



110 Main Street, Suite 3B  
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*The Burlington Business Association, founded in 1978, is a non-profit, non-political membership organization with 200 business and non-profit members.*

*Our mission is to enhance and promote the economic vitality of Burlington, Vermont, and to assure that the City of Burlington continues as the cultural, social, political, educational and economic center of northwestern Vermont.*

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December 28, 2008

Mayor Bob Kiss  
City Hall  
149 Church Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Mayor Kiss:

Burlington has seen another major snowfall this December with more on the way. Monday's Free Press reported we've had the 8th largest December snowfall in recorded history.

The accumulation of snow between the streets and sidewalks (along the so-called greenbelt or between the parking meters) makes for very difficult access for those who live in, work in and visit Burlington. Just feeding the parking meter can become an arduous task. In addition, the excess snow forces cars further into the lane of traffic and makes it impossible for passengers to open their car door.

Folks coming to work in Burlington, shopping or dining on Church Street, attending a performance at the Flynn Theater, doing business at City Hall or visiting the Fletcher Free library are all impacted when the city is difficult or in some cases unsafe to navigate.

Safe pedestrian access to Downtown Burlington either from homes or parking areas is essential to the economic vibrancy of our city which generates needed tax revenues.

In past years snow removal from between the meters has been sporadic and in many instances just neglected, creating icy mounds of snow 2 -3 feet high. The result is that in places access from parking meters becomes quite hazardous and unwelcoming. Elderly folks especially have great difficulty navigating the icy conditions. As a shopper or diner this tells me to take my business to the suburbs.

We ask that this year, the City of Burlington make it a priority to improve snow removal in Burlington.

In today's uncertain economy with falling retail sales, rising unemployment, increased vacancies and stiff competition from suburban shopping centers, Burlington needs to maintain its competitive focus. We need to remove the snow from the sidewalks to increase access to our merchants.



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First Night, with this year's Quadricentennial kick-off is an opportunity to welcome Vermonters and tourists to our fine city. Being greeted by piles of snow and icy sidewalks will send the wrong message.

We need to make a concerted effort to promote our city's downtown merchants during the months of January, February, and March when sales are typically the slowest of the year. This year many store owners are already seeing sales 10 - 40 % below 2007.

As a city we need to do everything in our power to help our merchants weather these tough economic times.

Burlington needs to make this additional snow removal; clear, safe sidewalks; and access to parking meters a priority.

Yours,

Kelly Devine  
Executive Director

Jeff Nick, Chair, Church Street Marketplace Commission

Cc: Steve Goodkind, Director, Department of Public Works  
Joe Reinert, Assistant to Mayor Bob Kiss  
Larry Kupferman, Director CEDO  
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Ron Redmond, Church Street Marketplace  
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