

VERMONT ITALIAN CLUB – AUTHORIZATION TO  
ACCEPT GIFT – “LITTLE ITALY” WAYSIDE EXHIBIT  
INTERPRETIVE PANELS

In the year Two Thousand Thirteen.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the Vermont Italian Club, as part of its mission to promote the awareness of Italian-American involvement in shaping the past, present and future of the region and specifically the area of Burlington transformed through the South Champlain Street Urban Renewal Project, has contracted with a graphic designer to design wayside exhibit interpretive panels to educate residents and visitors about the neighborhood, its people, religious life, and their businesses; and

WHEREAS, through written text and historical photographs and direct quotations, the signs will evoke a sense of what it was like to live in this urban community from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century into the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Champlain Basin Program and City of Burlington (“City”) have a successful ongoing partnership to design wayside exhibit interpretive panels to educate residents and visitors about the intrinsic resources (archeological, cultural, environmental, historic, recreational and scenic) of the Lake Champlain region; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Italian Club worked with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the City to design three wayside exhibit interpretive panels to educate residents and visitors about the historic and cultural aspects related to Burlington’s Italian-American community; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Italian Club and Lake Champlain Basin Program have also worked with the City to select appropriate locations for the installation of this panel and will work with the City to obtain necessary local permits as needed; and

WHEREAS, this project is funded by Vermont Italian Club, Lake Champlain Basin Program and City, through its Community and Economic Development Office; and

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WHEREAS, the Vermont Italian Club has raised the resources to have the interpretive exhibit panels and their supports manufactured and installed; and

WHEREAS, the Vermont Italian Club wishes to present these three panels to the City as a gift from Burlington’s Italian-American community; and

WHEREAS, the wayside exhibit interpretive panels titles and locations are listed below;

1. “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” north side of the St. Paul and Pearl Street intersection
2. “Neighborhood Groceries” northeast corner of Battery and Cherry Streets
3. “Family and Religious Life” east side of Cherry and St. Paul Streets; and

WHEREAS, the City, through its Departments of Public Works and Parks has reviewed and approved these locations and agrees that these locations will not interfere with the maintenance of the rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the City acknowledges the sadness that many residents from multiple backgrounds experienced with the South Champlain Urban Renewal project, a sadness that was particularly hard felt by Burlington’s Italian-American community; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that this project will honor the history of Burlington’s Italian-American community and hopes that it will also help to heal the wounds of the South Champlain Urban Renewal project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington recognizes the contributions of Burlington’s Italian-American community past and present to the success and vibrancy of our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council accepts the Vermont Italian Club’s gift of the three “Little Italy” wayside exhibit interpretive panels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Works is authorized to execute the Memorandum of Agreement (attached) regarding these three wayside exhibit interpretive panels.

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**between the**  
**Vermont Italian Club**  
**and the**  
**City of Burlington**  
**concerning installation, ownership and maintenance of**  
**3 Interpretive Panels for “Little Italy, Piccola Italia”,**  
**to be installed at the following location:**

1. north side of the St. Paul and Pearl Street intersection – “Neighbors Helping Neighbors”
2. northeast corner of Battery and Cherry Streets – “Neighborhood Groceries”
3. east side of Cherry and St. Paul Streets – “Family and Religious Life”

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) and City of Burlington have a successful ongoing partnership to design wayside exhibit interpretive panels to educate residents and visitors about the intrinsic resources (archeological, cultural, environmental, historic, recreational and scenic) of the Lake Champlain; and

**WHEREAS** the Vermont Italian Club (VIC) as part of its mission to promote the awareness of Italian-American involvement in shaping the past, present and future of the region and specifically the area of Burlington transformed through the South Champlain Street Urban Renewal Project, has contracted with a graphic designer to design wayside exhibit interpretive panels to educate residents and visitors about the neighborhood, its people, religious life, and their businesses. Through written text and historical photographs and direct quotations, the signs will evoke a sense of what it was like to live in this urban community from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century into the 1960’s; and

**WHEREAS**, the VIC worked with the LCBP and City to design these wayside exhibit interpretive panels to educate residents and visitors about the historic and cultural aspects related to Burlington’s Italian-American community; and

**WHEREAS** the VIC and LCBP have also worked with the City to select appropriate locations for the installation of these panels and will work with the City to obtain necessary local permits as needed; and

**WHEREAS**, the City, through its Department of Public Works, has reviewed and approved these locations and agrees that these location will not interfere with the maintenance of the right-of-way; and

**WHEREAS** this project is funded by VIC, LCBP and City of Burlington through the Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO); and

**WHEREAS** the Vermont Italian Club has raised the resources to have the signs and their supports manufactured and installed and has requested that the City be responsible for the installation and maintenance of these three interpretive panels over their anticipated life-span.

**Therefore, it is Mutually Agreed and Understood by and Between the Vermont Italian Club and the City that:**

- I. the VIC shall make necessary payment and arrangements for the manufacture and delivery of the panel and any necessary, associated mounting systems such as base plates, pedestals, posts, backing plates, rail mounts and fasteners; and
- II. LCBP shall be responsible for the payment and contracting for the design services to create the interpretive panels; and
- III. The City, through DPW and/or its designee, shall prepare each site for the installation of the panel, such preparation being, for example, the marking of the exact location and preparing the site for installation of the panel and associated mounting systems; and
- IV. DPW and/or its designee will install at the VIC's expense the single panels at the agreed upon proposed locations: (1) north side of the St. Paul and Pearl Street intersection; (2) northeast corner of Battery and Cherry Streets; and (3) east side of Cherry and St. Paul Streets
- V. Upon installation of the panel, ownership of that panel shall immediately be vested in the City; and
- VI. After ownership of the panels is vested in the City of Burlington:
  - a. The City shall assume full liability for all injuries or damages to persons or property as a result of the operation, use or maintenance of each panel; and
  - b. The City shall have the panel remain on the property as installed and DPW shall clean the panel and mounting system as needed with mild soap and water or non-abrasive cleanser or equivalent; and
  - c. In the event of damage to a panel and/or to the mounting system, the City, through CEDO, shall within 3 months, make every effort arrive at an agreement with VIC specifying how to secure sufficient funds for repair or restoration of the panel and/or mounting system. The City may use its discretion as to whether to file an insurance claim to help pay for this cost. Funds may be sought from a variety of sources including City funds, private contributions from individuals or entities and contributions from non-profit organizations such as local historical societies; and
  - d. In the event of "recurrent" (meaning 2 times in any six month period) but reparable vandalism to a panel, the City, through CEDO, and the Vermont Italian Club agree to meet to discuss and seek agreement on a strategy to try and reduce this vandalism, including possibly moving the panel to a new location for the installation of the panel and to share any re-installation costs equally; and
  - e. In the event of catastrophic irreparable damage to a panel or any other reasonable basis, including but not limited to the failure to come to an agreement on the

reduction of recurrent but repairable vandalism, the City reserves the right to remove the panel or to not replace it if it has been previously removed; and

- f. If alterations to landscaping or design at one or more of the above locations necessitate moving the location of the panel, the City, through CEDO, and the Vermont Italian Club agree that they shall meet to try to identify a suitable location for the panel to be reinstalled with the City agreeing to cover any re-installation costs. If agreement cannot be reached the City shall have the right to move it to an alternate location or remove it at its sole discretion.

This Agreement shall become effective as of the date of the last signature below.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

For the City of Burlington,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

Printed Name and Title of Person signing \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

For the Vermont Italian Club (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name and Title of Person signing \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 10/7/13