



MEDIA RELEASE

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CITY SELECTS FIRST YOUTH SOLUTION COORDINATOR

BURLINGTON, NC— The City of Burlington announces the selection of Dr. Vanessa Diggs to the position of Youth Solutions Coordinator. This is a new part-time role for Burlington that will be tasked with helping inform and guide the efforts of the City when addressing risk factors associated with youth violence.

Burlington’s City Council took notice during 2016 and 2017 as the city saw a rise in youth-on-youth violence. As a response, the council directed city staff to hold a series of community forums in the winter of 2018, titled Youth Solutions Forums. Staff then began to develop the plan for a coordinator position based off this feedback from the community. Out of this was born the position of Youth Solutions Coordinator.

Based on feedback from the community, City staff developed an action plan to address this uptick in youth-related violence. This plan included summer programming in 2018 titled Youth Solutions Pop-up parties. The Youth Solutions Coordinator position is the focal point of that plan.

Diggs was selected by a panel of inter-departmental city staff selected because of their work with programs and initiatives that impact youth and at-risk-youth in Burlington.

Diggs is a native of Burlington and a veteran educator. Her career has been in public education most recently in two school systems (ABSS and Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools). Her most recent position that she is retiring from is Special Educator for CCCS. She holds a Doctorate in Educational Management from Hampton University; professional Degree in School Administration from North Carolina Central University; Master’s degree in Special Education from University of Maryland at College Park; Bachelor’s Degree in Special Education from Winston-Salem State University.

“This is an exciting initiative for Burlington.” Burlington’s Community Engagement Manager, Morgan Lasater, said, “although Dr. Diggs position will be limited to a part-time basis, this is a great opportunity to have a staff person solely focused on how we as a city can make sound decisions based on proven methods for evaluating risk factors facing our youth population.”

Dr. Diggs has been interested in supporting youth in the community for many years. In the past she has established summer programs that have been held in Tucker Street Apartments. Most recently, she took part in the Youth Solutions Forums held by the City in 2018.

The Youth Solutions Coordinator works in the Community Engagement Division but will partner closely with other City departments and community organizations to identify collaborative solutions to complex problems. Dr. Diggs has begun working limited hours as of May 6, 2019 but will transition to a regular schedule after her retirement from Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools on May 31, 2019.

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Attachment: Photo of Vanessa Diggs

Our Mission:

“The City of Burlington is dedicated to providing high quality municipal services within our diverse community in a friendly, professional and efficient manner in order to promote the safety, health, and quality of life of residents and employees.”

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