

Begin forwarded message:

From: Nell Carpenter <nellcarpenter09@gmail.com>

Subject: Just Cause Eviction/Charter Change Public Comment

Date: September 23, 2020 at 6:52:36 PM EDT

To: Perri Freeman <pfreeman@burlingtonvt.gov>, Jack Hanson <jhanson@burlingtonvt.gov>, Maxwell Tracy <mtracy@burlingtonvt.gov>, zhightower@burlingtonvt.gov, bpine@burlingtonvt.gov, scarpenter@burlingtonvt.gov, cmason@burlingtonvt.gov, kpaul@burlingtonvt.gov, adieng@burlingtonvt.gov, istromberg@burlingtonvt.gov, fpaulino@burlingtonvt.gov, ishannon@burlingtonvt.gov, mayor@burlingtonvt.gov

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Good evening council,

My name is Nell Carpenter, I'm a resident of ward 2 and a 5 year renter in Burlington. I am writing to urge you to pass the Just Cause Eviction charter change language proposal.

I've been listening into public comment for the past hour. After hearing my landlord speak, I chose not to speak publicly out of fear of retaliation. Sure, he's a "good landlord", and also yes, he controls my access to housing and subsequently, my finances. That is what this boils down to - landlords CONTROL BTV renters' access to housing. A lack of adequate protection for renters means a lack of reassurance for housing stability, something that is central to a person's health and wellbeing.

To locate myself in this realm, I have never been evicted or had eviction threatened to me. However, I have had landlords make it very clear *that they don't like me*. Namely, for putting a BLM sign in a window, for consulting with a lawyer after there was no heat for a month in the winter, and for some comments that my neighbors made about me. As we're hearing on the call tonight, landlords have harsh opinions and thoughts about their tenants! There is this character the landlords have created tonight who they're referring to as "the hoarder" - the reality is that this person, *who they want to evict*, is anyone who they don't like. This is the trans person, the black person, the person who works nights and comes home early and makes a bit of noise in the stairs, the person with mental health obstacles, the person who can't afford a \$100/month rent raise. Without JCE, the power lies with the landlord to decide if those people are good enough to deserve their housing. This is inherently classist and subject to so many other forms of discrimination.

Housing is a nightmare in Burlington. Please consider giving tenants the benefit of the doubt that all we want is HOUSING STABILITY. Housing is a human right and without JCE housing will remain something that is most accessible to wealthy and otherwise privileged folks.

Thank you for your time,
Nell Carpenter

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