

To: Burlington City Council

From:

Burlington Police Department
Burlington Code Enforcement
University of Vermont

Re: The University of Vermont/City of Burlington
Quality of Life Working Group

Background

For several years the University of Vermont and City of Burlington have worked collaboratively to promote safety and contribute positively to the quality of life in Area C. Data collected for the past year shows a 42% drop in calls for service related to quality of life issues.

Since 2012, the University has contributed financially to a program which increases the presence of officers in student neighborhoods at times when infractions related to alcohol use and noise are highest. During the same time period the working group – the Burlington Police Department (BPD), UVM, and Code Enforcement – began mapping calls for service related to alcohol misuse and noise in these areas, using that information to strategically respond to properties, streets, and neighborhoods with higher numbers of service calls.

This report summarizes this data for Area C grouped by lease year, with 2016-17 lease year data compiled through 2/28/17. Area C houses a large number of college students, and historically has a high number of calls for service to BPD relative to other areas of the city. Incident types tracked within the calls for service are intended to capture events related to high risk drinking behavior in the area and include Noise, Intoxication, and Disorderly Conduct.

Specific Collaborative Interventions

- As mentioned above, BPD, Code Enforcement and UVM collect and analyze data related to the quality of life in Area C, a BPD patrol area which includes the Hill Section and all or a portion of Wards 1, 2, 3, 6, and 8. Calls for service are analyzed by unit, neighborhood, and student affiliation on a real-time basis.
- The University of Vermont/City of Burlington Working Group meets quarterly to review problem addresses and neighborhoods.
- For properties that have accrued three or more calls for service and received at least one ticket during a lease year the following actions are taken:
 - A written notice from the Code Enforcement Office is sent to property owners.
 - A coordinated visit is made to the property by Code Enforcement and BPD.
 - When a UVM student is involved, UVM staff (Student & Community Relations) visit the property as well. These visits are educational and restorative in nature and are intended to improve relationships within the household as well as between the household and the neighborhood.

Partnership members

This diverse partnership fosters a multi-pronged approach to challenges that are often complex.

City of Burlington:

- Mayor's Office
- Code Enforcement
- Burlington Police Department
- City Council
- Neighbors

University of Vermont:

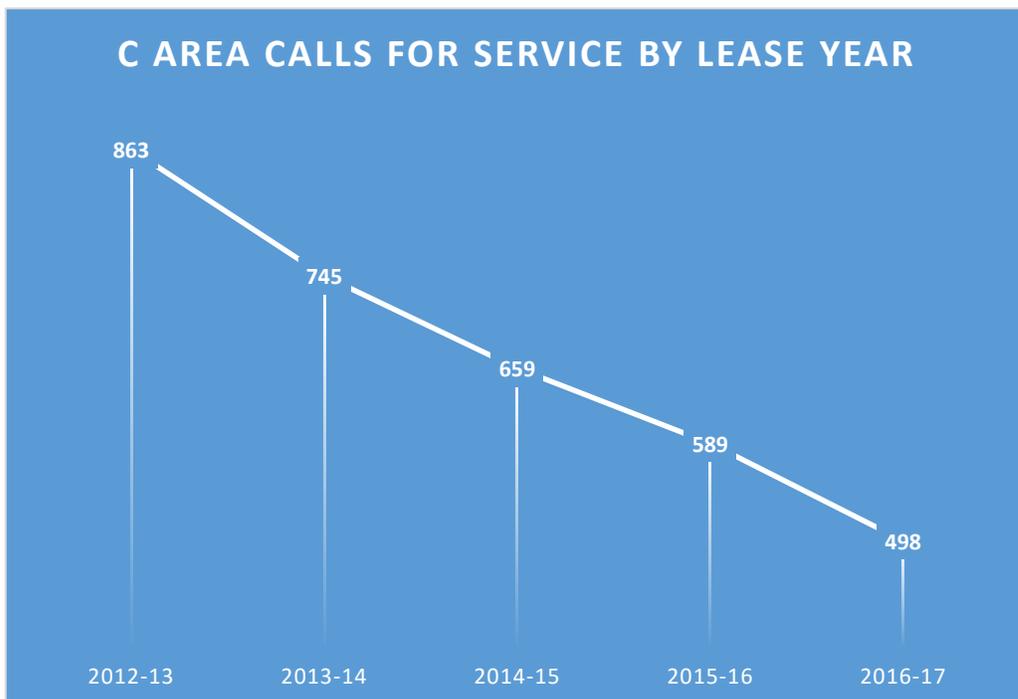
- Student and Community Relations
- Center for Health and Wellbeing
- Student Government Association
- University Relations
- Campus Planning Services
- Community Coalition
- Dean of Students Office

- Landlords are contacted by Burlington Parallel Justice when party social tickets are issued.
- UVM Police Services participates in joint patrols in neighborhoods with BPD.
- Using funding provided by the University of Vermont, BPD continues to provide a visible officer presence during known high traffic weekends to deter noise and other offenses.
 - During times of the year when neighborhood life is more likely to be affected by unwanted behavior and activity, BPD officers patrol earlier in the evening (before 9 pm), reaching out to homes hosting events or to residents outside.
- Understanding that students on campus have a role in the quality of life off campus, the University of Vermont has focused on this population in the following ways:
 - Increased communication to students and parents throughout the academic year.
 - Continued response to all reports of violations of Burlington laws and ordinances through a tiered system which includes letters, in-person meetings, or a formal conduct hearing, depending on the nature of the violation. Our program is described here in greater detail: <http://go.uvm.edu/offcampusexpectations>.
 - President Sullivan's Committee on Alcohol, Cannabis, and Other Drugs continues to address the impacts of alcohol and substance misuse within our campus community. A number of specific interventions have resulted in a decreased monthly prevalence of high risk drinking in the last thirty days among UVM undergraduates from 59% six years ago to 43% in the 2016-17 academic year.

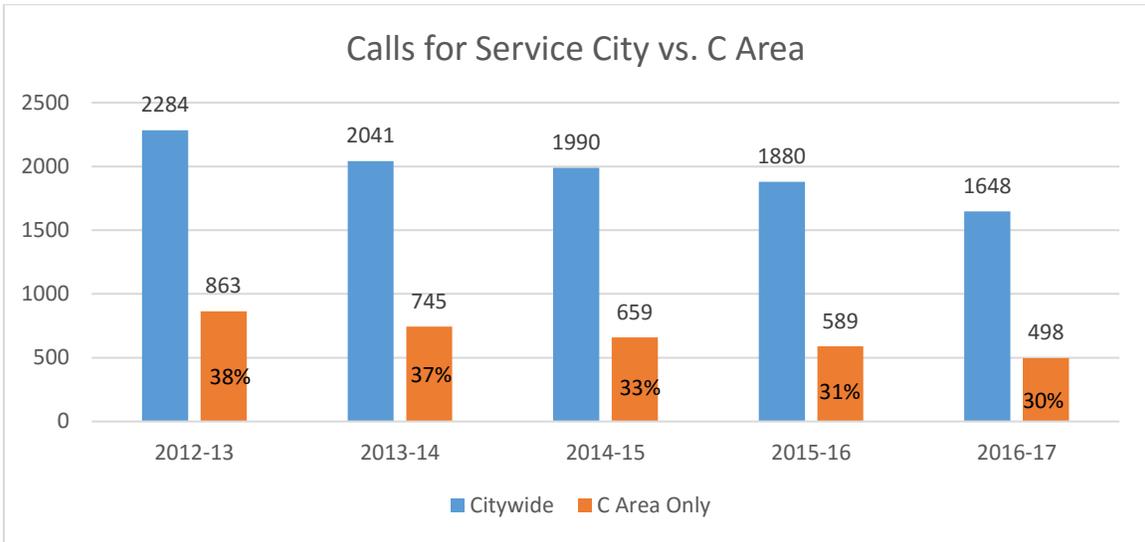
Outcomes

Since the 2012-2013 lease year, the following changes have been documented in Area C. Incident types tracked are Noise, Intoxication, and Disorderly Conduct.

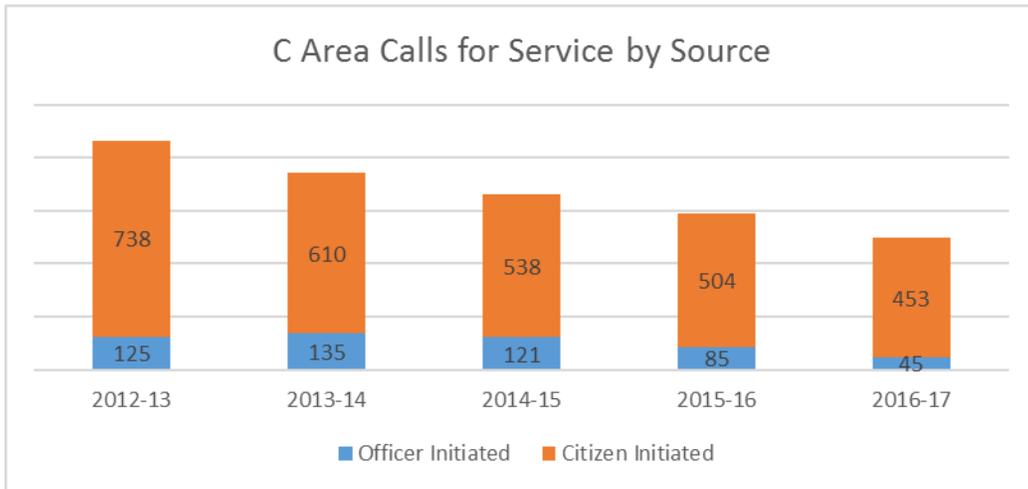
1. C Area calls for service 2012-13 to 2016-17 have decreased.



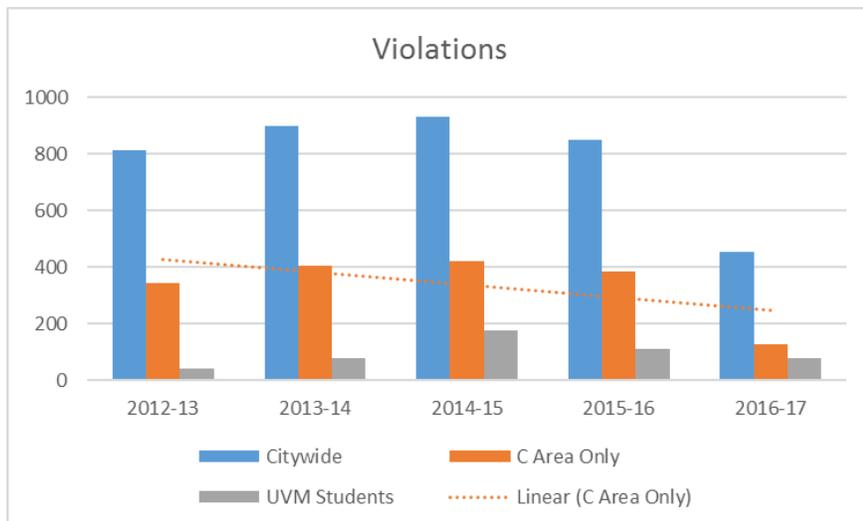
- City-wide calls for service have dropped by **28%** since 2012-13.
- C Area calls for service have dropped by **42%** during the same period.



2. The proportion of calls for service initiated by citizens (as opposed to police officers) has decreased.



3. The number of violations issued for Noise, Alcohol, and Disorderly Conduct has decreased in C Area.



	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Violations					
Citywide	815	900	933	850	454
C Area Only	342 (42%)	405 (45%)	423 (45%)	385 (45%)	127 (28%)
UVM Students	40	78	176	112	76

(Note: Data from BPD was not complete due to a change in the ticketing process. During 2013-14, the Center for Student Conduct did not receive information regarding alcohol tickets)

4. C Area Alcohol Violations Table

Lease Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Tickets					
Minor procuring or in possession of alcohol (16A, 16B, 16C, 21038c)	96	143	154	115	32
Open Containers in Public (21038b)	26	44	85	95	16
Alcohol Related Tickets Total	122	187	239	210	48



Successful efforts to increase community education continue

- The University of Vermont continues to work diligently to address the impact of high risk drinking on campus and in the Burlington community. UVM was one of three institutions of higher education whose work to address high risk drinking and other substance misuse was honored with a Prevention Excellence Award at the ninth annual Campus Prevention Network Summit in Boston in June of this year.
- The working group continues to focus on educating students about the importance and value of creating a healthy neighborhood community as a fundamental part of this work. Optimizing relationships between police officers, student residents, permanent residents, and the involvement of UVM's Office of Student and Community Relations has resulted in student residents who are better educated about the importance of being a good neighbor.
- Pro-active approach: In mid-August, Code Enforcement sent an informal letter to landlords of problem addresses from the end of the previous lease year, to make them aware that their properties continue to be on notice.
- UVM Office of Student and Community Relations (OSCR) coordinates the *Have a Heart Campaign* to educate students about the impact of late night activity on families and permanent residents in the off campus area. This is just one of several OSCR programs designed to help build community and improve quality of life in Burlington. Others include: *Neighborhood Clean-Up*, *Off-Campus Living Workshops*, the *Community Coalition Street Strategy*, and the *Spring Move-Out Project*.
- Quality of Life Patrols: UVM provides funding for additional BPD shifts starting in August when students return, as well as on problem weekends throughout the year when party noise is increased. The purpose is to deter noise and also build positive relationships with residents.

Summary

While challenges around quality of life issues in neighborhoods remain, effective collaboration between the University of Vermont and the City of Burlington has yielded a substantial improvement in a number of measures.