



## OFFICE OF THE CLERK/TREASURER

City of Burlington

City Hall, Room 20, 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Voice (802) 865-7000

Fax (802) 865-7014

TTY (802) 865-7142

TO: Members, City Council

FROM: Lori Olberg, Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator

DATE: March 28, 2014

RE: Proposed amendment to Monday night's agenda

### **ADJOURNED MEETING, CITY COUNCIL, CONSENT AGENDA:**

Add to the consent agenda item 4.28. COMMUNICATION: Bob Rusten, Chief Administrative Officer, re: City Hall Security with the action to "waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file." (per Mayor's Office)



## OFFICE OF THE CLERK/TREASURER

City of Burlington

City Hall, Room 20, 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401

Voice (802) 865-7000

Fax (802) 865-7014

TTY (802) 865-7142

TO: Burlington City Council  
FROM: Bob Rusten, Chief Administrative Officer  
DATE: March 28, 2014  
RE: City Hall Security

Councilors:

I wanted to make you aware that City Hall employees, at a series of meetings in the late summer and fall, raised concerns about their personal safety following threatening, aggressive, and sometimes criminal behavior by individuals and groups on the back steps of City Hall. These concerns were amplified after the man charged with arson for the fire at College Street Congregational Church spent time in City Hall asking employees about the layout of the building.

Employee safety is of paramount importance, and I and the Mayor take seriously the concerns raised by members of nearly every City Hall Department, as well as by employees who do not work in City Hall but regularly visit as part of their duties or responsibilities. Following these meetings, Burlington Police Chief Schirling conducted a walk-through of City Hall to assess building security. Chief Schirling made several recommendations. In priority order, these recommendations included an effective camera system, barrier enhancements to existing barriers, a paging system, and a new barrier system for the Mayor's Office.

Following the recommendation of Burlington Chief of Police Michael Schirling, and with the approval of the Mayor, I am planning on replacing the existing, non-functioning camera in City Hall outside Contois Auditorium with an improved camera system in and around the building. This measure – the top recommendation of the police chief – should provide (i) a deterrent effect on some of the threatening behavior that occurred in and around City Hall in the past year, (ii) comfort to employees about the safety of their workplace, and (iii) a record of accountability for such behavior

A simple, two to three terabyte system, including parts and installation costs, is anticipated to cost the City about \$6,000 and would have zero ongoing monitoring costs. The system would likely have seven active cameras, which re-record every two or three weeks: Three cameras on the interior of City Hall with a view of the main floor on each hallway, and four external cameras with views of the front and back steps and the alley between City Hall and the BCA Firehouse Gallery. The system has the ability to be expanded as needed with little or no additional cost.

Unless Council feels it wants to discuss this camera system installation, I hope to implement this recommendation in the very near future.

We will continue to discuss the Chief's other recommendations and I will keep you informed as to any additional steps we may plan to take.

Thank you.

The City of Burlington does not discriminate on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status or disability. Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs and activities of the Clerk Treasurer's Office are encouraged to contact us at 865-7000 or 865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made.