

March 10, 14

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To the City Council,

My name is Jeetan Khadka and I used to be a resident of Ward 3, but now I am living in Ward 7. I have been living in Burlington for five years now and have been a very active member of various community development projects and initiatives. I have contributed countless hours of my life towards making this community better for all of us to live, succeed, and grow. I am proud to be the part of this city and I will continue to work in building this community.

There are many folks out there who are like me, who came to be Vermonters from various different parts of the world and to make this place our home. We haven't just moved here, but we have built the community around us. The culture that cares, supports, and understands the unity among diversity. We have contributed towards the economy of this place by opening businesses, offering employment, buying homes, paying taxes, and contributing through civic engagement.

Council, I would like to request that we have our voice in the various decision-making processes of the city. The decision made by the city equally impacts the life of its citizens and non-citizens. I believe, non-citizens should be granted the rights to participate and vote in local elections and should be granted the rights to be on the Commissions and Boards for the city. For the last few years, I have been communicating with the staff of the Burlington Park and Recreation and have provided valuable feedback, which was critical for creating successful engagement across the community. I am interested in being on the Parks and Recreation commission, but I am not able to because I am not a citizen of the United States yet. I am currently in the process of getting my citizenship and which will happen within this month or so. But, I believe my status shouldn't limit my contribution towards the greater good of our community. It is a limitation to our democracy.

Sincerely,

Jeetan Khadka

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