Burlington’s Citizen Engagement Program

Kevin Lahner, City Administrator

- Population: 10,496
- Western Racine County
- Chocolate City U.S.A
- Diverse tax base of industrial, large commercial and residential property
- Mayor + 8 Aldermen
- Full-Service City with Water and Wastewater Utilities, Police Department, Combination Fire Department
Perception vs. Reality:

Symbolic Signs of Being “Closed”:

- Budget “Workshops” held in Basement of Police Station
- Budget Documents
- Weak web presence
- Organizational Silos
- Public Discussions of operational issues
- No Common Council details released to Public
- No newsletters, press releases or other communication
The Goal:

*Change the Budget Document

First Things First
### PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

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<td>Full Time Positions</td>
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<td>Salary and Benefits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services and Materials</td>
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<td>Total Expenditures</td>
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**2008**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** $744,323.00

**SOURCES OF FUNDING**

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<td>Fire Insurance</td>
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<td>Lead for Police Training</td>
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<td>Building Permits</td>
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<td>Parking Permits</td>
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<td>Taxis, Weights and Measures</td>
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<td>Grant Funds</td>
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<td>Parking Violations</td>
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<td>Change Rx Services</td>
<td>11,800</td>
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<td>Constable Fee</td>
<td>3,335,904</td>
<td>3,378,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Funding Sources</td>
<td>3,786,323</td>
<td>3,790,800</td>
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**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**MISSION**

It is the mission of the Burlington Police Department to protect life and property through fair and impartial enforcement of the law. We strive for excellence through our community partnerships to maintain and enhance a high quality of life in the City of Burlington.

**2013 GOALS**

- **By June 2013 the police department will have implemented staggered shift schedules.**
- **The department property room will be completely audited by the end of 2012 to ensure the accuracy of all assets.**
- **The department will continue to perform the accreditation process and will be at 75% complete by the end of the year.**
- **We will increase patrols for crosswalks and parks by 20% between April and September.**

**2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Communications Center: We implemented and completed the new communications center upgrades. We completed the federal mandated program funding for new radio communications. The City of Burlington Police Department now communicates on a narrow band digital radio frequency. In addition, we now have an IP based Enhanced 911 system.
- Time System Audit: Every agency in Wisconsin that has access to the Time System is audited every 3 years. This year our department was one of only two agencies in the state to be audited. The audit was successful.
- Cellular: We applied for and received a $25,000 grant from the State Bureau of Traffic Safety for the enforcement of seat belts. The department participated in the county-wide ED Enforcement grant for $7,000.
- Bicycle Patrol: This year the department reinstated the bicycle patrol. The patrols have been an effective community policing tool. In addition, we expanded the patrols in the city parks.
- Environmental Protection: The department continued to be organized, purged, and brought up to current standards.
- Equipment: The department researched and located a program that allowed the department to replace all the department firearms for less than $1500.

**2013**
Step #2
* Changed how staff talked to Council/Boards
* Link every decision back to policy
* Revisit and review the strategic plan
* Do you link your policy to the plan?
* Do your budget documents reflect these links?

*Great, But How*
Reduced Council Budget Workshops from 6 to 3
Increased discussion of Policy Issues, reduced discussion of line items
Publish Everything
Increase staff level discussions/debate and preparation

“Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.”
-- Confucius
*Purpose
* Educational for residents of Burlington
* Obtain feedback on issues important to residents
* Increase transparency of City operations
* Additional perspective on City budget/process
* Obtain additional feedback on policy issues

Citizen Budget Partners

*Appointment & Process
* Each alderman appointed 1 member
* Mayor appointed 4 members
* 4 meetings held in consecutive weeks in July and August
* Meetings conducted by the City Administrator, City Treasurer and Mayor.
* Appointment & Process
  * 4 meetings
  * 1 orientation meeting
  * 2 Budget Information Meetings
  * 1 Policy Priorities Meeting

Citizen Budget Partners
*16 VOTES
* The City should maintain the current level of funding for road maintenance at $500,000 per year.

*19 VOTES
* The City should maintain the current level of essential city services (road maintenance, plowing, park maintenance, public safety).
* The City should continue to provide Economic Development incentives to attract and retain industrial and manufacturing development.
• Department Heads are entrusted to do their jobs
• Common Council uses peer pressure to focus on policy issues
• Increased trust throughout the community
• Positive Media Coverage

Take Aways?