

Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION 6.06

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE MISSION FOR THE
VERMONT AIR NATIONAL GUARD AT
BURLINGTON AIRPORT

Sponsor(s): Councilor Shannon
Introduced: 03/26/18
Referred to: _____
Action: amended; adopted
Date: 03/26/18
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 That WHEREAS, on March 6, 2018, by a vote of 6,482 to 5,238, the voters of the City of Burlington
2 approved the following citizen-initiated ballot item **by 55.31% of the total votes cast:**

3 “Shall we, the voters of the City of Burlington, as part of our strong support for the men and women of
4 the Vermont National Guard, and especially their mission to ‘protect the citizens of Vermont,’ advise the City
5 Council to:

- 6 1) request the cancellation of the planned basing of the F-35 at Burlington International Airport, and
- 7 2) request instead low-noise-level equipment with a proven high safety record appropriate for a densely
8 populated area?;” and

9 WHEREAS, the Vermont Air National Guard provides valuable service to the community and to the
10 country that is greatly appreciated by the City of Burlington; and

11 WHEREAS, the Vermont Air National Guard has a seven-decade long record of outstanding service at
12 Burlington International Airport and beyond; and

13 WHEREAS, during the community discussion of the ballot item, the proponents stated that the United
14 States Air Force told them that there are several alternative meaningful missions for the Vermont Air National
15 Guard, though Guard officials have indicated there is no alternative mission; and

16 WHEREAS, proponents also claimed this potential new aircraft/mission would not jeopardize the
17 existing 1100 jobs associated with the Vermont Air National Guard, the fire and crash rescue services they
18 provide to Burlington International Airport and the surrounding communities, nor the prolonged future of the
19 highly valued Air National Guard; and

20 WHEREAS, while the approved question stated “strong support” for the Vermont Air National Guard
21 and their importance to our community, the expectation was that the alternative mission would reflect the
22 value of the Guard to our community and offer a quieter plane, with proven high safety record appropriate for
23 our population density;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council values the Air National
25 Guard’s contributions to our community and respectfully requests the Honorable Secretary of the United
26 States Air Force, Heather Wilson, replace the planned basing of the F-35 with a basing of a low-noise-level
27

* * * * *

ORIGINAL

DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution has been sent to the following department(s) on

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

.....
.....
.....

Adopted by the City Council

....., 20.....

..... Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

Attest:

* * * * *

Resolution Relating to

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE MISSION FOR THE VERMONT AIR NATIONAL GUARD AT BURLINGTON AIRPORT

28 plane with a proven high safety record, consistent with the ballot question previously cited; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council respectfully requests the Honorable
30 Secretary of the United States Air Force also answer the following additional questions or claims that were
31 raised by the media and/or proponents of the ballot question and community members, leading up to the vote
32 on the F-35 basing:

- 33 • Is there another mission that would be available to the Vermont Air National Guard without
34 jeopardizing their future service to the state of Vermont or defense of our nation?
- 35 • Safety concerns were raised about hours of flight time relative to prior aircraft models deployed to
36 Burlington - can you explain why the flight hours are lower with the F-35, and is some of that time
37 accounted for through alternative simulated training?
- 38 • Is simulated flight time proven to be comparable to actual flight time?
- 39 • News media reports alleged Burlington was the only populated area where F-35's have been deployed,
40 though it appears F-35's will also be stationed in Madison WI and Montgomery, AL. Could you
41 clarify if Burlington is the only populated area where F-35's will be deployed?
- 42 • News media reports allege the F-35 has not undergone any operational testing or dog-fighting
43 exercises, and further indicated such activity would occur for the first time in Burlington. Is it
44 accurate that these tests and exercises have not been completed? Regardless, would the F-35 go
45 through such testing in Burlington?
- 46 • Would the stealth coating create additional environmental concerns if the plane crashed as compared
47 with an F-16 or commercial jet?
- 48 • Does the F-35 use the same fuel that the F-16 and commercial jets use?
- 49 • Would C-130 transport planes likely be less noisy and disruptive to the adjacent community than
50 F-35's?
- 51 • Proponents of the ballot question claim the F-35 is 4 times louder than the F-16, based on
52 extrapolations from the Environmental Impact Study (EIS); however, the noise contours in the EIS
53 are not reflective of this statement. Is the F-35 4 times louder than the F-16?
- 54 • The EIS estimates the F-35 will be using after-burners 5% of the time. Is that expected to be the case
55 when operating at BTV?; and

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council respectfully requests a written
57 response from the Honorable Secretary Wilson related to the above requests, in writing, by May 1, 2018.

* * * * *

ORIGINAL

DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution has been sent to the following department(s) on

Honorable Secretary Heather Wilson, USAF
City Attorney's Office, Linda Blanchard

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Requesting The Secretary Of The Air Force Provide An
Alternative Mission For The Vermont Air National Guard At
Burlington Airport.....

as amended
Adopted by the City Council
March 26, 2018
[Signature] Clerk

Approved....., 20.....

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

Attest:

[Signature]

Lori Olberg

Licensing, Voting & Records Coordinator

* * * * *