A MESSAGE FROM Supporters of Dede Smith for City Council



May 2015

A MESSAGE FROM

Francis Fife
FORMER MAYOR

Nancy O'Brien FORMER MAYOR

Charles Barbour FORMER MAYOR

Dave NorrisFORMER MAYOR

Tom Vandever FORMER MAYOR

Maurice Cox FORMER MAYOR

John Conover FORMER COUNCILOR

Holly EdwardsFORMER COUNCILOR

Kevin LynchFORMER COUNCILOR

Julian Taliaferro FORMER COUNCILOR Dear Fellow Democrats,

Character, intelligence, and dedication define Dede Smith and are the reasons why we support her for reelection to City Council in the Democratic primary on June 9.

We have watched and appreciated Dede as she has served our community for over 30 years. She is a dedicated environmentalist, having served as Director of the Ivy Creek Natural Area and on the board of the Rivanna Trails Foundation, as well as helping to found the Rivanna chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists. She is a strong advocate for education and opportunity for everyone, having served two terms on the Charlottesville School Board and as PTO chair at Jackson Via for 10 years. She has worked to preserve the quality of neighborhoods in Charlottesville.

Dede has made fantastic progress in in her first term on City Council in these and other important areas. During her term Council has added more than 100 acres of natural habitat to the City's parks system. She helped create a new job program called GoDriver, which has trained un- and under-employed city residents to become bus drivers for the Charlottesville Area Transit system. This program was so successful that it has spawned similar job training programs called GoGreen and GoOffice. When the Barrett Early Learning Center announced that it was shutting its doors after 80 years of serving the children of low income families, she was the councilor who stepped in to help save it. She has been committed to a thoughtful and data-based approach to making Charlottesville safer for all our citizens. These are impressive accomplishments.

Dede has many goals for her second term, including acquiring additional natural and historic resources, protecting neighborhoods with a balanced approach to growth, and increasing home ownership among middle and low-income citizens.

But whatever the issue, we are sure that she will approach it with her characteristic integrity, intelligence, and grit. With her charm and irrepressible laugh she serves as a connector, bringing together citizens and agencies.

We hope you will join us in voting for **Dede Smith** in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, June 9th.