

**Resolution Relating to**

**RESOLUTION** \_\_\_\_\_

TASKING THE PARKS, ARTS and CULTURE  
COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT  
CREATION OF DOG TASK FORCE

Sponsor(s): Dieng, Barlow, Carpenter,  
Shannon  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Action: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF BURLINGTON**

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-one .....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

- 1 That WHEREAS, Burlington city ordinance defines a dog as follows “Dog shall include both male and
- 2 female of the canine species. Dog shall also mean any animal which is considered to be a wolf-hybrid as
- 3 defined in [20](#) V.S.A. § [3541](#)(6); and
- 4       WHEREAS, dogs are considered an integral part of our society, playing different roles and providing
- 5 services in the daily lives of humans, such as for accessibility, companionship, exercise, security and more;
- 6 and
- 7       WHEREAS, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is a dog that has been
- 8 individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including a physical,
- 9 sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability; and
- 10       WHEREAS, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA),
- 11 dog adoptions are up 700% nationally during the pandemic; and
- 12       WHEREAS, according to the City of Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront website, “The State
- 13 of Vermont has one of the highest rates of pet ownership around the nation; the City of Burlington has made
- 14 possible for community members to share their experiences in many different locations in the greater
- 15 Burlington Area;” and
- 16       WHEREAS, the City of Burlington issued 755 dog licenses and collected over \$23,000 in dog license
- 17 revenue for the 2020 fiscal year; and
- 18       WHEREAS, the City of Burlington via the Department of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront has made
- 19 a substantial investment in the renovation of the Starr Farm Dog Park located in the New North End; and
- 20       WHEREAS, over the past few months, residents of the New North End alongside other residents of the
- 21 city have shared via social media (Front Porch Forum, Facebook) a growing number of incidents involving
- 22 dogs or dog owners. The incidents were reported by dog owners, former dog owners and people who do not
- 23 own dogs; and

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24 WHEREAS, most of those incidents are similar in nature; some are unique incidents that resulted in a  
25 decreased quality of life and have caused tensions between neighbors. Those incidents include but are not  
26 limited to the following:

- 27 ● Off leash dogs in city parks, natural areas or beaches
- 28 ● Dogs attacking people or other dogs
- 29 ● Dog feces not being picked up
- 30 ● Policies not being enforced
- 31 ● Unlicensed dogs
- 32 ● Dog barking contributing to noise pollution; and

33 WHEREAS, several other issues involving other types of pets in the city were also shared by  
34 community members; and

35 WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, the New North End City Councilors, Barlow, Carpenter and  
36 Dieng, hosted an informative and constructive community meeting alongside South End District City  
37 Councilor Shannon and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Director Wight in order to understand the pet issue  
38 better beyond the complaints shared on social media; and

39 WHEREAS, the community meeting was well attended and received by the community. The  
40 attendance ranged from people of the South End, Old North End and New North End. Most attendees were  
41 dog owners or former dog owners as well as people who do not own dogs, nature lovers, dog park volunteers  
42 and professionals working with pets; and

43 WHEREAS, residents who attended the community meeting brainstormed ideas and best practices  
44 related to these issues and are willing to formally help the city in an ongoing way;

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council respectfully refers the issues raised in  
46 this Resolution, and possibly other related issues, to its Parks, Arts and Culture Committee (PACC) and  
47 requests that the PACC make a recommendation to the Council regarding the creation of a Burlington Dog Task  
48 Force; and

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council respectfully requests that the PACC report back  
50 to the full City Council by its June 28 meeting.

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