

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
3/1	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/3	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee Meeting	8:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/3	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/3	Complete Streets Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
3/4	Energy Efficiency Working Group	5:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report: As of February 26, 2021

This week has the United States hitting a grim milestone- with COVID related deaths reaching over 500,000. In Vermont, we've lost 204 people as of this week to COVID.

This past week, the State has opened up the vaccination program for Vermonters age 70+, and now folks over 70 years old can register to get their COVID-19 vaccine. Starting Monday, March 1st- those over 65 years of age can sign up for vaccination appointments. Links to sign up are below.

Remember that even with the rollout of vaccines to more Vermonters, we have not escaped the impact of COVID-19. There are still thousands of cases in Vermont, and we all still have a moral obligation to stay safe, follow the guidelines, and try to reduce those who get sick in our communities.

Due to new CDC guidance- starting next Tuesday, those who are fully vaccinated will no longer need to quarantine after travel out of Vermont. Regarding those who have been vaccinated- masks, distancing and other prevention methods are still in place for all Vermonters.

Overall State Updates:

- [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st](#), and has extended the [State of Emergency through March 15, 2021](#).

- New Household Gathering Guidance
 - On February 23rd the Governor announced that Multi-household social gatherings indoors and outdoors in public and private spaces are prohibited for individuals who are not vaccinated. However, vaccinated individuals or households may get together with one other vaccinated or non-vaccinated household at a time. Businesses and organizations remain unable to accommodate public multi-household social gatherings whether an individual is vaccinated or not.
 - More information and the specific order can be found [via ACCD memo section 4.1](#)
 - Outdoor recreation: Anyone participating in outdoor recreation and fitness activities must wear a cloth face covering. All participants are expected to consistently maintain at least six feet of physical distance from anyone outside their immediate household.

- New Travel and Quarantine Guidelines
 - Effective February 23rd, those who are fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks after their second dose), will not need to quarantine after traveling. This also means those who come to Vermont from other states will not need to quarantine if they can prove they have been fully vaccinated. Move information can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
 - if adults in a household are fully vaccinated but children in the same household are not, those children will still need to quarantine if the family wants to travel out of state
 - New Quarantine requirements have been outlined in [this updated chart](#).

- Vaccine Updates
 - The Agency of Human Services and the Department of Health today announced that the portal for **people 65 years and older to schedule an appointment to be vaccinated will open on Monday, March 1st at 8:15am**
 - COVID-19 vaccine registration is available through both the website and the phone number (links below):
 - Sign up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments at HealthVermont.gov/MyVaccine or by calling (855) 722-7878
 - Info Needed when registering:
 - Name/Birthday/Address/Phone Number/Email
 - And answers to a brief questions about your health and your insurance information (insurance information is optional)
 - Appointments are needed, no walk-ins will be accepted.
 - Vermonters of any age can register their information on the state website now, even if their age group is not yet eligible for a vaccine. This assists in speeding up the appointment process when folks are eligible.
 - The State is planning on expanding the number of vaccine sites when people 16-64 with chronic medical conditions become eligible to receive them.
 - Vaccination updates can be found via the [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)

- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response Updates:
 - Case count and outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard](#).
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here](#).
 - The weekly summary report on cases can be found [here](#), which this week focuses on the desperate impacts on BIPOC communities.

- Schools Update:
 - In his February 26th press conference, the Governor stated that educators may get priority in the vaccine schedule after the already announced groups are vaccinated. The State says they will be announcing more next week, information will be shared as soon as it is made available.
 - Also at the February 26th press conference, the State touched on how the pandemic has been negatively impacting our youth's mental health.

- Business/Economic Updates:
 - The Vermont District Office of the Small Business Administration now has [two Paycheck Protection Program weekly webinars](#). The PPP First and Second Draw webinar is held on Wednesdays at 9:00am and covers options, terms, eligibility, and the application process. The weekly PPP Forgiveness webinar is on Tuesdays at 11:30am and offers an in depth look at the forgiveness process.
 - The [Stimulus Equity Fund](#) is Vermont's COVID-19 relief fund for those who were excluded from the federal stimulus due to their immigration status. [Applications are now being accepted](#) through March 1st. If you were ineligible to receive a 2020 federal coronavirus stimulus payment due to your immigration status, you may be eligible for relief from this program.

- Mental Health Support & Food Access
 - The State shared some resources to assist folks in seeking help for any mental distress, or in need of mental health care. Resources can be accessed through calling 2-1-1 or via the [State's website for COVID-19 support](#).
 - If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access programs such as: the [Vermont Foodbank](#), [Everyone Eats](#), and the [Montpelier Food Pantry](#).

- VTAlert:
 - VTAlert is now offering COVID-19 updates. Folks can sign up at the [VTAlert website](#).

City Updates:

- The City has updated internal policies regarding staff travel to echo the State's guidance regarding vaccinations and quarantine requirements.
- No facility updates: the City continues compliance with State requirements by closing City Hall to the public until further guidance is issued by the State. Appointments can still be accommodated with Departments on a case-by-case basis.

COVID Testing Availability:

- **Testing dates/locations and preregistration found here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance:** <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested>
 - **Upcoming Montpelier Testing Dates:**
 - 03/04 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)
 - 03/11 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. 134 State St. (parking lot)



Sustainable Infrastructure

Montpelier, Vermont, Partners with ParkMobile to Offer Contactless Parking Payments

Residents and visitors can now easily pay for parking from their mobile device through ParkMobile! ParkMobile is the #1 parking app in the U.S., and has a new partnership going live with our City, enabling residents and visitors to pay for parking on their mobile device. The ParkMobile app is now available at more than 600 on and off-street spaces throughout the city.

ParkMobile is available for both iPhone and Android devices. To pay for parking with the ParkMobile app, a user enters the zone number posted on the stickers and signs around the meters. The user then selects the amount of time needed and touches the "Start Parking" button to begin the session. The user can then extend the time of the parking session right from the app without having to go back to the meter. We are excited to add this to our parking options!

Other payment options, such as coins and credit cards, will still be accepted.

WATER/SEWER DIVISION:

DPW's Water / Sewer Division discovered multiple leaks in various locations throughout the city, as of last Tuesday all of our leaks are repaired with the exception of a leaking pipe join on Barre St. which is releasing a very small amount of water.

STREETS DIVISION:

The Streets Division has been maintaining the roadways through a series of small storms. On Thursday night snow removal operations were conducted throughout the downtown as well as some outer problem areas.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Our crew at the City's Water Treatment Plant are working with a contractor on rebuilding the finished water pumps at the Facility.

WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY:

The Phase 1 upgrade is scheduled to be completed at the end of this month. The City is working with our consultant to increase gas production through the receipt of High Strength Waste.

TRASH RECEPTACLES:

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup?

Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic).

Please do not please receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.



Legislative Updates

Legislative Testimony

The City is sometimes asked to provide testimony on certain bills or topics for the legislature. The most recent testimony information can be found below:

*For more detail on what pending bills the City is monitoring, please see the attached Legislative Agenda and Tracking Document at the end of this report

<u>City Staff Providing Testimony</u>	<u>Bill or Testimony Topic</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Chief Peete, MPD	H. 133	In summarizing the Bill, it has already been passed in previous sessions for police to take firearms for emergency relief from abuse orders from a judge. The addition to the law looks to only clarify the language that judges can order a defendant to relinquish weapons if it is found to be necessary.	Written feedback given. -PDs will enforce the laws as they are already on the books -Concerns I have for storing and maintaining the weapons (space and money)
Chief Peete, MPD	H. 183 Section 4	It will be Section 4: Data Collection efforts for sexual violence cases throughout the state.	
Chief Peete, MPD	US Legislature regarding Crisis response in law enforcement	there is proposed legislation to implement community resources to respond to mental health crisis calls with police as a secondary. The legislation is through: U.S. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL) U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (NV)	It is not confirmed if he'll be chosen to testify, but his name has been forwarded up.
Chief Peete, MPD	Senate Institutions in regards to MOU Capital Grounds Policing		
Mike Miller, Planning	Request for Legislative Support	Looking for support from VPA members who are making recommendations regarding affordable and efficient housing for Vermonters at or below median household income	Consistent with our strategic plan with more housing, thoughtfully planned built environment and environmental stewardship.
Jana Clar, MSAC	Request for testimony and support	Support for Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A) legislative priorities	Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Older Vermonters Nutrition and Meals- Home and community-based provider increases/workforce

			development - Long-term care policies
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Responsive and Responsible Government

City Election

The Annual “Town Meeting” Election is on March 2nd. Like November, this will have a mail in ballot option. Most residents should be receiving ballots at any time. There will still be in person voting from 7 to 7 on the 2nd but we urge people to take advantage of the early voting opportunity to reduce COVID risk.

We also appreciate that there are multiple candidates for City offices. I, and other City staff, are happy to answer any questions that candidates may have.

Parklets

As dicussed at the last meeting, the City Council will consider re-enacting the temporary parklet ordinance which was in place last summer and expired on October 25th. This will allow restaurants and merchants to take advantage of the same relaxed standards this summer as it appears that COVID restrictions will continue. First reading is on the February 24th agenda.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Montpelier Community Justice Center

The Montpelier Community Justice Center provides Restorative Justice services for Montpelier residents including Restorative Justice Panels, Reentry services, Circles of Support and Accountability and Victim Outreach. Additionally, the Conflict Assistance Program provides mediation and consultation for Montpelier residents in need of help resolving disputes. Volunteer opportunities exist in all of our programs and with the Community Advisory Board where members help guide our work. For more information contact us at mcjc@montpelier-vt.org or call 802.522.5566.

Montpelier City Hall Receives Outdoor Wi-Fi Hotspot

The City of Montpelier, through the Department of Public Service (PSD) Wi-Fi Hot Spot Program has installed new public Wi-Fi outside the City Hall Building (39 Main Street Montpelier). This PSD sponsored project is in response to the widespread closure of facilities due to the COVID-19 outbreak, which has significantly limited folks’ ability to access free and reliable internet. The need for access to a reliable internet connections for healthcare, education, and government services has grown exponentially while existing public access points have become suddenly unavailable due to social distancing requirements. Vermont PSD has assisted the City in addressing this emergency gap in available public Wi-Fi by contracting for the rapid installation of a commercial-grade outdoor Wireless Access Point. They have installed 190 hotspots throughout the State as part of this program. Montpelier is pleased to have been included. The City Hall Wi-Fi site is accessible at all hours from a parked vehicle on the road or in-person in the courtyard in front of City Hall and the parking lot to the immediate right of the building. As a

COVID-19 safety precaution, the City discourages users from congregating outside. The Wi-Fi name is “**Montpelier Hotspot**” and you should be able to connect without a password. You can track all the State Vermont Public Wi-Fi sites here: [Wi-Fi Hotspot Map](#)

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

Winter Trails Update

Montpelier Parks continues to maintain our winter trail network in partnership with Onion River Nordic and Montpelier Area Mountain Bike Association. This week was a little too warm for grooming, so we're focusing our efforts on helping to fundraise for a new snowmobile to replace the Nordic Club's snowmobile, which groomed its last trails several weeks ago. They have a gofundme page here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/orn-grooming-2020>.

Montpelier Parks & Rec Summer Program Registration to Begin Soon

Keep your eyes peeled – registration for Montpelier summer camp opportunities, including the first ever, FEAST Farm Camp, will begin soon. Registration instructions will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

MSAC's March for Meals 10-event Benefit Series starts March 1!

March is National Meals on Wheels Awareness Month! To raise awareness and funds for our essential FEAST Senior Meals Program, which operates Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals for Seniors, we have cooked up an enticing menu of TEN diverse, affordable, and pandemic-safe offerings - *9 online, 1 curbside dinner* - to be enjoyed from the comforts of your own home. We invite you to click here to [browse our event menu, learn more and register here](#) for *four* health & wellness events, *three* family-friendly performances and *two* events about film and music appreciation with some of your favorite MSAC instructors and friends. Online events are by donation; lasagna meal on March 25 is \$10/pp or \$35/4.

Mary Lou Williams: Composer, Pianist, Pioneer with Erik Nielsen | Monday, March 1 | 7—8:30 pm | Zoom video or phone

The name Mary Lou Williams is not as well known in the list of important Black American composers as Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, or William Grant Still, but she deserves to rank with all of them. Not only was she a great arranger, composer, and pianist, highly respected among her peers, in a jazz world dominated by men, but she created choral and large ensemble works that bridged jazz and concert music. As if that weren't enough, she mentored and encouraged young musicians such as Parker and Thelonious Monk to explore new paths, and continued such mentoring work right up to her death in 1981. And her influence continues today. Composer Erik Nielsen discusses Williams, her life, work, and some of the contemporary Black women composers who are her heirs. [Register here.](#)

Food as Medicine Fundamentals with Lisa Mase | Thursday, March 4 | 1:00—2:30 pm | Zoom video or phone

During this interactive Zoom conversation, Lisa will talk about personalized nutrition and how to use food as our first source of disease prevention and illness care. [Register here.](#)

Early Circus/Mime Act Videos & Stories with Rob Mermin | Saturday, March 6 | 4:30 - 6:00 pm | Zoom video or phone

Local Montpelier resident Rob Mermin, Founder of Circus Smirkus and former MSAC movement instructor, will introduce a dozen entertaining video clips from the early years of Smirkus, featuring his own clown and magic acts in the ring, and clips of Rob performing mime on a popular Danish TV show from the '80s, including Rufus the famous pantomime pup! This will be fun for the whole family—a behind-the-scenes look at Smirkus and Rob's early performances. Q&A afterwards! [Register here.](#)

Six more March for Meals online events by donation (2 family-friendly!) and one affordable curbside dinner between March 9 and 29: Get full details and [Register here now!](#)

- **Slow Medicine in a Pandemic** with Opeyemi Parham, Tues. 3/9, 1-2:30pm
- **“Treasure Hunt” Marionette Show & Chat** with No Strings Marionette Company, Fri. 3/12, 6-7:30pm
- **Food Movies to Savor** with Rick Winston, Tues. 3/16, 7-8:30pm
- **Spring Equinox Yoga & Meditation** with Sarah Parker-Givens, Sat. 3/20, 9-10:15am
- **“Old Women & the Black Dog ” Theatric Puppet Show with Q&A** with Janice Walrafen & Jason Mallery, Sun. 3/21, 2:30-3pm
- **Curbside Lasagna Dinner Pick-up** with Andre Burnier & Friends, Thur. 3/25, 5-6:30pm (Veg/GF available)
- **Mixed Level Pilates Class** with Shannon Hepburn, Mon. 3/29, 12-1pm

MSAC and Supporting Town Tax Appropriation Requests at Town Meeting

Each year, MSAC has a request for a tax appropriation appear on the town ballots of six towns: Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Moretown and Worcester. Last year, we served at least 335 people from the six towns—down slightly from the previous year but undoubtedly a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our facility closure and our pivot to online classes. We know that our pandemic response has been resourceful and important to residents of all these towns and appreciate voters' consideration of the value of MSAC even—or especially—during a pandemic. This year, we are seeking level funding in five towns and a slight decrease in Worcester, with requests to other towns totaling \$39,500. In a typical year, about a quarter of the people MSAC serves are residents of these six towns, while about 2/3 are Montpelier residents. MSAC Staff have been attending Town Meeting Discussion Zooms and have provided a lot of information on our website at www.montpelier-vt.org/1142/msac-and-surrounding-communities.

Call for Springtime Outdoor Volunteers!

As we begin to contemplate the arrival of spring and warmer weather in the coming months, MSAC is preparing to roll out outdoor, pandemic-safe spring and summer chore assistance as part of our Village Model's home-based offerings. In order to be able to successfully accomplish this, we are looking for volunteers who can lend a hand to their older adult neighbors as they prepare for outdoor spring cleanup. Tasks will include light garden and yard work (e.g., raking, removing winter coverings from garden beds, adding or mixing compost, taking out patio furniture) that do not require any specialized skill or training. Though warmer weather may seem far off for now, our aim is to have a pool of fully vetted and ready-to-go volunteers in time for its eventual arrival, which means your buy-in now. If you are interested in learning more or signing up as a volunteer, please contact Aging in Place Coordinator, Andrew Gribbin at msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org or 262-6287.

FEAST Curbside TO-GO: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-12:30 pm, served at 58 Barre St.

Seniors 60+, drive up to the side door of MSAC every Tuesday and Friday to receive your delicious, hot FEAST To-Go takeout meal. We have shifted to Curbside Pickup for your safety and ease. We'll have signs to remind you where to go. You can see our menu on our website. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288 or email us at: feast@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST To Go March Menu for Tuesdays/Fridays, [click here](#).

FEAST at Home (Meals on Wheels): Do you have an older adult in your life who needs more access to delicious, healthy food? Is there someone in your life who is struggling to eat more nutritionally? Let us know because we can help! Have them call the office to be connected to our robust (and yummy!) program. Call 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org.



Reminders

Alternate Side Parking:

Getting the Message Out! Public Works has been posting messages on social media and on our web page informing residents of key changes, and directing readers to go the City website to look up specifics for where they typically park, whether that be during the daytime, evenings or both. Please feel free to email any questions or comments to Jasmine Benson @ jbenson@montpelier-vt.org.

Police Department Lobby Currently Locked

Due to COVID 19 the Police Department's front lobby is currently locked. We ask that anyone needing police assistance to please contact MPD by telephone at 802-223-3445. If you are in person at the police department, please ring the front intercom and a dispatcher will speak directly to you. If you need an officer, an officer will come to the front of the police department to meet with you and assist you.

Social Worker Available to Residents

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. Susan Lemere has been a friendly and effective presence in town for the last several month, but COVID has slowed our outreach efforts down. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at susan.lemere@wcmhs.org or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

ORCA MEDIA

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to access City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream Events: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election	3/10/21	Organizational Meeting Electing Officers Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Committee Assignments Library Board appointment Legislative update WRRF presentation Temporary Parklet Ordinance 2 nd Home Energy Labeling Ordinance Planning DTF Resolution and ACCED/HUD Partnership Grant Home Energy Labeling Ordinance
3/24	Strategic Planning? MDC/Economic Development Recommendation – tentative? E-911 Road Naming 1 st Reading Homelessness Task Force Presentation	4/14	3 rd quarter financials Hotel/Garage Project update
4/28	3 rd quarter Strategic Plan update	5/12	Winter Parking Review

PENDING ITEMS

PFAS Update

Stormwater Utility

Police Committee Report (June/July)

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On the whole, the City of Montpelier requests that policymakers:

- Support legislation that grants cities and towns greater flexibility.
- Support legislation that provides funding to cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that removes authority from cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to cities and towns.

2021 CITY OF MONTPELIER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

In order to help fulfill its commitments to its residents, the City of Montpelier calls on the legislative delegation to support the following policies:

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Advocate for the safe return to work of State employees in local office buildings
- Advocate and support direct municipal funding that protects Cities and Towns from financial disaster during the COVID crisis
- Allow a delay in reappraisal requirements or a return to the 80% threshold

<p>H.48</p>	<p>The General Assembly finds that the continued spread of COVID-19 in the State of Vermont has the potential to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Vermonters voting in their 2021 annual municipal meetings. These meetings include annual town meetings, which are required by general law to be held on the first Tuesday of March; annual school district meetings, which are generally required to be held between the months of February and June; and other municipal annual meetings with meeting dates controlled by charter</p>
<p>S.9</p>	<p>An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19</p>

COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

- Support the general statutory authority to adopt local option taxes
- Support programs and initiatives that spur locally driven, right-sized economic growth, especially programs like TIF, that provide infrastructure improvements to support that growth

<p>H.152</p>	<p>Would establish an education property tax yield for homesteads and the non-homestead property tax rate</p>
<p>H.159</p>	<p>Would create a Better Places Program to support projects that create, activate, or revitalize communities and public spaces.</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Continue funding Microtransit opportunities
- Advocate for global warming solutions and for any opportunities that support ecological protection, the reduction of PFAS, net zero goals, and conservation of our natural resources
- Support expanding the Net Metering limit for municipalities or Montpelier specifically

H.100	An act relating to electric bicycles
H.123	Would create a vehicle miles traveled tax applicable plug-in electric Vehicles
H.144	An Act relating to requiring inspection of wastewater systems
H.94	An act relating to transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions
S.44	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a Vermont Green New Deal to invest in actions that curb climate change. The Vermont Climate Council would implement and oversee the Vermont Green New Deal to fund energy conservation programs, prioritizing weatherization, renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, and the use of electric vehicles. This bill would also create a new income tax surcharge on high incomes that would be deposited into a Vermont Green New Deal Fund to be administered by the State Treasurer

INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, & WELCOMING CITY

- Advocate for any opportunity for additional Human Services funding for supporting those experiencing homelessness
- Support funding for public restrooms to serve all people using State and City facilities

H.134	An act relating to paid family and medical leave insurance
H.139	Would include employer contributions to health insurance in the amount of wages used to determine an injured worker’s weekly benefit and to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee because the employee is absent from work while the employee is receiving temporary total disability benefits
S.55	An Act relating to paid vacation leave

H.93	An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes
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PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- Continue funding for a Social Worker to support Barre City and Montpelier’s Police Departments
- Focus on moving towards a regional public safety model and look critically at public safety cellular provider coverage

H.1	An act relating to mental health insurance benefits
H. 109	An act relating to parking ticket enforcement
H.126	Would establish a pedestrian safety pilot program, allow municipalities to seasonally install pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks, allow municipalities to lower certain speed limits on state highways, and express the intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a state highway in response to a municipality’s request that it be lowered
H.145	Would amend the standards for law enforcement use of force to make clarifying changes and prevent the use of hindsight in evaluating law enforcement conduct and narrow the definition of prohibited restraints
S.19	An act relating to a climate change response plan and regional planning commission involvement in identifying health care-related needs
S.30	An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings
S.40	An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department and emergency medical service vehicles
EO-01-21	<p>This Executive Order creates the Agency of Public Safety, effective April 15, 2021. The executive order cites the Department of Public Safety’s ten-point strategy, which includes accelerating the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernizing data collection, expanding crisis response, enhancing the development of model policies and community oversight models, and addressing issues in training and dispatch. The new agency, headed by a secretary and deputy secretary, would include a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement, and a Division of Support Services. The Criminal Justice Council, Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board would be added to the agency in July.</p> <p>VLCT fully supports EO-01-21, an order that will affect local governments and law enforcement agencies. Last November, the VLCT Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposal to move the Vermont Police Academy to the Department of Public Safety.</p>

RESPONSIVE & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- Support decision-making at the local level that recognizes the capacity of local officials and

voters to govern themselves on issues of local import, including streamlined adoption and full implementation of municipal charters

- Approve any pending and future recommended charter changes
- Support legislation allowing removal of “red line” deed restrictions
- Support legislation consistent with the City’s Adopted Strategic Plan <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7156/2020-2021-Strategic-Plan-Brochure-with-full-Work-Plans?bidId=>

H.82	An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services
H.154	Would deem a municipal office vacant whenever a municipal officer fails to take a required oath of office within one week of election or appointment.
H.164	Would require a town to vote to allow the operation of any type of licensed cannabis establishment prior to such an establishment operating within the town.
S.14	An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density
S.15	An act relating to correcting defective ballots
S.25	An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation procedures
S.50	An act relating to ranked choice voting

STAFF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Police Department:

- Monitor the implementation of S. 124 and S. 119 to ensure any mandates are implemented in ways that do not adversely affect MPD policies. MPD policies based on National, evidence-based best practices, and 21st Century Policing recommendations.
- Monitor amendments made to H.133 An act relating to emergency relief from abuse orders and relinquishment of 11 firearms
- Work with the Vermont Police Association and Vermont Chiefs of Police to represent the Montpelier Police Department interests. These interests include advocating for policies that reflect community partnerships, accountability and transparency, officer safety and wellness. It also includes expressing concern for policies and procedures that may compromise officer safety.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center:

- Support legislation promoting investment in technology and broadband equity and access for all Vermonters, especially Older Vermonters, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of encouraging Telehealth and Social Connection.
- Support legislation consistent with priorities and principles of the Older Vermonters

Act: Act 156 (passed in 2020)

- Support legislation that provides direct and robust funding to senior centers and senior meal sites as they fulfill important state and federal priorities and goals for increasing socialization, reducing isolation, providing evidence-based exercise and Fall Prevention programs, and more.
- Support legislation that allocates part of VT's federal Older Americans Act funding (especially Title 3B funds) directly to senior centers and community organizations who provide services such as wellness programs, exercise classes, tax clinics, foot care clinics and more.
- Support legislation for Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver coverage for meals on wheels funding
- Support legislation advancing affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities
- Support legislation protecting and promoting renters' rights
- Attend the Older Vermonters Caucus when scheduled again
- Enhance communication with advocates representing organizations that support older adults, including VT Association for Senior Centers and Meal Providers, Community of VT Elders, and VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Planning & Development:

- Track Act 250 exemptions for designated areas and tracking any proposed housing bills.

Community Justice Center:

- The Justice Reinvestment II (S.338, Act 148) may result in increased referrals without increased funding.
- Update statutory language so it reflects the reality of the programs and services CJs provide.

Clerk: Continue to participate in the process of developing and supporting a broad election procedures bill (no bill number yet available)