

**Office of
the Mayor
Burlington,
Vermont**



**Bob Kiss
Mayor**
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March 15, 2012

Via Email

Rep. Donna Sweaney, Chair
House Committee on Government Operations
Vermont State Legislature

Re: Reapportionment

Dear Madam Chair,

As you know, Burlington has been working on reviewing reapportionment options in order to make a recommendation to the Legislature by March 15. The Burlington and Winooski BCAs met earlier this week and both BCAs have recommended identical map boundaries for a shared Burlington-Winooski District.

The maps follow the established Census block lines and Census counts with two exceptions. The two-seat district which is shared between Winooski and Burlington includes the Salmon Run and Millview apartments on Riverside Avenue, broken off from the larger Census block in which these developments are contained. The remainder of that Census block remains with Burlington. In addition, two of the maps are contingent upon confirming a discrepancy in the allocation of the student population between adjoining census blocks on and near the UVM campus.

With respect to the student population, we have received student residency data from UVM and we are in the process of confirming the discrepancy in the student population numbers, in relation to the relevant Census blocks. However, we have also learned that the number of people living in the Salmon Run and Millview apartments was far lower (162) in March of 2010 than it is today (266), due to construction that was going on there at the time. The BCAs' decision was based on the higher number, which allowed the shared Burlington-Winooski district to meet the minimum number of residents and conform to the deviation standards established by the Legislature.

With the lower number of residents allocated to Salmon Run and Millview apartments, there is not enough population in the Burlington-Winooski district to meet the requirements for representation established by the Legislature. Therefore, the plan approved by both BCAs is not in conformance with these requirements.

In order to provide the Legislature with a plan that meets the established requirements for legislative representation, the Burlington and Winooski BCAs need to meet to reconsider how the maps are currently drawn. We are not able to schedule a joint meeting until next week. I am requesting additional time in order to do so and to ensure that our plan meets the Legislative requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Kiss". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a cursive "Kiss".

Bob Kiss, Mayor

Cc: Robert Millar, Chair, Winooski BCA
Bill Keogh, President, Burlington City Council