

**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**March 15, 2021**  
**Virtual/electronic meeting via Zoom**

**4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, the Charlottesville City Council met in work session on Monday, March 15, 2021, to hear reports. The meeting was held electronically pursuant to local ordinances to ensure the continuity of government and prevent the spread of disease during the coronavirus pandemic.

Mayor Walker called to order at 4:04 p.m. and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following members present: Mayor Nikuyah Walker, Vice Mayor Sena Magill, and Councilors Heather Hill, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

**REPORTS**

**1. Report: Monthly Financial Report**

Ryan Davidson, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, presented the monthly financial report. Council questions about taxes were answered by Ryan Davidson and Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers.

**2. Report: Community Risk Reduction Report**

Fire Chief Hezedeane Smith shared an introduction to Community Risk Reduction and department operation structure. He turned the presentation over to Deputy Chief Joe Powers who gave background information about fire prevention and its evolution to Community Risk Reduction, of which the purpose which is to prevent incidents from occurring and having the resources in place to minimize damage in incidents. He thanked community partners. He also emphasized the importance of inter-departmental working relationships to effectively impact community risk reduction - finding the right connections and fostering relationships.

Chief Smith advised that data would continue to be a driver for the Fire Department's service model and delivery on the Charlottesville Fire Department Strategic Plan.

**3. Open Society Foundation Emma Lazarus Campaign on Cities Grant Final Report**

Kaki Dimock, Director of Human Services, shared an update on the Open Society Foundation Emma Lazarus Campaign fund distribution. Per the report, on July 20, 2020, City Council appropriated \$300,000 to use as emergency relief for community members ineligible for the Federal CARES stimulus checks. \$250,000 was appropriated from a grant to the Department of Human Services, in coordination with Albemarle County Office of Equity and Inclusion, from the Emma Lazarus Campaign on Cities, a project of the Open Society Foundation. An additional

\$50,000 was previously appropriated from the Department of Human Services fund balance in support of grant activities. With assistance from the city's Finance Department and Treasurer's Office, 600 prepaid VISA cards in the amount of \$500 were purchased for distribution to individuals who were ineligible for the Federal stimulus checks due to their status as migrant, immigrant, undocumented or domestic workers. Individuals were prioritized for relief based on three additional criteria:

- Severe economic need
- Presence of children under 18 years of age in the household
- Medical vulnerability

Community providers with existing relationships with individuals likely to meet eligibility requirements were recruited to distribute cards. These agencies included Sin Barreras, Cville Cares, Piedmont Virginia Community College, International Neighbors, International Rescue Committee, Child Health Partnership, Charlottesville Department of Human Services and Habitat for Humanity. Community members receiving this financial assistance reported compounded need and medical vulnerabilities. They self-identified as:

72.4% immigrant

37.6% domestic worker

15.9% migrant worker

3.8% undocumented worker

93% of recipient households included children under 18 years of age

74% of recipient households reported severe economic risk

20% of recipient households included someone with medical vulnerability

79% Hispanic/Latinx

7.4% Asian

5.5% Black

3.8% White

3.1% Multiple ethnicities/races

1.2% Native American/Indigenous

City and county staff met regularly with service providers focused on improving the well-being of undocumented, immigrant, migrant and domestic workers to ensure that implementation could be achieved in partnership. Decisions around data collection, screening criteria, and government engagement were informed by community service providers with direct knowledge of the needs, conditions, and fears of the targeted population.

This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's Strategic Plan Goal #1 of an inclusive community of self-sufficient residents.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No speakers came forward to speak.

Mayor Walker adjourned the work session at 4:50 p.m. and Council convened in closed session.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council