

Sample Email to Charlotte City Council – Feel free to use this as your base and personalize it or create your own template!

Dear (Insert City Council Person's name),

(Consider adding an introduction of yourself and why you care about this issue)

As you prepare to vote on restoring criminal penalties for six ordinances that address “quality-of-life” issues in Uptown, I ask that you move with urgency to address the challenges in Uptown by investing in five areas:

- Access to **public bathrooms**, with thoughtfulness to location and safety around location
- More **street outreach** with a focused team Uptown to build relationships with people who are unsheltered and connect people with housing and services
- Increased investments in our **emergency shelter** system, including what currently exists and expansion to create specialized non-congregate (meaning that people would have their own rooms) emergency shelter with a focus on very vulnerable people
- Continued support for and expansion of CMPD's pilot of the **CARES team**, a social-work team response to low-risk 911 calls in Uptown and surrounding areas, often calls related to homelessness
- And of course, **housing**. Data consistently confirms homelessness is a housing issue, so our solutions must also focus on housing. We would like to see the city double the Housing Trust Fund and continue to ensure investments in supportive housing and the preservation of existing affordable units.

If you vote to re-criminalize these ordinances, I ask you to include:

- a 12-month sunset provision to give our community the opportunity to evaluate the impact of the ordinances and allow time for investments and lifechanging solutions outlined above.
- a delay in enforcement to allow for an adequate communication timeframe to those who will be most impacted.

Charlotte has an opportunity in this moment to recognize the limits and potential harms of a law-enforcement response and to constructively address the deeper issues of our most vulnerable citizens. This is an opportunity to invest in people with fresh imagination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
(Insert your name here)