

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, convened for the Oath of Office Ceremony on Monday, December 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, with Mayor Anthony Fox presiding. Council members present were Michael Barnes, Jason Burgess, Patrick Cannon, Nancy Carter, Warren Cooksey, Andy Dulin, David Howard, Patsy Kinsey, James Mitchell, Edwin Peacock and Warren Turner.

Also present were Council Members Elect John Autry, Clarie Fallon, LaWana Mayfield and Beth Pickering.

Mayor Foxx welcomed everyone to the Ceremonial Meeting to swear in our new City Council. It is nice to have so many family and friends joining. I want to thank our Ushers from the Mayor's Youth Employment Program who handed out the programs to all of you this evening.

INVOCATION, POSTING OF COLORS AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by Dr. David Chadwick, Forest Hill Church.

The Posting of Colors was by the Charlotte Fire Department and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Honor Guards.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council Member's children.

Johnson C. Smith University Concert Choir sang the National Anthem.

CONFIRMATION OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk, gave the following certified results of the election held on November 8, 2011.

Office of Mayor	Anthony Foxx	Elected: 56,252
	Scott Stone	26,985
	Write-ins	51
City Council At Large	Patrick Cannon	Elected: 53,972
	Claire Fallon	Elected: 41,859
	David Howard	Elected: 48,005
	Beth Pickering	Elected: 40,591
	Christopher Hailey	26,907
	Mohamed Moustafa	20,120
	Edwin Peacock, III	35,028
	Curtis Watkins	30,517
	Alexander G. Vuchnich	6,131
	Write-ins	199
District 1	Patsy Kinsey	Elected: 8,100
	David Rice	2,729
	Write-ins	25
District 2	James Mitchell, Jr.	Elected: 9,834
	Write-ins	109
District 3	LaWana Mayfield	Elected: 7,061
	Ed Toney	1,937
	Write-ins	30
District 4	Michael Barnes	Elected: 8,300
	Larry Shannon	2,190

	Write-ins		9
District 5	John Autry	Elected:	7,088
	Dennis Peterson		2,216
	Write-ins		3
District 6	Andy Dulin	Elected:	11,420
	Write-ins		255
District 7	Warren Cooksey	Elected:	8,917
	Write-ins		162

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MAYOR'S CITIZEN AWARD

Mayor Foxx said it is tradition at this ceremony to offer awards to distinguished members of our community who have served with distinction, with honor and with courage. Tonight I want to award two Mayor's Awards, one to an individual who has given 12 years of her life to the Charlotte City Council. That is Councilwoman, Nancy Carter. If you have lived in District 5, you have no doubt seen Nancy Carter at a neighborhood meeting or a picnic or a dinner. She is often one of the hardest working public servants we have, someone who has given of herself tirelessly and who in my estimation is worthy of receiving the Richard Vinroot Mayor's Award. Nancy, would you please come forward?

The second award tonight I give in honor of former Mayor, Harvey Gantt. It is an award for civility and courage. In these times when politics seems so divided and people seem to be so far away from each other in terms of what they believe, it is refreshing when we find ourselves with a leader who is able to see the long view in our community. I have watched one of our number work to serve this community in a distinguished way and in many ways to look past partisan politics to find solutions. In fact in this very room, just a few years ago he convened a neighborhood conversation about how we would make the best use of our energy efficiency block grant funding. That Town Hall Meeting created a conversation that led to 17 unique projects that are happening on the ground in our city today, including for the first time recycling in our center city, including Envision Charlotte, including the distribution of electric charging stations for vehicles that will be coming on line soon. To my colleague, Edwin Peacock, I would like to give you this award in honor of your service, and ask you to come forward.

Tonight we are also recognizing the contributions of those who are department the Charlotte City Council and I would like to ask Councilmember Jason Burgess to join me at the podium. Jason Burgess joined us under some of the most challenging circumstances imaginable. In the summer of 2010 we lost our beloved friend and colleague, Susan Burgess to cancer. Jason stepped up at this mother's request to serve the remainder of her term on the Charlotte City Council. For any of you who have seen Jason operate, no pun intended, you know that Jason is hugely intelligent, passionate about this city and about carrying forward his mother's legacy. Jason, due to your service and as a token of appreciate of it, I am proud to present you with your name plate from the City Council dais and a picture of the City Skyline to highlight how Charlotte has changed for the better because of your service. Thank you.

Councilmember Burgess said thank you Mayor Foxx. I am told now is the time I can make my remarks, and I may say more tonight than I have for the last 18 month. As you can imagine I have a lot of "thank yous". To my fellow City Council members it has been my privilege to serve alongside you. Thank you for what you do for this city and for allowing me to complete my mother's terms. While I may not miss some of the long council meetings, some going past mid-night, I will certainly miss all of you. I especially want to thank Mayor Foxx for his friendship and help. I thank the staff for their patience with me as I learned the inner workings of City government. As a new comer to the Council, and initially an outsider, to the process I must say I was very impressed by the way the city is run. Charlotte is a great city and I can attest that these hard working dedicated professionals who combine solid business principles with care and compassion. So Curt, Ron, Ruffin, Kim, Bob and all the others keep up the good work. To Mac McCarley, thank you for your service, you will be missed and good luck in your next

endeavor. I must also thank my partners at Surgical Specialists of Charlotte, specifically Paul Orland. Paul covered my call every Monday night for the last 18 months and asked nothing in return. I could certainly not have gotten to do this without him. I also want to thank Mary Hopper. Mary is a very special person to me and was a very good friend of my mothers. As a favorite Susan, Mary agreed to meet with Liz and me on Sunday night before every City Council meeting at our house after we put the kids down to bed. We always shared the week's stories over a glass of red wine and went over every item on the upcoming agenda to make sure that I was prepared for each City Council meeting. Mary, you can't know how much confidence that gave me going into each Monday afternoon – thank you. To my family, Dad, Jeff, Jillian, Collin, and to my in-laws the Donahue's and to my new family the Martin's thank you for your love and support. I need to thank my wife, Liz and our three children, Chandler, Kiley and Chase for supporting me while I did this. The kids were very understanding and Kiley even thought that I was famous. Liz was a rock. Those of you who came to these meetings knew that she was always right there in that seat. She came to almost every single meeting and in addition she helped me study the issues and she shouldered most of the additional family responsibilities so I could be here. My mother wisely asked both of us if we would do this, not just me. It has been a team effort for sure. It has been a real honor to serve out my mother's term. When she first broached the subject with me after my initial shock, I must admit I was surprised as anyone how enthusiastic I was about taking this on. I saw this as an opportunity for me as someone who loved the City and is proud to be raising my family here, to serve the public. Would I have chosen to do this on my own, absolutely not. Now after 18 months I feel truly blessed because of the opportunity I had to see how carefully Council decisions are made because of the friendships that I have made around this dais and because of the chance to experience firsthand the things that motivated my mother. I will end with his quote from my mother's resignation letter because it rings true for me as it did for her on June 7, 2010. "I love my city and its people. It has been an honor for me to represent them. I treasure the support and encouragement that I have received from so many of the people of Charlotte. To the colleagues on the Council and the staff and the employees of the City, it has been a pleasure serving with you. God Bless all of you and God Bless the City of Charlotte". Thank you and I will see you at the DNC.

Mayor Foxx said thank you Jason for all you have done to improve our City, and thank you Liz for sharing him as well as your children and your family.

Another colleague that is departing the City Council tonight is Councilmember Nancy Carter. Nancy, would you please join me at the podium and let me share with you what I've already said. I don't think we have a harder worker, a more compassionate person, a more forward thinking leader than Nancy Carter on the City Council and Nancy, it gives me great pleasure to provide you with your dais seating plaque as well as a picture of the Charlotte skyline to show just how much work you've done to improve our City.

Councilmember Carter said no question, no notes, no consent, just gratitude and thanks to the wonderful incredible folks who live in District 5 who afforded me the privilege to serve their needs for 12 years. Thanks to colleagues who were always inspiring, incredibly devoted and challenging, who led us through these decisions that I think have bettered our City. I'm grateful for each one of you and love each one of you very dearly. To colleagues all over the nation and the state who've made my life very rich and thank you to James for opening doors that would never been opened before. The other colleagues of course that I would love to recognize would be Susan Burgess who started this path for me, telling the Democratic search party to look at Nancy Carter 12 years ago. So Susan has long reaches of friendship and incredible talent to encourage others forward. And to Joe Damico who would a similar mentor. He lent me a book "George Washington's Rule of Civility and Decent Behavior" that he wrote as an early teen. Six times I have read from this and the two rules that I think are the most important that he wrote, number 82, "Undertake not what you cannot perform, but be careful to keep your promise". The very last one number 110, "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little celestial fire called conscious". My final thanks is to my husband who makes his decisions really ... So thank you all and all the best wishes to those who will continue in the future and lead us so well.

Mayor Foxx said thank you again Nancy, and thank you Nick for sharing Nancy with us for 12 years.

The next retiring Councilmember is Edwin Peacock, if you will come to the podium Mr. Peacock. Mr. Peacock joined us in 2007 and has been mentioned has spent a lot of his time and energy helping the City move forward with its plan to improve the environment. I think most of us here would agree that he has been very successful with that, and not only with that, but has been a leader on Council on countless other issues. Mr. Peacock we are grateful for your service and as token of our appreciation I am proud to present you with your plaque from the dais as well as a picture of the City skyline to highlight your contributions to our City.

Councilmember Peacock said four years ago on my first election night I was driving in my car with my wife on the way to our headquarters to watch the election returns with our friends and our supporters. I was nervous because I knew there was a very possible probability that we might not be successful in our first effort. We got to a stop light near our destination and I remarked to her, "honey we could lose tonight, whether we win or whether we lose I would not trade this experience for anything". I really loved the process of running for office. I'm so proud to live in this community. Four years later on that same evening, but with a different outcome, I can honestly say I would not change a thing. A heartfelt thank you must first be extended to my wife Amy. She has endured the up and downs of my public service, she has ridden the rollercoaster of three campaigns that at times have consumed our summer vacations. She, like all of the spouses of elected officials can never be thanked enough. Thank you Charlotte for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. Thank you for introducing me to so many wonderful citizens and leaders across this community. I've really enjoyed being a part of the very important policy decisions we made at this dais. Thank you for the many wonderful experiences I've had with my colleagues here tonight and the very professional and very proficient staff at the City of Charlotte. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to grow and expand as an individual. I've only grown in my appreciation of this great democracy here in America. One chapter is closed in my life, another one has opened, I'm excited, and my future is bright. Thank you again Charlotte, it has been an honor and a privilege. May God bless this great American City. Thank you and Good Night.

Mayor Foxx said thank you Edwin and thank you Amy.

We now recognize the final departing Councilmember, Warren Turner, who served the City Council in District 3 since 2003. Many of you who have gotten on the light rail train and taken it down to South Boulevard know and can see the impact of Warren Turner in the District. He has been a fierce advocate for the expansion of light rail transit in the southern part of our city, for redevelopment activities that have improved the life and quality of life for citizens in District 3. We thank you for your service and with the other Council members I'm proud to present you with your name plaque from the dais as well as a picture of the of the City Skyline to show just how much of an impact you've had on this city during your leadership.

Councilmember Turner said thank you Mayor. Ladies and gentlemen, I started this in 2003 and I've had the opportunity to be blessed to have served the Citizens of District 3 in the City of Charlotte. I had the opportunity to serve under two Mayor, two City Managers and now two City Attorneys. Mac is retiring and I wish you well in your journey and your ventures. As you know if you have not lived in this City, and the citizens that may be watching from home, if you have not lived in District 3 in the last 10 years it has changed by leaps and bounds, but change always much come. As this Council changes tonight we hope and continue to pray for our great City and our great District 3, which is a District I love. As I stand tonight and look out and I watch Honorable Scarborough who served as City Councilwoman for this District. We have seen the change and we will continue to see change and growth throughout the City and not just in my District. I hope that we can continue to pray for one another and pray for our City. It has been without a doubt truly a blessing and an honor to be able to serve the citizens of Charlotte and District 3. On behalf of my lovely wife, who over 8 years has had to take care of all of the homework and many other chores for your husband being absent and being here on Monday nights, I thank you and I love you. God bless you all.

Mayor Foxx said thank you Mr. Turner and also to Shawn, your wife and to your family. We thank you for your service.

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OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR-ELECT

Mayor Foxx said we will now have the Oath of Office administered by the Honorable Judge Yvonne Mims Evans, Resident Superior Court from the Mecklenburg County Court System.

Judge Yvonne Mims Evans, Resident Superior Court, gave the oath of office to Mayor Anthony Foxx.

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OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO CITY COUNCIL-ELECT

Mayor Foxx gave the Oath of Office to the City Council-Elect.

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REMARKS - MAYOR ANTHONY FOXX

Mayor Foxx said thank you Charlotte for giving me and this City Council an opportunity to lead once again. Words cannot express my particular feelings about the honor and sense of responsibility I feel to this city, my hometown and to all who live here. I have been a candidate for public office four times now and I've never been so moved by a group of supporters that I was this year. One story in particular touched me so much that I'm inclined to share it. While campaigning one day I learned of the story of Bernice Henry. Ms. Henry has a late stage cancer. She has been sick for months but she told her adult children that she had two things she wanted to do before she passed. She wanted to help her church and she wanted to vote for my campaign. If Ms. Henry is watching tonight I want to tell her thank you and that my prayers and those of my family are with her tonight. Her deep faith in me and that of so many people throughout Charlotte gives me something to live up to over the next two years. Thank all of you.

We put together our together a first rate campaign team led by Michael Haley, Sarah Forman and a committed group of volunteers, a team of more than 300 strong. That team made more than 200,000 calls to voters and established contact with almost half of the eventual electric. Despite what some suggest this support did not come from Washington, it came from more than 300 people who live and work in Charlotte every day and who have a vested interest in the future of our community. I want to thank them for their time and their energy to support our campaign.

Charlotte residents can look back on the last two years and be proud of what we have accomplished. I cannot remember a two-year term in which so many difficult issues have confronted a City Council. A continuing hangover from the worst recession in more than 80 years, losing one of our beloved colleagues to cancer and leading a community that still hungers for solutions to long term challenges such as poverty and homelessness, education and economic uncertainty. In the two years prior to this term, for example, our community lost 27,000 jobs and slipped in negative job growth, but collectively we have played the hand we have been dealt as well as they could have been played. In fact we secured 14,000 new jobs and despite those who doubted the resilience of this community, we have gone from negative job growth to positive job growth. Knowing that the City of Charlotte could play a role in education we staved off Library closures, we kept school resource officers in place and for the first time ever we moved forward with a plan to push competition for after school dollars to expand the reach and effectiveness of public dollars committed to that purpose. City employees, including police officers and fire fighters have taken hit. Our newest public safety workers who have not received steps contained in the public safety pay plan and the efficient effective government task force which identified our public safety pay plan as unaffordable over the long term. These officers have led our city to the lowest crime rate in 30 years. They deserve not only our thanks, but a pay plan that is sustainable and rewards them appropriately for the dangers they face every day. We maintained our AAA bond rating while reduced property taxes to a revenue neutral level. We implemented a recycling program that saves \$40 million of ten years and restructured debt to save taxpayers money. We moved forward with plans to expand our transit system. We formed a first of its kind coalition, bringing Mecklenburg County, the faith community, the philanthropic community and the business community to the same table to attack homelessness and affordable housing. This coalition has helped us expand the capacity at McCreesh Place to support Moore Place, a

facility that will house 90 chronically homeless residents and provide the wraparound services they need, and to provide more housing for abused women and their children. We are just beginning this collaboration, but the early results are encouraging and we've landed a major political convention, placing our city, our state and our greater southeastern region on an international stage we've never occupied and we did so on a bipartisan basis.

In a nutshell, as many residents have faced the fear of the future and the uncertainty of today, City government has played the role of a great stabilizer. Over the next two years City government must make more transitions from a model of stability into a model of stability that promotes even more opportunity. We must shift from playing defense to playing offense and strengthen our ability to attract and grow jobs. In short, it is time to swing for the fences. There are three ways in which I want us to swing for the fences in the coming two years. First, we must swing for the fences when it comes to regionalism. When it comes to regionalism most of us agreed that it is important, but as citizens we may not know just how important. Let me applaud the work of groups like the Metropolitan Transit Commission, our regional roads committee, Centralina Council of Government, the elected officials and other leaders who serve on our area Metropolitan Planning Organizations and rural planning organizations. Our cooperation is likely one reason why our area received almost \$5 million in a sustainability planning grant just a couple of weeks ago. That is the good news. The bad news is that the Federal Government's Transportation spending is likely to decline sharply in future years. Most of the pain will begin to be felt in the next budget year. U. S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has visited Charlotte at least three times in the last two years. Every time he has emphasized regionalism as an imperative for us. Put bluntly, unless we work harder to speak with one voice as a region we will risk losing federal dollars to other regions that do. That is one reason why Mayors across our 17-county region have been getting together informally to discuss how we can join our voices together and promote even stronger regional cooperation. I want to thank Concord Mayor, Scott Padgett for being with us here tonight. His presence, not only as a Mayor within our region, but also as Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Mayor's Coalition sends an important signal about just how closely tied together we are. Over the next two years I want to push our region to develop a single voice, one that connects the cacophony of local issues into a symphony of shared priorities. Working with Patsy Kinsey, who represents us on the COG and David Howard, who represents us on MUMPO, I believe we can create a platform upon regional transportation priorities are established over the next two years and shared by all in our region.

Let's swing for the fences and start a consolidation. Charlotte citizens and residents all over the county have an interest in good government. Our residents are sitting at kitchen tables every night thinking about how to do more with less. Why would we not examine ways to make local government better, perhaps even less expensive for the people who pay the bills. I have mentioned consolidation many times and tonight I tell you that within a week I will put before this City Council an action item to initiate a full political consolidation study. This study would use much of the research from the last effort as a starting point. While offering a starting point I recognize that many things have changed and would expect the commission to engage the public in its work. This commission would have a fixed window of time to study this issue, would give us an up or down recommendation and if they support it, a specific plan. We should and need to include our surrounding towns and residents in this process. I am also committed to identifying private funds to support the work of this commission. If they decide against pursuing it the commission would dissolve and we would turn our focus back to functional areas like permitting. Either way the citizens of our community win because they will know that we are leaving no stone unturned as we work our way through the most challenging economic environment in more than 70 years.

Let's also swing for the fences when it comes to Charlotte's children. Last week the City Council approved modest changes to our curfew ordinance. As a society and as a community, we have a much easier time telling children what not to do than we do in guiding them in the right direction. There is no substitute for a caring and responsible parent or adult in a child's life, nor is there a replacement for a quality education. Charlotte, I want you to meet Jarvis Williams. Jarvis is a senior of Phillip O. Barry Senior High School. He is a product of a single parent family and he works to help his mom pay the bills and to save for college. Jarvis has worked in the Mayor's Youth Employment Program for three years. He spent the last year working for the Charlotte Regional Partnership. He is fluent in Spanish and if all goes well he will soon be an Eagle Scout. The Youth Employment Program has given Jarvis a pathway to introduce career

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options that may never have been considered. In fact five of our ushers tonight are Alums of the Youth Employment Program. They are an example of what our community can produce when we set our collective minds to it. I am immensely proud that in the same year when our schools drew national acclaim as the best urban school district in the country that the Charlotte community could pull together to launch an effort like Project Lift. We need to do more lifting. We need more Jarvis' and over the next two years I challenge us to connect 4,000 kids to career paths and job training. The Mayor's Youth Employment Program is on track to place 300 kids in jobs this coming summer. That is an all-time high and we have a plan to joint with the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System working in ten schools to provide job training to 800 kids. We will work with our partners at Discovery Place to expose a thousand kids to new careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Though other efforts we can create 3,260 opportunities for kids to lift their ambitions and strive for a brighter future. At the same time we know that our arrest rates are about 4,000 a year for young people. So Charlotte, here is the challenge, if we can arrest 4,000 kids every year, let's put 4,000 kids to work. Now I concede that putting 4,000 kids in a position to succeed is not building a new road or a skyscraper or a train. Those things are great to build too, but unless we recognize that in the twenty-first century we will be defined as much by how we develop people as how we develop things. We will not succeed as a community and I'm committed to this community's success. City Council members James Mitchell and Patrick Cannon know this. They've been working on these issues locally and nationally for years. I'm counting on you to help us get to that place, so let's get to work.

To that end we will also prompt changes to our workforce development system. Beginning in January we will start expanding the number of satellite facilities to help our jobless connect to resources. Today we have ten satellite facilities and by June we will have 30, and within the next two years, 40. For young people we will also appoint a workforce development board focused specifically on youth job training. I have asked Dr. Patrick Graham of the Urban League of the Central Carolinas to lead this new Board and charge it with examining the reach and effectiveness of resources currently used to support youth job training. If the programs are ineffective or don't have sufficient reach, then this board needs to work to fund programs that do work and reach larger numbers of our children.

On a personal note I want to thank my family for supporting me through this incredible journey. My grandmother grew up in Carthage, North Carolina, a small town in Moore County. She was born there than 94 years ago. She had 14 siblings and she lived with the indignities of racial segregation. She has lived to see her grandson lead the largest city in North Carolina, an achievement she did more to make possible than I did. Thank you Grandma. To my mother, who has never allowed me to think of myself as challenged, although many of you here would disagree. Mom, I want to thank you, and to Samara and my children you have given this community so much and I thank you for it. They have endured personal sacrifices and the professional sacrifices I have made to be here. I wonder sometimes whether my kids know how hard I'm working so that their future will be at least as good as the one I expected. Just a few days ago my daughter Hillary gave me some confidence that I'm actually getting through. She sat down at a table and drew a picture and on the picture was her dad and I was holding her hand and it said, "an opportunity to shine". That is what it is all about. So Charlotte the work we do over the next two years isn't just about our individual families, it's about the Charlotte Family. It's about the future that we should all want for each other, for every child and every family. God Bless this City and God Bless the work of this City Council.

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REMARKS – CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember LaWana Mayfield said thank you first and foremost to the residents of District 3 that took the chance on me that said that you believed in the work that I have done in the community for more than 15 years and that I wish to continue doing. Sitting down here beneath all of you is the appropriate place for us because we are servants and with that in mind I hope to serve my District with respect and continue the growth that our previous representative has started, which he continued from his predecessor to help build our community, grow our district and see the changes that we would like, but also to know that I need all of your help. All of you that are at home I need you to show up, I need to hear your voices, I need to hear your ideas and concerns and I will do my best to make sure that those concerns and those issues are heard

around this dais. I think my family for the months that you have already allowed me to do this and the next two years for early mornings, late nights thank my partner, Taletha and her mother and her extended family for their support. For my team to help to make this happen and so many others that I'm not going to name, thank you all and I look forward to serving our community in District 3.

Councilmember John Autry said wow! It looks a lot different from here I got to tell you, but as I look up there and see all the people that are responsible for me sitting where I am this evening, I can't thank you enough. It's been quite a year. It's been up, down, around, back and forth and I am so happy and so honored, gratified and humbled to be representing the great people of District 5 in Charlotte. In taking this seat this evening I am reminded of the work that we have ahead of us. The work we have ahead of us at revitalizing, invigorating and changing the perception of the eastside of this city. I feel like we are the ones who are ready to do it. I feel like the constituents in that District are eager for change and we are going to get about the business of the work of taking care of that. I want to thank all of you who worked on this campaign. I look through here tonight and I see you everywhere, as you are all over the place. I especially want to point out and recognize Mr. Greg Fredrick without whose leadership, without whose inspiration, without whose creativity this campaign would not been successful. I especially want to thank my family because until you sit there as a family member you don't really understand what it all means I don't think. I'm fortunate tonight to have two of my children here, Jennifer and Christopher who came from Wilmington and over in Holly Springs to be with me tonight. I only wish my other two daughters Sarah and Jennifer Ann could be here and my grandchildren, Cole and Keri. I'm with you kids. I especially have to thank my wife. She is my partner, my pillar, my rock, my colleague, my inspiration and I couldn't ask for a better partner in this endeavor and we are anxious and eager to get to the business at hand. Then I want to thank my predecessor, Mrs. Carter has been a great inspiration for me. She has been a big help to me and without her help and assistance and for her to be there to answer the phone when I had a question, it would have been that much more difficult. I want her to know that I still have her number and I know how to dial it. Thank all of you, it has been a great ride and now I'm ready to get to work.

Councilmember Beth Pickering said John Autry said it best I think and that was Wow! It is a little different from down here I can assure you. I want to thank everybody who came out tonight and I'm assuming there are folks out in the lobby, I can see you too, and those of you who are watching at home I can see you too. Most importantly to the folks who aren't watching and who maybe don't know that new leadership is even taking place here in Charlotte, I see you too. We see you, and that is our job to see all of you, everybody all across this city and that is what we are going to do. That is what I'm going to do. We are leaders and we are supposed to lead. That means that we look at the big picture, we are supposed to keep our eye on the ball. The ball I would say right now is jobs, economic development in all of neighborhoods and that is what we are going to do. Reduce homelessness, make sure we have safe neighborhoods, that is what we are going to do. I want to bring this city together. I've heard many times over the course of this campaign that folks are feeling left out, unheard. I want to fix that big time. I had a nice invitation to do a local radio show, WGIV and the topic we were going to discuss were mentioned, what I thought about the election and what issues I wanted to bring before Council and here was the one that really struck me which was, what could his listeners do to help me with my issues in the city moving forward. My point is he wanted to know what his listeners could do and I have been thinking about that ever since. I believe that citizens want to do something, want to help, want to participate, but sometimes elected officials, not just here, but state and nationals, we don't ask specifically for things that you can do so I will be doing that in the future. We'll be talking about recycling and in particular those of you way may be living in places that don't offer recycling, we want to get that going, so I will be wanting to know about that. We'll want to go to management and see if we can do something about that. I would also like to encourage you to use our 311 number here in Charlotte. If you know of something in your neighborhood that needs attention, pot hole, street light out, animal control issues, please use that. That is what it is for and it is a wonderful way not to have to know every department in the city. That is an idea of what we are going to do. We are going to ask you to participate because we are all Charlotteans. We all take care of the city and I want us to all come together and want us to all feel a part. Mr. Howard used a word the other day, the word was vision. My vision is a Charlotte that is vibrant, it is close nit and it is inclusive. Vibrant - I see is everybody is working, businesses are thriving. That is our job here. Close nit - our neighbors are neighborly, we know each other, we feel
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connected to this city. That is where all of us come in. Inclusive – of course we all feel a part, there are no outsiders and everyone is an insider. That is what I want to see for Charlotte. I want to thank the Mayor for the fantastic job that he has done for the fantastic campaign he ran. I want to thank Mayor Pro Tem Cannon for his kindness to me, also Councilmember Howard. All the years of service that has happened on this dais and the folks that have left already, and in particular to Councilmember Peacock who has done a fine job. We appreciate his service and we know that he comes from a long tradition of public service and we will look forward to seeing what he does in the future. Charlotte Thank you.

Councilmember Clarie Fallon said I would like start on a personal note and I hope you will forgive me for this, but in the Air Force when someone is missing they fly a formation called the missing man. There is a seat missing tonight and that is my husband Tim who has been my support for my whole life. I could not have done this if he would not have been always there for me. You who knew me on the Planning Commission knew he was always there. He picked me up, he took me, he waited for me and I am here because of him. I said no twice to people and all of a sudden at 3:00 I said yes and at 5:00 I said are you crazy. Someone was there guiding and I have to thank three people who have tried and helped to take his place. David Thurman is my friend and attorney who sat me down and said Claire, why are we running? Are we running for money, for prestige or are we running because we know we are going to get criticized to do the right thing and David we're going to do the right thing. Dr. Walker, who is a Planning Commissioner and Pastor of the AME Zion, who had to leave because his wife is in the hospital, after a Planning Board meeting, two weeks after my husband passed away in December I was there and the Mayor said to me, are you crazy, what are you doing here and I said I can't set at home and cry. I have an obligation to the City, I took on a job. Pastor Walker said to me after, Claire don't leave, wait so I waited and for one hour he talked to me. He said to me, come to the church when you feel you need it. Well, I go to the church all the time because it is the place where I feel at home and I can cry and I do cry. The other person is Ned Curran who couldn't be with us tonight because he got the surprise of Realtor of the Year today. I wanted to thank Dan McCorkle who looked at this woman and said if you don't win I don't know who you are. Well, you know me Ben, thank you so much. I want to thank the firefighters and the teamsters and the key note people and the Meck Pack people whoever else I can't remember for being there for me all the time, for helping me, for campaigning for me, for calling for me. I appreciate it and most of all I want to thank my family. My daughter is in Atlanta on a conference, my son is here and my two grandchildren. I will tell you what my granddaughter said to me. She came in third in a precinct I hadn't campaigned in at all, so I said to her, you know Fallon, you could be the ... She just looked at me and said, and what is the matter with president. I am available for you, I am here for you. Thank you.

Councilmember Warren Cooksey said I think it is only appropriate for the Class of 92 to note as always to the Class of 93, it is a great day to be a Wild Cat. I never want this to be routine. It is my third time up for this, but it should never be routine because it is privilege to serve. First of all I have to thank my parents who have come down once again to see this and who are responsible for me being here in the first place so thank you very much. Thanks also to the voters of District 7 who have returned me to this third term to work for the good of all of Charlotte. You can never thank the folks who helped you get here enough and in particular in my case, I happen to know this time that there are folks that I won't know to thank because I'm very confident there were people working for my re-election who I had no idea were out there doing that so I am very grateful to them. All of our retired colleagues have officially retired from the room which demonstrates their wisdom and sagacity. The program says retirees but I prefer to think of them as outgoing rather than retired. I enjoyed serving with all of them and it was a privilege to serve with Warren Turner, Edwin Peacock, Nancy Carter and Jason Burgess, but it was something I should have said Friday night about Jason and I'd like to take this opportunity to say it. When people ask you why I run and why I'm serving I say it is because I think we are all called to apply our talents and skills and interest to make our community a better place, whether it is in an elective office or as a minister, or as a plumber, as a nurse or whatever we do in this community I think we are called to apply that to make it a better place. After 18 months it really drew me to set Jason apart as his calling is clearly to be a surgeon to heal people, to save their lives, so for all the sacrifices each of us make to serve our calling, I think it is particularly notable that Jason sacrificed his calling for public service for a period of 18 months, and I'm very grateful to him for that. That is the extent of my remarks this evening Mayor and next week we can start on it all over again.

Councilmember Patsy Kinsey said I don't say a whole lot around this dais most of the time so I won't break that habit tonight. I'm just going to share my deep gratitude with the voters of District 1 who are now allowing me to come back and serve the citizens of this community again and I really appreciate it. I also want to acknowledge my campaign committee led by my very dear friend, Pam Bennett, still putting up with me after several campaigns and also obviously your family. You just can't do it without your family, my children, my grandchildren, my sister and all sorts of people back there holding me up. Thanks for your love and support and I look forward to working for the citizens of this community for the next two years.

Councilmember James Mitchell said I'm going to follow the theme of Ms. Kinsey and do a lot of thank yous. Number one to my campaign team who really without your support I would not be here. Thank you for my spiritually related Pastor Michael McClain at East Stonewall AME Zion Church family. Thank you for my blessing, Kalin Nicole for allowing daddy to serve another two years and thank you to my fiancé Joan Higginbotham, one for moving to Charlotte and two for putting joy back in my life. Thank you for that mother of mine who carried me nine months free of charge, Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, love you mom, and last but not least, thank you citizens of District 2 for giving me the vote, prayers and support allowing me to represent you and nothing has changed. We are going to have fun, but plenty of food.

Councilmember David Howard said I want to thank a few people and want to start by thanking my family, my wife, who kept the trains moving and the kids going and everything else while I do this, especially during the very hard campaign while she was starting a business as well with a business partner, so thank you Mary. Thank you my children for understanding that daddy may not see you when you go to bed at night, but I love you. I want to thank my mother who is incredible and if you know her history, you know how incredible she has been in this community as well as my father who is watching. Two people that have always supported me no matter what I wanted to do and told me to go for it and gave me the resources to make it happen. I also want to thank an incredible campaign team and this will sound like déjà vu considering that Patsy just said it. I want to thank Pam Bennett for leading my campaign as well. She did two campaigns and Patsy we tried real hard to keep our record perfect and we did it again. As well as Jennifer Daniels, Joel Ford and Jerome Miller and a bunch of incredible people that helped me out, an incredible fund raising team, thank you all. There is a whole cast of family members who have to help us and I can't name them all, but I will just tell you I love you my siblings, my in-laws, all my friends who have helped us no matter what. When I said can you come help me put out some signs, you guys got up and you go do it. I'll do some official stuff right quick and thank the folks that made sure that a lot of us are sitting up here today and that would be the Democratic Party, the Black Caucus as well as all other people that endorsed me and all the people that helped me raise money. There are a number of you in the audience and I want to say thank you.

Into about six months of sitting down here I looked up one night and it was like Wow, really. I had that kind of pinch yourself moment to realize why God really did put me down here. The dream I had dreamed about for a long time is really happening and as I sat here I realized how blessed I was to have colleagues that were supporting me. The first one is James Mitchell which most people have no idea how much this guy is seen on the national scene. As President of the National League of Cities we all know when we go to those meetings, they take pictures with him. The first time I went I asked what is that about. He has given me a lot of guidance, but the two people I want to talk about are the two people that the Mayor allowed me to sit between. There was Nancy Carter on this side who has already left as well as Susan Burgess on this side. Mayor, you couldn't have done a better job for me because what I got out of Nancy, you already heard a lot tonight and that was balance and insight and a friendship that you wouldn't believe. What I got out of Susan for the first six months and then Jason, Susan was an incredible mentor for me when I first came on the Council. A lot of times you have to learn what not to say and what not to do and she helped me a lot with that, but she also gave me an example of what I should be. The Mayor talked about the other night about how he had a chance to sit with her for a few minutes the week before she died and I as well did too. I sat with her for about what was supposed to be about 20 minutes and ended up being about an hour and a half and she just poured out her heart with all kinds of things. I wanted to know her advice on issues, her advice for my future, just a whole bunch of stuff and I wound up spending time with her family for an hour and a half. After her death I got a call from her Campaign Manager, Marty. Marty called me and said David I have something for you. I had talked to Susan that day when I was meeting

with her about the fact that I had some debt left over from the campaign and I was trying to figure out how to pay it. Actually I had started using my own money to pay it off. I met Marty and he gave me a check from Susan. It was a check, enough to pay off my debt and the most endearing thing about it for me was that she signed that check the day before she died. That is the kind of person she was, that is the kind of person I want to be so my pledge to you tonight is that I want to have the same foresight, the same vision and the same heart that the two ladies I've had the chance to serve with, Nancy and Susan going forward and I promise you to be that kind of leader.

Councilmember Patrick Cannon said first giving God the honor and glory for yet another opportunity to serve in a servant/leadership role, I say thank you. Someone once said, those who want to do good are not selfish. They are not in a hurry, to build a house takes time. It's destruction takes none. Thanks to the volunteers that signed on as Cannon comrades that gave of your time, your talent and your monetary support from a couple of dollars to the maximum, to build our campaign and to make a true difference in the outcome of this election. The victory attained is that not of me, but of you and your efforts that made the outcome for what our City Clerk just laid out in the way of the 53,972 votes. Again thank you for your selflessness, taking your time to do the right thing with the right attitude and not being about destruction of what can happen in a campaign, but rather be construction of what the possibilities can be for our city in your support of me. Franklin Delano Roosevelt said let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rules of our democracy are not a President, not Senators, not Congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country. So to the voters and/or the endorsements along the way you are the ultimate rulers in this City of Charlotte. Thank you for the power you unleashed in your endorsement for, not just my, but our candidacy. I am as always truly honored and humbled by your voice spoken through the ballot box. Again I thank you for your support and ask you for your continued support as we work toward a better quality of life for all of our citizens through leadership that exemplifies experience, leadership that is effective in instituting sound policies and ordinances that provide our city buildings to construct the community that we can all be proud of more so than what it is today. Charlotte USA is good, but Charlotte International can be a whole lot better. People at some point will look around and scratch their heads from overseas and they will ask how did they do it, and they did it by way of the respected leadership that is around this table, not of just Patrick Cannon, but of our Mayor and this City Council and Councils to come.

There is a saying when life gives you a hundred reasons to cry show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile. To my family represented here today and that of my children, Portcia, Patrick and Brittany, my wife, Trina my mother, my father and grandparents and great-grandparents who are not here physically, but certainly are here in spirit. My aunts and uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews I say thank you for being one of those thousands of reasons why I smile. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to the make this sacrifice of serving others that takes me away from you in this season. You all have still shown your love, your grace and your support for me in an area that while some will applaud it, it can be daunt. So again I say thank you for the support, the love and the understanding and the smile that you have placed on my face. I truly appreciate it. Also to the matriarchs of the family, Carmen Cannon, Ann White, Barbara Henderson and Dr. Rodney and Daisy Stroud, thank you all so much for being who you are and what you have been to me.

When I was about 14 or 15 years old there was a wooden plaque that didn't hang on the wall, but it hung from the ceiling in our home and it said "those of you who think you know it all, are very annoying to those of us that already do". It said author unknown, but I'm sure my mom did write that. To my Mom Carmen B. Cannon, thank you for helping me to keep things in perspective. I am so grounded today because of you in the way that I serve, in the way that I operate my business, the way I run my household, the values that I subscribe to. There is no place like Common Sense University and I truly appreciate the PHD that you gave me in that subject matter. It certainly outweighs any of the best institutions that might be out there of higher learning. Thank you also for tuning yourself into your own self-appointed campaign manager for the Cannon campaign. You took on the reins of making the calls, sending the e-mails, working at the poles where even you made the front page of somebody's paper. Solicited monetary support for us and being my ears and most importantly praying for your son. If you need the role book all made for your non-profit or political or company, Carmen Cannon is available. Thank you Mom, I love you so much. For Anita Watkins, our campaign manager,

thank you for taking the time out that you could have been doing something else within. You are already engaged civically throughout this community with what you do business wise and otherwise and we thank you so much for that level of leadership. You have been there for a second round for us and you've proven to know what you are doing. We certainly appreciate you so much and may God bless you and keep you. I sincerely want to thank the love of my life who I met some 18 years ago and have been married to her for 15 years. Trina I sincerely want to thank you for making the sacrifice that you have made and basically yes, you were co-managing the campaign, but even beyond that you took on a lot in seeing to the needs of our children, the needs of our home, your business and seeing to the responsibility of even organizing the precinct. If people could have seen your work in action the day to day and how you were doing all the things that made us to be what we are, they wouldn't believe it. I remember being asleep and waking up, seeing you up in the wee hours of the morning working on the campaign. Thank you for that. What you put forth was not an easy task by anybody and you just need to know that I really appreciate you. In the end your commitment, your love and your dedication to me has paid off and we have been victorious thus far. God willing that will continue to be the case. I'm pretty good at controlling my emotions, but I will tell you the one time that love hit me and I fell in love I lost all of my control for you. Mr. Cannon thanked others for giving him his first opportunity to run back in 1993, and for Ron Leeper who continues to be a resource for me in this area of politics. To my colleagues, Warren Turner, Edwin Peacock, Nancy Carter and Jason Burgess I certainly have enjoyed my tenure in serving with you. This city has grown in many positive ways because of your leadership. Somehow I think you are still going to be engaged civically in the near future because within all of us there is a talent. You all have it and I know you will not allow it go to waste largely in part because someone out there can utilize your talent. To my colleagues and the Mayor, I've said it before and I'll say it again tonight in conclusion, I am no Gilligan on my own island but I will tell you this, it is important, from my perspective that we simply work together to move this community forward in a shared vision. There is something to be said for working together because working together works, and I simply look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Councilmember Michael Barnes said I'd like to first thank Curt Walton and our staff folks for putting this together. It takes a lot of time and coordination to this and I appreciate you all doing it. I'd like to congratulate my colleagues on their elections and re-elections and I hope that we will move forward as a solid working body. I would also like to thank the people of District 4 who re-elected me for the fourth time. It is an honor for me to represent people who in many instances don't even know me, but trust me enough to vote for me and support me and I hope that I have done the things they need me to do to help them in their day to day lives. I would like to most specifically thank my wife Keisha for all the support she gives me. You may have heard the sound track earlier, my three children who were playing with the microphone and having themselves a bit of fun. My babies are wonderful, my wife is wonderful and I love them and I thank them for their support and I believe she voted for me. I also want to thank my campaign team Pamela Gordon and Jacob Rosimoski and Ricky Colbert for their hard work and efforts. I appreciate their help. They are friends as well as campaign leaders which was great for me. My expectation is that because of the things that are planned for northeast Charlotte that you will continue to see a lot of growth and development in that part of Charlotte. Thanks to Governor Purdue the completion of I-485 has begun and they are actually turning dirt and getting the work done. We certainly appreciate her and thank her for her leadership there. We are continuing to work as a Council to get the Blue Line Extension extended to northeast Charlotte and that will transform that part of the City as well. I have very positive feelings about the future of northeast Charlotte if we can work together as a team as a community to bring the resources that part of Charlotte needs to make it the place that it deserves to be. Thank you all so much, congratulations to everybody else and God Bless you.

Councilmember Dulin said to the Council members I have been serving with for somewhere between either six years, four years and two I want to let you know how energized I am about still coming down here to work with you. To our new members, welcome. It is more work than you would ever believe and I think that is starting to sink in a little bit now and it is also more rewarding than you will ever believe. So dive in, you've already done it in most cases and enjoy yourself. We will see you every Monday night and most weekdays too for lunch and committee meetings. Folks thanks for coming down tonight. I would like to thank my wife, Cathy, our three sons, my mom and dad were here, before they left, my crowd is like an 8:00 p.m. type of crowd, which is fine. This is a great city and I am honored to be here on this dais with this group

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representing, not only the folks of District 6 that are nice enough to send me down here every two years, but for the entire City of Charlotte. It is really fun watching us grow and we are going to grow together.

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ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Foxx said to begin the process for electing a Mayor Pro Tem I will open the floor to any nominations.

[Motion was made by Councilmember Howard, seconded by Councilmember Barnes, and]
[carried unanimously, to nominate Patrick Cannon for Mayor Pro Tem.]

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CLOSING MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Mayor Foxx thanked everyone for coming and said we have one last opportunity to hear from the Johnson C. Smith Concert Choir. He invited everyone to join them in the lobby for a reception.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour and 51 Minutes
Minutes completed: February 3, 2012