

VermontItalianClub.org



**PO Box 3155
Burlington, VT 05408**

August 8, 2012

Mayor Miro Weinberger
City Hall
Burlington, VT

Dear Mayor Weinberger,

This letter is to request the City of Burlington's support in a project being funded and organized by the Vermont Italian Club. In October of 2011, the Club erected an historic marker at the foot of Cherry Street which included a large public gathering including a dedication by Senator Patrick Leahy.

We will host this event again on Saturday, October 6th and will include a festival, films, and the dedication 5 interpretive signs, depicting life in the area before Urban Renewal. The interpretive signs will have a similar look and feel as the other interpretive signs in Burlington that have been done in collaboration with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. We have identified the following general locations as preferred areas for installation of the signs:

1. The corner of Battery and College Streets
2. The corner of Battery and Cherry Streets
3. The corner of Pearl and St. Paul Streets
4. The corner of Cherry and Pine Streets, Northeast
5. Along Cherry St. between Pine and S. Champlain Sts. South side

Included in the signs will be historic photos, text and quotes which will give visitors a sense for what life was like in this once thriving community. In fact, we have included a Senator's Leahy's quote about shopping with his mother when they came from Montpelier to Burlington in order to buy Italian groceries. We are currently in the process of determining exact locations for the signs and are working with both Public Works and Parks.

In addition to traditional signs, we will launch an electronic media historic walking tour created by Coby Brownell. Using technology to preserve and augment history, Coby has created a 3D version of the old neighborhood. Using your smart phone in any direction you will see an 'augmented reality' overlay of the buildings that were in that location before Urban Renewal. In a sense we will be recreating history and making history.

The Vermont Italian Club has committed over \$5, 0000 to the production of the signs along plus the graphic design and support from the LCBP> we do need the City's cooperation to install and maintain the signs. I would appreciate your assistance in expediting the approval processes for the location of the sites. I believe the date is in your calendar as our organization would greatly appreciate the honor of your presence.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to speaking with you in further detail.

Sincerely,

Adele Dienno, President