



# **City Manager's Report**

*Offices of the City Manager  
Elected & Appointed Officials*

**7-7-2025**

## City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- On July 1, I shared a message with all City employees, and I thought it would be a good one to share with the public as well. This message along with my Work Plan Update to Council will serve as my look back on Fiscal Year 2025.

Today (July 1) we start a new fiscal year of opportunities to serve the City of Charlottesville with organizational excellence leading the charge. I reflect during this time of year as it is perfect for thinking about what went well, what did not, what can we do next year, and how do we get it done. But more importantly, it is a time to look back at all that was accomplished. And I am happy to say that we did a lot of good.

- We have new directors in Human Resources, Social Services, and a new City Attorney. Welcome, gentlemen!
- We have a 4<sup>th</sup> collective bargaining agreement with our Labors & Trades staff to continue the implementation of Council's priority for empowering employees.
- We have won multiple awards that remind the public that this organization is a leader, and that this community is attractive just the same.
- We have a new ADA Transition Plan, a Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and a variety of plans, studies, and assessments.
- We have new operational agreements that take away uncertainty, define relationships, and resolve longstanding disagreements to make way for our continued focus on what prosperity lies ahead.
- We have a fiscal year budget that did not include an increase in the tax rates (and while the reassessment increased the revenue, the budget does not compound the issue for residents and property owners by levying even more taxes).

And there is so much more to celebrate. I am proud to say with ease that *Charlottesville punches above its weight class* and that says a lot. It is because of you that it is even possible.

I would also like to share a significant change that is effective today. The Office of Community Solutions (OCS) has closed, and we are redistributing that team's efforts across multiple offices and departments that better fit their roles and responsibilities. The team will be reassigned as follows:

- The Office of Budget and Performance Management is now the Office of Budget and Grants Management under the continued leadership of Director Krisy Hammill. Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager, and Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst, have joined the office in support of the revised focus.
- Neighborhood Development Services has expanded to include a Housing Division under the guidance of Director Kellie Brown. Antoine Williams, Housing Program Manager, will continue to manage this division and he will

be joined by Madelyn Metzler, Housing Compliance Coordinator. Both Williams and Metzler worked together in the OCS.

- Brenda Kelley is now a part of the Office of Economic Development and has assumed additional responsibilities focused on supporting the Downtown Mall. Brenda's new title is Downtown Strategy Manager.
- Alan Peura joins the City Manager's Office to work on a new effort to coordinate planning, performance management, and projects that support the implementation of the City's Strategic Plan.

Alex Ikefuna is no longer employed by the City, and we wish him the best. The decision to redistribute and realign these functions across existing departments and offices is intended to continue that pursuit of organizational excellence I mentioned. We are grateful for the work of the OCS team over the last few years. Some of their accomplishments include creating a complete repository of all grants, City-owned property, and lease agreements of all City property, along with forming an experienced housing team to capture the many ways the City is investing in preserving and producing housing to directly impact the housing crisis that persists.

These folks will continue to occupy space in the S&P Annex until their new spaces are fully available. I know that the team members will continue to do great things through greater synergy and greater collaboration via this reorganization. Please support them in this change.

Thank you all for the continued commitment to service as we strive to positively impact the lives of our citizens daily.

*Happy New Year!*

### **Budget & Grants Management – Director Krisy Hammill (she/her)**

- The FY26 Adopted Budget and Budget in Brief are now available on the City's [budget webpage \(link\)](#).

### **Economic Development – Director Chris Engel (he/him)**

- The City of Charlottesville was recently awarded \$50,000 from the state's Agriculture and Forest Industries Development (AFID) fund to help support the purchase of additional equipment for BEACON Kitchen. As an important part of the local food and beverage entrepreneurial and small business ecosystem, BEACON will now be able to offer users access to labeling, sealing, and

packaging equipment, thereby expanding their ability to distribute product in the Charlottesville region and beyond.

### **Human Rights – Director Todd Niemeier (he/him)**

- The Office of Human Rights had a follow-up conversation with the Director of the Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Office on June 17 regarding the status of interim Fair Housing Assistance Program certification. The Director informed us the contract was under review and that she would have additional information in July.
- During the month of July, the Human Rights Commission is seeking community stakeholder input to inform the Commission’s legislative and City policy recommendations. Commissioners are holding a public panel during their regular meeting on July 17 at 6:00 PM. They are also holding one-on-one meetings with stakeholders who are unable to attend the panel. The Commission intends to present its legislative agenda recommendations to City Council on or before August 30.
- The Office of Human Rights currently has 20 open discrimination complaint cases, of which six are in the process of alternative dispute resolution, and 14 are under investigation. This is the highest number of open cases and investigations the office has managed simultaneously since its creation in 2013.

### **Commissioner of the Revenue – Todd Divers (he/him)**

- We are now taking applications for the Charlottesville Homeowner Assistance Program (CHAP).
  - Requirements to determine your eligibility:
    - Applicant must be a legal owner AND reside in the residential property as of January 1 of the current year.
    - Applicant, applicant’s spouse, or any co-owner residing in the home cannot own any other real estate.
    - The current year’s assessed value on applicant’s home cannot be greater than \$525,000.
    - Combined adjusted gross income for all occupants residing in the home (you, your spouse, any other co-owners, and any adult relatives) for Tax Year 2024 (TY-24) cannot exceed \$62,100.
  - Documentation needed (for applicant, applicant’s spouse, any co-owners, or adult relatives):
    - Copy of all filed tax returns (IRS Form 1040, IRS Form 1040-SR, or IRS Form 1040-NR for TY-24).
    - Copy of all taxable income statements (W-2, 1099, etc. for TY-23), if tax returns have not been filed.

- Three options to apply:
  - Apply online via webform at [https://www.charlottesville.gov/COR\(link\)](https://www.charlottesville.gov/COR(link)).
  - Apply by mail using the fillable pdf found at the web address above. Mail to: Commissioner of the Revenue, P.O. Box 2964, Charlottesville, VA 22902-2964
  - Apply in person at 605 E. Main Street, Room A-130 between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. You must bring copies of all required documentation mentioned above.

### **Sustainability – Director Kristel Riddervold (she/her)**

- Welcome, intern Kate Rasmussen – joining the Office of Sustainability (OS) for the summer through the UVA Intern Placement Program. Kate will be supporting the City’s Climate Program as well as the Energy and Water Management Program.
- Installation of the 262.9 kW solar PV system on Charlottesville Area Technical Education Center (CATEC) started on June 2 is progressing right on schedule. The project is expected to be completed in August/September.
- In partnership with Albemarle County and UVA, OS hosted an Electric Vehicle (EV) showcase to demonstrate the range of EVs available for fleet use cases, including work trucks, vans, and buses. We look forward to working with City departments to increase the adoption of EVs in our fleet.
- OS and Risk Management held an education session for staff “A Heat Ready City: How City Staff Can Beat the Summer Heat” to share the basics of heat first-aid, how to safely intervene, and promote general health and wellness in the workplace and community. This session was part of the Working in a Sustainable Environment (WISE) program.
- OS and community partners, C3, hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of Climate Café events, “A Café for Keeping Your Cool: Staying Safe & Healthy Amid Extreme Heat”. This event addressed the topic of heat safety and preparedness and also featured Resilient Together, promoting the [community chat kits \(link\)](#) develop to support engagement with resilience planning.
- OS, Risk Management, Communications & Public Engagement, and Human Services partnered to deploy a variety of extreme heat awareness and education materials and supplies throughout the community.
- The Charlottesville Invasive Plant Partnership (CHIPP) met with neighborhood leaders from both of their vine removal pilot programs on June 25 to share updates and ideas for how to expand their vine removal efforts into other neighborhoods.
- The Office of Sustainability and CAT are collaborating on a fun, sustainability-themed Transit Bus Wrap Art Contest. A community voting portal will be launched, and we invite you to take a look at the great submissions we have

received. Voting will take place July 7-13. The winners will be announced on July 16. For more information go to [www.catchthecat.org](http://www.catchthecat.org) (link).

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of e-bike vouchers opened on July 1. This is another opportunity to access a \$1,000 incentive for residents to get an electric bike from one of the three local bike shops. For information go to [www.cvilleebike.com](http://www.cvilleebike.com) (link).
- Check out new and updated information on Climate Action (annual report, 2023 inventory, FY26 workplan) at [www.charlottesville.org/climate](http://www.charlottesville.org/climate) (link).
- The City's status as Sustainability Partner in the Department of Environmental Quality's Virginia Environmental Excellence Program has been renewed for the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row.