



City Manager's Report

*Offices of the City Manager
Elected & Appointed Officials*

10-7-2024

City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)

- Congratulations to Hosea Mitchell and Carl Schwarz on their reappointments to the roles of Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Commission for the next year.
- October is National Community Planning Month. Thank you to our Neighborhood Development Services team for their work in fostering a safe, resilient, equitable, and prosperous community.
- Worked with Chief Kochis to complete the activation of FLOCK (automatic license plate reader) system with the following actions:
 - Confirmed 10 locations (list available on CPD webpage and Transparency Portal)
 - Reviewed and approved internal FLOCK Policy (this policy was also reviewed by PCOB Executive Director Inez Gonzalez and Deputy City Manager Marshall)
- Signed the HUD Grant Agreement for entitlement funding to support affordable housing, community and economic development, or support of public facilities. The City has been allocated HOME & CDBG funds, bringing \$1.09M to the region, of which Charlottesville's share is \$521,633.
- On September 19th, I provided a Welcome and Opening Remarks at the 30th Annual NASLEF Conference (National Association of State and Local Equity Funds) at the Omni; they asked me to comment on my connections to community development and affordable housing
- I would like to thank our staff who were joined by their peers in the county for a joint tabletop exercise in preparation for the upcoming elections; it is important that we prepare for moments such as this and readiness is something the public should expect of its government.
- I spent Friday, September 20th - Wednesday, September 25th with my city and county management peers from across the country at the ICMA Conference. This year, we gathered in Pittsburgh for networking and training. I really enjoyed sessions on trust building in organizations, prioritizing issues, public engagement for problem solving, managing during disasters, and process improvements. There were also multiple opportunities to engage in discussions on homelessness interventions as a common issue facing communities everywhere.

Deputy City Manager for Administration – Eden Ratliff (he/him)

- ICMA Conference Attendance: I participated in the 2024 ICMA Conference in Pittsburgh, where I engaged in valuable sessions focused on leadership, emergency management, and organizational trust-building. These insights will help shape our city's approach to enhancing internal processes and public service delivery.
- City Attorney's Office Recruitment: I conducted interviews for key positions in the City Attorney's Office, aiming to strengthen our legal team and ensure the city's legal matters are efficiently managed.
- Human Resources Assessment: I am leading a comprehensive assessment of the Human Resources Department to identify opportunities for improvements in efficiency, service delivery, and employee engagement.
- SPCA Contract Negotiations: I am part of the team negotiating a new contract with the SPCA to ensure continued high-quality services for the city's animal control and care efforts.
- Emergency Management Readiness: I am collaborating with our Emergency Management Coordinator to evaluate the city's current readiness for responding to emergencies and exploring infrastructure enhancements to bolster our preparedness.
- Review of 2017 Protest After Action Reports: I have reviewed the after-action reports from the 2017 protests and am using these insights to inform ongoing efforts to improve citywide safety and crisis response.

Office of Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE) – Director Afton Schneider (she/her)

- The 27th annual Grand Illumination is coming up on Friday, December 6th at Ting Pavilion. Folks of all ages can visit the Holiday Market, play games, win prizes, collect cool giveaways at City Hall Plaza, and enjoy live music from local and regional artists during the Holiday Concert. Speaking of which, we're looking for singers, dancers, and musicians for this year's event. If you or someone you know has a talent for spreading holiday cheer through music, please send a name, contact information, and at least one performance video to cvillegrand@charlottesville.gov.
- CCMC, our Charlottesville Community Media Center, hosted its annual open house to show the community where their local public access television is made. It was great to meet with folks, give tours of the studio, sign up new members, and discuss how CCMC promotes free expression through multimedia in our community.

- The City was happy to partner with the County to sponsor a cheer station at the annual Loop de' Ville festival on Sunday, October 6th. Our Communications team was present to cheer on runners, walkers, and bikers, provide water and giveaways, educate participants on initiatives in the City, and discuss open positions.
- Reminder: The City's public affairs tv program, Inside Charlottesville, airs every Friday and Sunday at 7:00 PM and every Saturday and Monday at 9:00 AM on Charlottesville TV10 – Comcast Channel 10 in the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties. We also have a free Roku app for TV10 which folks can find by searching for "Charlottesville TV10" on Roku.

Budget Office – Director Krisy Hammill (she/her)

- The FY26 Budget calendar is now available on the Budget Office webpage at www.charlottesville.gov/budget.

Office of Human Rights – Director Todd Niemeier (he/him)

- The Office of Human Rights has hired Lauren Harris as the Intake Specialist for individual services provided by the office. The Office of Human Rights is once again fully staffed.
- On September 3rd, the Human Rights Commission submitted its recommendations to City Council regarding legislative priorities for the 2025 General Assembly session. The Commission's recommendations focused on legislation related to housing access, tenant's rights, and supports for people experiencing homelessness.
- The Human Rights Commission met on September 19th to discuss potential recommendations to City Council related to City policies impacting human and civil rights. The Commission will finalize its recommendations at its next regular meeting on October 17th.

Office of Community Solutions – Director Alex Ikefuna (he/him)

- The Jordan Park Accessible Pathways: The City Council approved \$25,000 in CDBG funds on September 16 to create a new and accessible paved pathway within Jordan Park. This would enable the connection of the existing accessible curb ramp at the park's Sixth Street entrance with several amenities, including a basketball court, playgrounds, and a new trail bridge. The project is a collaboration between the Office of Community Solutions and Parks and Recreation Department. It is gearing up for construction (weather permitting).

- HUD HOME Program: HOME-funded subrecipients continue to work to make progress on a range of affordable homeowner and rental initiatives. OCS staff received training from HUD on ensuring that HOME-ARP America Rescue Plan funding goes to support housing access for four Qualifying Populations (QPs): (i) persons experiencing homelessness; (ii) persons at risk of experiencing homelessness; (iii) persons fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or human trafficking; and (iv) other populations with the greatest risk of housing instability. Staff are working with our partners at Thomas Jefferson PDC (TJPDC) to ensure that all HOME-ARP funded projects serve these populations with more info to follow.
- Housing Operations and Programs Support (HOPS) Grant: The HOPS Grant application period opened as scheduled on September 18th, following its inclusion in the City's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which was published in mid-August. The deadline to submit HOPS application is October 18, 2024. OCS staff collaborated with the communications team to promote NOFA opportunities, including details on the HOPS Grant application process and submission instructions. Additionally, the Housing Program Manager will facilitate a workshop on October 2 for organizations interested in applying for the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) and HOPS grants. The workshop will cover policy and programmatic alignment and will include a panel-style Q&A session.
- Housing Equity and Anti-Displacement Toolkit (HEAT) / Strategy: Two new components of the recommended HEAT Strategy from March—the Land Bank Program/Ordinance and an Affordable Housing Development-Oriented Tax Abatement Performance Program—are nearing readiness for Council consideration. The Land Bank presentation is scheduled for the October 7 Council work session at 4:00 PM.
- Quarterly Neighborhood Leaders Meeting: OCS facilitated the Neighborhood Leaders Meeting led by the City Manager on September 19, 2024. Many department heads and neighborhood leaders were in attendance. The next meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2024.

Office of Sustainability – Director Kristel Riddervold (she/her)

- UVA Career Center's Climate Action Trek – As part of Public Service Week at UVA, the Office of Sustainability is co-sponsoring a "Climate Action Trek" with the UVA Career Center. The event brought together a group of 25 students interested in pursuing careers in sustainability to City Space where they had the opportunity to hear directly from OS staff and partners from across the organization who shared about how they engage with sustainability and climate resilience in their roles.

- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) – Proposed adoption of an Ordinance to create the City of Charlottesville C-PACE Financing Program in coordination with the statewide C-PACE program is being presented to City Council on October 7th. The proposed ordinance will initiate a program that facilitates loans made by capital providers to property owners of eligible properties to finance eligible improvements. These include (1) energy efficiency improvements; (2) water efficiency and safe drinking water improvements; (3) renewable energy improvements; (4) resiliency improvements; (5) stormwater management improvements; (6) environmental remediation improvements; and (7) electric vehicle infrastructure improvements.
- Charlottesville’s Water Conservation Program has been recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency with a WaterSense Sustained Excellence Award for the 7th year in a row and its 10th consecutive WaterSense Program award. Program highlights include development of new television and digital commercials featuring three charismatic water characters singing the woes of wasting water, the development of tailored water-saving curriculum for CCS to help educate the next generation on water conservation, and involvement in continuation of numerous community partnerships bringing inclusive water conservation outreach and education to the community.
- Imagine a Day without Water Art Contest - The City Water Conservation Program, in collaboration with Albemarle County Service Authority and Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority have kicked off the 10th annual Imagine a Day without Water Art Contest. The 2024 contest challenges youth to show us “What’s Your Drop in the Bucket” in their artistic creations. Art submissions will be accepted September 30th through October 28th. The contest will be open to all youth in grades K – 12th living in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Original 2-dimensional creations (including photography) can be submitted via mail, digitally, or at Central, Northside, and Crozet Library branches. To learn more about the campaign and full art contest details, visit www.Charlottesville.gov/ArtContest.
- Resilient Together: Climate Resilience Cohort – The project team is excited to have kicked off the grant-funded Climate Resilience Cohort on September 30. Representatives from ten community-based organizations came together at City Space to meet the project team and one another and get oriented to the project. The cohort will work together to help ensure our climate adaptation and resilience plans meet the needs of the community members they serve and implement community-led resilience projects.
- The Climate Program Manager gave a guest lecture to UVA students taking Designing a Carbon Neutral Future.
- OS staff participated in several community events over the past month, include the C’ville Pride Festival and the Cville VegFest.

ADA – Coordinator Paul Rudacille (he/him)

- ADA Transition Plan Progress: Our contractor for the citywide ADA Transition Plan has nearly completed the right-of-way section of the plan. This comprehensive assessment of public rights-of-way is a critical component of the overall plan, and we anticipate being able to release this portion of the plan to the public in the coming weeks.
- ADA Information Requests and Complaints: Over the past quarter, the City received a total of 21 requests for information or complaints related to accessibility and the ADA. Of these, 3 were Title III-related requests that did not involve City facilities or services, but rather private businesses located outside of the city limits. City staff worked to provide information and resources to those individuals, while focusing our internal efforts on the 18 requests that did pertain to City programs, services, and infrastructure.

Office of Economic Development – Director Chris Engel (he/him)

- The GO Start-Up Fall 2024 cohort has concluded, marking a milestone for twelve local individuals who have worked diligently to plan and evaluate their business futures. Throughout the four-week program, these aspiring entrepreneurs gained tools and knowledge to help them thrive in their current or future roles as business owners.
- The program focused on helping participants recognize the ideal entrepreneurial mindset and guided them through discussion that encouraged self-awareness of their skill sets, products, customers, and market. This clarity allowed participants to begin the process of envisioning the scope of their business ideas and prepare for success. GO Start-Up also provided participants with foundational business essentials, which armed them with practical information and strategies for running their ventures while providing insights on how to effectively apply classroom study to real-world business scenarios.
- In completing the program, participants were encouraged to act on growth opportunities revealed through course discussions and homework. Each entrepreneur will now focus on taking the next steps in their entrepreneurial journey. We join with the community in looking forward to seeing the future impact these start-ups will have in the Charlottesville area.
- In September, friends, family, and community members came together to celebrate the graduation of six new GO Cook graduates. This ceremony marked not only the completion of intensive training but also the beginning of exciting opportunities in a dynamic and ever-evolving industry. These graduates have

shown remarkable dedication, creativity, and perseverance, mastering skills that will serve them in kitchens throughout the region and beyond.

- Along the way, they've not only learned the craft of cooking but also embraced values like teamwork, time management, and resilience. They've faced challenges head-on and emerged stronger, ready to pursue careers that offer both personal growth and the chance to make a meaningful impact in the culinary world.
- The Office of Economic Development thanks the instructors, employers, and community partners who have been integral to the success of this program.

Circuit Court Clerk's Office – Clerk of Court, Llezelle Dugger (she/her)

- On Sunday, October 6th, 2024, at 3 p.m., our Court will be commemorating and celebrating the 10th anniversary of the issuance of first same sex marriage license in Charlottesville (may be even in all of Virginia).

Downtown Job Center – Roy Fitch (he/him)

- August 22nd - Downtown Job Center hosted a hiring event in City Space which featured 8 Employers. We had 26 jobseekers in attendance.
- August 29th - Downtown Job Center attended and assisted with the Department of Human Resources City Job Fair at Carver Recreation Center.
- September 10th - Downtown Job Center offered a Resume Writing Workshop as a part of the Blue Ridge Health Department Outreach Network Trainings.
- September 12th - Home To Hope attended the reentry One Stop Shop at Carver Recreation Center.
- September 19th - Downtown Job Center in attendance at the GO Cook Cohort 18 Graduation held at City Space.
- September 24th - Downtown Job Center offered an Interviewing Skills Workshop as a part of the Blue Ridge Health Department Outreach Network Trainings.
- September 25th - Downtown Job Center in attendance for the City of Promise DreamBuilders New Participant Resource Orientation.
- September 26th - Home To Hope and Downtown Job Center present at the Fluvanna Women's Correctional Center Resource Fair.