

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR COLLABORATION  
BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND THE COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE  
REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the City and County both recognize that a strong, vibrant and stable local economy provides significant benefits to the shared Charlottesville and Albemarle region; and

WHEREAS, the City and County seek to work in partnership to support the region's existing businesses including providing opportunities for their successful growth and expansion by leveraging the complementary assets and opportunities provided by both jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the City and County value the energetic entrepreneurial spirit that has launched a wide spectrum of start-up companies that bring investment and diversity to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City and County want to provide a welcoming and supportive environment to new businesses that match our community preferences and bring desired capital investment and quality job opportunities for our residents; and

WHEREAS, the City and County recognize the importance of entry level positions with the potential for upward mobility that can provide a first step into employment for local residents; and

WHEREAS, the City and County embrace working with the University of Virginia as a partner in advancing economic development initiatives that provide mutual benefit; and

WHEREAS, the City and County desire a quality of life and desirability of place that will attract and retain the skilled workers that support our shared target industries; and

WHEREAS, existing examples of cooperation between the City and County include:

- Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development (CVPED)
- Regional Target Industries Report
- GO Virginia Region 9 Council
- Piedmont Workforce Network
- Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC)
- Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC)
- Charlottesville Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB)
- Joint presentations for Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)
- Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Airport (CHO)
- Charlottesville Business Innovation Council's Tech Tour
- Infrastructure partners like the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA) and the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA)
- Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

WHEREAS, while the City and County recognize that each locality's first and main priority is to retain or grow existing businesses within their own jurisdictions, we pledge to support a regional approach through the following commitments:

- Focus on maintaining jobs and capital investments by collaborating fully to retain companies that are at risk of leaving the Charlottesville/Albemarle community
- Share referrals for new business prospects looking for space whose needs cannot be met by the jurisdiction that is initially contacted
- Not to actively solicit or initiate discussion to encourage the relocation of any business from one jurisdiction to the other

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- Notify each other of serious conversations regarding businesses looking to relocate from one jurisdiction to the other
- Jointly focus on building upon the strength of our shared target industry clusters
- Collectively support our educational systems and workforce development initiatives that support our desired industries
- Maintain the confidential nature of economic development projects and prospects and the importance of regional cooperation
- Cooperate and communicate on building an effective business ecosystem that supports and accommodates businesses through their lifecycle, recognizing that different stages of business growth may be more well suited for one jurisdiction or another

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Charlottesville and the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County hereby agree to this Memorandum of Understanding directing their respective City Manager and County Executive and staffs to develop and enact plans to:

- Designate a staff member assigned to promoting success
- Identify potential available resources available to both localities
- Identify and consider potential efficiencies through harmonization
- Identify and consider potential impacts on each others' jurisdiction and share information as appropriate
- Identify mutually beneficial ways to cooperate and communicate where possible