

From: Bill Church [<mailto:wrc@greenmoab.com>]

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 8:44 AM

To: Brian Pine

Cc: janeknodell@burlingtontelecom.net; maxwell.k.tracy@gmail.com; Anne Brena

Subject: Request for Assistance

Hi Brian,

I know you and others have worked long and hard on the housing plan. I can only share my experience living on Bradley St. since 2001.

If the sole metric for success is total number of units built, then I guess what you propose makes sense. If success is something different: active community involvement by large numbers of people in Burlington supporting the schools, the arts, and city government in a healthy environment, I think the number of units metric is going to miss by a wide mark. Elimination of single family homes or cooperatively owned housing, will drive families to live someplace else. More people (even if you are successful in making it hard to drive and own a car) means more pollution going into the lake. More trash on the streets. People in housing developments often find it hard to know neighbors and feel part of community. Where are the parks, community centers and gardens where people will get to know one another? Younger generations can't afford Flynn tickets.

Additionally, as everyone knows, substance abuse is a serious problem in the city and state and simply increasing high density rental housing could likely lead to a larger abuse problem as existing neighborhoods deteriorate further and fewer and fewer people know each other and support the institutions (churches, the Y, the library) that make our neighborhood special. Home owners call the police. Renters, don't.

But I know you've listened to this for many years. I'll share by saying I've been able to build a successful biotech business, in a place not many people try to do this, largely due to the fact that I can work the necessary hours because I live where I live: close to work, schools, shopping, services, a major research university. I put up with a tremendous amount of crap at night and on weekends but, overall, enjoy living where I do.

I think forcing the University to build housing should be a big part of the solution. I think requiring Champlain to house students away from established neighborhoods will preserve what remains of people trying to live successfully as part of a community. If the goal is simply to develop the real estate between downtown and UVM (similar to what was done in the 70s with the land between the lake and downtown) than let's say so and make it clear that the land is more valuable to those with deeper pockets than the people who live there.

Hard choices can't make everyone happy. Let's call it what it is: not more housing for more people but more housing for the benefit of the wealthiest as we convert Burlington to renters and transients.

Thanks for reading.

Bill

Bill Church, Ph.D.
Green Mountain Antibodies
P.O. Box 1283
Burlington, VT 05402
phone: 802-865-6230
fax: 802-865-0115
email: wrc@GreenMoab.com
www.GreenMoab.com