



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Sarah Carpenter, Chair, Ward 4
Councilor Zoraya Hightower, Ward 1
Councilor Joe Magee, Ward 3

Thursday, December 16th, 2021
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
City Hall – Sharon Bushor Conference Room

Or attend via Zoom by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85930556686>

Telephone: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 859 3055 6686

To participate in public forum please email Christine Curtis before or during the meeting:
ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov. Comments can also be made during the meeting by using the raise
hand function or the chat function.

Draft Agenda

1. Approve agenda
2. Approve minutes: 11/18/21
3. Public Forum
4. Just Cause Eviction - Statewide temporary proposal
5. Update on Turning Point Center
6. Update on State support of sober houses
7. Discussion on process for updating encampment policies
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

The programs and services of the City of Burlington are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting,
contact Christine Curtis at ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov

The stated purposes of DOC-funded housing and services are to:

- Promote housing stability of individuals returning to the community from incarceration
- Supervise and support individuals in the least restrictive environment
- Provide opportunities for reintegration and connections to community and services

As part of the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRI) process, DOC re-evaluated the way our housing investments were allocated. According to the research of the Council of State Government's (CSG) work on JRI in Vermont, we are challenged with a high rate of recidivism as well as racial disparities in our criminal justice system. An excerpt from a CSG publication reads, *"Like other states, each year Vermont grapples with high rates of people being removed from community supervision and sent to prison. Nearly 80 percent of all prison admissions in Vermont were for violations of terms of furlough, probation, or parole supervision from 2017 to 2019. The majority of people who returned to prison for violating the terms of their furlough release did so due to technical violations, which frequently consist of minor offenses, such as a lack of housing, failed drug tests, or missed appointments and curfews."*

Explainer: The Significance of Vermont's Justice Reinvestment Legislation (CSG, July 2020:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/2020/07/16/explainer-the-significance-of-vermonts-justice-reinvestment-legislation/>.

The Community and Restorative Justice Unit spent the summer of 2020 creating a Theory of Change for our transitional housing investments, with assistance from experts in the Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office. The Theory and more details about DOC housing can be found on our website: [Theory of Change.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#). In the fall of 2020, we presented and vetted the Theory with DOC and AHS leadership; and shared it with current community providers for input. The Theory of Change summarizes the belief of the Department that successful re-entry programs require supportive housing that is trauma-informed, provides a range of services, and is focused on restorative justice.

Here is a VT Digger article from July that summarizes DOC's new approach to re-entry housing.

[Corrections department to fund 15 agencies for 'scattered' and congregate housing - VTDigger](#)

And I believe this is the Tom Dalton commentary you were referencing:

[Tom Dalton: It's time to reimagine sober housing in Vermont - VTDigger](#)

Emily Higgins
Corrections Housing Administrator
Vermont Department of Corrections
(802) 798-2302



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Sarah Carpenter, Chair Ward 4
Councilor Zoraya Hightower, Ward 1
Councilor Joe Magee, Ward 3

Committee members: Chair Sarah Carpenter (SC), Joe Magee (JM)

City staff: Christine Curtis

Other Attendees: Brian Pine, CEDO; Christie Delphia; Cam Lauf, Turning Point Center; Emily Higgins, VT Dept of corrections; Tia Lewis, Pathways VT; Wendy Morgan, VT Legal Aid

Thursday, December 16th, 2021

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

City Hall – Sharon Bushor Conference Room & Virtual Zoom

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 5:04 PM

1. Approve agenda

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to adopt the agenda as presented
VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. Approve minutes: 11/18/21

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to adopt the agenda as presented
VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. Public Forum

- Christie Delphia spoke about Just Cause Eviction
- Housing issues are out of control and this proposal must pass through City Council or else the situation will get worse
- Started campaign with a lot of support of bill at the State house
- Tenants in Burlington are receiving rent raises of \$100+

4. Just Cause Eviction - Statewide temporary proposal

- Wendy Morgan gave an update
- Supports the Burlington Charter Change

5. Update on Turning Point Center

- Cam Lauf gave an update
- TPC is sole recovery center for Chittenden County, 12 others throughout state, TPC is largest center
- Recovery coaching services is in high demand
 - Closed doors during pandemic, provided phone and virtual support, because of this TPC saw a lot of loss
 - Substance use increased due to pandemic and increased isolation, strains on recovery centers
- TPC provided an outreach program at all housing locations and learned there is a need for low barrier services on-site
- Grants for TPC and community partners have been cut short or eliminated with very little notice
- TPC has seen over 2,000 people from community seeking help this year
- SC asked about State ARPA funds, Lauf responded this is a long process and requires a lot of data collection that puts a strain on staff

6. Update on State support of sober houses

- Emily Higgins, Tia Lewis, Cam Lauf, Wendy Morgan spoke
- Higgins commented on improving outcomes of incarcerated individuals regarding re-entry
- Data analysis was conducted and found that programs and outcomes were falling short, people were not exiting transitional housing at a high enough rate
- Zero tolerance programs are problematic and causes housing instability and is counterproductive to recovery
- Transitional housing is being supported throughout the State with a focus on Burlington – housing stability top priority for DOC
 - Apartments available for long term use and vouchers for permanent housing
- Lewis commented on the apartments and services available through Pathways
- Morgan commented on VERAP that includes funding for transitional housing

- The application for VERAP is difficult process and is getting better over time

7. Discussion on process for updating encampment policies

- SC began discussion, Brian Pine spoke to current encampment policy

8. Other Business

- Potential for HOME ARP discussion/public hearing for the next meeting 1/20/2022

9. Adjournment

MOTION by Chair Carpenter to adjourn meeting at 6:36 PM.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.