



## City Council

**Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor**

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/93319323686>

Phone one-tap:

+16469313860, 93319323686# US

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Webinar ID: 933 1932 3686

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To participate in Public Forum in person, sign up at the meeting.

To participate in Public Forum via ZOOM sign up here:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/citycouncil/publicforum>

**\*\*\*\*ONLINE closes one hour prior to the beginning of public forum\*\*\*\***

**Do not sign up in person and via Zoom - select one only**

### 1. Agenda

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda</b>                                                                                      |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 1. Agenda                                                                                                                     |
| Department         | Council and Board                                                                                                             |
| Type               | Action<br>Procedural                                                                                                          |
| Recommended Action | Motion to amend/adopt agenda                                                                                                  |

### 2. City Council President - Council Updates (up to 5 mins.)

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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>2.1. Verbal reports</b>                                                                                                    |
| Meeting        | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category       | 2. City Council President - Council Updates (up to 5 mins.)                                                                   |

Department Council and Board

Type Information

### **3. Public Forum: Time Certain: 6:30 pm \*\*See above for signup instructions\*\***

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**Subject** 3.1. Verbal Comments

Meeting January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 3. Public Forum: Time Certain: 6:30 pm \*\*See above for signup instructions\*\*

Department Council and Board

Type Action  
Procedural

Recommended Action open Public Forum  
close Public Forum

### **4. Mayor - General City Affairs (up to 10 mins.)**

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**Subject** 4.1. Verbal reports

Meeting January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 4. Mayor - General City Affairs (up to 10 mins.)

Department Council and Board

Type Information

### **5. Consent Agenda**

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**Subject** 5.1. Motion to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions indicated

Meeting January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 5. Consent Agenda

Department Council and Board

Type Action (Consent)  
Procedural

Recommended Action Motion to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions indicated

**Subject** 5.2. Accountability List - DFA

Meeting January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 5. Consent Agenda

Department Department of Finance and Administration

|                    |                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Communication<br>Information                                                                              |
| Recommended Action | waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file                                                              |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.3. January 20, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes - DFA</b>                                                       |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                             |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                      |
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Minutes<br>Information                                                                                    |
| Recommended Action | approve the minutes                                                                                                           |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.4. Communication: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, re: Resolution from Ward 1 NPA for City Council</b>                            |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                             |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                      |
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Communication                                                                                             |
| Recommended Action | waive the reading and place the communication on file                                                                         |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.5. Communication: Alyssa Chen, Education Justice Coalition of Vermont, re: standing in solidarity with Palestine</b>     |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                             |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                      |
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Communication                                                                                             |
| Recommended Action | waive the reading and place the communication on file                                                                         |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.6. Creation of OPC Grant and Project Manager Limited Service Position - Mayor</b>                                        |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                             |

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|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Department         | Mayor's Office                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Type               | Action (Consent)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Recommended Action | move to approve and recommend that the City Council approve the creation of the following position: OPC Grant and Project Manager, a Limited Service, Part-Time (30 hours per week), Exempt, Non-union, Grade 20 position |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.7. Update on 2026 Legislative Session</b>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                             |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Department         | Mayor's Office                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Information<br>Report                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Recommended Action | waive the reading, accept the report and place it on file                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.8. FIO Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                             |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Communication<br>Information                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Recommended Action | for information only                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.9. Ordinance: CDO--planBTV Downtown Code Fences ZA-26-02 (Office of City Planning, Planning Commission)</b>                                                                                                          |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                             |
| Category           | 5. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Department         | Planning                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Type               | Action (Consent)<br>Ordinance - First Reading                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Recommended Action | 1 <sup>st</sup> reading<br>Motion: Waive the reading and refer to Ordinance Committee.                                                                                                                                    |

## 6. Deliberative Agenda

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>6.1. Indoor and Outdoor Special Event Entertainment Permit Application (three days only): Burlington Electronic Department, Groundhog Fest, various locations and times around the City, Friday, January 30, 2026 - Sunday, February 1, 2026</b> |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                       |
| Category           | 6. Deliberative Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Type               | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Recommended Action | approve the three day only indoor and outdoor special event permit application for Burlington Electronic Department, Groundhog Fest, various locations and times around the City, Friday, January 30, 2026 - February 1, 2026                       |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>6.2. Resolution: Promoting Community Dialogue (Councilors Schachter, Carpenter and Litwin)(45 mins.)</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                       |
| Category           | 6. Deliberative Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Type               | Action<br>Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Recommended Action | waive the reading and adopt the resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>6.3. Resolution: March 3, 2026 Annual City Meeting - Non-Binding Advisory Ballot Question On the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge (Councilor Bergman)(45 mins.)</b>                                                                               |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                       |
| Category           | 6. Deliberative Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Department         | Council and Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Type               | Action<br>Resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Recommended Action | waive the reading and adopt the resolution                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>6.4. Resolution: March 3, 2026 Annual City Meeting - Increase In Police &amp; Fire Tax Rate (Councilor Bergman)(45 mins.)</b>                                                                                                                    |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                       |
| Category           | 6. Deliberative Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Department         | Council and Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|      |                      |
|------|----------------------|
| Type | Action<br>Resolution |
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| Recommended Action | waive the reading and adopt the resolution |
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## 7. Committee Reports

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|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>7.1. Verbal reports</b>                                                                                                    |
| Meeting        | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category       | 7. Committee Reports                                                                                                          |
| Department     | Council and Board                                                                                                             |
| Type           | Information                                                                                                                   |

## 8. City Council - General City Affairs (to include Climate and Public Health & Safety Emergency Updates: up to 5 mins. per Councilor)

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|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>8.1. Verbal reports</b>                                                                                                            |
| Meeting        | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor         |
| Category       | 8. City Council - General City Affairs (to include Climate and Public Health & Safety Emergency Updates: up to 5 mins. per Councilor) |
| Department     | Council and Board                                                                                                                     |
| Type           | Information                                                                                                                           |

## 9. Adjournment

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>9.1. Motion to adjourn</b>                                                                                                 |
| Meeting            | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 9. Adjournment                                                                                                                |
| Department         | Council and Board                                                                                                             |
| Type               | Action<br>Procedural                                                                                                          |
| Recommended Action | Motion to adjourn                                                                                                             |

## 10. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>10.1. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information on access, call Lori Olberg, Council and Licensing Coordinator (802-865-7136)(TTY 802-865-7142). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate are encouraged to contact 802-865-7000 (voice) or 802-865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made. This meeting will also air on Town Meeting TV the Wednesday after the meeting, starting at 8:00 pm and repeating at 1:00 am and 7:00 am the following day. The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or</b> |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information.**

|            |                                                                                                                               |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting    | January 26, 2026 - City Council Meeting - Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category   | 10. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements                                                                           |
| Department | Council and Board                                                                                                             |
| Type       | Information                                                                                                                   |



Ben Traverse  
City Council President

January 26, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

For the third year in a row, we are being asked to place a question on our Town Meeting Day ballot on whether our community should “work to end all support to Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.” As some of you may know, in my role as City Council President, I previously voiced my commitment to not include this issue on any future Council agendas.

To be clear, I firmly believe all Palestinians and Israelis alike are entitled to live in safety, with dignity, freedom, equality, self-determination, and the opportunity to thrive. I also acknowledge the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is deeply complex, with many differing viewpoints. Particularly since October 7, 2023 and the ensuing war in Gaza, conversations around this issue have become more difficult — and at times, discriminatory and even violent.

When deciding whether to place an item on our Council agenda or Town Meeting Day ballot, my minimum standard is that members of our community must be able to discuss it openly and safely, without fear of retaliation. I firmly believe that standard is not met here.

For each of the past two years, a majority of the City Council has declined to place this question on the ballot. For some Councilors, including myself, this decision has been motivated by a desire to protect our ballot — and our community — from unnecessary divisiveness. For others, the priority has been to focus our local government’s efforts on local issues, rather than international affairs. Whatever our reasons, the responses we have received have too often been severe.

In the past, when I declined to place this question on the ballot, I received an anonymous phone call asking, “how much did the Jews pay for your vote?” Another caller wished that my family and I “burn in hell.” A third threatened that I was being watched wherever I went. Many emails accused me and our colleagues of being “racist,” “pro-genocide,” and “baby killers.” I received a vile anti-Semitic letter in my mailbox, which my wife and I fortunately retrieved before our children came home from school. Once, when I asked rhetorically during a Council meeting whether someone displaying a “Vote No” sign on this ballot question might have it torn out of their lawn or be threatened, some members of the public actually responded back, “Yes” and “Yes.” Will those displaying the “Vote No” sign also be asked how much money “the Jews” paid for it?

I personally know many of the individuals advocating for this ballot question. I respect their commitment and I trust they condemn the behavior I have just described as strongly as I do. I also recognize Palestinian activists have faced their own harassment and, in very troubling cases, unacceptable and unjust scrutiny from federal immigration authorities. My chief concern remains that placing such a polarizing issue on our City Council agenda or local ballot will continue to deepen fractures in our community more than leaving it off. I am honored to serve as City Council President and view the holders of this office as bound to protecting the integrity of our local democracy and the wellbeing of everyone who calls Burlington home.

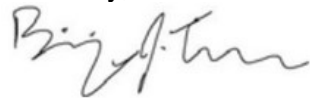
In fairness, and with these same concerns in mind, I previously told some of my colleagues that I would also not place any other resolution regarding Israel and Palestine on our agenda, including that regarding “community dialogue.” While I remain committed to fostering dialogue, empathy, and education around this issue — and was privileged to join the Mayor in related discussions with local faith community leaders — our prior debates have demonstrated that Council meetings are not the proper venue for these conversations.

In preparation for our Council meeting on January 26, I asked the City Attorney’s Office for its opinion on whether the Council President may unilaterally keep matters off Council agendas. Section 6(b) of our Council rules provides that: “The president in consultation with the chief administrative officer or designee shall prepare an agenda for each city council meeting.” The City Attorney’s position, however, is that as long as materials are timely submitted, the Council President must place them on our agenda. The City Attorney cites Rule 17(c), which states: “It is expected that councilors will submit all materials on time, and the council president may refuse to accept any materials outside of these time frames.” Per the City Attorney, the inverse of this rule must also be true — meaning the Council President may not refuse to accept materials submitted within our time frames.

With all due respect, I strongly disagree with the City Attorney’s position. In my opinion, while timeliness is a necessary condition, it is not one that mandates agenda placement. If the Council President has no gatekeeping function whatsoever, a single Councilor could force an untold number of measures onto our agendas, effectively hijacking our legislative process.

All that said, my goal of moving our City beyond divisive debates would not be met by embroiling our Council and City in a related legal dispute. Moreover, I acknowledge the Ward 1, Ward 2, and Ward 5 Neighborhood Planning Assemblies formally requested consideration of the aforementioned ballot question. Out of respect for these circumstances, I chose to place both the proposed ballot question and the “community dialogue” resolution on our January 26 agenda. I do so while reserving the right for myself and future Council Presidents to elect against placing items on Council agendas at our discretion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ben Traverse", written in a cursive style.

Ben Traverse  
City Council President

Cc: Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly  
Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly  
Ward 5 Neighborhood Planning Assembly

CITY COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY LIST

This list is a working document. It is a record of resolutions, ordinances, communications that have come to the Council and there is an action requested.

Prepared by: Lori Olberg, Council and Licensing Coordinator

1/26/2026

|    | Meeting Date | Type of Document and Title                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Action Requested                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Updated Next Steps in the Process                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | 7/24/2023    | Resolution: The Climate Emergency and the Council Request to Count Vermont Air National Guard GHG Emissions and to Plan to Eliminate VTANG Aviation and Ground GHG Emissions in the Spirit of the City's 2030 Net Zero Goals | requests that the Vermont Air Force National Guard Adjutant General, beginning for the year 2023, calculate aviation and ground fuel usage at the VTANG base and to annually provide BTV Director and TEUC with a complete record of the calculated aviation and ground greenhouse gas emission; for VTANG to work collaboratively to draft a plan to adopt simulation and augmented reality training to substantially reduce or eliminate GHG with initial meeting on or before 12/31/23 and follow up at TUEC's March 2024 meeting                                                                                                                                      | Initial meeting of the parties by 12/31/2023; UPDATE: parties met at March TEUC meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2  | 5/20/2024    | Resolution: A Building Emissions Reduction Ordinance                                                                                                                                                                         | referred to TEUC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | TEUC refer any working draft BERO and any related ballot language to the Ordinance Committee no later than the last City Council meeting in October of 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3  | 9/23/2024    | Resolution: The Establishment Of A Downtown Public Safety HUB                                                                                                                                                                | the Public Safety Committee shall engage the community on its vision for a public safety hub, and this engagement shall include consultation with interested community partners, including, but not limited to, Neighborhood Planning Assemblies, the DPW Commission, Board of Health, Director of Business and Workforce Development and Church Street Marketplace Commission, Burlington Police Department & Crisis Advocacy Intervention Programs (CAIP), Burlington Fire Department and its Critical Response Team (CRT), Howard Center Street Outreach Team, Burlington Community Justice Center, Burlington Business Association and the general business community | the Public Safety Committee shall report back on the process and input from the community to the City Council on or by January 21, 2025, including any specific options or recommendations for a public safety hub (e.g.) new or existing freestanding structures, existing storefront space, a mobile public safety hub, etc.); and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after receiving this report from the Public Safety Committee, it is the stated intent of the full City Council to act on specific options or recommendations from the Public Safety Committee on or by March 10, 2025 |
| 4  | 1/27/2025    | Resolution: Establishing A Violation Reporting Incentivization Pilot (VRIP)                                                                                                                                                  | referred to the Ordinance Committee, to report back to the City Council; CJC to report back to the City Council and Ordinance Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | on or before March 24, 2025; by March 10, 2025 <b>UPDATE: The note with the action should state that the attorney-client privilege was waived for this communication by the Ordinance Committee and approved for publication at our September 18, 2025 committee meeting and that the committee deliberated and decided to table the matter to an unspecified future date.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5  | 7/14/2025    | Ordinance: An Amendment to Appendix D, Sections 2 and 5, Updating Parks Rules and Regulations                                                                                                                                | referred to to the Parks, Arts and Culture Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | not-specified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6  | 8/25/2025    | Resolution: Welcoming President Marlene Tromp, Re-affirming Our Longstanding Partnership With the University of Vermont, And Acknowledging Our Shared Commitment to Affordable, Safe, and High Quality Housing for Students  | it was requested that the Mayor provide an update on the City and UVM's shared goals on housing, safety, and well-being                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | end of this calendar year                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7  | 9/8/2025     | Resolution: Consumer Choice And Disclosure For Fuel Purchases Made With Debit Cards                                                                                                                                          | referred to the Ordinance Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | not-specified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8  | 9/8/2025     | Resolution: Consumer Choice And Disclosure Of Parking Terms & Rates In Privately Owned Lots                                                                                                                                  | referred to the Ordinance Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | not-specified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9  | 10/6/2025    | Resolution: Financial Disclosure For Local Elected Officials                                                                                                                                                                 | referred to the Ordinance Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | not-specified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10 | 10/21/2025   | Resolution: March 3, 2026 Annual City Meeting - Charter Change re: General Fund Tax Fairness (Referral to Charter Change Committee)                                                                                          | referred to the Charter Change Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 12/1/2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 11 | 10/21/2025   | Resolution: March 3, 2026 Annual City Meeting - Charter Change re: City Council Authority to Pledge Credit of the City (Referral to Charter Change Committee)                                                                | referred to the Charter Change Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 12/1/2025<br>no later than its January 26, 2026 meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



|                    |                                                                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category           | 2. Public Forum: Time Certain: 6:30 pm **See above for signup instructions** |
| Department         | Council and Board                                                            |
| Type               | Action<br>Procedural                                                         |
| Recommended Action | open Public Forum<br>close Public Forum                                      |

#### 2.1. Verbal Comments

##### **BTV residents (in person):**

Jak Tiano: Ward 5, resolution relating to advisory question re: municipal tax reform

Scott Lowe: resolution relating to advisory question re: municipal tax reform

Julie Macuga: TSA Lease-confirm that ICE is not a part of the lease agreement

Leif Taranta: TSA Lease-confirm that ICE is not part of the lease agreement

Flower: City leadership needs to do more to assist unhoused individuals and have more resources available

##### **BTV residents (online):**

Sharon Bushor: 5.5

Amy Wright: Ward 1, tax reform on ballot

Rachel Siegel: tsa lease/tax reform

### **3. Mayor - General City Affairs (up to 10 mins.)**

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#### **3. Mayor - General City Affairs (up to 10 mins.)**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>3.1. Verbal reports</b>                                                                                                                                           |
| Meeting        | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category       | 3. Mayor - General City Affairs (up to 10 mins.)                                                                                                                     |
| Department     | Council and Board                                                                                                                                                    |
| Type           | Information                                                                                                                                                          |

#### 3.1. Verbal reports

### **4. Consent Agenda**

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#### **4. Consent Agenda**

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|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>4.1. Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated</b>                                                                           |
| Meeting        | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category       | 4. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                    |
| Department     | Council and Board                                                                                                                                                    |

Type                      Action (Consent)  
Procedural

Recommended Action      Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated

4.1. Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated

Motion made by Councilor Bergman, seconded by Councilor Singh, to adopt the consent agenda as amended taking the actions indicated. Motion passed unanimously.

**Subject                      4.2. Accountability List - DFA**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing -  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd  
Floor

Category                      4. Consent Agenda

Department                      Department of Finance and Administration

Type                      Action (Consent)  
Communication  
Information

Recommended Action      waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file

4.2. Accountability List - DFA

**Subject                      4.3. January 12, 2026 Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes - DFA**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing -  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd  
Floor

Category                      4. Consent Agenda

Department                      Department of Finance and Administration

Type                      Action (Consent)  
Information  
Minutes

Recommended Action      approve the minutes

4.3. January 12, 2026 Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes - DFA

**Subject                      4.4. January 12, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes - DFA**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing -  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd  
Floor

Category                      4. Consent Agenda

Department                      Department of Finance and Administration

Type                      Action (Consent)  
Information  
Minutes

Recommended Action    approve the minutes

4.4. January 12, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes - DFA

**Subject                      4.5. Communication: MaryAnn Bock, re: ICE Resolution**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing -  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd  
Floor

Category                      4. Consent Agenda

Department                      Department of Finance and Administration

Type                      Action (Consent)  
Communication

Recommended Action    waive the reading and place the communication on file

4.5. Communication: MaryAnn Bock, re: ICE Resolution

**Subject                      4.6. Request to Add Two Positions and Tier a Third Position - Airport**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing -  
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd  
Floor

Category                      4. Consent Agenda

Department                      Airport

Type                      Action (Consent)

Recommended Action    to approve the following:  
1. The addition of one (1) Airport Operations Specialist, full time, non-exempt,  
AFSCME position, grade 16, step 1-15: \$30.48/hour or \$63,400 annually -  
\$36.01/hour or \$75,508 annually.  
2. The establishment of a Working Foreman Ambassador position, full time, non-  
exempt, AFSCME position, grade 16, step 1-15: \$30.48/hour or \$63,400 annually -  
\$36.01/hour or \$75,508 annually.  
3. The replacement of the Maintenance Worker position, full time, non-exempt,  
AFSCME position, grade 14, step 1-15 \$27.00/hour or \$56,166 annually -  
\$32.12/hour or \$66,828 annually, with the following positions:  
a. Maintenance Worker I, grade 14, step 1-15 \$27.00/hour or \$56,166 annually -  
\$32.12/hour or \$66,828 annually; and  
b. Maintenance Worker II, non-exempt, AFSCME grade 15, step 1-15 \$28.65/hour  
or 59,593 annually - \$34.10/hour or \$70,939 annually

4.6. Request to Add Two Positions and Tier a Third Position - Airport

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>4.7. Request to execute a ground lease with Aerodyme Corporation - Airport</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Meeting            | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Category           | 4. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Department         | Airport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Type               | Action (Consent)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Recommended Action | to authorize the Mayor of the City of Burlington to execute the lease with Aerodyme Corporation, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, and to take such further actions and execute such further instruments approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the transactions contemplated hereby |

4.7. Request to execute a ground lease with Aerodyme Corporation - Airport

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>4.8. Request to execute a lease amendment with Hangar Condominium Association Inc. - Airport</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Meeting            | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Category           | 4. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Department         | Airport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Type               | Action (Consent)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Recommended Action | to authorize the Mayor of the City of Burlington to execute the lease amendment with the Hangar Condominium Association, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, and to take such further actions and execute such further instruments approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the transactions contemplated hereby |

4.8. Request to execute a lease amendment with Hangar Condominium Association Inc. - Airport

|                |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b> | <b>4.9. 2024 Progress Report on Implementation of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan - Fire</b>                                                                         |
| Meeting        | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category       | 4. Consent Agenda                                                                                                                                                    |
| Department     | Fire Department                                                                                                                                                      |
| Type           | Action (Consent)                                                                                                                                                     |

Recommended Action to approve and accept the Calendar Year 2024 Progress on Implementation of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Report and place it on file

4.9. 2024 Progress Report on Implementation of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan - Fire

**Subject 4.10. FIO Documents**

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 4. Consent Agenda

Department Department of Finance and Administration

Type Action (Consent)  
Communication  
Information

Recommended Action for information only

4.10. FIO Documents

**Subject 4.11. Resolution: Authorization For Up To \$650,000 Step I Loan From Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, For An Engineering Contract With Wright-Pierce For Water Treatment Facilities Improvement Plan (Board of Finance)**

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 4. Consent Agenda

Department Public Works Department - Water Resources

Type Action (Consent)  
Resolution

Recommended Action to waive the reading and to adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Step I loan up to \$650,000 from the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the Water Treatment Facility Improvements Plan – Phase I as more specifically set forth in the attached resolution

4.11. Resolution: Authorization For Up To \$650,000 Step I Loan From Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, For An Engineering Contract With Wright-Pierce For Water Treatment Facilities Improvement Plan (Board of Finance)

**Subject 4.12. Resolution: Authorization For Up To \$544,000 Step I Loan From Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, For An Engineering Contract With Wright-Pierce For Water Distribution And Storage System Improvements Plan (Board of Finance)**

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 4. Consent Agenda

Department Public Works Department - Water Resources

Type Action (Consent)  
Resolution

Recommended Action to waive the reading and adopt the attached resolution authorizing a Step I loan up to \$544,000 from the Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for the Water Distribution and Storage System Improvements Plan as more specifically set forth in the attached resolution

4.12. Resolution: Authorization For Up To \$544,000 Step I Loan From Vermont Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, For An Engineering Contract With Wright-Pierce For Water Distribution And Storage System Improvements Plan (Board of Finance)

**Subject 4.13. Resolution: 2026 Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Application (Councilor Singh) \*\*now deliberative agenda item 5.7.\*\***

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 4. Consent Agenda

Department Department of Finance and Administration

Type Action (Consent)  
Resolution

Recommended Action waive the reading and adopt the Resolution as written

4.13. Resolution: 2026 Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Application (Councilor Singh) **\*\*now deliberative agenda item 5.7.\*\***

## 5. Deliberative Agenda

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### 5. Deliberative Agenda

**Subject 5.1. Indoor Entertainment Permit Application (2026-2027): Doma Bar, LLC, 388 Pine Street, Unit 2**

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 5. Deliberative Agenda

Department Department of Finance and Administration

Type Action

Recommended Action approve the 2026 - 2027 Indoor Entertainment Permit Application for Doma Bar, LLC with all standard conditions

5.1. Indoor Entertainment Permit Application (2026-2027): Doma Bar, LLC, 388 Pine Street, Unit 2  
Motion made by Councilor Broderick, seconded by Councilor McKnight, to approve the motion as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.2. Request to execute a lease agreement with the General Services Administration (GSA) for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) office space - Airport (15 mins.)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Meeting            | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Category           | 5. Deliberative Agenda                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Department         | Airport                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Type               | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Recommended Action | to authorize the Mayor of the City of Burlington to execute the lease with General Service Administration at the Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, and to take such further actions and execute such further instruments approved as to form by the City Attorney's Office as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the transactions contemplated hereby |

5.2. Request to execute a lease agreement with the General Services Administration (GSA) for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) office space - Airport (15 mins.)  
Airport Director Longo spoke to this agenda item. Director of Finance Friedman was present as well.  
Motion made by Councilor Barlow, seconded by Councilor Bergman, to approve the motion as presented.  
Motion passed unanimously.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Subject</b>     | <b>5.3. First Public Hearing On A Proposed Charter Change Amendment For March 3, 2026 Annual City Election</b>                                                       |
| Meeting            | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor |
| Category           | 5. Deliberative Agenda                                                                                                                                               |
| Department         | Department of Finance and Administration                                                                                                                             |
| Type               | Action<br>Procedural<br>Public Hearing                                                                                                                               |
| Recommended Action | open the Public Hearing<br>close the Public Hearing                                                                                                                  |

5.3. First Public Hearing On A Proposed Charter Change Amendment For March 3, 2026 Annual City Election  
City Council President Traverse opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 pm.  
City Council President Traverse closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 pm.

**Online speakers (in favor):**  
Michelle Bookless  
Rachel Siegel

**Subject**                      **5.4. Resolution: March 3, 2026 Annual City Meeting - Advisory Question Re Municipal Tax Reform (Councilor Bergman)(30 mins.)**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category                      5. Deliberative Agenda

Department                      Mayor's Office

Type                              Action  
Resolution

Recommended Action        waive the reading and adopt the resolution

5.4. Resolution: March 3, 2026 Annual City Meeting - Advisory Question Re Municipal Tax Reform (Councilor Bergman)(30 mins.)

Motion made by Councilor Bergman, seconded by Councilor Grant, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution. Motion failed by a roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilors Bergman, Broderick, Grant, Kane and Neubieser

Nays: Councilors Barlow, Carpenter, Litwin, McKnight, Schachter, Singh and City Council President Traverse

**Subject**                      **5.5. Authorization to Execute Contract with Interface Studio for planBTV: 2050 - Planning (25 mins.)**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category                      5. Deliberative Agenda

Department                      Planning

Type                              Action

Recommended Action        1. approve the expenditure of up to \$340,000.00 (\$325,755.00 + 4.2% contingency) from the sources identified above; and  
2. authorize the Planning Director to execute the contract with Interface Studio for planBTV: 2050, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney

5.5. Authorization to Execute Contract with Interface Studio for planBTV: 2050 - Planning (25 mins.)

Planning Director Dillard spoke to this agenda item.

Motion made by Councilor Barlow, seconded by Councilor Bergman, to approve the motion as presented.

Motion passed by a roll call vote:

Ayes: Councilors Barlow, Bergman, Broderick, Carpenter, Grant, Kane, Litwin, Neubieser, Singh, Schachter and City Council President Traverse

Nay: Councilor McKnight

**Subject**                      **5.6. FY27 School Budget Presentation - BSD (25 mins.)**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category                      5. Deliberative Agenda

Department Burlington School District

Type Information  
Discussion  
Presentation

5.6. FY27 School Budget Presentation - BSD (25 mins.)

BSD Finance Director Lavery and BSD Chair Wool spoke to this agenda item.

**Subject 5.7. Resolution: 2026 Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Application (Councilor Singh) \*\*was consent agenda item 4.13.\*\***

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 5. Deliberative Agenda

Department Department of Finance and Administration

Type Action  
Resolution

Recommended Action waive the reading and adopt the resolution

5.7. Resolution: 2026 Downtown Transportation Fund Grant Application (Councilor Singh) **\*\*was consent agenda item 4.13.\*\***

Grants Director Losch spoke to this agenda item.

Motion made by Councilor Singh, seconded by Councilor McKnight, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Committee Reports

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### 6. Committee Reports

**Subject 6.1. Verbal reports**

Meeting January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category 6. Committee Reports

Department Council and Board

Type Information

6.1. Verbal reports

## 7. City Council - General City Affairs (to include Climate and Public Health & Safety Emergency Updates: up to 5 mins. per Councilor)

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**7. City Council - General City Affairs (to include Climate and Public Health & Safety Emergency Updates: up to 5 mins. per Councilor)**

**Subject**                      **7.1. Verbal reports**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category                      7. City Council - General City Affairs (to include Climate and Public Health & Safety Emergency Updates: up to 5 mins. per Councilor)

Department                      Council and Board

Type                      Information

7.1. Verbal reports

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**8. City Council President - Council Updates (up to 5 mins.)**

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**8. City Council President - Council Updates (up to 5 mins.)****Subject**                      **8.1. Verbal reports**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category                      8. City Council President - Council Updates (up to 5 mins.)

Department                      Council and Board

Type                      Information

8.1. Verbal reports

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**9. Adjournment**

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**9. Adjournment****Subject**                      **9.1. Motion to adjourn**

Meeting                      January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor

Category                      9. Adjournment

Department                      Council and Board

Type                      Action  
Procedural

Recommended Action      Motion to adjourn

9.1. Motion to adjourn

City Council President Traverse adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.

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**10. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements**

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## 10. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Subject    | <b>10.1. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information on access, call Lori Olberg, Council and Licensing Coordinator (802-865-7136)(TTY 802-865-7142). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate are encouraged to contact 802-865-7000 (voice) or 802-865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made. This meeting will also air on Town Meeting TV the Wednesday after the meeting, starting at 8:00 pm and repeating at 1:00 am and 7:00 am the following day. The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information.</b> |
| Meeting    | January 20, 2026 - City Council Meeting and 1st Charter Change Public Hearing - Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 6:00 PM, Contois Auditorium, 149 Church Street, 2nd Floor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Category   | 10. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Department | Council and Board                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Type       | Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

10.1. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information on access, call Lori Olberg, Council and Licensing Coordinator (802-865-7136)(TTY 802-865-7142). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate are encouraged to contact 802-865-7000 (voice) or 802-865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made. This meeting will also air on Town Meeting TV the Wednesday after the meeting, starting at 8:00 pm and repeating at 1:00 am and 7:00 am the following day. The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information.

## Lori Olberg

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**From:** Jonathan Chapple-Sokol <chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:52 PM  
**To:** Lori Olberg  
**Cc:** Benjamin Traverse; Gene Bergman; Marek Broderick; Mark Barlow; Sarah Carpenter; Allie Schachter; Carter Neubieser; Melo Grant; Buddy Singh; Evan Litwin; Becca Brown McKnight; Joe Kane; Sam Doherty; Rob Gutman; Gretchen Platt; Carol Livingston; Jonathan Chapple-Sokol  
**Subject:** Resolution from Ward 1 NPA for City Council

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Hi Lori,  
Can you please include this in this week's or next week's City Council consent agenda packet?  
Thanks,  
Jonathan  
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol for the Ward 1 NPA

On 1/14, the Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA) passed the following resolution, 22-11-4:

***Resolution Urging City Council to Place Apartheid-Free Community Pledge Advisory Question on the 2026 Town Meeting Day Ballot***

***WHEREAS for two consecutive years, petitions were submitted to place the following non-binding advisory question regarding the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge on the 2024 and 2025 Town Meeting Day ballot: "Shall the voters of the City of Burlington advise the Mayor and City Council to adopt the following pledge? WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people; and WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and WE DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community, and to that end, WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation."; and***

***WHEREAS, in both years, the City verified that the petitions contained a sufficient number of signatures to meet the requirements of 17 VSA § 2642 and Burlington City Charter § 6 (5% of the registered voters of the City); and***

***WHEREAS, in both years, the City Council voted to block the aforementioned ballot question from appearing on the Town Meeting Day ballot; and***

***WHEREAS, the City has discretion to include advisory questions on the ballot, and exercising such discretion "... furthers the Council's ability to balance the efficient transaction of city business with the provisions of a local forum for discussing state and national issues"1; and***

***WHEREAS, there is abundant precedent across Vermont for placing non-binding advisory questions about national or global issues on the Town Meeting Day ballot, including a call for a nuclear arms freeze passed in 155 Vermont municipalities in 1982, a vote opposing the Patriot Act passed in Waitsfield in 2003, a call to withdraw US troops from Iraq in 2005, and a measure opposing the basing of F-35 fighter jets in Burlington passed in 2018; and***

***WHEREAS, similar petitions to place the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge on the 2025 Town Meeting Day ballot were respected by municipal officials in Winooski, Brattleboro, Newfane, Thetford, Plainfield, Montpelier, Vergennes, Bristol, and Weybridge; and***

***WHEREAS, in April 2025, the City Council unanimously approved a resolution for protecting free speech on Palestine;***

***WHEREAS, the pre-condition of responsible and accountable local governance is free speech and democracy;***

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly urges the City Council to place the aforementioned non-binding advisory question regarding the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge on the 2026 Town Meeting Day Ballot.***

***1 Clift v. City of South Burlington 181 Vt. 571 (2007)***

## Lori Olberg

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**From:** Alyssa Chen <alyssa.edjvt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:41 AM  
**To:** Lori Olberg  
**Subject:** Please add to the consent agenda

You don't often get email from alyssa.edjvt@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)  
[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

Hi Lori,

Please add my comments to the consent agenda. Thanks!

We are members of the Education Justice Coalition of Vermont and we stand in solidarity with Palestine. We envision collective liberation for all people and a world in which Indigenous, Black, People of Color, Disability, Immigrant, poor, and LGBTQIA+ peoples can thrive in a culture of belonging that is free of bias, discrimination, and oppression. A future where everyone is free includes a free Palestine and safety for Jewish people. Our vision extends beyond the carceral state and the limits of today's repressive systems.

We are here today to speak out in solidarity with Palestine and urge the counselors to put Apartheid Free Communities Pledge on the ballot because this is a dangerous time for quote unquote neutrality.

Many will call for neutrality in teaching about Palestine and Israel. But to quote Howard Zinn "You can't be neutral on a moving train". We know that the dominant narrative and the ways this issue is talked about, minimized, or ignored in schools is in defense of the occupation and the state of Israel. It is in defense of colonial imperialism. Now is not a time to look away or to teach staying silent. Silence is complacency. Silence is violence. While the US government actively and knowingly funds genocide, our schools remain underfunded, our teachers underpaid and our students undeserved.

Schools can either be sites of social replication and oppression or sites of social transformation. Our students deserve a complete education, deserve honest truthful conversations and deserve a free and war-free future. All youth deserve a future. Palestinian children deserve to grow up. The US is funding the murder of children by the hundreds. May all children grow up to see a free Palestine.

Right now the city of Burlington has an opportunity to democratically take a firm stance on this issue; a stance that would move the city from neutrality to justice and from silence to action.

Any attempts by city councilors to hamper democracy at this moment are simply moves from Trump's playbook and they will not be tolerated.

--

**Alyssa Chen** (she/they - [what's this?](#))

Co-Coordinator, Education Justice Coalition of Vermont

[alyssa.edjvt@gmail.com](mailto:alyssa.edjvt@gmail.com)

**Education Justice Coalition of Vermont** ([www.edjcoalitionvt.org](http://www.edjcoalitionvt.org)) promotes justice for all students in the Vermont education system through organizing, building community power, and developing and promoting ethnic studies and social justice curriculum and pedagogy. Visit our website and scroll down to [sign up for our newsletter](#); join us at upcoming [educational events](#); have an event for us to promote? Please fill out [this form](#); Are you an educator of color? [Join the Vermont Educators of Color Association](#).



# Office of Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak

149 CHURCH STREET • BURLINGTON, VT 05401 • (802) 865-7272

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Board of Finance  
City Council

**From:** Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak  
Erin Jacobsen, Chief of Staff

**Cc:** Kara Alnasrawi, CEDO Director; Lynn Regan, HR Director

**Date:** January 26, 2026

**Re:** Creation of OPC Grant and Project Manager Limited Service Position

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### Executive Summary

The Mayor's Office proposes creating one new position, to sit in CEDO: OPC Grant and Project Manager, a Limited Service, Part-Time (30 hours per week), Exempt, Non-union, Grade 20 position (*see attached Job Description*).

### Background and Financial Impact

In October 2024, the City created a position to assist with the early stages of implementing an Overdose Prevention Center. That position was a temporary, part-time position titled Special Assistant on Overdose Prevention Center Implementation, which we now need to replace with a longer-term position and for which we now have grant funds to support.

On September 8, the Board of Finance and City Council approved the acceptance of Grant #03420-01613 Overdose Prevention Center (OPC) Pilot Grant Funding from the Vermont Department of Health to develop and implement a fixed-site OPC in Burlington and administer award/s to the qualified and approved OPC provider. With the temporary position expiring and the OPC work advancing to a phase that now includes management of this \$2.2 million OPC Pilot grant and working with our now-approved provider (VCJR), the City needs to create a new, limited-service position to handle grant management and project compliance work; to manage community engagement and communications around OPC operations; and to serve as the city's main point of contact for our funder (Vermont Department of Health), the OPC provider, outside consultants, city officials, constituents and other stakeholders.

In addition, the grant requires the City to have an OPC project manager, as this is essential to the successful implementation and oversight of the OPC and ensures we are meeting key state and grant requirements. The Project Manager will serve as the City's primary OPC lead, working closely with City departments and external partners while actively managing the grant to keep the project on track and in compliance.

This position, should it be approved, will be entirely grant funded under the VDH grant (03420-10613). Because it is entirely grant-funded, it does not impact the City's General Fund. Additionally, the Mayor has directed that it be a limited-service position, which will expire once the grant funds are expended or in three years, whichever is sooner. Per City policy, this position will be evaluated annually to determine if the City have both a continued need for this position and funding to support it. If yes, at that time, the City can explore a regular position.

**Board of Finance Motion:**

Move to approve and recommend that the City Council approve the creation of the following position: OPC Grant and Project Manager, a Limited Service, Part-Time (30 hours per week), Exempt, Non-union, Grade 20 position.

**City Council Motion:**

Move to approve the creation of the following position: OPC Grant and Project Manager, a Limited Service, Part-Time (30 hours per week), Exempt, Non-union Grade 20 position.

## City of Burlington Job Description

**Position Title:** Overdose Prevention Center Grants and Project Manager

**Department:** Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO)

**Reports to:** Kara Alnasrawi, CEDO Director

**Pay Grade:** 20

**Union Affiliation:** Non-Union

**Exempt/Non-Exempt:** Exempt

**Hours:** Limited-Service 30 hours per week, including some evenings

**Remote Work Rating:** Tier 2

---

### General Purpose

The Project Manager supports the City of Burlington and its partners to establish and operate an Overdose Prevention Center (OPC) in alignment with Act 178 (2024), City policies, and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Operating Guidelines. This position is responsible for ensuring the needs of the City of Burlington are met while overseeing the administration of the OPC grant, be the acting project manager, and ensure compliance.

This role involves extensive collaboration with the Mayor's Office, other City departments, City Council, Department of Financial Administration (DFA), state agencies, the selected OPC provider and other OPC contractors, nonprofit and healthcare partners, substance use experts, public safety and the community to ensure the successful implementation and operations of the Center.

**Essential Job Functions:** (This section outlines the fundamental job functions that must be performed in this position. The "Qualifications/Basic Job Requirements" and the "Physical and Mental/Reasoning Requirements and Work Environment" state the underlying requirements that an employee must meet in order to perform these essential functions. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations may be made to qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions of the position.)

#### 1. Project & Grant Management

- Ensure the City and OPC Provider meet or exceed VDH Operating Guidelines and Compliance Plan which include requirements for the Service Assessment, management, staffing, training, facility design, site selection, security, emergency protocols, and data reporting and evaluation.

- Coordinate with the City Department of Finance & Administration (DFA), City Attorney and Vermont Department of Health DSU grant manager as needed to facilitate accurate and timely reporting and grant compliance.
- Work collaboratively with the OPC Provider, Pacific Institute on Research & Education (PIRE) and other external contractors to meet data collection and evaluation needs of the City and State, with a focus on service assessment, community engagement, neighborhood impact and ongoing cohort studies.
- Monitor grant progress against project workplan, timelines, budgets, and deliverables, escalating delays/barriers and recommending solutions as needed.

## 2. Public Engagement & Communications

- Work collaboratively with OPC Provider and external contractors to organize community engagement events as needed.
- Respond to constituent inquiries with accurate, timely, and evidence-based information and listen to community concerns with understanding.
- Ensure transparency throughout the process, utilize a data driven, community-centered approach to implementation and ongoing operations of the OPC.
- Update the City OPC webpage as needed and in a timely way as new information is available and send out OPC updates to the mailing list.
- Participate in City public health & safety initiatives, including but not limited to: CommStat, PREVENT/CityLink, CRT, Situation Table, City Circle, SIM and other harm reduction programs and efforts.

## **Qualifications: Minimum Requirements**

- Bachelor's degree in public health, public policy, social work, public administration, or related field is required
- Additional experience may be substituted for a degree requirement on a two-for-one year basis
- At least 5 years of progressively responsible experience in public health, harm reduction, social services, or government project management. Demonstrated understanding of substance use disorder, harm reduction principles, and public health equity.
- Experience managing grants, budgets, and compliance reporting.
- Excellent verbal, written, and public speaking skills, with the ability to communicate complex information to diverse audiences.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to manage multiple priorities under tight deadlines.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, database systems, and virtual meeting platforms.
- Ability to work in person in Burlington, including occasional evenings/weekends for City Council meetings and community events.
- Reliable transportation to attend meetings and events across the city.

- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through professional development and the ability to work effectively with people from all backgrounds.
- Ability to adhere to City standards, safety rules and personnel policies, and to maintain regular, reliable attendance.

**Physical & Mental/Reasoning Requirements: Work Environment:**

These are the physical and mental/reasoning requirements of the position as it is typically performed. Inability to meet one or more of these physical or mental/reasoning requirements will not automatically disqualify a candidate or employee from the position. Upon request for a reasonable accommodation, the City may be able to adjust or excuse one or more of these requirements, depending on the requirement, the essential function to which it relates, and the proposed accommodation.

|   |                                      |   |                                                         |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------|
| x | seeing                               | x | ability to move distances within warehouses and offices |
|   | color perception (red, green, amber) | x | lifting (specify 30 pounds)                             |
| x | hearing/listening                    | x | carrying (specify 30 pounds)                            |
|   | clear speech                         |   | climbing                                                |
| x | touching                             |   | driving                                                 |
| x | dexterity x hand x finger            |   | ability to mount and dismount forklift                  |
|   | reading – basic                      |   | pushing/pulling                                         |
| x | reading – complex                    |   | shift work                                              |
|   | math skills – basic                  |   | moving objects                                          |
| x | math skills – complex                |   | pressurized equipment                                   |
| x | writing – basic                      |   | extreme heat                                            |
| x | writing – complex                    |   | extreme cold                                            |
| x | analysis/comprehension               |   | high places                                             |
| x | judgment/decision making             |   | noise                                                   |
|   | clerical                             |   | fumes/odors                                             |
| x | inside                               |   | dirt/dust                                               |
|   | outside                              |   | hazardous materials                                     |
| x | works alone                          |   | electrical equipment                                    |
| x | works with others                    |   | mechanical equipment                                    |
| x | face-to-face contact                 |   |                                                         |
| x | verbal contact w/others              |   |                                                         |

**Supervision:**

Directly Supervises: \_\_0\_\_ Indirectly Supervises: \_\_0\_\_

**Disclaimer:**

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by employees to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and/or skills required of all personnel so classified.

**Approvals:**

Department Head: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Human Resources: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Created: January 26, 2026

**Mickenberg, LLC  
Zatz & Renfrew Consulting**

Memorandum

**To:** City of Burlington  
**From:** Virginia Renfrew, Gail Zatz, David Mickenberg and Christina McLaughlin,  
Lobbyists for the City of Burlington  
**Date:** January 22, 2026  
**Re:** Update on 2026 Legislative Session

---

**Updates on the City of Burlington Legislative Priorities and Budget**

*The Budget Adjustment bill* is almost completed in the House Appropriations Committee. They plan to vote the bill out on either Monday or early Tuesday morning. House Appropriations has agreed to fund a contingency fund that will help support Vermont's Public Housing Authorities, who have faced federal losses leading to an erosion of the Section 8 program in Vermont.

*The FY 2027 Budget bill* is being considered by the House Appropriations Committee and the House Human Services Committee. The Governor presented his budget address on Tuesday afternoon and released his budget proposals.

***Housing***

H.594 addresses housing and homelessness. There will be ongoing testimony on this issue from stakeholders in the next week and the Committee has asked for Burlington's perspective on this bill. We will continue to monitor it closely.

The House General and Housing Committee and the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee had several hearings on housing in general. They are beginning to work on specific housing bills/proposals. Included in these bills is a proposal to rewrite much of Vermont's landlord tenant statutes.

***Mental Health and Substance Use***

H.660, a short form bill with no specific text, will be the vehicle for the Opioid Settlement Fund appropriations. House Human Services has not begun its work on the bill, yet. Both the Department of Health and the Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee did not recommend funding for the OPC, noting that the OPC does not need funding in FY 27. We have noted that that is not the case and will work on FY 27 funding for the Burlington OPC.

Mickenberg, LLC  
Zatz & Renfrew Consulting  
10 Nash Place, Burlington, VT 05401  
david@mickenbergvt.com, christina@mickenbergvt.com, zatz@sover.net, renfrew@sover.net

# **Mickenberg, LLC Zatz & Renfrew Consulting**

## ***Judicial and Pre-Monitoring Systems***

House Corrections and Institutions has taken quite a bit of testimony on the Accountability Court in Chittenden County. They are scheduled to take testimony on pretrial services tomorrow.

## ***Water Infrastructure***

Senate Natural Resources continues to take introductory testimony on water quality issues.

## ***Gun Reform***

Many bills have been introduced this biennium addressing various gun reform issues. It continues to be unclear as to which, if any, will move forward.

## ***Charter Changes***

House Government Operations voted out H.508. As introduced H.508 included the power for the City to set its electoral boundaries and a provision related to setting notice requirements in landlord tenant law. The Committee decided to vote out H.508 with only the ward boundaries sections of the bill. The bill should be before the full House for a vote next week.

The charter change bills that we are monitoring are:

H.59 Board of Police Commissioners/Police Department

H.462 Just cause eviction

H.508 Landlord notice/ward boundaries

S.131 Banning firearms in bars

**Lori Olberg**

**From:** VLCT Journal <info@vlct.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 17, 2026 7:01 AM  
**To:** Lori Olberg  
**Subject:** PACIF Grants, Legislative Happenings, Town Meeting, and More!

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.



**January 2026**

Lori,

**For complete information /  
additional text, please  
contact the City Clerk's Office**

Most of the state is snow covered and will likely remain so for the next few weeks, if not the next few months. Review this **Winter Storm Safety Brief** to help your staff maintain a high level of safety and hazard awareness. With town meeting preparations underway, visit our **Town Meeting webpage** or attend a town meeting related training if you need a refresher. Our advocacy team returned to the State House for what's sure to be an interesting session. Read the latest **Weekly Legislative Report** and join the bi-weekly **Advocacy Chats** to stay up to date.



- [News](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Claims](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Events](#)

## Legal Notes

### Can a Local Public Body Meet Remotely Due to a Storm?

All local public bodies, whether advisory or not, can meet remotely (without designating a physical meeting location) if they can't meet at their regular meeting place due to either a declared state of emergency or a local incident. However, there are legal rules to comply with.

### Tips and Info for Avoiding Disruptions When Hosting Online Meetings

This new guide gives an overview of security features available in the most common online meeting software, with tips on why and how to use them, a table comparing different products, and links to learn more. The main message: Don't rely on free versions of meeting software. Paying even a small amount can prevent many disruptions and provide much better security.

## Risk Management

### PACIF Grants: Members' Perspectives

Hear directly from grant recipients about how they're using the funds, what projects were most worthwhile, and what they plan to apply for in the future. Then click through to learn how you can apply for a 2026 PACIF Grant or a John Lawe Scholarship.

### Meet PACIF's Newest Claims Representative

Lori Olberg

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**From:** VLCT Weekly Legislative Report <info@vlct.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 2:04 PM  
**To:** Lori Olberg  
**Subject:** January 20, 2026

75 JAN 23 4:42 PM

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.



The 2026 session is off to the races, and the VLCT advocacy team ran around the State House to deliver another four testimonies, primarily focused on the authorities, statutory processes, and limitations of local government for land use regulation. As legislators grapple with a constrained budget cycle and colliding property tax and housing crises, they are looking to regulatory levers, rather than appropriations, to speed up housing and infrastructure investment.

In this *Weekly Legislative Report*, we review testimonies this week from VLCT related to municipal authority over some agricultural activity, the siting of telecommunications infrastructure, zoning for home building, and more.

**As always, please stay in touch. We want to hear your ideas, feedback, and concerns.**

**Read the Weekly Legislative Report**



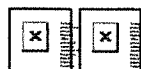
### Advocacy Chat

Be sure to join us on **Monday, January 26 at 1 PM** for our next Advocacy Chat.

Register now!

**Chats occur every other Monday.** We rely on hearing your ideas and concerns as the session progresses. You can view previous Advocacy Chats on our website.

[Click here to view this email as a web page.](#)



### Manage Your Preferences

Email [mailings@vlct.org](mailto:mailings@vlct.org) to subscribe or unsubscribe from the *Weekly Legislative Report*.

Vt. League of Cities & Towns | 89 Main St. Suite 4 | Montpelier, VT 05602 US

**Lori Olberg**

**From:** ANR - ENB Administrator <ANR.ENBAdministrator@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 5:13 PM  
**To:** Burlington Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Vermont Environmental Notice Bulletin Stakeholder Update by Location

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

You are receiving this message because you have been signed up to receive email notifications via the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB). These notifications are intended to inform you of environmental activities relevant to your town or organization based on location or activity type.

Below are current activities for which you have been signed up to receive notifications. To view the details of these activities please [visit the ENB](#). When one or more activities that match your specific criteria is posted to ENB, you will receive a single email notification compiling the information. If you have been signed up to receive updates step-by-step throughout the review process for these activities the updates will appear in the second half of the email.

To modify the subscription, please contact the staff person listed on the individual activity page or the ENB Administrator at [anr.enbadministrator@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.enbadministrator@vermont.gov).

Regards,  
 ENB Support  
 Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

## New Activities

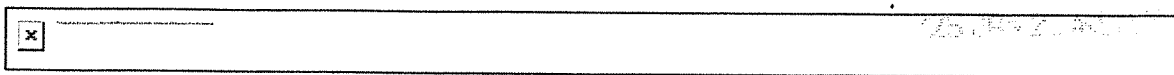
| Activity Type                         | Activity/Project Name      | Permit # / ID | Applicant      | Town       | Status    | ENB Link                     |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Wetlands General Permit Authorization | 52NorthCoveRoad-Burlington | 2022-0967     | Jackson Miller | Burlington | In Review | <a href="#">PN26.0002156</a> |

Lori Olberg

**From:** VLCT Training & Events <info@vlct.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 7:31 AM  
**To:** Lori Olberg  
**Subject:** Selectboard Onboarding and Board Development Tips

EDR INFORMATION ONLY

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.



## Selectboard Onboarding and Board Development Tips

Enhanced & updated! Plan ahead to kick off your selectboard's best year yet. Kathleen Ramsay shares **pro tips and two updated checklists** to help you prepare for the **annual organizational meeting** and support a smooth transition for new selectboard members.

**February 4 @ 10 AM**  
**FREE**

**Register**



[Click here to view this email as a web page.](#)

Vt. League of Cities & Towns | 89 Main St. Suite 4 | Montpelier, VT 05602 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



# FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Lori Olberg

**From:** Brackin, Stephanie <Stephanie.Brackin@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 11:16 AM  
**Subject:** DEC Press Release: Public Invited to Comment on Proposed Changes to Vermont's Use of Public Waters Rules and Wakesports Regulations

You don't often get email from stephanie.brackin@vermont.gov. Learn why this is important  
[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – January 21, 2026

For complete information /  
additional text, please  
contact the City Clerk's Office

### Media Contacts:

Laura Dlugolecki, Lakes and Ponds Policy and Outreach Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
802-490-6133, [Laura.Dlugolecki@Vermont.gov](mailto:Laura.Dlugolecki@Vermont.gov)

Jenny Austin, Lakes and Ponds Program Manager  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
802-480-1394, [Jenny.Austin@Vermont.gov](mailto:Jenny.Austin@Vermont.gov)

## Public Invited to Comment on Proposed Changes to Vermont's Use of Public Waters Rules and Wakesports Regulations

*Montpelier, Vt.* – The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is seeking public input on proposed changes to Vermont's Use of Public Waters Rules. ANR will host two hybrid public meetings on January 27 and February 4. The public is welcome to provide feedback during these meetings or through written comments.

"The Use of Public Waters Rules protects the uses and natural resource values of all public waters for this and future generations," said Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Misty Sinsigalli. "The proposed changes clarify new wakesports regulations and update language on topics such as petition review. We invite members of the public to share their comments on these proposed changes."

In 2024, Vermont adopted new wakesports regulations that limit wakesports with a wakeboat to the wakesports zones of inland lakes. There are 30 inland lakes where wakesports can occur within a specific wakesports zone.

The proposed changes to the Use of Public Water Rules and wakesports regulations:

- Update the language on how to delegate to municipalities, review and submit petitions, and inspect and decontaminate (or clean) watercraft,
- Increase safety offsets between wakesports and other recreational users,
- Revise the wakesports zone definition, and
- Require hot water decontamination for wakeboats moving between water bodies.

# FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Lori Olberg

**From:** ANR - ENB Administrator <ANR.ENBAdministrator@vermont.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 5:16 PM  
**To:** Burlington Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Vermont Environmental Notice Bulletin Stakeholder Update by Location

[ WARNING ]: This email was sent from someone outside of the City of Burlington.

For complete information /  
 additional help, please  
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You are receiving this message because you have been signed up to receive email notifications via the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB). These notifications are intended to inform you of environmental activities relevant to your town or organization based on location or activity type.

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To modify the subscription, please contact the staff person listed on the individual activity page or the ENB Administrator at [anr.enbadministrator@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.enbadministrator@vermont.gov).

Regards,  
 ENB Support  
 Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

## New Activities

| Activity Type                                                    | Activity/Project Name      | Permit # / ID     | Applicant                     | Town       | Status                                             | ENB Link                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Category 1<br>Underground<br>Storage Tank -<br>Operating/Renewal | Group Five Investments LLC | 8649450-<br>18525 | Group Five<br>Investments LLC | Burlington | Draft<br>Decision -<br>Public<br>Comment<br>Period | <a href="#">PN26.0002326</a> |

## Changes to Activities I'm Following

| Activity Type                               | Activity/Project Name          | Permit # / ID | Applicant         | Town       | Most Recent Update                                                                                                          | Date           | Status    | ENB Link                 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Wetlands General<br>Permit<br>Authorization | 52NorthCoveRoad-<br>Burlington | 2022-<br>0967 | Jackson<br>Miller | Burlington | The<br>administrative<br>record set for<br>this activity<br>has been<br>modified.<br>Please visit<br>the ENB to<br>view the | 2026-<br>01-21 | In Review | <a href="#">PN26.000</a> |

# CITY OF BURLINGTON

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Office of City Planning,  
Planning Commission

Public Hearing Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

First reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_

Rules suspended and placed in all  
stages of passage: \_\_\_\_\_

Second reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Published: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective: \_\_\_\_\_

In the Year Two Thousand Twenty-Six

## An Ordinance in Relation to

CDO—planBTV Downtown Code Fences  
ZA-26-02

**It is hereby Ordained** by the City Council of the City of Burlington as follows:

That Appendix A, Comprehensive Development Ordinance of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Burlington be and hereby is amended by amending Article 14, Sec. 14.6.8, Site and Landscape Standards, to increase the height of see-through fences permitted in the First Lot Layer if enclosing an alleyway or a loading dock within an alleyway, as well as allow for chain-link or welded wire fence to be used if enclosing alleyways or a loading dock within an alleyway; thereof to read as follows:

\*\*\*

### Article 14 PlanBTV Downtown Code

\*\*\*

### Section 6: Applicable in All Form Districts

\*\*\*

### Section 14.6.8 – Site and Landscape Standards

a) **Purpose and Applicability:** *As Written.*

b) **Site Standards**

i – iv. *As Written.*

v. **Fences and Free-standing Walls:**

A. Fences and Free-standing Walls placed within the First Lot Layer shall not exceed 4-feet in height, except for see-through fences which shall not exceed 6 feet in height and shall only be used to enclose an alleyway or loading dock located within an alleyway. Fences and Free-standing Walls placed within the Second or Third Lot Layer shall not exceed 8-feet in height unless a different height limit is specified under the applicable Form District or Frontage Type.

B. Materials used for Fences and Free-standing Walls shall be limited to Brick and tile masonry; Native or sintered stone; Wood – panels, clapboard or shingles; Cementitious siding, metal, and woven or braided cable wire. Chain-link and welded-wire fencing shall not be used along any Frontage Line with the exception of alleyways or loading docks located within an alleyway, the temporary ~~20~~ enclosure of a construction site, or where required by the Building Official to protect public safety. Barbed or razor wire shall not be used in any application. Alternate materials may be approved by the Administrative Officer after seeking input from the Design Advisory Board.

28 Alternate materials must be considered equivalent or better than the materials listed above, and must  
29 demonstrate successful, high quality local installations. Regionally-available materials are  
30 preferred.

31 C. All fences and free-standing walls shall be installed so that a finished side faces outward towards  
32 the adjacent property or public Frontage.

33  
34 c) - d) *As written.*

35  
36  
37 \* Material stricken out deleted.

38 \*\* Material underlined added.

39  
40 Planning/KS/ Ordinances 2026/ZA-26-02 planBTV Downtown Code Fences  
41 CDO Sections 14.6.8(b)(v) A and B

42  
43 CC 1/22/26



City of Burlington, VT  
149 Church Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone: (802) 865-7194  
[www.burlingtonvt.gov/plan](http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/plan)

**TO:** Burlington City Council  
**FROM:** Sarah Morgan, AICP, Principal Planner  
Charles Dillard, AICP, Director of City Planning  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026  
**RE:** Proposed ZA-26-02 planBTV Downtown Code Fence Height

---

This memo is intended to provide an overview about the proposed changes included in ZA-26-02.

### **1. Overview & Background**

Downtown business owners, their employees, and service providers report ongoing challenges related to substance use, hygiene, and safety, particularly in alleys, entryways, and service areas. The Development Review Board has requested a zoning amendment that provides more allowance for taller fences in Burlington's downtown districts.

Currently, Article 14 of the Comprehensive Development Ordinance does not allow for Fences and Free-standing Walls to exceed 4 feet in height when placed in the First Lot Layer. The proposed amendment to Article 14 would create an administrative approval pathway for fences up to 6 feet in height, provided they are transparent.

During this amendment process, the Planning Commission has expanded the scope of their recommendation to address allowable materials for fences in the first lot layer.

### **2. Planning Commission and Committee Discussions**

This section summarizes the discussions that have taken place following staff presentations to the Planning Commission and Planning Commission Ordinance Committee.

#### ***Summary of 1/13 Planning Commission Discussion***

The Planning Commission completed its discussion of ZA-26-02: Downtown Fences during its January 13<sup>th</sup> public hearing. The Commissioners voted to recommend the amendment's approval, as warned. However, several commissioners expressed opposition to the amendment's allowing chain-link fencing materials along any Frontage Line, as stated in 14.6.8(b)v.B. Those commissioners would like the Council and its Ordinance Committee to continue exploring this topic and whether chain-link is an appropriate material in Burlington's Downtown.

#### ***Summary of 1/7 Planning Commission Ordinance Committee Discussion***

The Planning Commission Ordinance Committee (PCOC) met on January 7<sup>th</sup>, as directed by the Planning Commission, to review the amendment as warned and make recommendations regarding fencing around recessed entries.

During this meeting, the Ordinance Committee expressed opposition to enclosures or gates in front of recessed entries, citing concerns related to building design and the pedestrian experience. The PCOC recommends removing all language related to recessed entries from the amendment and emphasized that it does not wish to pursue a future amendment addressing fencing for entryways downtown. However, the Committee expressed interest in exploring alternative approaches, such as public art and placemaking efforts, to better activate these spaces.

One point of clarification discussed during the meeting was that the height of rolling gates would be measured by the height of the fence itself, not by ground clearance.

### ***Summary of 12/9 Planning Commission Discussion***

The Planning Commission met on December 9 to review the revised amendment as referred by the Planning Commission Ordinance Committee. As requested by the PCOC, the Commission continued its discussion regarding the extent to which Article 14 should increase allowable fence height and expand permitted fence materials within the First Lot Layer.

As it relates to fence height and materials, the Planning Commission modified the proposed amendment to:

- Increase the allowable fence height from four feet to six feet only when the fence is used to enclose an alleyway or a loading dock located within an alleyway (*Sec. 14.6.8 (b) v. A*).
- Allow chain-link and welded wire fences along the frontage line when located within alleyways or used to enclose loading docks within alleyways (*Sec. 14.6.8 (b) v. B*).

Commissioners also discussed how this amendment relates to gates in front of vestibules\* in the form code districts. While some commissioners were apprehensive about allowing six-foot chain-link or welded wire fences or gates in front of recessed business entryways, others acknowledged that such allowances may help address ongoing public health and safety challenges in these areas.

The Planning Commission warned the amendment for a public hearing at its January 13 meeting, with the understanding that the PCOC will meet prior to the hearing and provide recommended language addressing how the amendment should account for fencing associated with vestibules\* in the downtown form-based code district.

### ***Summary of 11/24 Planning Commission Ordinance Committee Discussion***

The PCOC met on November 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss this amendment and were in agreement that it should take a balanced approach. Committee members share the goal of supporting downtown businesses and also want to prevent this amendment from negatively impacting the City's broader goal of maintaining a welcoming downtown.

During Public Forum, members of the downtown business community spoke in support of the amendment and also requested that the amendment be expanded to allow chain-link fences in certain cases. Committee members acknowledged the benefits of allowing chain-link fencing but expressed concerns about impacting the downtown experience if allowed within or along the First Lot Layer. Ultimately, the Committee agreed that chain-link fences should be permitted only when used to enclose alleyways or loading docks, and that those fences may be up to 6 feet in height.

Committee members did not reach consensus on whether 6-foot fences should be allowed elsewhere in the First Lot Layer, or whether the 4-foot limit should remain in place except in the case of enclosing alleyways or loading docks.

The Committee voted to refer the revised amendment back to the Planning Commission, with the condition that the staff memo reflect that there was and should be additional discussion among the Commission on whether the height increase from 4 to 6 feet should apply more broadly within the First Lot Layer or remain limited to alleyways and loading docks.

### ***Summary of 10/14 Planning Commission Discussion***

Staff presented ZA-26-02: Downtown Fences to the Planning Commission during its meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The Commissioners discussed the complexities surrounding this amendment, including the desire to make sure that Burlington's downtown remain welcoming while also providing more flexibility in the height and materials of fences. As originally presented to the Planning Commission, this amendment made no changes to requirements related to the material of fences, and while it would allow for taller fences, chain-link fences were still not

---

\* Upon review of the language warned for a public hearing by the Planning Commission, staff determined that references to "vestibules" were intended to mean "recessed entries" and will advise the PCOC to correct this terminology in future recommended language.

permitted along the frontage line of a property. Ultimately, Commissioners referred to the Planning Commission Ordinance Committee (PCOC) for further discussion.

### **3. Proposed Amendment: ZA-26-02**

#### **a) Amendment Type**

|                       |               |                      |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Text Amendment</b> | Map Amendment | Text & Map Amendment |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|

#### **b) Purpose Statement**

The proposed change in ZA-26-02 aims to address challenges related to fence height in Downtown districts.

#### **c) Proposed Amendment**

##### **1. Amendments to Article 14: PlanBTV Downtown Code Fences**

- Amends Sec. 14.6.8 (b) v. A. Fences and Free-Standing Walls to create an administrative approval pathway allowing for fences to be up to 6 feet in height, as long as they are transparent.
- Amends Sec. 14.6.8 (b) v. B. to allow for chain-link and welded-wire fencing to be used in alleyways or loading docks.

#### **d) Relationship to planBTV**

This following discussion of conformance with the goals and policies of planBTV is prepared in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §4441(c).

|                  |                 |                    |                  |                  |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Theme:</b>    | <b>Dynamic</b>  | <b>Distinctive</b> | <b>Inclusive</b> | <b>Connected</b> |
| <b>Land Use:</b> | <b>Conserve</b> | <b>Sustain</b>     | <b>Grow</b>      |                  |

##### **Compatibility with Proposed Future Land Use & Density**

The proposed amendment aligns with the land use and density policies outlined in planBTV. Its purpose is to support both existing and future businesses in downtown as the city adapts to challenges related to public health and safety. This change reflects the intent of the "Dynamic" theme, which prioritizes purposeful and economically viable solutions that enable the city to meet current needs and address future challenges.

##### **Impact on Safe & Affordable Housing**

This amendment has no direct impact on safe and affordable housing.

##### **Planned Community Facilities**

This amendment has no direct impact on planned community facilities.

#### **h) Process Overview**

The following chart summarizes the current stage in the zoning amendment process, and identifies any recommended actions:

| Planning Commission Process                  |                                                                                      |                                       |                           |                                 |                             |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Draft Amendment prepared by Staff<br>9/18/25 | Presentation to & discussion by Commission:<br>10/14/25, 11/24/25*, 12/9/25, 1/7/26* | Approve for Public Hearing<br>12/9/25 | Public Hearing<br>1/13/26 | Approved & forwarded to Council |                             |
| City Council Process                         |                                                                                      |                                       |                           |                                 |                             |
| First Read & Referral to Ordinance Committee | Ordinance Committee discussion                                                       | Ordinance Committee recommend         | Second Read               | Public Hearing                  | Council Approval & Adoption |

\*Discussed by the Planning Commission Ordinance Committee

## Board of Finance and City Council Submission Checklist

Version: April 2025

Department: Office of City Planning Submitter: Charles Dillard

Title/Subject: ZA-26-02 Downtown Fences

Approval Requested:

- ☐ Board of Finance  
☒ City Council  
☐ Both BOF and Council

Meeting Date:

[Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

1/26/2026

[Click or tap to enter a date.](#)

### Instructions

1. This form must be completed by the person submitting the materials.
2. This form must be sent with the final submission of materials in advance of the meeting.
3. Do not indicate that a sign-off was received until it has actually been obtained.
4. Commission reports and presentations do not need to be reviewed by the CAO or Attorneys.
5. Name the reviewing Attorney or HR Manager in the Note column.

| Signoff Needed                                                   | Received?       | Approval Date                                 | Note                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Department Head                                                  | Yes             | 1/20/2026                                     | Charles Dillard                                  |
| Mayor's Office                                                   | Yes             | 1/22/2026                                     | Erin Jacobsen                                    |
| Board/Commission                                                 | Choose an item. | <a href="#">Click or tap to enter a date.</a> | <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a> |
| City Attorney's Office for memo and contracts or legal documents | Choose an item. | <a href="#">Click or tap to enter a date.</a> | <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a> |
| City Attorney's Office for memo and motion(s) or resolution(s)   | Yes             | 1/22/2026                                     | Kim Sturtevant                                   |
| CAO for budget, financing, and memo                              | Yes             | 1/22/2026                                     | Katherine Schad                                  |
| Human Resources, if personnel action or policy                   | Choose an item. | <a href="#">Click or tap to enter a date.</a> | <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a> |
| CIO, if IT-related                                               | Choose an item. | <a href="#">Click or tap to enter a date.</a> | <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a> |



Fee \$25.00

May 1, 2026 ---- April 30, 2027

**CITY OF BURLINGTON  
SPECIAL EVENT  
ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT APPLICATION**

☒ Indoor

☒ Outdoor

**PART I  
ORGANIZATION**

All information in this section is required

1. Corporation/Sole Proprietor name Burlington Electronic Department LTD.
2. D/B/A (Business Name) B.E.D. LTD. 3. Bus. Phone 518-744-5236
4. Business Address 79 Peru Street Burlington, VT 05401
5. Mailing Address 11
6. Contact person Zachary Schuster 7. Contact Phone 518-744-5236
8. Email contact address burlingtonelectronicdepartment@gmail.com

**PART II  
OPERATION**

1. Do you currently have a Liquor License? Yes or No
2. Do you currently have an Entertainment Permit/Special Event Permit? Yes or No
3. Proposed Date(s) for this Special Event Fri 1/30 - Sun 2/1
4. Proposed Hours for this Special Event various / see attached
5. Proposed Location for this Special Event Specify if event will be on City street or right-of-way  
Conant's Auditorium, City Hall Park, 405 Pine St., Foam Brewers Muddy Waters, Einsteins, Radio Bean + L.C.I.S., Wallflowers, U.U. Church

**For this Proposed location please answer the following questions:**

- a) Occupancy Load varies in accordance with Fire Marshal b) # of Restrooms varies c) # of Egresses varies  
d) Date of last Fire/Safety Check varies but up to code e) Dancing by Patrons? Yes or No  
f) Amplified Music? Yes or No g) Will additional staff and/or security be required? Yes or No

\$25.00.  
pd cash for 1/20/20

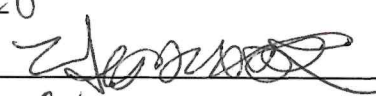
(Continued on back)

**PART III  
DESCRIPTION OF ENTERTAINMENT**

Please give DETAILED description of the type of entertainment for which you are applying:

Description Groundhog Fest is a multi-venue multi-genre citywide music festival. We will have a bar run by the Wallflower Collective in Contois Auditorium on Friday 1/30 and Saturday 1/31. They will submit for license with the DCL. See attached schedule. The event is supported by the BCA and many local businesses.

**STATEMENT OF APPLICANT:** Under the pains and penalties of perjury, I affirm that the preceding answers are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I have read, understand and agree to comply with all City and State conditions, laws, ordinances, regulations and statutes.

DATE SIGNED: 1/21/26  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT   
PRINT NAME: Zachary Schuster  
RELATIONSHIP TO BUSINESS operator

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Fee Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Returned \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

At their meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, the Burlington City Council License Committee recommended  
Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Denial \_\_\_\_\_

At their meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, the Burlington City Council \_\_\_\_\_ this SPECIAL  
entertainment permit application.

## Friday

### **Contois**

8-9pm Blossom  
9-10 Greaseface  
10-11 Show Me  
the Body

### **L.C.L.S.**

8:30-9:30 Drag show  
hosted by Katniss  
9:30-11 Craig Mitchell  
11-2am Dj Taka

### **Radio Bean**

7:30-8pm Burial Woods  
8:15-8:45 Emmanuel  
9-9:30 Coven  
9:30-10 Hissy Fit  
10:15-11 baby baby\_explores  
11:15-12 Magic User  
12:15-1am Slash Need

### **Foam**

8-10pm Danny & the Parts  
10-12am TallGrass GetDown

### **405 pine**

11pm-1am Broosha  
1-3am Pascale Project  
3-4am Isabella Koen  
4-6am Alien D b2b Mole  
6-8am Roost.World

### **Einsteins**

10pm-2am Newmantra + Slaytt

### **Wallflower**

10pm-2am Two Sev

## Saturday

### **City Hall Park**

1-6pm OPEN DECKS  
6-8pm Roost.World

### **Radio Bean**

8-9 Golomb  
9-10 Greg Freeman  
11-1 Sabouyouma

### **Foam**

8-10pm Danny & the Parts  
10-12am TallGrass GetDown

### **Contois**

8-8:30 Two Sev  
8:30-8:31 Industry  
Standard  
8:31-9:15 Public Circuit  
9:15-10 Bone Bone  
10-11 Robber Robber

### **L.C.L.S.**

8-9pm Polkarobics  
9-10pm Casper Electronics  
10-2am Mark Grusane

### **Einsteins**

10:30-2am Kate Kush + MEGH

### **405 pine**

10-12am Tubtime!  
12-2Kiernan Laveaux  
2-3 Sweater On Polo  
3-5am Physical Therapy  
5-7am zi!  
7-8am Marie Hamilton

### **Wallflower**

10pm-2am Four-d

## Sunday

### **Muddy's**

8am-noon jubilee  
noon-4pm Mx. Blaire

### **U.U.Church**

4-4:30 Narrow Shoulders  
4:30-5:15pm Mikahely  
5:45-6:30pm Purelink  
7-8pm Car Culture

### **Radio Bean**

8-9 Golomb  
9-10 Greg Freeman

### **Wallflower**

9pm-1am DJ Cre8

### **L.C.L.S.**

10pm-2am Roost.World & friends

**Resolution Relating to**

PROMOTING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

**RESOLUTION** \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor(s): A. Schachter, S.  
Carpenter, E. Litwin  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1    That    WHEREAS, the City of Burlington includes a wide diversity of residents who come from many  
2    different backgrounds, religions, ethnic heritages, and regions in the United States and across the world; and  
3            WHEREAS, the City of Burlington desires to support all residents and for everyone to feel and be safe  
4    and secure within our City; and  
5            WHEREAS, the City of Burlington affirms that Palestinians and Israelis alike are entitled to live in  
6    safety, with dignity, freedom, equality, self-determination, and the opportunity to thrive; and  
7            WHEREAS, there has been polarization in recent years within our City and elsewhere about the  
8    appropriate role of the United States and our municipality in longstanding conflicts in the Middle East; and  
9            WHEREAS, while there has been disagreement on how, if at all, the City of Burlington should address  
10    longstanding conflicts in the Middle East and its impact on our community, the City Council stands united in  
11    its condemnation of the violence in the region; and  
12            WHEREAS, the impact of the conflicts in the Middle East on our community took on heightened  
13    awareness in the aftermath of the tragic shooting of three young Palestinian men in November 2023. We  
14    condemn this violence, and all violence in our community, in the strongest possible terms; and  
15            WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor have repeatedly expressed interest in pursuing opportunities  
16    for community dialogue as a means of processing the conflicts in the Middle East and acknowledging the  
17    ways in which they impact our own community; and  
18            WHEREAS, while the Mayor’s Administration, with support from the Community Justice Center  
19    (CJC), convened and facilitated three dialogue sessions for faith leaders in August and September 2025, none  
20    have yet been offered to the greater public; and  
21            WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has an opportunity to model cooperation, solidarity and  
22    collaboration, to create a social environment where we all can work together for everyone's benefit,  
23    understanding that the well-being of each and every group ensures the well-being of each and every other  
24    group; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that even in the midst of violence and fear, there are Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans who are doing the difficult and necessary work of building peace and honoring each other's shared humanity, both here in our own community and abroad. They grieve with one another, and they refuse to see enemies where there are neighbors; and

~~WHEREAS, the Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program was founded in 1991 on the belief that citizens can help bring peace by working with each other across divides. This program was the first tripartite sister city relationship among U.S., Palestinian, and Israeli cities, signaling our City's long history of working across differences and serving as a national leader in promoting peace, building bridges, and honoring our shared humanity; and~~

WHEREAS, ~~the Vermont Friends of Standing Together held~~ local community groups held a free screening of the award-winning documentary "The Other" on October 26, 2025. This documentary explores the complex relationship of shared humanity, culture, and connection between Palestinians and Israelis, and the transformative journey that follows when they are faced with meeting 'the other' amidst the difficulty of the conflict and occupation. It provides an extraordinary example of what we are all capable of as humans.<sup>1</sup>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Burlington honors those individuals and organizations who have been working tirelessly during these challenging and divisive times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Burlington remains committed to facilitating opportunities for constructive and compassionate community dialogue on the longstanding conflicts in the Middle East, the ways in which it directly impacts Burlington, and actions we can take to promote peace, justice, and equal rights for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Burlington City Council allocates up to \$2,000 from the Councilor Initiative Fund in FY26 to the CJC to organize and host one or more film screenings of "The Other" for the general public, followed by facilitated dialogue sessions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council renews its request to the Mayor, in partnership with the CJC, to support additional opportunities for restorative community dialogue sessions with trained facilitators for all interested members of the public. The Burlington City Council will allocate up to \$10,000 from the Councilor Initiative Fund in FY26 to support these efforts.

<sup>1</sup> "The Other," *We Uncover Films*, <https://weuncoverfilms.com/theother/>.

**Resolution Relating to**

PROMOTING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

**RESOLUTION** \_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor(s): A. Schachter, S.  
Carpenter, E. Litwin  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

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- That WHEREAS, the City of Burlington includes a wide diversity of residents who come from many different backgrounds, religions, ethnic heritages, and regions in the United States and across the world; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Burlington desires to support all residents and for everyone to feel and be safe and secure within our City; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Burlington affirms that Palestinians and Israelis alike are entitled to live in safety, with dignity, freedom, equality, self-determination, and the opportunity to thrive; and
- WHEREAS, there has been polarization in recent years within our City and elsewhere about the appropriate role of the United States and our municipality in longstanding conflicts in the Middle East; and
- WHEREAS, while there has been disagreement on how, if at all, the City of Burlington should address longstanding conflicts in the Middle East and its impact on our community, the City Council stands united in its condemnation of the violence in the region; and
- WHEREAS, the impact of the conflicts in the Middle East on our community took on heightened awareness in the aftermath of the tragic shooting of three young Palestinian men in November 2023. We condemn this violence, and all violence in our community, in the strongest possible terms; and
- WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor have repeatedly expressed interest in pursuing opportunities for community dialogue as a means of processing the conflicts in the Middle East and acknowledging the ways in which they impact our own community; and
- WHEREAS, while the Mayor’s Administration, with support from the Community Justice Center (CJC), convened and facilitated three dialogue sessions for faith leaders in August and September 2025, none have yet been offered to the greater public; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has an opportunity to model cooperation, solidarity and collaboration, to create a social environment where we all can work together for everyone's benefit, understanding that the well-being of each and every group ensures the well-being of each and every other group; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that even in the midst of violence and fear, there are Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans who are doing the difficult and necessary work of building peace and honoring each other's shared humanity, both here in our own community and abroad. They grieve with one another, and they refuse to see enemies where there are neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program was founded in 1991 on the belief that citizens can help bring peace by working with each other across divides. This program was the first tripartite sister city relationship among U.S., Palestinian, and Israeli cities, signaling our City's long history of working across differences and serving as a national leader in promoting peace, building bridges, and honoring our shared humanity; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Friends of Standing Together held a free screening of the award-winning documentary "The Other" on October 26, 2025. This documentary explores the complex relationship of shared humanity, culture, and connection between Palestinians and Israelis, and the transformative journey that follows when they are faced with meeting 'the other' amidst the difficulty of the conflict and occupation. It provides an extraordinary example of what we are all capable of as humans.<sup>1</sup>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Burlington honors those individuals and organizations who have been working tirelessly during these challenging and divisive times; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Burlington remains committed to facilitating opportunities for constructive and compassionate community dialogue on the longstanding conflicts in the Middle East, the ways in which it directly impacts Burlington, and actions we can take to promote peace, justice, and equal rights for all; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Burlington City Council allocates up to \$2,000 from the Councilor Initiative Fund in FY26 to the CJC to organize and host one or more film screenings of "The Other" for the general public, followed by facilitated dialogue sessions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council renews its request to the Mayor, in partnership with the CJC, to support additional opportunities for restorative community dialogue sessions with trained facilitators for all interested members of the public. The Burlington City Council will allocate up to \$10,000 from the Councilor Initiative Fund in FY26 to support these efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Other," *We Uncover Films*, <https://weuncoverfilms.com/theother/>.

## Lori Olberg

---

**From:** Allie Schachter  
**Sent:** Monday, January 26, 2026 10:07 PM  
**To:** Lori Olberg  
**Cc:** Sarah Carpenter; Benjamin Traverse; Evan Litwin  
**Subject:** Friendly amendment for Item 6.2

Line 51: Councilor Initiative Fund in FY26 to the CJC to support these efforts.

Thank you, Lori!

-----  
Allie Schachter (she/her)  
East District City Councilor

*Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.*

Resolution Relating to  
PROMOTING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

• Councilor Brodenick's proposed  
amendments •

RESOLUTION 6.2  
Sponsor(s): A. Schachter, S. Carpenter, E.  
Litwin  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

- 1 That WHEREAS, the City of Burlington includes a wide diversity of residents who come from many  
2 different backgrounds, religions, ethnic heritages, and regions in the United States and across the world; and  
3 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington desires to support all residents and for everyone to feel and be safe  
4 and secure within our City; and  
5 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington affirms that Palestinians and Israelis alike are entitled to live in  
6 safety, with dignity, freedom, equality, self-determination, and the opportunity to thrive; and  
7 WHEREAS, there has been ~~polarization~~ discussion in recent years within our City and elsewhere about the  
8 appropriate role of the United States and our municipality in our involvement with Israel and Palestine  
9 ~~longstanding conflicts in the Middle East~~; and  
10 WHEREAS, while there has been disagreement on how, if at all, the City of Burlington should address  
11 ~~longstanding conflicts in the Middle East~~ the history of Palestine and Israel and its impact on our community,  
12 the City Council stands united in its condemnation of the violence in the region; and  
13 WHEREAS, the impact of ~~the conflicts in the Middle East~~ the conflict in Palestine and Israel on our  
14 community took on heightened awareness in the aftermath of the tragic shooting of three young Palestinian  
15 men in November 2023. We condemn this violence, and all violence in our community, in the strongest  
16 possible terms; and  
17 WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor have repeatedly expressed interest in pursuing opportunities  
18 for community dialogue as a means of ~~processing the conflicts in the Middle East~~ discussing the history of  
19 Israel and Palestine and acknowledging the ways in which they impact our own community; and  
20 WHEREAS, while the Mayor's Administration, with support from the Community Justice Center  
21 (CJC), convened and facilitated three dialogue sessions for faith leaders in August and September 2025, none  
22 have yet been offered to the greater public; and  
23 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has an opportunity to model cooperation, solidarity and  
24 collaboration, to create a social environment where we all can work together for everyone's benefit,  
25 understanding that the well-being of each and every group ensures the well-being of each and every other  
26 group; and

27 WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that even in the midst of violence and fear, there are  
28 Palestinians, Israelis, and Americans who are doing the difficult and necessary work of building peace and  
29 honoring each other's shared humanity, both here in our own community and abroad. They grieve with one  
30 another, and they refuse to see enemies where there are neighbors; and

31 WHEREAS, the Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program was founded in 1991 on the belief  
32 that citizens can help bring peace by working with each other across divides. This program was the first  
33 tripartite sister city relationship among U.S., Palestinian, and Israeli cities, signaling our City's long history of  
34 working across differences and serving as a national leader in promoting peace, building bridges, and  
35 honoring our shared humanity; and

36 WHEREAS, the Vermont Friends of Standing Together held a free screening of the award-winning  
37 documentary "The Other" on October 26, 2025. This documentary explores the complex relationship of shared  
38 humanity, culture, and connection between Palestinians and Israelis, and the transformative journey that  
39 follows when they are faced with meeting 'the other' amidst the difficulty of the conflict and occupation. It  
40 provides an extraordinary example of what we are all capable of as humans.<sup>1</sup>

41 WHEREAS, many Vermont organizations have been engaging in meaningful dialogue in Burlington and  
42 throughout the state including Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), Vermont Coalition for Palestinian Liberation  
43 (VCPL), Education Justice Coalition (EJC), and Vermonters for Justice in Palestine (VTJP); and

44 WHEREAS, Vermont has a tradition of residents voting on advisory questions that are a critical mechanism  
45 for supporting a vibrant public sphere and robust community dialogue; and

46 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington particularly stands united in its condemnation of genocide<sup>2</sup> of the  
47 Palestinians in Gaza, and the intensifying violence directed against Palestinians in the West Bank and in East  
48 Jerusalem.

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Burlington honors those individuals and  
50 organizations who have been working tirelessly during these challenging and divisive times; and

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Burlington remains committed to facilitating  
52 opportunities for constructive and compassionate community dialogue on the history of Palestine and Israel  
53 longstanding conflicts in the Middle East, the ways in which it directly impacts Burlington, and actions we  
54 can take to promote peace, justice, and equal rights for all; and

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a working group chaired by the Mayor, or their Chief of Staff, and  
56 comprised of representatives from the CJC, Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (REIB), with additional  
57 invitations made to the Peace and Justice Center, The Vermont Coalition for Palestinian Liberation, and  
58 Jewish Voice for Peace, design and organize a program of dialogue grounded in ending all forms of  
59 oppression, racism, settler colonialism, and military occupation; and

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this program of dialogue may include hosting one or more film  
61 screenings of "The Other," "All That's Left of You," "The Voice of Hind Rajab," "No Other Land,"

62 “Israelism” and/or other mutually agreed upon movies, followed by facilitated dialogue sessions.

63 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Burlington City Council allocates up to \$2,000 from the Councilor~~  
64 ~~Initiative Fund in FY26 to the CJC to organize and host one or more film screenings of “The Other” for the~~  
65 ~~general public, followed by facilitated dialogue sessions; and~~

66 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council renews its request to the Mayor, in partnership with the~~  
67 ~~CJC, to support additional opportunities for restorative community dialogue sessions with trained facilitators~~  
68 ~~for all interested members of the public. The Burlington City Council will allocate up to \$10,000 from the~~  
69 ~~Councilor Initiative Fund in FY26 to support these efforts.~~

AS/Resolutions 2026/*Promoting Community Dialogue*  
January 13, 2026

<sup>1</sup>“The Other,” *We Uncover Films*, <https://weuncoverfilms.com/theother/>.

<sup>2</sup>International Court of Justice, “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip, (South Africa v. Israel), Request for the Indication of Provisional Measures, Order of 26 January 2024.”



Resolution Relating to

MARCH 3, 2026 ANNUAL CITY MEETING: NON-BINDING ADVISORY BALLOT QUESTION ON THE APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY PLEDGE

RESOLUTION\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s): Councilor(s) *Bergman*  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

- 1 That WHEREAS, Vermont municipalities have the discretion to include advisory questions on the ballot “to
- 2 balance the efficient transaction of city business with the provisions of a local forum for discussing state and
- 3 national issues”<sup>1</sup>; and
- 4 WHEREAS, for two consecutive years, Burlington voters submitted petitions to place the following non-
- 5 binding advisory question regarding the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge on the 2024 and 2025 Town
- 6 Meeting Day ballots: “Shall the voters of the City of Burlington advise the Mayor and City Council to adopt the
- 7 following pledge? WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people
- 8 and all people; and WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and WE
- 9 DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community, and to that end, WE PLEDGE to join others in working to
- 10 end all support to Israel’s apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.”; and
- 11 WHEREAS, in both years, the City verified that the petitions contained a sufficient number of
- 12 signatures to meet the requirements of 17 VSA § 2642 and Burlington City Charter § 6 (5% of the registered
- 13 voters of the City); and
- 14 WHEREAS, in both years, the City Council voted not to place this ballot question on the Town
- 15 Meeting Day ballot; and
- 16 WHEREAS, similar petitions to place this Apartheid-Free Community Pledge on the 2025 Town
- 17 Meeting Day ballot were accepted and the question was put to a vote by municipal officials in Winooski,
- 18 Brattleboro, Newfane, Thetford, Montpelier, Vergennes, and Weybridge; and
- 19 WHEREAS, there is abundant precedent across Vermont for placing questions about national or global
- 20 issues on the Town Meeting Day ballot, including [a call for a nuclear arms freeze passed in 155 Vermont](#)
- 21 [municipalities in 1982](#), [a vote opposing the Patriot Act passed in Waitsfield in 2003](#), [a call to withdraw US](#)
- 22 [troops from Iraq in 2005](#), and [a measure opposing the basing of F-35 fighter jets in Burlington in 2018](#); and

<sup>1</sup> Clift v. City of South Burlington 181 Vt. 571 (2007).

WHEREAS, the state of Israel's systemic discrimination against Palestinians has been deemed to constitute apartheid by the [International Court of Justice](#), the [United Nations](#), [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), and the Israeli organizations [B'Tselem](#) and [Yesh Din](#); and

WHEREAS, the issues giving rise to voters requesting the antiapartheid question continue to exist in Israel and the occupied territories of Palestine, thereby continuing to make this community pledge an important matter of local concern; and

WHEREAS, this is and continues to be an issue of Burlington concern as evidenced by the shooting of three Palestinian students on our streets in November 2023, the community support given to Mohsen Mahdawi, Rumeysa Ozturk, and Mahmoud Khalil throughout 2025, and the April 2025 unanimously approved City Council free speech resolution which referenced the protection of free speech on the issue of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2025, the Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA) unanimously passed a resolution urging this City Council to place the pledge as a non-binding advisory question on the 2026 Town Meeting Day Ballot, on January 15, 2026, the Ward 5 NPA voted by an 85% majority to urge the council to place the pledge on the ballot, on January 14, 2026 the Ward 1 NPA also voted by a 2/3 majority to urge the council to place the pledge on the ballot, and, as of January 10, 2026, 841 people have signed an open letter urging this City Council to place the pledge on the 2026 Town Meeting Day Ballot; and

WHEREAS, all of the above compels us to place this question on the ballot as a matter of the fundamental democratic right of the people to petition their government in the most effective way possible, a popular referendum;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council directs that the following non-binding advisory question be placed on the ballot of the annual City meeting to be held on March 3, 2026:

*Shall the voters of the City of Burlington advise the Mayor and the City Council to adopt the following pledge?:*

*WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people; and*

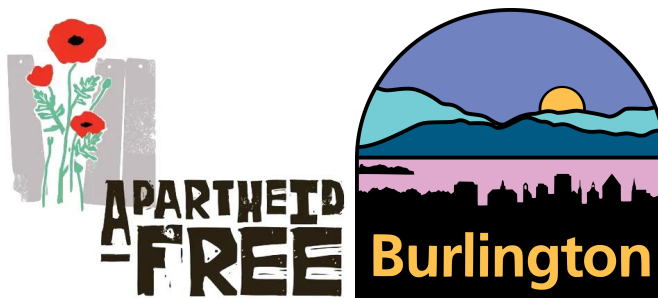
*WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and*

*WE DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community, and to that end,*

*WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.*

# Supplementary Information Regarding the Resolution to Place the AFC Pledge on the 2026 Town Meeting Day Ballot

Prepared by volunteers of the Vermont Coalition for Palestinian Liberation and the Burlington Apartheid-Free  
Community committee (1/19/26)



[Thousands of Burlington voters twice petitioned in 2023 and 2024 to put the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge on the Town Meeting Day ballot. What does that mean?](#)

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## [OPEN LETTER TO BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL](#)

[Slides: Israel's Basic Law and Settler Colonialism](#)

**Thousands of Burlington voters twice petitioned in 2023 and 2024 to put the [Apartheid-Free Community Pledge](#) on the Town Meeting Day ballot. What does that mean?**

It means placing the following **non-binding advisory question** on the Town Meeting Day Ballot:

*Shall the voters of the City of Burlington advise the Mayor and the City Council to adopt the following pledge?*

*WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people; and  
WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and  
WE DECLARE ourselves an apartheid-free community, and to that end,  
WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.*

## **What would happen if the question is passed?**

As a non-binding advisory question, it will not create any legal or fiduciary obligations on the City of Burlington. However, it will create an **ethical obligation** on Burlington elected officials to identify and implement measures that fulfill the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge “**to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime**”.

## **What is apartheid?**

Apartheid, an Afrikaans word meaning “separateness”, was originally the name of a system of institutionalized racial segregation that existed in South Africa in the 20th century. It has since been defined as a crime under international law. According to the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#), the crime of apartheid is defined as inhumane acts “committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime”.

## **Is Israel committing apartheid?**

Yes. The fact that the state of Israel's systemic discrimination against Palestinians amounts to the crime of apartheid has been repeatedly documented and confirmed by the highest authorities on international law and human rights:

- [International Court of Justice's \(ICJ\) July 19, 2024 opinion](#) found Israel in violation of Article 3 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination (ICERD) which prohibits racial segregation and apartheid.
- [The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) published a report on January 7, 2026 that corroborated the ICJ's finding using evidence gathered from the period between October 7, 2023 and September 30, 2025.
- Leading human rights organizations like [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#), as well as Israeli organizations [B'Tselem](#) and [Yesh Din](#) have all published extensive research confirming Israel's responsibility for the crime of apartheid.

## **Why single out Israel?**

We are opposed to ethnic cleansing, colonial occupation, and genocide everywhere. The United States has provided the primary and essential support for these crimes that Israel has committed in the past 50 years. Israeli apartheid and genocide against Palestinians cannot be sustained without the support of our tax dollars, elected officials, and weapons. Because of this, we have the critical opportunity and responsibility to end our complicity with Israel's crimes. Real accountability for those carrying out this mass slaughter and subjugation of Palestinians will make it more possible to successfully oppose colonial violence and genocide elsewhere.

## Is Israeli apartheid a local issue?

Yes. Israel's crime of apartheid is a critical issue at the heart of local governance. Some key reasons include:

- Israeli apartheid is a crime against humanity that threatens the safety and dignity of all people, especially Palestinian Burlingtonians and Palestinian Vermonters.
- The anti-Palestinian racism at its root manifested in the shooting of three Palestinian students on Burlington's streets in November 2023.
- Recognizing the threats to local democracy posed by suppression of advocacy for Palestinian rights, Burlington's City Council unanimously approved a resolution for protecting free speech on Palestine on April 28, 2025.
- The City of Burlington contracts with, purchases from, and invests in businesses that are identified by international human rights organizations as profiting from or sustaining Israel's apartheid and illegal occupation (see below).
- [An estimated \\$2,959,782](#) in federal taxes paid by Burlingtonians was sent as military aid to Israel in 2024, an amount that could instead fund one month of free rent for 1,855 households, one month of free groceries for 6,227 families, or one year of solar-powered electricity for 8,426 households. The federal government's use of taxpayer dollars to fund Israeli apartheid while slashing funding for housing, healthcare, welfare, and education are painfully visible in our city. We cannot effectively advocate for our communities without recognizing and opposing the gross misuse of our tax dollars.

## Is there local support for placing this question on the ballot?

Yes, Burlingtonians have resoundingly voiced their desire to vote on this question. Resolutions urging the City Council to do so have passed in every Neighborhood Planning Assembly where it has been raised, including:

- [Ward 2](#), passed on December 11, 2025 by a vote of 29 to 0.
- [Ward 1](#), passed on January 14, 2026 by a vote of 21 to 9.
- [Ward 5](#), passed on January 15, 2026 by a vote of 23 to 4 with 5 abstentions.

In addition, as of January 10, 2026, 862 people have signed an [open letter](#) (see below) urging this City Council to do the same, 614 of whom work, live, and/or study in Burlington. Lastly, thousands of Burlingtonians (over 5% of registered voters) signed petitions to place AFC on the ballot in 2024 and 2025.

## What is the Apartheid-Free Community (AFC) Pledge?

The [Apartheid-Free Community Pledge](#) is a commitment to solidarity with Palestinians against Israeli apartheid. It was initiated in 2022 by the Quaker-founded organization American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and inspired by the movement to end South African apartheid. As of January 2026, the pledge has been endorsed by over 1,000 faith communities, labor unions, non-profits, campus groups, and businesses worldwide. This includes [five towns](#) and **57 groups in Vermont**:

## AFC Pledge Vermont Network

### Labor Unions:

1. AFSCME 1674 Howard Center Union
2. AFSCME Local 1343 Soteria House Workers Union
3. UE 255 Local (Hunger Mountain Co-op union)
4. Vermont Workers' Center

### Political Parties / Organizations:

5. Burlington Progressive Party
6. Green Mountain Democratic Socialists of America
7. Young Democratic Socialists of America (UVM)
8. Party for Socialism and Liberation

### Community Organizations:

9. Jewish Voice for Peace, Vermont / New Hampshire chapter
10. Migrant Justice
11. FreeHer VT
12. Education Justice Coalition of Vermont
13. Partizanfilm
14. Mothership Monthly Film Fest
15. Mental Health Safe Place
16. Old Dog Documentaries.org

17. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Burlington
18. Social Action Committee, Ascension Lutheran Church, VT
19. Board of the Will Miller Social Justice Lecture Series
20. Green Mountain Solidarity with Palestine
21. The Everything Space
22. Greater Bennington Peace and Justice Center, VT
23. Plex Arts Festival
24. Jaquith Public Library and Community Center
25. Richmond Racial Equity
26. Rural Vermont
27. Rutland Area NAACP
28. Southern Vermont for Palestine
29. Spiral House Art Collective
30. Sunrise Movement Champlain Valley
31. Tempest Collective
32. The Peace and Justice Center
33. The Rainbow Bridge Community Center
34. Vermonters for Justice in Palestine
35. Vermont Peace/Anti-war Coalition

36. Outright Vermont
37. UV Rise Up!
38. 350Vermont

### Faith Communities:

39. Burlington Friends Meeting, VT
40. Episcopal Diocese of Vermont
41. Northeast Kingdom Quakers, VT
42. Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network (EPF/PIN)

### Businesses:

43. In Addition Bookkeeping LLC
44. Railyard Apothecary
45. Anomal - Design and Fabrication
46. Cloud Fossil Design
47. Dancing Bee Gardens
48. Haymaker Bun Company
49. Marshfield Village Store
50. Morrow Decks
51. Integrative Physical Therapy
52. 48 Grove Ct. LLC
53. Onion River Campground
54. Otter Creek Yoga
55. Pangaea
56. Stone Leaf Teahouse
57. Wonder Web Creative

## Is the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge antisemitic?

No. The Pledge explicitly declares opposition to “all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression” and “commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people”. It is premised in the belief that the safety and freedom of all people are interlinked.

Some opponents of the AFC Pledge have weaponized antisemitism to stifle democratic debate on and advocacy against Israel's crimes. This is strongly condemned by [Jewish organizations](#) and communities in Vermont and beyond for dangerously conflating the state of Israel with Jewish people and betraying core values of Jewish identity. Jewish organizations and individuals have been at the forefront of the global movement to end Israeli apartheid, including Apartheid-Free Community efforts here in Burlington.

## What measures can the City of Burlington take to fulfill the Apartheid-Free Community Pledge?

The non-binding advisory question proposed for the Town Meeting Day ballot does not suggest or require any particular action to be taken and it imposes no legal obligations on the City. **If voters show support for cutting ties with Israeli apartheid by passing the advisory question**, there are several approaches that the City may consider to fulfill the AFC Pledge:

1. **End financial complicity:** End all City contracts with, investments in, and procurement from businesses that profit from or sustain Israel's crimes of apartheid, occupation, and genocide. Such businesses include:

[Caterpillar Inc.](#) - US-based manufacturer of construction machinery and equipment.

Its products are weaponized for the Israeli military and are used in home demolitions; in the construction of illegal settlement infrastructure, border walls, and military checkpoints; and in military assaults against Palestinians, including the Gaza Genocide. Burlington can fulfill the AFC Pledge by ceasing to lease, purchase, or use Caterpillar equipment in City projects.



Hamilton Lane - One of the world's largest private investment firms, Hamilton Lane advised the Israeli government on financial reforms in 2005 and has [invested nearly \\$250 million in Israel](#) since the start of the Gaza Genocide. As of March 31, 2025, the City of Burlington's employees pension plan had \$547,088 invested in Hamilton Lane. Burlington can fulfill the AFC Pledge by divesting its pension funds from Hamilton Lane.

2. **Address anti-Palestinian racism:** Direct the City of Burlington's Office of Racial Equity, Inclusion & Belonging to identify the elimination and prevention of [anti-Palestinian racism](#) as a priority.
3. **Collaborate with other Apartheid-Free municipalities** on efforts to fulfill the pledge. For example, Burlington can join other municipalities in issuing joint statements calling for an arms embargo on Israel.

### Is there precedent for this?

Yes! Similar petitions to place the AFC Pledge on the 2025 Town Meeting Day ballot were accepted and the question was placed on the ballot by municipal officials in Montpelier, Vergennes, Weybridge, Winooski, Brattleboro, Newfane, and Thetford. The question passed in the latter four towns, as well as in Plainfield where it was raised from the floor at town meeting. Beyond Vermont, the AFC Pledge has also been passed and adopted by Montague, MA, Burnaby, BC, and Powell River, BC.

There is also a growing number of municipalities across North America that have passed resolutions and legislation to boycott and divest from Israeli apartheid, including [Somerville, MA](#), [St. Louis, MO](#), [Dublin, CA](#), [Hayward, CA](#), [Richmond, CA](#), [Alameda County, CA](#), [Northampton, MA](#), and [Iowa City, IA](#).

Taking a longer view, there is abundant precedent across Vermont for placing non-binding advisory questions about national or global issues on the Town Meeting Day ballot, including [a call for a nuclear arms freeze passed in 155 Vermont municipalities in 1982](#), [a vote opposing the Patriot Act passed in Waitsfield in 2003](#), [a call to withdraw US troops from Iraq in 2005](#), and [a measure opposing the basing of F-35 fighter jets in Burlington passed in 2018](#).

## **Why focus on apartheid? Isn't it more important to address the Gaza Genocide?**

Yes, it is necessary to confront and address the ongoing Gaza Genocide. The AFC pledge to join others in opposing Israeli settler colonialism, occupation, and apartheid is about understanding and then acting against the roots of the current genocide. Zionism is a settler-colonial project with a goal, as Israeli historian Ilan Pappé puts it, to take [“as much of Palestine as possible with as few Palestinians as possible”](#). Ethnic cleansing, settler colonialism, and apartheid are the means that the state of Israel uses to create and maintain a Jewish-majority state—these all lead to the current genocide.

## **Why are Apartheid-Free Community supporters pursuing a vote instead of engaging only in community dialogue?**

In many ways, the time for dialogue on this issue has passed and it is already too late to act. Decades of Israeli apartheid laid the foundations for two years of genocide in Gaza that was livestreamed for all to see. It is already too late to stop the mass slaughter of Gazans, the systematic destruction of their schools and hospitals, and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian villages in the West Bank. Israel's responsibility for the crimes of apartheid and genocide against Palestinians has been repeatedly documented and confirmed by the world's highest authorities on international law and human rights. Casting doubt on these incontrovertible facts amounts to complicity and genocide denial. These facts demand urgent action.

And yet, Burlingtonians supporting Apartheid-Free Community (AFC) have taken every opportunity to engage in public dialogue while following the democratic process. As Vermont's Supreme Court has recognized, Town Meeting Day itself provides opportunities for dialogue as it provides “a local forum for discussing state and national issues” (Clift v. City of South Burlington 2007). In the process of organizing efforts to place the question on the ballot over the past three years, AFC supporters have spent hundreds of hours engaging in dialogue with community members in various ways: door-knocking, canvassing on streets and at farmer's markets, presenting at neighborhood planning assemblies, conversing with neighbors on Front Porch Forum, writing op-eds, and organizing public community events. We also met privately with Democratic city councilors on several occasions to attempt to identify common ground and address misunderstandings.

While city councillors may have the legal power to reject petitions to place advisory questions on the ballot, they have the moral obligation to do so when the petitions have met all procedural requirements. Rejecting the democratic will of thousands of constituents and denying their right to instruct their representatives (enshrined in Article 20 of Vermont's constitution) when the issue concerned lies at the heart of local governance—this can only be justified by an overwhelmingly compelling reason, yet Democratic city councillors have failed to provide one. City councilors are not arbiters of public discourse or gatekeepers of the ballot box. When they claim the authority to act as such, they erode our local democracy.

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## OPEN LETTER TO BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Dear Burlington City Council & Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak,

Democrats on the City Council blocked the AFC pledge advisory question from going to voters two years in a row, despite thousands of Burlington residents signing petitions to put the pledge on the ballot. In April 2025, the Council unanimously approved a resolution for protecting free speech on Palestine, and it is time to rectify the fact that our free speech rights have been repeatedly denied. There should be a democratic vote on adopting the pledge.

### THE APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

WE AFFIRM our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people; and

WE OPPOSE all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

WE DECLARE ourselves an Apartheid-free community and to that end,

WE PLEDGE to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

We, the undersigned, **SUPPORT** the Apartheid-Free Community (AFC) pledge, and **DEMAND** that the Burlington City Council place the AFC advisory referendum question on the town meeting day 2026 ballot.

### Signatories of the Open Letter

#### Live, Work, or Study in Burlington

Abbey Road Pawelek  
Abigail Rose Wannamaker  
Ada Dunkley  
Adalee Leddy  
Adam Franz  
Adam Tilgner  
Aedan Buchanan  
Aida Qubti  
Aidan Torma-Rookley  
AJ Nolan  
Ale Palmer  
Alec Cleverley  
Alec Murray  
Alena Andrews  
Alex Fishkind  
Alex Rodgers  
Ali Saleh  
Alison Adams  
Alison Mott  
Aliya Kaynak  
Allison Brown  
Allison Charron  
Ally Clisby  
Allyan Watson Rivera Orsini

Fink Farreh  
Fiona Kelly  
Fiona O'Neil  
Francine Fayette  
Frank Ormando  
Fred Magdoff  
Gabi Martin  
Gabriel Holodak  
Gabriel Miles  
Gabriel Nelson  
Gabrielle Boyson  
Gena Elliott  
Giavanna E Gervasi  
Gita Yingling  
GJ Corban  
Grace Merselis  
Grace Sherwood  
Grace Woroch  
Greer Mason Welte  
Gretchen Puddicombe  
Grey Johnson  
Gwendolyn Heaghney  
Gwendolyn J. Causer  
Halle Dalgleish  
Hallie Getty  
Hannah Corbin

Matthew Watson  
Maureen Cannon  
Maureen McDermott  
Max Nevius  
Max Schindler  
Maxwell Solter  
Mazhar H. Quraishi  
McKinley Boetsch  
Meaghan Diffenderfer  
Meg Randall  
Megan Brancaccio  
Megan Petrine  
Meghan Corrigan  
Meghan Miller  
Melanie Barnett  
Melinda Lee  
Melinda White-Bronson  
Melissa Wolfgang  
Melo Grant  
Mercy Smith  
Mia Faesy  
Michael A Castelli  
Michael Long  
Michael N. Abler  
Michael Olwell  
Michaela Francesconi

#### Visit Burlington

Abigail Maken  
Aja Ewing  
Alan Burnett  
Alan Pashcell  
Alana Russin  
Alexa Smalls  
Alexander Verdoni  
Amanda Franz  
Amanda Spector  
Andrea Hickey  
Andrew Marshall  
Andy Brown  
Andy Cole  
Angela Shang  
Ann Doubleday  
Ann Greenfield  
Ann Miller  
Anne Jackson  
Atala Pepperdeu  
Auden Hubbard  
Audrey Jacobs  
August Burrell  
Austin Fay  
Ava Burck  
Barbara J. Wien

Phong Lam  
Rachel Kent  
Rae Carter  
Rebecca Yahm  
Rebekah Henson  
Remi Beauharnois  
Renée Butler  
Roan Wade  
Rolando Saavedra  
Russell W. Comstock  
Ruth M Bayer  
Ryan Wagner  
S. Andrew Becker  
Sadie Gaffin  
Sally Burrell  
Sam Kang  
Sam Shuster  
Sam Weaver  
Samantha Morse  
Sarah Lincoln  
Shane Carruth  
Shane Ruckus  
Shrijan Pradhan  
Star Schulze  
Stoni Tomson  
Susanne Byrne

|                      |                            |                     |                          |                   |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Alyssa Breda         | Hannah Martin              | Michelle Bookless   | Benjamin Burnett         | Sydney Ryan       |
| Alyssa Greaney       | Hannah Riley Fernandez     | Michelle Downing    | Blithe Milks             | Tanya Vyhovsky    |
| Amalia Kane          | Harly Rodriguez            | Michelle Sautter    | Braixan A.               | Terri-ArnBradley  |
| Amalia Ormando       | Harris Stevens             | Missa Aloisi        | Bridget Ahrens           | Theiadore Z. Kaye |
| Amanda Hannaford     | Harry Hopper               | MJ Griego           | Brittany Clarke          | Thomas Frohlich   |
| Ambrose Moore        | Hayden Coy                 | Mohsin Syed         | Brodie Cardinal          | Tiffany Saltis    |
| Amelia Betz          | Hayley Prudenti            | Molly Cadence Case  | Callie Willis            | Tim O'Hara        |
| Amelia Chich         | Helen Scott                | Molly Lawney        | Calum Buchanan           | Tim Price         |
| Amelia Digiano       | Helene Arnold              | Molly Moerdyk       | Candace Condry-Bowles    | Veronica Ciambra  |
| Amelie Thurston      | Henry Figler               | Molly Northrup      | Carl Nyberg              | Wafic Faour       |
| Aminah Carrington    | Hillary Churchill          | Molly Spisak        | Carol Cannaveno          | Warren Lussier    |
| Amir Rizvi           | Hiroka Nakahira            | Monika Ivancic      | Caroline Rose            | Wessly Putvain    |
| Amy Leigh Malinowski | Ian Keene                  | Morgen Kleppin      | Carolyn Tatlock          | Will Hughes       |
| Andrea Olson         | Ian Nesbit                 | Nadia Nygaard-Ostby | Cassandra Brayton        | Willa Disbrow     |
| Andrea Smith         | Irene Castillo             | Nancy Knox          | Catherine Boyle          | William Fritch    |
| Andrew Ahern         | Iris Dennison              | Nancy Laughlin      | Christian Hammond        | Winnie Wilkinson  |
| Andrew Belanger      | Iris Lord                  | Naomi Chandler      | Christian Shrier         | Zahra Moe         |
| Andrew J. Taborsak   | Isabella Lucarelli         | Naomi Meehan        | Chyanne Simms            |                   |
| Andy Martin          | Ivan Klipstein             | Naomi Peduzzi       | Colin Golden             |                   |
| Andy Simon           | Iz Amos-Landgraf           | Nashua Malko        | Conor Stone              |                   |
| Aneil Prasad         | Jack Lavallee              | Natalee Braun       | Corey Leigh Wrigley      |                   |
| Angela Nox Valentine | Jack Leslie Prewett        | Nate Del Prete      | Craig Corson             |                   |
| Angus Adams          | Jackie Lawlor              | Nate Voter          | Crystal Deforest Bennett |                   |
| Anita Rapone         | Jackson Francis            | Nathan Grutchfield  | Crystal Kim              |                   |
| Ankita Ghatak        | Jacqueline Freeman         | Nicholas Holloy     | Crystal Zevon            |                   |
| Ann Movi             | Jacqueline Nejaime de Loos | Nick Cavanaugh      | Dakota Larey             |                   |
| Anna Bouchard        | Jacqueline Plavnick        | Nick Myers          | Dan Johnson              |                   |
| Anna Gibson          | James Blecksmith Walters   | Nico Sachs          | Dan Murphy               |                   |
| Anna Hurd            | James Keats Overman-Smith  | Nicolo Mendolia     | Dani Krawiec             |                   |
| Anna Karnedy         | James LeMahieu             | Niels Keller        | Dave Tatlock             |                   |
| Anna Klein           | Jamie Jandrew              | Nihad Oric          | Debra Stoleroff          |                   |
| Anna Seuberling      | Jamie Seiffer              | Nika Mitchell       | Destiny Rance Herron     |                   |
| Anna Sherman         | Jamie Williamson           | Nina Harrington     | Devin Stith              |                   |
| Anne Mientka-Proctor | Jane A. Hendley            | Noah Blankenship    | Devyn                    |                   |
| Anne Rodgers         | Janet Franz                | Noah Maywar         | Diana Clark              |                   |
| Annelise Fedoruk     | Jason Liggett              | Noah Sgorbati       | Don Sinclair             |                   |
| Annie Dade           | Jasper Wygmans             | Nora Brown          | Doug Barnes              |                   |
| Annika McGraw        | Javier Garcia              | Nour El-Naboulsi    | duncan nichols           |                   |
| Anthony Coporale     | Jean Guenther              | Oliver Casel        | Edward J Cremo           |                   |
| Aren Berkenbush      | Jeanne M Lieberman         | Oliver Neith        | Eliza Fehrs              |                   |
| Ari Karas            | Jeffrey Jarrad             | oliver robbins      | Elizabeth Post           |                   |
| Arryn Weeramuni      | Jeffrey Severson           | Oliver Wiesmann     | Elizabeth Smith          |                   |
| Asa Skinder          | Jeffrey Thomson            | Olivia Deschenes    | Elizabeth Sylvia         |                   |
| Asa Waterworth       | Jeffrey Virge II           | Olivia Taylor       | Elizabeth woolf          |                   |
| Ashley Smith         | Jenn Greig                 | Olivia White        | Emily h                  |                   |
| Audrey Zizza         | Jenna Madden               | Oracle Bucco        | Emily Lanxner            |                   |
| August Slater-Dixon  | Jenna Zimmerman            | Owen Kunkel         | Emily Mullaney           |                   |
| Austin Allen         | Jennifer Demers            | Ozzie Hamilton      | Emily Simpson            |                   |
| Autumn Crabtree      | Jennifer Hill              | Paige Lefrancois    | Emily Sloan              |                   |
| Ava Klein            | Jenny Mina                 | Patrick Parillo     | Emma Burck               |                   |
| Avery MacLean        | Jenzin C. Chopel           | Paul Fleckenstein   | Emma Percy               |                   |
| Avery Montgomery     | Jeremy Smith               | Perrin Scott Zigler | Erica Flanagan           |                   |

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Avery Walsh                 | Jess Rubin         | Peter Lackowski       | Eva Colquhoun                    |
| Ayana Curran-Howes          | Jesse Carpentier   | Peter Milton Lindholm | Frank Philip Chiarulli           |
| Bakari Olivetti             | Jesse Flora        | Phoebe Paron          | Frank Piasecki                   |
| Becky Rabin                 | Jessica Freedman   | Phyllis A. Palmer     | Gabriela Heermans                |
| Ben Bosher                  | Jessica McCarthy   | Prithvi Kalkunte      | Geneva Strauss-Wise              |
| Benjamin Richardson-Skinder | Jessica Morrison   | Quinn Yates           | Geoff Davis                      |
| Benni Bennion               | Jill Clark-Gollub  | Quynh Vo              | Geoffrey Gardner                 |
| Bethany Moose Nolan         | Jill Splonskowski  | R. Juniper McNeil     | Grace Bradley                    |
| Billy Weaver                | Jillian Brown      | Rachael Young         | Grace Morrissey                  |
| Brandon Lawson              | Jillian Holland    | Rachel Rodi           | Greg Stoloski                    |
| Brendan Reilly              | Joanna Alpizar     | Raven Casey           | Haitham Nsour                    |
| Brett Yates                 | Joanne Ramundo     | Rayna Axelson         | Hannah Mason Steadman            |
| Bronislaw Grala             | Joel Margulies     | Reagan Dufresne       | Harsha Zachariah                 |
| Bronwyn Low                 | John Borah         | Rebecca Avitabile     | Heather Hawkins                  |
| Brooke McKeen               | John Godfrey       | Rebecca Galvin        | Henry Nichols                    |
| Bryn Taplin                 | Jordan Clouse      | Rebecca Gurney        | Iris Hsiang                      |
| Bryton Moeller              | Jordan Friedman    | Rebecca Modell        | Isabel Jackson                   |
| Caleigh Campbell            | Jordan Hemingway   | Reed Scott            | Iselchryesse Israel Megaha Megan |
| Cameron Ishee               | Joseph Heinemann   | Renata Kadri          | Issy Morris-Banu                 |
| Cameron Scott               | Josephine Bunnell  | Rev. Chelsea Page     | Izzy Arroyo                      |
| carmela ormando             | Josephine Corcoran | Rhonda Lynn           | Jackson Howatt                   |
| Carolanne Kelly             | Josh Ferguson      | Richard Alan Gollub   | Jake Castro                      |
| Caroline Hill               | Josh Glazer        | Riley Buzzer          | James Dean Martin                |
| Caroline Noonan             | Joshua Cheung      | River Hartley         | James Marc Leas                  |
| Caroline S. Kobetitsch      | Joshua Fiore       | Rivers Holtzman       | James McWilliam                  |
| Caryn Long                  | Joshua Mink Cheung | Robert Angus Doherty  | Jamie Semaya                     |
| Casee Fowler                | Josiah Young       | Robin Lloyd           | Janice Lipani                    |
| Cassady Turnbach            | Joy Ming King      | Robyn Souza           | Jazmine Quinn                    |
| Celeste Piette              | Joy Peck           | Ron Jacobs            | Jeau Szilva                      |
| Celia Cuddy                 | Jude Mercier       | Ronald Chesaux        | Jeffrey P. Caulo                 |
| Charlene Ploof              | Julia chimienti    | Rosalind Richard      | Jennifer Baker                   |
| Charles Giannoni            | Julia Randall      | Rosemarie L. Senna    | Jessica Curto                    |
| Chris Dunkle                | Julie Holmes       | Rosie Klinedinst      | Jillian Paige                    |
| Chris Murphy                | Julie Skarha       | Rosie Phillips        | Jim hessler                      |
| Chris Ridolfo               | July Sanders       | Rosie Senna           | Jimmy Ciotola                    |
| Christa M. Rivera Cotto     | Jupiter Rae        | Ross Doree            | Jo LaFontaine Van Buskirk        |
| Christine Fae George        | Justine Henninger  | Rowan Lilly           | Joe Nowlan                       |
| Christine Hallquist         | Justine Horton     | Ry Poulin             | John Bauer                       |
| Christopher Botteri         | Kade Standridge    | Ryan Buckley          | John Hayes                       |
| CJ Homann                   | Kaelin Lensink     | Ryan eastman          | John J. Boyer                    |
| Claire Bradley              | Kai Pasciak        | Ryan Stenson          | Jonah Antal                      |
| Claire Contreras            | Kaitlyn Moore      | Sable Armarto Ayola   | Jonathan King                    |
| Claire Kerstel              | Kaleigh Karnal     | Sabrina Koetter       | Jordan Meeker                    |
| Clare Nelson                | karen dawson       | Sadie Kraus           | Jordana C Churchill              |
| Cole Van Winkle             | Karen M. Sheppard  | Sadie Mackinnon       | Joseph Moore                     |
| Colleen Goodhue             | Kari Bohlen        | Saide Brent           | Josie Garcia                     |
| Connie Mae B                | Karl Miller        | Sally Millichamp      | Judith Sargent                   |
| Copper Sutphen              | Kashka Orlow       | Sam Troast            | Julian Lumbr                     |
| Corey Wyckoff               | Katayoun Lam       | Sami D. McRae         | Julianna Parma                   |
| Craig Rettew                | Kate Henry         | Sara Davis            | Justine Donahue                  |
| Creighton King              | Kate Logan         | Sarah DeBouter        | Kait Miller                      |
| Creston Lea                 | Kate Newton        | Sarah Diedrick        | Kaitlyn Lankford-Watts           |

|                         |                         |                       |                        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dahlia Pecchia          | Kate Paarlberg-Kvam     | Sarah Laide           | Kaitlynn Campbell      |
| Dale Henry              | Katherine A. Kelley     | Sarah McLellan        | Kam Fletcher           |
| Damian Taylor           | Katherine Brobst        | Sarah Sciortino       | Katherine Pastore      |
| Dan Castrigano          | Katherine McGuirl       | Sarah Stover          | Kathleen Shepherd      |
| Dana Keyes-Gibbons      | Kathleen Olwell         | Sarah Wood            | Kathleen Voigt Walsh   |
| Danae Moyer             | Kaysi Herrera Pujols    | Sarra Talib           | Katie Lane-Karnas      |
| Daniel Weise            | KC Carpenter            | Scarlet Taylor        | Kayla Smalls           |
| Danielle Rochford       | Keeley Woodruff         | Seanna McGraw         | Kerin Gayle            |
| Darline Chamberland     | Keith Brunner           | Sepideh Alavi         | Kim Butterfield        |
| Dauntel Martin          | Kel Richards            | Shanta Eastman        | Kimberly Ann Torrey    |
| Dave Grover             | Ken Atwood              | Sharon Coleman        | Kristin Peterson-Ishaq |
| David Hunter            | Kevin Bloom             | Sharon Panitch        | Larry Bingham          |
| Dawn Ridolfo            | Kevin Lewis             | Simrun Bal            | Laura Simon            |
| Deborah Kraft           | Khadija Shabbaz         | Sofia Martins         | Laura Ziegler          |
| Dee Graham              | Kim Benson              | Sophie Aronson        | Leo Tardie             |
| Derek Sonza             | Kinda Anne Qubti        | Sophie Chilson        | Leslie Mencia          |
| Devan Spiro             | Kira Capaldi            | Stephanie Drago       | Leslie Roth            |
| Dillon Tanner           | Kit Andrews             | Steve Zatarain        | Liam Jamieson          |
| Dora Dernavich          | Kit Eller               | Steven Margolin       | Lillian Sarah Gutoff   |
| Doron Metlay            | Korin Zigler            | Susan Ogden           | Lilly Gennaro          |
| Doug Viehmann           | Ky Martens              | Syd Partin            | Lilo Mari              |
| Douglas Phinney         | Kyra White              | Sydra Timmer          | Lindsay Armstrong      |
| Drew Thorndike          | Laila Almefty           | Sylvie Butel          | Lindsay Lott           |
| Duncan Kreps            | Laura Day               | Tabitha Garcia        | Liza Cochran           |
| Dylan Clarke            | Laura Fair              | Tanya Chen            | Lorni Cochran          |
| Dylan Kelley            | Laura McManamy          | Tasha Barnhart        | LuAnn Chiola           |
| Dylan Pilcher           | Lauren Akin             | Tate Estell           | Lucy Roback            |
| Ed Lucas                | Lauren Ebersol          | Taylor Duso           | Lynn Williams          |
| Edward Ashey Burke      | Laurie Essig            | Taylor O'Connor       | Madison Boetsch        |
| Eleanor Duva            | Lawrence Marlon Saveall | Taylor Resnick        | Mahonri Barca          |
| Eli Auchincloss         | Leslie Fitzgerald       | Taylor Sanders        | Mallory Bauer          |
| Eli Barlow              | Lexii Carrillo          | Teddy Robinson        | Manal B                |
| Eli DiBari              | Lia Ivanick             | Teddy Sakellaropoulos | Marcy Kass             |
| Elijah Jackson          | Lila Mueller            | Teremy Garen          | Marie McWilliam        |
| Eliot Gaff              | Lilia Collazo           | Terrance McGrath      | Marissa Reyes          |
| Eliza Price             | Liliana Bettolo         | Tes Gallucci          | Marius Duboule         |
| Elizabeth A. Shecher    | Lily Donnelly           | Tess Braddish         | Marlene Flaton         |
| Elizabeth Dunford       | Linda Quinet            | Theodore Soucy        | Marten tanager         |
| Elizabeth Goodell       | Linda Sukop             | Theodore Wheeland     | Mary E. Birdsall       |
| Elk Johnston            | Lindsey Bouzan          | Thomas case           | Mary Lummis            |
| Ella Causer             | Lindsey Garland         | Thomas Offer-Westort  | Mary Richards          |
| Ella Grace Meulen       | Lisa Scofield           | Tia Hunt              | Mary Roth              |
| Ella Perkins            | Livia suydam            | Timothy John Casey    | MaryAnn Offer          |
| Ella Saman Davoudi      | Liz Curry               | Tobias Doherty        | Marzouq Awni Qubti     |
| Ellie Jacobson-Goodhue  | Loren Derm              | Toby Weller           | Matt Gile              |
| Ellie Lieberman         | Louis Siegel            | Traven Leyshon        | Matthew Powers         |
| Elliott Hungerford      | Luke Ilfeld             | Trey Cook             | Maverick Joyce         |
| Elliott Siegreest-Jones | Lydia Brandfield        | Trish Siplon          | Maya Gingery           |
| Elsa DiGiovanni         | Léna Szumowski          | Tristan Fischl        | McKenzie Bernier       |
| Em R. O'Hara            | Mackenzie LeBuhr        | Tristin Adie          | Meaghan                |
| Emily Belanger          | Mackenzie Voigt         | Tucker Houston        | Melanie Kehne          |
| Emily Cummings          | Maddie Haydock          | Veronica Lindstrom    | Melissa Levy           |

|                  |                       |                       |                         |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Emily Hallgren   | Madeleine Bogard      | Veronica Russell      | Melissa McKeon          |
| Emily Halloran   | Madeleine Freeman     | Veronica Zutic        | Meredith Nicol          |
| Emily Kelley     | Madeline Sharrow      | Vincent Castine       | Michael Olson           |
| Emily Mosher     | Maeve Motovidlak      | Vivan Bose-Pyne       | Michelle O'Donnell      |
| Emily Murray     | Maggie Adams          | Wallace R. Elliott    | Mike Leonard            |
| Emily Padua      | Maggie Bryan          | Warren Bars           | Misba Noorani           |
| Emily S          | Maggie Homer          | Will Lynch            | Morgan Irons            |
| Emma Florez      | Magnolia Sinisi       | Willa Crowley         | Myles Guevremont        |
| Emma Goldenthal  | Mandy Nix             | Willem Cornish        | Nana Brownell           |
| Emma Otten       | Marcia Blanco         | William Gillis        | Nashwan Hamza           |
| Emma Sheils      | Marek Broderick       | William Leonard Johns | Natalie Piasecki        |
| Eric George      | Margaret James        | William Sanders       | Neeharika Venuturupalli |
| Eric Hodet       | Maria Siewers         | William Standen       | Nicholas Driscoll       |
| Erica Giannone   | Marian Price          | Willis Varno          | Nick Vaden              |
| Erin Star Hughes | Marissa Minkler       | Willow Hecht          | Nicole Guevremont       |
| Erza Benzing     | Marissa pappalardo    | Wolfgang Weise        | Noel Todd               |
| Ethan Thompson   | Mark Demers           | Yubin Han             | Omega Haehnel           |
| Ethan Valley     | Mark Montalban        | Yvie Saint            | Pat Bakir               |
| Evie Thompson    | Mary Chaffee          | Z Zalewski            | Patricia Terry          |
| Ezra Dillihay    | Mary Elizabeth O'Dowd | Zach Gentile          | Paul Hayes              |
| Faiz             | Mary Rose Rice        | Zoe Mikic             | Peter Burgos            |
| Faried Munarsyah | Masie Anrod           | Zuri Joseph de Góes   | Peter Davenport         |
| Fern Aguda-Brown | Mason Berry           |                       | Peter Fleury            |
| Ferris Giroux    | Matt Stevenson        |                       | Philip Raychstock       |

## Israeli apartheid: According to whom?

- The Knesset, the legislature of Israel, in 2018 codified “Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People”
- The law is based on the Zionist colonization of Palestine, and led to human rights groups defining Israel as an apartheid state

**“Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish people... The right of national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people” - 2018**



## Settler Colonialism in Palestine

### PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND FROM 1947 TO 2023

■ Jewish Settlements pre 1947/  
Israeli Land post 1947

■ Palestinian Land



1947

Partition  
Plan, 1947

1949-1967

2023



Resolution Relating to

MARCH 3, 2026 ANNUAL CITY MEETING – INCREASE  
IN POLICE & FIRE TAX RATE

RESOLUTION\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor(s): Councilor Bergman  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Five.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, Section 102A of the Burlington City Charter authorizes the City Council annually to assess a municipal tax for the use of the Police Department (the “Police Tax”) and a separate tax for the use of both the Fire and Police Departments (the “Public Safety Tax”) upon the property grad list, which may be increased only “when a larger rate shall be authorized by the legal voters of the City of Burlington”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 98a of the Burlington City Charter, the Police and Public Safety Taxes are revenue neutral, meaning that the amounts generated do not increase either for inflation or following a citywide reappraisal; and

WHEREAS, voters last approved an increase to the Public Safety Tax in 2024, when they approved a 3-cent increase; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2026, the approved Police Tax was 3.9-cents, and the approved Public Safety Tax rate was 6.95-cents, for a combined total of 10.85-cents; and

WHEREAS, due to general inflation and evolving public safety needs, the City Council desires to request voter authorization to increase the Public Safety Tax by 5-cents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following question shall be placed on the ballot of the Annual City Meeting to be held March 3, 2026:

“Pursuant to Section 102A of the City Charter, shall the property tax rate levied for the use of the police and fire departments be increased by five cents (\$0.05), so that the combined public safety and police tax rates authorized under Section 102A are increased from a total maximum amount of ten and 85/100 cents (\$0.1085) to fifteen and 85/100 cents (\$0.1585), an approximate percent (6%) increase from the FY26 overall municipal rate?”



# **FY27 General Fund Budget Discussion of \$.05 Police & Fire Tax Increase**

January 26, 2026



# FY27 Budget: Three-Pronged Approach

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A gap of \$10-12M in City budget of \$107M is approximately 10% and will **require a balanced, three-pronged approach:**

- Raise Revenue
- Rightsize Government
- Realize Strategic Opportunities





# Raise Revenue: Raise Police & Fire Property Tax

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- One option to raise revenue is **\$.05 increase to police & fire tax**
- **Would raise about \$3M toward projected gap**
- Overall expected increase to compensation and benefits for FY27 for police & fire (excluding retirement which is covered by dedicated tax) is **\$3.05M**
- Current police & fire tax projected to raise \$6.4M this year
- In contrast the budgets for those departments are \$39.1M
- Police & fire tax only raises 16% of costs for the services



# Municipal Tax Effect

Note \$353K is current median  
assessed value for home or  
condo in Burlington

| Fiscal Year | Muni Tax Rate    | Total Muni Tax on \$353K Property | \$ Increase  | % Increase  |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| FY22        | \$.6704          | \$2,367                           |              |             |
| FY23        | \$.7085          | \$2,501                           | \$134        | 5.7%        |
| FY24        | \$.7523          | \$2,655                           | \$154        | 6.2%        |
| FY25        | \$.8326          | \$2,939                           | \$284        | 10.7%       |
| FY26        | \$.8556          | \$3,020                           | \$81         | 2.8%        |
| <b>FY27</b> | <b>\$.9363 *</b> | <b>\$3,305</b>                    | <b>\$285</b> | <b>9.4%</b> |





# Preliminary Early Balanced Solution

| Category                        | Solution                                  | Amount   | Notes                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Raise Revenue                   | Increase Police & Fire Property Tax \$.05 | \$ 3M    | Once approved by CC on 1/26 to be placed on Town Meeting Day ballot.                                                     |
| Raise Revenue                   | Utilize One-Time Revenues                 | \$ 2M    | Exploring use of dedicated tax balances from many years previous in appropriate, budget-relieving ways.                  |
| Raise Revenue                   | Enhance Collections                       | \$ 1M    | Examples include parking tickets, ambulance fees and building permits. Refine amount.                                    |
| Rightsize Government            | Reduce Government Expenses 5-10%          | \$ 3M    | Department Heads made recommendations for further discussion.                                                            |
| Rightsize Government            | Create Voluntary Furlough Program         | \$ 0.2M  | HR moving forward to create voluntary program.                                                                           |
| Realize Strategic Opportunities | Sale of City Property                     | \$ 1M    | Properties are vacant or used for parking. Would create one-time money and add to property tax revenue on ongoing basis. |
|                                 | Total                                     | \$ 10.2M |                                                                                                                          |



## Next Steps

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- Police & fire tax requires affirmative vote by City Council tonight to place it on ballot then requires voter approval on Town Meeting Day
- Further engagement with city unions, city employees, and city councilors will take place in February and March on other solutions ahead of Mayor's budget presentations in April
- Every department's budget will be presented in detail in April (Budget Nights) - one month early than recent practice – to allow more time for Council and public deliberations ahead of June final vote