Burlington's come a long way in the last four years...

# Let's keep Burlington moving forward!

Vote Bernie Sanders Independent for Mayor



# The Sanders record: four years of responsive, cost-effective city government

### 4 Years Ago:



#### Property Taxes

City government requested a 65° increase in the property tax which was overwhelmingly defeated by the voters. Inefficiently run government, a lack of competitive bidding, and poor city investment policies resulted in the waste of hundreds of thousands of tax payers' dollars. Mayor Sanders has *not* asked for a general city property tax increase since 1981, when he asked for 25° rather than the 65° requested by his predecessor. He is helping fight against the regressive property tax which places an unfair burden on the average homeowner and renter.

Today:

His record is impressive:

1981 5.25 increase 1982 5.00

1983 \$.07 reduction 1984 \$.00 general city

.16 (dedicated to street and sidewalk repairs)

1985 5.00

#### Sewer System

Sewer system back-ups were being experienced by Burlington property owners throughout the City. There was no regular inspection and maintenance of sewer lines. Repairs were made only after breakdowns or "crisis" situations. Each year over 200 million gallons of untreated sewage emptied into Lake Champlain. Yet there was no plan in place to solve these problems. For the first time there will be a regular program of inspections and maintenance of the sewers to *prevent* problems before they happen. Voters in 1984 passed a \$22 million bond issue that is going to *end* back-up problems in the South End and North End, upgrade our three sewage treatment plants, and drastically reduce sewage pollution of Lake Champlain.

#### The Landfill

A trash burning plant to generate steam was scheduled for the Intervale off Riverside Avenue. The City's landfill was going to be kept open for 30 years to accept the often toxic ash and residues from the trash burner, without plans to address existing environmental problems. Mayor Sanders blocked the construction of the trash burning plant which would have created over a \$1 million deficit
each year and would have exacerbated environmental concerns in the Intervale. The City then conducted the first
definitive study to determine the exact condition of the
landfill. The City and State have agreed on an environmentally sound 5 year phaseout of the landfill. It will be sealed
and monitored to prevent potential leaching into the wetlands. A regional solution of the trash problem is now being
examined.

## The Waterfront

The City came very close to seeing a downtown waterfront development consisting of expensive high rise condominiums and no public access.

The waterfront plan now includes museums, parkland, a bike path, a community boathouse, an arts and crafts center, and no high rises to block our view of the lake. The City is awaiting word on a \$17.5 million federal grant to help create an exciting project open to all the people of Burlington.

#### Streets and Sidewalks

Our City streets and sidewalks, ignored for years, were in terrible condition with no plan or financing available to fix them. Much of the equipment of the Street Department was obsolete or in run-down condition. The City is in the second year of an aggressive plan to rebuild our *entire* street and sidewalk network. We will see substantial progress *every* year until we reach our goal of decent streets and sidewalks in every neighborhood of Burlington. New equipment has resulted in improved snow removal and street maintenance.

## **Utility Rates**

The City of Burlington was not involved in representing the City and its residents in contesting large utility rate increases.

Mayor Sanders understands that high utility rates are causing hardship for many Burlingtonians. He has fought large rate increases sought by the telephone company, the cable television company and Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

He is strongly supporting both a new electric rate design to *lower* the electric rates for homeowners and renters by 28%, and the abolition of the winter-summer rate differential.

## Vote Bernie Sanders Independent for Mayor

## A Message from Bernie Sanders:

I would like the privilege of serving another two years as your Mayor. I pledge to continue the hard work we've started...to keep property taxes down...to repair and improve our streets, sidewalks, parks, and sewers...to create more housing and jobs for families and working people...to see our city departments run with efficiency, innovation, and courtesy...to fight unfair utility increases...to see a waterfront that all the people can enjoy...to speak out and act

I would like your support on Tuesday, March 5th. Let's keep Burlington for a just and peaceful society. Burna Sander

moving forward.

Bernard Sanders Mayor of Burlington

Vote Tuesday March 5

If you would like to volunteer some time to help on the Sanders campaign, or make a financial contribution, please contact us. Thank you. We appreciate your support.