



**Resolution calling on the Governor to halt the F-35 practice flights
and mobilize the full Vermont Guard to stop the spread of coronavirus**

Whereas, on March 24 the governor issued an Executive Order directing Vermonters to stay at home “to preserve the public health and safety, to ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all, and to help protect those at the highest risk and vulnerability;” and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic requires unwavering commitment and effort by all Vermonters, including by all agencies of city and state governments, to halt the spread of the coronavirus; and

Whereas, the Governor is the Commander-in-Chief of the Vermont National Guard; and

Whereas, on March 23 the governor issued an order requiring the Vermont National Guard to set up three overflow medical facilities for low acuity patients; and

Whereas, the governor’s order did not fully mobilize the Vermont National Guard to combat the virus, and more than a quarter of its 4000 members are dangerously diverted to maintaining and flying practice sessions of the F-35; and

Whereas, among the additional things a fully mobilized Vermont Guard can do are:

1. Coordination, planning, and logistics;
2. Acquisition, assembly, and delivery of personal protective equipment and ventilators to hospitals and medical offices in all 14 counties;
3. Overseeing delivery of food, supplies, and protective materials to the elderly, those with medical conditions, and those without cars;
4. Building decent safe housing for the homeless, such as on the 44 acres of now-vacant land where 200 affordable homes were torn down across from the airport because of fighter jet noise; and
5. Continuing to set up additional overflow medical facilities; and

Whereas, such a full mobilization of the Vermont National Guard to participate and help lead the fight against COVID-19 could help halt the spread of the virus, flattening the exponentially growing curve, preventing hospitals from overflowing, and saving many lives; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Winooski advises the governor, as Commander-in-Chief of the Vermont National Guard, to order the Vermont National Guard to stop flying practice sessions of the F-35 jets while Vermonters are under siege by the coronavirus, and, instead, to fully mobilize to combat the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Be it further resolved, that the city clerk will send a copy of this resolution to the governor, the Speaker of the Vermont House, the Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore, the Burlington City Council, the South Burlington City Council and the Williston Board of Selectmen.

Affirmative Vote:

Mayor

Councilor

Councilor

Councilor

Councilor

Adopted

Rejected

Attest (City Clerk)

Approved Date