

MAINTAINING A PARALLEL JUSTICE PROGRAM AND
PARALLEL JUSTICE COMMISSION

In the year Two Thousand Ten.....
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, all crime victims suffer a loss of their sense of personal safety, security, freedom and power as a result of being victimized; and

WHEREAS, all crime victims deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by our criminal and juvenile justice system and the society at large; and

WHEREAS, the focus of the Criminal Justice System is on the arrest, arraignment and prosecution of the accused; and

WHEREAS, a strong network exists for victim/survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the City and state and before Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime, little support existed for victims of other types of crime; and

WHEREAS, crime is a community problem and requires engagement of all segments of the community to deter crime and support victims in their healing process; and

WHEREAS, Parallel Justice is a framework for responding to crime by offering support and validation to victims regardless of whether the offender of their crime is caught or prosecuted; and

WHEREAS, Parallel Justice brings together community resources to repair the harm caused by crime and sets out a distinct path for the community and an active role for the government; and

WHEREAS, Parallel Justice is a national demonstration project; and

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AND PARALLEL JUSTICE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Parallel Justice has contacted over 4000 victims of crime and has provided program assistance to nearly 1,000 citizens since it began in 2006; and

WHEREAS, support from the business community to help victims of crime is a vital resource and partnership of Parallel Justice; and

WHEREAS, Parallel Justice has dispersed over \$37,000 through the victim fund established to address crime victims immediate needs after a crime; and

WHEREAS, over 1,000 hours of volunteer time have helped victims of crime since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Crime Victim Services, the Burlington Community Justice Center and the Burlington Police Department have an established Parallel Justice Program to help underserved victims rebuild their lives after a crime; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and appreciate the professionals and volunteers who currently help lessen trauma and assist personal recovery of crime/victim survivors; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the need to expand upon these dedicated professionals and volunteers roles to address the needs of all crime victims regardless of the status of the criminal case; and

WHEREAS, the Parallel Justice Commission, made up of state and city officials, has reviewed over 8 cases and addressed systemic barriers identified in practice, procedure, policy, and legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council supports the continuation of the Parallel Justice Program to provide support, validation and services to all crime victims in the City of Burlington; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Parallel Justice Commission continue to improve Community, City and State response to crime victims' needs, and provide validation and address systemic, logistical and community issues brought forth by persons who experienced crime in the City of Burlington, as described in the attached Memorandum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will continue to be comprised of City and State Officials and Staff and Community Members, as described in the attached Memorandum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission will be staffed by the City of Burlington Community Justice Center.