Dear Governor Scott,

As the nine-member Board that oversees Burlington's Church Street Marketplace operational policies and whose overall purpose is to "establish, improve and maintain the pedestrian mall to benefit the local community, businesses and visitors" we, the Church Street Marketplace Commissioners, are writing to you today to ask urgently for your help.

We would like to start by thanking you for your efforts to date, including sending State Troopers to assist in maintaining order in Burlington.

As you are well aware, Burlington's downtown is essentially in a state of emergency. Our "constitutes," the business owners (and their employees) and property owners, have let us know, loudly and clearly, that time is running out…that some only have months before they will be forced to close their doors.

Given that Chittenden County contributes about 25% of the State's tax income, and that Burlington is the top spot for tourism across the State, a crisis in Burlington is a crisis for the State. Immediate, substantive and collaborative action must be taken as soon as possible.

We are asking the following of you and your administration:

1. Continued deployment of State Troopers in Burlington
2. Active support of and participation in CVOEO's effort to launch a 100-bed, year-round, low-barrier, emergency shelter by this winter
3. Return of the Accountability Court to Burlington
4. Development of a plan by the Agency of Human Services to establish a State mental health facility to replace/enhance the services previously provided by the Waterbury Hospital that was closed 15 years ago

We strongly believe that the first three recommendations above would bring about immediate and positive results. It would also send the important message that both the city and the State recognize the seriousness of this issue - and that we are all willing to work together to make it a top priority. It's time for all of us to stop reassessing the past and to instead look forward - at the present and the future.

Governor Scott, we want to say thank you in advance for giving this letter your immediate attention. Please let us know what you need from us to put the aforementioned actions in place.

With sincere gratitude,

The Church Street Marketplace Commissioners