



# **City Manager's Report**

January 2023

## UPDATES FROM CITY MANAGER MICHAEL ROGERS

- The Swearing-in Ceremony for Police Chief Michael Kochis will be January 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM in the Council Chamber.
- The Labor Relations Manager, Jimmy Morani has been hired and will join the City of Charlottesville in January. The new Manager will be introduced at a future Council Meeting. The role will be critical to the implementation of the new Collective Bargaining Ordinance which is effective January 1. Proposals for the role identified under the ordinance as Labor Relations Administrator, which receives petitions for recognition and conducts elections will be received on January 11. Representatives from labor will serve on the evaluation committee. A selection will be made by the end of January with the capability to receive petitions and conduct elections to be in place in February with an anticipated start of first bargaining in March. A Labor Relations training program for Council is being prepared for a Work Session in February. This training will be conducted by Robin Burroughs of Venable and will focus on Council's role during collective bargaining negotiations.
- City Manager's Office and Department of Human Resources are putting major emphasis on filling the number of vacancies that currently exist. A new recruiter, Victoria Falleck, will join the Human Resources staff in January and will be crucial to reducing the backlog of vacant positions.
- Seven proposals were received for the search for a Strategic Planning consultant. The Evaluation Committee has narrowed the proposers to two. It is expected the final award will be made before the end of January with the work of developing a new strategic plan to take place from February through June.
- With the departure of Lisa Robertson as city attorney, I have asked the senior deputy Allyson Davies to serve as City Attorney while we conduct a search for a new attorney. We have advertised for the City Attorney and will begin to receive resumes over the next month. The target for completing this search is three months.
- In February the leadership team will participate in leadership development and team building training.

## UPDATES FROM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ASHLEY MARSHALL

- **Reminder from Department of Human Services**
  - As winter weather continues to move in, the Charlottesville Department of Human Services would like to remind members of the community who may find themselves in need or may be supporting a neighbor or friend who has lost housing to call the Homeless Information Line at 434-207-2328. The Homeless Information Line also works in partnership with our community nonprofit PACEM and The Haven to add additional access to supportive services including The Haven for day shelter and PACEM for emergency overnight shelter. To learn more about The Haven please go to their website at: <https://www.thehaven.org/>. To learn more about PACEM please go to their website at: <https://pacemshelter.org/>
    - A medida que avanza el clima invernal, el Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Charlottesville les recuerda a los miembros de la comunidad que puedan encontrarse en necesidad de apoyo, o que esten apoyando a un vecin@ o amig@ que ha perdido su vivienda que llamen a la línea de información para personas sin hogar al 434-207-2328. Esta línea también trabaja en asociación con las organizaciones sin fines de lucro PACEM y The Haven para acceso adicional a servicios de apoyo, incluidos el refugio diurno del Haven y refugio nocturno de emergencia en PACEM. Puede encontrar mas informacion de The Haven en su sitio web en: <https://www.thehaven.org/>. Puede tambien obtener más

- **Reminder about Supportive Services**

- The City would like to make sure the community is aware of the supportive services that are available to you, your loved ones, and your neighbors and friends. Specifically, during this time, having safe shelter is critical. Please know that our partners at The Haven will be open and running from 7 am to 12pm and then from 1pm to 5pm Monday-Sunday for any member of our unsheltered community who may need access – however in cases of a medical emergency please still dial 9-1-1 or report directly to the emergency department at UVA Health or Martha Jefferson for assistance.

#### UPDATES FROM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER SAMUEL SANDERS

- **Belmont Bridge Update**

- **Lighting:** The contractor has ordered 20 solar lights. They are 74” tall with an 8” base. Plan is to start with 100’ intervals for 10 lights to be initially installed. We will evaluate and add if more lighting is necessary. The supply of lights arrived last week and are being prepared for installation.
- **Sidewalk Opening:** the sidewalk on the eastern bridge opened December 20th. Pedestrians will need to use the mid-block crosswalk at Graves Street until the sidewalk is replaced between Graves and Levy. Looking at about another 3 weeks given holidays, low temperatures and work needing to be completed by subcontractors – but this has been raised as high priority to Caton. Then the mid-block crossing will be removed which addressed another complaint of difficulty seeing the flashing lights of crossing.
- **Alternate Route:** Garrett Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Downtown Mall will be highlighted in weekly Traffic Alert. Walking from 9<sup>th</sup>/Avon/Levy/Garrett intersection along eastern side of 9<sup>th</sup>/Avon to East Market/7<sup>th</sup> Street intersection is 1713 feet. Walking from 9<sup>th</sup>/Avon/Levy/Garrett intersection along Garrett to 4<sup>th</sup> Street to middle of Downtown Mall at 4<sup>th</sup> Street is 1700 feet. This could be a shorter distance for a ped to travel, does require more street crossings but has sidewalk throughout and no lighting has been impacted by the bridge project. Short term solution until we get the solar powered lights installed.

- **East High Temporary Bus Stop**

- The bus stop on East High is temporary in its current placement and configuration as a moveable sign. That is because the sidewalk improvement in front of the AT&T building is going to be constructed and the stop will be permanently affixed to that that new location upon completion. The reason for moving the bus stop was to immediately address the safety concern that existed with the stop being in located between Charlottesville Glass & Mirror and Jack & Jill’s as drivers were illegally cutting through the parking lot to avoid waiting behind a stopped bus. That posed a serious safety concern and with the increased attention to safe routes to schools, we moved the bus stop as an urgent intervention.

- **Little High Traffic Improvements**

- The items mentioned regarding changes to parking restrictions on fairway and Caroline are being worked as a comprehensive request and today are not fully submitted as discussed. The traffic engineer will be processing all the requests and reviewing the petitions for changes for consideration as a packaged implementation because the conditions in the area are outside current design standards and will require a full look at impact with certain changes being requested.

- **Plastic Bag Tax**

- The Plastic Bag Ordinance goes into effect on January 1, 2023. The city has ordered a supply of bags to be distributed to SNAP and WIC eligible households, but the recent weather has delayed delivery. As

soon the bags have been received and prepared for distribution, the Department of Social Services will disburse to their clients.

- There are also two locations where you can drop off Reusable Grocery Bags that can be provided to members of the community free of charge. The locations are:
  - Refill Renew, 1717 Allied Lane off Harris Street, Charlottesville
  - Dogwood Refillery at 190 Zan Road, Charlottesville



# PLASTIC BAG TAX

## Beginning January 1st, 2023

The Virginia Disposable Plastic Bag Tax Ordinance will be in effect in Charlottesville at grocery stores, convenience stores, and pharmacies.

The City of Charlottesville is moving to reduce plastic pollution in our community. As authorized through Virginia Code § 58.1-1745, retailers will be required to charge \$0.05 per disposable plastic bag provided to customers at checkout. For questions about administration or enforcement, please contact Virginia Tax at (804) 367-8031.

While this does not eliminate the use of all plastic bags, it incentivizes the use of recycled materials and reusable containers such as bags, boxes, and baskets for transporting purchased items.

### What is the Plastic Bag Tax

A 5-cent tax on applicable plastic bags, aimed at reducing plastic pollution

### How will the revenue from the tax be used?

The revenue must be used to purchase and distribute reusable bags to vulnerable populations and fund environmental education and litter clean-up programs.

### What Type of Plastic Bags will be Impacted?

Plastic bags subject to the tax are disposable, plastic bags provided to shoppers in grocery stores, convenience stores, or pharmacies at checkout.

Plastic bags that **ARE NOT** subject to the tax:

- ✓ 4mm thick plastic bags with handles designed for multiple uses.
- ✓ Plastic bags solely used to wrap, contain or package goods to prevent damage or contamination.