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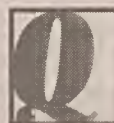
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Charlotte mayor will not seek re-election this year

Anthony Foxx says he has accomplished his goals

by Matt Comer :: matt@goqnotes.com

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx announced on April 5 that he will not seek re-election this year. The announcement comes after some speculation that Foxx is a possible pick to become President Barack Obama's new transportation secretary.

Foxx first made his announcement to WSOC-TV's Blair Miller, in an interview at the government center.

"As I said, when I came into this office, I had a very clear idea on where I wanted to push the city towards and we've made a good bit of the way there," Foxx told Miller.

An official statement from Foxx's office was also released.

"My grandfather often paraphrased the book of Ecclesiastes when he said, 'There is a season for everything under the sun,'" Foxx's statement reads. "I remember his words as I announce today my decision not to run for re-election."

His statement also describes his political career, the objectives he has accomplished and the issues still facing the city, including several items he says will be accomplished over the next 60-90 days. Among them are questions over ownership of the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport, Carolina Panthers stadium upgrade incentives, the long-stalled Capital Improvement Plan and efforts toward completing the city's 2030 transit plan, including a streetcar system.

Foxx was first elected to City Council in 2005, where he served until his election as mayor in 2009. He was the first Democratic mayor in over 20 years, the youngest Charlotte mayor and the city's second African-American mayor.

Several Republican and Democratic leaders are expected to announce potential candidacies to replace Foxx. Former Republican City Councilmember Edwin Peacock was among the first. At press time, no others had officially announced. Stay tuned to goqnotes.com for more on this developing story.

Foxx's LGBT history

The mayor also made several historic firsts with the LGBT community, becoming the first sitting mayor to address LGBT constituents in a public forum at the LGBT Community Center of Charlotte in December 2010. He was also the first mayor to offer regular welcome letters to LGBT events in the city.

He's been seen as largely supportive of a variety of local LGBT issues. He was in favor of personnel policy changes protecting LGBT workers, instituted by former City Manager Curt Walton in April 2010 and December 2012. The mayor also supported the addition of domestic partner benefits to the city's budget in June 2012.



Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx speaking at an LGBT welcome party for the 2012 Democratic National Convention on Sept. 2, 2012. File Photo.

Foxx on marriage equality: 'No comment'

MeckPAC calls leaders to be more outspoken

CHARLOTTE — Mayor Anthony Foxx had "no comment" on marriage equality and the two historic cases being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court in late March, according to his spokesperson.

qnotes reached out to Foxx's press secretary Alexander Killeffer on Tuesday, March 26 to see if the mayor had any comment or statement on the issue. The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on March 26 and March 27 in two cases challenging California's 2008 Proposition 8 and the federal *Defense of Marriage Act*. "Mayor's unavailable for comment today," Killeffer responded. "Sorry!"

Asked if the mayor, who has not yet publicly announced any support for same-sex marriage, would be available the next day, Killeffer said he would look into a statement.

In follow-up on March 27, Killeffer responded simply, "No comment."

In addition to the mayor, qnotes reached out to 20 other local officials on City Council and the Mecklenburg County Commission

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see Marriage on 19



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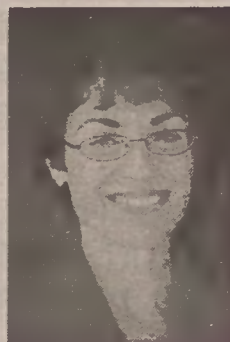
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