

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	May 15, 2023
Action Required:	Ordinance Enactment
Presenter:	Todd Divers, Commissioner of the Revenue, Paul Rudacille, ADA Coordinator
Staff Contacts:	Katrina Callsen, Attorney James Freas, Director of NDS
Title:	Amending and re-ordaining Section 30-254 (Exemptions), Section 14-19 (Class IV: Repair, Personal, Business and Other Services, and All Other Businesses and Occupations Not Specifically Listed, Excepted, Exempted in this Chapter), and Section 34-1200 (Definitions), to update language. (1 of 2 readings)

Background

On March 31, 2023, the Planning Commission received a request to update their terminology to use more inclusive and respectful language in regards to people with intellectual disabilities.

There has been a state movement over the past two decades to move towards more respectful language in laws. In 2009, Virginia changed the name of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. City Code has not been updated to reflect that change.

Discussion

The City Code currently uses an outdated title of a state department and should be amended to reflect the current name.

The City Code has 3 additional uses of the word “retarded”; none of the instances are required legal language and all can be eliminated without substantive change to the purpose or intent of the code sections.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

An Inclusive and Self-Sufficient Community

Community Engagement

The review was initiated due to community concern.

Budgetary Impact

N/A

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council approve the ordinance changes to reflect more inclusive terminology.

Alternatives

Council may reject the amendment.

Attachments

1. Resolution_Ordinance_ Language Update