To: Bill Ward, Burlington Health Officer; Steve Cormier, Health Administrator; and Members of the Burlington Board of Health
cc: Lori Cragin, State Epidemiologist
From: Wayne Senville, Burlington Resident
Date: Jan. 31, 2019
Subject: Health Risks Associated with Planned Jet Sprays in City Hall Park

Dear Mr. Ward, Mr. Cormier, and Members of the Burlington Board of Health:

While attending the Monday, January 28th Burlington City Council meeting, there was much discussion about City Hall Park.

One speaker made some very concerning comments about a potential public health hazard I had not previously been aware of. I couldn't quite catch her name, but she said she was a retired New York State public health veterinarian and epidemiologist. She mentioned health risks associated with spray fountains -- like the one planned for City Hall Park -- and noted concerns especially about animal and human waste being aerosolized by the sprays. She said that New York State has laws and regulations to prevent this, including requiring fencing around jet spray areas; having foot baths and bath houses nearby; and ensuring staffing of the Park. I haven't heard whether these protective measures have been considered for City Hall Park -- but I'm pretty sure there was nothing in the plan about protective fencing or a nearby bath house or foot baths, or Park staffing.

You can view this speaker's testimony by watching the Jan. 28th meeting on CCTV; go to 47:50 of the video; her remarks are just about two minutes long -- https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-city-council-395

After the meeting I looked online, and, sure enough, New York does have regulations as the speaker described: https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/nyccr/title_10/part_6/subpart_6-3.htm#s632

I am also copying the Vermont State Epidemiologist in case she has any knowledge about this, or would have colleagues in New York State who might be able to provide you with information on dealing with public health hazards from jet sprays.

I have no idea if anyone from the City of Burlington considered this issue when the plans for City Hall Park were being reviewed -- but it certainly would be best to clarify things now before construction contracts are let out in a week or so, and work on the Park renovations begins. The worst thing would be to find out a year from now that there's a problem with what's been installed.

Please let me know if this is something that's already been examined, or if this is something you will look into.

Thank you.