



# COMMUNITY MEETING: Justice Heights

## **Topic: Renaming of Lynch Street**

*Assigned Department: Planning & Community Development*

**Summary:** In September 2020, Town Council voted to change the name of Lynch Street but asked for more input from the community about the name change. The COVID-19 Pandemic delayed the public engagement efforts until August 2021 when Town staff sent letters to solicit more name options and communicate the name change process to neighborhood residents. Feedback from those letters and voting at the neighborhood meeting informed possible choices for the renaming of Lynch Street.

**Follow-up Action:** Justice Heights Street received the most votes from residents living on the street as well as other residents in the neighborhood. At the November 9, 2021, Town Council meeting, Town Council voted to change Lynch Street to Justice Heights Street effective February 1, 2022. Town staff will be mailing information and guidance to residents on Lynch Street about steps to change their address. For more information, questions, or assistance about address changes please contact the Apex Planning Department at 919-249-3426.

## **Topic: Housing Assistance**

*Assigned Department: Planning & Community Development*

**Summary:** In 2020, Town Council approved the Apex Cares Housing Rehabilitation Program. The Town contracts with Rebuilding Together of the Triangle (RTT) to assist low-income homeowners with needed repairs that keep their homes safe and sanitary, fix hazardous structural conditions, help residents age in place, and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Funding per eligible household, provided by the Affordable Housing Fund, is based on household need, level of home repair need, and overall funding availability. Eligible repairs may include repairs such as correction of code violations, removal of lead-based paint or asbestos hazards, kitchen and bath flooring, bath fixtures, insulation, smoke alarms, countertops, and carpet. For more information, visit the [housing rehabilitation program webpage](#), call the Town's Housing Programs Manager at 919-249-1039, or email [C.J. Valenzuela](mailto:C.J.Valenzuela).

**Follow-up Action:** Town staff is setting meetings with the newly established Housing Advisory Board to develop strategies and action items to address housing goals identified in the Apex Affordable Housing Plan. For more information about the plan, the advisory board, or housing in Apex, visit the [housing rehabilitation program webpage](#), call the Town's Housing Programs Manager at 919-249-1039, or email [C.J. Valenzuela](mailto:C.J.Valenzuela).

## Topic: Visibility and Safety at Intersections

*Assigned Departments: Streets, Police*

### 2nd and West

**Summary:** Site review identified obstruction in sight triangle, limiting visibility

**Follow-up Action:** Town staff has removed the obstruction and the Traffic Control Unit is developing an action plan to address stop sign violations through education and enforcement measures.

### 1st and Harwood

**Summary:** Site review identified vegetation overgrowth on the northwest corner, limiting visibility

**Follow-up Action:** Town staff has cut back vegetation and will study whether or not a high-visibility crosswalk is warranted on the northern free-flow approach of 1st Street.

### 2nd and Harwood

**Summary:** Site review identified need for touch-up of crosswalk markings

**Follow-up Action:** Town conducted touch-up of crosswalk markings the week of October 11, 2021.

### Salem and Harwood

**Summary:** Site review identified need for touch-up of crosswalk markings

**Follow-up Action:** Town conducted touch-up of crosswalk markings the week of October 11, 2021.

### Lynch St. (Justice Heights St.) Crossing

**Summary:** Site review identified the need for a high-visibility crosswalk for safety

**Follow-up Action:** Town plans to install a midblock high-visibility crosswalk on Justice Heights Lynch St.(west of 3rd St.)- signage to be updated within next 2 months, depending on supply availability

## Topic: Visibility and Safety at Intersections

### Parking on West Street

*Assigned Department: Streets, Police*

**Summary:** The 2010 community development block grant (CDBG) improvements project on West St. established standard residential street width of 22 feet. Since the original right-of-way (ROW) was only 30 feet wide, valley gutter was used to allow for sidewalk placement against the gutter with minimum need to increase the ROW. The valley gutter makes it easy for drivers to pull onto the sidewalk.

**Follow-up Action:** The Traffic Control Unit is developing an action plan to address parking through education and enforcement measures.

## Speeding on Lynch St. (Justice Heights St.) and First St.

*Assigned Department: Streets, Police*

**Summary:** Town Traffic Engineering staff completed a speed study and found that speeds were slightly higher than average for a residential street. Lynch St. (Justice Heights St.), however, serves more like a minor collector street than a residential street since it collects traffic from adjacent streets and channels them to S. Salem St. Slightly higher speeds are anticipated and are typical for minor collector streets. Traffic volumes were too low to meet Town traffic calming criteria for speed humps. Traffic Engineering staff recommends increasing enforcement and providing education to reduce speeds.

**Follow-up Action:** The Police Department deployed a RADAR trailer to the community to increase awareness. The Traffic Control Unit is developing an action plan to address speeding through education and enforcement measures.

## School Bus Safety

*Assigned Department: Planning & Community Development*

**Summary:** Town staff notified Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) regarding concerns over bus stop locations in the Justice Heights neighborhood. WCPSS indicated that they were not aware of any neighborhood concerns. WCPSS will monitor the area and is open to relocating the stops if needed.

**Follow-up Action:** Families may request a change to the existing location of a bus stop for safety reasons. WCPSS does not consider the distance from a house to the assigned bus stop as a safety issue. More information regarding school bus stops and WCPSS contacts can be found at <https://www.wcpss.net/Page/43>.

## Topic: Intersection of Tingen Road and S. Salem Street

### Traffic Signal

*Assigned Department: Transportation*

**Summary:** Signalization improvements at the intersection of Salem St. and Tingen Road have started and are scheduled to be completed February 2022.

**Follow-up Action:** NC Department of Insurance inspection is complete and the Electrical Certificate of Completion has been issued. Apex Electric Utilities has set the meter and the service is energized. NC Department of Transportation inspection has been requested. Expect flash mode period to begin week of December 13. Flash mode will be in place for 7 days. Expect to be operational by week of December 20.

### Future Configuration and Traffic Pattern

*Assigned Department: Transportation*

**Summary:** Per CSX Railroad Master Agreement, once Peakway SW Connector is completed, the Tingen Road crossing of the railroad will be closed. Tingen Road will dead end at the railroad from both directions similar to Moore St. in downtown.

**Follow-up Action:** A pedestrian bridge is being considered to cross Salem St. and the railroad in the future at Tingen Road location. The project is part of the Town's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Town plans to seek grant funding to assist with the project.

## Topic: Parks and Recreation

### West Street Park

*Assigned Department: Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources*

**Summary:** The Town is not planning to extend the size/area of West Street Park but is looking to enhance park amenities. The Town has begun updating its Parks and Greenways Master Plan that will include a specific evaluation and plan for West Street Park. Items mentioned at the neighborhood meeting, including restrooms, picnic areas, and a larger basketball court will be considered for the plan.

**Follow-up Action:** The Town has already budgeted funds for the master plan and amenity improvements for West Street Park. If you would like more information about the Parks Master Plan or to participate in the planning process, please contact the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department at 919-249-3402 or email Angela Reincke at [Angela.Reincke@apexnc.org](mailto:Angela.Reincke@apexnc.org).

### Programs

*Assigned Department: Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources*

**Summary:** Residents attending the meeting asked about available programs and activities, including health screenings and elderly support. Wake County provides support services for senior residents. More information about these programs can be found at on the [Wake County website](#) or by calling Wake County Health and Human Services at 919-212-7000. The Town of Apex also offers activities and programming for senior residents at the John M. Brown Community Center and the newly open Senior Center located at 63 Hunter Street next to Town Hall.

**Follow-up Action:** Town staff is exploring ways to expand senior programming and ensure availability and accessibility to all who are interested. Town staff is working to develop a communications plan to ensure all residents are aware of available programs. Town staff is also evaluating transportation needs in order to develop a plan/program to ensure access to programs at the Community Center and Senior Center or in neighborhoods for those who otherwise may not be able to take part. For more information about the Senior Center or senior programming, please contact Senior Center staff at 919-249-3354 or email [seniorcenter@apexnc.org](mailto:seniorcenter@apexnc.org). For general information about Parks and Recreation programming, please call the Community Center at 919-249-3402 or visit [our website](#).