

**Police Commission**  
**Tuesday, April 28th, 2026**  
**Remote via Zoom and In-person in Contois Auditorium City Hall**  
**Burlington, Vermont**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Commissioner Depper, Commissioner Ginorio, Commissioner Paul, and Commissioner Fast

**Members Online:** Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Finneran

**Staff Present:** Interim Chief Burke, Jeff Nicholson online, Command Staff Assistant Shibe Couchman online.

**1. Agenda**

**1.1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Commissioner Depper.

**1.2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Required quorum present.

**1.3. Motions for Additions or Modifications to Agenda (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)**

Commissioner Ginorio moves to move agenda item 5.3 up to 5.1. Chair Depper seconds. Motion passes.

Motion from Commissioner Cox to remove the discussion of Fair and Impartial Policing discussion point. Commissioner Paul seconds. The motion does not carry.

Commissioner Ginorio moves to approve the agenda as modified, Chair Depper seconds. The motion passes.

The Executive Session has been removed from the agenda due to not needed it as anticipated.

**2. Adopt Minutes**

**2.1. Motion to Adopt Draft Minutes from March 24th, 2026**

Commissioner Ginorio asked for the word “agrees” to be changed to “understands”.

**3. Public Forum (Time Limited: 10 Minutes)**

**3.1. The Public is Invited to Address the Commission**

Councilor Melo Grant speaks about how she was recently removed as Chair from the Public Safety Committee. She speaks on how the Police Commission needs to discuss Fair and Impartial Policing and touches on issues within Burlington.

**4. Police Department Business (Time Limited: 60 Minutes)**

**4.1. Chief’s Report**

Chief Burke reviews a two-page Chief’s Report touching on topics like BPD training, major case outcomes, and Use of Force complaints.

Jeff Nicholson, Data Analyst, presents slides on annual traffic stop data.

## **5. Commission Business (Time Limited: 90 Minutes)**

### **5.1. “Fair and Impartial Policing Policy” re: 03/11 ICE operations**

#### **Community Organizations Discussion**

Will Lambek from Migrant Justice speaks on the Fair and Impartial Policing. He says that going forward, if mutual aid is requested of BPD, they need to make sure that it does not inhibit fair and impartial policing, and they must keep the public safe and not support ICE. Rachel Elliot from Migrant Justice joins Will briefly but does not speak on the topic herself.

Executive Director of VT Asylum Assistance Project and Immigration Defense Attorney, Jill Martin Diaz, and Vermont Asylum Assistance Project Immigration Defense Attorney Erin Jacobsen speak on their perspectives of March 11<sup>th</sup>, the future risks, and “uplift the work of mutual aid providers, rapid responders, accompaniment providers, legal observers and witnesses”.

### **5.2. Committee Reports from All Committees**

No update from the Complaints Committee.

Animal Control Committee held a hearing on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Follow-up will be made to the owner and complainant and schedule a second meeting soon.

Website has been updated with the previously voted on language.

### **5.3. Bylaws Discussion – Continued**

The Commission goes through the bylaws by section/lines as edited and redlined. The Commission spends roughly 1 hour and 30 minutes going through, discussing and voting on bylaw alterations.

### **5.4. Bodycam Release Discussion**

Chair Depper said the bodycam should have been given to them earlier, saying it took too long. Commissioner Ginorio says that possibly policy can be created to make a clear timeframe for receiving and responding to materials. Commissioner Cox says that the Commission should collaborate with the Police Department to create policy. Commissioner Ginorio was frustrated that South Burlington and Vermont State Police released their footage, yet BPD has not. Commissioner Paul asks if there was any attempt to contact administration/City Council before putting out a letter. Chief Burke clarifies that the Officer involved shooting from a different event Commissioner Cox referenced is information/evidence that is given over to the Attorney General’s Office based on Use of Force statute. Commissioner Ginorio says that maybe a directive or policy that states instances in which the Commission would be granted access to these things, run it through legal channels and the BPD to start a process for a faster outcome in the future.

### **5.5. Open Letter Discussion**

Chair Depper moves to publish the open letter, Commissioner Ginorio seconds. The motion does not carry.

Commissioner Paul motions to make an effort to invite the mayor or representative of the Administration and City Council President to the next meeting in May and be on the agenda before any further businesses related to this issue. Chair Depper seconds. Motion passes.

**6. Commendations (Time Limited: 15 Minutes)**  
**Officer Commendations**

N/A

**7. Announcement of Next Meeting Date**  
May 26th, 2026.

**8. Adjournment**  
**8.1. Motion to Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned the public meeting at 9:37pm.