

Resolution Relating to

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS TO SUPPORT BURLINGTON’S HOMELESS COMMUNITY

RESOLUTION _____

Sponsor(s): Public Safety Committee
Introduced: _____
Referred to: _____

Action: _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor: _____

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eighteen

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

1 WHEREAS, on August 28th, 2017 the City Council directed the Public Safety Committee to convene a
2 diverse set of community partners and receive public input and hear suggestions as to what steps the City
3 Council may take to better support Burlington’s homeless community and those who serve them; and

4 WHEREAS, these recommendations were developed in partnership with City Department staff, and
5 leadership, as well as the Mayor’s Office, and intend to build on prior and ongoing efforts to support the
6 homelessness community; and

7 WHEREAS, over the past several years, the City has taken numerous steps to improve services and
8 opportunities for our homeless and most vulnerable residents, including CEDO prioritizing a Housing First
9 strategy within the City and with our partners in the Continuum of Care that has helped create more
10 transitional housing units at locations such as the former Bel Aire motel, providing City General Fund dollars
11 for the first time beginning in fiscal year 2018 to assist in funding the Howard Center’s Street Outreach Team,
12 supporting the opening of a low-barrier winter warming shelter, doubling the Housing Trust Fund, and
13 supporting projects like the new COTS Daystation through the City’s Housing Trust Fund; and

14 WHEREAS, after a robust outreach period, that included five separate public meetings held at various
15 times and locations to accommodate professional and personal schedules, the Public Safety Committee is
16 prepared to make a set of seven recommendations to the City Council;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council Public Safety Committee make the
18 following recommendations to the full City Council:

- 19
20 1. Increase the capacity of low-barrier shelter availability and conduct an investigation as to the cost and
21 benefit of having 12-month versus extended monthly operations. This recommendation calls for a pilot
22 period to examine the impact of bolstered operations, which should include daytime services, of a low-
23 barrier shelter. This recommendation calls for a resource review to define the required finances and
24 potential hurdles related to conducting this pilot period. This recommendation calls for increased City
25 funding, while recognizing that the State of Vermont provides the majority of funding for rent and

26 operations, and the City has dedicated \$60,000 of funds if matched. Action on this recommendation
27 shall be the responsibility of the Public Safety Committee of the City Council who shall involve
28 current operators and involved community partners.

29
30 2. Support and facilitate the standardization of processes between service agencies. This recommendation
31 builds on the recent work done by the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) related to
32 coordinated entry. This recommendation calls for a pilot project with the purpose of further
33 standardizing and streamlining processes across agencies and services. Such improvements should
34 include, but not be limited to, improved communication between street-level services and other
35 providers, a universal release form, a standard housing application, and a service bill of rights. Project
36 members would include, but not be limited to, willing agencies that receive City-directed support.

37
38 3. Review and adoption of the City’s “encampment removal procedure.” This procedure was developed
39 through the collaboration of multiple City departments and is currently in “draft” form. While this
40 policy was discussed at the November meeting of the Community Development and Neighborhood
41 Revitalization Committee and is currently being implemented, the procedure has not been acted on by
42 the City Council. This recommendation calls for the public review and adoption of any final policy by
43 the City Council.

44
45 4. Increase opportunities for those experiencing homelessness to be positively engaged with the
46 community. This recommendation calls for considering an investigation of the viability of low-hurdle
47 employment opportunities and community activities. Led by CEDO, discussions of these opportunities
48 should include, but not be limited to, partnerships with the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront
49 Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Library, as well as interested community
50 individual and entities.

51
52 5. Increase public restroom access in the downtown core. This recommendation calls for the Department
53 of Public Works and the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department, as well as the Burlington

54 Business Association, to identify opportunities for the introduction of permanent, semi-permanent,
55 and/or short-term public restroom access in the downtown core for all residents.

56

57 6. Increased communications between the CCHA and the City of Burlington. Through representatives
58 from CEDO and BPD, the City is well represented at this critical table. This recommendation calls for
59 quarterly updates via official communications to the City Council on the work of the CCHA.

60

61 7. Finally, the Public Safety Committee recommends that the City Council urge the Administration, when
62 proposing the FY19 budget, to continue to fund the new practice of the City sharing in the cost of the
63 Street Outreach program and consider options for increasing the Street Outreach program's capacity,
64 particularly at night and early morning hours. Further, the Council urges the Administration to increase
65 funding for Housing Retention and support legislative changes for expanded Medicaid coverage for
66 social work and case management positions relating to homelessness and low-income housing.

67 Assistant's initials/atty's initials/Resolutions 2017/Name Resolution

68 1/4/2018