

Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION _____

**BURLINGTON PARKS ARTS AND CULTURE
COMMITTEE TO CREATE A DOG TASK FORCE**

Sponsor(s): Parks Arts and Culture
Committee
Introduced: _____
Referred to: _____

Action: _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor: _____

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-one

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

- 1 That WHEREAS, According to the City Charter, a dog is defined as the following: Dogs shall include both
- 2 male and female of the canine species. Dog shall also mean any animal which is considered to be a wolf-
- 3 hybrid as defined in 20 V.S.A. § 3541(6).
- 4
- 5 WHEREAS, Dogs are considered an integral part of our society, playing different roles and providing services
- 6 in the daily lives of humans, such as for accessibility, companionship, exercise, security and more.
- 7
- 8 WHEREAS, Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is a dog that has been
- 9 individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability, including a physical,
- 10 sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.
- 11
- 12 WHEREAS, According to the American Society for the Prevention of Animal Cruelty (ASPCA), dog
- 13 adoptions are up 700% nationally during the pandemic.
- 14
- 15 WHEREAS, According to the City of Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront website, “The State of
- 16 Vermont has one of the highest rates of pet ownership around the nation, the City of Burlington has made
- 17 possible for community members to share their experiences in many different locations in the greater
- 18 Burlington Area.”
- 19
- 20 WHEREAS, The City of Burlington issued 755 dog licenses and collected over \$23,000 in dog license
- 21 revenue for the 2020 fiscal year.
- 22
- 23 WHEREAS, The City of Burlington via the Department of Parks, Recreation and Waterfront has made a
- 24 substantial investment in the renovation of the Starr Farm Dog Park located in the New North End.
- 25
- 26 WHEREAS, Over the past few months, residents of the New North End alongside other residents of the city
- 27 have shared via social media (Front Porch Forum, Facebook) a growing number of incidents involving dogs or
- 28 dog owners. The incidents were reported by both dog owners, former dog owners or nondog owners.
- 29
- 30 WHEREAS, Most of those incidents are similar in nature; some are unique incidents that resulted in a
- 31 decreased quality of life and have caused tensions between neighbors. Those incidents include but are not
- 32 limited to the following:
- 33
- 34 ● Off leash dogs in city parks, natural areas or beaches
- 35 ● Dogs attacking people or other dogs
- 36 ● Dog feces not being picked up

Resolution Relating to PARKS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TO CREATE A DOG TASK FORCE

- 37 ● Policies not being enforced
- 38 ● Unlicensed dogs
- 39 ● Dog barking contributing to noise pollution

40
41 WHEREAS, Several other issues involving other types of pets in the city were also shared by community
42 members.

43
44 WHEREAS, On Tuesday, March 30th the New North End City Councilors, Barlow, Carpenter and Dieng,
45 hosted an informative and constructive community meeting alongside South End District City Councilor
46 Shannon and Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Director Wight in order to better understand the pet issue
47 beyond the complaints shared on social media.

48
49 WHEREAS, The Community meeting was well attended and received by the community. The attendance
50 ranged from people of the South End, Old North End and New North End. Most attendees were dog owners or
51 former dog owners as well as non-dog owners, nature lovers, dog park volunteers and professionals working
52 with pets.

53
54 WHEREAS, Residents who attended the community meeting brainstormed ideas and best practices related to
55 these issues and are willing to formally help the city in an ongoing way.

56
57 WHEREAS, The Burlington City Council, via a resolution, respectfully tasked the Parks, Arts and Culture
58 Committee to make a recommendation via a resolution by June 28th to the Council regarding the creation of a
59 Burlington Dog Task Force to address the issues raised in this resolution and possibly other issues.

60
61 WHEREAS, The Parks, Arts and Culture Committee, in consultation with the Director of Parks, Recreation
62 and Waterfront and the Starr Farm Dog Park Volunteer Coordinator, developed the following
63 recommendations for a nine (9) member task force and their scope of work.

- 64
65 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The nine-member Dog Task Force shall be composed of the
66 following members:
- 67 1) Starr Farm Dog Park Volunteer Coordinator
 - 68 2) Representative of a dog shelter, dog rescue group or other dog group to be appointed by PACC
 - 69 3) Dog trainer to be appointed by PACC
 - 70 4) Veterinarian or animal health professional to be appointed by PACC
 - 71 5) Burlington Police Department Community Resource Office representative to be designated by the Chief of
72 Police
 - 73 6) Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront representative (staff with land use or event planning expertise)
74 to be designated by the BPRW director
 - 75 7) At large Burlington community member who is a non-dog owner to be appointed by PACC
 - 76 8) At large Burlington community member who is a dog owner to be appointed by PACC
 - 77 9) A representative of the Parks Commission to be appointed by the Parks Commission Chair

78
79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Parks Director will create an application for task force membership.
80 Applications will be received by the Clerk/Treasurer's Office until August 31, 2021. PACC appointed
81 members shall be selected by the Parks, Arts and Culture Committee at their September meeting

82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Parks, Art and Culture Committee recommends the following:

A) That the Dog Task Force members elect a Chair as their first order of business in their first meeting; and the Director of Burlington Parks and Recreations and Waterfront to identify an administrative staff to the taskforce

b) That the following be within the Dog Task Force’s scope of work:

- 1) Review current city programs and policies including other dog task force work.
- 2) Conduct an Education Campaign:
 - a) Off leash dogs in city parks, natural areas or beaches
 - b) Dogs attacking people or other dogs
 - c) Dog feces not being picked up
 - d) Dog barking contributing to noise pollution
- 3) Review licensing rules and make recommendations
 - a) Review licensing fees and make recommendations
 - b) Explore modernizing license fee applications
 - c) Consider the question of licensing of outdoor cats
- 4) Review compliance and policy enforcement and make recommendations
- 5) Plan Pet/Dog Events, Activities and Celebrations, i.e., National Pet Day or National Dog Day Celebration
- 6) Review current funding allocated to our municipal dog/pet resources and make recommendations
- 7) Provide quarterly updates to the Parks, Arts, and Culture Committee
- 8) Generate a final report to be presented to the City Council by April 29, 2022



109
110
111
112
113
114
115

HRB/Resolutions 2021/BURLINGTON PARKS ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE TO CREATE A DOG TASK FORCE
7/8/2021

DRAFT