

Resolution Relating to

APPOINT AN INCLUSIVE TASK FORCE TO SEEK
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FUTURE OF THE
“EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE” MURAL AND REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND CITY
COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Sponsor(s): Shannon
Introduced: _____
Referred to: _____

Action: _____
Date: _____
Signed by Mayor: _____

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eighteen

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

1 That WHEREAS, the City of Burlington strives to be a welcoming City to all, placing great value in and
2 drawing great strength from the diversity of our community; and

3 WHEREAS, in response to public discussion of the Church Street Marketplace mural “Everyone
4 Loves a Parade,” the Administration asked the Marketplace Director to conduct outreach to impacted
5 stakeholders; and

6 WHEREAS, the Marketplace Director’s report concludes that the mural, while successful in increasing
7 foot traffic, the feeling of safe passage, and access to part of Church Street, fails to convey an inclusive and
8 welcoming message that the City seeks to project; and

9 WHEREAS, the mural fails to adequately acknowledge Vermont’s diverse history and undermines our
10 efforts to promote Burlington as a diverse, welcoming place to live, work and visit; and

11 WHEREAS, many individuals feel hurt by the omissions and misrepresentations in the mural; and

12 WHEREAS, money was raised by the Church Street Marketplace Foundation from private donors to
13 pay for the mural and it is not yet clear whether or not the City owns the mural, although it was initiated by a
14 City request for proposals and was led by City employees in a process that took place from 2009-2012; and

15 WHEREAS, the City should be thoughtful about how it proceeds in trying to uphold community
16 values and avoid inappropriate government overreach; and

17 WHEREAS, the City’s decisions on these sensitive issues are likely to be better, and better-received by
18 the general public, if they are informed by the recommendations of a diverse body of residents; and

19 WHEREAS, an inclusive, community-driven process is most appropriate to determine the future of the
20 mural; and

21 WHEREAS, the community process must respect important principles, including those related to
22 public art, property rights, artist rights, censorship, limits on government power, and more; and

23 WHEREAS, Burlington, like cities all over the country, is re-examining public art and monuments
24 with a lens of inclusiveness and new perspectives on history and the past;

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and the Administration shall:

1. *Create a Seven-Member Mural Task Force.* This diverse panel should include individuals who have a wide array of perspectives, including that of the New American, Abenaki and other diverse communities, the Church Street Marketplace Commission, mural donors, and the arts community.
2. *Provide Staff Support to the Task Force:* In addition to the seven voting community members, the panel should include two City employees selected by the Administration to staff the task force and advise it on financial, legal, and other municipal details.
3. *Complete an Open Application Process:* City staff, at the direction of the Mayor, should run an open application process that is well-advertised and allows applicants to submit applications by April 16, 2018 for review and appointment by the City Council with the Mayor Presiding, consistent with past practice of a Council sub-committee proposing a slate of names for Council vote (the Council's typical process for appointing boards in which the Mayor has one of the 13 appointment votes).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council and Mayor charge the Mural Task Force, while respecting the principles of public art, property rights, artist rights, and limits on government power, to review and consider a wide range of options that leads to a more inclusive outcome, respects Burlington's and Vermont's diverse history, and educates our residents and visitors; the options should include consideration of amending the current mural, removing it, and/or creating a new or additional work of art that better represents Burlington's diversity, or other options not yet discussed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mural Task Force should be considered a public body whose meetings are open to the public, and a record of its proceedings should be maintained on the City website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mural Task Force should report back to the Mayor and City Council by July 16, 2018.