



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

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To: City Council
From: Bill Ward *BW*
Date: 12-3-13
Subject: Amendment to Chapter 18

Requested Council Action:

Vote to support the attached ordinance change which parallels the approved FY 14 budget.

Background

Chapter 18 of Burlington City ordinance requires that owners of rental properties in Burlington annually register each rental unit and pay a registration fee. The fee is charged in the amount of seventy-five dollars per unit and fifty dollars for owner occupied dwellings with two or less units. The proposed ordinance increases that fee to one hundred dollars per rental unit and seventy five dollars for owner occupied dwellings with two or less units. This proposal was adopted as incorporated in the FY 14 Budget which stated the proposed increase. The resolution changes the language of Chapter 18 to match the approved FY 14 Budget amount.

Factors considered for supporting increase

- The rental registration fee has not increased in 10 years.
- The Code Enforcement budget expenses have increased by \$260,928 in 10 years. In FY 2005 the budgeted expenses were \$758,085 and they have increased to \$1,019,013 in FY 2014.
- According to Allen & Brooks, the average annual rent inflation from 2000-2011 was:
 - 1 BR: 2.9% or 36% over that 11 year period
 - 2 BR: 3.1% or 39% over the 11 year period
 - 3 BR: 4.7% or 65% over the 11 year period
- The fee increase of \$25 annually represents about \$2 per unit per month.

Prior public notice

The notice of this increase was included in the Code Enforcement FY 14 Budget presentation broadcast on Channel 17 on April 22, 2013 which aired 3 times in the month of May 2013.

The City Council voted on and approved the Code Enforcement FY 14 recommended budget as part of the overall Burlington Budget on June 24, 2013.