

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
AGENDA
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 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

Facilitator: Tom Derenthal

Minutes: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

6:30 Snacks provided

7:00 Formal Start - Announcement & Introductions - name, street, ward

7:10 Speakout

7:30 City Council Update - Zoraya Hightower, Maea Brandt

Review of March Town Meeting Ballot items: legal non-resident voting; redistricting; ranked choice voting; Community Control Board for police oversight; voter-initiated ballot items; polling places

8:00 School Commissioners Update - Kathy Olwell, Aquilas Lokossou

Review of Burlington School District budget to be voted on at March Town Meeting

8:20 Candidate Forum - East District Councilor position: Jake Schumann, Tim Doherty

Introductions; Candidates' viewpoint on ballot items; Q/A from attendees

9:00 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee
Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,
Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,
Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,
JF Carter Neubieser carterneubieser@gmail.com

Time	Text
9:02	foreign
9:09	foreign we're going to commence the
9:14	geez February it's already February it's halfway through winter
9:20	um the February meeting of the award one neighborhood planning assembly and it is
9:25	701 so we're pretty close to being on time Spain's Tom darenthal I'm going to
9:33	be your facilitator tonight and um we're going to start with introductions
9:40	and the way we do this for people who haven't been here before if we sort of walk around the room everyone can announce
9:46	they live on and then we'll go to the people who are online so
9:52	I'm again I'm still Tom darenthal I live on Nash place and
10:03	um I'm on the steering committee and we're going to start back here with Richard
10:09	all activity also at 27 Colonial Square with seven I'm Rob Gutman and I live on
10:15	North William Street Mary Pierce and I'm on your brilliant Carter new user and
10:23	I'm over on Colchester Ave Jonathan Chapel Circle uh North Prospect Street and on the steering committee
10:30	I'm Angie Jeff Sokol on North Prospect Street hi I'm Carol Livingston um we live on
10:39	colorco Court and I'm on also on the steering committee Kathy allwell North Prospect Street
10:50	Jake Schumann hildred Drive Gary golden clarco Court
11:00	Merry Christmas North Prospect Michael Long Henry Street
11:05	Aaron Long Henry Street
11:19	Dean Karen Brooks Avenue foreign
11:24	North Prospect upstairs from this room actually
11:32	uh hi I'm Troy Hedrick I live on Billy do court and I'm also one of two State Reps for uh 15 the other being Brian
11:38	China hi I'm Amy malinowski I use she her and
11:47	I live on 71 South Williams and I'm new to Ward one I'm Stephen chisa 71 South Williams
11:54	okay we've got some people online Dave you want to start
12:00	sure hi everyone I'm Dave Cauley uh and I live on Nash place
12:06	Sophie you're next Sophie Quest Chase Street and part of
12:12	the oldest and coalition damn
12:19	obviously hi I'm Sam heinrichs I'm the cedo staff
12:25	zero
12:31	Cheryl if you're on you're on on mute
12:37	sorry I had such a hard time um yeah Sarah flesh off of East Avenue
12:46	and Sharon uh yes hi Sharon butcher East Avenue
12:52	all right did I miss anybody
12:59	uh yes oh Fletcher Riverside Avenue Ward one
13:06	okay anyone else yes uh mayor Brandt East
13:14	District City councilor I live on North Street
13:20	all right um the next is uh announcements and we have
13:25	we have sort of two two uh items here that are somewhat similar one is
13:32	announcements and then there's speak out so if you have an announcement to make we'll uh
13:40	we'll we'll start with that so people in the room if you have an announcement raise your hand and we'll go around and yes y
13:47	announcement the um the shelters does she have a microphone
13:55	yeah the um shelters are open near the post office
14:01	on Elmwood Avenue and there was a press conference and we
14:06	were able to see them and they are up and running uh people
14:13	were chosen by a committee um and it it was as far as I understand
14:20	a sort of a first come first serve list and there will be social services
14:25	available this is really um
14:32	just such an important step toward eliminating homelessness and providing
14:37	shelter for people who really need it it was not ready during the incredibly cold
14:44	streak but just after um and some of the shelters were made
14:51	elsewhere and they were brought in and others were made locally and I think
14:58	that we're gonna see more shelter communities like this around the
15:06	country this is an important step thanks all right thanks uh anyone else in the

15:13 room um Progressive counselors McGee um
15:18 Hightower and Bergman um are going to be putting out a update
15:25 and some information about ballot items so that should be going up on fpf across the city and also uh there should be
15:30 physical updates at people's doors in the next couple weeks so look out for that
15:37 um with some information about what's going on thanks
15:43 Karen thank you with that in mind with the ballot items
15:52 I understand at the Miller Center there is going to be like a community you know sort of a speak out meeting to
15:57 kind of vet that stuff does anyone know the time and stuff I read it somewhere I didn't
16:05 write it down but I know it's at the Miller Center
16:12 hi my name is Fareed I'm a volunteer with uh proposition zero and independent oversight of the police there will be
16:18 Community dinner and discussion on the two petition backed ballot questions uh
16:23 there will be one event at this Saturday at democracy creative from six to nine
16:34 and uh the second event is going to be at the Robert Miller Center in the new north end on Friday the 17th from uh six
16:40 to nine also it's open to the public everybody is invited there will be free barbecue meal with vegan option and
16:47 gluten-free option so if you want to learn more about the two ballot questions uh have questions about the
16:53 process or if you just want to eat good food and talk to your neighbors please join us um there will be enough food for
16:59 everybody yeah that was what I read about I think that's great and I also wanted to
17:07 announce that my husband and I and Kathy Elwell and her husband Wolfgang are hosting a house party next Thursday if
17:14 anyone wants to come um to introduce and learn more about Jake Schumann so I'm at 55 Henry Street
17:22 it'll be at 6 30. um and I think this is a really important election and we need to know
17:28 who we're voting for and how they're going to represent us so again uh Kathy
17:34 Cook School commissioner myself Michael and Wolfgang will host a party at 55
17:42 Henry Street Thursday the 16th
17:49 I don't want to cut you off but just so we can keep the things together um my name is Jake Schumann
17:54 um I usually don't do this kind of Shameless self-promotion but it's part of the gig
18:01 um jake4btv.com I'd ask you to check it out I'm saying it now because I know some people won't be here when we do the
18:07 candidate form later in the meeting um lawn signs are coming later this week so if you want one let us know and we
18:12 will get one to you and if you want to come hang out with us this weekend we're going to be bouncing around the
18:18 neighborhood meeting neighbors having conversations um
18:24 on that that's that's for the folks at Salmon Run
18:32 um and yeah I just would add on to what Karen said um uh the house party next
18:38 week is going to be after the candidate Forum on live at 5 25. so you can watch
18:44 that get some thoughts come prepared with some good questions thank you
18:49 okay uh Dave you're on
18:58 for example um I wanted to let everyone know that the winterlude celebration in shimanska
19:05 park which was scheduled for last weekend of course we couldn't do it because of the cold weather is now uh
19:11 scheduled for this coming weekend so Friday night starting five o'clock shimanska Park we're gonna have a
19:17 bonfire there'll be hot drinks there'll be uh snacks to eat and it's a place to
19:23 come out for the evening and just enjoy the park and enjoy the the decorative lights that are that are going to be
19:29 there we've got lanterns and then on Saturday um starting at 10 o'clock
19:35 um we'll have a celebration there there's going to be sports equipment now we don't know if any snow is going to be
19:40 left over after tomorrow but there will be some skis snowshoes and sleds uh
19:46 music will be there uh a group called The Bass the brass balgan will be put
19:54 performing at 11 o'clock and then and uh tukata will be performing at 12
20:01 noon uh we'll also have food we've got some giveaways for folks that uh arrive
20:08 with a drink container uh and uh it should be a good celebration so we'll
20:14 also have the fire pit running on uh on Saturday as well so if you've got some
20:21 time and want to stop by and meet some neighbors and have some fun uh Saturday Friday night Saturday will be it in
20:28 shemanska park thanks are there other announcements people
20:33 want to make further announcements seeing none I actually have a few
20:40 announcements myself first is I'd like to thank dominoes they donated the pizza for tonight they've done that once
20:48 before and um actually we've had a number of local uh vendors uh provide Food Tours uh
20:53 Domino's is doing it at no charge to us um
20:58 also uh if you're a fan of the Campus Kitchen it has reopened under new

21:05 ownership and I don't know if they're gonna have a grand opening but they do have a sign that says when they're open
21:12 as opposed to just a I mean a lit sign as opposed to just a sheet of paper attacking saying that they're closed
21:19 because they can't find help um also with regard to uh the upcoming
21:25 election I did check their sample ballots online if they're really easy to
21:33 find you can do a search for them um and uh go through and see uh who's
21:39 running for what and what all the issues are it's pretty pretty good to see um and um a couple other quick things
21:47 one is um there was a meeting last
21:52 I think it was Sunday with our state senators who had had been
21:57 here um a while back and there was uh Martine
22:04 uh I always I cannot pronounce names well
22:10 so uh and Tanya and Irene uh Renner uh were there representing education
22:16 traditional and agriculture committees they did a really good job there they
22:21 um were very well informed at least in my opinion and
22:27 um so uh they're going to continue to have these meetings these coffee meetings up
22:34 in Essex uh periodically at I don't think the next one has been scheduled yet but if you have it if you're
22:40 interested and you have a chance to go I would recommend you go uh the last thing is that
22:46 um we're coming up to February 15th and that's when mail our ballots will be
22:53 mailed to all registered voters or yeah registered voters so um if you don't get one shortly after
23:00 that uh you should be concerned
23:07 and I'm going to pass around the clipboard if you signed it thank you if you haven't signed it I'll be taking your 25
23:14 fee at the door on the way no um we're just looking for uh
23:19 who's here in attendance yes
23:27 just um fault just following up um it's you could probably search on the
23:32 city website under March election or something like that to get the samples
23:38 the sample ballots I'm just just go pointing People Burlington Vermont sample ballots and it should bring it
23:45 right up okay thanks oh there's one other thing I can say I forgot to mention that I forgot to put on my list
23:52 and that said if I've been a little bit confused about what the official map is that we'll be
24:00:00 voting on for the uh redistricting but it is available on the uh City's website
24:08:00 and unlike um what it says on the ballot it's actually has a uh uh a slightly
24:18:00 different date but and Earhart's going to say a little bit more about this
24:25:00 thank you or step on it
24:30:00 I'll try to hide behind the column here
24:35:00 um yikes
24:42:00 hey thank you thanks Karen am I on your way um so um I don't know if I'm visible
24:49:00 here oh God this is so exposed oh my god um thanks for the product to speak out
24:54:00 um well maybe okay I was gonna do the story speak out but um you kind of
25:00:00 prompted me you're the first Speaker router sure um well as as Dave mentioned
25:06:00 um the map that was uh passed by the city council is on um the uh is is on
25:12:00 board docs um it should be for oh lord I can't remember the date it might have
25:18:00 been um January 23rd yeah it is not the math that was passed in December okay uh
25:23:00 the map it was passed in December um so a fair amount of disservice uh to
25:29:00 Ward one um I will say that this is not my I do it my idea of an idea
25:39:00 um for the city in general um
25:45:00 this is uh much better um so it uh folks will maybe recall that
25:51:00 the map that had been passed through December excluded um the uh Brooks it cut the Brooks
25:58:00 Avenue neighborhood in half basically and took the South Park the houses on the south side of Brooks Avenue
26:04:00 um as well as the west side of North Prospect in other words the whole block
26:11:00 described by Brooks uh North Prospect Pearl and uh North Willard that basic
26:18:00 that square all the all the houses in that were in a different Ward uh so I've been taken out of Ward one where they
26:23:00 have been rejoined into Ward one um as well as uh some areas just north
26:30:00 of Riverside Avenue near the Community Health Center have also been rejoined uh toward one uh what has been removed
26:35:00 award one and this is this the same for both the December map and the final map
26:43:00 that was passed is basically all central campus and the medical center is now in a new reconfigured Ward 8. so basically
26:49:00 it Hollows out the the middle of uh of Ward one and then it also has added

26:54:00 um a couple of the uh the dorms uh living learning and uh I think uh Marsh
26:59:00 Austin Tupper on the south side of uh of of Main Street um so that's kind of
27:07:00 where word one is at um the other uh thing that the final map did was it rejoined a section of the King Street
27:13:00 neighborhood that had been split between two Wards uh and put it back into uh into Ward three
27:20:00 um so that not all but most of the King Street neighborhood is in uh one kind of community in one word and uh being a
27:28:00 community of interests um the other thing I'll say just uh is that the map unfortunately spill splits um the old
27:34:00 North End uh kind of north south instead of the traditional West Lake
27:40:00 um you know it's I think it was a real challenge for the council um I think uh you know they finally got
27:46:00 into a better place as far as uh I'm concerned I think as far as the word one is concerned not ideal
27:53:00 um people do have an opportunity to vote against it if they don't like it um on a meeting today
27:59:00 and if anybody has detailed questions for me haven't kind of you know really followed this process pretty closely let
28:04:00 me know uh sort of a comment um you had told me
28:09:00 that this is this this new map retains the four District
28:16:00 eight Ward it does so when you vote this time you're not only voting on where the
28:21:00 lines will be drawn but for retention of the structure that we currently have
28:27:00 right and as Tom um just to add to that I mean one of the main recommendations
28:33:00 uh from the public input process by the ad hoc advisory committee on redistricting was get rid of the
28:39:00 districts and that was one of the things that was clearly not gone in this uh in
28:44:00 this particular iteration so um yeah and if you know if the map uh
28:53:00 goes down then it's back to uh back to square one
28:59:00 would you Advocate voting against uh this this map because of its uh its
29:04:00 flaws or they so serious that perhaps we should not improve it
29:10:00 well thanks for that uh question I I am for me personally I'm not sure yet what
29:15:00 how I'm going to vote uh my sense is that um you know having engaged uh personally
29:22:00 with the with the council and with you know other folks on it uh I kind of feel like this is in my view the least bad
29:28:00 map and I'll probably end up voting voting for it um frankly I don't really want to go through the process again I'm pretty
29:35:00 sure the city council doesn't either um they'll have to do it in another 10 years
29:42:00 all right thanks can I just said yes
29:49:00 it may sound like the last thing I said but if you search the City website for 2022 redistricting all this information
29:57:00 and labs are available so 2022 redistricting is the web page in the City website
30:02:00 can I just say a few things so my first
30:09:00 my first comment is when people use the microphone you really don't want to do this because it just starts you want to
30:16:00 keep it like down here and like that one of the time that's very good um so just kind of put the microphone
30:22:00 down and wait for your breath now the second thing is so all the ballots on the state of Vermont are required to be
30:29:00 mailed by February 15th if you don't get one and you live in Burlington you call them Burlington city clerk if you live
30:35:00 in Montpelier and you don't get one you call them Montpelier it is they'll address the situation so if you don't
30:43:00 get a ballot call the city clear thank you thank you
30:48:00 all right uh Sharon I see your hands up uh yes
30:55:00 um because we're on redistricting um so just to to add to this um I I think I
31:01:00 heard I heard Eric Earhart but it but the voice went in and out so
31:06:00 um as he said this maintains the districts and we are still coupled now
31:13:00 with Ward eight um there was some discussion around changing that coupling but we are we are
31:20:00 now still uh coupled with Ward eight and um I think that
31:26:00 I I feel that because it maintains the districts I I
31:31:00 am incredibly disappointed with that um because I think it doesn't really
31:38:00 reflect the will of the people of Burlington however I based on I've been
31:44:00 following this I I'm I'm a junkie I actually zoom into every city council
31:50:00 meeting from beginning to end and um I feel that the representatives from
31:56:00 the other parts of the city um are pretty much on board and I think
32:03:00 that that there will be the votes for this redistricting map that doesn't mean that
32:08:00 you have to vote for it I like Earhart I'm on the fence with this because I
32:14:00 really wanted to have them consider unfortunately a larger city council but
32:22:00 with each Ward having two City councilors I felt that was far better representation than the current format
32:27:00 so I wanted to say that and then the next thing I wanted to do and speak out

32:34:00 is that I appreciate all the different meetings that are being held by people who are
32:40:00 for or against a proposal but I was hoping that there would have been an
32:45:00 opportunity to present each uh item on the ballot
32:51:00 um as it is um and uh identifying pros and cons from
32:58:00 a kind of legal or or formal perspective as opposed to having a bias I think that
33:06:00 each one of us are fairly intelligent and can form our own opinion based on our own uh political viewpoint but I
33:11:00 think there's a great deal of value in having that that untainted presentation
33:18:00 and I'm kind of disappointed that I don't see an opportunity for that to occur so I just wanted to share that
33:24:00 thank you thanks Sharon
33:33:00 any other speak outs uh yes
33:39:00 yes um hi uh Amy um I just wanted to speak out about uh
33:46:00 ballot item number seven since it's one of the two people-powered Bell items and I was one of those people
33:53:00 um I know we'll hear about it later today but I just wanted to to share a little bit um I think the main thing about this
33:59:00 ballot item and this proposal is uh really the issue is I've written in our city Charter the police chief holds the
34:06:00 sole authority to discipline officers in case of misconduct um and then other professionals um and
34:13:00 high stakes Fields like doctors or lawyers or teachers um and so many others there's an external oversight
34:20:00 um and so the police really should have that too especially given that they have guns and use the force and put people uh
34:28:00 in prison um and actually this is something the mayor said himself um in 2020 quote he said such a monopoly
34:34:00 of an important Authority is an aberration in our democratic system and that the current Charter quote is
34:39:00 problematic and there's urgency to amend it um and so we bring ourselves back to
34:45:00 2020 actually a proposal that is very very very similar language was put
34:51:00 forward to the city council um and there was a lot of legal vetting
34:58:00 there's a lot of time spent deliberating in the charter change committee there was many many hours listening to public
35:04:00 forum for example on December 7th of 2020 150 people called in in support of
35:10:00 them passing this proposal just on that night alone and so the city council actually did pass it in a vote of seven
35:16:00 to five but then the mayor vetoed it and so that was 2020. it's been over two
35:23:00 years since it's been what's happened um the city leadership hasn't done anything to fix this this problem in the
35:29:00 charter um and so meanwhile we've spent over you
35:34:00 know over a year talking to to over 2 000 Neighbors I'm getting these
35:41:00 signatures to get this on the ballot so that we can decide for ourselves what we want um and we've gotten the support of r
35:48:00 many Grassroots organizations like the Battery Park movement the Howard Center workers union rights and democracy th
35:54:00 Progressive Party the Burlington tenants United migrant Justice or Vermont racial Justice Alliance peace and Justice
36:00:00 Center Serge Burlington Community Voices for immigrant rights and I think even
36:05:00 also very critically we have the support of local and National experts on this
36:12:00 topic such as the National Association for civilian oversight of law enforcement and the ACLU of Vermont
36:17:00 um so you know if City leadership's not going to make progress on this it's really important that we do because the
36:25:00 stakes are really high use of force incidents according to the city's own data increased by 18 between 2020 and
36:33:00 2021 and these use of force incidents are disproportionately affecting black people in our community of the 348
36:42:00 subjects of force in 2020 and 2021 116 that's 33 were black well only six
36:47:00 percent of our population is black and Burlington um so I think you know burlingtonians
36:53:00 want to feel confident that there is oversight ensuring that the police department is operating in alignment
37:00:00 with our with our standards um and right now this is the only Charter change that's on the table that's been proposed in the
37:06:00 years to ensure that this happened so if I know there's a kind of a lot of misinformation and things going around
37:11:00 um if you have questions about it I'll be here and I'd love to respect you about it
37:19:00 here there's one right in front of you yeah oh I'm sorry Peter can I I'm wrapping
37:25:00 you up in a wire here um is this good Charlie all right
37:31:00 um yeah I just want to voice my support as a community member for Community Control I don't think it's
37:38:00 that radical radical of a proposal I think in many ways it reflects what Burlington's structure like our
37:45:00 entire structure of boards and commissions is which is involving non-elected community members and
37:52:00 governing different city departments and having some oversight over decisions being made and this is a
37:58:00 talking about in like the worst case scenarios we need to have some somebody tasked with being sort of objective
38:05:00 standing back having a body made up of experts from different organizations in our community
38:10:00 um as much as I understand it and you guys probably know more but um
38:16:00 and then making a decision and having some actual resources to like investigate what happened and clearly

38:23:00 this is a problem that's been happening for years in our community and we need to do something about it and we
38:28:00 need to build trust so we need to have some like non-political not in the sort
38:34:00 of like back and forth around policing body have the resources to
38:40:00 you know make some make some calls here and the police commission doesn't have ultimately authority to make decision
38:47:00 like that the police commission is simply an advisory body often the feedback that I've heard maybe Milo
38:52:00 could speak to this but from police Commissioners is that a bunch of stuff happens in executive
38:59:00 session that they're not allowed to talk about that's really concerning and they're not allowed to talk about it and
39:05:00 they have no actual power to do anything about it um so just want to voice my support and then
39:10:00 the other thing was I like Sharon will often I don't do the zoom I do the
39:16:00 YouTube I will not live stream them because I have to go to bed but I'll like catch up on my
39:22:00 City Council meetings every week um as I'm making dinner and
39:28:00 I'll just say I was really concerned by what I was hearing around um
39:34:00 I mean regardless of the issue of policing regardless of where you fall on community control board this idea that
39:39:00 like we can't trust voters to make decisions was like really concerning to
39:45:00 me um as a constituent and just as like somebody in this community there's I
39:51:00 think I don't want to misquote anybody I'm paraphrasing here but there was some comment by one of the South End
39:57:00 counselors around um somehow you know other towns will have
40:02:00 Town meetings where you know 200 people in a small town you know get together and
40:07:00 um make a decision about ballot items and that like it's different in Burlington and you know and literally
40:12:00 the words were said like elected officials have more influence over that process
40:18:00 which was amazing to me and somehow it's less Democratic was the
40:25:00 argument that we have an election where people where 40 000 of us can go learn about issues and then cast a ballot like
40:30:00 I really like I don't even see how that makes sense but I encourage everybody just go watch that
40:36:00 council meeting because I was really just taken aback by like
40:42:00 the lack like this just this inclination from like we got to leave it to the experts we're not smart enough to decide
40:48:00 for ourselves as a community or learn about these issues I just am really surprised by that anyway I'll stop
40:53:00 ranting yeah hi uh mayor Brandt uh oh Charlie is this
41:01:00 better sorry um yeah I'm going to talk about the ballot items later at my allotted time
41:06:00 750 and I want to go over this um there is there is a lot of
41:14:00 misinformation going around in this sort of um what I keep hearing is this indignation that the people are not
41:20:00 being heard and and that's that's not what's happening that's not accurate
41:29:00 um the community control board issue is so important and we need to
41:36:00 continue to debate and to to craft something that really works for the City of Burlington with regard to policing
41:42:00 and uh the idea that people are um
41:50:00 you know the counselors are suggesting that people are not smart enough to make a decision is simply false and kind of
41:57:00 incendiary um in this democracy we need to craft the
42:03:00 right kind of police for our community and this
42:10:00 um debate is a step in that direction and um the powers
42:16:00 um afforded by this um
42:22:00 the control board are unprecedented and so sweeping that this kind of program
42:28:00 does not exist anywhere else in the United States it simply does not exist
42:33:00 there is a program in Wisconsin but it does not have
42:39:00 the civilian powers to fire people to
42:44:00 um to investigate this very Loosely defined
42:50:00 idea of misconduct in people's private as well as professional lives and it it
42:56:00 does pit the people against the police yeah yeah so let me finish up and I just
43:02:00 want to say that um this is a debate that we all need to engage in but there is I would agree
43:09:00 misinformation about it and um let's not make accusations let's
43:16:00 figure out uh what is going on with the language and the repercussions of this
43:23:00 we're going to circle back to this um in a few minutes when we talk about
43:30:00 um the the city council update and it's it we have an item to review ballot items
43:36:00 so we're going to get to that in a few minutes but right now we're going to shift gears and go to the school
43:41:00 commissioner update and speak out now what
43:47:00 speak out it's come and gone

43:53:00 I mean I mean some people just don't get speak out that's right we ran out of time
44:04:00 haha it's not when we have a schedule it's it's a fixed schedule mostly
44:09:00 um did anyone not get a sheet that would like a description a high level description of the Burlington budget
44:27:00 school budget
44:39:00 I
44:45:00 um [Music]
44:51:00 yeah for those of you who don't know me my name is Akila slokosu I am the world
44:57:00 once go commissioner for the school district and I'm Kathy allwell the East
45:03:00 District's Awards One and eight School Commission so many of you guys have this flyer and
45:09:00 um so I kind of wanted to score what the flyer says and then at the end of our discussion we can have answer questions
45:15:00 that people have um so at the topic those show the voters of the school district approved the
45:22:00 school board to expand roughly 104 million I can't read that whole number um which is the amount this global war
45:27:00 has a term in to be necessary for the ensuring fiscal year it is estimated that this proposed budget if approved
45:33:00 will result in education spending of 21 000 around 21 000 for equalized pupil
45:39:00 spinning at this level could produce a property tax increase of 4.03 percent
45:44:00 which is a rough roughest estimate I think yes yeah
45:52:00 all right and so for the FY total budget it's 98.2 million
45:58:00 the annual increase to wages and health so wages went up by six percent
46:04:00 and health care or health insurance went up by 12 percent
46:12:00 most much of that has to do with the Health income reimbursement
46:19:00 allocation HRA which is that people get paid out
46:26:00 a certain amount of money it used to be that this the teachers and everyone that's employed at the schools had to
46:34:00 pay the first I don't remember what it was I think it was a hundred or two hundred dollars and then the school took
46:40:00 over but there were a lot of problems with that and once it went to the state this year
46:45:00 is the first year that we are we are paying the first dollar as opposed to
46:51:00 the teachers which is actually
46:56:00 more egalitarian because we have deeper Pockets than they do
47:05:00 and then so that comes to 3.8 million and the BHS BTC 2025 bar only we will
47:13:00 borrow 2.1 million this year to get start or next year to start building
47:22:00 and that increase is six percent from 2023.
47:28:00 so the tax impact is that it's estimated that
47:33:00 the base or is based on Surplus from Vermont we're
47:39:00 going to have a huge Surplus in the state of Vermont that will come back to
47:46:00 each district that will then be taken out of this so that you will get a lower
47:53:00 tax rate so but the property taxpayer will pay
47:58:00 4.3 recruit percent increase
48:03:00 which is on a 370 000 house 207 dollars
48:09:00 more people paying by income tax will have a
48:16:00 point zero seven percent increase and for a 50 000 and with 50 000 income that will be
48:22:00 a one dollar increase in their taxes so
48:29:00 um a few of the guiding principles is that when we recognize our staffing levels must be responsive to enrollment
48:35:00 changes um we limit budget growth due to increasing wages benefits and Penny BHS
48:40:00 PTC costs ensure funding to meet your strategic plan objectives
48:46:00 continue to offer robust programmatic offerings and consider multi-year impact of changes and
48:56:00 minimize annual disruptions um maybe turn this documents at the back
49:31:00 foreign
49:40:00 we have questions in the room
49:47:00 right here um Cassie one
49:53:00 um one thing that could save some money why don't we heard that in the January
50:00:00 meeting here um um announcement from Green Mountain Transit
50:06:00 that uh bus fares in uh Chittenden County have got to increase which seemed
50:12:00 troubling now where I stand um for an hour and a half a day I see
50:18:00 dozens if not hundreds of people getting on buses but I Green Mountain transit
50:25:00 buses many of them going to our schools yet I also see the yellow dinosaurs running running around

50:32:00 um which we presumably pay for and presumably a carbon unfriendly so why
50:38:00 don't we save some money by getting rid of them getting rid of that service and somehow
50:45:00 getting funneling the money back to benefit the community in gentleman County
50:50:00 um suggestions we have tried to do that and those
50:58:00 dinosaurs you see are the north-south buses so we have in Burlington
51:03:00 um children and families are allowed to pick the school they want to go to and
51:13:00 so in order to do that they can't do it and get to school on time Green Mountain Transit did not want to run those so we
51:19:00 have run them in order to get kids that are at the south end and choose to go to
51:24:00 a Central City or North End School back and forth everybody that has been
51:30:00 debated I would just say that when Steve Leffler took over at the hospital one of
51:35:00 the first things he did in response to employers was get rid of the yellow dinosaurs that were servicing the
51:40:00 hospital so if if you should do that for employees there should we should also do
51:46:00 it for our children and that's the only thing I got to say okay but
51:54:00 right now we've just asked you for a huge amount of money for a high school so I I mean
52:00:00 yes I understand what you're saying and we should do it but different Vehicles they're different
52:06:00 anyway live guys
52:17:00 any other uh comments yeah
52:22:00 there's one on the chair
52:30:00 gonna come around Peter
52:37:00 this may be mixing apples oranges and pineapples but with regard to the 12 increase for health care costs I
52:43:00 understand part of it is the um the cueing of who pays what when but
52:51:00 is is the teachers um contribution and ongoing payout for
52:58:00 retired teachers through the medic the Medicare Advantage program is that part of this increase as well
53:04:00 yes and do you know how much the increase is and the reason is I'm a state employee
53:10:00 and the governor is telling us it's going to be so much cheaper if state employees do that and it
53:15:00 doesn't sound like it is so oh I would have to get back to you on
53:23:00 it because okay I I'm not sure the breakdown of that they just finished we just ratified right contract so how
53:29:00 could one find out what portion of that has to do with if you leave me your
53:36:00 email address be happy to thank you I will find out no okay get you the answer
53:41:00 here okay
53:47:00 a quick question so um one of the things that I found uh not on
53:52:00 your sheet was uh some explanation around how income sensitivity works that's my understanding that
53:59:00 approximately 70 of Burlington's taxpayers as a result of uh the way income sensitivity works for Education
54:04:00 funding would be insulated from from tax uh education tax increases so maybe if
54:11:00 you guys could just elucidate that a little bit I mean it's that's what this in the
54:20:00 thing where it says if you're paying by by income taxpayers do you see that that's awesome
54:28:00 it goes up point zero seven percent and someone owning it
54:34:00 uh having an income of 50 000 or yeah fifty thousand would only increase by
54:41:00 one dollar so it does insulate them I I know it's not it wasn't real so I I must
54:49:00 have missed that it wasn't real explicit yeah well okay I got it thank you
54:55:00 oh Sharon um yes hi um Kathy
55:00:00 um when you all came to the city council meeting that I listened to
55:08:00 um your presentation included what cuts were going to be made and there was some controversy around programs and
55:13:00 positions at the Arts Academy can you touch upon what this budget does
55:18:00 eliminate for positions how did it all
55:24:00 um come together okay yes it's there are
55:29:00 I think it's important they're all together 10 positions that were
55:35:00 eliminated three that were added
55:40:00 or 3.2 and so as a result they're 6.8
55:45:00 reduction and that is because of the number of
55:54:00 students we have it has gone way down we have we have between 19 2019 and now
56:02:00 we have 50 less students that at BHS 85 at the two
56:07:00 middle schools and 129 students at the
56:15:00 elementary schools the sixth elementary schools right but was there a program that was eliminated or were there some

56:22:00 key positions eliminated at any school I understand the overall but there was the
56:30:00 the problem with the with the Arts with the
56:39:00 it was the um dramatic drama uh coach that was but that cat that was
56:45:00 kept in the budget we do and we are now since last year doing a new type of
56:50:00 budgeting because we spent two years
56:58:00 going to the state trying to fight for an equitable budgeting on the state side of giving
57:07:00 out the money to all the different schools by looking at ESL poverty levels
57:15:00 um children with disadvantages we then decided to we don't do that we
57:20:00 didn't do that before that in in Burlington and so we decided Well maybe
57:25:00 we should be doing more Equitable budgeting within our own District so
57:31:00 that there is the rise allocation there's the largest percentage of our
57:37:00 budget is the teachers for the number of children and that is
57:44:00 set and that's the base budget with all the other Personnel Etc to run a school that we
57:49:00 need and then there is the rise allocation and that is allocated to each
57:58:00 School according to how many children are in poverty how many children are on IPS
58:05:00 there's all there's four different things that that they look at just as the state does and if you look on the
58:13:00 back of this it shows the rise allocation for 23 and now what is being
58:19:00 proposed for 24. this is the second year that we have done this and so it was
58:26:00 under there are many things that each School decides than what they need
58:35:00 and they use the money accordingly and in the case of IAA
58:42:00 they do have more teachers and more special teachers than even essay does
58:49:00 which are both uh magnet schools so we they decided
58:55:00 they really wanted to keep this person and they have done that through the rise
59:01:00 allocation from their school and every year those those allocations anyone if
59:09:00 they keep a teacher it's for a year and then the next year I hope they will say yes to that again
59:16:00 but it doesn't mean that they will be put through the regular you know that
59:22:00 they will become a um employee a full-time employee they are
59:29:00 an employee I shouldn't say that but they won't have a permanent contract that's what I want to see Kathy that was
59:36:00 very helpful to explain um the difference in how you budget now and that key position thank you so much
59:48:00 sure we got time for one more question we have another question on the floor Jonathan
59:54:00 um this may just be simple-minded and um and I apologize because it might just demonstrate how little I understand this
1:00:03 but the four percent increase that you talk about in taxes could one assume
1:00:08 that that's about what a renter's increase could be um because rent renters renters pay
1:00:15 taxes too so um would that mean that in general prop even rental properties you're going to
1:00:20 see something like a four percent increase that will be passed on to the renter it could be but that's really up
1:00:27 to the person renting the apartment I it isn't it isn't right right but yeah save
1:00:32 so but is that the is that the accurate number it's the same it would be the same for a duplex or a triplexer you
1:00:38 know we won't know this exactly the percentage I if I can just make a quick
1:00:45 comment um there is a renter's tax credit that they get when they fill out their Vermont tax return
1:00:52 and so they may be assessed in an increase to their rent but they would be uh getting
1:00:58 more money back from the state now how that
1:01:04 if if if the tax is presented to a landlord go up by four percent
1:01:10 um how much the renter would get back I don't know real quick
1:01:18 real quick I mean it really depends on what the landlord does because the landlords uh
1:01:23 yeah normal mics you put them right in front of your face but um sorry about that
1:01:29 um yeah it depends on what the landlord does um if I mean landlords are increasing as I think most folks know
1:01:35 rents like ridiculously in in all around the state and especially in Burlington
1:01:41 um if they choose to increase the rent as a result of a small property tax increase you know that's their business
1:01:46 decision and it gets passed on to their tenants um I will say that there's a separate uh
1:01:54 a separate tax rate for uh residential commercial for all commercial property including residential commercial and so
1:02:01 um that four percent you can't extrapolate from that four percent because it's a different Statewide tax rate for uh commer
1:02:07 think I'm I'm assuming that the four percent is based on the residential uh property tax rate
1:02:15 we're gonna move on um and the next agenda item is and Kathy
1:02:23 thank you and thank you very much um is it a city council update and

1:02:40 yeah I think you've got everything
1:02:45 uh I do have the language the fear of
1:02:51 the um good question are you going to go through all the
1:02:56 um ballot items one by one I could I wanted to ask you if that's I think that would be a great idea if you could
1:03:03 because I I don't think they're all controversial but it'd be good just to get out and say what does this what does
1:03:11 it really say right and then people and then people can ask questions about them as as you don't know yeah and uh Carol
1:03:18 was sent um thing from Zariah and Hightower and I didn't know
1:03:24 if you wanted to pull that up as well as well as the language
1:03:31 um oh I think you should just do it well also uh there is a link to the actual
1:03:44 language um like that maybe put that up so everybody could see it
1:03:52 and then zariah's ill she couldn't be here tonight but she did um uh send in her position on these
1:03:58 ballot items so we could go over that too
1:04:05 so the first item is um on the school board which we just did
1:04:12 um so um if anyone has any questions I think
1:04:17 Kathy is really expert on that and it should I read it
1:04:23 out or do you want to read it for yourselves I can read it out shall the voters of the school district
1:04:29 approve the school board to expend 104 million 144
1:04:34 584 which is the amount the school board is determined to be necessary for the
1:04:40 ensuing fiscal year question mark it is estimated that this proposed budget if
1:04:45 approved will result in education spending of twenty one thousand three
1:04:50 hundred and twenty five dollars and fourteen cents per equalized pupil
1:04:56 and then it does mention the 4.03 percent uh property tax rate increase
1:05:01 which would be um according to Erhard would be residential
1:05:09 um but it seems like that's uh that will be in the language on the ballot
1:05:15 um item number two uh is implementation of a carbon
1:05:22 pollution impact fee for new construction and large existing commercial and industrial buildings 50
1:05:29 000 square feet or larger um and then can you see the language there
1:05:37 I can I'll briefly go through this this is very important um begins shall the city council in
1:05:45 order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the city the authorized starting January 1st 2024 to implement a carbon
1:05:52 pollution impact fee in the permitting process with the fee to be set by resolutions
1:05:59 starting at up to 150 dollars per ton and Rising annually at the rate of
1:06:07 regional inflation but capped it no more than a five percent annual increase for new construction buildings that install
1:06:15 fossil fuel thermal energy systems instead of using renewable energy systems or renewable fuels
1:06:23 with the exception that the fee would not be implemented until January 1st 2026 for domestic water heating systems
1:06:29 in a new construction multi-family residential building with more than four units and this is the
1:06:36 second item for existing commercial and industrial buildings 50 000 square feet or larger when the building is
1:06:42 installing fossil fuel thermal energy space conditioning or domestic water heating systems instead of using
1:06:50 renewable systems or Renewables I know okay so that was important to say because it is about a tax on new
1:06:58 development and it it is an attempt to have developers use alternative energy
1:07:05 sources not fossil fuels but the tax the money from the tax will go to low income
1:07:11 people who need heat pumps and so uh this this money
1:07:18 will be used possibly to develop a fleet of electrical via electric vehicles
1:07:25 um a charging station and clean heat technology so for the um for the city
1:07:32 you know this is real climate action so um we have questions about this
1:07:38 particular item yes
1:07:44 all right sorry I feel like I've been talking a lot well just because it's my day job I work at 350 Vermont and one of
1:07:51 the big conversations happening in the Senate natural resources committee right now is speaking about you know we have
1:07:58 the affordable heat act and like what actually counts as like clean heat because biomass which
1:08:04 if you look at the full life cycle as like as bad as fossil fuels
1:08:10 um like McNeil and the health impacts and the economic impacts when you really go down the chain
1:08:17 um there's a lot of good evidence to support and I think every peer-reviewed study that's looked at it there's been
1:08:23 33 independent peer-reviewed studies um anyway
1:08:30 you have a question yeah my question is is there anything in passing this that restricts us from
1:08:37 in the future defining what clean heat means or how bed actually defines clean heat yeah that's a great question and I

1:08:42 met with uh Department of Public I mean um the Burlington electric staff the the
1:08:49 crew they're quite amazing and I brought this up because Burning uh wood is uh
1:08:55 seems very old school and their answer was right now this is what we have
1:09:02 McNeil is aging out and new technologies will be you know the next phase but
1:09:09 right now we have a lot of wood chips and this is these are not you
1:09:16 know virgin forests being cut down there's a lot of wood in the state and it is right now being used to generate
1:09:22 heat um the heat pump technology is limited depending on the temperature as well so
1:09:31 um they're working on it and uh you know this is this is real you know the there is there
1:09:39 are issues with biomass yeah sorry I can put this in here but I think it's
1:09:45 a problem that we are going to the producers of this heat
1:09:53 are of this energy to ask them we need to ask scientists and
1:09:59 the problem here is is that they want to increase
1:10:06 the McNeil in order to do the what is it Fahrenheit
1:10:11 or whatever I don't know if that disretating I'm using the German word
1:10:17 sorry anyway and that that would mean far more would that they would be
1:10:24 burning and they will also be using far more um gas for this
1:10:32 um natural gas so which are all things that we have to stop using so I'm
1:10:39 worried that we're going to increase this make me a learner to then turn
1:10:47 around just a clarification when I read this and
1:10:53 as moderator I guess I maybe I shouldn't speak up but it basically it defines uh
1:11:00 the the offenders as not including renewable energy and so as long as wood
1:11:05 is considered renewable it would be allowed I'm not saying that's good better lately I'm just saying that's
1:11:10 what the text that's what the text says so and that's what it's considered from
1:11:19 the state of Vermont what is thanks but it's right it is yeah so I
1:11:25 did bring this up um at Burlington electric as well and apparently a lot of
1:11:32 esteem at McNeil is just lost energy it's just if you look at it you can see it going up and the idea would be to cap
1:11:38 that and capture uh much of the heat in that Steam and then pipe it to large
1:11:46 institutions it cannot be piped to smaller homes it could go to the university or the medical center
1:11:53 um for example but think about getting that from McNeil up that hill to the
1:11:58 hospital and whatever the university right I mean
1:12:06 think first of all you would have to have a lot more energy put into that and that is they will
1:12:11 increase the wood that they're burning and they will start using far more
1:12:16 natural gas and they don't admit it yeah and that's why this initiative is very
1:12:22 important because it is an acknowledgment that fossil fuel use or
1:12:27 you know biomass and wood which many of us are fond of burning but know that
1:12:33 it's not good for the environment that action needs to be taken and this
1:12:38 kind of carbon tax is really an important step in acknowledging that and
1:12:45 doing something so so so isn't this question not about McNeil but about individual development exactly yes
1:12:50 helping individual properties yes so so this conversation has little impact
1:12:56 on I think on I mean I don't agree or disagree I'm just saying it doesn't really apply I do have a question about this though
1:13:03 um Maya and and I'm sure it was considered and I'm curious to know um if you can share any perspective on it
1:13:09 um instead of taking a tax approach take an incentive approach um because
1:13:15 um you know I I don't know if anyone else here has used the incentives to um
1:13:21 install um heat pumps in their home but certainly I mean that that works I mean
1:13:27 I know I know a lot of people who've done it I've done it myself um and so I think that an incentive
1:13:32 approach would make more sense especially since we're kind of in this place in Burlington where we need
1:13:39 developers to develop places to live um I I agree with you so I was wondering
1:13:46 if if that was part of the conversation yeah incentive um this wonderful carrot as opposed to a
1:13:51 punishment for creating new fossil fuel-based
1:14:09 um did you have a question yes really quick um
1:14:14 it calls for well penalties it's a tax
1:14:22 yeah well there's a question as to whether it's an annual tax or if it's a development right but
1:14:28 regardless of which it is it's looking to have developers move away from fossil
1:14:33 fuels biomass Etc to move to electricity I mean that's the

1:14:39 alternative at this point but does it have a corresponding production side where is the electricity going to be
1:14:45 produced from because if we aren't producing it it doesn't matter how many people move to it there won't be enough
1:14:51 we've already seen a rush to electricity in some of our lifetimes and then a rush
1:14:57 away from it when it couldn't produce enough so the question is there needs to be a balance if we're going to say let's
1:15:04 move to electricity which I think we all agree on where is it going to come from and those don't seem to get addressed in
1:15:11 the Motions yeah that's such a good question and so this would be an ongoing tax no it's
1:15:20 not oh really yeah that's that's it's a it says it's a development tax
1:15:25 and Rising annually at the rate that's that's the rate that it would be charged
1:15:32 but it says the impact fee in the permitting process so once you have a permit you build your
1:15:39 building you paid your fee you can do what you want that's my opinion I'm I'm
1:15:45 uh unfortunately not a lawyer so I can't tell you exactly yeah I'll look into this it looks to me like it is ongoing
1:15:51 but um let's clarify that and then uh you know that was a really good point and I
1:15:56 did ask them about this because uh recently because of the conflict and
1:16:02 um Ukraine uh many people in France converted to electricity because they're
1:16:08 anticipating problems with gas um coming through the pipes and the gas
1:16:13 uh the excuse me the electricity price is skyrocketed so I did ask at
1:16:18 Burlington electric about this and they said that they were going to have
1:16:23 contracts to stabilize the prices for electricity and they were looking for
1:16:31 other ways to produce electricity apparently right now there's a there are a lot of lawsuits against uh wind
1:16:37 turbines which seems like an amazingly efficient great way to generate
1:16:44 electricity but you know uh sorry here's a challenge I know yeah let's
1:16:51 speed up yeah no there's 10 minutes we have 10 minutes
1:17:09 to do all the rest of the ballot items
1:17:14 well how about if I finish and then uh we can look at that so um uh number
1:17:20 three Charter change regarding the ward boundaries and I think that Erhard has
1:17:30 really you know touched on that I fought hard to um have the opportunity for Ward one two
1:17:38 not lose um you know really important neighborhood
1:17:44 Community uh um on Brooks Avenue and um there's a lot of
1:17:49 there are a lot of hard feelings by Ward 8. there was negotiation with other
1:17:57 counselors when there was no representation for Ward 8 or Ward one or you know less for Ward one uh and I I
1:18:04 did suggest that in the future Ward one and Ward eight need to work together on this because
1:18:09 um it was very emotional for for many people you know the idea of neighborhood
1:18:15 and and the power to vote the power to um to vote in Representatives which is
1:18:23 really what's at stake um it's not perfect Erhard did an amazing job of re-envisioning new ways
1:18:31 of of mapping you know these areas and it's philosophical it's
1:18:36 um it's complicated it's not just Geographic um and so people will need to vote on
1:18:43 that themselves the map is not perfect but it's better than what was uh available before that
1:18:49 um you know tweaked map was voted in on the 23rd
1:18:55 um so okay I can do that
1:19:00 do you want me to read what Zariah said sure all right redistricting uh Zariah says
1:19:07 no recommendation I am not taking a stance on this I think the final map accomplished more than previous versions
1:19:12 uh but didn't accomplish everything most importantly it preserves the ward District model that many wanted us to
1:19:21 get rid of according to the city-wide survey and she has a pointer to the to the survey and uh that's what Zariah
1:19:27 said on that particular run okay and number four is the charter change regarding requirements for legal
1:19:34 resident voters who are not United States citizens um this I am for this I know Zariah is
1:19:41 as well and for legal citizens um in Winooski they are able to vote and
1:19:48 that would this would make this possible in Burlington as well um did you want to read zariah's or not
1:19:55 this is uh ranked Choice voting no this is um non-citizen yeah okay
1:20:00 uh Zariah said recommended yes residents who aren't citizens should be allowed to
1:20:07 weigh in on Municipal matters and when Montpelier and winoski already have this uh tested this approach and I think we
1:20:13 could join them in an expansion of democracy and then five Charters change regarding
1:20:22 qualifications of Voters and citing of polling places and this is for smaller Wards uh you
1:20:28 know if a polling place were outside the ward uh that that would be okay for
1:20:34 example a you know public space a municipal building where a polling site

1:20:40 could be so I support that
1:20:46 number five this is the uh pulling places yeah
1:20:54 um yeah it says uh she says recommend yes
1:20:59 uh CFO for non-citizen reasoning for polling places small small Wards mean
1:21:06 that polling places that are familiar and accessible to voters uh maybe just outside the board this
1:21:12 provides flexibility in using historic hurricane Festival voting locations so she's saying yeah
1:21:19 uh number six Charter change regarding the ability to use ranked Choice voting for the election of Mayor School
1:21:27 Commissioners and Ward election officers this is a choice that is up to each and
1:21:33 every voter whether or not you choose ranked Choice voting um
1:21:39 so that's what I'm going to say about it yeah and uh Zariah recommended yes on
1:21:46 this one um and it expands rank charts voting from City councilors to Mayor school board
1:21:54 and uh and some uh uh voting officials
1:22:00 no no comment on that one I think it's up to individuals to vote
1:22:08 the way they want my stance yeah yeah I'm sort of undecided when I was uh being elected to
1:22:13 city council I saw what I thought was an unusual use of people teaming up to use
1:22:21 ranked Choice voting as a team which didn't seem which didn't seem the way ranked Choice
1:22:28 voting should be used I really do believe in one vote one person and so as I just told you I'm still
1:22:36 undecided on how I'm going to vote but I'm looking at the pros and cons of ranked Choice voting thanks Troy so let
1:22:41 me go on to the next item which is um number seven
1:22:49 Charter change regarding the creation of Independent Community Control Board we just were talking about this
1:22:55 um and I am I am against the control board I mentioned a little bit before
1:23:02 it's sweeping Powers um to control uh police sworn police
1:23:09 officers and the police chief in a way that doesn't exist anywhere else in the country I do believe in accountability
1:23:16 and oversight um but you know this is something that
1:23:22 everyone should look into carefully Zariah is for it
1:23:28 um all right Community oversight of police she recommends yes I honestly don't think this will pass the
1:23:35 legislature and that's not what I would have written but I hope that Burlington can send a strong signal that after two
1:23:42 years of politicians myself included waffling on this issue and lacking the political will to move this we will as a
1:23:48 whole support a change in community oversight of the police department we all agree we need this and our community
1:23:55 has risen to the challenge of making it happen I know legislators are also working on Broad enabling language from
1:24:01 municipals for management for colleges across Vermont and I believe passing this would support
1:24:08 that effort as well and then she has a um a pointer to
1:24:15 where you can get more information and I do believe that the city does need to come up with some better Solutions so we
1:24:20 hired a consultant or a company or whatever and that was one of the things
1:24:27 they recommended with the police so and I guess I agree uh with Carter about
1:24:34 I watch that council meeting and to me it's disgusting that almost I mean I
1:24:39 heard nobody who had your opinion that we shouldn't be doing it everybody spoke
1:24:47 and they were like passionate intelligent people and still to vote against that like I
1:24:52 want a counselor that will think it through and listen to the people and
1:24:59 this isn't even if it passes or doesn't pass but to have so much money put into
1:25:06 killing it and all the people I heard that you know they to get those those
1:25:11 signatures like to me that's like disrespect it's sort of how it's the
1:25:18 same thing that happened with City Hall Park we got more than 2 000 signatures and instead of it going on the ballot
1:25:26 the mayor decide and the council not just the mayor decided don't put it on the ballot don't let the people vote and
1:25:32 I think they were scared because it was going to pass City Hall Park was not a
1:25:38 success it was way too much money and we are no better off but back to the
1:25:44 you know that meeting last night was or Monday night was probably the most you
1:25:52 know I don't know like the worst meeting I've ever seen how all the people spoke and then the voting goes on and frankly
1:25:57 I don't go and speak at the council because what's the point you I feel the
1:26:04 counselors go with their you know mind made up and why do you have speak out
1:26:11 and I know it's not you and I know that this wasn't your thing because you're not even going to run again but it was
1:26:20 so humiliating for all the people that spoke and then for nothing so anyway it wasn't for nothing uh but
1:26:28 it is a debate that's ongoing there are many constituents who weren't at the meeting who also spoke to counselors
1:26:33 and so this is it's not as though everyone

1:26:38 Karen let me let me speak yeah there are
1:26:46 many voices and the counselors are listening to many constituents because I
1:26:52 keep hearing this brought up that the this commission would be able to
1:26:58 fire people and I as a school board member also do that
1:27:05 same thing so teachers we in the end decide if it's a licensed
1:27:11 if it's a licensed teacher and they are going to be fired they can bring it to
1:27:18 the school board as the final say and we listen and we then vote so I I guess I
1:27:23 find this odd that that's being said when we have already
1:27:29 commissions yes but you're an elected official we're not talking about elected
1:27:38 officials right right
1:27:46 now these are not going to be elected yeah hey I say something oh oh
1:27:53 I'm sorry yes yes yes um so I think that what everyone in this
1:28:00 room wants an Advisory board that uh that is that oversees the police and
1:28:07 holds them more accountable I think that what we have is to disconnect with communication and I do believe that this
1:28:14 model is flawed because as you just said these the individual the the the group
1:28:20 that is being proposed is does not it when people cite other agencies like
1:28:27 lawyers and medical boards that hold their professional people accountable
1:28:32 that board is made up of some experts within that profession yet this
1:28:38 particular model doesn't allow anyone with any expertise in policing to be
1:28:44 part of it so I think that the idea is wonderful I think we all agree I think
1:28:49 we just have the wrong model and I really feel that that's really important
1:28:56 because there will this will be totally separate from the people there will be
1:29:02 you there's no election process there's no removal process so I want everybody
1:29:08 to think carefully about it because I want what everyone else wants but this
1:29:14 isn't right and I think with just a little more more process and I know you
1:29:21 all hate that word we could get it right I don't think there's any value in putting forth a wrong model and there's
1:29:28 no real value in being first in in a in a design that is flawed thank
1:29:35 you thank you Sharon well said we had uh just so you know in comparison to city
1:29:42 council where people can make statements and city council doesn't respond our Forum here is for people to have
1:29:47 sort of an exchange we're trying to have a discussion people can voice their opinions and say they're for or against
1:29:52 whatever and um so our NPA is a little bit different
1:29:59 from Council I just wanted to bring that to people's attention and continue our discussion here or you have
1:30:06 something you want to say and then this will take care we'd like to speak all right thanks thanks for uh grounding
1:30:12 us Tom um I just want to uh with my uh my opinion which is um a little
1:30:19 different from my good friend uh Sharon I I agree with Zariah um I think you
1:30:24 know whether this is flawed or you know could use more process or not I think we
1:30:32 need to send a message uh and the message needs to be that there needs to be some form of oversight of the police
1:30:40 and the behavior and it needs to be great accountability and we kind of have if this is not the perfect model so do
1:30:48 it but I think it should be supported to send a message that something needs to change uh and if this is voted down
1:30:55 um the folks that are including our mayor and uh some of the city councilors will take that as a message that we do
1:31:00 not need comprehensive reform so I think this is more of a message issue in my
1:31:08 mind rather than making sure that it's perfect and follows all the right processes I think we need to make sure
1:31:15 that the message is heard that we need strong accountability and reform for the police
1:31:21 just real quick um and I don't want to get like super dragged on into details I know we don't have a lot of time so if
1:31:26 you have questions about this please come see me but um I know it gets thrown out around a lot about how they're not
1:31:32 elected but actually if you look at our current police commission they're not elected either uh they're appointed and there's
1:31:39 it would be the same it also gets brought up a lot about folks on they're not having law enforcement experience
1:31:45 um but actually if you look at our current police commission and every single member of that do any of them have law enf
1:31:50 um and Milo Grant often talks about this um in fact just said like maybe one of the useful experiences is like having an
1:31:56 attorney on there um and they go through extensive training with like Nicole to make sure that they're supported to be able
1:32:02 these kinds of um these kinds of responsibilities the last thing I want to bring up is that if the voters do
1:32:07 pass this through it's not just going to end there it goes to the legislature and they will have a chance to have an
1:32:13 editing hand on it so if there are details that people want to have worked out I'm sure City councilors can Lobby
1:32:20 for those things to happen um and also that you know Nicole which is a National Organization really focused on this kind of

1:32:27 recommend is that we're not trying to look for Best Practices around the country and just like steal those it's more about fi
1:32:33 place so really looking at what the needs are of your community and then designing that model so it's really
1:32:43 normal that we would look around and not see things that directly match what we're trying to do because we're looking for
1:32:50 yeah I just want to say thank you so much tell me your name again Amy thank you for all those details and
1:32:56 the piece I want to say too is um we are Burlington Vermont and we know about
1:33:03 doing things for the first time we elected Bernie by 10 votes for example and look what's happened since then and
1:33:09 if you look at the land trust for example you know they're
1:33:14 we're Risk Takers you know and we've been really solid positive Risk Takers
1:33:21 and I think this is another example less call
1:33:28 or comments on this can I just say something I I really appreciate what Sharon was saying about not having to be
1:33:34 the first this is this is such an important matter that we can work on the
1:33:39 details it doesn't have to be a program that doesn't exist anywhere else in the country
1:33:47 um and people's lives are at stake and Public Safety um is really at stake and then the other
1:33:54 thing is that Sarah Carpenter who helped start the land trust is uh actually against the control board she feels that
1:33:59 it should happen incrementally and that as a community we can develop uh
1:34:05 controls and um you know a police force that is right for our community
1:34:10 so the last item is number eight Charter change regarding
1:34:16 proposition zero um and proposition zero
1:34:22 um is the process by which the the control board
1:34:29 um uh issue has come up where by you know maybe someone can help me with this
1:34:37 but if you have enough signatures you can bring something to the ballot and
1:34:43 the idea is um that it is powered by the people
1:34:50 um the I think the percentage is four five percent over two thousand voters in
1:34:57 fairlington they have to get signature and with this list of five percent
1:35:06 um that you can adopt or repeal the ordinance at issue and so
1:35:15 um that is the last uh item on the um March ballot
1:35:24 does anyone have questions about the um
1:35:30 uh
1:35:36 he says recommended yes allowing direct uh democracy in ways that all the other
1:35:42 Vermont towns do in allowing an easier pathway for citizens to get referendums
1:35:48 on the ballot by petition and she points to propositionzero.org website
1:35:55 so she says um yes I would love to share a little bit more about it
1:36:01 um I also talked to a lot of people about this um Healthcare on the ballot um so I think the thing that's real I
1:36:07 think this is the most exciting ballot item personally uh because basically it's about
1:36:13 um continuing a Vermont tradition and bringing us onto an alignment with what
1:36:18 people are enjoying everywhere nearly everywhere else in Vermont through the town meeting day tradition that we
1:36:24 really cherish um you know earlier we talked about all legal resident voting do we know how
1:36:30 that actually happened in Winooski that happened because they they passed their own version of proposition zero in 2015
1:36:36 we are literally just stealing their language so the voters passed it and went to the legislature they approved it
1:36:43 now we're just taking it and trying to do it here um so um I think it's pretty exciting this is Proposition zero so I put
1:36:49 forward you know what's going to be proposition one once this gets passed uh it's really just you know that continue
1:36:55 your tradition recovering a proven balance of power and making sure that we have a pathway if there's an issue we
1:37:05 really care about to prove that enough of us care about it that action can be taken to get it on the ballot yeah
1:37:11 Carter sorry I keep talking a lot um I just have to say on number seven too
1:37:17 not to go back to it but it's really important there are elements of the community control board it is true that
1:37:22 this specific exact program does not exist in other places in the country and
1:37:29 yet there are elements throughout it that exist in municipalities and States across the country so to say that like
1:37:36 it's something that's never been tested I just don't feel as accurate the way it's presented
1:37:41 now it does not exist anywhere but the legislature
1:37:48 um I'm just always wary about talking in these meetings I I truly believe my role is to listen in these meetings so that I
1:37:56 can bring your voices to Montpelier um I just want to say with regard to the community oversight I
1:38:02 personally am very excited about the direction that we are moving towards
1:38:09 decarceration towards Community Justice centers towards um lower security re-entry facilities
1:38:16 towards prison moratoriums you're going to hear Brian Chino's bill on that very soon everything we're doing with regards

1:38:24 to policing and incarceration is moving towards Community Justice models and restorative practices models it only
1:38:32 makes sense to me that that would include Community oversight to the policing aspect of that system so I just
1:38:38 I want us to think about where we want to move as as a society with regards to involving the community
1:38:45 in these decisions I've actually got a question and that's
1:38:52 it number seven is um a charter change based on a petition
1:38:59 right and number eight is saying that we would basically have that same capability for
1:39:05 ordinances yeah is that true that I think that's so it's so number seven is
1:39:13 sort of a I mean number eight is sort of an extension um the underlying uh Power of number seven
1:39:19 yes okay all right and it's been asked that I read
1:39:25 um something from Zariah um that I didn't read before and it's
1:39:32 really at the top of the email she sent out and so um here's here I'll go it says hi all I
1:39:37 am sharing the final ballot language as though as well as my take on each item
1:39:43 my fever is climbing and I'm feeling pretty unwell so I don't expect to make
1:39:48 it to the NPA even remotely tonight but maybe I'll get lucky and it will break
1:39:53 early please excuse any typos so she wanted to be here she did send out an
1:39:59 opinion on all the ballot items and I don't know how it's been distributed uh
1:40:06 I don't know if it was on front porch forum um so again we can post it with the minutes
1:40:14 but we'll post it in our minutes and if I can get um permission from Zariah I'll I can put I
1:40:19 can I'd be willing to post this um just her email out on front porch Forum
1:40:26 as well uh and and I'm going to even approach for him as well so yeah
1:40:33 all right we're gonna shift gears okay girls thank you very much yeah I should always thank you
1:40:38 all right we're gonna go to the candidate forum and we have two candidates for the East District Council
1:40:45 position as Jake Schumann and Tim broerty
1:40:50 um if you know me you know that I don't pronounce names very well so I'll
1:40:57 apologize in advance and you guys can come and sit right here and this is sort
1:41:03 of free form well we wanted them to do a quick
1:41:08 introduction of themselves Tom nice to meet you likewise but I
1:41:15 think you should each take about three minutes to introduce yourselves and we would
1:41:24 um and um
1:41:30 and then uh I will be back to uh help moderate
1:41:43 questions you want to go ahead after you sure
1:41:50 so uh my name is Tim Doherty and uh uh I am running uh for the East District uh
1:41:57 City Council seat it is a real pleasure to be here um thank you so much for having me and
1:42:02 um I've really enjoyed uh listening to everybody's strong opinions on these issues
1:42:08 um and I'm I've already learned a great deal um let me tell you a tiny bit about
1:42:13 myself um but I'm also happy to to answer questions about who I am in my background
1:42:18 um my wife Kate and I live uh pretty much kitty corner through the backyard
1:42:26 here on 27 Colonial Square my son Sam is here my eldest son he's 15 he goes to
1:42:31 BHS downtown my middle son Abe is at Edmonds
1:42:38 um and my youngest Malachi is at IAA um down in the old North End so we have
1:42:43 three in public school my wife is the principal of the Winooski middle and
1:42:51 high school and I am an attorney in downtown Burlington so we have lived here uh for quite a
1:42:57 long time um although not consistently our very first apartment as a married couple uh
1:43:05 actually we moved there the day after our wedding uh was on 401 North Street right across the street uh from Maya's
1:43:11 house although we didn't know you then either there um and uh
1:43:17 um we live like I said we live on Colonials we live on Colonial Square now so you know I know we're going to talk
1:43:24 about the ballot initiatives uh some of which I have views on some of which I'm still learning about and learning about
1:43:32 people's views here in the East District but I will tell you a little bit about why I am running uh for city council
1:43:39 um I'm running for city council because I love Burlington um I have a huge stake in the success of the city
1:43:46 um it's been our home for a long long time uh and it's given us a tremendous amount my family a tremendous amount
1:43:52 um and I have been concerned in recent years about the direction that the city is going in I've been tremendously
1:43:59 concerned about Public Safety I've been tremendously concerned about Rising property taxes
1:44:07 um and I've been increasingly concerned um about uh the discourse and the
1:44:14 civility that we've seen in our local politics one of the things that I value so much

1:44:21 about Vermont politics 6 is our ability and our tradition of working across
1:44:28 party lines talking to one another uh civilly even when we disagree uh
1:44:33 strongly uh you know in my field there's a there's a saying about lawyers who can
1:44:41 disagree without being disagreeable it's always been my approach to my practice Not always completely successfully but
1:44:49 it's something that I value tremendously in politics and it's a commitment that I have and I worry that we all
1:44:56 um and I include myself in this uh have moved away from that to some extent in recent years
1:45:03 um so if I'm elected uh you know my priorities are going to be in some senses
1:45:08 small bore um I am going to be an attentive
1:45:15 present um active detail-oriented city council person
1:45:20 uh I pledge to be a good listener um and to be engaged in the details I am
1:45:27 a detail-oriented person by Nature um uh I'm going to be responsive
1:45:34 responsive to constituent needs um you're going to get calls back you're going to get emails back
1:45:39 um you can come find me I live right over there uh we're always around there's always about six or seven
1:45:45 children not to mention uh chickens and dogs and other creatures in our yard
1:45:51 and you know I'm going to be open and available and I'm going to be committed
1:45:56 to uh the real nitty-gritty work of City
1:46:04 governance um I am not running because I have some high level partisan agenda what I'd
1:46:11 really like us to do is focus on on some basic basic principles of good governance so on some of these ballot
1:46:16 initiatives I'm still thinking about my own vote like it sounds like some of you
1:46:22 are some of them I do have opinions um about uh and I've spent the last
1:46:29 couple weekends knocking on doors and talking to people in the East district and trying to get a sense of what people
1:46:37 are thinking about and what their views are on some of these issues and for me that process is is ongoing and would
1:46:43 continue um if I were elected so I'm really looking forward to talking to everybody
1:46:49 here I'm talking more about these issues um and and hope people ask me questions
1:46:54 now and ask me questions afterwards and uh ask me questions uh in the weeks to
1:46:59 come well questions in just a few minutes Jake you're up yeah thank you
1:47:05 um thanks Tim um so I've been writing down some notes like throughout the evening and and as
1:47:12 you were saying what you were saying um uh just so I can you know respond to
1:47:21 everybody uh you know what's what's been hard for me um in campaigning is
1:47:28 you know you enter it and you think that what you're going to be doing is interacting with lots of individuals and
1:47:33 what I have learned through this process is that yes I'm interacting with lots of
1:47:40 individuals but what I am also learning is how our community is an individual right
1:47:45 like our community is unique we have a way of thinking and being and
1:47:53 interacting and doing together um that is unique that's what makes Burlington special right that's why for
1:48:00 the past 14 years I have said to people I try to find a place I like more and I've been hard-pressed to do it
1:48:10 um and that kind of brings me uh to what Maya had been saying and uh Sharon
1:48:17 um and others um about how Burlington doesn't have to be the first
1:48:24 um to have a community oversight board for police and we shouldn't try to be the first
1:48:30 because people's lives are at stake like that's I would I would say that that's an
1:48:36 argument for me in the to turn it around um I would say that we are a community
1:48:42 that cares about one another we have we don't just consider somebody a neighbor
1:48:47 we consider somebody a friend um we feed each other uh we provide each
1:48:53 other diapers we repair each other's wounds like we are a community of care
1:49:01 and that's exactly why we should be willing to take the risk of being the first because we trust each other
1:49:07 um if there's something that goes wrong we will fix it we will address it we
1:49:13 will work together because people's lives are at stake right
1:49:20 um so I think
1:49:28 something that I've really noted and and considered to be very positive is that
1:49:37 over the past couple years our city councilors have really endeavored to move on and move past uh the
1:49:44 partisanship and the divisive rhetoric of 2020 right
1:49:50 um and and I'm afraid that on Monday night that a lot of that
1:49:56 progress was undone um that City councilors now will have
1:50:02 harder relationships with each other um and that our community will have a
1:50:09 harder time trusting city council when the city council advises voters how to vote

1:50:14 um when city council says in the title of the resolution
1:50:20 upon failure upon defeat that
1:50:25 um and so it it you know it made me think of what you said to him uh
1:50:33 you know about lawyers who can disagree without being disagreeable like I've worked with Ben on uh different projects
1:50:40 like when uh building burned down in South Meadow uh connected with him and a
1:50:47 couple of other people in our mutual Aid group to make sure the affected families got what they need
1:50:54 um and and it you know I felt like I had a personal relationship there that I feel
1:50:59 like I no longer have um and and I think it's important to
1:51:08 prioritize our relationships with each other um so I guess
1:51:14 I'll just respond to two more things um you said that you were going to be
1:51:19 responsive um and I just say that that's that's why I think folks should vote for
1:51:24 me is because I have been responsive right like I've been doing these things before
1:51:29 um and it's like regardless I I don't need to be on city council to care about
1:51:35 this community and to serve it and to um to take care of it right that's
1:51:41 that's why I've always said I don't consider this a job I don't consider it something that I can benefit from I
1:51:48 consider being on Council the executive level of volunteering right of of being
1:51:56 just a good human um and so it's it's because I've been thinking about these things for so long
1:52:01 um that I think we want to make sure that we have people
1:52:07 on Council who prioritize relationships prioritize working together prioritize
1:52:13 um the human elements of our community but they do have a rich and deep
1:52:19 understanding of these issues cultivated and informed by years of experience of
1:52:25 doing the work um and a vision right um
1:52:33 and I think you know that's why I I stepped aside um in the special election was because I
1:52:39 got to know Dina and I got to to be able to say I trust this person to carry this
1:52:45 piece of our struggle and I'm going to step aside and carry this other piece and that was the petition drive and I
1:52:51 didn't carry it I just participated right I was one of many concerned citizens who helped um get these ballot
1:52:58 items before you so I think that the voters of this city have an opportunity with proposition zero with Community
1:53:04 oversight of police with Milo Grant's candidacy and with my candidacy I think
1:53:11 that we can make some changes that will will lead to meaningful police reform
1:53:17 that is collaborative and um compassionate I met with Murad and I
1:53:22 think that there's a lot of mutual respect there I think that we had a great conversation and I look forward to
1:53:28 uh working with them in the future all right we're gonna open it up to
1:53:33 questions um well
1:53:40 Carol hi I'm going to talk about something that's not a ballot item but it's really important I think to
1:53:46 Ward one which is the relationship that um the city has with uh UVM
1:53:53 um and I at this point I hope Tim you're you're gaining more and and JQ as well about understanding of where we are and
1:53:59 the fact that we've had for a very long time and Earhart our historian could tell you how long we've had an mou
1:54:06 that's been functional that Bernie was part of setting that up and before then it's a non-profit that was able to do
1:54:12 what it wanted to do so we've had some kind of relationship um that they've the president has said
1:54:18 he has no interest in in pursuing that um and I I feel pretty helpless about
1:54:23 that I don't know how other Awards may not feel like it's their territory
1:54:29 um or their worry but I'm I'm really concerned that it'd be something that you both become aware of and can help us
1:54:35 advocate for um you know and and just welcome any um energy that you can put into that
1:54:42 issue because I think we need that who wants to go first you ready
1:54:47 I'd be happy to um so I guess I just I want to say one more
1:54:55 thing that I forgot and it's very quick uh last night in the State of the Union Address President Biden said we need
1:55:03 oversight of police um so so I would say um on the UVM issue
1:55:09 um Carol I uh went back to school in 2018
1:55:17 um and I went to CCV because you know I had I had a hard time in school um you know it the the the demands that it
1:55:23 it places on you uh public school is difficult for me and that's why I went to a community school uh on the farm in
1:55:31 Tennessee and finished up my high school education on a hippie commune um so you know I I needed a long break
1:55:37 and I needed to make sure that I was gonna gonna be okay and see it through um so I went to CCV for two years
1:55:44 um and then I started at UVM in the fall of 2020 right like right
1:55:50 after the pandemic had hit and I was a full-time uh caseworker at the Holiday

1:55:58 Inn cvoeo um helping folks get housing um where I got uh like 30 30 people
1:56:04 um housed uh either just through my own efforts or as a member of a team
1:56:10 when I attended UVM 2020 2021 2022
1:56:17 I paid or I didn't pay um right that's that's the point I want to make I didn't pay
1:56:24 um and even if I did pay the tuition was lower than it was for my contemporaries
1:56:29 when they went to school 2009 to 2013. so
1:56:34 I hear you and I think my response is that
1:56:42 um I have defended Suresh um in the community to say he is put in
1:56:48 a lot of effort to make sure um this education is Affordable and that
1:56:53 uh it prioritizes vermonters um and over 50 percent of in-state
1:56:59 students go completely free of charge not a penny
1:57:05 um and so I think that's that's where that's where we start right is is saying
1:57:12 you've looked out for this group of people can you can you look out for this group of people right this group can you
1:57:18 help us can we find some common ground and build from there because yes the mou is essential
1:57:23 no buildings no more you can't do anything without the mou that's that's
1:57:32 what I would say you know Carol uh I think Kate and I you
1:57:38 know share what I what I think I understand your concerns to be
1:57:44 um as well you know we love we love living in a university town uh I love
1:57:50 living close to students um the vibrancy um the diversity
1:57:55 um the energy uh that UVM brings to the community I think I think we all all value
1:58:02 um I worry um that right now that relationship is
1:58:09 uh out of whack perhaps badly out of whack um and needs to be uh realigned
1:58:14 um the university is an important stakeholder in our community
1:58:20 um it gives us a lot but we give it a lot as well as a city
1:58:26 um and it needs that the university needs in my opinion uh to Bear its fair
1:58:35 share of of the responsibility for things in the city like affordable housing like our
1:58:41 homelessness crisis and it really needed a tribute um so you know the devil is in the
1:58:50 details of course when you're when you're negotiating with an institution uh like UVM and I'm a careful and
1:58:58 deliberate person so I'm not going to over promise I'm not going to um you know declare you know no
1:59:03 development unless X at this point um I do think though uh that we ought to
1:59:10 be negotiating uh any discussions any development with a hard and sharp eye uh
1:59:16 toward the needs of the community so um you know yeah you know we we get it
1:59:22 uh Kate and I get it and we're concerned about the balance and I I think that's what you I think that's what you meant
1:59:29 but if I understood you correctly here so I also want to speak about
1:59:35 Trinity um there was a recent I was in Digger like a commentary written by a trustee a
1:59:41 UVM trustee who's also a legislature blessed legislator
1:59:46 um who doesn't live in our neighborhood lives on the lake new North End gorgeous
1:59:51 home and I was really offended by it because it's all about the money that
1:59:57 UVM brings but it doesn't talk about what UVM has done I live on Henry Street
2:00:05 I've been there I don't know almost 40 years 38 years and you know I've been so lucky so lucky
2:00:12 that we have you know really we have rentals and we have homeowner
2:00:18 homes but they're all like everybody respects everybody we are not like some
2:00:24 other areas where we've got some rental properties that are just really run down
2:00:29 and you know loud I mean there's a lot of problems and I think UVM has done
2:00:34 little to really help with that I mean I've walked with so many of the presidents you know around our
2:00:40 neighborhoods to show them the properties but anyway what they are doing their current plan is to increase
2:00:47 the first year class size to 3 000 and build housing to accommodate these
2:00:54 first-year students they're not and so the problem with that is that in two years those first-year students are
2:01:01 going to be on my street looking for a place to live so this to me is what we
2:01:07 have to stop because you know unless we have an mou and UVM
2:01:15 will commit to also housing Juniors and see seniors at Trinity we can't you know and I feel like that
2:01:20 was really clear I went to the Planning Commission meeting and I heard them Alex friend was the only one who voted
2:01:25 against it but all the planning Commissioners said they were approving
2:01:33 this passing this on to the council but they all recognized we needed an mou to

2:01:38 you know to protect the neighborhoods to protect the whole Community with the
2:01:45 housing crisis so I think that's what Carol is getting at is that we want a counselor that is going to really fight
2:01:52 hard for us because you know really to me we can't let this happen without
2:01:59 having housing for upperclassmen also on you know on the campus yeah you know
2:02:06 Karen I heard one of the things you said was uh you know the difference between Henry Street which I love uh what my
2:02:12 kids absolute favorite trick-or-treating uh Street um uh in some of our other areas when I
2:02:18 was at an NPA meeting for Ward 8 a couple weeks ago um I was hearing some
2:02:25 from some folks in Ward 8. um uh on this issue and you know the mou
2:02:30 I hear you on but I also think we should be thinking creatively about other pressure points
2:02:37 um so I was talking to someone uh who uh suggested you know one of our one of our
2:02:43 issues perhaps in the city uh is that we are do not have enough robust uh code
2:02:49 enforcement going on you know you know why not see uh if the University of
2:02:55 Vermont who does have a lot of students in our communities and not just Juniors
2:03:01 and seniors anymore now I think it's it's it seems like it's it's bleeding even more
2:03:08 um uh why shouldn't they pay for some code enforcement uh to make sure that these buildings are safe uh and kept up
2:03:14 and and rigorously uh maintained and put some pressure on some of the landlords
2:03:21 who not only make so much money but also make it so difficult for people to move
2:03:29 to Burlington who just cannot cannot compete with the rent uh uh that this
2:03:35 housing um Distortion has created so I think that there are a lot of areas a lot of
2:03:41 areas to work on what you're not going to hear from me are sort of bold
2:03:46 promises that I won't be able to deliver on I'm a careful person I'm a deliberate
2:03:51 person I don't know frankly how much Leverage we can really bring to the
2:03:58 university but I will promise um that that I'm going to do it as much
2:04:03 as I can and explore it rigorously
2:04:10 code enforcement yeah it needs to be stronger but the flip side of that coin is zoning
2:04:16 enforcement far too extreme very little leniency
2:04:24 um you know the first day I went canvassing I started on Henry Street because such a lovely neighborhood I knew I was in
2:04:30 um and I was talking to a fella who just moved on to that street and he was
2:04:37 saying I want to put a solar array on my roof because that's like it's perfect it's at
2:04:45 the right angle it's facing in the right direction uh people will hardly even notice that it's there
2:04:51 I want to do the right thing for my community for the planet and my family but
2:04:57 my house is old it's got like one of those little placards on it and
2:05:02 there's a chimney chimney hasn't been used in 50 60 who
2:05:08 knows how many years he can't even see it from most angles but we must preserve the character of
2:05:16 the neighborhood we cannot remove the chimney so that we can put solar panels on this home
2:05:24 yeah I think that's that's why I say so often we we need to we need to be more human with
2:05:30 each other right like we need to be more open to granting variances
2:05:37 um it takes a while to change things right but there are bodies in our city
2:05:44 that exist in large part to Grant variances so that people could do the things that we need to do to meet our
2:05:49 needs um so
2:05:55 I guess like I I wanna
2:06:04 I kind of want to bring this back to Suresh a little bit um who makes you know 860 000 a year
2:06:10 um throw in the the free parking and the free house um over a million dollars a year
2:06:15 uh and so I think it's like a lot of people
2:06:21 in the city they think about these problems in a very intellectual way
2:06:28 um that's why Suresh is really great at taking care of uh the low-income undergrads and making sure that tuition
2:06:35 is very affordable for certain populations and a lot of scholarships are provided to certain populations
2:06:41 because it's an intellectual understanding of these issues that we face in this city
2:06:48 um both we need to we need to
2:06:53 work together to understand each other and to respect each other and that's why
2:07:01 I'm so disheartened um by all of the resistance I see to these uh community-led ballot items
2:07:08 because it's a fundamental disregard for the people who are dealing with the
2:07:13 pain presenting their solution for how to heal it
2:07:20 um it's saying no the people who can make the big political contributions uh

2:07:27 we know what you need don't worry we'll take care of you um that's it
2:07:32 I think uh we got Sharon you've got a question I do
2:07:37 um I wanted to ask both of you um do you support putting a cap on the
2:07:45 number of students um that UVM can bring in I um I think that you've drifted away
2:07:51 from the mou the mou was really specific there are other initiatives that can tap
2:07:58 into funding for different proposals than we do and the mayor has worked with the university to extract some funding
2:08:04 for infrastructure Etc um and for some Services um so there there are like
2:08:12 um fire Services etc etc but the mou really dealt with the number of when
2:08:18 when the student when the student body grew the university had to add a bed and
2:08:24 that has now gone by the wayside so when Karen long was talking about when we
2:08:30 have more students after their sophomore year they dump into the community
2:08:36 that will be a we will never get a handle on this unless we have a honest
2:08:42 and Frank conversation with UVM about capping their enrollment and I want to
2:08:48 know your both of your positions on that please yeah Sharon you'll have to forgive me
2:08:54 for getting away from the uh prompts a little bit compared to the special election
2:09:00 um when we had very many uh I believe five Community forums and they were all
2:09:05 about an hour to two hours long we have two half hour
2:09:12 um forums at this point and a lot of my opinions are out there on the record um so I apologize for deviating from the
2:09:18 script but uh that's why I have said before and I will say it again
2:09:23 I fully support a cap on students but what's more I think that we in the city
2:09:30 should invest in a municipally owned um development organization so that we
2:09:35 we can build the housing for ourselves um and I also believe that we should have a strong well-funded Tenants Union
2:09:41 to protect the people living in these units yeah Sharon I don't mean to
2:09:48 respond to your question with a question um but but can I ask when the original
2:09:55 mou was negotiated what leverage did the city use to extract that promise from
2:10:00 the University of Vermont to go for for one bed to one student
2:10:07 and I admit that I'm I'm ignorant about that uh historical detail but what did
2:10:13 you guys what was used we withheld the zoning permit it had to do with
2:10:20 development um Earhart can speak to it um because he was on the city council
2:10:26 but anyways but anyways uh we withheld something so when the university comes
2:10:32 to the city because they want something that is the time that's the only time
2:10:39 that they're willing to negotiate I have to say sadly um and so that we have to seize that
2:10:45 opportunity to have those conversations and collectively I mean it's in both of
2:10:50 our best interests to make progress on this and I just wanted to know your
2:10:56 position on capping the enrollment thank you yeah so you know I I absolutely
2:11:03 agree that when the when the university comes to the city uh and wants something that that's our time to negotiate
2:11:09 um and you know if we had the leverage uh to extract that promise uh and we
2:11:15 could do so uh without the likelihood of years of expensive litigation
2:11:22 um you know I I would certainly want to press as hard as we could um but you know
2:11:30 the devil is in the details always um and you never want to overplay your hand either so you know answering in the
2:11:36 abstract I think is is difficult um but if if the principal uh of
2:11:42 sustainable growth of the University uh or growth that is consistent uh with the
2:11:48 Integrity of our neighborhoods and the size of our neighborhoods is what we're talking about I I am a hundred percent
2:11:55 behind it and as someone who lives here and owns a home here and has a huge stake uh and and the Integrity of our
2:12:06 neighborhoods um it is it is a top issue for me yeah
2:12:12 um in this context I have a a very blunt question um having represented this community and
2:12:18 and uh having cared about it um as you do Jake for for several
2:12:23 decades now um and Tim uh having my having concern
2:12:30 like you about the direction of this city um I want to ask a very blunt question I
2:12:37 want each of you to give me your Frank assessment of the current Administration uh because my concern about the
2:12:43 direction of the city has involved a number of things everything from the park to the giveaway of Burlington
2:12:52 Telecom that we created and built uh and the the data that we have about uh the
2:12:59 public safety problems that we have now I think they are squarely at the feet of
2:13:05 the current Administration and I would like to know what you think

2:13:11 um so you know I'll tell you uh Dean uh
2:13:17 uh my current uh principle concerns uh
2:13:22 about the city and where we at uh start with the East District
2:13:29 um Kate and I uh and I and I think this has been shared by many and many of the folks that I've met uh uh over the last
2:13:36 couple weekends canvassing uh and and friends and Neighbors in the community uh have been profoundly disappointed a
2:13:43 profoundly worried uh that we in the East District have lacked our full complement of Representatives on the
2:13:48 city council um you know we were surprised from our perspective it seemed to come out of
2:13:54 nowhere uh that we went from uh you know in the East District was a total uh
2:13:59 three people on the city council um did down to one um and I think that that has had a lot
2:14:05 to do I think that's played a big part in these issues and the hard feelings with respect to redistricting
2:14:11 um and so that has been a big concern of mine uh that lately in my neighborhood
2:14:17 uh and in my district we have not had a full representation
2:14:22 um with respect to uh what I think about the administration as a whole I think
2:14:29 that you know there are compliments to be paid all around uh and I think there's some blame uh to be play paid
2:14:35 all around and it really depends upon what issue you're talking about I don't agree with everything that the mayor has
2:14:42 done I don't agree with everything that the city council has done um and uh you know so it really depends
2:14:49 on what issue you're talking about can you give any more detail sure
2:14:55 um you know Public Safety so I'm really concerned about Public Safety uh and I'm sensing that we you
2:15:03 and I might disagree on this um so let me just tell you bluntly um I think uh that the decision uh to
2:15:10 slash uh police funding uh and reduce the size of the police department was a terrible mistake I think it was a
2:15:15 well-intentioned uh decision but I think it was a mistake and I think the
2:15:22 reduction in the number of police officers has had a negative effect on our city I do not think that it is the
2:15:30 sole reason that we're facing a public safety crisis right now I think it is a complicated problem a multi-faceted
2:15:36 problem with many uh different aspects to it uh Pub the public health issue
2:15:41 with respect to addiction um uh socioeconomic disparity but I
2:15:48 think Public Safety and law enforcement and a police department that's well trained and right sized for our city uh
2:15:54 is critical to the health and well-being of our city I worry about my son in
2:16:00 downtown Burlington right now I know Mayo worries about her daughters um uh and I and I think that that
2:16:06 frankly Falls squarely at the feet of some decisions that were made by the
2:16:11 city council um I think we can rebuild I think we're in the process of rebuilding I think
2:16:16 it's more productive frankly uh to look forward rather than to look backward and
2:16:22 talk about blame um and and if elected um you know I think that's what people
2:16:29 are going to want me to do um is work to sort of address the problems going forward rather than point
2:16:35 the fingers backward please
2:16:41 assessment of the current Administration Jake that's it all right um
2:16:46 yeah I you know I think it's funny uh like in a not funny way
2:16:53 um that you know it has to be on the platform right like what's your thoughts on
2:17:00 housing and it's funny and not funny to me because uh 10 years ago like you know
2:17:06 I have to answer for this now right like as a young man I or a young human
2:17:12 um you know I was uh I was an intern on Monroe's campaign that's that was my first foray into
2:17:18 electoral politics I was like I don't know about this guy but you know I want to be in the room and kind of learn how
2:17:24 it happens um yeah he campaigned on housing a lack of
2:17:31 housing I vote for me I'm gonna fix this issue what happened
2:17:36 a Whole Decade passed and we we are in the same exact place
2:17:43 so I mean like I have I hold a cognitive dissonance right like you you want to
2:17:50 believe the best so it's like okay I see you know a police department that
2:17:55 that hurts um people um but most of them don't and they all
2:18:02 want to be there for the right reasons um I see a mayor I don't know what's going on
2:18:07 um I think he's trying but I I don't understand uh
2:18:16 what's going on in his mind like who is Whispering into his ear that he
2:18:22 he makes certain choices to me that really just Boggle my mind right it's
2:18:30 like the priorities we were told on Monday um yeah well we tried to uh
2:18:36 you know we tried to start a conversation um in January of 2021 about a community
2:18:42 oversight board and we were going to do it but then we didn't

2:18:47 so it's like what happened right like where did the momentum go
2:18:54 um what is the what is the design right
2:18:59 um and it makes me think of City Hall Park somebody mentioned Karen mentioned City
2:19:05 Hall Park earlier it was like a pet project of the Palmer Lowe's
2:19:11 who pays for so many of the pop of the democratic uh candidates uh Financial
2:19:17 contributions the Palmer lose it's it's like who is running our city um is it the rich and powerful and Elite
2:19:24 or is it the people so my assessment of Moreau is that I
2:19:30 think at one time he was a good guy trying to do the right thing but I don't know what happened
2:19:35 something happened somewhere along the line um and I just
2:19:41 I have a hard time um believing that he really has the best
2:19:54 interests of the community as his number one priority all right thanks uh we got a question
2:20:00 uh nice to meet you Tim um thanks uh for
2:20:06 it's so different when you have a real mic you gotta hold it um and I appreciate
2:20:12 um both your uh comments so um I do have oops sorry I do have a question
2:20:19 um and it's about the valid initiatives uh I'd like to hear from each of you um how you're going to vote on
2:20:26 um what I would consider the probably the three more con most controversial ones um one uh being the police um the
2:20:32 police initiative um the other being ranked Choice voting and the third um being
2:20:39 um the uh voter initiative uh on the ballot and before you answer I just want to say I really uh to appreciate your
2:20:44 concerns about your children and their safety downtown and I know May and I have talked about this as well let me
2:20:51 just say that for as a father of a young black man who grew up in this town and
2:20:58 now lives in Baltimore um I am concerned when my son comes back to town because one of his high school
2:21:04 friends was realized by our police and has a life-changing traumatic brain
2:21:12 injury and that's the other side of some of the fears that people have about their children in our city but my
2:21:17 questions about the three ballot items thank you Earhart for saying that okay
2:21:22 well I ended the last one and we right we were or did I lose track I'm very
2:21:29 tired right now okay thanks thank you so much so let me take
2:21:35 them one by one and I I know I know people are fading uh and I'll so I'll try and be brief
2:21:43 um you know I you talked earlier in the meeting about the message coming across
2:21:49 um from uh the commission um and what you said I believe correct
2:21:56 me if I get you wrong you said that from your perspective even if it wasn't perfect and even if the legislature
2:22:03 wasn't going to support it or you didn't think that they would support it you you really wanted to send a clear message uh
2:22:10 that police accountability and police oversight was really really important to our community
2:22:16 that is also a message that I uh have been hearing for the last few years in
2:22:21 in my close circle of of community members it's it's something that I've
2:22:26 been hearing recently now that I'm I guess I'm up hard for me to believe uh
2:22:32 as a long time Wallflower that I'm a politician um but but uh it's something that I've
2:22:37 been hearing a lot lately uh and it is a message that that I agree with and that
2:22:43 really resonates with me the Burlington Police Department has to do a tremendous amount of work to repair relationships
2:22:51 with this community this community demands police accountability it Demands a
2:22:57 rigorously trained Police Department rigorously trained uh in de-escalation
2:23:04 techniques rigorously trained uh and implicit and explicit bias uh and it
2:23:09 should be held accountable should be held to the highest standards I do not
2:23:15 believe that the commission as proposed in the ballot is the right tool to
2:23:21 achieve those ends I don't think it's fair to the police officers I believe it
2:23:28 will hurt our ability to recruit the breast the best and the brightest and I share a lot of the and I won't repeat
2:23:34 them but I share a lot of the procedural technical which I I think are more than
2:23:40 just technical but but the the detailed uh uh criticisms that Sharon Sharon
2:23:46 butcher brought so I'm I'm against it but I am in favor uh of rigorous police
2:23:52 reform and rigorous police accountability and I and I would just say to everybody who feels really
2:23:59 passionately about this which I think is everybody um you know I would be inclined not to go
2:24:06 with with a law um or a change um that is wrong just because we feel
2:24:13 impatient or we feel that things haven't moved fast enough over the last two years this is really really important
2:24:21 stuff it has a really profound ramifications on people's lives people who are abused by police but also this
2:24:29 community that needs to be safe um so I'm against uh I'm against it

2:24:36 um number two uh the uh the referendum voting right for devotion uh ranked
2:24:41 Choice voting I'm in I'm ranked Choice voting I'm in favor of I hope that they explain it more because I find it very
2:24:47 confusing all right I agree number three referendum I'm against it
2:24:53 uh and here's why as quickly as I possibly can uh I worry uh that it is
2:25:00 going to unleash uh uh Jake talked about the influence of money I think we look
2:25:06 hard at places that have this look hard at California look hard at what Prop 13
2:25:14 has done in California since 1978 this is you know I am a huge fan and as a
2:25:19 sort of lawyer government geek of representative democracy not perfect
2:25:24 um uh but I don't think this is good for this is good for our community and I've been listening to people not everybody
2:25:30 agrees uh that it's the right thing to do thanks uh Jerry yeah I'll go quick
2:25:39 um but can somebody tell me real quick what's the population of California anybody yeah like tens of millions tens
2:25:45 of millions yeah they don't all know each other we all know each other um we all have relationships we respect each
2:25:50 other and we can engage in dialogue that is why that uh argument does not hold
2:25:55 water also look at Winooski they've had um prop zero for uh a number of years
2:26:02 already um thank you Erhard for saying um what you said I think it's important to uh
2:26:09 note because as we talk about um the police department reforming Public Safety Community oversight of
2:26:15 police it is important to recognize that yes both sides feel aggrieved but one
2:26:20 side their uh their sense of you know
2:26:27 feeling agreed is based on their identity it's they cannot change a police officer if they feel like the
2:26:33 community does not respect them they feel unsafe in this community they can get a different job and I think that we
2:26:39 need to recognize who we must um prioritize in this conversation so
2:26:44 yes I will support the community oversight board um yes I will support ranked Choice
2:26:51 voting yes I will support proposition zero proposition Zero by the way uh
2:26:56 there's you know if we have different competing ideas right uh then you can
2:27:02 have ranked Choice ballot measures um and we could be doing that we could
2:27:09 be having that conversation with Community oversight of police we could have competing ideas of how we Implement
2:27:14 Community oversight of police but I just want to say we can't talk only about
2:27:19 those Earhart because I have to highlight the contradictions if you support
2:27:26 um uh ranked Choice voting but you and you support all Resident voting
2:27:33 but you but you also support redistricting the redistricting cuts into three um the most diverse
2:27:40 neighborhood in uh the state um the neighborhood where I bought my first home and lived for three years uh
2:27:45 the character of that neighborhood suffers because it is continually divided
2:27:51 um and to everyone in this room I noted before that everyone said uh non-citizen
2:27:58 voting please don't refer to it as non-citizen voting that is a negative way of framing it it says what these
2:28:05 people don't have please use the preferred terminology all Resident voting all legal residents well I put
2:28:13 the legal in Brackets because okay so um I apologize we've run over but each
2:28:21 of you is going to be summarized in one minute 2017 go for it we must restore our sense of
2:28:26 humanity all right um I'm here and I'm really excited to
2:28:41 talk to you all so uh I look forward to meeting with you more and having more discussion and thank you so much
nice to meet you

Ward 1 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)
Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 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

Facilitator: Tom Derenthal

Minutes: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol

7:00 Formal Start - Announcement & Introductions –

NPA participants introduced themselves

Announcements from the public:

Councilor Brandt reported that the shelters on Elmwood are open. Residents chosen by committee on a 1st come 1st served basis. Some of the shelters were locally manufactured

Carter Neubieser announced Councilors Magee, Hightower, Bergman will be posting/mailing Progressive positions on Ballot items.

Caryn Long/FaRied Munarsyah announced Prop 0 and Community Control of Police community meetings 2/11 and 2/17 (Miller Center)

Caryn and Michael Long, Kathy Olwell and Wolfgang Weise will be hosting a house party at 55 Henry St for East District candidate Jake Schumann at 6:30 on 2/16 after the "Live at 5:25" candidate forum

Jake Schumann, in his own words: "Shameless self-promotion"

Dave Cawley announced Winterlude is the weekend of 2/10-2/11 at Schmanska Park.

Friday night – skis, snowshoes, sleds, Saturday – musical entertainment

General Announcements (Tom)

Thanks to Dominoes for donating pizza.

Kampus Kitchen is open under new ownership.

Sample ballots online

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/SAMPLE%20Ward%201%20Ballot.pdf>

2/15 ballots will be mailed. Information on the election:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Elections>

Redistricting maps:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/cityplanning/btvstat/redistricting>

State Senators held a public coffee in Essex 2/5, and will again

7:10 Speakout

Erhard Mahnke - maps are not his ideal, but an improvement. Ward 1 is basically intact; Maple-King neighborhood put back together; ONE is still split N/S rather than the historical E/W. District model is in opposition to community input. Unsure how to vote. "Least bad map"

Michael Long – opposed to new districting

Charlie Giannoni – If you don't receive a ballot by 2/22, call the City Clerk:

(802) 865-7000 (Select Option 1) or burlingtontownclerk@burlingtonvt.gov

Sharon Bushor – Wards 1 and 8 are still coupled in the proposed mapping. Sharon is on the fence about voting on it. Districts do not reflect the will of the people but it will probably pass. Also, appreciates the meetings on specific ballot items but wishes there were impartial meetings describing them

Amy Malinowski – Ballot Item 7 – Police chief and PD needs external oversight – this is generally agreed upon (even the Mayor). There is deep history that led to current ballot item. There continues to be racial disparity in use of force.

Carter Neubieser – Supports as a community member, Item 7. We need an objective committee of experts to build trust. The Commission is purely advisory. Prop 0 – it is disconcerting when leaders say we “can’t trust voters to make decisions”

Maea Brandt - agrees there is indeed much misinformation about the ballot items. The community control board needs to work for Burlington. It is an unprecedented proposal. This is a debate we all need to engage in.

7:30 School Commissioners Update - Kathy Olwell, Aquilas Lokossou

Review of Burlington School District budget to be voted on at March Town Meeting Kathy and Aquilas presented the ‘short form’ of the budget

<https://www.bsdvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FY24-Budget-One-Pager-for-Web.pdf>

Total budget \$104M

Wages, Insurance Debt Service, Utilities +\$3.8M

2025 Borrowing: +\$2.1M

Increase from FY23: 6%

Property Tax payer’s bill: +4.03% (\$207- on \$370K homestead)

Income payer: +0.07%

Impact on \$50K earner: \$1.00

Richard Hilliard: Savings could be had by retiring the old “Dinosaurs” – school buses Kathy: City runs them to ensure school choice

Sharon Bushor: Program cuts? Yes 10 FTE positions eliminated, including Drama Coach, though largely because of smaller student population; 3.2 FTE adds.

7:50 City Council Update - Zoraya Hightower, Maea Brandt

Councilor Brandt reviewed the ballot items. <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/CT/Sample-Ballots-Warnings-and-Notices>

Councilor Hightower (not present) sent her positions on the items, included at the end of these minutes.

School Budget

Implementation of carbon impact fee (there was discussion of the negative impacts of biomass but this is not part of the ballot question and there was also some confusion between electric and thermal energy; Rob Gutman suggested an incentive approach)

Ward Boundaries

Legal Resident Voting

Siting of Polling Places

Rank Choice Voting

Creation of Independent Community Control Board

Proposition Zero

There was discussion, a bit contentious, around the last two, starting at timestamp 1:22, some seemingly intentional misunderstanding, some confusion about the difference for example, between opposition to the ballot item and opposition to the idea of community control.

8:20 Candidate Forum - East District Councilor position: Jake Schumann, Tim Doherty (Timestamp 1:41)

Introductions; Candidates' viewpoint on ballot items; Q/A from attendees

Tim introduced himself, described his background, and explained his motivation for running:

Love of Burlington – huge stake in the city – family, school, business

Concerns about “public safety, taxes, tone of public discourse”

Commitment to civility

Priorities are “small bore” – active attention to detail; available, responsive; work on the nitty gritty of city governance without a partisan agenda.

Jake introduced himself, explained motivation:

“You think you’re interacting with lots of individuals” but “our community is an individual”...we consider each other as friends. We are a community of care – if there is something wrong we will address it because we care.

City Council has endeavored to move on and move past partisanship but on Monday night progress was undone.

“I have been responsive... I don’t need to be on city council to serve. I regard city council as the executive level of volunteerism?” Want to prioritize relationships”

I met with Murad I think there is a lot of mutual respect there; we had a great conversation

Carol Livingston asked about the relationship with UVM and the President has no interest in the MOU; welcome and energy we can put into this

Jake: described his education history. Attended UVM 2020-2022; it was free; Defends Suresh, for keeping affordable tuition and prioritizing Vermonters. The question is can he help us like he has helped students? MOU is essential. No new construction without an MOU.

Tim: Love living in a university town, surrounded by students. It gives us a lot, city gives a lot, too. Relationship is out of whack. Needs to be realigned. Needs to bear its fair share in the city: affordable housing, houselessness. Can’t deliver an ultimatum, but need to negotiate with a sharp eye.

Caryn Long commented on Carol Ode’s editorial

Tim: Consider other pressure points? We don’t have enough code enforcement to make sure buildings are safe. Perhaps UVM could help finance it. I won’t make bold promises that can’t be kept but commit to working hard.

Jake: Very little leniency in zoning enforcement – can’t put solar array on roof of a constituent. We need to be more human with each other. I want to bring this back to Suresh, makes over \$1M per year. A lot of people approach things in an intellectual way. Suresh supports affordable undergraduate education: it is an intellectual understanding of the issues. We need to understand each other There is a fundamental disregard for the people who are dealing with the pain. Big contributors are taken care of.

Sharon Bushor – Cap the number of students? Sharon also alluded to the confusion between PILOT agreements and the housing development agreement.

Jake: apologize for deviating from the script – not enough time has been allotted to candidate forums. Yes – cap; also a municipally owned development organization so we can build the housing for ourselves. Also a strong tenants union

Tim: how did the city leverage the development agreement? Sharon: development. Tim: if we have the leverage, we should press as hard as we can. Answering in the abstract is difficult.

Dean Corren: Frank assessment of the current administration?

Tim: Current principal concerns start with East District. Disappointment in lack of full complement of city councilors. Administration? Compliments and blame. Don't agree with everything the mayor and City Council has done. June 2020 PD vote was a mistake. Not the whole source of our current public safety problem, but a significant piece, squarely at the feet of the City Council

Jake: I was an intern on Miro's campaign. He campaigned on housing, but nothing has changed in the past 10 years. I see the mayor, but I don't know what's going on inside his brain. CHP – pet project of the Pomerleaus. Who is running our city. At one time Miro was a good guy, but I don't know what happened. I have a hard time believing he has the best interest of the people in mind.

Erhard Mahnke: Community Control, RCV, Prop 0

Tim: No, Yes, No

Jake: Yes, Yes, Yes

9:00 Adjourn

Ward 1 NPA Steering Committee

Tom Derenthal tomd.npa@gmail.com,

Carol Livingston carol.livingston1951@gmail.com,

Jonathan Chapple-Sokol chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com,

JF Carter Neubieser carterneubieser@gmail.com

From: Zoraya Hightower <Zhightower@burlingtonvt.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 3:55 PM

To: Carol Livingston <carol.livingston1951@gmail.com>; Maea Brandt <mbrandt@burlingtonvt.gov>

Cc: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol <chapplesokol.npasc@gmail.com>; tom derenthal <tomd.npa@gmail.com>; JF Carter Neubieser <carterneubieser@gmail.com>; Samuel Heinrichs <sheinrichs@burlingtonvt.gov>; Caryn Long <carynlongvt@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: a change in the agenda for tomorrow night's meeting

Hi all,

I am sharing the final ballot language as well as my take on each item. My fever is climbing and I'm feeling pretty unwell so I don't expect to make it to NPA even remotely tonight, but maybe I'll get lucky and it will break early. Please excuse any typos.

1. Non-Citizen Voting

Recommend YES - residents who aren't citizens should be allowed to weigh on on municipal matters. Montpelier and Winooski have already tested this approach and I think we should join them in this expansion of democracy

2. Non-Citizen Voting + Polling Places

Recommend YES - See above for non-citizen reasoning. For polling places - small small wards mean that polling places that are familiar and accessible to voters (AAA, parking, easily locatable, etc) may be just outside of the ward. This provides flexibility in using historic or accessible voting locations

3. Restricting

No recommendation - I am not taking a stance on this. I think the final map accomplished more than previous versions (maintains most neighborhoods) but didn't accomplish everything. Most importantly, it preserves the ward/district

model that many wanted us to get rid of according to a city-wide survey. Here is the city website on redistricting

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/cityplanning/btvstat/redistricting> and the direct link to the final map (PDF):
<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/Ward%20Redistricting%208%20Wards%20Approved%20Map%2024x36%20Jan%2023.pdf>

4. Ranked Choice Voting -

Recommend YES - This expands RCV from just city councilors to Mayor, School Board, etc. I think this is the most important for the mayoral which tends to have the most candidates. I believe we had 6 in 2021 and the incumbent won with 43% of the vote. Getting closer to a majority would serve the city well on consensus-building. Some of the opposition says this will make races to 'vanilla' but I think we are still a far cry from having that problem and most our voter disengagement is more likely to come from polarization

5. Community Oversight of Police

Recommend YES - I honestly don't think this will pass the legislature and it's not what I would have written. But I hope that Burlington can send a strong signal that after over two years of politicians (myself included) waffling on this issue and lacking the political will to move this, we as a whole support a change and community oversight of the police department. We all agree we need this and our community has risen to the challenge of making it happen. I know legislators are also working on broad enabling language for municipalities across Vermont and I believe passing this

would support that effort as well. Learn more here: <https://peopleforpoliceaccountability.com/what>

6. Proposition Zero

Recommend YES - allowing direct democracy in ways that all of the other Vermont towns do in allowing an easier

pathway for citizens to get referendums on the ballot by petition. <https://www.propositionzero.org/>

I know Caryn also wanted to talk about the TIF audit so I am attaching that report as well.

Best wishes,

Zoraya