Resolution Relating to

PAINTING BLACK LIVES MATTER STREET MURAL
ON BURLINGTON STREET (REVISED)

RESOLUTION

Sponsor(s): Councilors Paul, Hightower, Paulino, Shannon, Carpenter, Mason, Stromberg, Pine
Introduced: _____________________
Referred to: _____________________
Action: _______________________
Date: _________________________
Signed by Mayor: _______________

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty …………………………………………………………………………

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

That WHEREAS, over the past several weeks, in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, we have witnessed a nation in pain, turmoil, reeling from the horror and condemning in the strongest terms this atrocity; and

WHEREAS, from Minneapolis to cities across the country, our nation must face these acts as a crisis and collectively lead and be heard and let our fellow Black and brown neighbors know we are no longer bystanders; and

WHEREAS, this City Council has heard the voices of our community and has sought to act to further racial justice by striving to support a call to action by the Racial Justice Alliance; and

WHEREAS, this City Council passed the Mayor’s Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 that included $1 million in immediate funding to support and move forward the action steps of Operation Phoenix, most notably support for a cultural empowerment community collective and further funding for the Racial Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Office of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Budget resolution passed on June 30, 2020 noted “an expected formal declaration that racism is a public health crisis” and the City Council wholeheartedly supports this; and

WHEREAS, this City Council wishes for our community to show continued solidarity, to honor a movement to bring justice and equality to Black members of our community and beyond who have been fighting for freedom for far too long;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that on Sunday, July 19 at 2pm., the City Council extends a warm and open invitation to all members of the Burlington community, subject to the limitations and social distancing guidelines established by the Governor of Vermont, to gather on Main Street, likely between South Winooski Avenue and Church Street to participate in the creation of a BLACK LIVES MATTER street mural; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the Administration, as its partner in creating this mural with the community, request that the Department of Public Works secure the supplies for the creation of the mural; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the mural will be made of paint appropriate for long-term outdoor use with the understanding the mural will be refreshed by volunteers with authorization and oversight by the Department of Public Works through October of 2023 at which point the City Council will determine next steps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its thanks to the Department of Public Works for their valued assistance with the mural and their time in supplying the materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council recognizes that while we cannot go backward in time to undo the wrongs and pain our City, state and nation have brought on Black people, we can resolve that from this point forward, we stand in solidarity and will work to root out systemic racism and eradicate it.