

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

Recognizing September 15, 2022 as International Day of Democracy

WHEREAS the United Nations observes the 15th of September as the **International Day of Democracy** to promote the principles of democracy and to raise public awareness of Universal Human Rights; and

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes that the will of the people, expressed through universal and equal suffrage, is the basis for the authority of government; and

WHEREAS the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that the right to participate fully and equally in the political system is crucial to the advancement of all human rights, including the rights to:

- Democratic governance, the rule of law, social inclusion, and economic development,
- Empowerment of individuals and groups to eliminate discrimination and marginalization,
- Peaceful assembly and association,
- Freedom of opinion and expression, and
- Access to information and education; and

WHEREAS on the **International Day of Democracy** we are called to review the state of our democracy, promote its principles for the protection and effective realization of human rights, and create an environment for greater citizen participation, equality, security, and development; and

WHEREAS we recognize that in 2022, these basic principles of democracy are under attack in the United States and around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, hereby recognize and celebrate the 15th day of September 2022 as the **International Day of Democracy**, to remind us all of the need to work to protect the democratic principles by which the freely expressed will of the people forms the basis of our government in this great country.

Signed and sealed this 6th day of September 2022.

J. Lloyd Snook, III, Mayor