



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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Chapin Spencer
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

To: House Government Operations Committee
Fr: Chapin Spencer, Director
Re: Charter Change regarding the Traffic Fund
Date: February 15, 2017

The charter change recommended by the Charter Change Committee and subsequently passed by Burlington voters on November 8, 2016 would enable the implementation of the Downtown Parking & Transportation Management Plan and clarify the intent of the City's Charter. Specifically, the proposed charter change:

Clarifies eligible activities that can be funded by on-street meter revenue. Current Charter language permits activities related to "controlling and regulating traffic" to be funded by on-street meter revenue, but it does not define what constitutes controlling and regulating traffic. This revision defines eligible activities to include:

- Acquisition or maintenance of on- or off-street parking facilities
- Proper repair or construction of streets, sidewalks and bridges
- Traffic or parking demand management facilities, planning or services
- Traffic calming measures and other transportation-related activities

This language makes it clear that the proposed transportation infrastructure investments in the City's 10-Year Capital Plan and transportation demand management activities called for in the Downtown Parking & Transportation Plan are appropriate uses of on-street meter revenue.

Makes clear that a vehicle in violation of City ordinance or regulation can be removed from a municipal lot or parking garage. Currently we have a number of vehicles within our lots and garages that appear to be abandoned. These vehicles are taking up parking spaces that could be used by daily customers. This revision gives the City authority to remove these vehicles.

Renames the "Traffic Fund" more appropriately the "Parking Facilities Fund". By Charter, the revenue from municipal lots and garages is restricted to expenditures related to the operation of, and improvement to, municipal lots and garages. The proposed name is more consistent with the intent of the City Charter.

Non-Discrimination

The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status or genetic information. The City is also committed to providing proper access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. For accessibility information or alternative formats, please contact Human Resources Department at 865-7145.

Simplifies Charter language. The current language regarding the Traffic Fund requirements and eligible activities is overly complex. Staff has sought to simplify the language to make complying with the Charter more straight forward.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. My email is cspencer@burlingtonvt.gov. Thank you for the opportunity to present on this topic today.