Resolution Relating to

ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON
REDISTRICTING FOR 2021

RESOLUTION 5.04
Sponsor(s) Paul, Barlow, Carpenter
Introduced 06/28/21
Referred to: _______________________
Action: adopted
Date: 06/28/21
Signed by Mayor: 06/30/21

CITY OF BURLINGTON

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

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

That  WHEREAS, constitutional provisions require that voting districts be established in a manner that tries
to equalize the number of residents in each voting district within a jurisdiction; and

    WHEREAS, the 2020 U.S. Census is nearing completion, and it is possible that the completed census
will show population shifts sufficient to warrant review of the City of Burlington’s current ward/district
boundaries for local elections; and

    WHEREAS, following the prior census in 2011, in July 2012, the City Council began the process of
redistricting with the formation of a Redistricting Committee; and

    WHEREAS, on January 8, 2013, after several months of not being able to come to resolution on a plan
for redistricting, the Council expanded the committee to include citizen members with one community
member per ward and one alternate per ward; and

    WHEREAS, the committee met over two months in 2013 and came forward with three plans for the
Council’s consideration; and

    WHEREAS, the voters, with 62% approval, endorsed the 8 ward/4 district plan on March 4, 2014 and
the new ward/district plan went into effect on March 3, 2015; and

    WHEREAS, due to COVID-19-related delays and prioritizing the delivery of the apportionment results
has delayed the Census Bureau’s original plan to deliver the redistricting data to the states by March 31, 2021.
The U.S. Census Bureau announced in February 2021 that it will deliver the Public Law 94-171 redistricting
data to all states by September 30, 2021 with the states delivering data to municipalities shortly thereafter; and

    WHEREAS, given that the process that began in the summer of 2012 took two years to reach a new
plan, the City Council wants to be more proactive in developing a plan in 2021; and,

    NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that as voting and representation are so important to the
community fabric, the City Council, in the interest of establishing an open, transparent, nonpartisan and
independent process for redistricting, hereby establishes an AdHoc Committee on Redistricting to be formed
by September 16; the Committee will be independent of the City Council and School Board, or formerly-
elected officials of the same, but instead will include eight community members one community member from
DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution has been sent to the following department(s) on

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ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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Adopted by the City Council

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Approved, 20...

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Mayor

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Attest:

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each ward selected by the NPAs at their June or July (or at their earliest) meeting, after each Steering
Committee has alerted its constituency of the position and its responsibilities, which will include attendance at
several meetings where the committee will take public input and gather community input to the current
districting plan, review the past plan (when there were 7 wards and 14 City Councilors), hear opinions about
the number of councilors per ward/district, and consider the current wards/districts configuration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should there be more than one person from a ward who expresses
an interest in this position, the NPA will vote, at its June or July (or at their earliest) meeting, to select a
representative to the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is imperative that each NPA and the City do its utmost to
advertise this Committee position, making it clear that all are welcome to apply regardless of whether they
attend NPA meetings regularly, so that the representative from each ward can be truly “representative” of that
ward; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee shall hold two public meetings where community
input will be taken and the Committee will report back to the Council by the last meeting in October, and the
Council will use this community feedback to offer guidance by resolution to a mapping specialist identified
by the City Council; the resolution will include guidance on the preferred council/board structure, including
the concepts of ward/district representation versus a ward only or district only configuration, the number of
councilors, number of wards and/or districts, and whether regard to incumbency will be considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Census results show a population deviation of more than
10% in the existing districts or wards, then the mapping specialist will use this guidance and the Census
figures that will be available by September 30 to redraw the lines if necessary, keeping in mind the need to
respect neighborhoods, contiguousness, and compactness, as well as redrawing lines with consideration to the
current lines when possible given the other directives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mapping specialist and the City Attorney will report to the
City Council at the Council’s last meeting in November and will include a proposed map or set of maps for the
Council to consider; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council agrees it will try to place a redistricting plan on the
March 2022 ballot.
RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Establishing An Ad Hoc Committee On Redistricting For 2021

Adopted by the City Council
June 28, 2021

Clerk

Approved June 30, 2021

Mayor

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