

INTRODUCED: December 13, 2021

AN ORDINANCE No. 2021-348

To amend ch. 2, art. IV of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 23, consisting of §§ 2-757—2-759, concerning the Office of Sustainability.

Patrons – Mayor Stoney and Ms. Jordan

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 10 2022 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Chapter 2, Article IV of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020) is hereby amended and reordained by **adding therein a new** division numbered 23, consisting of sections numbered 2-757 through 2-759, as follows:

DIVISION 23.

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Sec. 2-757. Created; composition; purpose.

There shall be an Office of Sustainability, which shall consist of a Manager of Sustainability and such officers and employee organized into such units as may be provided by

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 10 2022 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

ordinance or by the orders of the Manager of Sustainability consistent with this division. The purpose of the Office shall be to coordinate and implement the adaptation, mitigation, and sustainability efforts undertaken by the City to adapt to or mitigate climate change and avoid the depletion of natural resources.

Sec. 2-758. Duties.

The Office shall perform the following duties:

(1) Implement the sustainability plan set forth by Resolution No. 2012-R69-103, adopted July 9, 2012, and any other adaptation, mitigation, and sustainability efforts undertaken by the City to adapt to or mitigate climate change and avoid the depletion of natural resources.

(2) Study, and make reports and recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer and other City departments and agencies concerning, adaptation, mitigation, and sustainability efforts to address the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the Earth's atmosphere.

(3) Coordinate with other City departments and agencies and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations to implement the City's adaptation, mitigation, and sustainability efforts in accordance with the City's master plan and other plans and strategies.

(4) Coordinate workforce development initiatives and administration of workforce development programs in partnership with City agencies, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations to provide for equitable education, training, and job placement opportunities for City employees and city residents supporting the City's sustainability plan and other plans and strategies to address climate change.

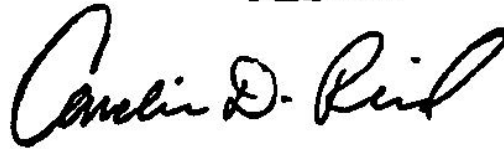
(5) Exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned to the Office by law.

Sec. 2-759. Appointment and powers of Manager.

The Manager of Sustainability shall be appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer for an indefinite term and shall be a member of the unclassified service. The Manager shall have general management and control of the Office and, subject to applicable personnel policies adopted by ordinance, shall appoint and remove all officers and employees of the Office.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect on July 1, 2022.

**A TRUE COPY:
TESTE:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolin D. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

City Clerk



CITY OF RICHMOND

INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O&R

REQUEST

DATE: November 16, 2021 **EDITION:** 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

FROM: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

THROUGH: J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Sharon Ebert, DCAO of Economic Development

RE: Establishment of the Office of Sustainability

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: This ordinance serves to formally create the Richmond Office of Sustainability, located within the Portfolio of Economic and Community Development and under the leadership of DCAO Sharon Ebert.

REASON: The current Office of Sustainability has never been formalized within the City of Richmond, but instead existed as a function of the Department of Public Utilities. This ordinance serves to: (1) formally create this office; and, (2) move its functions within the Portfolio of Economic and Community Development to ensure the city's climate mitigation plan, RVAgreen 2050, aligns with the Richmond 300 Master Plan initiatives and future planning and development efforts.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval is recommended by the City Administration.

BACKGROUND: The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to enhance the quality of life for all residents by making Richmond equitable, healthy, and resilient and to improve the economic and environmental performance of city government operations. The Office works at a systems level to change the underlying policy and structural mechanisms within city government and the community in the areas of climate action, resilience, and equity.

Currently, the Office is championing [RVAgreen 2050](#), the City of Richmond's equity-centered climate action and resilience planning initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030, achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and help the community adapt to Richmond's climate impacts of extreme heat, precipitation, and flooding.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: No – necessary budgetary adjustments will be addressed in the FY23 budget.

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: December 13, 2021

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: January 10, 2022

REQUESTED AGENDA: Regular Agenda

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Government Operations

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Public Utilities; Department of Economic and Community Development

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: RES 2021-R049

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): N/A

ATTACHMENTS: Yes.

STAFF: Sharon Ebert, DCAO Department of Economic and Community Development

OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY: MISSION, ORGANIZATION, AND DUTIES

- 1. Mission:** The mission of the Office of Sustainability is to enhance the quality of life for all residents by making Richmond equitable, healthy, and resilient and to improve the economic and environmental performance of city government operations. The Office works at a systems level to change the underlying policy and structural mechanisms within city government and the community in the areas of climate action, resilience, and equity.
- 2. Duties:** This office would be tasked with primary responsibility of creating and implementing the RVAgreen 2050 plan, as well as detailing any further actions and strategies necessary to implement climate crisis response, climate mitigation, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education, advocacy, and research and workforce development programs. Specifically:
 - a. Developing, staffing, and coordinating the implementation of the RVAgreen 2050 plan and any other comprehensive climate mitigation strategies;
 - b. Conducting research for and providing recommendations to the Mayor and city departments/offices concerning strategies, investments, and policies likely to be effective in combatting both the causes and effects of climate change;
 - c. Providing regular public reports on efforts to combat climate change, as well as opportunities for feedback and collaboration with community stakeholders;
 - d. Administering allocated funds responsibly;
 - e. Coordinating the activities of city agencies in furtherance of the implementation of the RVAgreen 2050 plan and other comprehensive climate mitigation strategies;
 - f. Promoting, coordinating community outreach and education on the City's RVAgreen 2050 plan;
 - g. Coordinating workforce development initiatives and programs in partnership with city agencies, the Commonwealth of Virginia and other public and private enterprises to provide for the equitable education, training, and job placement of city employees and city residents that support the RVAgreen 2050 plan and other city comprehensive climate mitigation strategies; and,
 - h. Ensuring alignment of policies and practices with the Richmond 300 Master Plan and the City's Equity Agenda.
- 3. Composition:** The Office of Sustainability shall consist of an office manager and otherwise be appropriately staffed to ensure effective and efficient implementation of RVAgreen 2050.
- 4. Appointment:** The Manager of the Office of Sustainability shall serve in an unclassified position and will serve at the will and pleasure of the DCAO of Economic and Community Development.

- 5. Powers and Alignment:** The manager of this Office will manage the day-to-day of the office and ensure its vision is executed. The manager will also have the ability to manage personnel/recruitment within the Office.

The Office will coordinate efforts with the DCAO of Economic and Community Development and the Office of Equitable Development to ensure planning alignment with the Richmond 300 Master Plan and the City's Equity Agenda.