

**RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE CONTINUATION, EXPANSION, AND REVIEW OF THE
CHARLOTTESVILLE SUPPLEMENTAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FROM
CHARLOTTESVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
RESOLUTION #: HR19-1**

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Human Rights Commission, hereinafter “the Commission,” acts as a strong advocate for justice and equal opportunity by providing citywide leadership and guidance in the area of civil rights (City code Article XV. Sec. 2-433.); and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance identifies housing as a protected activity (City code Article XV. Sec. 2-431a.); and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance identifies age, disability, marital status, national origin, pregnancy/childbirth, race/skin color, religion, and sex as protected classes (City code Article XV. Sec. 2-431a.); and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty, and people aged 65 or older make up the largest percentage of the disabled population (Thomas Jefferson Area Planning District Commission Draft Analysis to Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, January 17, 2019); and

WHEREAS, low-income African American and Hispanic households bear a disproportionate share of the cost burden of the lack of affordable housing (City of Charlottesville Housing Needs Assessment Socioeconomic and Housing Market Analysis, April 4, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the average cost of rental housing in the City of Charlottesville is \$1,384 (City of Charlottesville Housing Needs Assessment Socioeconomic and Housing Market Analysis, April 4, 2018); and

WHEREAS, for a family of three at 30 percent of AMI (roughly \$20,700) affordable rent would be \$520 per month, including utilities (City of Charlottesville Housing Needs Assessment Socioeconomic and Housing Market Analysis, April 4, 2018); and

WHEREAS, Charlottesville is home to an estimated 811 extremely low-income (less than 30 percent AMI) non-student renter households, 115 individuals in emergency shelters, and 23 unsheltered individuals (City of Charlottesville Housing Needs Assessment Socioeconomic and Housing Market Analysis, April 4, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the waiting lists for public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers are currently closed, include 1,651 unduplicated households, and represent an eight-year wait for a voucher or a seven-year

wait for a public housing unit (City of Charlottesville Housing Needs Assessment Socioeconomic and Housing Market Analysis, April 4, 2018); and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund, hereinafter “the CAHF,” was created as the City’s primary mechanism for promoting and supporting the creation, preservation and rehabilitation of affordable housing within the City; and

WHEREAS, City Council approved \$900K of CAHF funds in FY2019 to support the Charlottesville Supplemental Rental Assistance Program, hereinafter “the CSRAP;” and

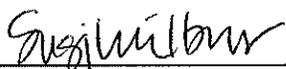
WHEREAS, 67 households are currently living in rental housing supported by the CSRAP, 27 households have received CSRAP vouchers and are currently searching for housing (Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) CSRAP quarterly report, November 2018), and an additional unknown number of households are currently on the CSRAP waiting list; and

WHEREAS, the above number of awarded CSRAP vouchers exceeds the current funding from the CAHF for FY2019 (memo to Mike Murphy and Alex Ikefuna from Stacy Pethia November 30, 2018), and funding for the CSRAP in FY2020 has not yet been determined; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby advocates for an appropriation of \$131,000 for FY2019 and a budgeted amount of \$987,000 for FY2020 for the CSRAP, which includes:

- The appropriation of additional funding for the CSRAP during FY2019, as needed, and up to \$131,000 (according to CRHA figures from January 31, 2019), to support all households who have received CSRAP vouchers and are currently searching for housing; and
- The continued funding of the CSRAP in FY2020 to support current voucher holders at an estimated cost of \$758,000 (according to CRHA figures from January 31, 2019); and
- An increase in funding for the CSRAP in FY2020 to support qualifying households that are currently on the CSRAP waiting list, at an estimated additional cost of \$229,000 (according to CRHA figures from January 31, 2019); and
- A thorough FY2019 assessment of the CSRAP by Neighborhood Development Services, prior to funding appropriations, to ensure that the above figures are current and accurate and that the program is functioning as prescribed by the City of Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund CSRAP Grant Agreement.

Dated this 21st of February, 2019.



Susi Wilbur, Chair, Human Rights Commission