



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

6-2-2025

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- May 22:
 - Attended the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (CHO) Board Meeting and approved the FY26 Budget.
 - Total Budget: \$12M (4% increase = \$392,705)
 - Included in the budget are resources to begin planning terminal redevelopment and ongoing management and maintenance priorities
 - CHO operations have returned to pre-COVID levels
 - Attended the Public Works Appreciation Cookout for our public servants who keep the infrastructure in order and operating as a functional.
 - Attended the Charlottesville Business Innovation Council's (CBIC) Annual Awards Gala at North Fork to celebrate local technology innovators - congratulations to the winners!
- May 23:
 - Hosted the quarterly convening of Regional Executives. In attendance were the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Orange, Greene, and Louisa Counties.
- May 27:
 - Attended the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Board Meeting and approved the FY26 Budget.
 - Total Budget: \$4,967,592
 - New Buildings: North Convenience Center and Baling Facility
 - City Contribution: \$844,850 (\$112,050 increase)
 - Attended the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority and approved the FY26 Budget.
 - Total Budget: \$64M (16% increase = \$8.9M)
 - \$22.9M City costs (12.4% increase = \$2.5M)
 - FY26-30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): 71 projects for a total of \$550M (\$173M City/\$378M Albemarle County Service Authority)

Office of Community Solutions – Director Alex Ikefuna (he/him)

- The Office of Community Solutions (OCS) has received an award letter from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Program Year 2025 – 2026. The award letter indicated an increase of \$6,835 for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) over last year, and a \$35,617 increase for HOME over last year. The CDBG allocation rose from \$438,617 to \$445,452, up 1.56%, and HOME increased by 5.51%. The City is an equal member of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Consortium and granted that fact, the HOME fund is shared equally, and the City's share of HOME increase would amount to \$2,678.61, after TJPDC has

backed out of its administrative and planning costs. Staff will bring a minor Action Plan amendment to the City Council for review and approval on June 16.

Office of Sustainability – Director Kristel Riddervold (she/her)

- The City’s Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Performance Report has been finalized. The report, executive summaries, and a dashboard with interactive data can be found on the [Energy and Water Management Program Website \(link\)](#).
- The Office of Sustainability partnered with Community Climate Collaborative and Virginia Discovery Museum to deliver Climate Action Kits to all 4th and 5th graders at CCS in May. These kits provided hands-on learning about climate and energy, directing families to efficiency programs that will reduce both emissions and home energy costs. Learn more about the kits and what is in them in this video (including a welcome from Mayor Wade):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNmCqESJD44>
- [A Climate Cafe for Keeping Your Cool \(link\)](#) will be the fourth installment of the climate cafe series co-hosted by the Office of Sustainability and the Community Climate Collaborative. The event will address the topic of heat safety and preparedness and will prompt attendees to work collaboratively to brainstorm around local solutions to ultimately protect those most vulnerable to extreme heat. To register or learn more, visit: acafeorkeepingyourcool.eventbrite.com.
- The 31kW solar PV system installation on Bypass Fire Station has been completed and is expected to offset 42% of the building’s electricity usage. Read more about the solar system online here:
<https://www.charlottesville.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2182>
- Another large rooftop solar PV system (262.9 kW) on the Charlottesville Area Technical Education Center (CATEC) is scheduled for installation this summer! This system will consist of 478 solar modules with a projected onsite power generation of 250,000 kWh annually—accounting for over 60% of the building’s energy consumption.
- Speaking of solar... the annual [Solarize! \(link\)](#) campaign is open through July 15. Solarize is managed by LEAP and helps to reduce the cost and complexity of going solar by providing a one-stop shop for education and installation. [Sign up today \(link\)](#) to get a free quote and learn if solar is a good fit for your home or small business!
- The Resilient Together project team held a series of four community design workshops in late April and May to gather community input on preparing for the impacts of climate change. Our [do-it-yourself community conversation kits \(link\)](#) are designed to help community members facilitate similar conversations with their own families or friends and are available for download or pick-up.

Office of Human Rights – Director Todd Niemeier (he/him)

- The Office of Human Rights had a follow-up conversation with the Director of the Fair Housing Office with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) on March 14 regarding the status of interim Fair Housing Assistance Program certification. At that time, the Director informed us that a draft contract was being prepared for review. To date, no further communication has come from HUD regarding the draft contract.
- Per guidance from the City Manager and Deputy City Manager for Social Equity, the Office of Human Rights will be restructuring some of its outreach work in fiscal year 2026 to place a greater focus on emerging systemic issues. The office is currently in conversation with City Management regarding a proposed project to move in this direction.
- The Office of Human Rights currently has 19 open discrimination complaint cases, of which six are in the process of alternative dispute resolution, and 12 are under investigation. This is the highest number of open cases and investigations the Office has managed simultaneously since its creation in 2013.

City Treasurer – Jason Vandever (he/him)

- The Treasurer's Office is preparing for the personal property and real estate tax deadline on June 5 and would like to remind taxpayers of the upcoming deadline.
- We will be mailing Annual Trash Decal renewal notices the week of June 2. The new trash decal year begins July 1.

Office of Economic Development – Director Chris Engel (he/him)

- Over the course of the spring semester, the Office of Economic Development (OED) has been lucky enough to have Helena Harris join our team in an internship role. A graduating 4th-year student at the University of Virginia, she contributed to a number of projects during her time in OED including identifying best practices used in other localities to improve engagement with small and minority-owned businesses, development of new survey options to determine program effectiveness, and research on accessible parking solutions. Fluent in Spanish, Helena's most direct impact came through accompanying OED staff on visits to primarily Spanish-speaking businesses and providing Spanish translation services for several OED marketing pieces. Keep a watch on the [OED website \(link\)](#) for updated program information in English y obtener información del programa en español incluida la Guía de Recursos Empresariales.