

A Resolution Concerning the Relationship Between Elected and Appointed City Officials and the Neighborhood Planning Assemblies

Whereas the 1982 Resolution “Relating to the Creation of Neighborhood Planning Assemblies” (NPAs) established the NPAs in part to provide a forum for Burlington residents to advise elected and appointed officials on municipal issues, as evidenced by the language in that resolution:

“Whereas this council and various city commissions could be much assisted if the views of the general public with respect to the needs of the city could be communicated to it in a regular and orderly fashion...

“Whereas many positive benefits would result from the creation of neighborhood assemblies at which citizens would consider the issues facing government and make recommendations for the consideration of appointed and elected officials charged with the responsibility of implementing city policies...

“Whereas in the judgement of this city council an appropriate and effective means of realizing such goals would be through creation of NPAs in each ward of the city which would meet on a regular basis and provide advice to appointed and elected officials with respect to the issues facing the neighborhoods and the city

“Resolved...the NPAs shall...help provide citizens with an opportunity to participate in making recommendations with respect to government decisions including allocation of revenues. The NPAs shall also be encouraged to provide advice to the appropriate commission or this council with respect to Community Development, housing programs, the city’s Comprehensive Development Plan and its waterfront activities, and the city’s budget among other things.”

And **Whereas** there currently exists no process to ensure that elected and appointed officials consult with the NPAs on any issues,

And **Whereas** it is not infrequent that City Council resolutions are made public and voted on before discussion at NPA meetings is possible,

Now therefore be it resolved that the city council, in consultation with the NPAs, establish processes and criteria for determining the municipal issues on which NPAs must be consulted for advice and input prior to city council votes,

And let it further be resolved that said advice and input be considered in city council deliberations on those municipal issues,

And let it further be resolved that similarly, processes and criteria be created by commissions and city departments for the same purpose,

And let it further be resolved that these processes and criteria be established by April 1, 2024.