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CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT  
OFFICE OF  
THE CITY ATTORNEY  
AND  
CORPORATION COUNSEL

November 25, 2013

Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main St.,  
Montpelier, VT 05602-3601

Re: Interested Party Status for Soteria Vermont CON Application

Dear Green Mountain Care Board,

The City of Burlington, by and through its attorneys, hereby request to be granted interested party status under 18 V.S.A. §9440(c)(7), in regard to the application to the Green Mountain Care Board by Soteria Vermont for a Certificate of Need for a five bed residence for individuals experiencing an initial episode of psychosis in the Old North End of Burlington.


The City's interest in becoming a party to this application stems from at least two areas where the project will have a direct and substantial impact. The first is the potential for direct impact on public safety services. When crises emerge in community-based healthcare settings the emergency response is by police/law enforcement. According to the Burlington Police Department (BPD), calls for service for mental health crises in Burlington, including many occurring in community-based treatment settings, have increased over 375 percent over a 5 year period. Crises occurring in this proposed facility, based on conversations between the BPD and those making the proposal, would directly include a response by local law enforcement.

Second, the potential impact on the community more generally is an issue. Locating intensive services of this kind in the most densely populated neighborhood in Vermont enhances the risk to both patients and residents of the neighborhood. According to the BPD, risks are enhanced based on the proximity of residents and the intensity, frequency, and severity of the stimuli that patients in the facility will be exposed to based on this location. As a core tenet of its mission, the City has an interest in mitigating safety risks in any and all ways possible.

There are many low income individuals already residing in the Old North End. The location of another facility in the area that will place demands on the existing services may affect the access of those individuals to medical or public safety services.

Clearly, the potential for direct impact on the public safety services and the potential impact on the community, including the patients themselves, have an impact on the Criterion #6, whether "the project will serve the public good." For these reasons, the City of Burlington respectfully requests that it be granted interested party status under 18 V.S.A. §9440(c)(7) in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

  
Kimberlee J. Sturtevant, Esq.  
Assistant City Attorney

c: Michael N. Donofrio, General Counsel, GMCB  
Donna Jerry, Health Policy Analyst, GMCB  
Amos Meacham, Project Director, Soteria Vermont