



To: Burlington Planning Commission

August 21, 2015

Dear Planning Commission,

As the General Manager of the Hilton, Burlington—a dog-friendly hotel that welcomes many guests who choose to travel with their dogs—I'm writing in support of amending Burlington's current zoning law to allow the use of Animal Boarding/Kennel/Shelter in the Downtown and Downtown Transition zones.

Our hotel and our guests would benefit from dog daycare services located near the hotel. Hotel policy prohibits guests from leaving dogs in their rooms during the day, but not every activity or establishment in downtown Burlington is amenable to dogs, resulting in many guests feeling forced to break the policy. This can lead to barking or room soiling, which takes a toll on other hotel guests and our housekeeping staff.

Megan Stearns is the owner of Dottiepants, an LLC offering high-end, hourly dog daycare services. If zoning law permitted Dottiepants to operate in downtown Burlington, we could utilize their services as our "dog concierge" and solve this dilemma of what to do with one's dog during the day. It would be a great selling point to guests, and would give them more freedom to patronize Burlington's non-dog-friendly businesses. Furthermore, the City could see increased revenues, as dog owners would be less concerned about rushing back to take care of their pets and will stay out and enjoy the city longer. Overall, Dottiepants would provide a great amenity to both residents and visitors, making Burlington a more welcoming place. However, convenience of location to the busy downtown will play a big role in how beneficial this business can be.

Please consider amending Burlington's current zoning law to allow the use of Animal Boarding/Kennel/Shelter in the Downtown and Downtown Transition zones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Webb', written in a cursive style.

Jeff Webb  
General Manager, Hilton Burlington