

Mayor: Tim Smith
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins
Ward 2: James Pelkey
Ward 3: Marie Bessette
Ward 4: Michael McCarthy



Ward 5: Kate Laddison
Ward 6: Chad Spooner
Clerk/Treasurer: Curry Galloway
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

Vermont Media Advisory

May 24, 2019

Contacts: Liz Gamache, Former St. Albans Mayor, (802) 730 – 3424
Tim Smith, St. Albans Mayor, (802) 373 – 6877
Dominic Cloud, City Manager, (802) 309 – 1775

The City of St. Albans anticipates the release of the State Auditor's Office Report on our Tax Increment Finance District in the coming days. The City has prepared a thorough response to the report which is available at www.stalbansvt.com.

St. Albans leaders could not be prouder of our Tax Increment Finance District (TIF). It has produced the growth and vitality our community has envisioned for decades. With a \$52 million addition to the statewide grand list and a 65 percent increase in tax revenues, the City has done everything we said we would do when the State approved our TIF district. The St. Albans TIF has been, quite simply, the community development opportunity of a generation.

Now, after five years of operation, the Auditor rolls out new interpretations of old rules and, in the process, threatens to hobble tax increment finance districts across the state. These interpretations upend 20 years of statutory interpretation in Vermont, are in direct conflict with the intent and purpose of tax increment financing in Vermont and nationally, and have not been supported by the agency of jurisdiction.

The City has followed all of the rules that were in effect and regularly sought approval from our regulator when questions arose. Of the 70 plus assertions in a draft report reviewed by the City, not one is an area of the law that was not explored with our lawyers and our regulator, the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC). In anticipation of the report, the City has filed documents with VEPC requesting their affirmation that we remain in compliance with their program. These documents are available at www.stalbansvt.com.

This report reveals very little about the City of St. Albans; but it reveals a great deal about the State Auditor's office. Beginning with the Introduction and concluding with the Recommendations, this report reveals the policy biases of the State Auditor and demonstrates the need for independent TIF audits by CPA firms.

City leaders welcome inquiries from the press on the above matters. We are available for interviews and tours of the district and remain committed to a transparent process that inspires public confidence.