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2 **Resolution Relating to**

RESOLUTION
Sponsor(s): Councilors Wright,
Decelles, Dober, Harnett
Introduced: 06/06/11
Referred to: _____
Action: _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor: _____

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6 **TAX ABATEMENT AND OTHER MEASURES**
7 **FOR BURLINGTON FLOOD EVACUEES**

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13 **CITY OF BURLINGTON**

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

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17 That WHEREAS, in recent weeks, owing to high levels of precipitation, Lake Champlain
18 has crested at levels which have not been seen in modern times, causing floods along many lake
19 shore areas in the City of Burlington; and

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21 WHEREAS, perhaps hardest hit is the area around North Cove Road in Burlington, where
22 many residents have been forced to evacuate their homes, some even requiring rescue from their
23 homes by members of the Fire Department because of the high lake levels engulfing their
24 properties; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Tax Abatement Committee of this Council makes the initial review of
27 requests for tax abatement pursuant to 24A V.S.A. § 3-42, and may only recommend to the full
28 Board of Tax Abatement the abatement of taxes for reasons listed therein; and

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30 WHEREAS, 24A V.S.A. § 3-42 states that taxes shall be abated whenever the taxes are
31 "illegal" and may be abated in the discretion of the board of abatement whenever the taxes "cannot
32 be collected or are manifestly unjust;" and

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34 WHEREAS, any Burlington property owner suffering damage to their property as a result of
35 the floods may apply to the Burlington Board of Tax Abatement for relief; and

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37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, the City Council requests that its Tax
38 Abatement Committee, in the wake of the devastation to both property and lives resulting from the
39 flooding, devastation which remains ongoing, consider recommending to the full Board of Tax
40 Abatement any abatement requests it receives predicated upon property destruction caused by
41 flooding and which the Committee deems reasonable and proper; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, ever mindful of the challenging financial times facing
44 the City and the fact that there are thus practical limits to how generous such an abatement policy
45 may be, the Council suggests to the Tax Abatement Committee that it may wish to be most
46 sensitive to any abatement requests predicated upon property destruction caused by flooding of
47 those property owners who have been forced to evacuate from their homes; and

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Resolution Relating to

**TAX ABATEMENT AND OTHER MEASURES
FOR BURLINGTON FLOOD EVACUEES**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Finance is requested to consider any other measures it might reasonably adopt to further aid those owners who have sustained damage to their property in the flooding, especially those forced to evacuate their homes, such as perhaps waiving all or a portion of permit fees which the City may currently require of them in their effort to rebuild; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Finance is requested to report back to the Council by the Council's last meeting in June, 2011.