

Support letter  
approved ✓

March 16, 2015

Safety and Justice Challenge  
MacArthur Foundation

Re: City of Charlottesville Proposal

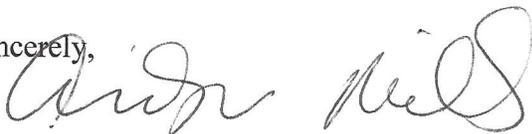
Dear Review Panel,

The Charlottesville Human Rights Commission (CHRC) is pleased to support the City of Charlottesville's Safety and Justice Challenge grant proposal, being submitted on behalf of the City, Albemarle County, and Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail. The funds will be used to support an intensive six-month planning process to rigorously examine how our jail is being used; who is being held there, and what risks they pose to the community; what policies and practices have driven the growth of local jail populations; and what strategies will work to reduce the unnecessary use of jail without compromising public safety.

Under Charlottesville's Human Rights Ordinance, adopted by City Council in 2013, CHRC is charged with identifying and reviewing institutional policies and practices that either may be unlawful discriminatory practices, or that produce disparities that adversely impact individuals on the basis of one or more protected classes, including race. In 2014, CHRC was approached by community members regarding the issue of disproportionate adult minority contact with the criminal justice system, and began to strategize around the role it might play in any ongoing official focus on disparate minority contact within the City. Earlier this year, CHRC voted to make this issue a priority focus in 2015.

We look forward to working with the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail, the Charlottesville and Albemarle police departments and Commonwealth's Attorneys, District 9 Probation and Parole, Offender Aid and Restoration/Jefferson Area Community Corrections, and Region Ten Community Services Board and are hopeful for a successful application for funding.

Sincerely,



Aidyn Mills  
Chair, Human Rights Commission  
City of Charlottesville