

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



Agenda Date:	September 16, 2024
Action Required:	Approval of the Resolution
Presenter:	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Staff Contacts:	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Title:	Resolution for State Pass-Thru Funding for Tonsler League - \$250,000 (2nd reading)

Background

The Tonsler League was originally established in 2010 by Damien “Snake” Banks, and formerly known as the Banks Collage Basketball Association (BCBA). In 2022, the league was taken over by Dr. Wes Bellamy, and renamed as the Tonsler League in honor of Benjamin Tonsler, the former principal for 30 years of the first Black school in Charlottesville, entrepreneur and community leader.

The Tonsler League is a summer basketball league that plays from June through August each summer at Tonsler Park in Charlottesville, Virginia. The league is known for its infectious family-like atmosphere. Arguably the largest and most consistent weekly gathering of African American community members in the area, the Tonsler League has played a pivotal role in promoting peace and positivity within the community through an array of different activities. Each summer, teams get together to compete at Tonsler Park (aka THE JUNGLE) in hopes of winning the championship title and bragging rights until the next season. While the Tonsler League is widely known for its weekly basketball match-ups, they pride themselves on their community engagement events. The league now has a Lady Tonsler League and Junior Tonsler League to help provide more opportunities for the community to participate. In addition to the basketball component, the Tonsler League also provides bikes at their annual bike giveaway, free food for families at our annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway, a sneaker ball for the community, and scholarships and sponsorships for a variety of partner programs in the greater Charlottesville community.

Now in its third year as the Tonsler League, we are looking to expand our programming year round, and serve more portions of the region.

Discussion

The FY25/26 state budget under the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has appropriated \$250,000 for the state's general fund to be given to the City of Charlottesville in FY 25 to support the programming at the Tonsler League. Dr. Wes Bellamy and City Staff are working with VDSS staff to procure the funds. These funds will be received as pass-thru funds from the state to the City. Once received, the City will transfer the funds to the Tonsler League in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth by VDSS..

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

This item aligns with the Council's strategic outcome area of **Partnerships**.

Community Engagement

The Tonsler League is well attended and the community is looking forward to the expanded activities.

Budgetary Impact

The Virginia Department of Social Services is providing 100% of the funding. There is no local match required. Once received, the funds will be released to the Tonsler League in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth by VDSS.

Recommendation

Staff recommend approval and appropriation of the funding.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

1. VDSS Funding for Tonsler League