



HARRISONBURG | VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



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Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications & Public Engagement
540.432.7701
Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov

Community survey seeks Harrisonburg’s input for HPD chief search

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg has officially posted the recruitment listing for its open chief of police position, and community member input is needed prior to candidate interviews taking place later this year.

Harrisonburg Police Department staff members have already provided feedback on what they would like to see in the department’s next chief through 10 listening sessions and two staff surveys, with that information used to create a recruitment brochure and description of what traits a successful candidate would embody. Now, community members have the opportunity to detail what they would like to see considered when the City interviews candidates for the position.

An anonymous survey, available online and open until Nov. 12 at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2ZG3MH3>, allows community members to: identify the most important traits for the next chief; identify the most important items the next chief should focus on; provide advice for the future chief; explain ways the next chief can build trust between the community and department; and describe community issues HPD should work to address in the future.

City leadership is eager to hear community feedback, as this input can help ensure the right candidate for Harrisonburg is selected, and the chief is able to come into their new position with an understanding of current community needs as they relate to policing.

“HPD’s chief of police is not only an important position on our team, but should be someone who is committed to becoming a leader in our community, someone who is invested in improving the future of The Friendly City,” Harrisonburg City Manager Ande Banks said. “We are grateful for our community members who will help make sure this police chief search is a success, and we are excited to identify the person who will help our department continue to move forward.”

The HPD chief will lead a team of approximately 144 full-time staff members and a department with a \$17.7 million budget in the current fiscal year. HPD divisions include Patrol Operations, Special Operations, Criminal Investigations and Administrative, which include multiple units and teams. More information on the position, including the recruitment brochure, is available at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/harrisonburg>.



CITY OF HARRISONBURG CHIEF OF POLICE

Looking to make a huge impact in an eclectic, growing city known worldwide for being a friendly, welcoming Community For All? Look no further than The Friendly City - Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The Harrisonburg Police Department is currently seeking a leader with impeccable integrity, a lasting commitment to the Department and the City of Harrisonburg, and a collaborative approach to community-oriented policing to become the City's next Police Chief.

This is an amazing opportunity for a dynamic and forward-thinking individual to play a critical role in protecting the constitutional rights of all members of our community and further partnering with stakeholders and others to solve problems, reduce crime, and improve the quality of life for community members, visitors, and students. And you'll do it in a vibrant, modern, and diverse college community boasting a happening atmosphere infused with a serious passion for local food and libations, cutting-edge arts and culture, and the historic roots that anchor it to the famous Shenandoah Valley landscape.



(Above) A page from the HPD chief of police recruitment brochure. The position was officially opened on Oct. 10. See the position listing and recruitment brochure at www.governmentjobs.com/careers/harrisonburg.

The opening was posted online Friday, Oct. 10, and shared nationally through multiple job advertisement avenues. First review of candidates will begin no sooner than Nov. 12, with interviews currently expected to take place in December. A final selection is expected to take place in early 2026. Interim Chief Rod Pollard, HPD's deputy chief of support services, has held the interim chief position since the Chief Kelley Warner resigned in June 2024.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 56,879 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

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