

**From:** Becca Brown McKnight <bbrownmcknight@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 12:10 PM EDT  
**To:** Benjamin Traverse <btraverse@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sheriff's Office data re behaviors in Marketplace Garage

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Becca Brown McKnight <bbrownmcknight@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Date:** July 15, 2025 at 12:07:10 PM EDT  
**To:** Erin Jacobsen <ejacobsen@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Sheriff's Office data re behaviors in Marketplace Garage

Thanks, Erin, that sounds accurate to me, except for the part about specific activities. He definitely shared a list of activities that he has observed a reduction in, which I wrote down in my notes.

I think there might be some confusion over how you're looking at the word "data." In my professional life, I do a lot of qualitative research which includes conversations and interviews as data points. This is of course different than spreadsheet or number space data, but it is still data, especially when provided by a law-enforcement professional.

I'm not sure what your goal is with this back-and-forth. Are you disputing that the food distribution departure has improved the situation at the garage? Are you trying to suggest that the information I shared is not true?

Also, this is the second time that I have anonymously provided the administration with information from a person employed by the city, followed by you or others taking action to go and find that person and disrupt the anonymity. This does not seem like a best practice.

On Jul 15, 2025, at 11:56 AM, Erin Jacobsen <ejacobsen@burlingtonvt.gov> wrote:

Councilor,

I followed up with Sheriff Gamelin. He indicated he shared with you that according to his own, first-hand account estimate, he is seeing a 50% reduction in numbers of unhoused people in the garage between the hours of 11:30 and 3:30 since FNB left two weeks ago. He said he did not share any data with you about behaviors or activities, and he indicated that the Sheriff's Office does not track data about behaviors in the garage, or even data about numbers of people, so he does not have any quantitative data to share.

He also added that the number of unhoused people and amount of anti-social behaviors in the garage all go down in warmer months and that we can expect to see an increase in both come Fall.

-erin

---

**From:** Becca Brown McKnight <bbrownmcknight@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** Erin Jacobsen <ejacobsen@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Sheriff's Office data re behaviors in Marketplace Garage

Hi Erin, this information was based on a report I received in a phone call with one of the sheriffs that work in the garage. I took careful notes from our conversation and it was based on his experience as a law-enforcement professional.

There is not any spreadsheet or database type of information that I'm aware of although maybe they provide something like that to you or to DPW? It does seem like there should be some type of recordkeeping that the

contracted sheriffs are providing.

I have also received similar reports from people who work and spend time downtown, but felt it was important to ask someone with professional expertise.

I will say I was disheartened to observe the surprise across the room when I shared that information- it seemed like there hasn't been any follow up on the results of the move by the administration, which is concerning. I think it's important that we're all in touch with people who are working on the ground and have experience with the issues associated with the lunch program.

As I shared last night, I was really disappointed with the lack of specifics report provided in the Mayor's update, and I hope that there will be more information and a plan for taking action in City Hall park shared soon, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Best,  
Becca

1 V.S.A. 317(c)(4)

On Jul 15, 2025, at 10:35 AM, Erin Jacobsen <[ejacobsen@burlingtonvt.gov](mailto:ejacobsen@burlingtonvt.gov)> wrote:

Hi Councilor Brown McKnight,

Can you share with me the data from the Sheriff's Office you cited to at last night's city council meeting, namely that there has been a 50 percent decline in certain behaviors and/or unlawful activity in the garage since FNC relocated? Is there quantitative data or is this simply anecdotal? Is the data broken out by type of activity? Over what period of time does this data apply to (a 50% reduction implies the Sheriff's Office has been keeping data for some time).

Thanks,  
erin

Erin Jacobsen, Chief of Staff  
Office of Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak  
149 Church St., Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 557-2988

<image001.png>

*Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.*

**From:** Melo Grant <megrant@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 16, 2025 3:34 PM EDT  
**To:** Becca Brown McKnight <bbrownmcknight@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Sherriff's Department Data

Hello Becca,

Invoking Chief Burke's name is very concerning. You and other members of your caucus have repeatedly politicalized Community Safety. I believe it's inappropriate for you to drag him into what frankly is a simple request. If you had questions about my request I believe it would have been best for you to speak to the City Attorney's office.

You claim that I have access to all the same information and people that you do. Per my request, I am actually seeking that opportunity especially since you made statements with statistics that were previously not shared. How do I know which "people" I'm supposed to talk to if you are not providing the name of the Sherriff that you spoke to?

Exactly how and why do you believe this information be "weaponized" against you? That is a pretty interesting word to use.

Sincerely,

Melo Grant (she/her)  
Central District City Councilor (Wards 2 and 3)  
megrant@burlingtonvt.gov  
802.310.0962

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.

---

**From:** Becca Brown McKnight <bbrownmcknight@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 16, 2025 1:14 PM  
**To:** Melo Grant <megrant@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Sherriff's Department Data

With a reciprocal level of due respect, that is all I will be sharing with you.

Chief Burke gave me the very good advice that anything anyone says about this topic will be weaponized against them. This has proven to be very true. I'm not going to give you more information to help you do that.

You have access to all of the same information and people that I do.

On Jul 16, 2025, at 12:46 PM, Melo Grant <megrant@burlingtonvt.gov> wrote:

Hello Becca,

With all due respect, if you took "careful notes in order to ensure accuracy" in the absence of "quantitative data" then I ask you to share those notes. Please also advise the name of the Sherriff that you spoke to. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melo Grant (she/her)  
Central District City Councilor (Wards 2 and 3)  
megrant@burlingtonvt.gov  
802.310.0962

**Mayor's weekly community meet-ups:** Find out where you can meet and ask Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak questions directly. The schedule is located [here](#).

**What is the Mayor working on:** Mayor's Community Safety Forums and Press Conferences are located [here](#).

**Know who to call:** [Safety and Security Guide](#)

**Be Alert:** Visit [SeeClickFix](#) or download the app to submit a wide variety of service needs around our city including street or sidewalk pavement issues, graffiti on public property, greenbelt violations, and dozens of other

community concerns. Select "Parks Department Issue" to report encampments, down trees, or other issues in city parks.

**Stay informed about city meetings:** Visit [CivicClerk](#) to view all public meetings and associated documents for City Council, boards, and committees. Once logged in, click the "Manage Subscriptions" button in the upper-right hand corner to get email alerts for any committee or board you are interested in when they post their agenda! Learn more about our various [Boards, Commissions, and Committees](#) and how to apply to join one.

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.

---

**From:** Becca Brown McKnight <bbrownmcknight@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 4:59 PM  
**To:** Melo Grant <megrant@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Sherriff's Department Data

Hi there,

This information came from a detailed conversation I had with one of the Sheriffs at the garage. I don't have any documents to share. I did take careful notes to ensure accuracy.

I checked with Erin and the Sheriffs do not track any quantitative data in the garage. That might be something we should add to their next contract.

Best,  
Becca

On Jul 14, 2025, at 7:50 PM, Melo Grant <megrant@burlingtonvt.gov> wrote:

Hello Becca,

Please forward the data that you received from the Sherriff's department to all City Councilors. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melo Grant (she/her)  
Central District City Councilor (Wards 2 and 3)  
megrant@burlingtonvt.gov  
802.310.0962

**Mayor's weekly community meet-ups:** Find out where you can meet and ask Mayor Mulvaney-Stanak questions directly. The schedule is located [here](#).

**What is the Mayor working on:** Mayor's Community Safety Forums and Press Conferences are located [here](#).

**Know who to call:** [Safety and Security Guide](#)

**Be Alert:** Visit [SeeClickFix](#) or download the app to submit a wide variety of service needs around our city including street or sidewalk pavement issues, graffiti on public property, greenbelt violations, and dozens of other community concerns. Select "Parks Department Issue" to report encampments, down trees, or other issues in city parks.

**Stay informed about city meetings:** Visit [CivicClerk](#) to view all public meetings and associated documents for City Council, boards, and committees. Once logged in, click the "Manage Subscriptions" button in the upper-right hand corner to get email alerts for any committee or board you are interested in when they post their agenda! Learn more about our various [Boards, Commissions, and Committees](#) and how to apply to join one.

Please note that this communication and any response to it will be maintained as a public record and may be subject to disclosure under the Vermont Public Records Act.