

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Kelly DiMartino, City Manager
Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant City Manager
Ginny Sawyer, Senior Policy Manager

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

2024 Big Picture – Context for Council Priority Setting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to share context of the current state of trends and selected previously-adopted goals with Council in advance of their Council retreat on January 27, 2024.

GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

1. What discussion would Council like to have with staff to help prepare for their priority setting session at the Council retreat?
2. What additional questions do Councilmembers have prior to their retreat?

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Council onboarding occurs every two years in conjunction with local elections. Improving this process has been a primary focus for Council and staff, and the shift of local elections from April to November has provided more opportunities to address Council needs and requests in this space.

One of the most important stages of Council onboarding is the retreat where a primary outcome is Council priority setting. Feedback from Councilmembers included the desire for more context and information so that Council can improve the quality of their priorities. The January 27, 2024, retreat will be facilitated by Fountainworks, a management and consulting firm based in Raleigh, North Carolina, that specializes in strategic planning and retreat facilitation.

This Work Session focuses on four main sections:

- *What makes a good Council priority?*
 - Retreat facilitators will share their insights to facilitate a dialogue to align expectations for January 27.

- *Current State: Trends and Forces and Adopted Plans*
 - City Plan was adopted by Council in 2018 and included a trends and forces report that focused on current conditions and trends within the community and the region that were important to note when developing the Plan.
 - Consistently, the top focus areas for the community and Council are climate, housing, economy, and transportation. Council has adopted plans that work towards specific community goals. Staff will provide a status update on those goals, what is currently underway, and what Council action can help achieve these goals.
- *Existing Workstreams*
 - This section will include a snapshot of existing workstreams and capacities for Council, staff, and the community.
- *Next Steps: Retreat Logistics and Priority Setting Timeline*

NEXT STEPS

Council retreat will be January 26-27, 2024. The first night will be dinner with Council, Council's direct reports, and the facilitators. The second day starts at 8:00 a.m. at Canvas Stadium. A full agenda and preparation materials will be provided to Council via a memorandum next week.

Following the retreat, Council will have two additional work sessions to solidify priorities and how they will integrate with the Strategic Plan:

- During the February 13 Work Session, staff will provide information for each of the priorities to include resource requirements, short term goals, and challenges.
- During the February 27 Work Session, staff will provide information as it relates to Strategic Plan updates.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Our Climate Future Memorandum, October 12, 2023
2. Presentation