This report conveys the recommendations of the “Priorities Committee”, comprised of President Shannon, Councilor Decelles, and Councilor Knodell. The Council identified three priority areas at its July 15, 2013 retreat. Recommended actions in each area are presented below.

Fiscal Health of the City:

* Ask the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a presentation on the major cost drivers in the City’s budget for a January City Council meeting.
* Follow up work on sustainability of Burlington Employees Retirement System, following Retirement Summit in the fall.
* Continue consulting with administration on BT lawsuit resolution.
* Continue engagement with US Ignite project, as long-run job and business development strategy

Quality of Neighborhoods

* Pursue strategies to increase homeownership rates city-wide; monitor percentage of housing units that are owner-occupied
* Continue work in Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee on downtown neighborhoods (broadly defined)
* Continue work in Public Safety committee to address drug addiction-driven crimes
* Continue strategies to mitigate traffic impacts on South End neighborhoods

Environment and Climate Change

* Coordinate with Mayor on next steps on Smarter Cities Challenge; refer Final Report to Transportation/Energy/Utilities Committee
* Ensure cooperation between BED and BT on Smarter Cities