



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
BOARD OF HEALTH**

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BOARD OF HEALTH

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January 14, 2013

To: Burlington City Council – Joan Shannon

Attached is the two page resolution that the Burlington Board of Health is submitting to the City Council in regard to basing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at the Air Guard Station at the Burlington International Airport.

The Board of Health members spent several months investigating this issue by hearing testimony and reviewing research data related to this public health issue.

If you have further need of clarifications, please contact Chair, Austin Sumner, MD,

MPH at (802) 777 - 6636 or austinsumner@yahoo.com.

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Resolution relating to: F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Basing at the Burlington Air Guard Station,
Burlington Board of Health, City of Burlington, 13th day of January in the Year Two Thousand
Thirteen

Resolved by the City of Burlington Board of Health, as follows:

That WHEREAS, The Board of Health is charged with the "prevention, removal or destruction
of public health hazards and the mitigation of public health risks," and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health is charged with providing guidance to the City of Burlington on
health and safety matters, and

WHEREAS the City of Burlington-owned Burlington International Airport is considered the
preferred site for first round basing of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, and

WHEREAS the Burlington Board of Health jurisdiction is limited to the City of Burlington,
Vermont, and

WHEREAS the Burlington Board of Health has taken public and expert testimony regarding the
health effects of the F-35, and

WHEREAS the Burlington Board of Health has concluded that noise has been associated with
the following health effects: hearing loss, stress, sleep disturbance, heart attacks, hypertension
and stroke, and delayed reading and verbal comprehension, and

WHEREAS the Burlington Board of Health has concluded that aircraft engines produce
numerous toxic combustion by-products, and

WHEREAS the Burlington Board of Health has concluded that while every aircraft carries a risk
of crashing, that there is an unknown safety rating on the F-35, and

WHEREAS the Burlington Board of Health has concluded that the population at greatest risk of
possible adverse health effects from the basing of the F-35 at Burlington International Airport
likely falls outside the City of Burlington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington Board of Health was unable to come to a
definitive conclusion on the public health risk to Burlington residents from the F-35 aircraft without
access to the noise modeling data from which the Air Force constructed their sound contours and
without a health impact assessment.

The City of Burlington Board of Health recognizes the extensive public engagement process and detailed
research that are documented in the Board of Health approved and published minutes of meetings

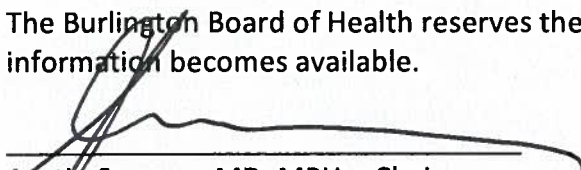
conducted in October and November of 2012, and as such recommends the Council give consideration to the following actions:

1. Request that the Vermont Department of Health Commissioner conducts or directs a Health Impact Assessment on this multi-jurisdiction public health issue following the CDC guidelines.
2. Request that the Vermont Department of Health Commissioner obtain the noise modeling data for independent expert analysis.
3. Pursue FAA funding to mitigate airport noise to cover expenses such as:
 - a. Hiring a noise mitigation expert
 - b. Buying out homes deemed unsuitable due to elevated noise levels
 - c. Constructing a sound barrier
 - d. Employing individual home mitigation strategies
4. Ensure a robust hearing protection program for airport city employees.

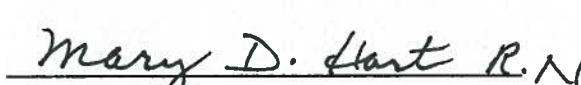
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Burlington Board of Health recognizes that the best noise mitigation strategy is to engineer noise controls on the F-35 and as such recommends that our Federal Congressional Delegation take the lead in this effort. Furthermore, the Board recommends that the Air Guard investigate flight patterns that reduce public disturbance and that the Commissioner of Health form an oversight committee that includes members of the public whose two primary functions are:

1. To participate in the health impact assessment conducted by the Vermont Department of Health, and
2. Advise on noise mitigation strategies.

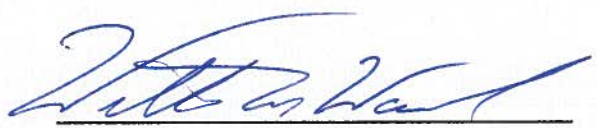
The Burlington Board of Health reserves the right to re-evaluate our conclusions if new information becomes available.


Austin Sumner, MD, MPH - Chair


David Casey, RN


Mary Hart, RN


Caroline Tassey, APRN


William Ward, Health Officer