

### ***Legislative Liaison***

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Kiss & City Council  
**FROM:** Karen Lafayette & Erhard Mahnke  
**DATE:** December 7, 2009  
**RE:** 2009 Burlington Legislative Review

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It was our pleasure to represent the City of Burlington's interests in Montpelier again this past year. Attached please find our report on the final status of bills and issues we followed for the City during the last session. We hope that it provides a helpful retrospective as you prepare your priorities for the upcoming session in January

In 2009 the Legislature again considered a large number of bills affecting Burlington. We worked closely with Mayor Kiss, department heads, other City officials, Burlington representatives and Chittenden County senators on all of the issues identified in the report.

Our work included preparing and giving testimony before various committees, as well as arranging and co-ordinating the testimony of City officials. We also performed research, produced and disseminated informational pieces, and held meetings and informal conversations with legislators and State officials. We alerted the Mayor and appropriate City staff to bills and other State House developments affecting Burlington's interests, assessed their impact on the City, and kept close tabs on them as they moved through the Legislature.

Our work was made easier by the strong support we enjoyed from Mayor Kiss, department heads and other City staff, many of whom joined us frequently at the State House to testify before numerous committees on a wide array of issues and bills, as well as for meetings we convened with our legislative delegation. Our job was further made easier by the hard work and considerable skill of all our Burlington representatives and Chittenden County senators. We appreciate their efforts on behalf of the City.

Many thanks also to Steven Jeffrey, Karen Horn, Trevor Lashua and the rest of the dedicated staff at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT, the League), with whom we worked closely on a number of issues. The League's excellent "2009 Legislative Wrap-Up," available online at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org), provides further detail on many issues covered in our report, as well as a number of issues of general interest to municipalities that we were not directly involved in.

If you have questions or concerns, as always, please feel free to contact either of us via the email addresses or phone numbers listed above.

Thank you.