



**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
M E M O R A N D U M**

October 27, 2011

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Curt Walton, City Manager
Rodney Monroe, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Proposed DNC-Related Amendments to City Ordinances

The City has received a public records request from the Charlotte Observer for the draft amendments to our city code made by staff in preparation for the DNC. We felt it important that you receive an update on the progress to date on this important DNC related project as you may be receiving additional questions from your constituents and other members of the press once the story is run by the Observer.

Initially, when the City was advised that the DNC would be held in Charlotte, a committee was established to review both state and local law to see if any amendments were appropriate in light of the magnitude of the event. Staff contacted key legal and police personnel from other cities who have also hosted political conventions and other large venues. Staff examined multiple ordinances from other jurisdictions, evaluated legal challenges to various amendments and then reviewed our code with an eye for any amendments that would not only assist us in maintaining security for the event, but also ensure that citizens will have ample opportunity to exercise their first amendment rights in a robust albeit lawful fashion.

Currently, staff is considering DNC proposals that regulate the following: possession of noxious substances, possession of obstruction devices, prohibiting temporary obstructions on the public right of way and limiting camping on public property. The recent issues related to camping on city property have further amplified the need to review whether the city wants to regulate this activity during the upcoming DNC. A copy of staff's current draft proposals is attached for your review. We anticipate that there will be additional changes to these drafts and possibly additional proposals as we continue to prepare for the DNC. We will keep you posted of these proposals as they are completed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Chief Monroe or myself.