

**CERTIFIED
COPY**

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

TOWN COUNCIL PUBIC HEARING

JANUARY 10, 2023, 6:45 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS

**Re: Ordinance Permitting Certain Indoor Venues in the
CBDH District to stay open until 1 a.m. and operate
under a cafe liquor permit with an age restriction**

DEBRA A. CHASSE, CSR #00055

APPEARANCES:

Town Council Members Present:

SHARI CANTOR, MAYOR

LIAM SWEENEY, DEPUTY MAYOR

CAROL BLANKS

ALBERTO CORTES

LEON DAVIDOFF

DEBRA POLUN

BEN WENOGRAD

MARK ZYDANOWICZ

ALSO PRESENT:

RICK LEDWITH, TOWN MANAGER

ESSIE LABROT, TOWN CLERK/COUNCIL CLERK

DALLAS DODGE, CORPORATION COUNSEL

1 MAYOR CANTOR: We are going to start
2 with our 6485 public hearing, which is an amended
3 ordinance permitting certain indoor venues in the CBDH
4 to stay open until 1 a.m. and operate under a cafe
5 liquor permit with an age restriction. The meeting is
6 called to order. Role call, Miss Labrot.

7 MS. LABROT: Miss Blanks.

8 MS. BLANKS: Present.

9 MS. LABROT: Miss Cantor.

10 MAYOR CANTOR: Here.

11 MS. LABROT: Mr. Cortes.

12 MS. CORTES: Here.

13 MS. LABROT: Mr. Davidoff.

14 MR. DAVIDOFF: Here.

15 MS. LABROT: Miss Fay is absent.

16 Miss Polun.

17 MS. POLUN: Here.

18 MS. LABROT: Mr. Sweeney.

19 MR. SWEENEY: Here.

20 MS. LABROT: Mr. Wenograd.

21 MR. WENOGRAD: Here.

22 MS. LABROT: And Mr. Zydanowicz.

23 MR. ZYDANOWICZ: Here.

24 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you, Miss
25 Labrot. Have you received any written comments? I

1 jumped ahead. Mr. Ledwith, go ahead.

2 MR. LEDWITH: Good evening, Madam
3 Mayor, council members. The topic of tonight's public
4 hearing, as was just mentioned, is a substitute
5 ordinance pertaining to certain venues in the CBDH
6 district to stay open until 1 a.m. and operate under a
7 cafe liquor permit with an age restriction. This
8 ordinance was originally presented at a public hearing
9 at our last town council meeting on December 23rd and
10 is part of the public record.

11 After public comment from a resident
12 who lived in Blue Back Square who felt that the
13 ordinance needed to be more restrictive in limiting the
14 days of the week that an establishment could stay open
15 until 1 a.m., we amended the ordinance to limit a 1
16 a.m. closing to 1 a.m. Saturday, which is essentially
17 Friday night, and 1 a.m. Sunday, which is Saturday
18 night. So only two nights of the week would this type
19 of establishment be allowed to stay open in the CBDH
20 district.

21 Specifically, we amended Section 2
22 of the resolution, which is Section 177-37(1)c of the
23 code of the Town of West Hartford, which is hereby
24 repealed in the following as substitute in lieu
25 thereof. The following classes and categories of uses

1 listed in 177-6b shall not be permitted to be open to
2 the public between the hours of 12:01 a.m. to 5 a.m. on
3 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and
4 then 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Those uses
5 are indoor recreation or amusement facilities,
6 excluding nightclubs, dance halls, or dance clubs.

7 By way of summary, the other change
8 that was presented on the 23rd would allow indoor
9 recreation or amusement facilities at 15,000 square
10 feet, or larger, in the DCBDA'S district and that has
11 an entertainment license to operate under a cafe permit
12 with an ability to impose a minimum age of entry. And
13 that concludes the change to the substitute ordinance.

14 Turn it back to you, Madam Mayor,
15 for any questions.

16 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you, Mr.
17 Ledwith. Are there any questions for the town manager?
18 We did have a public hearing about this before. We're
19 going to look for public comment and Madam Clerk did
20 not receive any written comments, and -- so we have one
21 person that has signed up. I don't know if you would
22 like to speak to this or -- please come up, state your
23 name, and your role.

24 MS. KAREN JOHNSON: Good evening.
25 My name is Karen Johnson. I'm here representing Blue

1 Back Square. I put myself on the list prior to
2 speaking with Mr. Ledwith and Mr. Dodge that the prior
3 record of the hearing would be entered into this
4 record. So as long as my comments from last month and
5 my letter that I submitted are part of the record, I
6 have no comment. Thank you.

7 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you, Miss
8 Johnson.

9 Is there anybody else that would
10 like to speak to this public hearing? All right. I
11 will read into the record letter dated January 6, 2023
12 from Town Planning & Zoning Commission recommending
13 approval. Are there any other questions from the
14 council. This public hearing is now adjourned. Is
15 there any objection? Now we are adjourned. Okay.

16 (Whereupon, the hearing was
17 adjourned.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DEBRA A. CHASSE, Court Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Connecticut, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing 6 pages are a complete and accurate computer-aided transcription of my original verbatim notes taken of the Public Hearing held before the West Hartford Town Council.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 20th day of January, 2023.



Debra A. Chasse, CSR
Notary Public
State of Connecticut

My Commission Expires:
June 30, 2026
CSR No. 00055