That WHEREAS, Mark Mackillop, owner of Muddy Waters Café on Main Street, came to the June 5, 2017 meeting of the City Council asking for help dealing with issues that he described as harassment, threats, vulgarity and public drunkenness occurring on the street by his business at the corner of Church and Main Streets; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mackillop indicated that many other business owners are worried and that he was delivering a collective message from them; and

WHEREAS, this serious issue has now escalated further with an act of violence that resulted in a near-fatal stabbing in the area of Church and Main Streets in early August; and

WHEREAS, such behavior is an issue of public safety that we cannot allow to continue; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that our downtown is a friendly and safe place for all to come and enjoy; and

WHEREAS, Burlington Police Chief Brandon Del Pozo, in a Burlington Free Press article on August 11, 2017, expressed frustration that quality of life offenses such as public drunkenness, fighting, and public urination are dealt with through civil tickets and that some repeat offenders are unconcerned about the financial repercussions of not paying the fines; and

WHEREAS, it is important that there are consequences for repeat offenders of these quality of life offenses; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the continued success of our downtown, for our Burlington residents and businesses as well as tourists, that we have a safe, friendly and inviting atmosphere for all to enjoy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council directs the Ordinance Committee to draft an ordinance that creates a criminal penalty for repeat offenders of these types of violations of aggressive and disruptive behavior, such as, but not limited to, public urination, public drunkenness, littering, and sexually aggressive catcalling and that the Ordinance Committee shall bring such an ordinance back to the full Council as soon as possible but no later than the council's second meeting in November.

lb/EBlackwood/Resolutions 2017/Police – Ordinance Changes Concerning Quality of Life Issues – Referral to Ordinance Committee

8/14/17