In the year Two Thousand Eighteen ........................................................................................................

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

That WHEREAS, on August 28th, 2017 the City Council directed the Public Safety Committee to convene a
diverse set of community partners and receive public input and hear suggestions as to what steps the City
Council may take to better support Burlington’s homeless community and those who serve them; and
WHEREAS, these recommendations were developed in partnership with City Department staff, and
leadership, as well as the Mayor’s Office, and intend to build on prior and ongoing efforts to support the
homeless community; and
WHEREAS, over the past several years the City has taken numerous steps to improve services and
opportunities for our homeless and most vulnerable residents, including the Community & Economic
Development Office (CEDO) prioritizing a Housing First strategy within the City and with our partners in the
Continuum of Care that has helped create more transitional housing units at locations such as the former Bel
Aire motel, providing City General Fund dollars for the first time beginning in fiscal year 2018 to assist in
funding the Howard Center’s Street Outreach Team, supporting the opening of a low-barrier winter warming
shelter, doubling the Housing Trust Fund, and supporting projects like the new Community On Temporary
Shelter (COTS) Daystation through the City’s Housing Trust Fund; and
WHEREAS, after a robust outreach period, that included five separate public meetings held at various
times and locations to accommodate professional and personal schedules, the Public Safety Committee is
prepared to make a set of seven recommendations to the City Council;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council accepts the following
recommendations from the Public Safety Committee and requests that appropriate and good-faith action be
taken to move the recommendations forward:

1. Increase the capacity of low-barrier shelter availability and conduct an investigation as to the cost and
   benefit of having 12-month versus extended monthly operations. This recommendation calls for a pilot
   period to examine the impact of bolstered operations, which should include daytime services, of a low-
   barrier shelter. This recommendation calls for a resource review to define the required finances and
potential hurdles related to conducting this pilot period. This recommendation calls for increased City funding, while recognizing that the State of Vermont provides the majority of funding for rent and operations, and the City has dedicated $60,000 of funds if matched. Action on this recommendation shall be the responsibility of the Public Safety Committee of the City Council who shall involve current operators and involved community partners.

2. Support and facilitate the standardization of processes between service agencies. This recommendation builds on the recent work done by the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) related to coordinated entry. This recommendation calls for a pilot project with the purpose of further standardizing and streamlining processes across agencies and services. Such improvements should include, but not be limited to, improved communication between street-level services and other providers, a universal release form, a standard housing application, and a service bill of rights. Project members would include, but not be limited to, willing agencies that receive City-directed support.

3. Review and adoption of the City’s “encampment removal procedure.” This procedure was developed through the collaboration of multiple City departments and is currently in “draft” form. While this policy was discussed at the November meeting of the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee and is currently being implemented, the procedure has not been acted on by the City Council. This recommendation calls for the public review and adoption of any final policy by the City Council.

4. Increase opportunities for those experiencing homelessness to be positively engaged with the community. This recommendation calls for considering an investigation of the viability of low-hurdle employment opportunities and community activities. Led by CEDO, discussions of these opportunities should include, but not be limited to, partnerships with the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Library, as well as interested community individuals and entities.

5. Increase public restroom access in the downtown core. This recommendation calls for the Department of Public Works, the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department, and CEDO, as well as the Burlington Business Association, and members of the public, to identify opportunities for the
introduction of permanent, semi-permanent, and/or short-term public restroom access in the downtown core for all residents. Further action on this recommendation shall come by way of a referral to the CDNR committee.

6. Increased communications between the CCHA and the City of Burlington. Through representatives from CEDO and the Burlington Police Department, the City is well represented at this critical table. This recommendation calls for quarterly updates via official communications to the City Council, as well as the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, on the work of the CCHA.

7. Finally, the Public Safety Committee recommends that the City Council urge the Administration, when proposing the FY19 budget, to continue to fund the new practice of the City sharing in the cost of the Street Outreach program and consider options for increasing the Street Outreach program’s capacity, particularly at night and early morning hours. Further, the Council urges the Administration to increase funding for Housing Retention and support legislative changes for expanded Medicaid coverage for social work and case management positions relating to homelessness and low-income housing.