



2006 Charlottesville City Council Candidate Forum #3 April 12, 2006

On April 12, 2006, the League of Women Voters of Charlottesville and Albemarle County held the **third candidate forum for the May 2nd City Council Elections**. The forum was moderated by Tara Boyd, the League's Vice President for Community Engagement and recorded by Charlottesville Tomorrow at City Council Chambers in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Participants included all three candidates for the two available seats on Charlottesville City Council: Dave Norris (D); Rob Schilling (R); and Julian Taliaferro (D). **Note: Mr. Schilling had to leave the forum early because of a prior engagement and was present for only the first 11 of the 20 questions.**

The audio is available online on the Charlottesville Tomorrow Weblog
http://cvilletomorrow.typepad.com/charlottesville_tomorrow_/2006/04/city_council_ca_1.html

Complete election coverage is available on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website
<http://action.cvilletomorrow.org/cvilleaction/elections.html>

INTRODUCTION

Tara Boyd: Welcome to the League of Women Voters City Council Candidate's Forum. We're here tonight with the three candidates for two seats on Charlottesville City Council. The election is to be held Tuesday, May 2nd, and this is a candidate's forum and I say that because I want to remind you all that this is not an audience forum. We'll be taking questions from the audience after the candidates each make brief opening remarks, but I'll go ahead and lay down the ground rule for the questions and out of courtesy to everybody who's here and everybody who's got really good questions, I ask you to follow our protocol here.

What I'll do is you'll raise your hand, I'll recognize you, you'll come up to the microphone right here, you'll state your name and state your questions. We're going to limit question duration to one minute and they need to be a question and not a comment and then you'll take your seat and each of the three candidates will have up to two minutes to address your question, so all clear on that? Okay.

A brief remark about the sponsor of tonight's candidates' forum. The League of Women Voters of Charlottesville and Albemarle County has for a long time held these candidate forums. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan group of folks, men and

women, who are very interested in politics and particularly interested in getting the public involved in public policy and in dialogue with their leaders, so we enjoy seeing a great turnout at our forums here and look forward to your participation, so without further ado, we'll go ahead and take opening remarks from the three candidates, beginning with Rob Schilling.

Rob Schilling: Good evening, friends. Thanks to the League for hosting this forum and most importantly, thanks to all of you for being here tonight. I'm City Councilor Rob Schilling and I'm here seeking re-election for my second term on City Council. When I embarked on this journey four years ago I promised you several things. Among them, I promised you that I would work hard to bring educational accountability to Charlottesville through an elected School Board. Last year I led a bipartisan group of citizens who were ill-served by the status quo to remove the power of appointment from the powerful few and to give you a direct voice in education policy.

I promised you that I would work hard for fiscal responsibility in regard to City spending, using the commonsense approach to management I've gained from my business and education experience. I've made the promotion of affordable living at top priority. Year after year, I've insisted the Council manage and spend your money responsibly and that we work to provide better services for less money rather than the fewer services for more money that's been the case for too long. And I promised to listen respectfully with an open ear and mind to all residents to be your voice, your ears, inside City Hall. These last four years I've had the pleasure and the opportunity to personally assist many of you in resolving issues that were important to you. Constituent service will continue to be a strong component of my Council service.

Much still remains to be done, though. Trouble in our schools persist. Still too many students are not receiving the benefit of the world-class education that has been promised to our children. Because of skyrocketing taxes, too many of our residents, especially our seniors and those on low and fixed incomes, are terrified that they will not be able to afford to stay in their homes or their rents will increase their ability to pay. And many said that City Hall has lost its focus on citizens. In some instances, City government has become unresponsive and even condescending in its dealing with the people who it was created to serve. Every citizen deserves respectful, concerned public services, public services worthy of a world-class city. I look forward to continuing to work for you on all of these issues and other areas of concern to you.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thanks. Dave Norris—

Dave Norris: Thank you. I, too, want to thank the League, Tara and Becky and others for organizing the event tonight and thank all of you for coming and to all of you who are watching at home, thank you for paying attention. I am Dave Norris and this is my first try at elected office. I'm very pleased to be here tonight and pleased to be a candidate for City Council.

Over the last 10 years, I've spent a lot of my time both as a non-profit leader, non-profit professional and as a civic leader working through appointed positions and volunteer positions in the community really working to improve the quality of life here in Charlottesville and working to make sure that we are a world-class community for all the residents who call Charlottesville home and the reason that I am running for City Council is because while I feel this is a wonderful place to call home, that there are too many people that are left out of the prosperity that we are currently enjoying. We have 25% of our population living below the poverty line. We have thousands of families that are struggling to afford housing. We have an excellent school system and yet too many children are failing and too many children are dropping out of our schools.

We have serious disparities in the way that people of different races experience life here in our community and we also have not done a good enough job of being good stewards of our natural environment and so throughout the course of this campaign I have spelled out some specific proposals which you can see here and on my website which is votefordave.org, to address some of these very challenges and I am somebody that has a proven track record of bringing people together to forge innovative solutions to our community's challenges and I look forward to bringing that same skill set to my work on City Council. Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Great, thank you. Julian Taliaferro—

Julian Taliaferro: Good evening to everyone. My name is Julian Taliaferro and I'm a candidate for Charlottesville City Council and I would certainly like to thank the League for affording this opportunity to talk a little bit about some of the issues that we're interested in it. Basically, my platform—I would like to continue to work to maintain the financial stability in the City. I want to be able to support a strong public school system by working with the new School Board, to adequately fund an excellent public education system for all of our children. I want to try to find solutions for the affordable housing issue within the City and I also want to insure a fair and efficient delivery of all City services and above all, we must preserve and enhance the quality of life that we enjoy here in Charlottesville.

I have over 30 years of experience at the local government level. I know how to deal with the budgets and I had to make many difficult decisions while serving as Fire Chief in order to reduce expenditures. I also served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Fire Chiefs since 1992 and I currently serve as their international treasurer and I'm proud to say that I played a major role in making this organization debt free for the first time in anyone's memory. I had the honor and pleasure of serving the citizens in Charlottesville for 34 years in the Charlottesville Fire Department with almost 34 of those years as your Fire Chief.

Perhaps the best mark of a person is what they've accomplished during their tenure. Today we have an internationally-accredited Fire Department, one of 106 in the world and our department is highly regarded for quality of service, employment development

opportunities and a positive work environment. I think my record of public service demonstrates that I can serve you well. Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Great, thank you. The first question tonight will be posed by the League and then I'll open it up to questions from the audience. The League question and hopefully I won't go beyond my one-minute time limit here—

The question is how can we make the City less dependent on the property tax and what are your ideas for economic development within the City? And we'll start with Dave this time.

Dave Norris: Thank you. I think if you're looking for alternatives to the property tax, the best and most effective approach is through economic development but we have to consider the quality of economic development that we're looking to promote here in the City and we also have to look at the impact of the development on our neighborhoods, on our residential neighborhoods and on our quality of life. I believe strongly in the idea of infill development, particularly as opposed to suburban sprawl development and I think the City has taken some steps in recent years to promote more creative urban infill development, but what we've seen time after time and I know there're some folks in the audience here tonight who've expressed this very concern to me, is when we see new development happening in the City, too often the neighbors who are directly affected by that development are not included in the decision-making process and that is essential if we're going to do development the right way.

We also have to make sure— Recently, the City conducted a study of our commercial corridors which looked at opportunities for commercial development, infill development, among some of our commercial areas and one of the things that I felt like that report did not do a good enough job of is showing where we can include more housing development in these commercial corridors and that is another essential piece of the puzzle when we talk about development opportunities in the City and expanding our tax base.

Now, I also want to mention in terms of reducing the burden of the property tax on homeowners, I think we need to look at the new rebate program which our City Council just enacted and look at how we can expand it to provide even greater tax relief, property tax relief, for those low- and moderate-income homeowners who are hardest hit by the rising assessments.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Mr. Taliaferro, Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: I guess as far as we think about economic development I wouldn't have any disagreements with what Dave has said and I think we have to certainly preserve the neighborhoods, the quality of the development that we're putting in. I guess one of the things that I think about when I think about economic development is we have to try to create jobs when we do economic development and we really have to kind of link that process I think to workforce development and I'm talking about

particularly service jobs, but we need to create skilled jobs and the City has done some things in that area.

I think a few years ago they identified the need for lab technicians and they went out and put a program together and I think we need to expand on those sorts of things where we take advantage of CATEC, Piedmont Community College and any of those educational institutions that will step up to the plate and I think in this particular case, I think the University of Virginia even bought the equipment to do the training and one of the nice things about the lab technician program was that people were told when they went through that program, if they completed the program, they would have a job and I think this is important in order to give people hope.

Now, one of the things in the City—we have probably a lot of small businesses. I think probably over 80% of our businesses in the City and that's businesses probably with less than 50 employees are in operation and, of course, one of the advantages of that is that if we lose a business, one business, the whole system for employment for people in the community doesn't collapse. I will say that last year I think we had over a hundred million dollars in new development in the City. We have about probably \$675 million on the rolls now, so I think— Not on the rolls, but on the drawing board and I think we have to keep working towards that.

Tara Boyd: Great, thank you. Rob—

Rob Schilling: It's an excellent question and four years ago when I ran, it was one of the platforms that I ran on was expanding our tax base through smart development and it has proven to be even more critical now four years later when we have seen escalating property taxes hurting not only homeowners but renters in the City because property taxes are passed on to renters by the landlords and they've been going up so significantly and especially in a lot of our rental neighborhoods. We're facing a threat right now and that threat is the development in Albemarle County because as soon as that happens, as soon as that happens, that is going to put a major crimp in what we are available and able to do here in the City as far as further economic development.

I'm particularly concerned about the Downtown Mall and its viability as an economic generator. If we look at what is proposed in the County, there's a tremendous amount of retail, new entertainment options, restaurants and so forth. They will not be able to recreate what we have on the Mall but they will make it more convenient for people. When the Giant, the new Giant was built up on Pantops, 10% of our City's Giant sales went down and that is critical for us to realize that when there become other options in the County and they're coming and they're coming quickly, we will no longer have the opportunity for the sort of development that we need to broaden our tax base and to relieve our homeowners and renters from what's going on, so I think that we need to take steps immediately to look at what are the opportunities downtown, particularly on West Main Street, what are the opportunities in other areas of Charlottesville that are open for us now and to get our economic department and the folks at TJPED working on those opportunities immediately before they no longer exist. If we don't do it, it's

going to be too late and we're eventually going to be facing a five million dollar hole in our budget if the real estate market stalls and we're also going to be facing possible discussion of reversion again and I'm sure that we would like to maintain our independence.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Before we go to questions from the audience, I realized I forgot to make one brief announcement. Rob Schilling will have to leave early tonight. It was an unavoidable scheduling conflict and we apologize. Rob will get a couple of minutes to wrap up before leaves which should be around 8:15, so without further ado, may I see hands for questions. Right over there on the end in the blue shirt. Come on up to the microphone, please.

Todd Divers: Hi, my name is Todd Divers. I want to thank the League for sponsoring this and I want to thank all three candidates for your commitment to public service. I think it's very admirable what you're doing. I'm going to kind of piggyback on the previous question. **I'd like to know all three candidates' position on the issue of rebates for moderate and low-income homeowners. I know that's faced Council recently, especially in view of rising real estate assessments. Thank you.**

Tara Boyd: Thank you, and we'll start with Julian.

Julian Taliaferro: Well, I'm a supporter of that program. In fact, I would really like to see us be able to expand that program in the future because there're a lot of people that are really having problems dealing with the property tax issue and as I stated before, I had a lady the other day call me from Belmont and she was telling me she was raising her grandchildren and she was just talking about the struggles she was having because of the increase in assessment on her home and she went on to say that she had insurance for her children but she didn't even have money really to meet her own health care needs, so I think we need to probably try to expand that program and do what we can in that area.

Tara Boyd: Great, thanks. Rob—

Rob Schilling: I have some real concerns with this program, not because I don't want to see tax relief but I think that any time that you are in such a bad position in your community as Charlottesville is right now that you must raise taxes in order to provide tax relief, I think the system's broken and I think we have to look at that because that's exactly what this concept is. We're charging extra money to people because other people can't afford to pay their taxes. I think it's ridiculous that we've put ourselves in such a situation.

My specific concerns with this proposal are, no. 1, it is totally unfair because this is on a first-come/first-serve basis so the person who's out of town, the person who doesn't get in the door on time, they're completely left out and you're going to hear some screaming when that happens and I think it's rightful screaming because it's just unfair.

No. 2, this is going to be devastating to renters and small business owners who can least afford this because they do not receive any relief under the current program, under the proposal for this year. There is no relief for renters, so if anybody has a property that is not owner-occupied, they're renting it out, they're going to be carrying a higher burden of the taxes and they will pass it on to renters. I will remind the public who's watching that 60% of this community is renters and most of them are not particularly well off, so it's going to be very unfair in that way as well.

And also, I think that overhead and processing this is going to be particularly onerous on Mr. Richards and his department. I've heard him say that he's coming in on Saturdays just to do the work that he has to do right now without pay. He's talking and looking for people to help him out just on a volunteer basis in his department. He is completely overworked and probably will be unable to bear this extra load of paperwork that's coming in and finally, this is a tremendous invasion of privacy. For people who civil libertarians, do you want to come down to the City and give them a copy of your income tax report and have it on file in City Hall? I think it is rife for corruption and problems and I think it's a bad idea. The concept is good. We need to help people, but I don't think this is the right way to do it.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Dave—

Dave Norris: As I mentioned earlier, I strongly support the concept of tax relief for those families that are hardest hit by the rising assessments and as I also mentioned earlier, I'd like to see that program expanded and address some of the issues that have been raised about how the program works, but the basic concept is a sound one. I think there's two basic ideas about how you provide tax relief. One is the sort of the across-the-board tax cuts that we have done recently, but let's be honest. I mean, the significant proportion of those savings are going into the pockets of pretty wealthy corporations that own some of the large commercial properties here in the City.

The average homeowner in Charlottesville, even on a 6 cent property tax reduction is seeing pennies and, in fact, because of the rising assessments, is actually still paying more in taxes whereas the Federal Realty Management Trust who owns Barracks Road Shopping Center is making tens of thousands of dollars on these across-the-board tax cuts, so if we're going to provide tax relief, I would strongly prefer to see us target it at those, again, those low and moderate-income homeowners who are hardest hit and particularly, for those families that we've heard about, particularly people living on fixed incomes certainly whose wages have not been rising nearly as quickly and steeply as the assessments have and they are facing the very real prospect of being priced out of their homes and if we can give them some relief and do it in a way that addresses some of the technical concerns, I am strongly in favor of it.

Tara Boyd: Great, thanks. Other questions. This gentleman down here in the corner.

Kelton Flynn: My name is Kelton Flynn. **My question has to do with the mall crossing at 4th or 5th Street. The City Council recently approved a one-year trial for a crossing of 4th Street. Do you support a permanent crossing and how would you evaluate the success or lack thereof of the temporary crossing. Thank you.**

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Let's see. I think we're starting with Rob this time.

Rob Schilling: I did support the mall crossing but I supported it very reluctantly and I was actually not happy to be put in the position because a previous Council decided that they wanted to close 7th Street. I did not favor the construction of the Transit Center where it was put. I did not favor the oversized project that was put there and I think we had a system that was working very well previously. As I said, a few weeks ago when Council discussed this, I am very very concerned and I understand completely the concerns of people in the community who are worried about the different nature of having a crossing in the middle of the mall as opposed to the one at the end of the street.

I'm also very concerned for the future of the community as far as the Downtown Mall as I expressed in some of my earlier comments about the continued viability of that as an economic driver for the City and I think that we are facing a confluence of threats from around that we need to make sure that we are not only attracting new businesses here, but that we're able to support the businesses that are here.

I didn't mention it earlier, but I've been up to Burlington to see their mall and to see how successful it is in Burlington, Vermont. It was considered to be kind of a model for what we might do. In fact, the City felt so strongly about it they sent a whole delegation up. I happened to go up on my own to look at it. There were a number of crossings there, but it worked okay because they did it right and they didn't do it in a way that was temporary, that didn't put definition for people that are using it in the pedestrian realm and I think that if we do it correctly that it can be successful. I don't favor where it is, but the option was taken away by the decision of a majority of City Council to build that what some people call the lobster trap at the end of the Mall, so I think the evaluation portion of it, we're working on that now. We're going to do the best we can. If it is a failure, if it drives business away, if it's harmful to people, I think everybody on Council said they're willing to take it out after a year. Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Dave—

Dave Norris: Well, I think if I had those same concerns, I probably would've voted against it and I do have many of those same concerns and I think the Planning Commission, to its credit, did a lot of— Did its homework and really looked at the data and looked at the pedestrian traffic on the east end of the mall and tried to look at the business receipts and voted 5-2 to oppose the 4th Street crossing and I think that was a smart vote. I would've upheld that vote. I think the business community downtown has been affected by the massive amount of construction that's going on the east end but I suspect once that construction's over, that problem will be diminished and I think even

without a 4th Street crossing, bringing more cars onto our pedestrian mall, the business community would've been doing just fine.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: I think I would've favored doing a trial with it. I have been on some malls that have traffic crossing them. I think the real measure will be whether or not sales tax receipts increase in that area and I think that's the only way you'll really find out if this really had an impact. I guess that I've talked to a few business people and they seem to think it will improve things. I don't know whether it will or not. However, I think we have to continue to try to support businesses on the mall because it is kind of the heart of the City. I would say that if it costs eight to nine hundred thousand dollars to do that, I wouldn't support it and I say that because of all the capital needs we have in the City and I think that's a lot of money to put that crossing in.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thank you. More questions. This lady down here in the pink.

Becky Thomas: Good evening. My name is Becky Thomas and I have a problem with the frequent disconnect between what some politicians say and what they do and Rob, I have one for you. Your website says that you promote City-wide focus on infrastructure maintenance and improvement, but I'm not sure that that means action because when the high school renovation measure came up, you voted against it. You wanted first to cut it by one-third and then you voted against it and I'm not even sure focus means focus because apparently you were the City Council representative to the committee—

Tara Boyd: Do you have a question?

Becky Thomas: I do. And you didn't go the meetings. **So, my question is for all of you, Rob, can you explain this disconnect and Dave and Julian, where do you stand on infrastructure maintenance and improvement.** Thank you.

Rob Schilling: Well, Ms. Thomas, I have to take exception with your initial remark because I did go to the meetings. I was there and I actually walked over to many of them because I live right around the corner, so I'm not sure where you got that from, but I would take contention with that. What I will say about that is I think the City has seen enough of bloated, overpriced runaway construction projects. All we have to do is look out here and see something that is roughly four million to five million dollars over budget and when I was looking at the Charlottesville High School budget, I was standing up for the taxpayers of this community. What I saw was endless run-ups in cost.

It wasn't that I didn't support a renovation, but I was hearing things from people that worked over at the high school, for example, telling me that just a few months prior to this major \$8 million dollar renovation on the high school, they had done about a \$40,000 renovation to an area that was going to be torn out in a few months. I thought that was ridiculous and I've heard story after story from people in the facility who were telling me these sorts of things. I think that if we're going to do a project we need to do

it right. I think we owe it to the taxpayers of this community to make sure that we do it within budget and I think that we need to come up with a reasonable starting point. I didn't think any of those things were happening here and I stand by my vote.

Regarding the whole issue of City-wide focus, that's kind of the problem. I have seen us let things go on and on and on that needed to be addressed—neighborhoods in Belmont. Dave lives in Belmont area. Other areas of the City in favor of projects like happened on Park Street and that's why when I was running four years ago, people were chasing me down the street asking please for help in their neighborhoods. I don't think that we need to focus so much on making a beautiful grand high school when we have other schools that are falling apart and I think it's really about an allocation of resources. I don't think we did a good job with it and I stand by that vote.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Dave, would you like to address the question?

Dave Norris: I was not involved in that process, but I do know in talking to teachers and parents over at the high school how much of a positive impact that renovation has had on the high school and so I'm pleased to see that it did go forward, but I do agree with the basic sentiment that we need to be smart when we're looking at infrastructure improvements. We need to be equitable when we're looking infrastructure improvements.

The Community Development Block Grant is one opportunity for that I think we've used well to invest in infrastructure in our targeted neighborhoods and I want to see us continue our progress in identifying capital needs. This is an issue that I've had a good amount of experience with when I chaired the Board of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority here in Charlottesville and we had situations in public housing in Charlottesville where we've been putting band aids on old buildings for far too many years and we're at a point now where we're having to look at some serious revitalization of our public housing stock and that involves pretty substantial infrastructure and capital improvements. It's an issue that we had to start sinking our teeth into there and Councilwoman Hamilton and others are continuing that effort. We commissioned a study when I was chairing that Board, an asset management study, to look at all our of stock, all of our housing stock, and figure out which of those properties do need major capital improvements, so I will take that same experience and bring it to City Council on a City-wide basis.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: I'll say up front that in my opinion we've done a poor job of taking care of City facilities. We probably have spent about half what the average cities in Virginia are spending on taking care of their facilities and I think you can see that if you visit some facilities and I can speak from experience. I worked at fire headquarters for many years and we had water running down the walls, running across the floor and it wasn't a very nice place for our people to have to live because they work 24 hours a day and they have to spend the entire day there and that's just one example. There're

other examples in the City and the parks, etc., and we haven't done a very good job of taking care of those facilities and, frankly, I think we need to direct more money into doing those things because the same thing will happen that happened back in the '60s. We put off a lot of projects year after year after year and we had a pool of cash and then we had to do them, it cost us a lot more money than if we'd been doing them a little bit at the time, so I— Simply stated, I have a problem with what we've done in that area and I will certainly, when I get on Council, I can try to correct that situation.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Questions— This gentleman here in the third row.

Charles Weber: Good evening. My name is Charles Weber and I first like to thank the three candidates for volunteering their time not only to be here tonight but to run for City Council. I know it's a thankless job and you don't get paid enough money for it. **My question is over the past 10 years City spending has doubled leaving many overstressed taxpayers to wonder, as the headline said the other day in the paper, where will it end. Some people have already fled the City, either out of economic necessity or just simple resignation that their voices aren't being heard or that their concerns are not being respected. Even small businesses are impacted by this, not just Barracks Road, the big people, but the small businesses that we need for the mall and West Main Street. Nonetheless, every Council for the past 10 years continues to support the practice of programming the tax increase into the budget and publicizing the budget before determining that the tax increase is necessary and my question is will you vote to end that practice and secondly, what specifically will you do to bring some fiscal discipline to show what specific procedural changes will you bring to bring some fiscal discipline to the City. Thank you.**

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Where were we? Let's start with Julian this time.

Julian Taliaferro: I can't say right now whether I'd vote for that now. I will tell you, though, what I will do and I would certainly pledge to do a thorough analysis of local government expenditures. I can tell you that some of our administrative expenses are far above the average and I think we need to look at those sorts of things. One of the things that I like to do and one of the things that I did in the Fire Department for many years, we did benchmarking with other communities to try to find out not only what we were spending, what we were putting into certain programs, but what the outcome was on those programs and I think you can measure most anything if you really want to measure it and I would certainly support really taking a look at where we're spending our money and I think we probably need to do a better job in the budget process of explaining that to people and I also think that we need to really probably take a careful look at a lot of administrative overhead in City government because I kind of think there probably are some there and I think there are some ways to probably find some savings. Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Rob—

Rob Schilling: This has really troubled me in looking at the numbers and analyzing where things have gone and I think it's really troubling a lot of people in the community. As I go out and talk to folks and I get calls every year around budget time when people get their tax bills, people who are sometimes literally crying to me about what they're going to do with their future and I think it does start with the process. Last year we ran some numbers to look at the budget and where it has gone compared to a CPI-adjusted budget and I think last year we were about \$30 million above CPI over the course of 10 years. That's a lot of money. Now, CPI's not always the most accurate indicator for municipal government, but it's a benchmark to look at.

Now, the way we have the system currently is we have Council passing every year budget guidelines which essentially say spend all the money you get. It is in other words termed develop a budget within available revenues. I don't think that's a good place to start. I've worked hard every year to get us to start at the front end of the budget process by setting what would be considered by this community to be a reasonable budget target and then looking at that huge lump sum of money that's left over after we have a reasonable target and say where does it make sense, where is it necessary to add in.

Let's just consider that we were in the opposite situation that we are now. Instead of having huge assessment increases every year, we were in a flat real estate market. When that happens and it will happen, it happened here in the early 1990s— I've lived in California, I've sold real estate for 25 years almost. It happens. We, as a community, are going to wind up with probably a \$5 million hole in our budget and you all know, because you've been paying attention to how the budget process goes over the years, we sometimes have trouble finding \$25,000, so I want you to try to imagine what's going to happen if we don't install fiscal discipline at the front end and start budgeting responsibly for the future that we know is going to come sooner or later. We are going to be facing a massive massive tragedy in this community because we're going to have a \$5 million hole and no way to plug it.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Dave—

Dave Norris: I think there's reasonable differences of opinion, going to your first question about how you set up a budget and how you establish the tax rate and I'm not here to say I'm going to vote either way just yet because I'd want to sit down and talk to the other Councilors and talk to the City Manager and get a better understanding of how that's done. I will say, in answer to your second question, one of the specific things that I would do is it's an issue that I know you've brought up and Mr. [John] Pfaltz and others have brought up over the years, is the fact in the last 30 years our City population has not grown much at all and yet the size of the City workforce has ballooned and I think we need to take a top down look at our City workforce and find out where some cost savings might be realized.

Now, what I'm not willing to do or interested in doing is putting further strain on those frontline workers, the teachers, the police officers, the firefighters, the social workers,

who are already hurting from the low salaries compared to the rising cost of living that they're earning today. I can't tell you how many times I've had teachers, police officers, others, come up to me and tell me they're going to have to leave the City and move 30 and 40 and 50 miles away because they can't afford the cost of living here and so as we're looking at cost savings in the City budget, I'm not interested in cutting salaries. If anything, I think we need to look at improving those, but again, as Chief Taliaferro said, certainly in the central office, the front office, the upper management positions, I think there's probably some opportunities there to cut. It's something I've had experience in doing.

Again, as Chair of the Redevelopment & Housing Authority Board, we were hit with a pretty massive cut from HUD in our subsidy. We had to eliminate front office positions, but we ended up at the end of the day with a balanced budget, less front office staff and more direct service for residents, so we've done it before and I think we can do it again.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Do we have other questions? Let's take somebody in the back, the gentleman in the blue shirt.

Tom McCrystal: Hi. Having been in your position on that side just a few short months ago, I know what you're going through and I want to publicly commend all of you for stepping up to the plate and running for elected office here. As many people know, I detest personal negative politics and I think it's poisoning our democracy and yet last night I saw a member of City Council or this morning I saw a member of City Council vilifying one member of, another member of City Council, so I have two questions for you. **The first question is are you willing tonight to pledge to not engage in personal attacks on other candidates and second of all, are you willing to publicly disavow yourself from Blake Caravati's remarks last night?** Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry. Tom McCrystal is my name.

Tara Boyd: We'll start with Rob.

Rob Schilling: Thank you. Yes, I do disavow myself from Blake Caravati's comments.

Tara Boyd: Yes, you probably would.

Rob Schilling: You know, it's funny that you ask that question because a lot of people come up to me and talk to me about my being the subject of attacks, personal attacks from other Councilors and some are worse than others, but I was attacked when I missed a meeting because I was in California because of my mother-in-law's death and I was personally attacked by Councilors almost immediately upon coming in, publicly in the media. It's gone on and on, but you know what the effect of that has been? The effect of that has been that most people in the community who see that look at me and say, you know what, I don't understand why people are always saying things like that to you, why they're rude to you, why they're inconsiderate and sometimes nasty and I have made it my own personal policy and I think that I've been pretty good about it, is that I don't hesitate to defend myself if somebody says something incorrect about me

and sometimes I lose my temper, I'm not perfect, but I have made it a policy not to personally attack on a personal basis other City Councilors during my time on City Council. And people have told me that they notice that and it's not always easy, it's not easy to sit up here.

Many people say I don't know why you wanted to do that again based on what we've seen you go through when we watch on the television, but again, last night I made a decision to vote against the budget and for some reason, people are so threatened by my vote. You know, there're four people that voted for the budget. They should be happy they got their way. I was just someone who was standing up for the people in this community who didn't agree with that and I was attacked for it. The radio said the other Councilors were visibly upset. Well, I didn't say anything negative about them and I chose just to cast my vote and explain myself later and I intend to continue with that sort of demeanor to the best of my ability. Again, I'm not perfect. I do fall down, but I've really made it a policy to try and avoid that and I appreciate the positive tone of both of my opponents in this race and keeping this on an issues-based format. I have to say thank you to both of them.

Tom McCrystal: So you'll take the pledge?

Rob Schilling: Yes, indeed.

Tara Boyd: Thanks, Rob. Dave-

Dave Norris: I certainly would take the pledge. I share your concern, Tom, about the divisive nature of personal attacks in politics and I think there's a difference between attacking somebody's personality and attacking their character versus talking about legitimate differences you have with them on policy, some of which will come up tonight. Just as one example on the living wage which is a big issue in our community right now, where I differ with Mr. Schilling on the living wage, but I think on a personal level I think it has no place and particularly in small-town politics and I am fond of both of these gentlemen. I've come to know Julian just in the last few months and I really enjoyed being on the ticket with him. Rob and his wife have always been kind to me and I've actually worked with Rob on a couple of issues over the years, so I certainly will take the pledge and I'm not going to tell Blake Caravati— Nobody has ever been able to tell Blake Caravati what to do and I'm not going to try to start tonight, so—

Tara Boyd: Fair enough. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: Well, I'm certainly willing to take the pledge. As I've told people repeatedly in talking to people that when elected, I will certainly be civil with people. That's always been my style over the years and I will pledge that I will continue to do that and I'm in the same position. I'm not going to disavow what Mr. Caravati said. I don't really know exactly what he said and I'm sorry I missed the meeting last night because I would've liked to have heard that, but on the other hand, I think people should

have the opportunity to express themselves and I'm not going to suppress someone from saying what they think, I guess. Thank you.

Tom McCrystal: Even if it's personal?

Julian Taliaferro: If it's personal, I probably wouldn't, but I don't know exactly what he said to be very honest.

Tara Boyd: All right. More questions. The gentleman right in the center there.

Tim Hulse: This is specifically for Mr. Taliaferro, but I notice, Mr. Norris that you were talking about certain disparities, serious disparities in the way that people of different races experience our community. Now, in the early 1970s, Mr. Taliaferro, while you were head of the Charlottesville Fire Department, the department would not hire African Americans. **Is it true that it was the Department's policy and therefore your policy not to hire African Americans and if not, please explain?**

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Julian, we'll start with you.

Julian Taliaferro: Well, we never had such a policy and you're entirely wrong on that and if you've got proof of that, I'd like to see it because I really take issue with that. Over the years, we have promoted blacks, we've hired blacks. Our representation is right up there. Recently there was a report put out by the International Association of Fire Fighters that points to Charlottesville as a good example of what's happened in minority recruiting. We're third in 80 departments that were studied. Over the years, we have hired blacks and I don't know where you came up with this that we had a policy not to hire blacks. To start off, with that would be totally illegal and I take issue with what you just said.

Tara Boyd: Would either of the other candidates care to address the question?

Dave Norris: I think it's interesting that question is followed on the other question because when we make accusations of that nature without evidence or proof, it really I think is unfair. I've never known of the Charlottesville Fire Department or Mr. Taliaferro to show any racial animosity or preference or discrimination and I think— I'm not sure that that was an appropriate or fair question to ask without any evidence that there's some truth behind it.

Tara Boyd: Any comments?

Rob Schilling: I can't comment on that.

Tara Boyd: Okay. The gentleman in the tie.

Keith Drake: Hi. My name is Keith Drake. I am a County resident but I'm also a City taxpayer. As I understand, the City budget is about \$120 million per year and \$12

million of that comes directly from the County of Albemarle out of our taxpayers' pockets through the revenue sharing agreement. That means that about 10% of the City's budget is coming from an outside revenue source at no cost or return of services by the City. **In the light of the City's Democratic-controlled spending habits, what changes would you make to the City's current spending policies?** Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. I'm not sure where we are. Does anybody want to start on that one?

Dave Norris: I'll start. I think one of the things that's common in local governments is when you see rising revenues, like we have seen here recently, it's very tempting to just have all those revenues eaten up with general operating expenditures and one of the things that I'm proposing in my campaign is to avoid that temptation to have all of those revenues eaten up in general operating expenditures and set aside a small proportion of those revenues in what I'm calling a Charlottesville Affordable Housing Investment Fund and this is a dedicated pool of revenue. This is something that over 350 communities all over the country have adopted so we're not having to reinvent the wheel and we're certainly not having to raise taxes. Again, what we're doing is steering some of that revenue out of general operating and into a dedicated fund that's going to be used to leverage other forms of financing at the federal and state levels to really get at the affordable housing problems that so many people in our community are facing on a daily basis and unless and until—

I mean, we can talk and talk about affordable housing and I do talk and talk about affordable housing. It's to me the most pressing issue facing our community and it's not just me. Two reports came out last fall, one from the Monticello Area Community Action Agency and I'm on the Board of Directors, and one from the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce. I'm not on their Board of Directors and both of these reports came to the same conclusion: the no. 1 issue in our community is affordable housing and unless and until we actually bring some real dollars to the table and bring some real creative energy to the table in addressing our affordable housing issue, it's only going to get worse and our community is going to be poorer for it.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: Okay. Mr. Drake, as I already said, I would certainly support taking a look at our City expenditures. I think another thing we need to look at, when we first had this revenue sharing agreement with the County, one of the things that was supposed to happen in that agreement was that the City and County were supposed to look at combining services, looking for efficiencies and etc., and I don't think that's really happened and that's one of the things that I would really like to try to have more cooperation between the City and County because I think there are some efficiencies in combining some services and I would hope as a County resident, maybe you would push people a little bit to try to think about those things because that really has never happened for some reason, or as far as I'm aware, it hasn't anyway.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Rob—

Rob Schilling: Sure. I think there's definitely some problems with the spending policies that have gone on here and I understand why County residents are concerned. Although you don't have a direct say, I think it's about 10 cents on your tax dollar that's coming to the City and, of course, that's growing every year as assessments increase in the County as well. And so I think we need to take into consideration how we're spending our money and I think for years that we had— We were awash in money. I know there were a few years in the '90s when the City Council's reserve, also referred to by one Councilor as our play money, was in the \$400,000 range, as I recall, for maybe a couple of years. I mean, that was just extra money that Council just had to kind of dole out here and dole out there.

I think people kind of feel disrespected when they're paying a lot of taxes and you have that huge lump sum of money that's not really dedicated to anything, but just to kind of the whims of people who are elected and I think that one of the other things that we made a problem and was problem for us and Chief Taliaferro brought this up earlier, was our lack of attention to infrastructure. We were having a budget discussion a couple of years ago and as came up earlier from Ms. Thomas, I have put forward this idea that we need to have a City-wide focus on infrastructure repairs and I've been calling for this for three years and I applaud Councilor Hamilton for coming on board with that idea and really being a good advocate for that as well, because we both realize it needs to happen, but during this time, you know, there was so much extra money that we took on a lot of projects that didn't make sense and I don't forget that the City Manager said one night, you know, we're kind of in this position because we had a lot of money during those years and I brought these things to you that needed to be fixed and you all wanted to do the new things and hence we land where we are right now with millions and tens of millions of dollars' backlog of infrastructure repairs.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Let's take this gentlemen over here on the end.

Matt Brumbelow: Thank you. My name is Matt Brumbelow. And I'm a traffic safety engineer and so the first question that comes to my mind or at least one of the first ones when I see all the development projects going on in the City as well as the County is what transportation improvements are going to match and handle all this new development and as far as I've seen, from my perspective, it's been very frustrating that there really haven't been and as UVA continues to grow and the surrounding County continues to grow, **my question is what can you do about the transportation headaches that will keep developing from that.**

Tara Boyd: Great. Anybody want to start off on that?

Dave Norris: Sure. I've been at a couple of meetings recently with residents in the Fry's Spring and Jefferson Park Avenue areas. There's a lot of development that's impacting that neighborhood and that area of the City and particularly when you look at Biscuit Run with upwards of 5,000 new homes just on the other side of the City line.

Tremendous impacts on the quality of life in those neighborhoods and I've been hearing from residents and I've been listening to residents. We have to do a better job of planning for transportation when we are talking about new developments because our residential streets are being overwhelmed as it is now and with these new developments, even more so.

One of the issues that we need to look seriously at is challenging the County when they're looking at Biscuit Run, as an example, how are they going to steer traffic away from our residential neighborhoods and are they going to do the traffic studies and are they going to prioritize building a Fontaine connector so that all those residents in Biscuit Run and those other new developments south of the City who are working at the University aren't going to be driving through our residential neighborhoods to get to work. There are solutions that we need to plan for. It's not rocket science, but it does need to be made a priority. Otherwise, our neighborhoods are going to be severely impacted.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: Right now I think that we have to look at basically what Dave was talking about because I think when a lot of this traffic and Biscuit Run was certainly a good example if 5,000 homes are out there, we're going to have a problem. I think right now within the inner city we're doing some work on traffic signals. I think it's called an Intelligent Traffic System or whatever and I think maybe we'll see some improvement with that as far as traffic movement and about the only other thing we can do short of building more roads is try to improve some of our intersections by reconfiguring our intersections to make them more efficiently be able to handle traffic by adding turn lanes, etc. But I think eventually we're going to have total gridlock unless we figure out a better way to do some of those things.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Rob—

Rob Schilling: Mr. Brumbelow, thank you. It's a good question. It's on a lot of people's minds as I talk to people every day. A couple of the things that need to be done can be done inside of the City. Four years ago I was promoting a better traffic flow for the City and I think it's important because one of the solutions to gridlock, even though we don't even have a grid, is to really help our flow in the City. Those cars that are coming from the County, until we get the eastern connector built, until we get the southern road built, some way around the City, there're going to be coming onto our City streets. The problem that we have as more neighborhoods become impacted and have this traffic flowing through the neighborhood, it becomes a greater neighborhood cry toward keeping the traffic out of our neighborhood. Eventually what happens is when all the neighborhoods shut themselves off, then all of that traffic goes onto the main streets which are already unable to handle it, so we have some serious problems. I think aside from signal coordination which has been great.

The Intelligent Transportation System that we've put in, I think that's helped us a lot. I think that we do need to work very closely with the County in coordinating it and one of the ideas that came forward and I haven't really had a chance to think about this too much but in talking with some people in our own neighborhood development services department, is should we consider having a joint City/County planning commission because we have so many things are impacting the City that are right outside the line and obviously vice versa, but more so in that direction and our planning is on parallel tracks in different universes, so could we better serve the needs of City and County residents by having a joint planning commission or at least a planning commission that met jointly or quarterly or something to look at these problems in a much larger context.

I think that's the beginning of the solution because our political division between the City and the County causes us a lot of problems. I think to the extent that we could step over and work with them instead of against them and opposing them in some of these things, it would be helpful for both jurisdictions.

Tara Boyd: Great, thank you. More questions? Let's see. This lady in the sweater over here.

Nancy Damon: Hi, I'm Nancy Damon. My question is about adult literacy and Mr. Schilling, you have been on Council, and for you candidates, **I would like to ask what specifically you have done as a Councilor to improve adult literacy and what you as candidates would do, what kinds of programs or what things you would support because we were talking the other night about how many adults don't have high school diplomas and/or can't read.** Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Would anybody like to start with that?

Rob Schilling: I'll be happy to start. I've been a supporter of the Adult Literacy Program. In fact, I was so moved by my attendance at some of their programs that I wrote a personal letter to Susan Erno and asked her to share it with the members of that group. I couldn't believe what I was seeing when I went over and watched people who had come here, a lot of them from other places, but many of them from places around here, facing real difficulties in their lives and expressing that in writing, which was not a skill that was easy for them prior to their working with this and I've spent some time and toured the facility and as a former school teacher, I understand the importance of literacy. If it doesn't happen when you're young, it's a real setback for you, so I have been very supportive of the program that's going on. I think we need to look for ways to increase it. As a City Councilor, the specific ways are before us very rarely but we do get asked to support Susan and her group in what they're doing and I try to do that every opportunity that I have.

I think we need to look for new opportunities to increase adult literacy because, really, that's the way out of poverty for many many people who have no other way out. If you can't read, you're crippled for life and we do need to help people to expand their skills and that will lead to better economic prosperity and better independence for people.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Dave—

Dave Norris: This is an issue that's near and dear to me in a couple of ways. One is I actually sit on the Regional Literacy Coordinating Council which is the group that promotes adult literacy throughout the region and I've been to some of those same events that Rob's talking about where people who've just recently learned to read, and I remember a very moving event a couple of years ago with a woman named Rosa Barbour unfortunately has since passed, who had just gotten her GED and learning how to read, improve her reading skills, and stood up in front of that room and read an essay which brought pretty much everybody to tears.

And I'll tell another little anecdote which is many of you know that I run a homeless ministry here in Charlottesville. Last winter I walked into our shelter one night in one of the churches that was hosting our shelter and there was one of our regular guests sitting there at the table sort of looking very beaten down and sad and I said, "what's going on?" He said, "well, you know, I've been trying to get disability." This man's clearly disabled and is not receiving any disability benefits. "I've been trying to get disability." I said, "how's that going?" and he gave me a stack of paper. Any of you who've applied for disability or helped people apply for disability you know how thick that stack of paper, those forms are, and he just put this stack in paper in front on him on the table and said, "well, I went over there today to start the process and they told me to fill out this form," and this man cannot even sign his own name. I mean, how's he supposed to navigate that process, so the lack of literacy skills is indeed severely detrimental.

I will say also in terms of our kids in our school system, the best indicator of success for a child in school is the education level of their parent and specifically, how much time their parent spends reading to them from an early age and if our parents can't read, again, that's severely impacting their children's ability to learn and achieve.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: Yes. I'd just simply state that I would certainly support the expansion of GED classes within the community. We did that many years ago. I guess 30-some years ago we had a program in the Fire Department and we had some people that had been there a long time that didn't have high school diplomas and working with the University of Virginia we put a program together which really helped some of those people enhance their skills. I think another issue and I've talked to some people about this is we really need to locate these classes where people can get to them easily and probably have transportation so they can get there, because that appears to be a real obstacle for some folks and I would certainly support doing what we can in that area because I think it is really a critical issue in the community.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thank you. Other questions? A gentleman in the back.

Danny Woody: Hello. My name is Danny Woody. Thank all of you for letting me come up here and ask a question. Over the last year there's been much discussion about the way Charlottesville elects its School Board members. A task force is now looking at the issue which is similar to the task force a few years ago studying on how Councilors should be elected. Last year, Council could've chosen any way it wished to hold School Board elections, yet the Council dragged its feet and went with the default option, at-large elections. This May we have six people running at large for three School Board seats. **My question to all three of you is what type of system do you think should be used to elect School Board members and why?** Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you so much, Danny. Since Rob is going to have to leave here shortly, we're going to let him answer your question first, then make his closing statement and then if that's okay with you guys, turn to you two.

Julian Taliaferro: That's fine.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thank you.

Rob Schilling: You know, for years in this community under our appointed School Board system we appointed people by a mixture of wards and at large. We recognized for some reason a long time that it was important to have representation based on where you live because, let's face it, the City is very very segregated and there are different interests and different educational interests in different areas of the City. When it came time to elect the School Board we had a Council that was completely opposed to it except for me, but I worked hard and with people in this community, we got it done and then what happened was the games began and it's very unfortunate because for years no one had a problem with the School Board that was appointed by a mixture of wards and at large, but all of sudden, when I made a motion to say we ought to apply to the General Assembly for permission to make such a change, I couldn't even get a second to the motion. Now, you have to ask yourselves why so many people who are supposedly worried about diversity on the School Board would go for an at-large School Board and wouldn't even second the motion to get permission to make that change. I'm not going to draw the conclusion for you. I think it's pretty clear.

One of the main reasons that I need to continue to be here is because I'm the only person, the only person on the City Council and perhaps the only candidate that favors the elected School Board. I certainly spent a lot of time working on it to make sure that it happened with a bipartisan group and when we held a public hearing with City Council, 14 of 17 people who came forward at that public hearing said we need to have some form of district representation because that is essential that everybody deserves a voice at the table. We'll see where it goes. I'm very hopeful that with this convened group, that we will have a chance to get fair representation and fair elections and a fair chance for people to sit at the table and make these important decisions for their own neighborhoods.

Rob Schilling's closing remarks

In closing, four years of experience on City Council will make me the second-most senior member of the new Council. There's much to learn upon taking a City Council seat. My service experience as your City Councilor over the past four years uniquely qualifies me for re-election. I'm the only Councilor, I'm the only candidate with a business degree. I have over 25 years of management experience. I understand business processes and how to make them more efficient. I utilize my management experience in evaluation of many complex business decisions that Councilors face. My education and background in business management uniquely qualifies me for re-election.

I spent five years as a K-8 teacher. I understand education because my mother was an educator and both of my wife's parents were educators. My wife currently is writing her doctoral dissertation at UVA's Curry School of Education. My personal experience in the field of education uniquely qualifies me for re-election.

I have over 20 years' experience as a licensed realtor. My expertise with rental and for-sale housing markets gives me a unique perspective and a breadth of experience regarding housing issues unmatched by any other Councilor or candidate. My extensive background in housing and rental issues uniquely qualifies me for re-election.

I'm an artist who has always lived in communities that value the arts. Over the years, I've spent much time as a professional musician. I've also worked as a writer, a graphic artist and a web designer. My background in the arts helps me to look at solutions from many sides. The creative side of me is a good balance to the management side. My background and experience in the arts uniquely qualifies me for re-election.

This election is not about a Council majority. Regardless of the election results, Democrats will hold a super majority on City Council. That means if they have the political will, they can do anything they desire with or without my consent, but my unique presence on the next Council insures that diverse viewpoints will be brought to the table, that hard questions will be asked, that at least one person who stands outside of the dominant power structure will continue to speak out on behalf of the public and that a stronger and better government will result because ideas and plans will be challenged and tested.

As your City Councilor I've worked long and hard to represent your interests these last four years and I vow to continue my work not on my own behalf but on yours. I'm grateful for the trust you placed in me four years ago. I'm humbled and honored by the support I'm receiving from Democrats, Independents and Republicans across this community. I ask you for your vote on May 2nd and I thank the League and my colleagues for a wonderful evening. I'm sorry that I do have to leave. It was unavoidable tonight. Thank you so much.

Tara Boyd: Thank you, Rob. All right. Turning back to Danny Woody's question on School Board election, do either of you want to take that first?

Julian Taliaferro: That's fine. I think what they were asking—should it be at-large or by ward, was that the—

Tara Boyd: I believe so.

Julian Taliaferro: That's the question, I think. Is that what you were saying? Okay. I really haven't fully made up my mind on that issue. I think there're advantages and disadvantages. I guess the first thing I'd look at—Charlottesville is a pretty small city. We're slightly over 10 square miles. I don't know whether we gain a whole lot by doing a ward system. I think if we did that the only thing that I've seen happen sometimes in some obviously larger cities with a ward system, you have people in a couple of wards will team up with one another and decisions get made that are not based on the best interests of the overall community. I think with the ward system, I'd certainly be willing to look at it and see how it might be configured and look at the issue. I know there're a lot of people that have talked to me about that and I know a lot of people are interested in it, but until really I have a chance to look at it, I'm not going to make a decision on it tonight.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Dave—

Dave Norris: I guess I would disagree somewhat with this idea that a lot of people are interested in this issue. I think it's an issue that a lot of people in the political class in Charlottesville are interested in, but when I'm in the schools and when I talk to other parents of school children, when I talk to teachers, frankly whether or not the School Board is elected by wards or at large, it's about 20th on their priority list and what they want to know is what are we going to do to change the culture in our schools, what are we going to do to empower our teachers, what are we going to do to raise salaries for our teaching assistants, what are we going to do for professional development opportunities, what are we going to do recruit more teachers of color, what are we going to do to bring more parents— get more parents involved in the schools, what are we going to do to address the achievement gap, what are we going to do about the fact that we have an unacceptably high rate of children dropping out of high school, what are we going to do about the fact that our children are performing so poorly on tests, what are we going to do about the fact that we have crisis after crisis on our hands and yet we spend all of our time talking about ward versus at large and I'm not trying to say it's not an important issue. It is an important issue but as your City Councilor, there's about 20 other things when it comes to schools that I'm going to invest my time in and energy in addressing before I get to the point of talking about wards versus at-large.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. All right. Other questions? The lady in the back.

Tara Boyd: I'm sorry. All right. We'll take you and then the lady behind you. I'm sorry about that.

Anne Hemenway: My name is Anne Hemenway. I would've liked to have asked this question of Mr. Schilling also, but I will ask it of you two. Each candidate for City Council certainly favors the public schools and the education in this City. One of the most pressing issues in the City schools, however, is how to best serve the needs of growing refugee population and children that speak that different languages and where English is their second language. I believe currently I know as of last year there were 45 different languages spoken in our City schools so this issue has become a huge issue just really in the last couple of years, so **my question is are you in favor of specifically funding more ESL programs which would mean more ESL teachers, tutoring.** I know last year the ESL Camp did not happen because of funding problems and the challenges these kids face. I know there was a vote on ESL that City Council had before them and Mr. Schilling I believe voted against it and I would've liked to have known his position on that.

Tara Boyd: Thank you.

Julian Taliaferro: I can say that I would certainly support the ESL program. I think it's important to do that and I've talked to some people in the school systems and they've told me about the problems they've experienced with all the influx of students and I realize there's a cost factor there and in some respects, I think we probably need to bring a little more pressure maybe on the federal government to put some money into those types of programs in not only this community but other communities, but I think we have to address that by doing that program and I would support that.

Tara Boyd: Dave—

Dave Norris: I, too, would certainly support expanded efforts with regard to the migrant population, immigrant population, refugee population. One of the proposals I discuss in my platform is an idea I stole directly from a School Board member who said I could use it which has to do with creating a newcomer center for ESL students which would be a gateway for children who are coming into our schools that have zero English proficiency and give them a transitional place where they can develop their English proficiency before we throw into the mainstream learning environment. I used to coordinate a program called Migrant Aid through Madison House which provides ESL instruction to migrant workers, mostly Latinos, so, again, it's an issue I've been involved with and I would certainly support efforts to expand the ESL programs in our community.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thank you. Other questions. Yes, you. Susan, are we going until 9:00 or 8:30?

Betty Amos: My name is Betty Amos and I want to thank you and Mr. Schilling who's just left for your generous contribution of time and effort on the behalf of those of us who live in this community. Some of us have been here a lot longer than others. I'll be here

60 years next month and so I wanted to ask— I wanted to comment and thank you, Mr. Taliaferro, for your comment about fair and efficient delivery of City services and I wanted to ask, please, specifically about the set of— Council enacts the laws or the Code of the City and that Code affects many of us in many aspects of our lives and this Code is administered by employees of the City or those who work under contracts with the City in many many areas. When a City resident like myself, a citizen of the community, comes into contact with or interacts with a City employee or other agent of the City during the performance of their services and it appears to that citizen that the service have been rendered in a manner or that a burden has been placed on the individual residents and asks that someone in the City government, for instance, the appropriate official, what— **If the resident asks for your assistance in interacting with the City officials, what if any action would you take and if you would, please tell me what that would be and if not, just please tell me.** Thank you.

Julian Taliaferro: I can tell you that I'll be responsive to anyone that contacts me and I will certainly look into any complaint that someone makes. I know from time to time things do happen. Sometimes people really do not accurately portray things and I know that can become a problem sometimes and I think generally most of our City employees do an excellent job, but I know sometimes people have experienced some frustrations and I can assure you that my number is in the phone book and I will be available.

Dave Norris: I would just say ditto. I mean I think it's one of the primary roles of an elected official is to be responsive to the citizens that come to them with concerns and complaints and I will certainly be accessible and responsive. It's something, you know, I've had experience. I've been on a number of boards and I believe people that have served with me on boards and have been clients of different organizations have found that I've always been responsive as a board member and trying to work through whatever issues may arise. This goes to the greater issue of citizen participation in our community and when we talk about citizens' relationship with their government, I think we don't always do the best job in this City of making sure, and I mentioned earlier about residents that are affected by developments in their neighborhood. We do not have the best track record and I will certainly be a strong advocate for insuring that the neighborhoods have a voice at the table, that our citizens have a voice in the process and whenever there's any decisions that are made that directly affect their lives.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Other questions. The gentleman in the pink shirt.

Byron Harris: Good evening. My name is Byron Harris and I'm sorry that I was unable to ask my question also while Mr. Schilling was here. I'm a Charlottesville native and this past year I attended a City Council meeting where a vote was taken for Charlottesville to send a letter to Richmond asking that Virginia not support House Bill 751. Not to be overly dramatic, but my heart swelled as members of City Council spoke so eloquently in favor of sending this letter. My heart sank, however, when Mr. Schilling voted against sending the letter. **My question is to the two of you, had you been on Council during that time when the vote was taken, how would you have voted and the second part of the question is this coming November there will be a ballot**

asking the citizens of Virginia to amend the Constitution to support House Bill 751 which would prohibit recognizing gay marriage, civil unions or even legally binding contracts between loving couples who are Virginia and U.S. citizens and I would like to ask how the two of you would vote on that.

*[*Note: HB751 states that a civil union, partnership contract or other arrangement between persons of the same sex purporting to bestow the privileges or obligations of marriage is prohibited and that such an arrangement entered into in another state or jurisdiction is void in Virginia and any contractual rights created thereby are void and unenforceable.]*

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Does either one of you want to start?

Julian Taliaferro: I'll go ahead. I'm not a supporter of gay marriage. However, I will tell you that I support rights for people and I will certainly support contracts or rights, etc., for committed people and as far as benefits, etc., go.

Dave Norris: I certainly would've signed that letter and I commend Council for sending that letter. I think it's an obligation of our City to stand up and speak for its residents when there's clear discrimination happening and I think we need to do a much better job, both in our City and in our society in stopping the demonizing of people based on their sexual orientations and we have a lot of politicians in this country who make a lot of political points by demonizing gays and lesbians and raising false arguments about how civil unions and gay marriage is going to be the undoing of heterosexual marriage and I just haven't seen any shred of evidence yet to indicate there's any truth to that suspicion, so I would strongly have supported that letter. I will be voting against the amendment and I think it was a wonderful thing that our governor did recently in refusing to sign that legislation and sending a signal that this is not the kind of Virginia that we can hold up with pride.

Tara Boyd: Thanks.

Byron Harris: I wonder if I could get a response from Mr. Taliaferro to my question if you would have signed— If you would have voted for the letter to have been sent to Richmond had you been on City Council asking them not to support House Bill 751 and how you would vote this November?

Tara Boyd: Do you want to answer that?

Julian Taliaferro: Yeah, I would've probably signed that letter. In November, right now I don't know how I would vote on it to be very honest.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Other questions. The gentleman in the back there.

Joe Bishop: Thank you. My name is Joe Bishop. About two weeks ago residents of Mountainside Assisted Living and JABA came before the Council to ask for an appropriation from City Council for Mountainside. Mr. Schilling is no longer here, but I believe he voted in favor of that appropriation. I was wondering, if you had been on Council, would you have voted for that appropriation and secondly, are there any conditions in the next budget cycle that would lead you to support City Council expending funds on behalf of Mountainside?

Tara Boyd: Thank you.

Julian Taliaferro: Yeah, I would've certainly supported that. In fact, I was there at Council that night and I think I spoke in support of it. I think conditions would be that obviously they report what they're doing and what their performance is in the future. I guess the only negative about it is that we may have a lot of other care facilities line up for funding, but it's difficult for me to turn down a request like that. It would be if I was on Council because I personally knew some of those people. Some of those people, one person gave many years of service to the City and another gentleman was there. His father gave many years of service in the Fire Department and I think we owe something to those people to take care of their needs.

Tara Boyd: Thanks. Dave—

Dave Norris: I certainly would've supported the allocation as well and I think we need to look at why these kinds of subsidies are necessary and partly it's because on the state level, the Medicaid repayment is not nearly enough to cover the cost of housing somebody in one of these assisted living facilities and it's a part of what we have to do on the local level is to advocate on the state level for higher Medicaid repayments and better care options for our elders, for our elderly citizens. Having said that, and I should mention, this is another issue in terms of housing that I have some experience with and I was also on the planning committee for the JABA 2020 Plan for Aging looking at resources for elders in our community.

I think having said all that that, Councilor Lynch made an important point which does the City want to get into the business of being an assisted living provider or provider of subsidy for assisted living and so I think on a structural level we need to look at how we are making these kinds of allocations and one potential solution is to look at vouchering out these kinds of subsidies so that when we have citizens of our community that are in desperate need of housing assistance that they can take that voucher and take it to Mountainside or to take it to some other adult home and I'd like to see us not just provide \$25,000 for such a voucher program but a significantly higher amount of funding to be able to help more of our citizens who are facing a pretty severe housing crunch.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thank you. Do we have other questions?

Collette Hall: My name is Collette Hall. Good evening. Right now approximately a third of our City budget goes towards schools and Mr. Norris, you reiterated or

renumerated several issues with the schools and school problems and also one of our School Board candidates said that she would increase the budget to about 42% but we also talked about infrastructure problems, transportation problems. **My question is would you as Councilors increase our City budget for schools despite the fact that throwing more money at the problem doesn't seem to have solved the issue and so many other issues were brought up that need funding.** Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you.

Dave Norris: I don't agree that throwing money at any problem is necessarily the solution. We already spend a pretty hefty amount per pupil in our school system, I believe about \$13,000 per pupil and I want to make sure we're spending that money wisely and getting the best bang for the buck that we can. I'm not here to say I'm going to support 40%, 42%, 33%. I think there's sort of standing policy that 40% of all new revenue goes to the schools. That seems to be a pretty reasonable level, but I think this goes to the whole issue of how are we providing education, how are we delivering education in our community.

I was very disappointed to read in this morning's newspaper that the proponents of the community public charter school have withdrawn their proposal and taking what could've been I think a really promising opportunity to try an innovative way of reaching out to some of our kids that are currently falling through the cracks and have basically thrown up their hands in frustration and are now going to shop that to the County. I think we have to prioritize innovation in education doing things differently because the way that we're running our school system right now, many kids are doing very well and many kids are doing very poorly.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Julian—

Julian Taliaferro: I don't think that I would support putting more money into education than we're putting in it right now unless it's really proven we have a need to do that. I think one of the issues, as Dave pointed out, is I think we almost have two school systems. We have high achievers and we have children that are falling through the cracks for some reason and I think we need to address that issue and it's really disturbing to me where we line up when you look across the state. Now something's wrong and I don't know what that is.

I'm certainly not an educator, but I think the first thing we do, we need to find out what the problem is there because it's kind of— The City of Charlottesville should not be in that situation. We offer good services in the City and, you know, the no. 1 city in America and all those sorts of things and there's something wrong that we're in that position because we're losing a lot of children. We have a lot of children that are dropping out. They can't compete and we're not steering them in the right direction and they just give up, so right now I certainly wouldn't support putting any more money there. I think we need to find out what the problem is, why those children are not performing. Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Great, thank you. More questions. Yes, the gentleman in the purple.

Peter Kleeman: Good evening. I'm Peter Kleeman. I live right a few blocks from here and there've been a number of issues discussed tonight about challenges we have in transportation and housing and employment and inter-governmental cooperation and a host of other things. We in Charlottesville have self-proclaimed ourselves to be a world class city and so I would like to challenge you and maybe ask how you think you can bring or restore, I would say, in my mind a real vision of Charlottesville, Charlottesville taking a leadership role and becoming a true world-class city and **I'm curious as to what you think are the areas that you both could target as the areas that we have the resources in Charlottesville and we have the will and the cooperation of the community to actually make a mark and big a true world-class city?**

Tara Boyd: Thank you.

Julian Taliaferro: Well, I think that one of the first things that we probably need to do is really try to maybe listen better to people. Sometimes I don't think that we have done as well as we should in that area in the past. I think we need to try to bring people together on a lot of issues—education, transportation, etc., and a lot of these issues are not Democratic issues or Republican issues, they're community issues and we need to harness people and get them together to deal with some of these issues. I think my particular area of expertise would probably be really in budgeting and looking at where money's being spent. I think I have a pretty good idea of what's going on there and I think I could bring some ideas to the table that maybe we could shift funds from one place to another to improve things to make this truly a world-class city.

The organization I'm treasurer of, I was kind of faced with that same situation a few years ago. Five or six years ago we had a situation where our membership dues were pretty high and people were really complaining to me so I got all our board together and our staff and I said we really need to shift our focus and reduce our dependence on membership dues and what we did, we brought that from 67% down to about 45% in three or four years by doing some innovative things, so I think that would probably be the expertise that I could bring to the table.

Dave Norris: It's an excellent question. I think the one area that leaps out to me is this whole subject of sustainable development and design. We have here in our community some of the most visionary thinkers and planners and doers when it comes to sustainable development, sustainable design in the world and we have people here that are doing really creative, wonderful, innovative projects in China and in Detroit and in Germany and we really should be, given the brainpower that we have here in our community, we really should be in the forefront on that particular issue and by sustainable development and design, I'm referring to everything from the way that our buildings are designed to be as energy efficient as possible. The way that our neighborhoods and new developments are designed to be designed in a pedestrian-

oriented manner, to lessen the impact on the environment, to promote alternative transportation.

I have endorsed and promoted the idea of creating our own local set of green building and green design standards where we engage with some of these really talented architects and designers to say let's set a high bar for our community when it comes to building and construction and development and as a City, let's lead the way.

I'm in favor of a proposal, for instance, to have within the next year to have 10% of our bus fleet be running on biofuels. There are things that our City can do to model good practices when it comes to ecological design and I am proud to announce that I just yesterday found that I received the endorsement of the Sierra Club, the Piedmont Chapter of the Sierra Club, for my interest and advocacy on these very issues.

Tara Boyd: Great, thank you. Do we have other questions? Yes, you.

Blair Hawkins: My name is Blair Hawkins. I have a question about eminent domain, but not eminent domain for private use. My question is about eminent domain for legitimate public projects such as a fire house. Mr. Taliaferro may remember that the main fire house used to be on Water Street. It was moved over to Ridge Street right where people lived. Also I heard on WINA radio that Lane High School which is now the County Office Building was also built where people were living and if you go down the list of public projects in the City, pretty much every public project goes where a minority or disadvantaged family lives, so **my question is will you continue the tradition in Charlottesville of using eminent domain for legitimate public projects but also putting those over— Disproportionately affecting minority communities?**

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Either of you want to take that?

Dave Norris: I think in recent years there has not been a tradition and I think certainly in the time periods you're talking about there were some abuses and I think the most glaring abuse was the Vinegar Hill redevelopment project and, of course, I know a personal interest of yours is the Garrett Square redevelopment project and I certainly—I've been in Charlottesville 11 years and I don't know of a case where there was eminent domain used on a public project and I think we've become very aware of the abuses inherent in that particular tool. I heard the lieutenant governor of Virginia recently on the radio, who is a Republican, of course, speaking to this very issue saying eminent domain is a tool that we should use only as a last case scenario and where there's no other alternative and where the public need does override other considerations. I think that's a balanced stand and I would certainly support him. I'm not a fan of eminent domain. I don't see it as a pressing current-day issue here in the City but I certainly appreciate the concern.

Julian Taliaferro: I wouldn't disagree with anything Dave said. I'm certainly not a fan of eminent domain either and the only way I would support it, it'd have to be some compelling public safety need or some need there that we couldn't meet otherwise.

Tara Boyd: Great. Yes, Joy Johnson—

Joy Johnson: Good evening. My name is Joy Johnson and I'm sorry Mr. Schilling is not here because we sure would like to hear how he would answer this question. You've talked a lot about a lot of things, but my concern tonight is about the youth and re-entry for felons. It's approaching summertime and we realize that a lot of our youths will not be working this summer. I think there is only one agency that I heard that may be doing or hiring or have funds to hire just a handful of children for the summer and if elected to City Council, **I would like to hear your views on how you would bring back summer youth employment for the youth and also what kind of strategies or things you will do to improve re-entry of ex-felons?**

Tara Boyd: Thank you.

Julian Taliaferro: I would certainly support jobs programs for the youth in the summer. I think they're very important. I think they teach young people valuable skills and also give them some income. Insofar as re-entry for felons, I think we need to continue to support OAR and try to develop other programs to help those folks when they return because they do have a very difficult time in obtaining jobs. They have a very difficult time in obtaining an operator's license to drive a motor vehicle which really locks them out of a lot of jobs and from what I understand, until they pay off all their fines, maybe they can't get a driver's license. I don't know— Someone told me the other day they thought they had some type of payment plan that they could, but in any event, I think that once someone serves their time they shouldn't be penalized for the rest of their life.

Dave Norris: I agree with everything Chief Taliaferro just said. This is a topic that, as you know, Ms. Johnson, that I bring up pretty frequently out on the campaign trail is this whole idea of making a community-wide commitment to youth development. So often we expect our schools to handle all the— To solve all the social problems and we as a community have to step up and provide those tutoring opportunities, provide those mentoring opportunities and, yes, provide those employment and apprenticeship opportunities and do our part to make sure that kids are coming to school ready to learn and inspired to achieve, so absolutely. As you know, I've worked with you in the past on jobs initiatives, working in public housing and have done youth mentoring and youth tutoring work in the past myself. And, again, I would second Chief Taliaferro's comments on re-entry for felons.

One issue that hasn't been brought up but I know is an issue of paramount importance particularly in the African American community here because I hear all the time is the issue of restoration of voting rights for ex-felons. We have a significant proportion of our community here that is denied the right to vote because of a felony conviction and to a certain extent, this is a state issue in terms of the restrictions on that, but I think there's

a lot more that we can be doing on the local level through the organizations that are reaching out into our neighborhoods to help ex-felons navigate the voting rights restoration process. To me, it is wrong and if we want to help ex-felons become good citizens again in our community, we have to hold high standards for them and we also have to treat them as good citizens and that includes giving them the right to vote.

Tara Boyd: Thank you. Further questions. Yes—

Dwayne Jones: Hi. Good evening. My name is Dwayne Jones. I'm a City resident and I'm here to represent the Charlottesville Police Officers Association and I commend all of you for dedicating your time. If you're elected, it's going to be a lot of late night so you'll [miss chambers]. The question I have is a very simple one. We've seen in the last several years the amount of the budget for public safety diminish and as a percentage, I can speak for law enforcement that ours has decreased by about a million dollars over the last decade and that's had a significant impact on our ability to retain and train and also hire qualified people. It's also affected our ability with our capital projects and infrastructure and the ability to purchase fleet cars and just expand our services for this community and what I'd like to do is **I'd like to ask you if you'd rate on a scale of 1 to 5, if you would, what priority you see law enforcement and fire services here in the City and after that, could you tell me what measures you might take to come to a point we can reach fully funding these services, move in that direction?** Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Thank you.

Dave Norris: I'd be happy to address that question and thank you, Mr. Jones, for your service to our community. I recently met with Chief Tim Longo with the Police Department to talk about this very issue about the strain on the budget regarding public safety and regarding the Police Department and I sense some frustration just as you expressed in the fact that we're not providing adequate support for the police services and fire services that our citizens want and need and deserve and so I would ask all of you here and all of you watching, it's often tempting, particularly this time of year with tax bills going out to rail against taxes, but if we're going to provide the level of services, public services, and provide the salaries and provide the infrastructural support that our citizens want and need, you have to have a healthy tax base to do that and you have to have taxes to do that.

One of the issues that has come up repeatedly over the years with regards specifically to the police budget is the fact that the Police Department has asked and as I understand it, has been repeatedly been denied, funding for expanding their community policing program and there's a number of positions they would like to fill in order to get more police officers out into the neighborhoods, building positive relationships with the residents and breaking down the walls between the Police Department and our citizenry. That is an initiative I think of paramount importance on many levels and I would certainly support that and as part of an overall review of the City budget that I will

be doing as a City Councilor, I will certainly put a high priority on public safety and police department.

On a scale of 1 to 5, I'm not sure, I would say probably—

Dwayne Jones: One being the highest and 5 being the lowest.

Dave Norris: I would put a very high priority. I don't know what number to put on it, but I would a high priority on it because it is an issue of paramount importance to our community.

Julian Taliaferro: Well, Officer Jones, I'm surprised you asked me that question. I most certainly would have to put a 1 on it because I spent many years and I know somewhat the difficulties you all face along with the difficulties our firefighters face. The capital needs issue—I think that is the issue. For some reason, they aren't buying you people police cars, I don't think. Am I wrong?

Dwayne Jones: You're correct.

Julian Taliaferro: Okay. We had the same situation in the Fire Department. We have equipment that's not being replaced. It's breaking down. We're having a lot of issues with that and I just gather this talking to your folks and some of my folks and I think we have to give that more priority and I think that goes back to the fact that we probably haven't done a very good job of prioritizing services in the community. Another thing that I'm concerned about—we were developing a— We started a developing a strategic business plan for the Fire Department and Police Department I believe several years ago and I don't think that much has really happened with that so far and I guess if I'm elected to City Council I'm going to certainly make something happen in that regard because when somebody's kicking my door in at 2:00 a.m. in the morning or I have a fire or other emergency, I want someone to be there and I know the difficulties we have attracting people anymore because the pay is not really what it should be and I'm always going to support public safety because that's the system I came up in. Thank you.

Tara Boyd: Great. Thank you. Any more questions out there? All right, seeing none, we'll go ahead and take closing statements from our two remaining candidates. Two minutes each, if you care to do that.

Dave Norris: I want to, again, thank you, Tara, for a great job in moderating this forum tonight and thanks again to the League of Women Voters and to the citizens who participated and asked good questions of us tonight and who watched at home and all those citizens that are paying attention to what's going on in their City Hall and before I say anything else, I do want to say it's absolutely imperative for those of you at home and those of you in this room to come out and exercise your right and your responsibility as a citizen to come out and vote on May 2nd, whether you're going to vote for Rob or Julian or myself, vote on May 2nd.

It's been a real pleasure for me to be here tonight. It's been, as I said before, this is a new experience for me and I am learning a lot out on the campaign trail and I'm listening to a lot of people and hearing your concerns about what you envision this City becoming and what your concerns are about this City.

I have two children that I'm raising here in Charlottesville, both of whom attend the public schools and for me, while I'm interested in issues on a public policy level of affordable housing and poverty and race relations and environmental sustainability and education, but for me, it's personal. I want to make sure that every decision I make as a City Councilor is going to leave this community a better place for my children and for your children and your grandchildren.

I spoke recently about a young woman, a young homeless woman here in Charlottesville who about a month ago gave birth, seven months pregnant, gave birth to a little baby, a little baby boy, and I think a lot about that homeless woman and that little baby and about the kind of community and the kind of opportunities that we can provide for that child so that when he grows up he doesn't end up homeless, living out on the streets, that he has every opportunity to realize his highest potential, so I encourage you to come out and vote and let's work together to build a brighter future for our city. Thank you.

Julian Taliaferro: I, too, would like to thank not only the League but all those who have participated tonight and thank you for your questions. I will tell you that I think that 34 years as Fire Chief has given me a lot of local government experience. I've lived in the City for I guess 46 years. I love this community. I love the people in the community that have been so kind to me over the years because people here have been good to me. People have always been nice and I appreciate that and I certainly want to have the opportunity to continue my service to the citizens in Charlottesville and I can assure you that if I'm elected that I will be responsive to people and I will be responsible in terms of handling the taxpayers' dollars.

I also will work hard to create opportunities in the City and really try to create better jobs because I think that is one of the keys to dealing with a lot of the issues that face us in the City today. I also will tell you that I will most certainly govern with compassion and civility and beyond that, I can tell you that I will keep my eye on the ball what's going on in City Hall. I think I know the right questions to ask. I've had a lot of experience with that over the years and beyond that, one other thing I want to mention, Mr. Schilling said he was the only person with a business degree. Well, I got an associates degree so maybe that's not as good, but in any event, I feel like I got a pretty good education at Piedmont Community College many years ago and I certainly appreciate their efforts on my behalf.

With that, I would encourage everyone to please participate in the process and come out and vote on May 2nd. Thank all of you.

Tara Boyd: Two brief announcements. First, if you have any questions about where you are supposed to vote on May 2nd, you can contact the City Voter Registrar's office. The number is 970-3250, so if you've moved or anything's changed, give her a call. Second, this City Council forum will be rebroadcast on Public Access TV I think on several upcoming dates so check your calendar on that. It will also be available on the website of **Charlottesville Tomorrow** as a Podcast and then eventually as a transcript. Thank you so much for coming out. Have a good night.