

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY

WHEREAS chambers of commerce play a vital role in addressing community challenges and advancing opportunities through bold leadership, innovative problem-solving, and collaboration that strengthens local economies, enhances quality of life, and expands access to meaningful employment and opportunity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1913, the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce has served as a convener, catalyst, and champion for the business community for more than a century, representing approximately 600 members across Charlottesville, Albemarle, Augusta, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson, and Orange counties, and other localities throughout Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce has strengthened regional partnerships through its inaugural Chamber2Chamber exchange with Chapel Hill-Carrboro, hosted its first sold-out Economic Forum, and continued advocating for downtown businesses and community needs through engagement with City leadership; and

WHEREAS the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce creates opportunities for businesses to connect, grow, and thrive, convenes regional leaders to address critical issues such as rising health care costs, and has awarded nearly \$50,000 in grant funding to members of its Minority Business Alliance through an ongoing partnership with United Way of Greater Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the contributions of local chambers of commerce encourages residents and businesses to invest in organizations such as the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, which champions entrepreneurship, fosters economic opportunity, builds resilient communities, and advances shared prosperity throughout the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Council of the City of Charlottesville hereby recognizes **October 21, 2026**, as **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY** and encourages all residents and businesses to learn more about the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, support local businesses, and celebrate the vital role of a strong and connected business community.

Signed and sealed the 19th day of October 2026.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk