

East District City Councilor Candidate Forum
Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:00 - 9:00 PM
In-person at the Friends Meeting House, 173 North Prospect Street
And Zoom online

<https://zoom.us/j/96245939050>

Webinar ID: 962 4593 9050

Or by phone: +1 929 205 6099 ID= 962 4593 9050

6:30 Food – (from Kismayo Kitchen) and Welcome

7:00 Formal Start - Announcement & Introductions - name, street, ward
Update from Rob Goulding about DPW project on North Prospect Ave.
Candidate Forum next Wednesday, 11/16, at Friends Meeting House

7:10 Speakout - including introduction of City Council candidate Maea Brandt
Erhard: concern about redistricting decisions. See BoardDocs for map that appears to be what City Council will approve: "Ward 8 to North Hill - Version 1 & 2"
Erhard: this map greatly changes existing Ward 1; Ward includes a balance of institutions with home owners and renters. Mansfield Ave to So union up to Riverside down to Main Stree. Leaves this ward with many students (iincreased number of stiudentss than currently. (Need to consider ward 6 and ward 8)and pockets of home owners. Destroys ward 1's assets and neighborhoods. CC voting 12/2. Email City Council by next Wednesday expressing your concderns. Erhard plans to offer a resolution to be voted on by the Ward 1 NPA to rejet this map.

Richard H: postiotioive news that several new sales of current houses to young families.

Sharon B: attended CC mtg Monday. Criteria: have to respect integrity of New and Old NE (separate); on-campus students distributed;
Ward 1 gained students across Main, losing pop elsewhere. All Brooks, all Loomis, Henry, North,f Colonial Square are all shifting out of wArd 1 - where most of our commissioners and many elected officials come from. Remaining pieces of ward 1 will have the same issues as the current ward 8 - not a good balance of diverse population. Many city councilors living in wards mostly unchanged. Unfortunately ward 1 & 8 had no representation (misunderstanding of meeting time)
Laurie Alberg at City Clerk's office, Karen Paul.

Peterf W - redistricting: many of residents that will be shifted have been residents who have been activists and actively involved in city issues and acti ities

Carter - agree with Erhard. Concern about students: city makes a lot of money off students. Downtown district, ward 6, ward 8 - all shifting. Preferred previous maps.

Zoraya - missed meeting because of travel. 1) formal statement from ward 1 would be very helpful. After last NPA pushed hard to hav e previous maps to be reconsidered. City Councilors were not supportive. Back now to 8-ward map. South End councilorsl fighting agains having students added to their districts. Hard to represent us because fewer reps right now. Helpful to look at maps with compromise

in mind. Off campus student population is not really being factored in. Splitting up into lots of different wards isn't good either. Urges us to identify key aspects we can't live with.

Kathy - why can't go back to 7 wards, 14 reps? Making wards huge and not getting enough representation. This will apply to School Bd - too much to do and spread across several NPA's. This is a time for more representation and democracy, not less. Zoraya is only councilor who supports 7 wards idea

Robert - served on redistricting committee, has worked on maps. Any 7 ward map will require expanding Wards 4 & 7. Map

Erhard - more equitable # of students is not meant to be critical of students. They bring a lot to the city.

7:30 School Commission Update - Kathy Olwell and Aquilas Lokosou

Warm thanks to everyone for all you did, wrote letters, waved, door to door. 75% voters voted in support. Hard work to continue to fund raise. \$66,000 raised by personal donations already. Looking to raise more from private donors. Writing grants fed and state. Passing the bond was key to getting the grants. She will be back to send letters to state officials, esp to get funds for PCB work. State needs to return 30% construction support.

Z: Thank you to Kathy for all your work over the years. Lawsuit? K: not sure of timing and process.

Angie: thanks to Kathy for many years of working for education of our children.

7:40 City Council Update - Zoraya Hightower (Redistricting, Public Safety)

See maps in link

Z: city council maps: central hill 1 & 2 accommodates growth of ward 1, closest to what we have right now. Mostly cuts out univ. Section and downtown

2: keeps more of map, south district wants ward 1 to take more of student campus

North Hill: ward 8 pushing - vocal. Does create 8 somewhat together. Fairly strongly removes most of single family homes from ward 1, so strongly student. Not looking at numbers of students in off-campus housing. Concern about lower voter turnout and active residents.

Ward 8 downtown - z doesn't accept, doesn't preserve Old East End

Ward 9 with UVM and south champlain - Z sees as most gerrymandered, lots of disparate segments -

Sharon (attended CC mtg) - desire to have a downtown district, but several maps carve that up. Factor considered by CC. Unsure of rationale for current offerings - seems pretty gerrymandered.

Z: won't be feasible politically to bring back 7 ward map - no support. Suggestion: 8 ward map. CC wants 8 wards and 4 districts.

Sandy W: how CC vote is counted. Any consideration of addition of students to Trinity?

Outrageous not considering off-campus students.

Z: majority of CC carries the decision;

Sharon: because Trinity not developed yet, can't count - must count only current.

Troy - Central Hill version 1 looks closest to current. CC: looks too similar; doesn't do enough of downtown. Ward 6 still takes on on-campus student pop. Z ok with both Central Hill versions.

Robert: new maps he's created. Ward 1 has to down size in some way, we're 1/7 of city, not 1/8. Central hill maps rejected because looks like old ward 8. Ways to preserve shape of ward 1. Can't repeat mistakes of ward 8. Trying to convey to CC: if don't want to repeat ward 8, give it an identity - downtown. Downtown - ch college. Ward 6 gets all....

Erhard - urge npa to express general favorability with particular maps that may need some adjustment.

Richard - ward 1 most active in discussions.

Erhard's motion: (get from E) the ward 1 npa supports redistrict maps that maintain integrity of ward 1. Rejectmaps. Ward 1 favors maps - 1, 2, and Robert's map. "Though require additional work"

Motion carried unanimously/

Suggestion: have NPA rep read motion and then also attend - 7:30 public comment. Register and then speak 2 minutes. How reference this motion: put on agenda on website and put link. Also send emails to give your opinions. Z: very important to send emails NOW.

City Council meeting - Monday, 11/21 - 7:30 public comment.

8:10 Public Safety Overview, role of Police Commission - Melo Grant, Police Commissioner

?Revised Priority Response Plan - in monthly chief's reports

Looks at incidents and assigns them priorities 1, 2, 3

Pr 1 - sworn officers only

Pr 2 - CSOs involved - may report a Pr. 1

Deployment plan - how resources deployed on a given shift.

Priorities can shift as officers can check

Timers of Response

Patrol numbers - need to increase number of officer

**tammy bouda presentation at PC - last meeting - tmtg tv - link

7 CSOs, 3 CSIs - budget has been increased. Up to 12 and 6.

Concerns about how to protect selves living in city

Lock our doors; lock windows - even momentarily

More officers would help but not solve thefts

Eg. FedEx & UPS - make arrangements for package deliveries

Report to online portal and to carriers - need signature

Better locks - anything with serial number should be photographed, logged

Eg bikes, computers (Bike Index)

Know your neighbors, share your travel plans - radios on, lights on

Will send document about role of B P. commission - work on complaints, directing policies, developing

8:40 Burlington Electric Department - Jen Green, Darren Springer
Garnering community feedback about electrification policy recommendations for new construction, major renovation, city buildings, large existing commercial buildings

Jen - Director of sustainability. Next goal: transition away from fossil fuels in transportation. Being asked to craft recommendations and get feedback.

Darren - 2021 vote for charter change, approval gives Bulr authority to regulate emissions in buildings, also dedicate resources to marginalized people in city. Looking at new construction, renovations. Report available on BED website. Making recommendation to CC.

New construction: everything in bldg has to be renewable (powered by elec, but other ways as well) If not able to achieve - perhaps a fee imposed.

Existing bldgs - 50,000 sq ft or bigger - commercial, industrial - 200 bldgs - UVM, med ctr, champ. Coll, school district - if asking for new permit, must be renewable or some kind of impact fee.

Burl policies are impacting other towns and cities - eg. so. Burl.

Input from NPA - is hydro considered renewable truly?

Leverage that Burl can use to increase solar and geothermal

How can we ensure that local people with limited

Burl is 100% renewable in generation and credits. Every energy source has carbon impact. McNeil is renewable - need diverse sources; solar
No fee proposed on existing homes, small businesses below 50,000 sq ft.

Sharon - concern about impact fees for existing bldgs - how avoid giving bldgs a "pass" - a prolonged payback and still have them comply to renewable expectations.

Fee: looking at life at heating system and carbon impact - renewable solution vs carbon impact fee - hoping this will encourage people to go with renewable as economic decision.

Erhard - 30 yrs ago CC set up goals

Hydro in mix of

10-15% hydro quebec - thru 2038 - with state overall

1/3 from McNeil. Some wind developing and solar

Kathy - more COPD among young people in ONE. Emissions

Darren - emissions from McNeil = mostly water vapor; filters well below permitted level, State study report indicated McN is not source of health impact.

Some emissions from McN - but more from cars, mowers, vehicles

Steam from McN go to hospital, UVM - to displace natural gas use in the city

City is 100% renewable with our electricity. Net zero goal is different - in bldgs, vehicles - use renewable supply to help replace.

Report to CC on 12/5, can return to NPA.

9:00 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

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