

Meagan Tuttle

From: Doug Dunbebin <doug@retn.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 8:41 PM
To: David E. White
Cc: dougd@burlingtontelecom.net; trinamagi@burlingtontelecom.net
Subject: Comments for the Plan BTV South End draft report

Greetings,

We would like to submit the following comments regarding the Plan BTV South End draft report. We will also try to include them online, but in case that doesn't work we wanted them to be submitted before the October 1, deadline.

Best regards,
Doug Dunbebin and Trina Magi
78 Charlotte Street
Burlington, VT 05401

To whom it may concern:

Thanks for the opportunity to weigh in on the future of Burlington's south end.

We've lived in the five sisters neighborhood for 11 years and love it. What makes the neighborhood so special to us is that it is one of the places in Burlington that lives up to the city's claim of being "livable." For us, a "vibrant" community is one that supports a healthy, kind, respectful, and connected way of life. On our street, neighbors know each other, talk to each other, and share tools and plants and food. Children play together outside. We live within walking distance of restaurants and stores, and we have access to CarShare vehicles so that we don't have to own a car.

But VERY importantly, it's quiet and peaceful at night. This makes it possible for the elderly, for families with small children, and for working professionals who get up early to get a good night's sleep. This is a big part of what makes this neighborhood special.

The south end has been home to residents, artists, and businesses for a long time. During our 11 years here, we have been very happy with the mix. Recently, however, several new establishments have opened, and we understand they have asked for and sometimes been granted entertainment permits and exemptions from the noise ordinance. We think this is the wrong direction for the future of the south end.

We first moved to Burlington 17 years ago, because we were attracted by its promise of being a livable city. We bought a condo downtown so we could get rid of a car, shop locally, and reduce our environmental footprint. But we soon learned that we couldn't live happily there because the city government viewed the downtown primarily as a business/entertainment district with residents' needs coming second. In our experience, there was no incompatibility between the great majority of businesses and residents. However, for working professionals like us and seniors living downtown, the city's policy of granting entertainment permits exempting bars from the city's noise ordinance until as late as 1 a.m. on weeknights was a big problem. When we and other residents raised concerns about this, we were informed by city councilors, the city administration, and business

people that if we wanted to avoid late-night entertainment noise, we shouldn't live downtown—we should move to one of Burlington's other neighborhoods.

So we did. We moved to the Five Sisters neighborhood, a place known for its family-oriented, quiet quality of life and easy access to downtown. While we still don't believe it's fair or kind that downtown residents don't receive the protection of Burlington's noise ordinance, we believe it is a huge mistake to allow the bar/entertainment district to expand into the Pine Street corridor. To do so will spoil what has for a long time been a livable neighborhood for residents. It will also lead to increased rents that will make it difficult for artists to continue to lease space here.

In summary, the south end and/Pine Street corridor should remain a place where residents can continue to enjoy a high quality of life. This can include the presence of new businesses, but a delicate balance between residents and businesses must be maintained. The growing number of bars and breweries who are seeking to expand hours and offer entertainment exempt from the noise ordinance is putting this balance at risk.

-This district should not become a bar/entertainment district.

-Existing permits allowing businesses to be exempt from the noise ordinance should be reversed, and no new permits granted.

-Any new uses in this area should be compatible with maintaining the quality of life of families, seniors, and working people who live here.

Trina Magi and Doug Dunbebin
78 Charlotte Street, Burlington VT 05401,

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