

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
TO PARTICIPATE IN FIREARM BUYBACK PROGRAM
AND DESTROY SURRENDERED FIREARMS**

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville and the Charlottesville Police Department seek to utilize all available methods under the law to promote the health, welfare and safety of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Police Department seeks to establish a firearm buyback program within the City of Charlottesville to promote and enhance existing public safety efforts within the City of Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville is only authorized to participate in a program in which individuals are given a thing of value provided by another individual or other entity in exchange for surrendering a firearm to the locality upon the City Council's enactment of an ordinance, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-1425, authorizing the participation of the locality in such program as provided under Va. Code § 15.2-915.5; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Virginia law, Section 15.2-915.5 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, localities are authorized to participate in firearm buyback programs where individuals may be given a thing of value in exchange for surrendering a firearm to the locality; and

WHEREAS, such surrendered firearms shall be received and destroyed by the Charlottesville Police Department consistent with Virginia law, removing unwanted guns off our streets and promoting a safer community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia in accordance with their authority under Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1425:

1. That the City is hereby authorized to participate in firearm buyback programs pursuant to Section 15.2-915.5 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.
2. That the Charlottesville Police Department is authorized to receive and destroy or provide for the destruction of such firearms pursuant to Section 15.2-915.5 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.
3. That the City Manager is authorized to enter into memoranda of understanding with private and/or other governmental entities that may organize and partner with the City on such buyback programs, if necessary, in a form approved by the City Attorney.
4. That this ordinance shall be effective on the date of adoption.