CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
FY 19 Adopted Budget
STRATEGIC PLAN
PRIORITIES REPORT
PRESENTED | JANUARY 2019

To Be One Community
Filled With Opportunity
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1.1 What We Know

In FY18 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the Charlottesville economy brought in over 2.4 billion dollars. The two biggest contributors were retail businesses and professional services. Gross receipts from professional services nearly doubled in five years. Retail business reversed a downward trend after showing steady declines in FY15, FY16, and FY17. Interestingly enough, restaurants witnessed a huge jump in sales in FY18 and hotels have seen steady increases since FY15.
Locality Tax Rates

The chart to the right compares neighboring county tax rates. Charlottesville currently ranks the highest for Real Estate Taxes, but falls behind Albemarle in Personal Property taxes and Machinery and Tool taxes. Businesses looking to relocate may be heavily influenced by a locality’s tax rate. The two bar graphs show how much an individual or entity can expect to pay in their annual taxes for both Real Estate and Personal Property.

Generating Revenue

There’s a delicate balance in generating enough revenue to sustain the city’s responsibilities while staying competitive in the region. In FY18, the City of Charlottesville generated 11.8 million dollars from the Meals Tax, 5.2 million dollars from the Lodging Tax, and 11.6 million dollars from the Sales Tax. The largest category for generating income was the Real Estate Tax. In FY18, 65 million dollars came from the Real Estate Tax.
Over the last three years, Charlottesville has seen an increase in the number of registered businesses. Substantial growth was experienced in the first three quarters of 2017 with 219 new businesses being added. The hotel industry has shown the greatest growth. This is expected to continue as more homeowners license their home-stay businesses for services such as AirBnB.

Retail Vacancy Rates
Commercial vacancy rates are an important economic indicator. The rates help determine if there is proper balance between supply and demand for the various types of space. Low rates typically indicate a healthy economy as there is strong demand for the product type while higher rates signal a depressed economic environment. The annual rate represents an average for the January and July reports.
The City of Charlottesville was one of many jurisdictions in the U.S. to participate in the National Citizen Survey in 2016. Between the months of July and September 2016, questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of 1,800 Charlottesville households, asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of city services. There were 368 completed surveys returned.

1.2 Community Perceptions

The number and dollar value of commercial permits is an indicator of the overall health of a local economy. A vibrant and desirable community will have a continued level of private sector investment that will be evident in commercial permit requests. In 2017, the value of commercial permits issued in the city continued to be significant at over $80 million dollars. This continues an encouraging trend that began in 2011. This multi-year trend is a very positive sign for the city as it shows a continued demand for new or renovated commercial space. Private sector investment is critical to maintaining and enhancing the city tax base and spurring job creation.

1.2 Community Perceptions

The City of Charlottesville was one of many jurisdictions in the U.S. to participate in the National Citizen Survey in 2016. Between the months of July and September 2016, questionnaires were mailed to a random sample of 1,800 Charlottesville households, asking for feedback on the quality and usefulness of city services. There were 368 completed surveys returned.
1.3 Initiatives

**Minority Business Program**

The City’s Minority Business Program, is a joint program of the City’s Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Division of Procurement & Risk Management. In FY 2019, the OED was allocated funding for a Minority Business Development Coordinator (MBDC) by City Council to supplement a newly approved Minority Business Procurement Coordinator (MBPC) position in Procurement. Once hired, the MBDC will focus on the development and coordination of the City’s Minority Business Program, which will include outreach and technical assistance to internal and external stakeholders, as well as facilitation of cooperative resource networks for stakeholders in minority business development. This individual will work closely with the newly hired MBPC to establish a robust program that strategically integrates business development with procurement in order to seamlessly serve woman- and minority-owned businesses in Charlottesville.

**2018 Minority Business Program Accomplishments**

- Minority Business Development Coordinator proposal submitted and approved by City Council
- Minority Business Development Task Force development and holding regular meetings
- Minority Business Program formally launched
  - Website - http://www.charlottesville.org/minoritybusinessprogram
  - Email account - mpb@charlottesville.org
- Minority Business Program Efforts
  - Black Business Expo (9/2018)
  - Charlottesville Women & Minority Business Expo (11/2018)
  - Minority Business Appreciation Breakfast (12/2018)
Strategic Plan Priorities

Workforce Development

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2.1 What We Know

The Average Unemployment indicator represents the average number of people included in the overall labor force but do not have employment. All three of the study areas experienced significant reductions in the unemployment rate, showing signs of a strong local, regional, and state workforce economy. As an economy adds jobs, increases in wages while seeing a decrease in the unemployment rate, show the characteristics of a healthy and vibrant economy.

Average Employment

The Average Employment indicator represents the average quarterly number of employees reported across all types of industries for a specific area. Charlottesville experienced a gain of 10% in average employment from 2013 to 2017, reaching the highest employment numbers on record. Additionally, the Charlottesville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced a 13% increase over the same period of time, showing the regional growth that outpaced the state’s increase by over 150%.
Struggling Families

While the unemployment rate in Charlottesville has been steadily decreasing, the number of struggling families within the lowest income brackets has been on the rise.

Number of Struggling Families

Struggling Families

7.0% Increase from 2015

Average Weekly Wages

Weekly Wages

The Average Weekly Wages indicator represents the average quarterly wages reported across all types of industries for a specific area. Over the last five calendar years, the City of Charlottesville has experienced the largest growth of the three study areas. Charlottesville's weekly wages rose 17% from 2013 to 2017, compared with 13% for the Charlottesville Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and 9% statewide. This indicates the entire state is experiencing positive wage growth but Charlottesville has seen a larger increase of jobs paying a higher wage. Usually this indicates jobs requiring advanced education and/or skills.
2.2 Community Perceptions

The Citizens Survey shows that the number of residents who have a favorable view of employment opportunities in Charlottesville, and progress on stable employment that meets their needs, has remained fairly stable, while the number of residents who favorably view Charlottesville as a place to work, has steadily decreased over the last three Citizen Surveys.

Residents with a Favorable View of Employment Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment Opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place to Work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress on Stable Employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Citizens Survey

2.3 Initiatives

Downtown Job Center & GO Programs

The Downtown Job Center (DJC) opened in August of 2014 in an effort to make employment services more accessible to City residents. The DJC, which is located in the lower level of the Jefferson Madison Regional Library (201 E. Market Street), has two full-time and one part-time staff. Over the past four and half years, the DJC has served almost 7,000 visitors, offering services such as job search assistance, help with applications, resume creation/review, mock interviewing, etc. Additionally, 20 Growing Opportunities (GO) programs have been administered through the Job Center during this time. The GO programs offer pre-employment skills training to individuals in high-demand industries that pay a self-sufficient wage. These programs include: GO Driver (10), GO Electric (2), GO Cook (2), GO Office, GO Clean, GO Utilities, GO Skilled Trades Academy, GO CNA, and GO Driver Class A.

One hundred and forty five City of Charlottesville (139) and County of Albemarle (6) residents have graduated from the various GO programs over four years. Of these 140 graduates, 131 (94%) were offered better employment from employer partners as a result of successfully graduating from one of the programs, with an average starting wage of approximately $15.00.

Below is a list of GO training programs and various workforce development events that took place during calendar year 2018.

2018 GO Training Programs

- GO GED Pathways (12/2018)
- GO Skilled Trades Academy (3/2018)
- GO Driver 9 (3/2018) - partnership with Albemarle County
- GO Cook 1 (6/2018)
- GO Driver 10 (11/2018)
- Go Cook 2 (12/2018) - partnership with Albemarle County
2018 Workforce Training Programs

- Construction Contractors Meet-Up (1/2018)
- Charlottesville Community Job Fair (5/2018)
- GO Connect - Networking Reimagined (5/2018)
- Women's Employment Summit (6/2018)
- GO Connect - Unlocking Personal Brand: Know, Feel, Do (8/2018)
- Charlottesville Women & Minority Business Expo (11/2018)
- Reentry Reverse Job Fair (11/2018)
- Downtown Job Center Open House (11/2018)
- GO Connect - Listening with ____ in Mind! (11/2018)
- National Optronics Rapid Response Efforts (12/2018)
  - Two Information Sessions
  - Pre-Job Fair Prep Workshop
  - Reverse Job Fair
Focus
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3.1 What We Know

The number of children in foster care has remained stable from 2012 to 2017 however, the number of children with referrals has increased 27% in the same time period.

Part 1 (P1) property crimes have decreased 43% from 2008, 1,927 crimes, to 2017, 1,126 crimes. P1 violent crimes have also decreased by a lower percentage, 18% from 2008, 198 crimes, to 2017, 161 crimes.

Part 1 Offenses Include:

- Criminal Homicide
- Forcible Rape/Legacy Rape
- Revised Rape
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault

- Burglary (Breaking or Entering)
- Larceny-Theft (Except Motor Vehicle Theft)
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- Arson
Group A Crimes Per Capita

Charlottesville Fire Department Incidents by Type
Charlottesville Fires per 1,000 Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fires per 1,000 Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>4.23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Target: 4.5

Civilian Injury & Death Rates from Fire Incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Civilian Fire Fatality Rate per 1,000 Citizens</th>
<th>National Fire Fatality Rate per 1,000 Citizens</th>
<th>Civilian Fire Injury Rate per 1,000 Citizens</th>
<th>National Fire Injury Rate per 1,000 Citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2018 data on national fire injuries and deaths will not be available until 2019.

No civilian deaths from fire have occurred in the city since 2009.

Civilian Fire Fatality Rate per 1,000 Citizens

Civilian Fire Injury Rate per 1,000 Citizens

National Fire Fatality Rate per 1,000 Citizens

National Fire Injury Rate per 1,000 Citizens

Firefighter Injury & Death Rates from Fire Incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Firefighter Injury Rate per Incident</th>
<th>National Firefighter Injury Rate per Incident</th>
<th>Firefighter Death Rate per Incident</th>
<th>National Firefighter Death Rate per Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018*</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2018 data on national fire injuries and deaths will not be available until 2019.

In 2018, there were two firefighter injuries and one line of duty death in the Charlottesville Fire Department. When aggregated per incident, the rates are both extremely small.

Firefighter Injury Rate per Incident

National Firefighter Injury Rate per Incident

Firefighter Death Rate per Incident

National Firefighter Death Rate per Incident
3.2 Community Perceptions

The National Citizen Survey showed a significant increase in resident perceptions of safety from 2012 to 2014 but then a decrease from 2014 to 2016.

3.3 Initiatives

The Committee on Safety and Emergency Preparedness (CSEP) was formed in February, 2018. CSEP is charged with creating the framework for the City’s Emergency Management programs and initiatives. CSEP’s mission is to reduce community, citizen, and employee vulnerability to hazards and to improve community resilience in the face of man-made and natural disasters. In its first year, CSEP has successfully completed a series of initiatives including:

- Developed and deployed Emergency Building Evacuation placards for City buildings
- Developed and deployed an Emergency Procedures placards for City work spaces
- Led the effort to achieve compliance with NIMS-ICS training requirements
- Oversaw the completion of a Department of Homeland Security assessment of City Hall
- Directed the completion of a cybersecurity assessment of the City’s IT infrastructure at no cost
- Directed the completion of a safety and security assessment of the Downtown Mall
- Coordinated City employee participation in numerous Emergency Management training classes
- Worked with Human Resources to develop a Security Manager job description for the City
Affordable Housing

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4.1 What We Know

A household is considered to be cost-burdened if the occupants pay more than 30% of their income on housing. Census estimates for 2017 have not been released as of November 2018. The percentages of local residents who pay more than 30% of their income for owner-occupied housing has remained relatively steady for the past five years. There was a 10% decrease in the percentage of renters paying more than 30% of their income for housing between 2015 and 2016. However, a one year change cannot be identified as a trend. It should be noted that the cost-burdened renters data includes University of Virginia students who live in the City.

Residents Whose Housing is Cost-Burdened

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rental</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowner</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census

Supported Affordable Units

1,969

In February 2010, City Council adopted a goal to grow the City’s supported affordable housing stock to 15% of the total housing stock. These units include newly built units, preserved units that have received financial assistance and therefore converted to supported affordable, and current affordable units whose affordability can be sustained into the future. A total of 46 Supported Affordable Units (SAUs) were added to the City’s housing stock in FY2018. This brings the total number of SAUs in the City to 1,969 units, representing 10% of the City’s housing stock.
The number of housing units affordable to different income groups -- ranging from extremely low-income households (those earning no more than 30% Average Median Income or AMI) to households earning 100% or more of AMI -- were tabulated. Data was included for both rental and homeownership housing units. Affordability for each income group was calculated by determining 30% of annual household income (for a 4 person household) for extremely-low, very-low, and low-income households. Moderate income housing units are those units affordable to households earning 80% to 100% of AMI. The rent levels and corresponding income levels related to the chart table are found to the right of the chart.

### 4.2 Community Perceptions

The graphs below shows the percentage of local residents who have a favorable view of the housing related topics. The answers refer to the City as a geographic place, not an employer.

Source: American Community Survey, US Census

Source: National Citizen Survey
4.3 Initiatives

In an effort to improve the quality of life for residents, businesses and not-for-profits, the City Manager’s Office continues to explore and implement redevelopment activities that support the creation of affordable housing as well as improvements to initiatives such as infrastructure, employment opportunities, public spaces and business development.

The Charlottesville Comprehensive Housing Analysis and Policy Recommendations report completed by RCLCO, provided the City with an overview of the local housing market, as well as an examination of the barriers and issues affecting the provision of affordable housing throughout the City. The research resulted in a number of short- and long-term policy recommendations related to affordable housing development and preservation. Upon review of the report, the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) identified several more policy options not proposed by the RCLCO.

The City recently completed Housing Needs Assessment that would inform the development of Affordable Housing Strategy.
Strategic Plan Priorities

Race & Equity

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5.1 What We Know

What we know—what the data says

Household income and unemployment rates vary widely by race in Charlottesville. American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates provide the most statistically significant data on census tract-level socioeconomic data, including many measures of racial inequality. They provide an average across a five year period, giving a sense of how economic indicators trend over time at the household level. 2011’s 5 year estimate spans 2007-2011 and 2016’s 5 year estimate spans 2012-2016. Household income and unemployment rates were compared between these two periods to provide a sense of the direction each is heading in Charlottesville.

Household Income

According to ACS datasets, household median incomes rose by more than 25% for White, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino Origin Charlottesvillians between the two five year comparison periods. In the same period, the median income of Black or African-American Charlottesvillians fell almost 20%. These trends are reflected nationwide in the Opportunity Atlas, a project based at Harvard University designed to “create a platform for local stakeholders to make more informed decisions.”1 The atlas tracks children’s outcomes in adulthood by census tract using longitudinal data covering almost the entire U.S.2 It combines myriad data sources beyond the decennial census and American Community Survey, including individual tax returns and incarceration records. Localities like Seattle use insights provided by the Opportunity Atlas to craft local policies like supported housing vouchers to attract families to neighborhoods that provide the best opportunities for upward mobility and positive outcomes for children.3

This summation of the findings of the Opportunity Insights team is particularly relevant to declining median household incomes of Black and African-American families while other groups show gains in median income:

“We study the sources of racial and ethnic disparities in income using de-identified longitudinal data covering nearly the entire U.S. population from 1989-2015. We document three sets of results.

First, the intergenerational persistence of disparities varies substantially across racial groups. For example, Hispanic Americans are moving up significantly in the income distribution across generations because they have relatively high rates of intergenerational income mobility. In contrast, black Americans have substantially lower rates of upward mobility and higher rates of downward mobility than whites, leading to large income disparities that persist across generations. Conditional on parent income, the black-white income gap is driven entirely by large differences in wages and employment rates between black and white men; there are no such differences between black and white women.

Second, differences in family characteristics such as parental marital status, education, and wealth explain very little of the black-white income gap conditional on parent income. Differences in ability also do not explain the patterns of intergenerational mobility we document.

Third, the black-white gap persists even among boys who grow up in the same neighborhood. Controlling for parental income, black boys have lower incomes in adulthood than white boys in 99% of Census tracts. Both black and white boys have better outcomes in low-poverty areas, but black-white gaps are larger on

1 https://opportunityinsights.org/race/
2 https://opportunityinsights.org/paper/the-opportunity-atlas/
3 http://creatingmoves.org/
average for boys who grow up in such neighborhoods. The few areas in which black-white gaps are relatively small tend to be low-poverty neighborhoods with low levels of racial bias among whites and high rates of father presence among blacks. Black males who move to such neighborhoods earlier in childhood earn more and are less likely to be incarcerated. However, fewer than 5% of black children grow up in such environments.

These findings suggest that reducing the black-white income gap will require efforts whose impacts cross neighborhood and class lines and increase upward mobility specifically for black men.”

**Unemployment Rate**

Racial disparities are also evident in unemployment rates in Charlottesville. Between the two ACS periods compared previously (2007-2011 vs. 2012-2016), the reported unemployment rates for white and black Charlottsvilleians decreased by 2% and 4% respectively. Still, the unemployment rate of black or African-American Charlottsvilleians (6%) was double that of white residents (3%) in 2012-2016. Unemployment rates increased from 1% for both Asian and Hispanic Charlottsvilleians in 2007-2011 to 6% and 3% respectively in the 2012-2016 period.

**5.2 Community Perceptions**

Comparing results from the 2012, 2014, and 2016 National Citizen Surveys, we can get a sense of how perceptions of community issues like racial inequality are trending. A priority statement rated by citizens and a rating of the general openness and tolerance of the environment/citizens in the city are relevant to perceptions of racial inequality in the city, the importance citizens place on city government addressing it, and how well they thought city government was addressing it at the time. Instructions preceding the priority statement read, “For each of the following, please indicate how much of a priority, if at all, each area should be to the City and to what extent, if at all, you believe the City is making progress towards meeting each area.”

- Residents are treated fairly and equally regardless of race or any other factor.

- The aspect of community characteristics assigned a rating by respondents was labeled “Openness and acceptance”.

**5.3 Initiatives**

**Racial Diversity Among City Employees**

- Using the population demographics for the City of Charlottesville as a benchmark against the demographics of employees, the proportions are in some
areas of diversity goals, but not all.

- The total population reported in the City of Charlottesville for 2017-18 was 43,475 (according to U.S. Census Bureau Quickfacts) with 69% Caucasian, 19% African American, 6% Asian, 5% Hispanic and less than 1% Native American. Comparing this data to the demographics of the City’s CY2017 workforce, we see a higher proportion of African American employees (25.2%), an equal proportion of Native American (.4%) and Caucasian (69.1%) employees, and a lower proportion of Hispanic (2%) and Asian (3.3%) employees.

- The proportion of each demographic group in benefits-eligible positions in the city in 2017 also differed from their overall representation in the city’s workforce. 72% of Caucasian employees were eligible for benefits (3% more than proportional Caucasian representation in the total city workforce). 23% of Black/African-American employees were eligible for benefits (2% less than proportional Black/African-American representation in the total city workforce). The differences between benefits-eligible employees and overall representation in the city’s workforce for both Asian and Hispanic employees was less than 1%.

Other Initiatives

Efforts to understand the extent of racial disproportionality and the presence of disparity in this community’s systems of care have been initiated. A final report on disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system has been issued and a formal committee monitors local data on a regular basis. A preliminary report on the extent of racial disproportionality in the local child welfare system was released in late summer 2018 and the Department of Social Services has established a plan for addressing these early results. A formal analysis of disproportionate minority contact in the adult criminal justice system is underway with results expected in spring 2019. In addition, the acting city manager has established an ad hoc advisory committee to undertake an internal organizational equity assessment and provide recommendations for program, process, policy and investment changes. Finally, the city has recently made significant investments in affordable housing which has been widely understood as the most pressing equity issue in this community. These activities are necessarily process-oriented and long-term and do not lend themselves to quantitative outcome reports but are nonetheless critical to addressing local diversity, equity and inclusion concerns.