



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Public Information Officer
345 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
540-432-7701 FAX 540-432-7778

For Immediate Release
September 12, 2012

Contact: Anne Lewis, Assistant City Manager
540-432-7701
anne.lewis@harrisonburgva.gov

City Taps one of their own for Public Information Officer

Harrisonburg, VA – City Manager Kurt Hodgen is pleased to announce the transfer of Mary-Hope Vass from the Police Department to the City Manager’s Office as the city-wide Public Information Officer (PIO).

Mrs. Vass worked as a Public Information Officer for the City of Richmond before starting with Harrisonburg Police Department in September 2008. She has split her duties since that time between serving as the department’s PIO and its Crime Analyst.

With the recent resignation of former PIO Miriam Dickler the opportunity to essentially consolidate the two PIO positions made sense and allows Police Chief Steve Monticelli to add a full-time crime analyst position that can better support the department’s geographic policing philosophy, with the overall result being no net gain in city positions.

Mrs. Vass will move to the City Manager’s office on Wednesday, September 19th. City Manager Kurt Hodgen expects the transition to be seamless. “Mary-Hope has well-established contacts with the media, familiarity with city departments and staff and worked closely in the past with Ms. Dickler through the City’s internal Public Information Group and other endeavors. We are excited to have her in the Manager’s office and look forward as well to the benefit of having a full-time crime analyst at HPD.”

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.harrisonburgva.gov.

###