

Lori Olberg

From: Norman Blais <normblaisvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 1:59 PM
To: Shannon, Joan; Mason, Chip; Worden, Kevin; Bryan Aubin; Ayres, Tom; Knodell, Jane; Tracy, Maxwell K.; Rachel Siegel; Paul, Karen; Sharon Bushor; Vince Brennan; Vince Brennan; Vince Brennan; Miro Weinberger; Lori Olberg; Eileen Blackwood
Subject: re-districting

Fellow councilors

Jay has alerted me to the fact that the 7-13 proposal, with the map references, was incorrect. The map that is referenced for the 7-13 plan does contain minor boundary line adjustments that, for most wards, typically are limited to a block or two.

Sorry for the mistake.

Norm

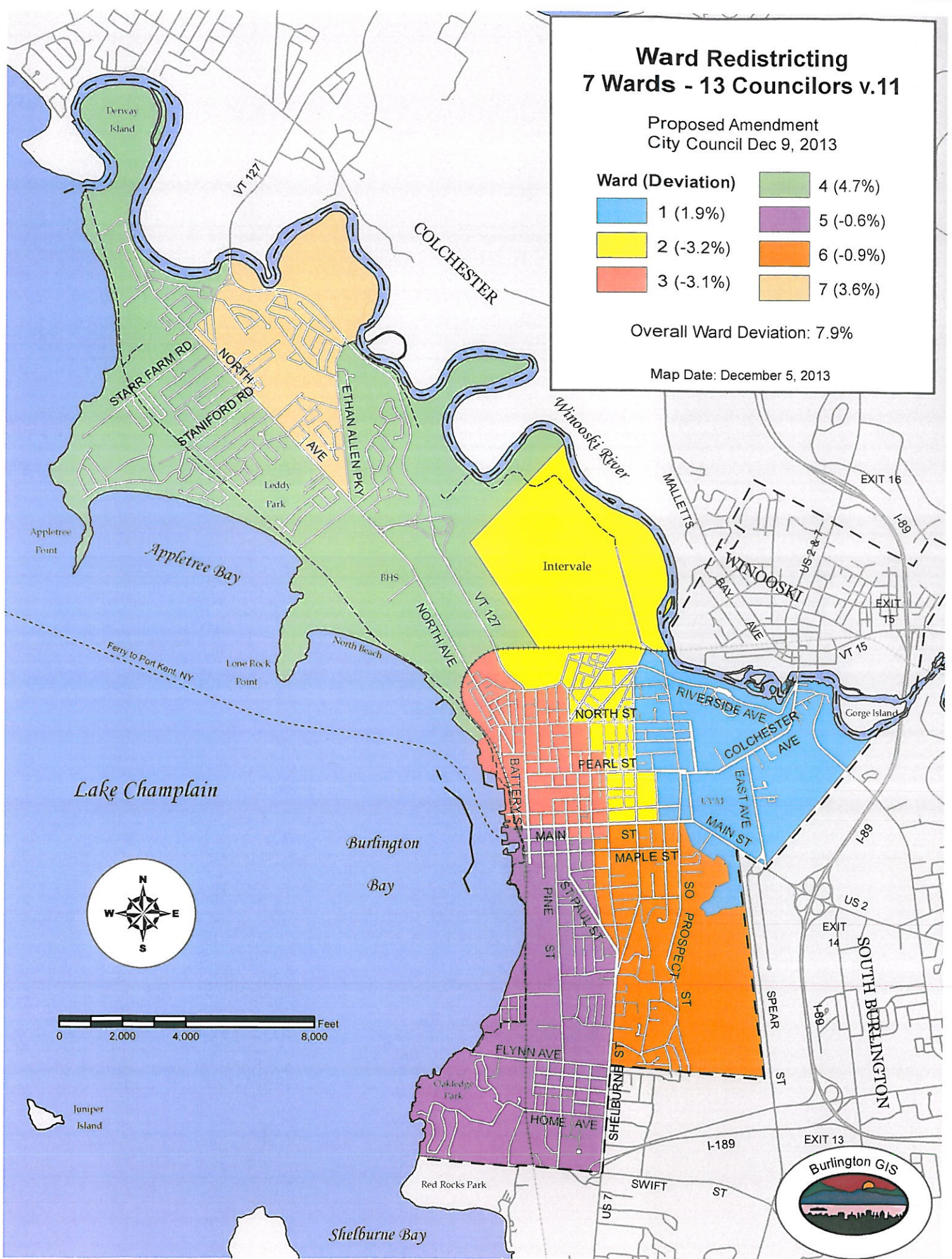
Ward Redistricting 7 Wards - 13 Councilors v.11

Proposed Amendment
City Council Dec 9, 2013

Ward (Deviation)	
1 (1.9%)	5 (-0.6%)
2 (-3.2%)	6 (-0.9%)
3 (-3.1%)	7 (3.6%)

Overall Ward Deviation: 7.9%

Map Date: December 5, 2013



Lori Olberg

From: Norman Blais <normblaisvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 8:56 AM
To: Shannon, Joan; Mason, Chip; Bryan Aubin; Worden, Kevin; Ayres, Tom; David Hartnett; David Hartnett; davehartnett1@aol.com; Tracy, Maxwell K.; Rachel Siegel; Knodell, Jane; Paul, Karen; Sharon Bushor; Decelles, Paul; Vince Brennan; Vince Brennan; Vince Brennan; Miro Weinberger; Mike Kanarick; Eileen Blackwood; Lori Olberg
Subject: Re-districting
Attachments: ward redistricting.doc

Fellow council members,

In recent discussions that I have had with Vince Brennan, we feel that an alternative proposal to the "8-4-12" plan should be considered at Monday evening's CC session. Attached to this email is an amendment (styled much like a resolution) that would adopt a 7 ward, 13 councilor alternative. The email submission that we received last week from Jay contains the proposed plan. However, since this proposal would not change any boundary lines, there is little need to examine the actual map.

I would urge your consideration of this alternative. When the "8-4-12" plan was referred to the Charter Change Committee for "fine tuning", as you will see when you examine Monday's agenda, that has resulted in a 15 page document that outlines the changes prompted by the two-tiered system. By contrast, the proposal that Vince and I are suggesting would, if adopted by the Council, merely require minor adjustments to the Charter.

Neither Vince nor I claim perfection with the "7-13" plan, and realize that it will not be received favorably in some parts of the city. However, we believe that it is far preferable to the 8-4-12n proposal, and would seek your support.

Thank you for your attention to this email.

Norm

Amendment to Proposal to City Council from Charter Change Committee regarding Re-Districting

WHEREAS, according to the latest United States census data, the current configuration in the City of Burlington of seven wards, with two city councilors elected from each ward, has an overall deviation of 41.5% and thus does not provide for equal and proportionate representation of the city's residents;

WHEREAS, there has been substantial and significant effort, by the City Council, the Charter Change Committee of the City Council, and an advisory panels comprised of citizens and council members, to devise an acceptable plan that would provide for equal and proportionate representation while also maintaining existing and recognized boundaries and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2013, by a vote of 8 to 6, the City Council referred to the Charter Change Committee a proposed redistricting plan that would have provided for a two-tiered system comprising of 12 city councilors, with 8 such councilors being elected from newly-configured wards, and 4 councilors being elected from larger voting blocs; and

WHEREAS, while the charge to the Charter Change Committee was to "fine-tune" the 8-4-12 plan, upon examination and exploration, it became apparent that the proposal would have far-reaching and unanticipated consequences, including, but not limited to, complications involving the transitional steps for councilor elections, the composition of the School Board, the composition of the Board for Registration of Voters, the selection of ward officers, the establishment of new polling places, and acceptable term durations for city councilors. The document that is necessary to implement the 8-4-12 plan consists of fifteen pages of single space type;

WHEREAS, a simpler, fairer and less costly mechanism by which to achieve proportionate representation while recognizing existing ward configurations is a plan identified as "Version v.11" calling for the maintenance of the existing seven wards, with two councilors for Wards One through 6, and a single councilor from Ward 7, and

WHEREAS, the so-called "7-13" plan has an overall deviation of only 7.9% and is thus well within the margins that the City Attorney has recommended as the goal for proportionate representation; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the so-called "7-13" plan, with the boundaries identified as consistent with the existing ward boundaries, would not need review by the Charter Change Committee but could instead be reviewed and considered by the voters in its present form for the March, 2014 Town Meeting Day election.

THEREFORE, an amendment is proposed that would strike in total the 8-4-12 plan submitted to the City Council by the Charter Change Committee and instead substitute the "7 Ward/13 Councilor" plan identified as Version v.11.