



# **City Manager's Report**

*City Departments*

6-16-2025

### **City Manager – Sam Sanders (he/him)**

- The City workforce is completing annual performance evaluations as we close out Fiscal Year 2025. It is imperative that all staff know where they stand with the City as employees whose efforts impact lives daily. All staff are expected to receive evaluations.
- The City's LEADTeam is working to prepare Work Plans for Fiscal Year 2026 that outline their planning efforts for the new fiscal year. This tool is one that helps to connect the work efforts of frontline staff to directors to executives to the City Council. By planning our work, we have the ability to shift to working our plans with the arrival of a new budget year.
- June 5-6:
  - Met with finalists for the City's critical role of Emergency Management Coordinator. Four well-qualified individuals were interviewed by me and two panels. A new team member will be announced by the end of the month.
- June 6:
  - I interviewed with Dan Schutte at the CBS19 studio to talk about the return of fireworks to the City; This year fireworks from the top of Carter Mountain will return as C'ville Spectacular. This community event is made possible through sponsorships from the City, County, and university. It is a free event, so find your spot and tune in to CBS19 for live event audio.
- June 10-15:
  - Attended the Congress for New Urbanism in Providence, Rhode Island. This annual convening is a great opportunity to learn from peers how they are addressing and overcoming issues to achieve the highest quality of life for all of their communities. A series of tours, roundtable discussions, and larger gatherings provided insights on creative peacemaking, community brand, planning & zoning opportunities, and public service innovations.

### **Deputy City Manager for Social Equity – Ashley Reynolds Marshall (she/her)**

- Conference Attendance: I attended the first National Economic Mobility & Opportunity Conference hosted by the International City/County Management Association, the National League of Cities, and other philanthropic organizations. Mr. Keith Grooms from the Office of Economic Development also attended to represent the City of Charlottesville.
- Speaking Engagement: In May 2025, I was invited by the Office of Economic Development to speak at the Central Virginia Small Business Development Center's Piedmont Accent event, which is a half-day business conference for small business owners and entrepreneurs at every stage. The session's other panelists were Chef Antwon Brinson and David Corbin.

### **Deputy City Manager for Operations – James Freas (he/him)**

- Attended the May 15 Regional Environmental Coordination Meeting alongside staff from the Office of Sustainability.
- Deputy City Manager (DCM) Marshall, the Director of Parks & Recreation, and I met with a UVa representative to discuss how we can collaborate on plans for Riverview Park.
- Participated in the May 21 quarterly meeting of the Fifeville Neighborhood Anti-Displacement Working Group.
- Along with the City Manager, I enjoyed lunch with the Public Works team on May 22 at their department cookout.
- Represented the City Manager's Office at the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Workshop on May 29, organized by the Office of Emergency Management. Representatives of departments throughout the City gathered to continue drafting department-level plans.

### **Parks & Recreation – Director Riaan Anthony (he/him)**

- Registration for the 2025 City Amateur Championship on June 28-29 is open. Players can register online at: [2025 City Amateur Golf Championship \(link\)](#).
- Meadowcreek Golf Course is now a participant with the national organization Youth on Course which provides discounted rates to youth under 18 to play the golf course for just \$5. More information about Youth on Course and how to join is located online at: [Youth on Course | It's All About Access \(link\)](#).
- All outdoor pools and splash pads are open for the season!
- The City Swordfish swim team is still [open for registration \(link\)](#). We had 170 participants registered at the end of May. Tryouts are still taking place, and there is enough space for about 15 more swimmers.
- Summer Camp staff training week began June 9. Camp Week One begins June 16 and will run for six weeks (through July 25) at Summit and Johnson Elementary Schools.
- June Special Events:
  - June 20 from 7:30 AM to 10:30 PM is Play All Day VA. Charlottesville Parks & Recreation will be hosting multiple free events all day long!
- City Market:
  - The City Market partnered with Neighborhood Development Services (NDS) to promote Bike Month. On the last Saturday in May, riders of all ages met at the City Market to go on a group bike ride.
  - With all of the fresh fruits and veggies in season, be sure to pick up one of The City Market's cookbooks. Be inspired by delicious dishes shared by some very familiar faces! Copies of the City Market Cookbook can be

purchased at any recreation center location, at The City Market information table on Saturday, or by contacting Justin McKenzie at [mckenziej@charlottesville.gov](mailto:mckenziej@charlottesville.gov).

### **Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)**

- The Charlottesville Department of Utilities continues its ongoing replacement of outdated infrastructure throughout the City's water distribution system with the Locust Avenue Water Line Replacement Project, scheduled to break ground this month. The water main along Locust Avenue was installed in the 1920s, and due to its age, has experienced a steady increase in breaks and leaks over the past decade. This replacement project will improve service by bringing the water system in the area up to current industry standards, significantly enhance system reliability, and reduce the risk of future service disruptions.
- Utilities held an open house for the project on June 10, inviting the community to learn more about the project, understand what to expect during construction, and to ask questions. Attendees were able to speak with representatives from the Department of Utilities, the City's Traffic Engineer, the engineering firm Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP, and the contracting company Southeast Connections, LLC. Utilities communicated the upcoming work and open house through several social media posts, via a news story on NBC29, and by sending over 400 letters to residents who may be directly impacted by the replacement.
  - The Department of Utilities is committed to providing first-rate utility services. The Locust Avenue Water Line Replacement Project will strengthen the long-term sustainability, resiliency, and efficiency of the water distribution system for all of Charlottesville and will help ensure the community continues to receive reliable, high-quality water.
  - Updates on the project's progress, and other relevant information, will be available at [www.charlottesville.gov/utilitiesCIP](http://www.charlottesville.gov/utilitiesCIP) ([link](#)).

### **Neighborhood Development Services – Director Kellie Brown (she/her)**

- Short Term Rentals (STR):
  - STR outreach is underway, including a targeted engagement effort via postcards, City newsletters, and neighborhood associations.
  - Application deadline: June 1, 2025, with a \$100 late fee applied after 14 days.
  - A public survey was launched to gather feedback on STR policies (95 responses have been received at this time).
    - Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/g/xnGGyLE7Ui>
  - STR Info page: <https://charlottesville.gov/1894/Homestay-Short-Term-Rental-FAQ>

- Procurement for the Granicus compliance software has been finalized.
- Staff Update:
  - Victoria “Tori” Kanellopoulos was introduced as the City’s new Long-Range Planner. She joins from Albemarle County with significant experience in long-range and strategic planning, including work on the County's Comprehensive Plan.
  - A Planning Intern joined the team for the summer to support various initiatives, including development of neighborhood fact sheets and assisting with existing conditions analysis and engagement for the 10th & Page and Rose Hill Vision Plans.

### **Human Services – Director Misty Graves (she/her)**

- In an effort to promote safety and connection for teens in Charlottesville, the Department of Human Services and Parks and Recreation hosted its first Teen Takeover event this summer on May 31. It included free skating with food trucks and entertainment at Carver Recreation Center. Over 25 youth participated, and partners supported the event to help ensure it was safe and successful. The next event will take place on Sunday, June 29 from 3 - 6 PM at Washington Park with field day games, arts and crafts, and more entertainment. For more information follow on Facebook at: Charlottesville Area Youth Opportunity Coordination. There will be more events for teens to come!
- Our community-based Services launched a week-long training to onboard eight summer staff. These dedicated staff will work alongside youth enrolled in the Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) and the Teens GIVE Service-Learning Program. This summer, we anticipate hosting 150 interns with CAYIP and 25 youth with Teens GIVE. We look forward to cultivating excitement and passion for working with youth!

### **Charlottesville Fire Department – Chief Michael Thomas (he/him)**

- The Insurance Services Office (ISO) score has been reviewed and returned. Charlottesville will remain an ISO 1. This is a huge lift for Water, Charlottesville-UVa-Albemarle Emergency Communications Center (CUA ECC), and the Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD).
- Captain Butler completed the Virginia Fire Marshal Basic Law Enforcement Academy (14 weeks of law enforcement training)
- The new Bypass Fire Station – Station #1 – CFD is planning an open house. The date is still TBD.

## Key Operations Metrics:

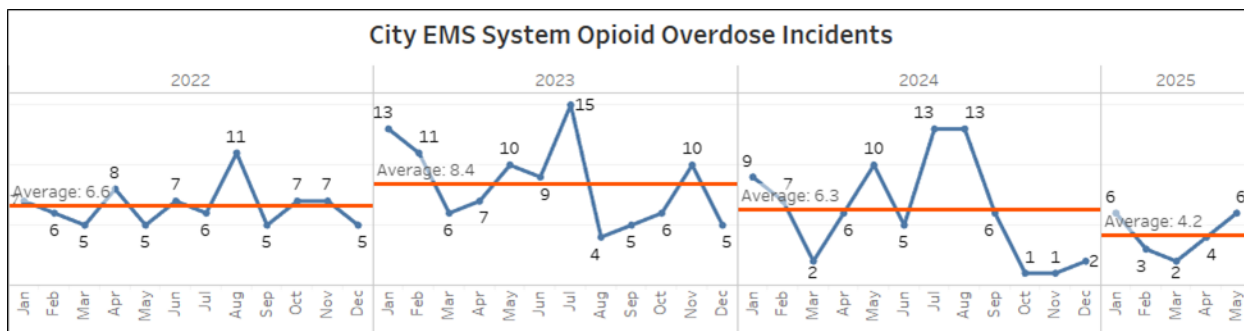
| CFD Incident Comparison: FY23 to FY25 YTD July- May |         |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
|   | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
| EMS/Rescue  | 5,171   | 4,743   | 4,461   |
| Fire  | 188     | 156     | 193     |
| Other Type  | 2,393   | 2,108   | 2,580   |
| Grand Total   | 7,752   | 7,007   | 7,233   |

- Comparing the first 11 months of FY25 to the same period in FY24, CFD incidents are up by 3% across all categories.
- Fire incidents increased by 24%, EMS incidents decreased by 6%, and all other types of incidents increased by 22%. Cooking fires increased by 78% in the first 11 months of 2025 compared to 2024.

| Monthly Incident Averages and Trends                                |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Avg. Monthly EMS Incidents Last 12 Months                           | Avg. Monthly Fire Incidents Last 12 Months                           | Avg. Monthly Other Type Incidents Last 12 Months                           |
| 374   | 15   | 203  |
| Change in Avg. Monthly EMS Incidents in Last Year vs. Previous Year | Change in Avg. Monthly Fire Incidents in Last Year vs. Previous Year | Change in Avg. Monthly Other Type Incidents in Last Year vs. Previous Year |
| -4.0%   | 29.3%  | 26.3%  |

- On average, CFD has run about 374 EMS incidents, 15 fire incidents, and 203 other types of incidents each month in the last year. Comparing those monthly averages to the year before, EMS incidents slightly decreased. Fire and all other incident types increased.

## Opioid Overdoses:



- Opioid overdoses in the City decreased in 2025. CFD and Charlottesville-Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS) have run an average of about four overdoses monthly in 2025, a decrease from 2024's average of six overdoses monthly.
- Unhoused EMS Patients:
  - CFD and CARS added a new field to patient care reports to track emergency medical responses to unhoused patients in June 2024. Our records show that over the last year, CFD & CARS have responded to 38 unhoused patients monthly on average.
  - The top three findings of attendants in charge on these incidents were non-traumatic pain (18% of calls), alcohol abuse (13% of calls), and bodily injuries (12% of calls).
- Inspections (Year to Date):
  - 530 inspections (275 different businesses) in total.
  - 63 permits have been issued.
  - 160 third-party inspections with the Inspection Reports Online (IROL) system.
  - Engineering and Planning Bureau – CFD has seen an increase in plans reviewed and inspections for new construction since increasing staffing to a full-time Battalion Chief in January 2025.
  - 61 site plans reviewed.
  - 19 sprinkler plans reviewed.
  - 8 fire alarm plans reviewed (new to CFD for 2025).
  - 51 inspections (construction sites, sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems).
- Investigations/Fires:
  - Lithium battery fire at Locust Lane
  - Lithium battery fire at Maury Avenue
- The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) is working with the Communications & Public Engagement Office to send out a safety message this week about lithium-ion battery safety.

## **Charlottesville Area Transit – Director Garland Williams (he/him)**

- On May 29, two Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) employees, Evelyn Trice and Janice Woodson, received the Helen Poore Transit Professional Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Transit Association (VTA).
- The Transit Professional Distinguished Service Award is named after Helen Poore, an outstanding transit manager of Charlottesville Transit from 1973-2003. She achieved national recognition as the first female Transit Manager and was a founding member of the VTA. This award is presented annually to transit professionals who, over the course of their career, have made outstanding contributions to public transportation in their locality and in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Mrs. Evelyn Trice - For over 34 years, “Miss Trice” has been a driving force behind public transportation in Charlottesville. Beginning her career as a School Bus Operator, she transitioned to Charlottesville Transit Service (CTS), presently known as Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT), where she worked her way up from Dispatcher to Safety, Security, and Training Coordinator. Evelyn has played a vital role in ensuring operator and passenger safety, implementing federal and state training programs, and mentoring the next generation of transit professionals.
- Mrs. Janice Woodson - For 33 years, Janice Woodson has been an unsung hero working behind the scenes. Janice started as an Account Clerk and continued to advance into her current role as Senior Accountant, handling (operating and capital) budgets, compliance issues, and financial operations that keep CAT on track. She is the backbone of CAT’s daily operations, ensuring that maintenance, operations, and administration always have the supplies, purchase orders, and resources they need. Without her meticulous coordination, CAT’s ability to function would be severely hindered.
- Evelyn and Janice were both hired by Helen Poore and are the first CAT employees to receive the VTA distinguished service award.