

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

National Co-Responder and Crisis Responder Week

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville, with the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States have continued to address the issue of mental health concerns and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS mental health concerns, substance use challenges, and co-occurring conditions often can lead to homelessness, incarceration, and emergency room visits, which are more intrusive and costly for communities than earlier interventions and connections to behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS many communities, towns, cities, counties, and states have realized the need for additional resources to address these issues and specifically when individual persons are experiencing crisis situations, including those in the City of Charlottesville, have identified the promising emerging practice and effective program called Co-Response; and

WHEREAS co-response is defined as pairing a crisis-trained mental health professional with a first responder, such as a police officer a firefighter paramedic, who respond as a team to collaboratively intervene in varying levels of crisis with the goal of diverting individuals from arrest and jail, diverting individuals from emergency department visits, and connecting those individuals in crisis with necessary and effective resources; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville's Co-Responder Program, the ANCHOR Team (Assisting Navigation, Crisis Help, and Outreach Resources Team) was established in 2024 to partner mental health professionals and peers from our local nonprofit, Partner for Mental Health, with members of the Charlottesville Fire Department and Charlottesville Police Department to respond collaboratively to individuals in crisis; and

WHEREAS since its launch in July 2024, the five-member ANCHOR team has responded to over 50 calls for help by members of our community who were in crisis due to mental health and substance use concerns that caused them to call our Public Safety professionals via 9-1-1 for help; engaged in over 20 follow up calls or resource provision services to members of our community who were in crisis or otherwise needed supportive services;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council recognizes September 15-21, 2024, as **NATIONAL CO-RESPONDER AND CRISIS RESPONDER WEEK** in appreciation and gratitude for the ANCHOR Team members and the International Co-Responder alliance. We call upon the community to join in celebrating the addition of Co-Response to our community.

Signed and sealed this 16th day of SEPTEMBER in the year 2024;