

University of Vermont

Payment for Services Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015

OVERVIEW

The University of Vermont and the City of Burlington have long enjoyed a relationship that is mutually beneficial. The University prospers because the attractiveness of the City assists in the recruitment of students, faculty, and staff; it provides a valuable setting for volunteer activities and for community-based research; and it enhances the quality of life for the UVM community. The University contributes to the vitality and sustainability of the City Burlington by contributing in material and other ways to its success as a thriving, sustainable, livable small city; by providing talented and engaged faculty, staff, and students; by bringing cultural and intellectual opportunities to the community; by educating successful graduates for the workforce; through the sharing of the beauty of its historic campus; and by contributing significantly to regional economic development.

Although the University had been making a voluntary payment for services to the city for 20 years, a discussion was initiated with City administrators about how to establish a voluntary payment for services plan that would alleviate the impact of UVM's real property tax exemptions on the City. The goal was to provide meaningful support to the city in its efforts to become financially sustainable and to ensure that the University would receive the level of services required by a major employer and research institution. In September of 2007 President Daniel Mark Fogel and Mayor Bob Kiss signed an agreement that has resulted in the University making an annual payment to the City that has escalated to more than \$1.3 million for Fiscal Year 2015, more than four times what UVM had previously paid the City. This year the University made additional payments to the City of \$1,964,548 (including real estate taxes, PILOT, storm water and permit fees, indirect payments made through lease arrangements, and funding for additional Burlington Police Department patrols). All told, **the University paid more than \$3.2 million to the City for Fiscal Year 2015.**

To assess a fair and fact-based level of financial support to the City, an assessment of impacts was undertaken, resulting in agreement that the University primarily impacts the City in two areas: fire services and other impacts such as those related to public works. Therefore, the 2007 agreement focuses on these themes, as well as cooperative ventures such as the provision of police services. In recent years, UVM Police Services and Burlington Police Department (BPD) have enhanced an already positive relationship by working collaboratively on quality of life issues in the city. The payment for services agreement solidifies this team approach through mutual assistance agreements in such areas as non-emergency assistance and joint patrols of city neighborhoods adjacent to UVM.

The Payment for Services agreement between the City and the University is fair and forward-looking and allows for growth and inflationary adjustment (using a municipal index created by the US Department of Commerce). The agreement is based on an objective framework that provides a foundation for future discussions of the relationship that exists between the City and the University. The result of the agreement is that the University provides essential financial support to the City, which provides economic sustainability to the community as a whole.

Additional Resources

To address quality of life issues in a practical way, the University has made additional resources available this year (not related to the Payment for Services Agreement).

- **Additional BPD patrols when and where they are needed.** The University made up to \$100,000 available for additional patrols of Burlington Police officers (above and beyond already-scheduled officers) to be present in neighborhoods, and at times, where students are most likely to be. These new patrols augment joint patrols conducted by University Police officers and BPD officers in the Fall and Spring semesters. All of the patrols enable officers to educate students about municipal regulations and potential fines and to enforce regulations when appropriate.
- **Addressing “problem properties.”** UVM and the City have been collaborating on taking action around “problem properties” – defined as rental properties with persistent quality of life issues (measured by multiple calls for service from the Burlington Police Department or by multiple code-related infractions) have occurred. This UVM/BPD/Code Enforcement collaboration will provide an expedited response to problems in neighborhoods (see Attachment One, a memo updating progress on quality of life issues).
- **Coordinating information between UVM and the City.** A student worker at the Burlington Police Department – made possible by University funding – links information from BPD and UVM to allow more timely and effective interventions and will assist in identifying solutions to address problem houses in neighborhoods.

REPORT

The University complied with all requirements of the Payment for Services Agreement, as described below.

Omnibus and Fire Services Payments

The University calculated and made the annual Fire Services (\$1,013,838), Omnibus (\$212,742) and New World Systems (\$29,541) payments on July 1, 2015, a total payment of \$1,256,121.

Fire Services

The University paid fire fees as directed by statute or law, including radio call box installation fees, annual radio call box fees, malfunctioning fire alarm fees, and intentional false alarm fees. The amount paid for these fees was \$67,550.

The Burlington Fire Department and University of Vermont continue to, “consult actively regarding the implementation and effectiveness” of fire safety programs and response protocols at UVM, as required by the agreement between the parties. The response protocols are now well established and the focus of our active consultation has been on fire prevention and safety, training and emergency planning.

During FY2015 UVM continued to provide timely training for the Burlington Fire Department. Safe and effective response to emergencies in laboratories has always been a shared concern. UVM’s

Department of Risk Management and Safety provided approximately 180 student contact hours of training at Fire Station #2.

In May 2015 UVM was able to provide the Burlington Fire Department with an extremely valuable opportunity. Cooperation among the demolition contractor, UVM and BFD led to two weeks of intensive hands-on training for the fire department following asbestos abatement in the Chittenden Buckham Wills complex prior to demolition of the buildings.



The Burlington Fire Department continues to work cooperatively with the UVM Fire Marshal in the areas of planning, preparation and response, including:

- Joint fire prevention inspections in campus buildings
- Joint public education programs including target populations such as fraternity and sorority housing
- Joint response with UVM Rescue to emergencies on campus
- Joint planning for significant events including UVM Commencement and concerts
- Join fire/evacuation drills for all residence halls and selected other buildings

UVM continues to reduce the risk and potential severity of fire and minimize impact on the Burlington Fire Department by:

- Continuing inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection and life safety systems by UVM staff and independent contractors, using state of the art technology to track these systems and initiate necessary corrections
- Continuing education of faculty, staff, and students in fire prevention and the use of portable fire extinguishers, including hands-on training
- Enhancement of the CATWatch program to facilitate building evacuations in the event of emergencies and enhance communication between building occupants and the fire department
- Continuing to upgrade fire detection and suppression systems in buildings
- Conducting workshops for students moving off campus to help them identify fire safety risks and modify their behavior to maximize their safety and minimize their impact on the larger Burlington community
- Providing fire safety information in “Welcome Bags” delivered to students living off-campus
- Providing buildings and grounds for the Burlington Fire Department to conduct training when possible

Police Services

The University's Police Services and the Burlington Police Department signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the operation and funding of the New World Systems computer-aided dispatch and records management system as of 10/8/07. The University made the \$29,541 annual payment to the City for the use of New World Systems as of 7/1/15. The University's Police Services and the Burlington Police Department continue to participate in a mutual assistance agreement.

As mentioned above, in addition to the Payment for Services funding, the University made up to \$100,000 available for additional patrols of Burlington Police officers to be present in neighborhoods where students are most likely to be and on nights when quality of life issues are likely to occur. The purpose of these new patrols is to enable officers to educate students about municipal regulations and potential fines and to enforce those regulations when warranted by the situation.

TOTAL FY 15 PAYMENTS BY THE UNIVERSITY TO THE CITY – INCLUDES PAYMENT FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT & OTHER PAYMENTS

The amount paid by the University to the City of Burlington for Fiscal Year 2015 under the Payment for Services Agreement totaled **\$1,323,671** as follows:

Description of Expense	FY 08 Payment	FY 09 Payment	FY 10 Payment	FY 11 Payment	FY 12 Payment	FY 13 Payment	FY 14 Payment	FY 15 Payment
City of Burlington:								
Omnibus *	\$180,040	\$185,981	\$191,374	\$195,584	\$198,714	\$202,887	\$207,351	\$212,742
Fire Services *	\$456,006	\$684,008	\$912,011	\$932,075	\$946,988	\$966,875	\$988,146	\$1,013,838
Fire Department nuisance and false alarms +	\$125,010	\$30,795	\$54,329	\$43,859	\$64,013 (see note 1)	\$64,456	\$61,600	\$67,550
New World Systems *	\$25,000	\$25,825	\$26,574	\$27,159	\$27,593	\$28,173	\$28,792	\$29,541
Payment for Services Agreement Total:	FY 08: \$786,056	FY 09: \$926,609	FY 10: \$1,184,288	FY 11: \$1,198, 677	FY 12: \$1,237,308	FY 13: \$1,262,391	FY 14: \$1,285,889	\$1,323,671

* Increased by terms of the agreement and the US, State and Local Government NIPA Chain Weighted Deflator Index for the relevant year.

+ Figure includes fees paid by Residential Life, Physical Plant, Davis Center, and Campus Planning Services.

Note 1: Figure includes fees paid by Residential Life, Physical Plant & Davis Center thru June 30, 2015 and includes the new rate structure of \$500/call for malfunction false alarms as of 7/1/11. Annual Radio Call Box fees are \$28,050 of the total charge.

Additional payments to the City during Fiscal Year 2015 by the University totaled **\$1,115,849** for the following:

Description of Expense	FY 15 Payment
Payment for additional patrols by Burlington Police officers in neighborhoods most affected by University students (up to \$100,000 was made available by the University this year)	\$91,568*
Real estate taxes paid directly by the University	\$15,802
Real estate taxes paid indirectly – indirect payments reflect those locations where the University pays all or a portion of the tax liability through an existing lease arrangement	\$1,053,478 (includes the Redstone Lofts)
Code enforcement, permitting, recording, and vacant building fees paid by the University	\$738,180 (amount reflects permit, recording, DRB, temp and zoning cert. of occupancy fees, and vacant building fees)
Burlington stormwater fee	\$65,520

Additional Payments to City in FY 15	\$1,964,548
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*UVM made \$100,000 available to the City for this use. BPD utilized the funding based on officers' availability and interest in working these extra patrols.

Total Fiscal Year 2015 payments by the University to the City (including those for the Payment for Services Agreement and additional payments) **totaled \$3,288,219.**

ONLINE INFORMATION – PAYMENT FOR SERVICES AGREEMENT

The agreement is available on the University Relations website at: www.uvm.edu/universityrelations in the Local Relations section.

ONLINE INFORMATION - UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Visit the University Relations website at www.uvm.edu/universityrelations for more information about partnerships between the University and the City and resources available to the community and state.

ATTACHMENT ONE - Memo describing partnership to address quality of life issues

To: Burlington Community

From:

Burlington Police Department
Burlington Code Enforcement
University of Vermont

Re: Creating an effective partnership to address quality of life in Burlington-Area C

Background

For several years the University of Vermont and City of Burlington have worked together to promote safety and quality of life in neighborhoods. Since 2012, the University has contributed financially to a program which increases the presence of officers in student neighborhoods at times when infractions related to alcohol use are highest. In 2012 the BPD, UVM, and Code Enforcement began mapping calls for service related to alcohol misuse and noise in these areas and subsequently worked together to respond to units, streets, and neighborhoods with higher numbers of calls for service.

This report summarizes the efforts of City and University partners, resources committed, and progress made.

Specific Interventions

- Educating students about the importance and value of creating a healthy neighborhood community is a fundamental part of this work. UVM's Office of Student and Community Relations is heavily engaged in educational and community building initiatives with students and neighbors. BPD engages residents through its "Knock and Talk" initiative.
- BPD and The University of Vermont have collaborated on the collection and analysis of data related to the quality of life in Area C, a BPD patrol area which includes the Hill Section and consists of all or a portion of Wards 1, 2, 3, 6, and 8. Calls for service are analyzed by unit, neighborhood, and student affiliation on a real time basis.
 - Residents of units requiring three calls for service are visited by a representative of the University and the city – either BPD or the Office of Code Enforcement.
 - Landlords are engaged by Code Enforcement and contacted by Burlington Parallel Justice when tickets are issued.
- Using funding provided by the University, BPD has worked to provide a more visible officer presence during known high traffic weekends to deter noise and other offenses.
- Understanding that students on campus have a role in the quality of life off campus, the University has focused on this population in the following ways:
 - Increase communication to students and parents throughout the academic year.
 - Review of conduct process to ensure UVM is using best practices.

Partnerships members

This diverse partnership fosters a multi-pronged approach to challenges that are often complex.

University of Vermont

- Division of Student Affairs,
- Student Government, Association,
- University Relations,
- Campus Planning Services, and
- Community Coalition.

City of Burlington

- Mayor's Office,
- Code Enforcement,
- Burlington Police Department,
- City Council, and
- Neighbors.

- President Sullivan has established a committee of administrators, faculty, staff, students, and community members to address issues related to alcohol and other drugs in our campus community.

Outcomes

Since the 2012-2013 lease year, the following changes have been documented in Area C, which houses a high density of college students.

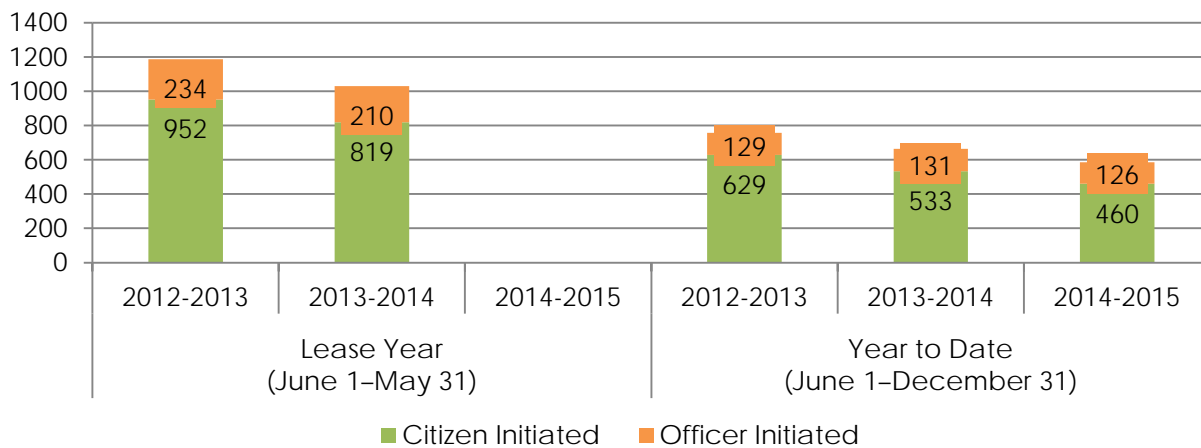
1. Decreased total calls for service, with specific decreases in the number of calls and violations related to noise.
2. Decreased calls to problem units – defined as such from calls for service/violation records – as a result of outreach to landlords/property owners.
3. Increased proportion of officer-initiated calls for service as a result of increased officer presence.
4. Increased alcohol violations as a result of increased officer presence.
5. An overall increase in alcohol violations issued in Area C that is resulting from more strategic enforcement.

Data

The partnership has defined four major indicators to measure the success of our initiatives. (Reported Lease years are considered to be June 1 – May 31 to reflect the lease terms most common for UVM students.) The numbers below are not specific to UVM students (unless noted). They are calls for service, violations, and citations in C Area.

1. Calls for service –These calls are requests for BPD intervention in the C-Area neighborhood. The partnership has tracked the following incidents related to quality of life in the neighborhoods: alcohol offenses, disorderly conduct, intoxication, minor in possession, and noise.

Calls for service in the C-Area during the following lease years:



- Increase of police presence in the neighborhood has resulted in an increase in the proportion of officer-initiated calls for service.
- Overall, trend toward decreased calls for service in Area C.

2. Noise violations issued by BPD in C Area

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Noise calls for service			
Lease Year	817	679	N/A
Year-to-date 6/1-12/31	530	450	364
Incidents where tickets were issued			
Lease Year	226	161	N/A
Year-to-date 6/1-12/31	157	122	105
Confirmed UVM students receiving noise citations			
Lease Year	25	100	83
Year-to-date 6/1-12/31	Not available	Not available	Not available

- Many efforts have been made to increase community education.
 - UVM has conducted the “Have a Heart” campaign to educate students about the impact of late night activity on families and permanent residents living in the off campus area.
 - BPD has educated the community through the “Knock and Talk” campaign.
- BPD has focused on having a more visible officer presence during known high traffic weekends to deter noise and other offenses.
- The number of violations issued per incident has increased from 2013 to 2014, which indicates stricter enforcement.

3. Alcohol violations issued by BPD in C Area

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Alcohol violations			
Lease Year	199	304	N/A
Year to Date 6/1-12/31	113	175	226

*In 2013-2014 there was a change in the way alcohol citations are issued through the state of Vermont. As a result there is an increase in diversion programs available and all alcohol violations issued may not be represented in the number above.

- The increased number of violations numbers in C Area may be attributed to the increased officer presence in the off campus neighborhood.

4. Problem properties – The partnership has defined problem properties as locations where there have been three or more calls for service during a given lease year. Problem properties are visited by BPD, Code Enforcement, and UVM staff (if students are enrolled at UVM).

- In the summer of 2014 Code Enforcement targeted the top 12 households to receive the highest number of calls for service from July 2012 - June 2014.
 - There were a total of 149 calls for service to these 12 households in the two years prior to July 2014.
 - This year we have noted a 73% reduction of calls for service to these homes (year-to-date).

Summary

Alcohol misuse in our neighborhoods has a direct and negative impact on the residents of our community. Effective collaboration between the University and the City of Burlington has yielded a substantial improvement in a number of measures, and provides an exciting opportunity to make additional progress in optimizing the quality of life for everyone.