

From: richard hillyard [<mailto:pompeyhccc@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 31, 2014 10:15 AM
To: Brian Pine
Cc: carynlong@burlingtontelecom.net
Subject: City Housing Plan

Hello Brian,

I would like to endorse all the comments forwarded to you by Michael Long, and add the following:

1).I would commend to the City the excellent documentary filmed by Patrick Farrington in approx 2002 about the "urban renewal" of a couple of generations ago which destroyed neighborhoods and communities and replaced them with architecturally deficient structures which are now seen as being outdated if not obsolescent.

Let's not make the same mistake again.

2).I was fortunate to be in Saratoga Springs last Friday, a City which has grown steadily over the past forty years whilst still retaining its charm and character. Commercial growth has focussed on building substantial structures which will most likely endure in functionality and appeal for a hundred years or more - they have been designed to be complementary to the City, not a substitute for something that already works well. Housing codes appear to have been rigorously enforced, there is plenty of protected green space and adequate parking. Not surprising that Saratoga enjoys a robust and diverse economy, and a vibrant community with a high quality of life, whilst Burlington struggles to find its way.

3).There are no commitments to investment in City infrastructure commensurate with the rampant development. We have a project in Ward 1 in an area which is woefully underserved (beleaguered) as things currently stand, yet it is apparently OK to create a new development adding 200+ units and 400+ residents. Not only that, but a Traffic Project, Colchester Avenue Redesign, which originally was intended to embrace feeder streets as well is now restricted to "Colchester" alone.

4).City "plans" of recent years which residents have been invested in have evaporated - the Sidewalk Plan being a relevant example pertinent to Housing Plan ambitions.

There has been no effort to bring a Housing Plan roadshow to the NPA's and I trust that oversight will be rectified before "Plans" go much further.

Let's look forward fifty years to a Burlington that we can all live with.

Let's focus now on remediating our housing stock, including applying Codes appropriately.

Let's bring our infrastructure in to the 21st Century.

Let's include our Schools in any Housing Plan - not just in Ward 1, but thru'out the City.

Let's incent our young people to stay locally; it's not about jobs, it's about careers. Young people need to be invested in their community and neighborhoods, not encouraged to be rental transients, marking time until they can move on out.

And let's ensure the advice my wife received from a UVM grad (now a State Judge!) twenty years ago when he found out we were relocating to BTV is misplaced:
"Sue, Don't go there. Burlington IS UVM."

Yours sincerely,

Richard Hillyard