Emails referring to the prepared food tax pulled from Open Gate City

Among those linked on the emails obtained by *TCB* were:

Skip Alston, county commissioner, chair

Nancy Vaughan, Mayor

Zack Matheny, District 3 representative

Nancy Hoffmann, District 4 representative

Marlene Druga, the city's Financial and Administrative Services Department Director

Toy Beeninga, Budget & Management Services Director at Guilford County

Richard Vanore, Koury Corporation President and CEO Richard Vanore

Kelly Harrill, Koury Corporation executive Vice President Kelly Harrill

Scott Baxter, Kontoor

Jim Melvin, former Greensboro mayor

Richard Beard, Greensboro Sports Foundation President & CEO

Brent Christensen, President & CEO of Greensboro Chamber of Commerce

Henri Fourrier, President of Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Laura Way, President & CEO at ArtsGreensboro.

Walker Sanders, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

Chuck Watts, Greensboro city attorney

Andrea Leslie-Fite, Guilford county attorney

James Watterson - director of operations, Greensboro Convention and Visitors Bureau

FIRST EMAIL FOUND IN DATABASE: DECEMBER 2021

From: Druga, Marlene

Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 5:56:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Hoffmann, Nancy Cc: Davis, Larry Subject: 1% Prepared Food Tax

Good Evening Ms. Hoffman, Our estimate for a Guilford County-wide 1% prepared food tax collection is in the range of \$12 - \$15 million per year. The County would need to get special legislation to levy this tax and then decide how it would be distributed, ie for specific purposes, or by population. It is noteworthy that both Wake County and Mecklenburg County's prepared food tax doubled in the last 15 years, to \$28 million and \$35 million, respectively, as of June 30, 2020. Please let me know if you need further information. Marlene Marlene Druga, Finance Director Financial and Administrative Services City of Greensboro 300 W. Washington Street Greensboro, NC 27402-3136 Phone 336.373.2094 Fax: 336.373.2138 http://www.greensboro-nc.gov

AUGUST 2022

From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Sent: Friday, **August 26, 2022 3:08:09 PM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Brown, Matt (Coliseum); Henri Fourrier; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Could you please respond to your availability the week of 9/19-23 to attend a follow up luncheon meeting to our efforts this past year to retain the ACC Offices for an

equally important discussion regarding the need for and urgency to implement a Prepared Food Tax for Guilford County that will be an essential tool in our efforts to maintain our Sports, Cultural and Entertainment facilities in state of the art condition to use as economic generators for attracting and hosting major state wide, regional and national events that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors to our County that result in a significant economic impact for our community.

From: Fourrier, Henri Sent: Friday, **August 26, 2022 3:29:28 PM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc

Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax

I'm in

From: skip alstonrealtygroup.com Sent: Friday, **August 26, 2022 3:32:42** PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Fourrier, Henri Cc: Brown, Matt (Coliseum); Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc

Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

Yes I will attend. Please let me know the proposed date and time ASAP. Thanks, Melvin 'Skip' Alston, President The Alston Realty Group, Inc.

From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum)

Sent: Friday, **August 26, 2022 3:38:26** PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Henri Fourrier; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

Based on the majority of respondents, please hold 12:00 -2:00PM THURSDAY September 22, 2022 for the lunch meeting. Location to be determined.

From: Zack Matheny Sent: Monday, **August 29, 2022 9:37:39 AM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Henri Fourrier; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc

Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

I am out of the country 20-25, will look forward to hearing about the meeting Zack Matheny Downtown Greensboro, Inc Sent from my iPhone

SEPTEMBER 2022

From: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor)

Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 5:05 PM

To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Henri Fourrier; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Zack Matheny; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc

Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

I am going to be at the White House on the 22nd. I regret that I will miss the meeting. I have started some groundwork. We need to work quietly until after the November election to avoid a possible campaign issue. The County Commissioners will elect a Chair in December. I would like to see Skip maintain that position. Nancy Sent from my iPhone

From: Zack Matheny Sent: **Monday, September 12, 2022 5:35:59 PM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Henri Fourrier; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; richard@ssbre.com; Bush, Marc

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

Incidentally, as a reminder, I am out of town next week as well, unlike the Mayor, I wasn't invited to the White House. \bigcirc Look forward to hearing how it goes, or if it is rescheduled.

On Sep 14, 2022, at 8:27 AM,

Brown, Matt (Coliseum) < Matt. Brown@greensboro-nc.gov > wrote:

As a result of Mayor Vaughan and Chairman Alston being called to the White House on the September 22nd, we need to change the 9/22/22 date of our Prepared Food Tax campaign kickoff luncheon meeting. Please respond to everyone if Tuesday October 4 12-2:00PM is good for you. The meeting will take place at the ACC HOC Conference Room.

From: Marc Bush

Sent: Wednesday, **September 14, 2022 8:41:17 AM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Kelly Harrill; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign I can make that date, could not attend on 9/22!

On **Sep 16, 2022**, at **4:05 PM**, From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:05:28 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Watts, Chuck Cc: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Hoffmann, Nancy; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Druga, Marlene; Richard Beard Brown, Matt (Coliseum) <Matt.Brown@greensboro-nc.gov> wrote:

As a follow up to our community's positive joint Public Private response to the ACC Office Relocation challenge, our ACC Response Public/Private Committee enthusiastically came to appreciate the need for and the value of having a 1% County wide Prepared Food Tax to support our Sports and Tourism industry economic growth needs. This initiative is equally enthusiastically supported by both the Mayor and County Commission Chairman. Greensboro

Sports Foundation President Richard Beard and I are leading the effort to kick off a Public/Private campaign to implement this initiative successfully through to State Legislative

approval ASAP. With critical help and research from City Finance Director Marlene Druga and County Budget Director Toy Benniga, we are compiling information to present to our Committee such as: a listing of Cities/Counties within the State who have enacted this tax (WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A VOTER REFERRENDUM); the legislation models used by Wake County and Mecklenburg County/Charlotte; and the intended limited purposes of the benefits of this funding source. We are holding a Prepared Food Tax kickoff campaign luncheon meeting from 12-2PM on Tuesday October 4, 2022 at the ACC Hall of Champions Conference Room at the Coliseum Special Events Center. I was hoping that you could assign one your staff attorneys who may be knowledge of or have had some experience with this topic at another City/County within the State who could assist our Committee with drafting the correct Resolution wording mirrored after Wake and Mecklenburg Counties to guide the Greensboro City Council and County Commissioners to accomplish these Boards Resolutions as the first critical step in soliciting the support of the Guilford Delegation and eventually the Senate President and Speaker's support. Both Mayor Vaughan, CCM Hoffman, CM Jaiyeoba and County Commission Chairman Alston will be attending our luncheon kick off meeting. You are certainly welcome to attend as well. We welcome and would greatly appreciate any advice and counsel you could provide on this important subject.

From: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor)

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:08 PM

To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: Watts, Chuck; Hoffmann, Nancy; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Druga,

Marlene; Richard Beard

Subject: Re: Prepared Food Tax Meeting

Chuck, said that he was involved when Durham tried to get the PFT. It was by referendum and

failed.

On Sep 16, 2022, at 4:13 PM, Brown, Matt (Coliseum) wrote: Two counties (Monroe and Durham) were authorized to pursue the PFT initiative but were required by either local officials or State legislation requirements to use the Public Referendum method. Others such as Wake, Dare, Mecklenburg or Cumberland Counties or the City/Town of Hillsborough were not implemented or required to use the Voter referendum method to enact their PFT.

From: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor)

Sent: Friday, September 16, 2022 4:16:17 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: Watts, Chuck; Hoffmann, Nancy; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Druga,

Marlene; Richard Beard

Subject: Re: Prepared Food Tax Meeting

Yes, I was aware. Sent from my iPhone

From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum)

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 9:02 AM

To: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Kelly Harrill; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny,

Zack; Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy; Sanders, Walker; Jim Melvin Cc: Druga,

Marlene ; Beeninga Toy ; Watterson James

Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

Chairman Alston and the County Manager have to meet with the NC Commission re the school bonds issuance one10/4/22 so we need to RESCHEDULE our PFT luncheon meeting on 10/4/22. Can you all check your schedules for dates you may be available for from 10/7-14 and please reply to all so we can get a consensus asap for the reschedule date.

From: Richard Vanore

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:42:11 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum); Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba,

Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Kelly Harrill; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack;

Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy; Sanders, Walker; Jim Melvin Cc: Druga,

Marlene ; Beeninga Toy ; Watterson James

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

I'm can be available 10/7, 10/10 (up to 1:15), 10/11 (11:00-3:30), 10/13 (all day up to 4:00), and 10/14

Richard L. Vanore Jr. President Koury Corporation 2275 Vanstory Street Suite 200 Greensboro, N.C. 27403 Ph: (336) 299-9200 Ext. 167 Fx: (336) 299-9923 Email: rvanore@kourycorp.com

Web: www.kourycorp.com

From: Kelly Harrill

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 10:51:41 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Richard Vanore; Brown, Matt (Coliseum); Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor);

skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Scott Baxter; Jim

Melvin; Matheny, Zack; Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy; Sanders, Walker; Jim

Melvin Cc: Druga, Marlene; Beeninga Toy; Watterson James

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

I am available 10/10, 10/11, and 10/14.

Kelly Harrill EVP Koury Hospitality Hotels Grandover Resort & Conference Center-A Wyndham Grand Hotel Sheraton Greensboro Hotel/J.S. Koury Convention Center Holiday Inn Greensboro Coliseum Direct: 336-834-4884 (Grandover) or 336-323-4809 (Sheraton)

Sep 29, 2022, at 8:44 AM,

Brown, Matt (Coliseum) wrote:

It appears that the best date for both the Mayor Vaughan and Chairman Alston as well as for the majority of other attendees and participants is TUESDAY October 11th noon-2PM at the ACC HOC Conference Room in the Special Events Center of the Coliseum Complex.

From: skip alstonrealtygroup.com

Sent: Thursday, **September 29**, **2022 9:39:43** AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Cc: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Kelly Harrill; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack;

Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy; Sanders, Walker;

mhalford@guilfordcountync.org; Druga, Marlene; Beeninga Toy; Watterson James

Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

Thanks Matt. I will be there.

OCTOBER 2022

On Oct 2, 2022, at 6:05 PM,

Hoffmann, Nancy wrote:

Hi Matt, So sorry I am unable to attend your lunch meeting on the 11th. You know I have favored this for some years and appreciate your bringing together all the players. This will provide the funding we need for arts and culture, events like the Folk Festival, and sports tourism. These have significant economic impact and give our city a competitive advantage. Thanks for taking leadership on this. Count on me to help in any way I can. Nancy Get Outlook for iOS

From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) Sent: Monday, **October 3, 2022 8:19:28** AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Hoffmann, Nancy Subject: Re: Prepared Food Tax Meeting

The packet of information that we are preparing for each attendee will be delivered to you for your review. I hope our unilateral desire to establish this funding source will allow us to get this implemented asap Sent from my iPhone

From: Walker Sanders

Sent: Thursday, October 6, 2022 3:11:37 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum); Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba,

Taiwo ; Henri Fourrier ; Kelly Harrill ; rvanore@kourycorp.com ; Scott Baxter ; Jim Melvin ;

Matheny, Zack; Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy;

 $mhalford@guilfordcountync.org\ Cc:\ Druga,\ Marlene\ ;\ Beeninga\ Toy\ ;\ Watterson\ James$

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign

Matt – thanks for taking the leadership in getting this put together. I have another commitment that I cannot move so will not be able to attend and I think this is one of the more important discussions we need to be having and thrilled it is taking place. I will be helpful in any way possible.

NOVEMBER 2022

From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum)

Sent: Wednesday, **November 23, 2022 10:10:10 AM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Kelly Harrill; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy; Sanders, Walker; mhalford@guilfordcountync.org; Brent Christensen; Mark Brazil; Watts, Chuck; Andrea Leslie-Fite; Druga, Marlene; Watterson James; Beeninga Toy Cc: Milos, Jo; Close, Jason; Forde, Terence; Brown, Andrew

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Follow up Meeting We hope you are available to attend a follow up meeting to discuss our next steps toward the implementation of a Guilford

County wide Prepared Food Tax. Please respond if you are available to attend the Prepared Food Tax meeting on FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2022 Noon -2PM at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center ACC Conference Room. Lunch will be served.

From: Kelly Harrill

Sent: Wednesday, **November 23, 2022 2:17:42 PM** (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To: Brown, Matt (Coliseum); Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor); skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo; Bush, Marc; Henri Fourrier; Richard Vanore; Scott Baxter; Jim Melvin; Matheny, Zack; Richard Beard; Laura Way; Hoffmann, Nancy; Sanders, Walker; mhalford@guilfordcountync.org; Brent Christensen; Mark Brazil; Watts, Chuck; Andrea Leslie-Fite; Druga, Marlene; Watterson James; Beeninga Toy Cc: Milos, Jo; Close, Jason; Forde, Terence; Brown, Andrew Subject: Re: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Follow up Meeting Yes, I am available.

From: Brown, Matt (Coliseum) < Matt.Brown@greensboro-nc.gov>

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 9:36 AM

To: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor) < Nancy. Vaughan@greensboro-nc.gov>;

skip@alstonrealtygroup.com; Jaiyeoba, Taiwo <Taiwo@greensboro-nc.gov>; Bush, Marc

<mbush@greensborosports.org>; Henri Fourrier <hfourrier@visitgreensboronc.com>; Kelly

Harrill <kharrill@kourycorp.com>; rvanore@kourycorp.com; Scott Baxter

<scott.baxter@kontoorbrands.com>; Jim Melvin <jimmelvin@aol.com>; Matheny, Zack

<zack@downtowngreensboro.org>; Richard Beard <richard@greensborosf.com>; Laura Way

<lway@artsgreensboro.org>; Hoffmann, Nancy <Nancy.Hoffmann@greensboro-nc.gov>;

Walker Sanders <wsanders@cfgg.org>; mhalford@guilfordcountync.org; Brent Christensen

<BChristensen@greensboro.org>; Mark Brazil <mbrazil@wyndhamchampionship.com>; Watts,

Chuck < Chuck. Watts@greensboro-nc.gov>; Andrea Leslie-Fite

<aleslie@quilfordcountync.gov>; Druga, Marlene <Marlene.Druga@greensboro-nc.gov>;

Watterson James <jwatterson@visitgreensboronc.com>; Beeninga Toy

<tbeeninga@guilfordcountync.gov> Cc: Milos, Jo <Jo.Milos@greensboro-nc.gov>; Close, Jason

<jason.close@oakviewgroup.com>; Forde, Terence <Terence.Forde@greensboro-nc.gov>;

Brown, Andrew < Andrew. Brown@greensboro-nc.gov>

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Follow up Meeting

REMINDER. Please advise if you can attend. We hope you are available to attend a follow up meeting to discuss our next steps toward the implementation of a Guilford County wide Prepared Food Tax. Please respond if you are available to attend the Prepared Food Tax meeting on FRIDAY DECEMBER 2, 2022 Noon -2PM at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex Special Events Center ACC Conference Room. Lunch will be served.

From: Walker Sanders < wsanders@cfgg.org>

Date: November 28, 2022 at 9:47:21 AM EST

To: 'Brown, Matt (Coliseum)' <Matt.Brown@greensboro-nc.gov>, 'Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor)' <Nancy.Vaughan@greensboro-nc.gov>, skip@alstonrealtygroup.com, 'Jaiyeoba, Taiwo'

<Taiwo@greensboro-nc.gov>, 'Bush, Marc' <mbush@greensborosports.org>, Henri Fourrier <hfourrier@visitgreensboronc.com>, Kelly Harrill <kharrill@kourycorp.com>, rvanore@kourycorp.com, Scott Baxter <scott.baxter@kontoorbrands.com>, Jim Melvin <jimmelvin@aol.com>, 'Matheny, Zack' <zack@downtowngreensboro.org>, Richard Beard <richard@greensborosf.com>, Laura Way <lway@artsgreensboro.org>, 'Hoffmann, Nancy' <Nancy.Hoffmann@greensboro-nc.gov>, mhalford@guilfordcountync.org, Brent Christensen <BChristensen@greensboro.org>, Mark Brazil <mbrazil@wyndhamchampionship.com>, 'Watts, Chuck' <Chuck.Watts@greensboro-nc.gov>, Andrea Leslie-Fite <aleslie@guilfordcountync.gov>, 'Druga, Marlene' <Marlene.Druga@greensboro-nc.gov>, Watterson James <jwatterson@visitgreensboronc.com>, Beeninga Toy <tbeeninga@guilfordcountync.gov> Cc: 'Milos, Jo' <Jo.Milos@greensboro-nc.gov>, 'Close, Jason' <jason.close@oakviewgroup.com>, 'Forde, Terence' <Terence.Forde@greensboro-nc.gov>, 'Brown, Andrew' <Andrew.Brown@greensboro-nc.gov> Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Follow up Meeting
I will be there. Thanks for getting this set up

From: Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor)

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 10:08 AM

To: Lewis, Monica Cc: Bell, Sharon

Subject: Fwd: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Follow up Meeting

Please let Matt know that I will attend. I will not be able to attend the Hero Homes. Thank you,

Nancy

From: Lewis, Monica

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 10:25:16 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada) To:

Vaughan, Nancy (Mayor) Cc: Bell, Sharon

Subject: RE: Preferred Food Tax Campaign Follow up Meeting

Done, thanks.