

Potential Quality of Life Issues to Raise with UVM

These quality of life (QoL) issues are drawn from a review of City and Council documents, including the 2009 Zoning Agreement. A separate section follows specific to the 2012 City Council Resolution vetoed by then-Mayor Bob Kiss. The Administration is interested in further conversations with the Human Resources Committee about these issues:

- The City should seek clarity on UVM's discipline process – both the procedures and aggregate numbers – in order to help neighbors understand the consequences UVM students face for inappropriate off-campus behavior. Providing detail on trends and aggregate numbers, rather than specific infractions, may meet the City's needs and address UVM privacy concerns.
 - Consider discussing with UVM the creation of a system by which members of athletic teams or Greek life have their coaches or sorority / fraternity presidents notified in the event of a noise complaint (or other police-involved infraction within the City of Burlington), with an expectation from the City that those University leaders will take some kind of disciplinary action in response that is communicated to the City.
 - Consider discussion with UVM clarifying the system of parental notifications for noise complaints or other police-involved infraction within the City of Burlington.
- The City needs better data about where students are living within Burlington to assess the impact on historic neighborhoods, per the 2009 Agreement.
 - The City would like the inventory to expand to include the disposition of UVM students in other towns, whether South Burlington, Winooski, Colchester, Essex, or otherwise
- Currently, UVM provides the BPD with \$100,000 annually to support additional noise patrols in the City's historic neighborhoods. The BPD has not expended the full amount, spending roughly \$87,000 of the total provided in FY15. While this program has demonstrated some results, UVM could consider repurposing or expanding funding to support related Code Enforcement and Parking enforcement activity.
- *Reduction in total bus trips along South Prospect Street (UVM has agreed to review this issue and may have already taken steps to address this).*

The following are items from the 2012 Resolution vetoed by then-Mayor Bob Kiss. Other items on that Resolution have been accomplished or are being addressed through different means, and the Administration would like to solicit Councilor feedback on the following items:

- Given the nature of the limited vehicular use and the extensive pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as the lack of resources to enforce the current configuration, a closure of Davis Road to all vehicles except emergency vehicles.
- Given the increased enrollment at UVM and the increased traffic in the City, and the availability of Car Share, a 5-year plan to reduce the number of UVM-related vehicles coming to Burlington.

- Protecting and preserving the existing acreage of Centennial Woods, including creating and maintaining adequate boundaries for animals and vegetation and not permitting any new roads or pathways through the woods.

For Committee reference, here are a number of additional measures the City has already taken since 2012 with respect to Quality of Life issues:

- Prioritizing the City's Code Enforcement effort so that we now for the first time are inspecting every rental unit once every three years as the minimum housing ordinance requires.
- Amending the ordinance to allow Code Enforcement to focus its efforts on problematic properties by giving Code the discretion to inspect well-maintained properties less frequently and poorly maintained rental units more often.
- Adding a new citizen reporting and tracking option, SeeClickFix, to make it easier to report quality of life issues to City Departments, to focus Code, DPW, Police, and other Department efforts on public concerns, and to give the public a way of monitoring our work in attempting to address concerns.
- Creating a tiered fine system so that problematic properties and renters will face escalating charges.
- Focusing Code Enforcement's engagement on the landlords of the top 12 households with the highest number of incidents.
- Making direct calls to landlords of those properties with a noise complaint on the weekend students returned to school by the Police Chief, City Council President, Ward Councilor, or myself.
- Engaging in the "Knock and Talk" program, along with City Councilors, the Code Director, and Police Officers, which works across the City but focuses on parts of the City with ongoing quality of life issues.
- Requiring some apartment buildings to use covered recycling totes to reduce windblown trash.
- Notifications of landlords when their properties receive noise citations.
- With the help of UVM, Code, and the Police, implementing a system whereby calls for service are analyzed by unit, neighborhood, and student affiliation on a real time basis:
 - Residents of units requiring three calls for service are visited by a representative of UVM and the City – either BPD or Code Enforcement.
 - Landlords are engaged by Code Enforcement and contacted by Burlington Parallel Justice when tickets are issued.