



## MEMO

**Date:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**To:** Parks Commission

**From:** Neil Preston, Lead Urban Ranger

**CC:** Cindi Wight, BPRW Director, Erin Moreau, Waterfront Superintendent and Alec Kaeding Waterfront and Parks Operations Manager

**RE:** Parking Request for Community Outreach & Resource Advocacy (CORA) in Parks

I am writing in response to the request of how the Parks Commission could support the Park Ranger program and the intersection with unhoused park users. As you know, we have been building connections throughout the social services network of Burlington and developing relationships within the unhoused community who use our park system. Based on what we have learned and observed we have arrived at an appropriate and manageable request related to parking.

In August the Rangers began collaborating with the Community Outreach & Resource Advocacy (CORA) team. Over the past few months CORA has consistently responded to requests for support in the park system. The outreach support delivered has serviced basic and complex needs. The level of service provided ranges from material needs (blankets, food, clothing) to complex ongoing support- connection to medical services, rides to/from social service appointments, guidance to housing services and guidance to substance abuse disorder treatment services.

In 2021 the CORA team developed a mobile resource unit to deliver services across Burlington. The CORA box truck is equipped with computer stations and a small office space. This “truck stop” serves as a hub to connect people to services and material support.

Based on ordinance **22-16 Motor vehicles subject to park regulations:** No automobile or other motor vehicle shall be taken into or driven upon any public park, except upon such drives and subject to such regulations as the park commission may from time to time especially designate by public notice set up for that purpose within the park. (Rev. Ords. 1962, § 3915) many of our parks do not permit parking in the parks by private groups. It is for this reason we **request a 1-year parking permit for the CORA mobile outreach unit.** Parking locations and egress used would be requested through our permit system with the Parks Outreach Coordinator.

The goal in supporting the CORA team this way is to guide park guests who are struggling upward to services and support that will improve the condition of our community and parks. Establishing a routine for this type of support is seen as critical to keeping clients engaged in services.



It has been clear since the Ranger program launched in May that transient and unhoused people are spread throughout the park system. The expressed public concern for safety and welfare of park users has also been consistent since the beginning of the Ranger program. Creating a partnership and supporting a space for the CORA team in parks will help ease the concerns of the public and provide services to those in the unhoused community. Thank you for your continued support and for consideration of this parking request.