

# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



## PROCLAMATION

**CYNDI RICHARDSON**

### **2023 Virginia State CIT Coalition Peer of the Year**

**WHEREAS** the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health and addiction professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families, and other partners to improve community responses to mental health crises; and

**WHEREAS** the CIT model, known as the "Memphis Model" was first developed in 1988 and since has spread throughout the United States and several nations worldwide; and

**WHEREAS** the Virginia Crisis Intervention Team Coalition (VACIT) is an incorporated non-profit organization that supports crisis intervention teams to improve behavioral health crisis response through community collaboration, training, and advocacy; and

**WHEREAS** VACIT values safety, partnership, dignity and respect, and innovation, and aspires to promote safe and appropriate responses in Virginia to those affected by behavioral health crisis; and

**WHEREAS** VACIT's purpose is to promote and support collaborative efforts to create and sustain more effective interactions among law enforcement, behavioral health care providers, individuals with mental illness, their families and communities, and to reduce stigma related to mental illness; and

**WHEREAS** on October 17, 2023, Ms. Cyndi Richardson, On Our Own – Peer Support, was presented the 2023 Virginia State CIT Coalition Peer of the Year Award, at a Virginia CIT Conference ceremony;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Charlottesville City Council congratulates Ms. Cyndi Richardson for receiving this prestigious award and recognition, and we express appreciation for her dedicated service to the community, and to the work of crisis intervention.

Signed and sealed the 6th day of November 2023.

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**J. Lloyd Snook, III, Mayor**

Attest:

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Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council