

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	February 21, 2023
Action Required:	Appropriation of grant funds
Presenter:	Susan Morrow - Offender Aid and Restoration, Jen Scott - Offender Aid and Restoration
Staff Contacts:	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Title:	<b>Appropriating Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$61,500 for operations of the therapeutic docket program (2nd reading)</b>

**Background**

The City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Therapeutic Docket program, has received a Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$61,500 for operations of the therapeutic docket program, which is operated by Offender Aid and Restoration (O.A.R.). The City of Charlottesville serves as fiscal agent for the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant.

**Discussion**

In its fourth year of operation, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Therapeutic Docket program is a supervised 8 to 12 month treatment program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for offenders. The Therapeutic Docket is a specialized docket within the existing structure of the court system given the responsibility to handle cases involving non-violent adult misdemeanor offenders who suffer from serious mental illness. The program uses the power of the court to assist non-violent offenders to achieve wellness and recovery through a combined system of intensive supervision, medication management, mental health treatment, and regular court appearances.

The total program budget is \$228,700 and includes three funding sources:

Supreme Court of VA:	\$61,500
City of Charlottesville:	\$110,000, (previously appropriated)
Albemarle County:	\$57,200, (previously appropriated)

**Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan**

This relates to the City of Charlottesville's priority area of safety/criminal justice. The Therapeutic Docket is a valuable, less expensive alternative to incarceration for certain criminal offenders with serious mental illness which utilizes a blend of court-ordered supervision, mental health treatment services, court appearances, and behavioral sanctions and incentives to reduce recidivism and enhance personal accountability and mental health and wellness among participants.

## **Community Engagement**

The Therapeutic Docket is a direct service provider and is engaged daily with non-violent criminal offenders with serious mental illness who are at a high level of risk for reoffending and have a high level of need due to mental illness. By collaborating with the Court system, Region Ten Community Services Board and Partner for Mental Health, the Therapeutic Docket provides these offenders with a highly structured, rigorously supervised system of treatment and criminal case processing that results in a significant reduction in recidivism rates for program participants and graduates. Participants gain access to the Therapeutic Docket through referrals from police, probation, magistrates, defense attorneys and other local stakeholders. Participants have active criminal cases pending in the General District Court. If they successfully complete the program, which takes a minimum of 6 months, participants may have their pending charges dismissed. If participants are unsuccessful and have to be terminated from the program, they return to court to face their original charges. Successful Therapeutic Docket participants return the community's investment in them by improving their mental health status, maintaining compliance with treatment regimens, including medications, and reducing their criminal behaviors in the community.

## **Budgetary Impact**

No additional City funding is required as the City's match for this grant, \$110,000, was appropriated within the FY 2023 Council Approved Budget as part of the City's contribution to Offender Aid and Restoration.

## **Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval and appropriation.

## **Alternatives**

Council could choose to not approve the grant.

## **Attachments**

1. Resolution\_FY23 TD Appropriation 1900499