

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

Office of the Mayor

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A World Class City

July 8, 2013

Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell,

I am writing today on behalf of the Charlottesville City Council. My colleagues and I share a deep concern for the reported actions taken recently by several agents of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). We learned just this week of the incident that occurred on April 11, 2013 at the Barracks Road Shopping Center here in Charlottesville during which three young ladies were approached by the agents who had mistaken a case of water for alcohol.

If the reports we have read are accurate, it seems that more care should have been paid to how the agents approached the young ladies that evening in the parking lot of the shopping center. It also seems evident the women were surprised, frightened and confused by the response of the agents and the subsequent charges placed against them. Although the Council appreciates the difficult work of the ABC, it is our impression this incident could have been avoided and the situation diffused if the agents had taken a different approach. In light of these concerns, Council respectfully requests your administration to conduct an independent review of the incident and provide the results of the investigation to the public upon its completion.

Additionally, we request that there will be increased cooperation and coordination between ABC agents and our City police department during future ABC operations in the City. We realize ABC agents have historically worked closely with our officers, but in the case of this incident our department was not involved until we received the call for service from one of the young ladies targeted by the agents.

We thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

Satyendra Singh Huja
Mayor, City of Charlottesville