

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

*"To be one community filled with opportunity"*

Human Rights Commission  
P.O. Box 911 · Charlottesville, Virginia 22902  
Telephone 434-970-3023  
humanrights@charlottesville.gov  
www.charlottesville.gov/665/Human-Rights



October 27, 2022

Dear Mayor Snook and City Councilors,

Pursuant to Sec. 2-433. (e) of the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance, it is the role of the Human Rights Commission to “make recommendations regarding the City’s annual legislative programs and policies that will address discrimination.” On October 20, 2022, the Human Rights Commission considered feedback from a survey to the public and voted to adopt the following recommendations for consideration by City Council as it prepares its statement of legislative positions for the 2022 General Assembly session.

1. Housing Equity:
  - a. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to support increasing state assistance for those experiencing homelessness and maintaining stable housing.
  - b. HRC reaffirms our 2021 recommendation to allow localities to bring an action in court for substandard housing conditions.
  - c. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to support state legislation to enable local rent control.
2. Transportation Equity & Accessibility:
  - a. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to increase frequent and reliable transit, in the form of state-wide intercity affordable and accessible public transit options.
  - b. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to increase funding devoted to improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
3. Health & Food Equity:
  - a. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to protect access to reproductive healthcare.
  - b. The City should advocate for opposition to Executive Order No. 1 “On Divisive Concepts”.
  - c. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to improved access to health care for minority and disadvantaged communities, using evidence-based approaches (i.e., Proposed Model Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia Public Schools) to evaluate any proposed policies.
  - d. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to enact state benefits that address hunger and poor nutrition such as a state-wide universal school meals program.
4. Equity in Law Enforcement:
  - a. The City should advocate for enabling legislation to reshape policing by enabling alternatives to police response.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Commission to discuss these matters. Thank you for considering our recommendation as you prepare your statement of legislative position for the 2022 General Assembly Session.

Sincerely,

*Jessica A Harris*

Jessica Harris  
Chair  
Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Commissioners:

- Jessica Harris (Chair)
- Ernest Chambers (Vice-Chair)
- Jeanette Abi-Nader
- Mary Bauer
- Wolfgang Keppley
- Kathryn Laughon
- Andrew Orban
- Lyndele Von Schill