

Public Safety Committee
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
Remote via Zoom/In-Person in Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall,
Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Buddy Singh (Chair), Melo Grant, Laura Sanchez-Parkinson

Staff Present: Hayley McClenahan (Assistant City Attorney)

Public Present: Chris McGrath, Romeo Von Hermann (Police Commissioner)

Meeting called to order at 5:32 PM by Councilor Singh.

1. Adopt the Agenda

1.01 Adopt the Agenda

Motion to adopt the agenda as amended on Civic Clerk with the addition of Item 4.02.

Motion by Councilor Grant, Seconded by Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2. Adopt Minutes

2.01 Motion to adopt draft minutes from August 27, 2026 and August 31, 2026 meetings

Motion to adopt the draft minutes from August 27, 2026 and August 31, 2026 meetings as written.

Motion by Councilor Grant, Seconded by Councilor Sanchez-Parkinson

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

3. Public Forum

3.01 Verbal Comments

Chris McGrath commented on the purpose of the Burlington Forward resolution, stating that the Constitution and VT State Constitution only refer to “safety” once, and that the Committee should consider the meaning and use of the word in the resolutions being discussed.

Romeo Von Hermann, Burlington Police Commissioner, stated hopes for the Committee to keep the public’s interests in mind while developing both resolutions and that they find common ground to move forward with a resolution that the city can be united behind.

Andre Clark of Ward 2 with Street CATs-Burlington and Vermont Community Wash & Learn expressed concerns with public safety response teams and expanding supplemental public safety

resources, particularly regarding using volunteers when there are city staff and social organizations who are already trained. Clark stated being in favor of more funding for existing programs and resources that have formal vetting practices for staff and volunteers, as opposed to a community organized volunteer public safety response team. Clark also shared there will be a parking lot dance party at College Street Congregational Church over the weekend that the public is invited to attend.

Public Forum closed at 5:43 PM.

4. Burlington Forward

4.01 Work Session on Burlington Forward

The Committee discussed their approach and further changes to the Burlington Forward resolution in preparation for the City Council report due Monday. No action taken.

4.02 Discussion on Resolution to Expand Supplemental Public Safety Response

The Committee discussed the resolution proposed by Councilor Singh. No action taken.

5. Adjournment

5.01 Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned with no objection at 7:30 PM.