

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	January 16, 2024
Action Required:	Adoption of Ordinance
Presenter:	Todd Divers, Commissioner of the Revenue
Staff Contacts:	Jason Vandever, City Treasurer
Title:	To amend, re-ordain, and re-enact Chapter 30, Article 4 of the City Code (Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Persons) to move application/certification deadline to April 1

Background

Chapter 32, Article 2 of the Code of Virginia (§58.1-3210 et seq) authorizes cities, counties, and towns to provide by ordinance “for the exemption from... taxation of real estate and manufactured homes as defined in § 36-85.3, or any portion thereof, and upon such conditions and in such amount as the ordinance may prescribe”. Charlottesville’s ordinance, found in Chapter 30, Article IV of the Charlottesville City Code, establishes the parameters and conditions under which the City offers Real Estate Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Persons (RETR).

Discussion

As currently administered by the Commissioner of the Revenue, the RETR program requires filing on a three-year cycle with an annual recertification in the intervening two years. The annual application/certification deadline for renewing applicants (barring a medical extension) is currently March 1. After consultation with- and assurances from the Treasurer’s Office that they will have sufficient time before real estate tax bills must go in the mail to apply grants to qualifying accounts, we propose moving the deadline to April 1 of each year.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This change aligns with the City's Strategic Outcome Areas of **Economic Prosperity, Housing, and Organizational Excellence**.

Economic Prosperity - Charlottesville develops strategies and economic development opportunities that drive economic prosperity for all.

Housing - Charlottesville defines access to livable housing as a human right and works to ensure housing choices and mobility are provided for all who seek it through implementation of the Affordable Housing Plan.

Organizational Excellence - Charlottesville's well-trained and dedicated staff deliver excellent services to the community

Community Engagement

Our outreach efforts and meetings with neighborhood groups have demonstrated a clear desire on the part of constituents to increase the duration of the application period. This proposal is an attempt to accommodate that desire.

Budgetary Impact

None

Recommendation

Adoption of the proposed ordinance. It is requested that Council vote and enact this ordinance on First Reading (see "Section 2" of the ordinance, last page), by four-fifths vote of Council.

Suggested Motion: "I move the ORDINANCE to amend, re-ordain, and re-enact Chapter 30, Article 4 of the City Code (Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Persons) to extend the annual application/certification period to April 1".

Alternatives

Council could elect to leave the program unchanged.

Attachments

1. Proposed ORD Amend RETR 2024