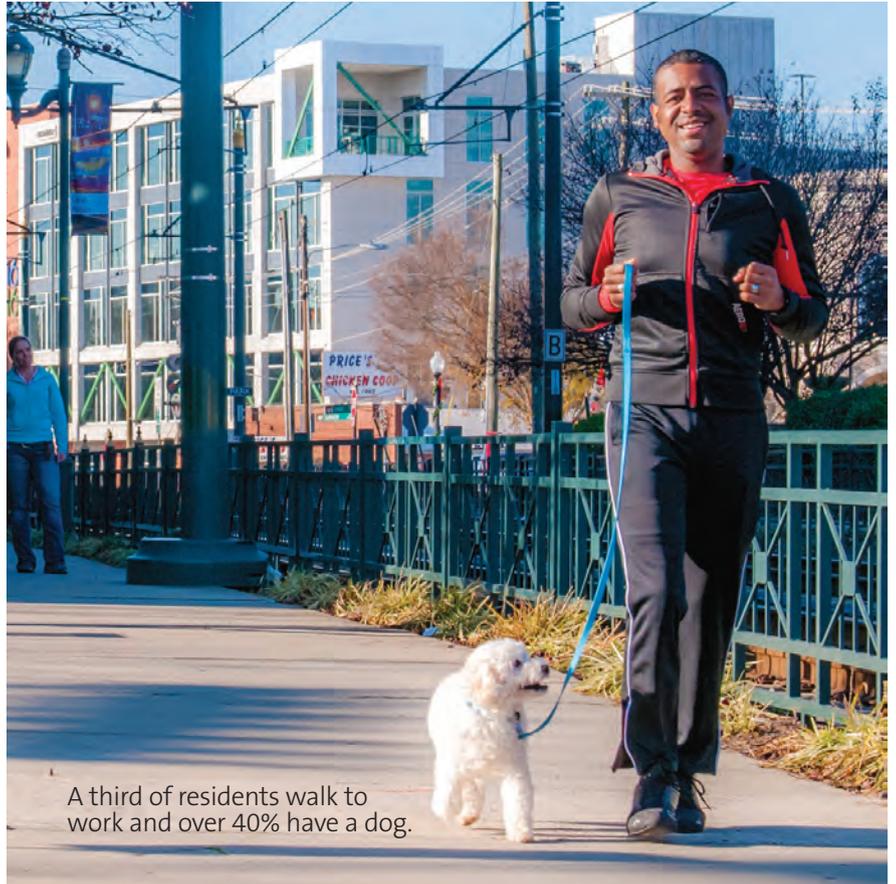


Uptown Charlotte's Housing Boom

Urban Vibe and Walkable Lifestyle Attract Residents of All Ages

TEXT BY **MICHAEL SMITH**, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CHARLOTTE CENTER CITY PARTNERS
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The growth of shopping, restaurants and abundant nightlife combined with the growing trend of people wanting to have a more walkable lifestyle has resulted in a boom in Uptown Charlotte's housing choices.

Living in Uptown offers a variety of housing options unmatched in any other area in the city. From single family homes to high rise apartments, there is something for every lifestyle.

According to Sandy Kindbom, Broker-in-Charge for Allen Tate Realtors, in addition to the young professionals that you imagine might be attracted to urban living in Uptown, many pre-retirement aged couples are also coming here from the suburbs. "They are looking to experience the urban vibe with greater walkability," said Kindbom. "They are also attracted to the turn-key nature of some of these properties where you can lock the

door and travel to the beach or the mountains."

Charlotte Center City Partners' latest State of the Center City Report estimated 16,500 people currently live in Uptown's neighborhoods. Based on the development underway along Stonewall Street, an estimated 5,000 more people will move once all the residential properties are delivered.

Uptown is a desirable destination for people who want an active and healthy lifestyle. A third of residents walk to work and over 40% have a dog. Residents and their furry friends have 42 acres of parks to enjoy and meet friends along with nearly 200 restaurants and 16 coffee shops. Light rail, street car and B-Cycle transportation options make it possible to live, work and play in Uptown without needing a car.

Dennis Marsoun, owner and broker of Church Street Realty and the self-described "Realtor without

a car", said he sold his car years ago when he moved to Uptown and now rents one when he needs to travel. He estimated he saves thousands of dollars by not owning and maintaining a car that he was not using often anyway.

Marsoun said he has always loved cities, but never lived downtown before moving to Charlotte. When he moved to Charlotte for work, he decided the time was right to live his dream of living in the heart of an urban space. "It is nice to work where you live or live where you work," said Marsoun. "With endless dining and entertainment opportunities in Uptown, there is no need to leave."

Next time you are in Uptown for a concert, a game, a show or for work, take some time to walk down some of Uptown's neighborhood streets. Home might be closer than you think.