

# Policy Briefing Summary

## City Council



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<b>Regarding:</b>	<b>Public Hearing and Resolution to Approve Amendment of Lease Agreement with International Rescue Committee</b>
<b>Staff Contact(s):</b>	Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager
<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager</b>
<b>Date of Proposed Action:</b>	October 6, 2025

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### Issue

The International Rescue Committee, Inc. ("IRC"), has requested a lease renewal for their use of City-owned property located at 410 Old Lynchburg Road.

### Background / Rule

The City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City Council") approved a Lease Agreement with IRC in July 2024. The current Lease Term is set to expire on December 31, 2025. IRC has requested a renewal of the current Lease pursuant to the terms of renewal. The current Lease allows for three (3) additional one (1)-year renewal periods. If approved, this will be the first one (1)-year renewal term allowed under the Lease.

### Analysis

City Staff has no objections or concerns with renewing the Lease Agreement for IRC's use of 410 Old Lynchburg Road.

Since 2015, IRC has operated New Roots Farm at 410 Old Lynchburg Road, providing garden plots to over one-hundred (100) refugee and immigrant households over the past decade. In 2025, New Roots Farm is offering seventy (70) plots rented by twenty-nine (29) member households. Farm members grow dozens of culturally-valued varieties representing their thirteen (13) countries of origin and many local favorites as well. With roughly three (3) acres in production at the site, thousands of pounds of produce are grown and harvested each year. Produce from the farm reaches hundreds of residents through sales and a wide network of community-based mutual aid.

As a result of New Roots, ninety-four percent (94%) of participants reported improvements to their health, such as having a healthier diet, improving their mental health, and keeping a more active lifestyle. Sixty percent (60%) of New Roots participants report relying on their garden for their household's vegetable consumption. In addition, New Roots Farm helps strengthen the fabric of our community: ninety-seven (97%) of participants report meeting someone new through their involvement on the farm. Reaching wider, IRC collaborates with the Piedmont Master Gardeners to host hundreds of volunteers each year; thus far this season, volunteer groups from Charlottesville High School, Cultivate Charlottesville, the University of Virginia, James Madison University, and Tandem Friends had opportunities to learn about agriculture and the City's diverse immigrant communities by volunteering with New Roots Farm.

### Financial Impact

There is no anticipated financial impact.

### Recommendation

Following conducting the legally required Public Hearing, City Staff recommends that City Council adopt the attached Resolution approving the attached Agreement for Amendment of Lease.

**Recommended Motion (if Applicable)**

“I make a Motion to adopt the attached Resolution approving the attached Agreement for Amendment of Lease with IRC.”

**Attachments**

1. Resolution IRC lease renewal Sept2025
2. IRC Agr for Amendment of Lease Jan2026