

# 1. Improve accessibility of code enforcement data, including properties' CoC ratings and complaint history

## Progress:

- Currently the CoC rating, the Code Enforcement complaints, billing and inspections data is available on the Burlington Property Database.
- The COC data is now live on the [Open Data Portal](#) and also on reported on the [BTVStat Dashboard](#). These datasets are automatically updated as the City's property database AMANDA is updated (refreshed daily).

**Next Steps:** Include a detailed definition of the CoC ratings terms, in order to better inform the current data available.

**Timeline: Winter 2020**

## 2. Strengthen the City's minimum housing standards

- **Progress:** City work group is currently reviewing minimum housing standards and have identified the following areas for initial changes:
  - 1-5 Certificate of Compliance Rating System Standards - Less deficiencies allowed
  - Based on deficiency data over the last 3 years the top deficiencies have been identified and DPI is looking to add additional requirements in 2020
    - Lead paint essential maintenance practice
    - Heating unit tags checked every two years
    - Smoke/CO Detection
    - HBR to determine cases should receive an extension (where 3 or more follow up inspections required or exceeded 12 months to meet compliance )
    - Section 18-95 Means of Egress: Add exceptions adopted in NFPA1
- **Next Steps:** Stakeholder meetings, CDNR Committee for draft recommendations
- **Timeline: Spring/Summer 2020**

### 3. Assess capacity of existing tenant advocacy resources to meet demand in Burlington; require distribution of educational materials to landlords and tenants

#### Progress:

- Neighborhood Project: Objective #2
- informational card to be provided to tenants when a complaint is made:
  - Division Manager & Department Director's contact info
  - Protection under Ch. 18 against retaliatory eviction;
  - Community resources that may provide guidance & assistance
- The City is currently working with UVM Community Coalition to make their materials for renter education for off campus living more widely available.
- VT Tenants and VT Landlord have the comprehensive [Finding Common Ground: The Definitive Guide to renting in Vermont.](#)

Next Steps: Update CDNR on Neighborhood Project progress

Timeline: Spring 2020

# 4. Consider an expanded role for Burlington's Housing Board of Review

- **Progress:**

- Initial data is available on the Housing Board of Reviews caseload.
- See Recommendation 2 above: HBR to determine cases should receive an extension (where 3 or more follow up inspections required or exceeded 12 months to meet compliance )

- **Next Steps:**

- City attorney to review process for proposed changes to Housing Board of Review
- Significant changes to the scope would likely require a charter change

- **Timeline: Spring 2020**

## 5. Review 'just cause' eviction standards and consider tenant assistance for 'no cause' evictions

- **Progress:** City attorney reviewed possibility of just cause eviction changes
- **Next Steps:** Likely any changes, such as requiring a relocation payment for no cause evictions, would require a charter change
- **Timeline: Unknown**

# 6. Track data on evictions, Housing Review Board decisions

**Progress:** VT Legal Aid is interested in partnering to get the data. Need to submit a formal request for information to the Chittenden County Superior Court. Requires a large effort and some targeted resources to look back at cases over the last several years.

## **Next Steps:**

- Partner with VT Legal Aid to get the data and compile a report.
- Look into whether the Sheriff's office keeps record of eviction notices.
- Start tracking appeal outcomes from the HBR. Include HBR data, eviction data, in BTV Stat.

## **Timeline: Fall 2020**

Year	Sec. Deposit Cases	Min. Hsng. Code Cases	Total Cases
2019 (as of 9/1)	25	0	25
2018	32	1	33
2017	35	4	39
2016	31	9	40
2015	34	6	40

# 7. Evaluate existing tenant support resources, and assess need for eviction support fund

**Progress:** Reviewed recommendations and data from VT Legal Aid report on Eviction in Vermont.

**Next Steps:** Determine how much eviction prevention / housing retention resources are currently available - BHA, CVOEO, COTS, Pathways, CHCB, Spectrum, UVM Med Ctr, Hope Works, Howard Center, Cathedral Square, CHT. Determine gaps in resources that tenants are facing. Legal assistance? Language Access?

**Timeline: Spring/Summer 2020,** Discuss needed tenant support resources at CDNR meetings.