies for addressing barriers, and pose policy questions for BOCC consideration.

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM **Board Discussion on Environmental Leadership**

3:30 PM - 3:40 PM **Break**

Financial Updates

3:40 PM - 3:45 PM

Introduction

Michelle Attreed, Deputy County Manager

3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Maintaining an Affordable & Competitive Tax Rate

Adrian Cox, Director of the Office of Management & Budget

The balanced scorecard includes an objective to maintain an affordable and competitive tax rate. This objective must be weighed alongside the County's other priorities. To illustrate this balance, the Board will review data on affordability, along with examples of how taxes and services can affect County households.

4:45 PM - 6:00 PM

Financial Update & Finance Policies

David Boyd, Chief Financial Officer

The Board will receive an update on the FY2025 financial results, FY2026 projections, and revenue estimates for FY2027. The Board will also receive an overview of proposed updates to the County's financial policies.

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM - 7:40 PM

Open Forum

The Board will have the option to discuss any areas of interest, or provide reflections from the Retreat.

7:40 PM - 7:45 PM

Closing Remarks

Michael Bryant, County Manager