

Brian Pine

From: zimmie3@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 4:40 PM
To: Brian Pine
Subject: : Community Development/Neighborhood Revitalization Committee

Mr Pine

I hope to be at the meeting this evening, but prefer to give a written statement.

**Thank you,
Elaine Zimmerman**

The vast majority of Vermonters over the age of 65 (96%) live in non-institutional settings (i.e. outside of nursing homes or institutions), and many are especially dependent upon the availability of affordable and accessible housing options in settings that allows them to age in place. aging in place, is something we should have planned for years ago.

I have been a resident of Burlington for over a decade. Each mayor since I moved up here from Southern Vermont, has talked about a livable downtown and they each have "sold-out" to big business and little consideration has been given to "aging in place" for seniors. When I moved here this was a manageable City and now sidewalks and roads are cut off while the endless building takes place. I serve on the City Accessibility Committee and know the City has become full of obstacles for those mobility or visually impaired.

Downtown Burlington is unaffordable for many families/seniors who live on a fixed income and need transportation services. The area where the Champlain College dorm is (on hold) to be built was considered for affordable housing as were several other areas that have become buildings/hotels only some can afford.

I would like to see the city of Burlington focus on transit oriented development; preserve existing affordable housing; and establish preferences and priorities for awarding Low Income Housing Tax Credits based on livability principles; for preference points in the application process to developers that build housing units close to public transit.

**Thank you,
Elaine W. Zimmerman
131 Main Street
Burlington**