

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG
VIRGINIA 250 PRESERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION**

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Harrisonburg City Council held on Tuesday October 8, 2024, on a motion by Council Member Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor Dent, the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 5 to 0.

WHEREAS, the 2024-2026 Virginia Biennial Budget authorized and appropriated funds to be awarded by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) for the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund to support improvements at significant historic sites and history museums in Virginia in anticipation of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the 1776 United States Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY COUNCIL desires to submit an application for the allocation of funds for the Harrison House Rehabilitation and Visitor Experience Enhancement Project; and

WHEREAS, the project seeks to demolish sections of a current non-contributing structure adjoining the Harrison House, uncover any currently buried findings through archeological research, and will offer visitors a view of the original house facade facing east toward Main Street, and

WHEREAS, the project includes the historical rehabilitation of the Harrison House, preserving it from further deterioration and protecting it for generations to come, and

WHEREAS, the project seeks to construct a brick paved terrace, creating pathways that connect Bruce Street to the City’s Denton Park and offering visitors the opportunity to experience the Harrison House in its original setting, and

WHEREAS, the project seeks to install signage telling the story of the house and lot, opening the space to community residents and tourists and allowing visitors to learn from the structure’s evolution and to experience how it appeared in the late 1700s, and

WHEREAS, the project is strongly supported by the City of Harrisonburg’s Tourism Department and Economic Development Department and is expected to generate increased tourism to Downtown Harrisonburg, leading to increased economic development within Harrisonburg and the Shenandoah Valley

WHEREAS, the VA 250 program requires the applicant provide a one-third match against the requested amount and the City Council commits to providing the required matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The HARRISONBURG CITY COUNCIL hereby supports this application for the Virginia 250 Preservation Fund Grant Program.

ADOPTED this 8th day of October 2024.

Deanna R. Reed
Deanna R. Reed, Mayor

ATTEST:

Pamela Ulmer
Pam Ulmer, City Clerk