

**AN ORDINANCE
INCREASING THE SALARIES OF MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15.2-1414.6 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, in July 2024, the Virginia General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia § 15.2-1414.6 to authorize localities to increase the salaries of members of City Council, with the City of Charlottesville receiving authorization to increase the salaries of City Councilors from \$18,000 to \$34,000, and to increase the Mayor's salary from \$20,000 to \$37,000; and

WHEREAS, the statutory limits placed on City Councilor salaries by the General Assembly have not been adjusted for inflation since 1996; and

WHEREAS, the new maximum salaries reflect the impact of inflation between the years 1997 and 2024; and

WHEREAS, the current low salaries for City Council may prevent citizens of middle or lower levels of income from participating in local government, as these citizens may not be able to offset lost income from time spent away from work; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Code of Virginia the salary increases contemplated herein cannot come into effect until the July 1 following the next general election for members of City Council, which would be July 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that the City of Charlottesville, Virginia pursuant to Va Code § 15.2-1414.6, hereby increases the salaries of City Councilors to \$34,000, and the salary of the Mayor to \$37,000. This salary increase will take effect on July 1, 2026.

Approved by Council
August ____, 2024

Kyna Thomas, MMC
Clerk of Council

Suggested Motion: I move to pass this ordinance and increase the salaries of City Council and of the Mayor, effective July 1, 2026.