

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



Agenda Date:	June 3, 2024
Action Required:	Staff recommends the appropriation of these funds.
Presenter:	Riaan Anthony, Interim Director
Staff Contacts:	Riaan Anthony, Interim Director
Title:	Resolution to appropriate \$10,000 for The Tonsler League (1 of 2 readings)

Background

The Tonsler League, originally established in 2010 by Damien Banks as the Banks Collage Basketball Association (BCBA), was taken over in 2022 by Dr. Wes Bellamy and renamed the Tonsler League in honor of Benjamin Tonsler, a prominent community leader and former principal of the first Black school in Charlottesville. The league, which plays from June through August at Tonsler Park, has grown to include a kids' and women's league, expanding its reach and impact. Sponsored by the City's Parks and Recreation Department for the past three years, the Tonsler League has become a very popular activity, especially among our African American community members. It fosters a strong sense of place and belonging, creating an infectious, family-like atmosphere each summer.

Discussion

For the past three years, the Parks and Recreation Department has provided funding to this partnership, contributing \$15,000 annually. Thanks to this support, the league has been able to expand its offerings to the community. They have successfully introduced both a women's league and a kids' league, broadening their reach and inclusivity within the community. In light of these developments and the increased scope of their programs, with the support of Parks and Recreation, the league is now requesting an additional \$10,000 from the Vibrant Community Fund to further support and sustain their expanded activities.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Charlottesville provides, encourages, and supports a wide range of recreation, green space, art, and cultural programs and opportunities.

Community Engagement

The Tonsler League is well attended by the community during the summer season and the community is looking forward to the expanded activities.

Budgetary Impact

These funds will be paid from the unallocated Vibrant Community Funds appropriated as part of the FY 25 City Council Adopted Budget.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the appropriation of these funds.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

1. Tonsler League