Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 17, 2026
City Space, 100 5th Street NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902
6:00 pm

1. **WELCOME**
    a. CALL TO ORDER
        i. Chair, Heather Roberson Gaston, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
    b. ROLL CALL
        i. Present
            1. Heather Roberson Gaston
            2. Elizabeth Stark
            3. Callum McCain von Schill
            4. Mariane Asad Doyle
        ii. Absent
            1. Dawn Lawson
            2. Emily Currier (out of town)
            3. Jessica Cocciolone (providing family care)
            4. Suzanne Lynn (out of town)
        iii. Staff noted that quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, and the minutes review was moved later in the agenda.
    c. MISSION (recited by all): *Act as a strong advocate to justice and equal opportunity by providing citywide leadership and guidance in the area of civil rights.*
2. **MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**
    a. PUBLIC COMMENT
        i. No public comment was received at the beginning of the meeting.
    b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
        i. No Commission response was required.
3. **MINUTES**
    a. Review of minutes from 08/20/2026 HRC Regular Meeting
        i. Vote tabled due to lack of quorum.
    b. Review of minutes from 08/27/2026 HRC Special Meeting – Case 2025-2 Public Hearing
        i. Vote tabled due to absence of one of three panel members.
4. **BUSINESS MATTERS**
    a. CHAIR UPDATE
        i. State Legislative Recommendations
            1. The Chair reported that much of the prior several months had focused on preparing the Commission's annual state legislative recommendations.
            2. The Chair noted that staff and Commissioners completed significant behind-the-scenes work to identify pending legislation and reliable legislative information sources.
            3. The Chair stated that the recommendation package submitted to

City Council included more supporting information than in past years and reflected extensive stakeholder input.
4. Discussion noted that several issues the Commission had recommended in prior years have now become law, including expansion of the pay-or-quit period from five days to fourteen days.

ii. Commission Membership and Recruitment
1. The Chair noted that the Commission has one current vacancy and that some Commissioners' terms may end in the coming months.
2. The Chair encouraged the Commission to think about recruitment and future membership, particularly as more experienced Commissioners may rotate off the Commission.

b. OHR STAFF REPORT

i. Board and Commission Appointment Cycle
1. Staff reported that additional applications for the Commission had been received and that City Council is expected to consider appointments during an upcoming appointment cycle.
2. Staff noted that one Commissioner may have been re-presented for consideration because they were completing an unfinished term.

ii. Recently Enacted Housing Legislation
1. Staff reported on a presentation by the City Attorney's Office regarding recently enacted state legislation affecting City services, including matters likely to affect Neighborhood Development Services.
2. Staff noted interest in new state-law language allowing localities to set policies and take measures to support the creation of affordable housing.
3. Discussion included that the breadth of that language may raise future questions about what local affordable-housing measures are permissible, including possible measures that could be tested by localities and courts.

iii. Hiring Update
1. Staff reported that Haadiya Ahmed had been selected for the Policy and Impact Analyst position and was expected to begin on September 28, 2026.
2. Staff noted that the new staff member will support the Commission after onboarding and may eventually take on some Commission-related tasks currently performed by the Director.

iv. Legislative Recommendation Timeline
1. Staff reported that the City's legislative recommendation timeline has shifted over time and that the deadline may move earlier next year, possibly to June.
2. Commissioners and staff discussed concern that a June deadline would be difficult because the General Assembly session, budget process, stakeholder availability, and legislator priorities may not be settled by then.
3. A Commissioner stated that a substantially earlier deadline would make it difficult for recommendations to be grounded in stakeholder input, especially because many advocacy partners

and legislative leads are unavailable during early summer.
4. The Commission discussed that more conversation will be needed with City staff and City Council about a workable timeline for future legislative recommendations.

v. Meeting Location and Scheduling
1. Staff reported that the October 15, 2026, regular meeting will be held at the Parks and Recreation location because City Space was unavailable.
2. Staff and Commissioners discussed coordinating building access and reminding Commissioners and guests of the location change in advance of the meeting.

vi. Chief Prosperity Officer Introduction
1. Staff introduced Joshua Barr as the City's Chief Prosperity Officer and described the role as the position previously held by Ashley Reynolds Marshall.
2. The Commission welcomed the Chief Prosperity Officer and noted that his background is directly related to human rights and community prosperity work.

vii. Outreach and Statewide Human Rights Collaboration
1. Staff reported plans to table at Cville Sabroso with a representative from Albemarle County and to co-table at Pride the following weekend.
2. Staff reported that representatives from human rights commissions around Virginia are scheduled to gather in Richmond on October 3, 2026, for a statewide convening.
3. The statewide gathering is expected to include representatives from multiple commissions, speakers, and discussion of rebuilding informal statewide human rights commission collaboration.

5. WORK SESSION

a. OHR Intern Presentation – Kattalin Bennett

i. Student Housing, Affordability, and Neighborhood Equity
1. Office of Human Rights Intern Kattalin Bennett presented research on student-oriented luxury housing, student needs, affordability, and neighborhood equity, prompted in part by community concerns about The Mark and development impacts in Fifeville.
2. The presentation framed the issue as a fragmented housing system rather than a simple conflict between students and long-term residents.
3. The presenter described how UVA enrollment and on-grounds housing capacity, City zoning and affordability policy, private developer incentives, and student housing choices interact without one coordinated process to determine what housing is needed, at what price, and in which locations.
4. The research questions addressed how students are affected by Charlottesville's housing market, whether luxury student housing meaningfully addresses student need, how The Mark could affect Fifeville, and what actions may be available to the Commission.
5. Research methods included a student survey with approximately 48 usable responses, review of City documents and housing policies, comparison of nearby student-housing developments, and review of community testimony and available housing data.

6. The presenter noted that the survey sample was a convenience sample weighted toward third- and fourth-year undergraduate students and should not be treated as representative of all UVA students.

ii. Student Survey and Tenant-Resource Findings
    1. The survey indicated that price and location were the highest-ranked student housing priorities, while amenities ranked lower.
    2. The presenter reported that approximately 87 percent of respondents said price mattered when choosing housing.
    3. The presenter also reported that approximately 84 percent of respondents were unfamiliar with UVA Student Legal Services or other tenant resources available to students or renters.
    4. Discussion noted that students often sign leases early in their first year and may be first-time renters who review leases primarily with family members rather than tenant-resource professionals.
    5. The presentation described a perceived market choice between expensive newer housing and older housing that may cost less but may also involve maintenance or quality concerns.

iii. Student-Housing Design, Pricing, and Household Fit
    1. The presentation used nearby student-housing floor plans and pricing to illustrate why counting units or beds alone does not show whom the housing serves.
    2. Examples discussed included individual leasing models, four-bedroom/four-bathroom units designed for unrelated student roommates, and one-bedroom rents that appeared substantially above a 2026 one-bedroom voucher payment benchmark used in the research.
    3. The presenter emphasized that student-oriented floor plans and individual leasing models may not translate into usable housing for families, lower-income students, long-term residents, or other workers in the broader Charlottesville community.

iv. Neighborhood Impacts, Pipeline, and The Mark
    1. The presentation discussed how student-oriented housing can affect land values, redevelopment expectations, transportation patterns, parking, and the availability of older or comparatively lower-cost housing for non-student residents.
    2. The presenter emphasized that these cumulative concerns are particularly significant in Fifeville because of its history as a historically Black neighborhood and existing economic and demographic pressures.
    3. The presentation discussed the broader student-housing pipeline, including large developments near UVA, existing luxury buildings with available leases or discounts, and UVA's plans to increase on-grounds housing for second-year students.
    4. The presenter stated that The Mark would add 181 units, contribute approximately $4.5 million to the affordable housing fund, and retain and rehabilitate two protected historic houses, but would provide no affordable units on site under its student-housing designation.
    5. The presenter raised concerns about the contested half-mile boundary used for the student-housing designation, the lack of

final rent and bedroom-count information, and the absence of a complete public picture of student demand, occupancy, rents, and beds entering the market.

v. Student-Housing Recommendations Presented
    1. The presenter recommended that the City and UVA collect and publish data on enrollment, on-grounds capacity, private housing capacity, occupancy, rents, fees, and demand at different price levels.
    2. The presenter recommended connecting development incentives to public outcomes and evaluating whether student-housing affordability exemptions produce sufficient public benefits.
    3. The presenter recommended clarifying City and UVA responsibility for housing impacts, evaluating cumulative development effects, and including affected students and surrounding neighborhoods earlier in development conversations.

vi. Discussion Following Student-Housing Presentation
    1. Commissioners thanked the presenter and noted that the research offered a helpful student perspective on housing affordability, student demand, and neighborhood impact.
    2. Discussion included whether assumptions that all new capacity improves affordability may overlook specialized housing that is expensive, student-oriented, and not usable by families or many other households.
    3. Commissioners discussed the need to share the research with decision makers, student groups, community organizations, and other stakeholders who are engaged in housing and development conversations.
    4. Discussion included that some students rely on family support, loans, or other assistance to pay rent and that UVA tuition support does not necessarily resolve food, housing, or other cost-of-living barriers.
    5. Commissioners discussed the possibility of a rental property registry or similar tool to track units, bedroom counts, rents, rent increases, property conditions, and related housing information.
    6. Commissioners also discussed revisiting student-housing zoning provisions, the interpretation of the relevant boundary, and whether current rules allow student-oriented developments to affect neighborhoods in ways that do not match the housing needs of students or residents.

b. OHR Intern Presentation – Shounak Reza

i. Mental Health Care Access and Co-Occurring Needs
    1. Office of Human Rights Intern Shounak Reza presented research on access to mental health care in Charlottesville, informed by case-history review, stakeholder conversations, and personal experience with different forms of insurance and payment.
    2. The presentation emphasized co-occurrence, meaning that mental health needs often intersect with substance use, discrimination, loss of income, housing insecurity, food insecurity, physical health, and other challenges.
    3. The presenter noted that although the Office of Human Rights focuses on discrimination, complainants may also need support

addressing related needs that affect their ability to navigate discrimination, housing, employment, and health challenges.

ii. Community Mental Health Resources Discussed
    1. The presenter described Partner for Mental Health as an organization that recognizes co-occurring needs and provides holistic supports, including reentry-related support, employment and housing connections, medication support, and related services.
    2. The presentation discussed the mental health therapeutic docket as a restorative model for people charged with misdemeanors or lower-level felonies whose conduct may be informed by mental health or substance-use issues.
    3. The presentation also discussed HART and ANCHOR as programs that involve EMTs and mental health providers in responding to mental health needs without necessarily relying on law enforcement.
    4. The presenter discussed Region 10 services, including case management, needs assessment, referral support, short-term therapy, the Blue Ridge Center, and the Wellness Recovery Center.
    5. The presenter noted that the Blue Ridge Center offers low-barrier, free support such as support groups and walk-in therapy, while some other services may accept Medicaid or operate on a sliding scale.
    6. The presentation also discussed On Our Own as a nonprofit resource offering free or low-barrier peer support, creative-writing opportunities, and related services.

iii. Mental Health Access Barriers and Recommendations Presented
    1. The presenter identified barriers including Medicaid eligibility and coverage disruptions, limited acceptance of private insurance for some services, inability to pay out of pocket, funding restrictions, administrative burdens, licensing requirements, and provider retention challenges.
    2. The presenter recommended that Council and policymakers recognize co-occurring needs and consider administrative, logistical, and funding gaps when developing policies or recommendations.
    3. The presenter also recommended increasing public awareness of community mental health resources and alternatives to emergency services or 911 when people need support.

iv. Discussion Following Mental Health Presentation
    1. Commissioners thanked the presenter and connected the presentation to prior stakeholder conversations with Region 10, including issues related to behavioral health workforce gaps, licensing requirements, Medicaid coverage, and funding.
    2. Discussion included that Medicaid navigation may be important because some people lose coverage or believe they remain covered when they no longer do.
    3. A Commissioner suggested adding the Women’s Initiative to the resource discussion because it offers free services focused on women, transgender clients, and people of color, and because

domestic violence and eviction risk can intersect with mental health needs.
4. Discussion also included the community street sheet as a resource guide that may be useful beyond people experiencing homelessness if more widely distributed and better understood.
5. The Chief Prosperity Officer reported checking the statewide 2-1-1 call system during the discussion and finding that local Charlottesville resources referenced in the presentation did not appear, raising a possible resource-mapping or data-entry gap.
6. The Chief Prosperity Officer offered to follow up with colleagues to understand why Charlottesville resources may not be appearing through 2-1-1 and how the issue might be corrected.
7. Commissioners discussed inviting Sue Hess from Partner for Mental Health, who is also connected with ANCHOR and HART, to participate in future stakeholder engagement.

c. City Policy community stakeholder engagement planning
    i. Local Recommendation Timeline and Stakeholder Meeting Planning
        1. The Commission discussed preparing for local policy recommendations and noted that prior stakeholder meetings and Commissioner notes have already generated potential local recommendation topics.
        2. Commissioners discussed using the October 15, 2026, regular meeting as a stakeholder-focused meeting to gather additional input before developing or finalizing City policy recommendations.
        3. The Commission discussed that City policy recommendations may allow more flexible timing than state legislative recommendations, particularly where recommendations are not tied to the General Assembly calendar.
        4. Commissioners discussed that some City-level recommendations may need to be raised earlier if they are tied to the City budget or urgent local decisions, while other issues may require additional research before submission.
    ii. Potential Stakeholders and Presenters
        1. Potential stakeholder invitees discussed included PHAR, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, Partner for Mental Health, ANCHOR, HART, Neighborhood Development Services, Charlottesville Low Income Housing Coalition, and additional housing or economic-development stakeholders.
        2. Commissioners discussed inviting a representative connected to the Commonwealth Housing Coalition or YIMBY Action to learn more about affordable-housing legislation and statewide housing-policy proposals.
        3. Commissioners discussed inviting City staff or related stakeholders who could address student housing, UVA housing coordination, economic development, short-term rentals, vacant properties, rental registries, and the relationship between job growth and housing affordability.
        4. Discussion included possible UVA contacts related to student housing, the UVA Foundation, or real-estate planning, with the goal of understanding how UVA and private-development decisions affect the City housing market.

iii. Right to Counsel and Civil Legal Access
    1. A Commissioner summarized a conversation with the Virginia Poverty Law Center regarding right to counsel and effective right-to-counsel efforts related to eviction defense.
    2. Discussion included that prior local efforts increased eviction engagement but were limited because implementation did not fully align with the legal partners who would provide counsel and because sufficient funding remained a challenge.
    3. The Commission discussed whether local authority or the City charter may allow a locality to enact or fund a stronger right-to-counsel program and whether the Richmond model should be reviewed.
    4. A Commissioner committed to researching the Richmond right-to-counsel or effective right-to-counsel program and sharing findings with the Commission.
iv. Rental Registry, Vacant Properties, Short-Term Rentals, and Zoning
    1. Commissioners discussed a rental property registry as a potential City-level recommendation to help track housing units, bedroom counts, rents, rent increases, property conditions, and related data.
    2. Discussion included that rental registries in other localities may be connected to inspection systems and may be piloted in areas with reported conditions concerns or violations.
    3. The Commission discussed vacant or underused houses, short-term rental or Airbnb enforcement, and the need to understand existing City ordinances and enforcement practices before making recommendations.
    4. Commissioners discussed zoning-code issues, student-housing exemptions, impacts on historically Black neighborhoods, and the need to create a public record of the concerns the Commission has heard from residents and community stakeholders.
v. Economic Development, UVA Coordination, and Housing Need
    1. The Commission discussed whether City economic development strategies are being coordinated with housing affordability, especially if new jobs are attracted to the area without sufficient affordable housing for workers.
    2. Discussion included whether Economic Development, Neighborhood Development Services, and UVA representatives could help the Commission understand how business recruitment, student housing, medical-center employment, and private development interact.
    3. Commissioners discussed whether student-oriented housing can serve other groups, such as medical-center workers, graduate students, or families, and raised concerns that some floor plans are too specialized to meet broader housing needs.
vi. Potential Drafting Approach
    1. The Chair offered to draft and circulate a synthesis of community testimony and potential local recommendations related to zoning, development impacts, Fifeville, 10th and Page, and other historically Black neighborhoods.
    2. The Chair stated that the draft could include more detail than may

ultimately be used so the Commission can narrow and refine recommendations during later discussion.
3. Commissioners discussed the possibility of using the November 19, 2026, regular meeting for additional City staff or stakeholder input and, if feasible, recommendation discussion or adoption.

d. Work Plan check-in
    i. The Commission discussed the work plan in connection with the City policy stakeholder engagement planning described above.
    ii. Discussion focused on using the October and November regular meetings for stakeholder input, drafting, and possible action on local policy recommendations.
e. New business
    i. No additional new business was recorded.
f. Decision regarding next Work Session on 10/01/2026
    i. Commissioners present discussed not holding the October 1, 2026, work session and proceeding to the October 15, 2026, regular meeting instead.

6. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

a. PUBLIC COMMENT
    i. No public comment was received at the end of the meeting.
b. COMMISSION RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC
    i. No Commission response was required.

7. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

a. Holiday Drive Shelter, Family Shelter, and Related Housing Updates
    i. A Commissioner reported that the Holiday Drive shelter had reached approximately 64 residents and had needed to expand beyond its initially anticipated capacity.
    ii. The Commissioner stated that the shelter appears to be meeting a significant community need, but that intakes had slowed and the shelter could not accept everyone seeking placement.
    iii. Discussion noted that additional seasonal shelter capacity is expected to come online later in the fall and that it is likely to fill as well.
    iv. The Commissioner reported that the Salvation Army family shelter had opened, but that available family units are far below the need, with one family reported as being number 37 on the waitlist.
    v. Discussion included the long-term Salvation Army redevelopment, the Cherry Avenue site as a possible family shelter location, and the need for additional family shelter capacity.
    vi. Commissioners also discussed that Vista 29 is expected to come online in January and that some units will be subsidized and prioritized for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

8. NEXT STEPS

a. Key Decisions and Procedural Outcomes
    i. Review and approval of the August 20, 2026, regular meeting minutes were tabled due to lack of quorum.
    ii. Review and approval of the August 27, 2026, special meeting minutes were tabled due to the absence of one of the three hearing panel members.
    iii. The Commissioners present discussed not holding the October 1, 2026, work session and focusing on the October 15, 2026, regular meeting; confirm the formal status as needed because quorum was not present.
b. Action items

i. Heather Roberson Gaston
    1. Reach out to potential local-policy stakeholders for the October 15, 2026, meeting, including FAR, the UVA Office for Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, Partner for Mental Health, and other community stakeholders discussed during the meeting.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before the October 15, 2026, regular meeting.
    2. Draft and circulate a synthesis of community testimony and potential local recommendations related to zoning, student housing, development impacts, Fifeville, 10th and Page, and other historically Black neighborhoods.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before the October 15, 2026, regular meeting, if feasible.

ii. Elizabeth Stark
    1. Research the Richmond right-to-counsel or effective right-to-counsel program, including the City charter question, funding model, legal-partner structure, and implementation lessons.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before future local recommendation discussion, if feasible.
    2. Reach out to the Charlottesville Low Income Housing Coalition representative discussed during the meeting, if the Commission proceeds with that stakeholder invitation.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before the October 15, 2026, regular meeting, if feasible.
    3. Continue tracking Holiday Drive shelter, family shelter, and Vista 29 updates relevant to local policy recommendations.
        a. Deadline/timing: Ongoing as updates become available.

iii. Todd / staff
    1. Send Commissioners the October 15, 2026, meeting-location reminder and related access information for the Parks and Recreation location.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before the October 15, 2026, regular meeting.
    2. Coordinate building access for the October 15, 2026, meeting, including any door-access arrangements needed for Commissioners, stakeholders, and members of the public.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before the October 15, 2026, regular meeting.
    3. Support stakeholder outreach and help identify appropriate City or UVA contacts for Neighborhood Development Services, Economic Development, UVA student housing, UVA Foundation or real-estate planning, short-term rental enforcement, and related housing topics.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before or in preparation for the October and November regular meetings.
    4. Share the City Attorney’s Office legislative presentation or relevant information about recently enacted affordable-housing authority if useful for local recommendation development.
        a. Deadline/timing: As local policy recommendation work continues.
    5. Continue onboarding the Policy & Impact Analyst and update the

Commission as the new staff member begins supporting Commission work.
    a. Deadline/timing: After the September 28, 2026, start date and as onboarding proceeds.

iv. Joshua Barr
    1. Follow up on why Charlottesville mental health and related community resources discussed during the Intern presentation did not appear in 211 search results and whether the resource data can be improved.
        a. Deadline/timing: As time permits; before or during local policy recommendation development if feasible.

v. All Commissioners
    1. Review local policy recommendation topics and send additional stakeholder names, policy ideas, or priority areas to Commission leadership and staff.
        a. Deadline/timing: Before the October 15, 2026, regular meeting, if feasible.
    2. Continue identifying City-level policy issues that may warrant recommendations, including rental registries, zoning and development impacts, short-term rental or vacancy enforcement, family shelter capacity, mental health resource access, and civil legal access.
        a. Deadline/timing: Ongoing before City policy recommendations are finalized..

9. ADJOURN

a. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Kattalin Bennett

September 17th, 2026

Office of Human Rights

Rethinking Charlottesville's Student Housing System

Affordability, Student Needs, and Neighborhood Equity

Introduction

The conflict lies in a poorly designed system, not between students and long-term residents



Research Process

Questions

How are students affected by Charlottesville's housing market?

Does luxury student housing meaningfully address student need?

How could The Mark affect Fifeville?

What actions are available to the Human Rights Commission?

Methods

Student survey

Review of city documents and housing policies

Comparison of nearby student-housing developments

Analysis of community testimony and available housing data



Information in Need of Uncovering

~ Total private and university bed capacity

~ Net-new beds rather than gross development totals

~ Occupancy and pre-leasing rates

~ Expected enrollment growth

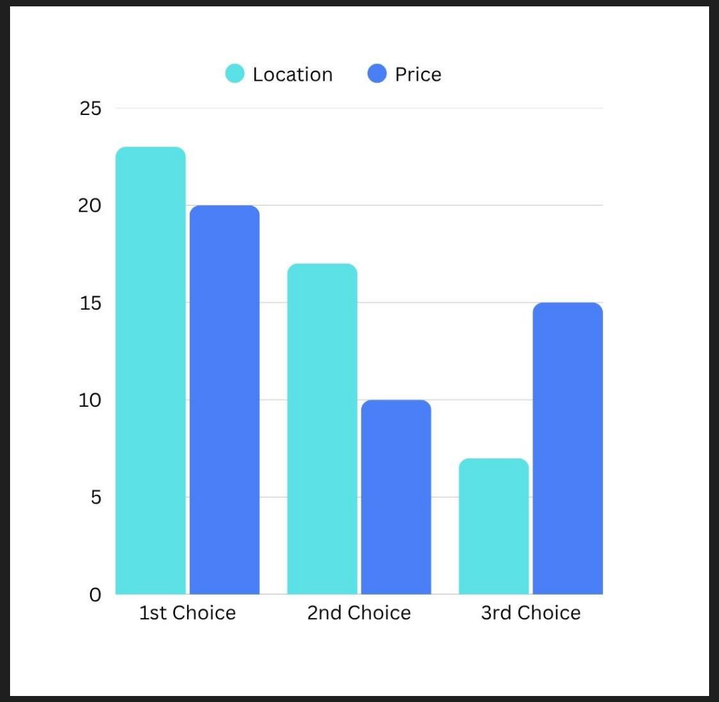
~ Rents and mandatory fees

~ Demand at different price levels

~ Which students cannot access existing housing

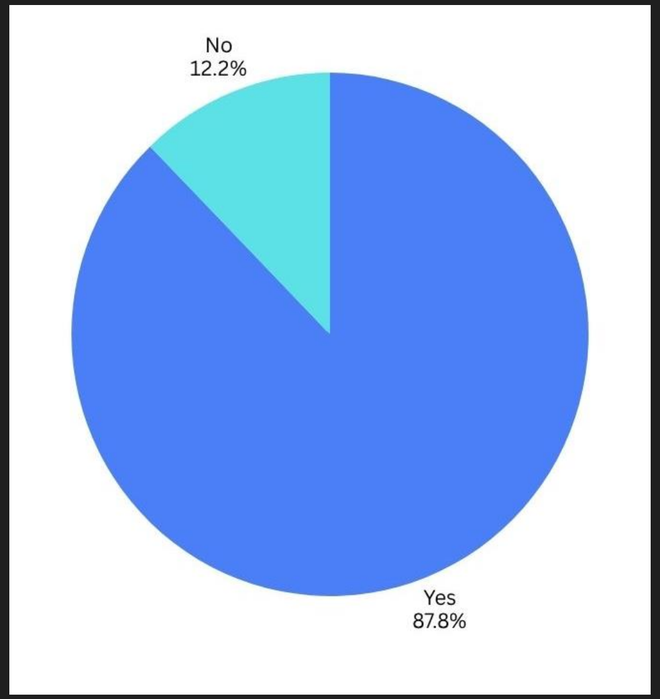
~ Effects on surrounding neighborhoods

Student Voiced Data



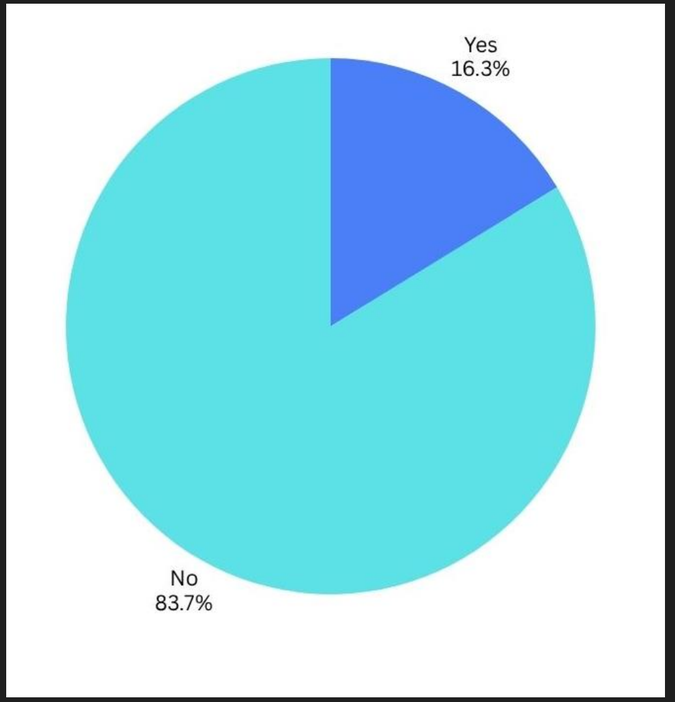
Primary Considerations

Students were asked to rank Price, Location, Floorplan, Amenities, and Safety. Price and Location were among the highest first picks.



Does Price Matter?

Students were asked if the cost of rent was something they considered when choosing housing



Awareness of Tenant Resources

Students were asked if they were familiar with UVA's Student Legal Services or other local Charlottesville tenant resources

Student Voiced Concerns

"CBS Rentals has raised prices about 10% every year."

"The flats suck they're a scam but my room is big."

"Just everything is sooo expensive even for bad housing."

"Way too expensive for decent quality housing that has in unit laundry and relatively new appliances"

"The quality of the buildings for the price is very low."

"Off Grounds housing monopoly is insane. $1100/month not including anything, central A/C, mold issues, and more."

Specialized Housing



Yugo Crestline
Apartment:
Dover Layout
4bed/4bath
Individual Rent:
$1,299/month

Yugo Crestline
Apartment:
Avondale Layout
1bed/1bath
Rent:
$2,365/month



Neighborhood Impacts

Land Values

Redevelopment
Expectations

Accessibility to Housing
for Non-Student
Residents

Transportation

Larger Housing Pipeline

Development	Approximate Capacity	Anticipated Opening
VERVE	1,332 Beds	Summer 2027
Blume on Ivy	640 Beds	Fall 2027
UVA Ivy Corridor	750-800 Beds	2027
The Mark	730-770 Beds (181 Units confirmed)	TBD

Considering the newest development plans, and UVA's 2030 Plan, the purpose of the Mark as an addition of beds becomes less necessary.



The Mark as an Illustration

PROGRESS DRAFT

THE MARK AT

MITCHELL / MATTHEWS

Recommendations

1)Define the Need

Collect data on enrollment, capacity, occupancy, rents, and demand by price.

2)Connect Incentives to Outcomes

Reevaluate whether affordability exemptions produce the public benefits they are intended to produce.

3)Clarify Responsibility

Establish regular coordination between UVA and the City.

4)Evaluate Cumulative Effects

Consider the complete development pipeline and neighborhood conditions as opposed to individual projects.

5)Include Affected Communities

Engage students and residents before policies and projects are effectively finalized.



Accessing Mental Health in Charlottesville

Shounak Reza

Co-Occurrence

Partner for Mental Health

Staff in:

- Prisons
- **The Mental Health Therapeutic Docket:** Restorative **justice**
- HART
- ANCHOR

Difficulty in accessing care: Having an **advocate** in the community helps.

Services Offered by Region 10

- Case management
- Short-term therapy
- **The Blue Ridge Center:** Low-barrier support; free support
- **Wellness Recovery Center:** Short-term residential service– accepts Medicaid, but **very limited** options when it comes to private insurance. Sliding scale applies.

On Our Own: Peer support services

Challenges Experienced by Organizations

-Funding (Medicaid)
-Flexibility in funding
-Administrative hurdles
-Providers leaving Charlottesville
-License requirements

- How can the issues be addressed?
- How can people be made more aware?