



## Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2013

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## **Mayor Miro Weinberger Appoints Chapin Spencer as Director of Department of Public Works**

**Burlington, VT** – Mayor Miro Weinberger today announced the appointment of Chapin Spencer as the Director of the Burlington Department of Public Works. Spencer, the founder and current Executive Director of Local Motion, a Burlington-based non-profit that promotes people-powered transportation and recreation, and a past Ward 1 Progressive City Councilor, has been serving the City of Burlington in a variety of important roles for the past 18 years. Weinberger has asked the City Council to approve the appointment at its June 24, 2013 meeting.

“Chapin has a proven track record as a dynamic, effective leader and manager, having achieved stunning success creating and leading Local Motion, one of the country’s most effective bike and pedestrian advocacy organizations,” said Weinberger. “In nearly two decades of service to this community, Chapin has shown himself to be both a visionary who can push the community forward and a pragmatist who can deliver on-the-ground progress. This combination of attributes will be critical as he helps the City realize the future Burlingtonians deeply want to see.”

“Whether fixing potholes and sidewalks, paving or plowing the streets, improving stormwater management, or working on waste reduction, the Department of Public Works plays a pivotal role in the health, economy, and quality of life of our City,” said Spencer. “I appreciate the Mayor’s confidence in me to lead this great department and look forward to working closely with the dedicated and talented DPW team to tackle the everyday needs and many pressing issues facing our City.”

At today’s announcement, which took place inside the vehicle storage garage at DPW’s Pine Street facility, Weinberger and Spencer were joined by a number of City leaders and public works stakeholders, including:

- **Nathan Lavery, Chair of the Burlington Public Works Commission:** “Chapin Spencer is an exciting choice to lead the Burlington Department of Public Works. He’s a proven community leader who combines a passion for innovative solutions with practical management skills. I’m confident he’ll be an outstanding Director, and I look forward to working with him.”
- **Joan Shannon, Ward 5 City Councilor and City Council President:** “I first met Chapin when he was a City Councilor and, although I didn’t live in his ward, I was told he was the ‘go to guy’

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for transportation issues. Over the years, Chapin has gained experience and successfully raised money and brought important projects to completion. I am confident that Chapin Spencer will be an inspiring leader of the Department of Public Works and systematically will work to address the needs of our aging infrastructure.”

- **Bob Alberry, Member of the Burlington Public Works Commission:** “Ever since I worked with Chapin several years ago on a paving bond issue, I’ve been impressed by his work, his passion, and his attention to detail. Chapin did a great job back then and has continued to dedicate himself to providing our City with excellent public service. Chapin knows our City, understands the operation of the department – he’ll be a great asset as DPW’s next leader.”
- **Kelly Devine, Executive Director of the Burlington Business Association:** “What I appreciate most about Chapin Spencer is that, with every decision he makes, he considers the needs of and impact on both the larger community and its individual members. Through our work together on City initiatives and our studies of best practices in other like-minded communities, I have become aware that Chapin and I share the belief that the Department of Public Works plays a key role in the economy and vibrancy of Burlington. With this appointment, I look forward to continued opportunities to collaborate with Chapin for a better Burlington.”

Although unable to attend the announcement, **Max Tracy, Ward 2 City Councilor and Chair of the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee of the City Council**, offered the following statement: “Chapin has displayed tremendous initiative, leadership, and vision in his tireless advocacy for improvements to Burlington’s bike and pedestrian infrastructure. I am confident that his highly collaborative style will translate to tangible results on everything from sidewalks to stormwater.”

Also unable to attend the announcement was Burlington resident **Scott Johnstone, the former Director of the Burlington Department of Public Works (1992-98) and current Executive Director of Vermont Energy Investment Corporation**, who offered the following statement: “I have known and worked with Chapin on transportation and public works issues since the early ‘90s – serving on the Local Motion board and collaborating with him while I was the DPW Director and he was a City Councilor. Chapin Spencer is a proven leader, a visionary, a public servant who knows how to engage our community and build consensus among stakeholders from a wide variety of backgrounds, and these are the fundamental skills needed to be a successful DPW director.”

Finally, also unable to attend the announcement was **Tom Torti, President and CEO of the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce**, who offered the following statement: “Chapin Spencer has shown that he has the ability to work with diverse groups and to get complex projects done. From repairs to the Burlington Bike Path to the Island Line, Chapin has mobilized folks to achieve results under the most difficult of circumstances. This is exactly the kind of leadership that is needed at DPW at this time. Burlington will be well served by the Mayor's choice for our new DPW Director.”

*Please see attached documents, including:*

- *Memorandum from Mayor Miro Weinberger to City Councilors requesting approval of the appointment of Chapin Spencer as Director of the Burlington Department of Public Works*
- *Resume of Chapin Spencer*

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## Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

### MEMORANDUM

To: City Councilors  
From: Mayor Miro Weinberger  
Date: June 12, 2013  
Re: Appointment of Public Works Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Weinberger", is written on a light-colored background.

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I respectfully submit for your consideration and approval Chapin Spencer as the next Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW). I am requesting City Council approval of this appointment at your June 24, 2013 meeting.

Before putting Chapin's name forward formally today, I consulted with numerous people – engineers, a past DPW Director and other individuals intimately familiar with the department's workings, past and present City Councilors, and, of course, the Public Works Commission – and have found broad support and excitement for this appointment.

For the department to fulfill all that Burlingtonians expect of it, the next director must be a proven leader and manager, an excellent communicator to stakeholders both within and external to the organization, an advocate for the department, trusted and respected within the community, and committed to a vision of Burlington that is greener, more vibrant, and a better place for walking and biking than it is today. I believe Chapin has all of these attributes and is uniquely qualified and experienced to meet the needs of Burlington and DPW right now.

#### **Track record as a dynamic, effective leader and manager**

Chapin has achieved stunning success creating and leading a complex organization. In the year 1999, when Chapin founded Local Motion, the organization was simply an idea. Thirteen years later, he now leads one of the country's most successful bike and pedestrian advocacy organizations – the largest among similarly sized cities. Local Motion operates with an approximately \$1 million annual budget that supports 10 programs, is powered by 12 employees, 1,000 members, and 400 annual volunteers, and has transformed the way our region thinks about active transportation and recreation issues. Chapin's effective leadership stems from qualities that the DPW Director needs and that will transfer to an organization of a larger scale:

- **Strong communication skills** – The public and the Public Works Commission are looking to DPW to significantly improve the department’s communication and responsiveness. Senior leadership within the department desires a leader who can effectively advocate for resources and other critical support. Chapin is an excellent communicator and advocate, experienced at articulating policy proposals and delivering presentations to a wide array of audiences, as well as sustaining regular and effective communications with a large number of organizational stakeholders.
- **Proven ability to partner with key agencies** – Effective local governance today requires extensive collaboration with other departments, agencies, and organizations. In his current role, Chapin has worked successfully with many of the groups central to DPW’s success, including: the Vermont Department of Transportation, neighboring municipalities, the State Legislature and executive branch, Chittenden County Transport Authority (CCTA), Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Burlington Neighborhood Planning Assemblies, the Burlington Business Association, and the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- **Successful project management experience** – Chapin has successfully managed complex public-private projects including: the development of the Causeway Bike Ferry; the coordination of Chittenden County’s Safe Routes to School pilot program; and the orchestration of The Big Fix campaign to assist communities in funding the repair of the Island Line Trail after extensive damage during the 2011 floods.

### **Vision and commitment to help Burlington achieve long-term goals**

The Department of Public Works is our most complex department, responsible for a wide and growing array of responsibilities. Not only must the department execute many of the City’s long-standing basic and essential services – snow removal, street maintenance, water and sewer service, and more – but also DPW is increasingly at the center of the new initiatives critical to fulfilling our collective vision of Burlington’s future. Our vital goals of a cleaner Lake Champlain, a more vibrant downtown and waterfront, a City infrastructure that better supports biking and walking, and a City that has less impact on the environment are in large part DPW’s responsibility to achieve.

In nearly two decades of service to our community, Chapin has shown himself to be both a visionary who can push the community forward and a pragmatist who can deliver on-the-ground progress. This combination of attributes will be critical as he helps the City realize the future Burlingtonians deeply want to see.

### **Demonstrated commitment to maintaining our infrastructure**

As a City Councilor 12 years ago, Chapin successfully championed for additional funding for our streets and sidewalks. More recently, he successfully advanced ballot items for funding the maintenance and enhancement of the City’s bike path. Chapin understands how to engage diverse constituencies, build a case for needed investment, and work various strategies to obtain the funding necessary to preserve the City’s infrastructure.

**Passionate commitment to the community**

There are very few individuals who have given more to Burlington over the last two decades than Chapin. You likely are aware already of his prior service to the community as a Ward 1 City Councilor from 1998 to 2002 and his current role as one of Burlington's two CCTA Commissioners, a position he has held since 2001. However, you may be surprised at the breadth and depth of Chapin's many other contributions to the City – *I urge you to closely review the Leadership Activities and Awards listed on his attached resume.*

One credential not listed on Chapin's resume is an engineering degree. While the current DPW Director also is the City Engineer, the City Charter allows for these positions to be assigned to different individuals. If Chapin is confirmed as the next DPW Director, I will take steps to appoint a new City Engineer before Chapin begins serving as Director on August 26, 2013. Current Director Steve Goodkind has agreed to continue to serve in both roles until successors are named. I am very grateful to Steve for his support during this transition and his more than 30 years of service to the City.

Further details of Chapin's career can be found in his attached resume. If confirmed, Chapin would be appointed at Step 1 and receive a starting annual salary of \$88,845. Chapin has lived in Burlington for the past 18 years.

Thank you for your consideration of Chapin Spencer as the next Director of the Burlington Department of Public Works.

# S. CHAPIN SPENCER

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## SKILLS:

- ❑ **Extensive leadership experience** – Directed a growing, high-performing and award-winning non-profit organization for 14 years
- ❑ **Strong transportation policy background** – Helped achieve solutions to complex policy issues including the merger of CCTA and GMTA and helped forge progressive transportation policy on the local and regional level over the last decade
- ❑ **Solid project management skills** – Successfully managed complex projects including federally-funded transportation projects
- ❑ **Proven fundraising abilities** – Secured significant private and public funds through special and ongoing fundraising campaigns, grant writing and contracts
- ❑ **Dedicated community entrepreneur** – Led or co-led the development of many innovative projects from the idea stage through to implementation such as the Causeway Bike Ferry, the Trailside Center, CarShare Vermont, The Big Fix, Trail Finder, etc.
- ❑ **Excellent communication skills** – Delivered dozens of talks, presentations and trainings to diverse audiences over 15 years

## EMPLOYMENT:

### **Executive Director**, Local Motion, 2000-present

Founded and now leads a dynamic non-profit organization promoting people-powered transportation and recreation. Local Motion has twelve year-round employees, ten programs, and a \$1M annual budget.

### **Intervale Marketing Coordinator**, Gardener's Supply Company (1998-2001)

Coordinated the Intervale Harvest Festival, the grand opening celebration of the expanded retail store, and published the annual Intervale Explorer magazine.

### **Transportation Consultant**, 1996-1999

Worked for Redstone Commercial Group, VPIRG and the City of Burlington on bike/pedestrian projects.

### **AmeriCorps\*VISTA Program Coordinator / Team Leader**, City of Burlington, 1995-1997

Coordinated a 22-member community service team within the city targeting its efforts on poverty relief, affordable housing and health care.

## EDUCATION:

- ❑ Vermont Leadership Institute, Snelling Center, 2008
- ❑ Vermont BikeSmart Presenter Training, 2006
- ❑ Facilitative Leadership graduate, Interactive Associates, 1997
- ❑ Trinity College (Hartford CT), Bachelor of Arts, Graduated with Honors, 1993

## LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

- ❑ Commissioner, Chittenden County Transportation Authority, 2001-present
- ❑ Board Chair, Chittenden County Transportation Authority, 2010-2011
- ❑ Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee, 2008-present
- ❑ Founding Board Member, CarShare Vermont, 2007-2012
- ❑ Burlington Rotary Club Member, 2007-present

- ❑ Friends of the Burlington Bike Path Campaign Committee, 2012
- ❑ Penny for Parks Campaign Committee, 2008
- ❑ Safe Routes To School Pilot Project Steering Committee, 2002-2006
- ❑ Board Member, Lake Champlain Bikeways, 2000-present
- ❑ Board Member, Intervale Center, 2002-2005
- ❑ Volunteer Building Engineer, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, 1995-present
- ❑ Ward 1 City Councilor, Burlington City Council, 1998-2002
- ❑ Member, Burlington Bicycle Council, 1995 – 2000

**AWARDS:**

- ❑ Peter Clavelle Legacy Award, Burlington Legacy Project, 2007
- ❑ Burlington Neighborhood Leadership Award, 2003
- ❑ Award for Excellence, VT Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, 2000
- ❑ Burlington Community Service Award, 1996
- ❑ Samuel Fishzohn Award for Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, Trinity College, 1993