

Raleigh Citizens Advisory Council(RCAC)

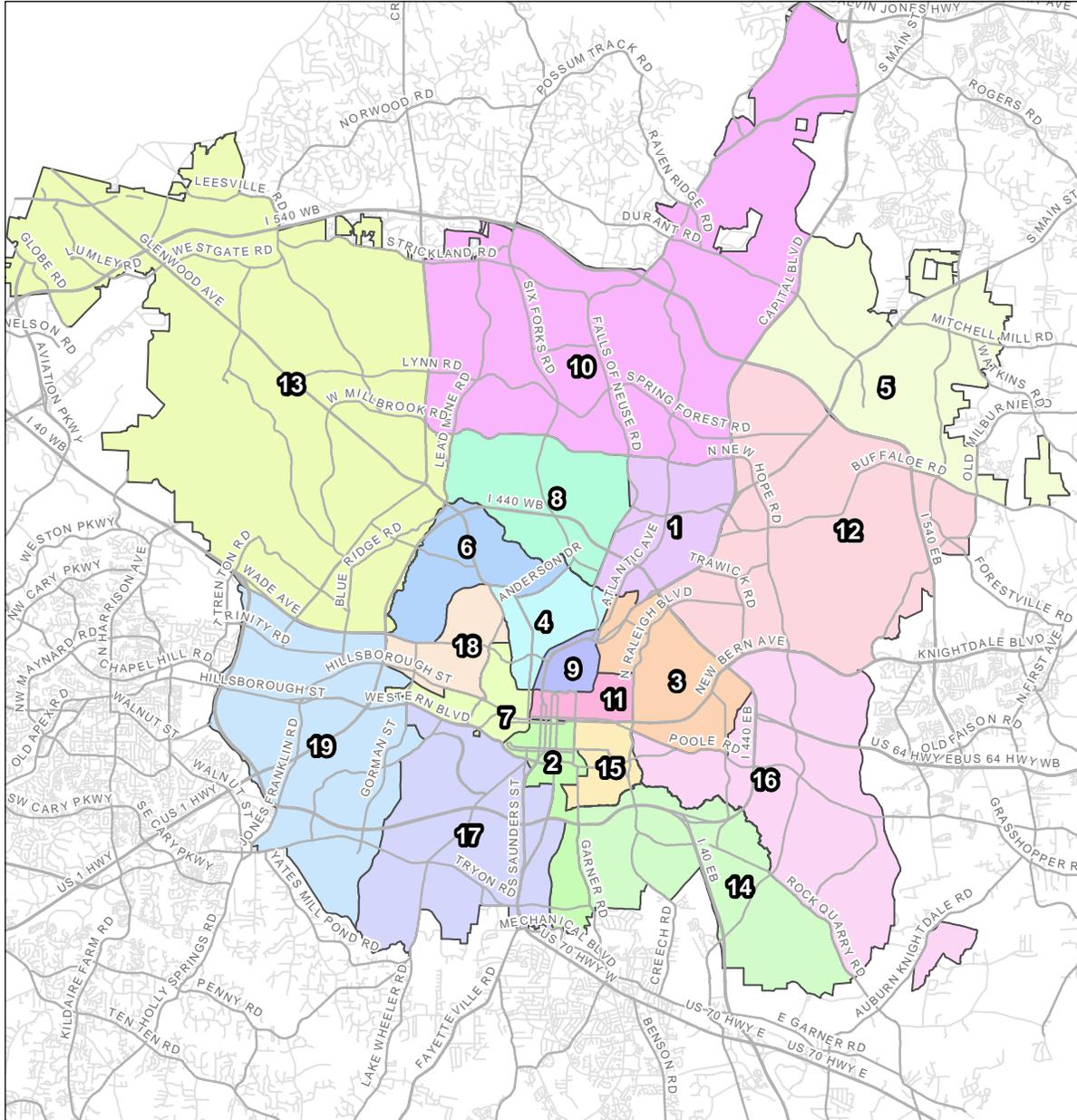
2013 Annual Report

7/15/2014





Citizens Advisory Council



Citizen Advisory Councils

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Executive Summary

After 40 years of existence, Raleigh's Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) system remains strong and continues to provide a valuable conduit for communication between residents and city officials. To facilitate continued interaction, the RCAC developed a CAC Vision Plan in 2013, which outlines the mission, vision, values, purpose, goals, and objectives of the CACs.

After reflecting on the past successes of the CAC system, opportunities for improvement, and goals for the future of Raleigh, the RCAC leadership adopted a vision of a, "better city through citizen participation." Achieving this vision is accomplished through the CACs' mission to, "stimulate and support meaningful civic participation by residents and communities to improve the quality of living in Raleigh."

Raleigh's CACs are prepared to live out this mission by maintaining values, following a defined purpose, and focusing on goals and objectives enumerated in the groups' vision plan. The CACs have a history of successfully recognizing, organizing, and implementing the desires of Raleigh's citizens and have the ability to work in conjunction with the City to continue this pattern into the future. The remainder of this document highlights the previous year's successes and outlines the CAC leadership's plans for the future.



A Record of Accomplishments

2013 was a successful year for the CAC system. Citizens across the city worked to improve Raleigh's communities through many different channels. Methods ranged from meeting with the development community about upcoming projects to improving and preserving parks and historic landmarks. CACs supported many local non-profits in their efforts ranging from building better business environments to furnishing homes for people in need. Specific examples are enumerated below, but this list is not comprehensive.

The Northwest CAC contains most of the area between I-40, I-440, and I -540 including Umstead State Park. In many ways, this CAC's accomplishments in 2013 are at the core of the purpose of all CACs. Communication with residents has been the primary priority for the Northwest CAC. At times this has manifested itself in zoning cases that induced resident action, while in other instances educating citizens about local activities has necessitated communication.

The smallest CAC is the Mordecai CAC, which surrounds the area just northeast of downtown. The Mordecai CAC's efforts in 2013 do not, however, reflect its size. Broad in scope, undertakings of the CAC included successful efforts to improve the business environment in the CAC and community sponsored cleaning and maintenance of two bus shelters. Additionally, the CAC promoted participation in National Night Out in 2013. Other ongoing activities include various neighborhood cleanups and an annual yard sale.

The East CAC falls southwest of I-440 and north of Poole Road. Recent issues of importance for the East CAC include Raleigh Greenway expansions and projects to update and improve the CAC's neighborhoods. Leadership in the East CAC has pioneered marketing tools neighborhood and CAC events including magnets and calendars. Additionally, the CAC created a banner to display functions relevant to its constituency.

Midtown CAC is bounded by Millbrook Ave. on the North, Leadmine Rd. on the West, Crabtree Creek on the South, and Wake Forest Road/Falls of the Neuse Road on the East; it represents the combination of Six Forks and Falls of Neuse CACs that occurred in 2012. The CAC encompasses a diverse geography of large, well established neighborhoods in a rapidly redeveloping commercial area of Raleigh. The primary concern of the citizens living within its boundaries is managing the commercial redevelopment and growth occurring within the CAC so that a balance is maintained between the thriving, busy commercial districts and the high quality of existing neighborhood life. The Midtown CAC provides a unique and accessible regularly scheduled forum for the diverse viewpoints and



voices of the area to talk together to identify and resolve issues related to re-development, zoning and urban form, traffic, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and related aspects of life in a vigorously changing urban/suburban environment.

Located just north of Downtown Raleigh, the North Central CAC is home to historical neighborhoods such as Idlewild, Historic Oakwood, and College Park. During 2013, the North Central CAC partnered with the City's Planning Department, WakeMed Health & Hospitals, and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau to kick-off its Annual History Marker Tour. To address a growing need, North Central CAC members focused heavily on bridging the growing digital divide within their community. Volunteers educated neighbors about the CAC, signed them up for their CAC newsletter, and spoke about ways to address community concerns. In addition, North Central residents collaborated with city departments to address vehicles speeding through neighborhoods.

The Hillsborough CAC, which includes neighborhoods from Cameron Village to Glenwood South and contains the NC State campus, has experienced rapid growth recently. The CAC has been at the center of multifamily development in Raleigh, and that topic was central to CAC discussions in 2013. However, the CAC was not limited to questions of development. Supporting neighborhood activities like the wedge garden and the project to cleanup and maintain Oberlin Cemetery brought the CAC's members together in service.

The South Central CAC is just east of downtown Raleigh between the New Bern Avenue corridor and I-440. Over the past year, the South Central community has formed a strong relationship with its community police officers through the CAC meetings. The South Central CAC has been very engaged and supportive of the redevelopment projects taking place in the area. Through redevelopment, the South Central neighborhoods are becoming more diverse and CAC leadership has encouraged more neighborhood focused activities. In keeping with the outstanding parks and recreation resources throughout the City, South Central residents were influential in supporting improvements and updates to their local park and community center.

Surrounding and stretching south from the southeastern intersection of I-40 and I-440, the South CAC is one of the most active CACs in the city. The CAC's "Big Sweeps" project brings together scores of neighborhood members for cleanup projects surrounding the Walnut Creek Wetlands Center. Recently, signs to market the CAC provided a method of community outreach to further grow the CAC's participation. Citizens in the South CAC have prioritized issues related to crime prevention and have a thriving neighborhood watch program.



The Southwest CAC is the southern gateway into the city and home of NC State University's Centennial Campus. Recently, the area has seen an influx in traffic congestion due to rapid growth in residential and commercial property. The Southwest CAC worked closely with the Transportation Planning Department and NC Department of Transportation to address roadway and infrastructure improvements. CAC leadership was very active in educating residents about the 2013 transportation bond that was passed. In addition to addressing traffic issues, Southwest residents place tremendous value on easily accessible neighborhood recreation. The idea of the Sierra/Lineberry Park was introduced and, with the backing of an active and engaged CAC membership, is in the planning stages.

Raleigh's newest CAC, the Atlantic CAC, covers the area surrounding the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and I-440. Since its creation in February 2012, the CAC has successfully increased representation of the neighborhoods encompassed in its borders. The most important projects of the CAC have been related to communicating with its residents, and the CAC's leadership currently uses Facebook as a social media resource for communicating with its members on topics including UDO impacts and bond referendum questions among others.

Covering the area that includes the State Fairgrounds and the historic Method Community, the West CAC's activities in 2013 centered on communicating with residents and promoting events in the CAC. Like other CACs, the West CAC provides residents with an opportunity to discuss concerns with neighborhood police officers and receive updates via crime reports; this resource has been valuable to the West CAC's members. Promotion of events at Walnut Creek and Lake Johnson as well as things like Discover Southwest Raleigh has been an important function of the West CAC during 2013 also.

As its name suggests, the Central CAC includes many neighborhoods in the downtown Raleigh area. Important to this CAC are the many parks that fall within its borders, including the following: Moore Square, Nash Square, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Raleigh City Museum, Pope House, Top Greene Center, and Chavis Park. These cultural centers and the development, uses, and events that surround them featured prominently in the conversations and work of the CAC in 2013. The CAC works closely with other organizations, non-profits, and universities to perform projects including cleanups, neighborhood history recording, and celebrations.

The Northeast CAC is one of the largest CACs. It covers the area north of I-440, east of Capital Boulevard, and out to the city's border. The CAC's focus in 2013 involved issues of zoning. One of the biggest cases for the CAC was Z-4-13, on which residents spent a



significant amount of time. The CAC is currently working on the early stages of a small area plan for the area around New Hope and Buffaloe roads. Due to the CAC's size and the importance of the content of its discussions for all neighborhoods within its boundaries, the CAC developed a neighborhood registry as a tool for communicating with leaders in the various neighborhoods.

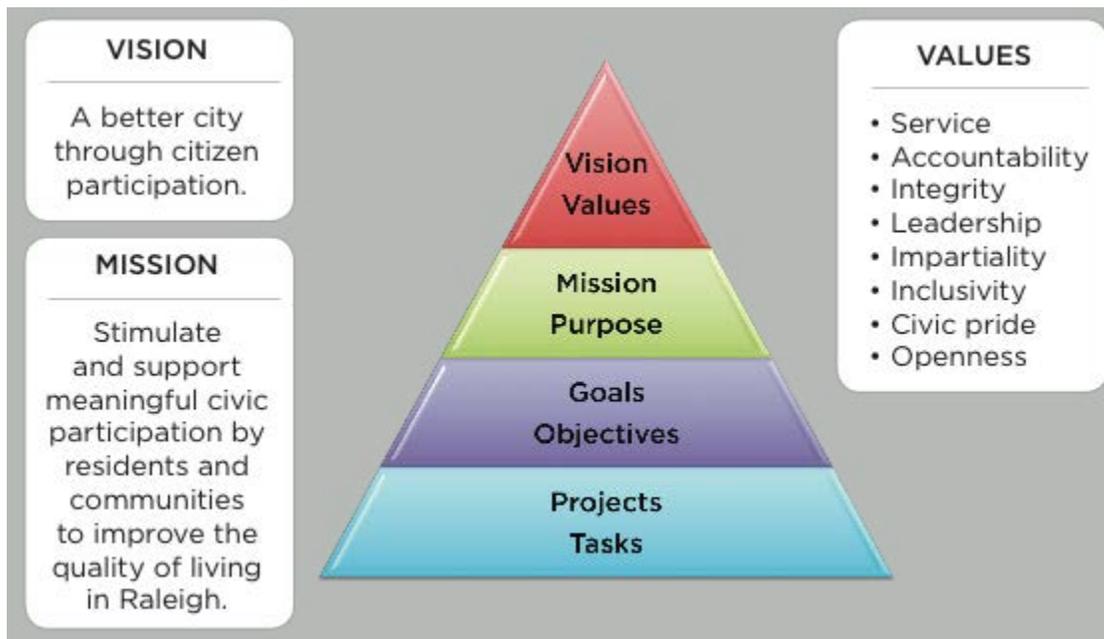
The Wade CAC covers the area surrounded by Hillsborough Street, Wade Avenue, I-440, Oberlin Road, and Beaverdam Creek. Issues of development were the primary topics of discussion at the CAC's 2013 meetings. Neighbors worked closely with developers throughout these processes. The CAC also noted strong support from city staff, who provided guidance around development implications and commentary on the city's Comprehensive Plan.

The examples above represent just a portion of the efforts and accomplishments of the CAC's during 2013. These examples attest to both the breadth and depth of involvement by CAC members in the life of Raleigh. Residents are working through the CACs to address questions of growth, support community volunteer organizations, and promote activities and events within the CACs.



A Vision for the Future

Through the process of developing mission and vision statements for the CAC system, the RCAC leadership also adopted stated values, purposes, goals, and objectives for the CACs. Furthermore, going forward, the CACs will execute projects and tasks individually and as a group to promote the high level vision, mission, and values shown in the tables below.



The purposes, goals, and objectives of the CACs revolve around improving Raleigh in a broad spectrum of ways. Purposes include securing resources for neighborhood improvement, disseminating information to communities, soliciting views from community members, and advising the Raleigh City Council on matters affecting the well-being of the citizens of the City of Raleigh jurisdictional area. These purposes underlie the more specific goals and objectives adopted by the RCAC.

Highlights of the RCAC's goals and objectives include:

- Educating citizens
- Working with community specialists
- Developing networks of community leaders
- Planning regular meetings with the city for presentations to residents



- Marketing CACs
- Encouraging leadership
- Fostering open lines of communication with the City Council
- Attending Neighborhood College
- Making CAC meetings a venue for individual neighborhood reports
- Creating a rotating schedule of visitors from CAC leadership to other CAC meetings

While this, along with many goals and objectives not listed here, is both challenging and extensive, the CAC system is well-positioned to successfully follow this guide for the future.