

CITY RESPONSE TO “CHALLENGES FOR CHANGE”
AND CREATION OF A TASKFORCE

In the year Two Thousand Ten.....

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

That WHEREAS, the Governor of Vermont and State Legislature have established a "Challenges for Change" policy that includes an expectation that the state cut \$32 million from state departments, including \$5.5 million from the Corrections Department; and

WHEREAS, part of the challenges for change recommendations include releasing 300 non-violent offenders currently in the corrections system back into our communities; and

WHEREAS, Burlington currently has just under 9% of the combined number of offenders in prison and those in the community under supervision of Corrections (probation, parole, supervised release, etc); and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 40 of the 300 released offenders will settle in Burlington since they lived in Burlington when their offense was committed and due to the accessibility of social services, public transportation, rental housing, job opportunities, and all of the key services associated with daily living; and

WHEREAS, Burlington currently has the highest number of people under the supervision of the Corrections Department in the state, followed by Rutland, Bennington and Barre; and

WHEREAS, current services to support people exiting corrections are already overtaxed, include waitlists and are facing additional funding cuts from state government; and

34 CITY RESPONSE TO “CHALLENGES FOR CHANGE”
35 AND CREATION OF A TASKFORCE
36

37 WHEREAS, policy changes such as Challenges for Change continue to push state
38 responsibilities onto local communities without any financial support or adequate process to
39 allow local communities to prepare; and

40 WHEREAS, the City of Burlington will be impacted with increased pressures on
41 municipal, safety, and local resources and services with the reentry of these offenders and other
42 significant impacts from the Challenges for Change policies;

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor co-create a
44 city taskforce, including representatives from local social service agencies, housing agencies,
45 police department, local neighborhoods, business owners and city government to examine the
46 current impact of existing challenges facing our downtown and neighborhood areas from
47 previous reductions in state services, the expected impact of the relocation of the estimated 40
48 offenders, and any other significant Challenges for Change policies that will potentially
49 adversely impact Burlington; and

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this taskforce report back to the Mayor and Council
51 on or before September 13th with a list of recommendations for the city to consider and priority
52 issues that the city should be aware of in order to adequately support our community and these
53 relocating Vermonters.

54