



CHURCH STREET
MARKETPLACE

CHURCH STREET MARKETPLACE DISTRICT COMMISSION

September 30, 2026

9:00 AM

Location: City Hall, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 149 Church St., Burlington, VT

Attendance:

Commissioners: Mark Bouchett, Chris Haessly (Zoom), Linda Magoon (Zoom), Erik Monsen, Marykate Moore (Zoom), Becky Holt

Sarah Beal (Late at 9:10 am, Zoom)

Staff: Samantha McGinnis – CSM Director, Andrew Bacher – CSM Coordinator,

COME TO ORDER

- a. Meeting is brought to order at **9:05am by Mark Bouchett**

I. APPROVE AGENDA

- a. Motion to approve – Becky

- i. Seconded – Erik

- b. Vote to approve agenda

- i. Agenda approved unanimously

II. PUBLIC FORUM

- a. Councilor Milo Grant: speaks about the central district, OPC, and the letter to the governor. Speaks on unifying the central business district on speaking to the State Legislature on the issues of homelessness.
- b. Closed at 9:12 am

III. Letter to Governor Scott

- a) Motion to approve letter to be sent as is: Becky

- a. Second: Marykate

- b) Discussion

- a. Becky: Speaks to the complexity and breadth of the issues being discusses in the letter. Recommends letter leans more into working together and developing State-wide policies to find common ground across the State.
 - b. Marykate leaves meeting at 9:20 am
 - c. Sarah suggests amendments
 - i. Change “constitutes” to “residents” in paragraph 3
 - ii. strike everything after the ellipsis in Paragraph 3
 - d. Sarah makes a motion to amend letter with the above suggestions
 - i. Seconded: Becky

- ii. Discussion ensues
 - iii. Vote in favor: Sarah, Erik, Becky, Mark
 - iv. Chris and Linda abstain
- e. Sarah suggests amendment to paragraph 2
 - i. Adding period, eliminating wording after “efforts to date”
 - ii. Adding sentence after “efforts to date”. “This is a complex issue with need for state level unified collaboration.”
- f. Chris Haessly leaves meeting at 9:30 am
- g. Sarah questions if we can make edits off-line. Adds that she has no more edits after this.
- h. Sarah suggests amendment to bullet 2
 - i. Broaden the call for a 100-bed shelter to allow for multiple shelters
- i. Erik suggests eliminating paragraph 3
 - i. Suggestion echoed by Becky, Linda, Becky, and Sarah
- j. Chair Bouchett recognizes councilor Milo grant
 - i. Milo speaks on Governor’s dislike of Burlington. Suggests reiterating the crisis here in Burlington and how that effects the whole State.
- k. Mark suggests leaving paragraph 3 alone.
- l. Linda suggests adding “with prior notice and coordination with the City of Burlington.” to State trooper bullet
- m. Linda asks to have a copy of the letter sent to her Gmail for review
- n. Mark Calls a recess at 9:43 am**
- o. Meeting resumes at 9:45am**
- p. Linda suggests amendments for grammar and spelling
- q. Linda suggests reordering the bullets to have state troopers request be last
- r. Erik moves to approve letter with all amendments and edits made
 - i. Becky seconds
 - ii. Unanimous approval
- s. Mark suggests signing it himself on behave of all commissioners

IV. Adjournment

- a. Motion: Becky
- b. Second: Erik
- c. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 am

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 9 am in City Hall, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 149 Church Street, 05401.

September 30, 2026

Governor Phil Scott
Governor of the State of Vermont
109 State Street, Pavilion Building
Montpelier, VT 05609

RE: Letter from Church Street Marketplace Commission on State of Downtown Burlington

Dear Governor Scott,

As the nine-member Board that oversees Burlington's Church Street Marketplace operational policies and whose overall purpose is to "establish, improve and maintain the pedestrian mall to benefit the local community, businesses and visitors" we, the Church Street Marketplace Commissioners, are writing to you today to ask urgently for your help.

We would like to start by thanking you for your efforts to date. This is a complex issue with a need for state level, unified collaboration.

As you are well aware, Burlington's downtown is essentially in a state of emergency. Our residents, business owners, their employees and property owners, have let us know, loudly and clearly, that time has run out.

Given that Chittenden County contributes about 25% of the State's tax income, and that Burlington is the top spot for tourism across the State, a crisis in Burlington is a crisis for the State. Immediate, substantive and collaborative action must be taken as soon as possible.

We are asking the following of you and your administration:

1. Active support of and participation in CVOEO's effort to launch a 100-bed, year-round, low-barrier, emergency shelter by this winter
2. Return of the Accountability Court to Burlington
3. Development of a plan by the Agency of Human Services to establish a State mental health facility to replace/enhance the services previously provided by the Waterbury Hospital that was closed 15 years ago.
4. Continued deployment of State Troopers in Burlington with prior notice and coordination with the City of Burlington.

We strongly believe that the first three recommendations above would bring about immediate and positive results. It would also send the important message that both the city and the State recognize the seriousness of this issue - and that we are all willing to work together to make it a top priority. It's time for all of us to stop reassessing the past and to instead look forward - at the present and the future.

Governor Scott, we want to say thank you in advance for giving this letter your immediate attention. Please let us know what you need from us to put the aforementioned actions in place.

With sincere gratitude,

The Church Street Marketplace Commissioners