



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

July 1, 2009

TO: Key Business Executives and Function Heads
FROM: Julie Burch, Assistant City Manager
SUBJECT: Need Your Help with our Ozone Problem

- ∞ As you know, the Charlotte region is considered “non-attainment” for ozone and while we’ve had a hot month behind us we still have three months from July – September to make a good push to improve our air quality.
- ∞ Since 1999, the Charlotte region has had more than 180 days in which ozone levels have reached high and unhealthy levels. Last summer, Mecklenburg County had twenty-two days with levels reaching Code Orange or above. The eight county region, which includes Mecklenburg County, had fourteen such days.
- ∞ The hot, dry weather we are having increases the likelihood of high ozone days. Ozone pollution threatens everyone’s health, especially the very young, the elderly and those with respiratory problems.
- ∞ This summer marks the sixth year that the City has voluntarily participated in an effort to reduce ozone levels.
- ∞ This is also the fourth year for *Clean Air Works*, a private-public sector initiative to recruit businesses to become leaders in improving air quality.
- ∞ Once again, the City is targeting our voluntary efforts in vehicle and equipment fueling and operational practices with a emphasis on conservation efforts such as; using the most efficient routes, combining/limiting trips, use of vehicles/equipment for official and essential use only and ensuring employees dispense fuel only at designated times during high ozone periods.
- ∞ An additional target is employee commuting options, particularly at City facilities with easy access to CATS, carpools, and vanpools. These facilities include the CMGC, Old City Hall,

Law Enforcement Center, Fire administration, the Cameron Brown building and Utilities Brookshire Boulevard building.

- ∞ We are asking Key Businesses and Functions to name a “Clean Air Champion” to work with CATS staff to promote and educate our employees about air quality and what they can do to help.
- ∞ Clean Air Champions will be asked to promote and share information with employees about commuting options and possible changes in vehicle and equipment practices on those days.
- ∞ Participation in this effort is strictly voluntary. It is not intended to impact any essential or critical City operations on high ozone days.
- ∞ While participation is voluntary, I encourage as many Key Businesses as possible to sign up. As we often do, City employees can serve as role models to the community, and we can share our experiences to help shape the future.
- ∞ **To sign up:** Please email the name of your Clean Air Champion to Lavernia Boyd in CATS *as soon as possible*. CATS will coordinate training for Clean Air Champions who may be new to the program and will serve as the coordinating point for the communications about the City’s program.
- ∞ **Questions or comments:** Lavernia Boyd, x63898 or lboyd@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

C: Curt Walton, City Manager
Leadership Team