

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	April 5, 2021
Action Required:	First Reading: Ordinance to Repeal the City’s COVID Ordinance
Presenter:	Heather Hill, City Councilor
Staff Contacts:	Charles P. Boyles, II, City Manager Lisa Robertson, Chief Deputy/Acting City Attorney
Title:	Repeal of Local COVID Public Health Ordinance

Background:

In 2020 the Charlottesville City Council enacted a local ordinance to prevent the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (“Covid 19”) pursuant to authority set forth in state law and Section 14 of the City Charter. Recently, on **December 10, 2020** and again on **February 16, 2021**, City Council amended its local ordinance to bring it into closer conformance with the Executive Orders issued by the Governor of Virginia. However, separately from the Governor’s Executive Orders the City’s local ordinance continues to impose local restrictions on the numbers of persons allowed at food establishments and requires a warning to a property owner or tenant prior to enforcing any state-imposed restrictions on the size of a gathering.

Discussion:

Councilor Hill requests that Council revisit the question of whether the City’s local ordinance should be repealed. Councilor Hill is concerned that as things progress relative to reopening in the coming months, there will continue to be confusion and discrepancies between what is being directed at the state and local level, making maintaining our own local ordinance growingly more cumbersome.

(Note: separately, on April 19, 2021 the City’s current Continuity of Government Ordinance will expire unless extended by City Council. We plan to present a proposed, revised Continuity of Government Ordinance for consideration on that date).

Alignment with Council Vision Areas and Strategic Plan:

Each of Council’s Alternatives, below, can be said to align with one or more Council Vision Areas.

Community Engagement: N/A

Budgetary Impact: N/A

Recommendation: None at this time.

Alternatives:

- (1) No change (no action required): City Council may, after discussing the matter, decide not to repeal or change the existing ordinance in any way.
- (2) Repeal the Current Ordinance (adopt an Ordinance to repeal the existing Ordinance, per City Code §2-100): if Council wishes, it could repeal the current local ordinance, and allow activities and gatherings subject only to the Governor's Executive Orders. (**Attachment A** to this Memo is an Ordinance repealing the current Ordinance). This Ordinance would require two readings, per City Code Sec. 2-97.

Attachment (1):

Attachment A: Ordinance repealing the local COVID Ordinance

ATTACHMENT A

**ORDINANCE
REPEALING THE CITY’S ORDINANCE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, SARS-CoV-2, AND THE DISEASE IT CAUSES,
COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS COVID-19
(AS AMENDED THROUGH FEBRUARY 16, 2021)**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that this Council hereby repeals, in its entirety, the Ordinance adopted by City Council to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and the Disease it Causes, commonly referred to as Covid-19, as such Ordinance was adopted by Council and amended from time to time (most recently amended and reenacted on February 16, 2021).