

## City Manager's Report

### City Departments

#### Council Meeting – 11-20-2023

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

- **Responses to Community Matters**

- Lankford Avenue
  - Public Works staff is working with the Deputy City Manager for Operations on a full evaluation of options to intervene in the safety concerns shared by multiple residents during the 110623 Council Meeting
  - CPD has also reviewed calls for service and is monitoring conditions during enhanced patrols to further assess the safety concerns reported.
- Alternative Fuels
  - Requests continue to come in regularly; the final study results will be presented to Council and the Public during the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Work Session. Accompanying this presentation will include recommendations from staff as prepared by the consultant, Kimley-Horn.
  - Currently, staff is working to organize a site visit to Montgomery County, Maryland, a community that is current implementing an aggressive climate action initiative centered on transportation. While this is not a peer city in size, they are very much committed to making investments, improvements, and change that mirrors the considerations Charlottesville has identified in its climate goals.
  - Council will be asked to commit to fleet conversion plans at its meetings on January 16<sup>th</sup> or February 5<sup>th</sup>.

- **Administrative Matters**

- Currently, Steven Hicks is serving as Interim Deputy City Manager for Operations. As of mid-October, he also assumed responsibility for the Department of Public Works as Acting Director until some internal assessment work is completed and a new search is conducted. This was not officially announced previously.
- Riaan Anthony has been asked to serve as Interim Director of Parks and Recreation. During this period of transition, the department is participating in some internal assessment, including a full review of the organizational structure of the department.
- Attended my first VA 1<sup>st</sup> Cities Board Meeting as an official member on November 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Key Takeaways
    - General Assembly Budget Outlook
    - VFC Legislative Packet includes: housing and economic development, K-12, wealth building, police funding, support for state psychiatric hospitals, and street maintenance
- Introductory meeting and to discuss homelessness as a priority issue with State Senator Creigh Deeds on November 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Participated on an affordable housing panel with Wes Bellamy, Sunshine Mathon, Maki Wynn, and S. Lisa Herndon for Can I Talk To You Cville at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center on November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Attended the Veterans Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to honor America's veterans for their service to our country.
- Attended Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Key Takeaways
    - Acceptance of audit report for FY23
    - New Baling Facility Update – expect completion of project at Ivy MUC in December 2025.
- Attended Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Key Takeaways
    - Board voted to pursue settlement of PFAS class action litigation with could generate \$870,000 for RWSA over a 10-year period
    - HR presentation of system upgrade to Paychex as a major overhaul of management of people, including payroll, training, and tracking
- Attended Charlottesville Albemarle Airport Authority Meeting on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Key Takeaways
    - Construction updates on airfield lighting conversion to LED, ticket counter upgrade, and door system replacement
    - Chicago service is thriving and an additional flight option may be coming soon; Philadelphia service is underperforming and a recent change to midday travel is promising
    - CHO is pursuing a recycling initiative with an outreach campaign for patrons of the airport to do their part
- **Good News!**
  - The long delayed East High Street sidewalk section is underway and could very well be completed by the time you read this. FINALLY!
  - The \$200,000 Gun Violence Fund, originally provided to Interim City Manager Rogers has been settled and awards were made as follows:
    - \$30,000 Revival of the Black Knights Youth Football Team within the Jefferson District Youth Football League under the leadership of The VILLEage (Terrece Smith)
    - \$95,000 Healthy, Wealthy and Wise Youth Prevention Program as facilitated by The UHURU Foundation (Rob Gray & Derek Rush)
    - \$75,000 will be used to pilot a Pre-Arrest Diversion Program to serve as an alternative rehabilitation effort where partnerships with community-based organizations will provide direct intervention as an alternative to arrest
- **City Manager Transition Update**
  - I recently presented to the leadership team the importance of planning ahead. Using the recently shared City Manager's Work Plan, I demonstrated how I use the document and

the role it plays in my management of multiple priorities in any given year. The discussions was robust and while I have not dictated everyone use a work plan design to mirror my own, I have asked all leaders to share the version of annual planning that they use. This will be an opportunity for directors to align their priorities with my own, which are aligned with Council's Strategic Plan. By having this check in, we confirm everyone is on the same page. This project concludes December 31<sup>st</sup> when I will use that following few weeks to review and react.

- Interviews have begun for the Deputy City Manager for Administration. 88 applications were received. I am very positive on the quality of candidates, and I hope to have a new member of the City Manager's Team early in the new year.

#### **Deputy City Manager - Ashley Marshall (she/her)**

- **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Online Survey Open**
  - The community is invited to participate in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan creation process by engaging in a community survey, participating in an interactive mapping project, and learning about community events. The first community event was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Carver Recreation Center and was a great success. You can participate at any time in the survey and mapping process by visiting their website, which also is accessible using computers at our local libraries for free. The website is also able to be translated into multiple languages using a drop down box at the top right of the screen. Please provide your thoughts and input so we can continue to have a community with excellent parks, trails, and recreation opportunities!
    - Visit their website at: <http://engagepros.mysocialpinpoint.com/Charlottesville>.
- **ADA Community Survey Still Open For Input**
  - The City of Charlottesville is gathering data for an ADA Transition Plan and requests your input. The ADA Transition Plan is a comprehensive plan for improving access for individuals with disabilities to City facilities, parks, programs, services, activities, and events. It is part of Charlottesville's continued efforts to welcome and serve all members of the community.
    - Visit the survey website at:  
<https://survey.precisioninfrastructuregmt.com/c/svqasrw7>

#### **Interim Deputy City Manager - Steven Hicks (he/him)**

- **Sidewalk update:** The sidewalk located at 1430 E High St should be completed by Thanksgiving.

#### **Charlottesville Area Transit – Director Garland Williams (he/him)**

- **Transit Transportation:** On Monday, October 30, 2023, Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT), in partnership with the County of Albemarle and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT), officially launched this region's first microtransit service pilot. County residents and visitors in the Pantops and 29 North corridors have a new on-demand public rideshare service that will connect the two corridors. Due to funding from VDRPT, the new pilot service, branded MicroCAT, is fare-free for at least the first year of operation.
- **Pupil Transportation:** We have 15.5 Drivers – 12 Full Time, 3.5 Relief, 3 Lead/Supervisors, and 3 Full-time drivers who started training on Wednesday, October 15, 2023. Assuming all complete

training and DMV testing, pupil transportation will have 18.5 drivers available to transport students in January 2024. 1823 students are being transported as of 11/13/2023 (Prior number reported 1,776) 189 students on waitlist (all are low need level, based on family-reported need) Elementary (pre k–grade 4): 41, Middle (grade 5-8): 75, High (grade 9-post): 73. Current Number of Bus Routes: 15 bus routes & 3 car routes (operate per day)

**City Attorney – Attorney Jacob Stroman, Esq. (he/him)** – no response at this time

**Charlottesville Fire Department – Chief Michael Thomas (he/him)**

- Promotions: Promotion of new Fire Deputy Chief of Community Risk Reduction, Joe Phillips. We are also in the final stages of the Battalion Chief and Captain's promotional processes.
- Responses: In the first four months of FY24, CFD has responded to 2641 calls for service. Our monthly average Opioid responses are nearly 9 per month for calendar year 2023 with an increasing share of Black/African American patients ~ 48%. We have seen an increase in community/bystanders Narcan interventions for overdose cases. This reflects the success of the Narcan training and distribution community programs.

**Charlottesville Police Department – Chief Michael Kochis (he/him)**

- The Police Department graduated 14 new officers on November 16<sup>th</sup>. This is the largest and most diverse academy class in the history of the Charlottesville Police Department. Currently, the Police Department only has eight sworn vacancies.
- The Police Department has started its first community academy in several years. Fourteen community stakeholders are meeting every Wednesday evening at the police department for the next ten weeks.

**Human Resources – Director Mary Ann Hardie (she/her)**

- Nothing to report at this time

**Department of Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)**

- The Department of Human Services works to support the Westhaven CARES Center (formerly the Westhaven Clinic). They recently implemented an on-site food pantry using donations, partnerships with food banks, and ARPA dollars. They are also planning a Thanksgiving dinner distribution for November 20th. Kamisha Spencer, Program Supervisor for the City of Charlottesville Department of Human Services recently completed the Virginia Women’s Municipal Leadership Institute, a partnership between Virginia Women Leading Government and the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center to provide women aspiring to become local government leaders with connections, content, tools, and opportunities to further develop their skills and broaden their network. Through this program, Spencer and 24 other high potential women from across the commonwealth attended sessions designed to develop both their skills and confidence to pursue positions as community leaders.
- Daniel Fairley, Youth Opportunity Coordinator focused on Black Male Achievement, recently returned from a week-long conference in Chicago as part of the first cohort of 100 emerging changemakers selected to participate in the Obama Foundation’s Leaders USA program.

### **Department of Information Technology – Director Steve Hawkes (he/him)**

- Downtown Mall Wi-Fi: the long standing project to increase Wi-Fi coverage to the west end of the Downtown mall is almost complete. Our partner in the project, Ting, has verified coverage to the area and once a few remaining items are resolved the project will be complete.

### **Neighborhood Development Services – Director James Freas (he/him)**

- Applications: Site plans, special use permits, and all other application types are now "live" in the permitting software. All permits are now available for digital submission and payment. The permit portal is also a great source of information on permitting activity  
<https://permits.charlottesville.gov/portal>

### **Parks & Recreation – Acting Director Riaan Anthony/ Director Dana Kasler (he/him)**

- Holiday Market: The Holiday Market season is November 25 – December 23, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in the City Market Lot located at 100 Water Street. Winter/Spring Registration opens on Monday, December 4 at 10:00 am. Customers can register online at: Parks and Recreation - Splash (myvscloud.com), over the phone at (434) 970-3260 or in-person at Carver Recreation Center or Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center. Drop and Shop is Friday, December 8th 4pm-7pm at Crow Recreation Center (Registered Program) Holiday Craft Party is Saturday, December 16th 10am-12pm at Carver Recreation Center (Free Program). Winter Break Camp December 18th - 21st and December 27th -29th from 7:30am-5:30pm (Registered Program).
- Youth Basketball: Youth basketball registration is underway. Practices start 12/9 and games begin 1/13.

### **Public Works – Interim Deputy City Manager Steven Hicks (he/him)**

- Leaf collection: Leaf collection began on October 30th and residents will be serviced for curbside loose-leaf collection three times during the season. As a reminder, a leaf drop-off location is available Saturdays, 10am-3pm during Leaf Season for City Residents to utilize as well. Location is 1505 Avon Street Extended. We appreciate your patience as our staff works through the heavy leaf fall volume. Schedule and additional information can be found at [www.charlottesville.gov/leaves](http://www.charlottesville.gov/leaves)
- Dockless Mobility Parking Hubs: Staff are beginning to install designated parking areas for dockless scooters and bikes along high demand corridors and travel areas. The first few locations are in place and additional locations will be installed in the future. We encourage users to utilize these designated parking areas to minimize obstructions and accessibility issues often caused by improper parking.

### **Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)**

- Disruptive Plumbing: The Department of Utilities has resources to help customers avoid the headaches of disruptive plumbing pitfalls during the holiday season and this coming winter. The arrival of the holidays brings an increase in food preparation, and Utilities wants to remind households of the importance of the proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) produced by cooking and baking. FOG buildup can clog sewer and drainage pipes, resulting in messy and

costly overflows. With the colder months of winter approaching, Utilities wants to emphasize the importance of winterizing a home's plumbing. Preventing frozen pipes will save customers the hassle and inconvenience of costly repairs and interrupted service. More information on FOG, how to receive a free FOG kit, and simple step-by-step instructions on measures that help prevent pipes from freezing, will be sent to customers in Utilities' November electronic newsletter. This information can also be found by going to [www.charlottesville.gov/utilities](http://www.charlottesville.gov/utilities) and clicking the links to Water and Wastewater.

**Social Services – Director Sue Moffett (she/her)**

- Energy Assistance Program: The Department of Social Service reminds residents that the Crises component of the Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications for assistance with heating equipment and security deposits. Applications are accepted on-line, by mail, by fax or in person. Contact DSS at 434-970-3400 for more information.