

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

JANUARY 24, 2024 7:22 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS

Re: Ordinance concerning group child care homes

DEBRA A. CHASSE, CSR #00055

APPEARANCES:

Town Council Members Present:

SHARI CANTOR, MAYOR

BEN WENOGRAD, DEPUTY MAYOR

CAROL BLANKS

TIFFANI MCGINNIS

ALBERTO CORTES

BARRY WALTERS

DEBRA POLUN

MARK ZYDANOWICZ

BURKE DOAR

ALSO PRESENT:

RICK LEDWITH, TOWN MANAGER

LEON DAVIDOFF, TOWN CLERK/COUNCIL CLERK

DALLAS DODGE, CORPORATION COUNSEL

1 MAYOR CANTOR: This is the 7:15
2 hearing, public hearing to order. This is the
3 ordinance concerning group child care homes. We will
4 begin with roll call, Mr. Davidoff.

5 MR. DAVIDOFF: Good evening, Madam
6 Mayor. Counselor Blanks.

7 MS. BLANKS: Present.

8 MR. DAVIDOFF: Mayor Cantor.

9 MAYOR CANTOR: Here.

10 MR. DAVIDOFF: Counselor Cortes.

11 MR. CORTES: Here.

12 MR. DAVIDOFF: Counselor Fay is
13 absent. Seating for Counselor Fay is Mr. Doar.

14 MR. DOAR: Here.

15 MR. DAVIDOFF: Counselor McGinnis.

16 MS. MCGINNIS: Here.

17 MR. DAVIDOFF: Counselor Polun.

18 MS. POLUN: Here.

19 MR. DAVIDOFF: Counselor Walters.

20 MR. WALTERS: Here.

21 MR. DAVIDOFF: Deputy Mayor
22 Wenograd.

23 MR. WENOGRAD: Here.

24 MR. DAVIDOFF: Counselor Zydanowicz.

25 MR. ZYDANOWICZ: Here.

1 MAYOR CANTOR: We'll begin with a
2 presentation from Mr. Ledwith.

3 MR. LEDWITH: For the record, Rick
4 Ledwith, town manager. The purpose of tonight's public
5 hearing is to amend the town zoning ordinance
6 concerning group child care homes comply with Public
7 Act 23-142. Public Act 23-142 states that no zoning
8 regulation shall its group child care home related in a
9 residence and licensed by the Office of Early Childhood
10 in the manner different from single or multifamily
11 dwellings, and that any zoning regulations adopted
12 pursuant to the change shall not prohibit the operation
13 in a residential zone of any group child care home
14 located in a residence or require any special zoning
15 permit or special exception for such operation.

16 In order to comply with this act, we
17 will make limited changes to our zoning ordinances;
18 first to Section 177-2 under definitions and then
19 through Section 177-6b, schedule of permitted main
20 uses. Under definitions, we will change our current
21 language from group daycare home to child -- group
22 child care home to comply with the state language.
23 Under either name it does not change the actual
24 definition which offers or provides a program of
25 supplementary care to not fewer than seven nor more

1 than 12 related or unrelated children on a regular
2 basis. The other change we made to the definition is
3 amending the State of Connecticut to Connecticut Office
4 of Early Childhood.

5 The second change is to Section
6 177-6, schedule of permitted main uses, under use No.
7 4, where we will change group daycare homes to group
8 child care home and then add No. 10. This use is
9 permitted subject to issuance of a building and/or
10 zoning permit.

11 In closing, these changes bring our
12 local zoning ordinance into compliance with Public Act
13 23-142. This change was discussed at our Community
14 Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting on
15 October 18, 2023 and did receive positive referrals
16 from our town planning and zoning commission, as well
17 as the Capital Region Council of Governments.

18 I will pause there for you, Madam
19 Mayor, and turn it over to the council for any
20 questions you may have.

21 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you, Mr.
22 Ledwith. I want to make sure that if we did not adopt
23 the changes, we would be out of compliance with the
24 state, and that's all we're doing is --

25 MR. LEDWITH: Absolutely, correct.

1 This will bring us into compliance with the public act
2 that was brought into law on October 1st of 2023. We
3 did issue a letter to the office of policy management
4 letting them know that this vote was taking place this
5 evening, and we would follow-up with OPM following a
6 vote at the regular council meeting to let them know it
7 has been adopted, but we have to comply with the state
8 statute.

9 MAYOR CANTOR: Do we have a certain
10 time period that we need to do that by?

11 MR. LEDWITH: So, no. Like I said,
12 it was October 1st that the law went into place, so we
13 technically are covered by the statute right now. We
14 did issue that letter to OPM letting them know where we
15 were in the legal conflict in terms of the public
16 hearing. They know that the hearing is taking place
17 this evening, and we'll issue a letter tomorrow letting
18 them know it's been adopted but, technically, we're
19 following it. The law went back to October 1st. We do
20 not have any homes or child care homes in West Hartford
21 that fall within these guidelines today presently.

22 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you. Any
23 questions? No questions? Are there any written
24 comments? And Mr. Davidoff, do you have any written
25 comments?

1 MR. DAVIDOFF: No written comments,
2 Madam Mayor.

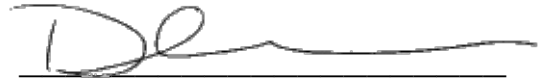
3 MAYOR CANTOR: Is there anyone in
4 the audience that would like to speak at the public
5 hearing? While you're doing that I'm just reading into
6 the record, letter dated January 12, 2024 from the town
7 planning and zoning commission recommending approval
8 and Letter dated January 10, 2024 from Capital Region
9 Council for Governments finding no apparent conflicts
10 with regional plans and policies and concerns of
11 neighboring towns. With that, I will close the public
12 hearing.

13 (Whereupon, the Hearing was
14 adjourned at 7:27 p.m.)

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 7 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 8th day of February, 2024.



Debra A. Chasse, CSR
Notary Public
State of Connecticut

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