

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

**CERTIFIED
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TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 14, 2023, 6:42 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS

**Re: Resolution Approving Programs Eligible for
The Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit
Program**

DEBRA A. CHASSE, CSR #00055

APPEARANCES:

Town Council Members Present:

SHARI CANTOR, MAYOR

LIAM SWEENEY, DEPUTY MAYOR

CAROL BLANKS

ALBERTO CORTES

DEBRA POLUN

MARY FAY

ALSO PRESENT:

RICK LEDWITH, TOWN MANAGER

LEON DAVIDOFF, TOWN CLERK/COUNCIL CLERK

DALLAS DODGE, CORPORATION COUNSEL

1 MAYOR CANTOR: I am calling our 6:40
2 p.m. hearing, Resolution Approving Programs Eligible
3 for the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.
4 We'll start with the role call.

5 MR. DAVIDOFF: Thank you, Madam
6 Mayor. Councilor Blanks.

7 MS. BLANKS: Present.

8 MR. DAVIDOFF: Mayor Cantor.

9 MAYOR CANTOR: Here.

10 MR. DAVIDOFF: Councilor Cortes.

11 MR. CORTES: Here.

12 MR. DAVIDOFF: Councilor Fay.

13 MS. FAY: Present.

14 MR. DAVIDOFF: Councilor McGinnis.

15 Councilor Polun.

16 MS. POLUN: Here.

17 MR. DAVIDOFF: Deputy Mayor Sweeney.

18 MR. SWEENEY: Here.

19 MR. DAVIDOFF: Councilor Wenograd.

20 Councilor Zydanowicz. Six councilors present.

21 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you, Mr.
22 Davidoff. There is a high school graduation tonight
23 and a couple of other conflicts that the councilors
24 have, so we do have a quorum, so we can continue, and
25 we'll start with the presentations.

1 MR. LEDWITH: Thank you, Madam
2 Mayor. Tonight's public hearing is an annual hearing
3 we hold to approve programs eligible for the
4 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. I have
5 our director of leisure services, Helen Rubino-Turco,
6 is joining us at the podium to give a brief overview of
7 the process that routinely takes place every single
8 year.

9 MS. RUBINO-TURCO: Thank you, Madam
10 Mayor. As you know, the Neighborhood Assistance Act
11 Program is an annual state tax credit program that
12 encourages businesses to invest in community
13 organizations. Each year the town invites these local
14 nonprofit groups to propose eligible projects, and then
15 we submit the list of projects to the Connecticut
16 Department of Revenue Services for inclusion in the
17 program. Businesses that make donations towards these
18 approved projects receive state tax credits in return.

19 This year's solicitation resulted in
20 14 projects from eight different local nonprofit
21 organizations, and the state requires that the town
22 council holds this public hearing to receive any
23 feedback on these programs. A resolution to approve
24 the list of the programs that are eligible for
25 investment under the provisions of the Connecticut

1 Neighborhood Assistance Act Grant Program is on the
2 counsel's agenda at your meeting this evening, and you
3 are required to vote to approve the list of the town --
4 and then the town manager will submit the NAA
5 application for these programs following the meeting
6 before July 1st.

7 MAYOR CANTOR: Thank you very much.
8 This is something we do annually. Many of us that have
9 been around the table have seen this multiple times.
10 It's a great program and, Mr. Clerk, have you -- we
11 will go to public comment if you're done with your
12 presentation.

13 Mr. Clerk, have you received any
14 written comments?

15 MR. DAVIDOFF: No, Madam Mayor.

16 MAYOR CANTOR: I will check on the
17 signup sheet for this public hearing. And while Mr.
18 Dodge is looking, are there any questions from the
19 council?

20 MAYOR CANTOR: No one has signed up.
21 Is there any questions from the council?

22 MS. POLUN: I have a question. I
23 had thought that there was a limit on nonprofit
24 organizations capping out at 150,000 for their
25 proposal, but it looks like on our list we have some

1 nonprofit organizations receiving more than that. Was
2 I just mistaken or is there some sort of --

3 MS. RUBINO-TURCO: I know that it's
4 150,000 aggregate, but I believe also that they don't
5 know which programs will attract donations. So they
6 have multiple programs that are eligible up to a
7 certain cap but them, as an aggregate, is 150,000.
8 Yes, that's my understanding as well.

9 MS. POLUN: So to follow up for you.
10 It looks to me like the University of Hartford has five
11 projects on this list that total about \$600,000. So
12 I'm just a little bit confused about that.

13 MS. RUBINO-TURCO: I think the
14 answer to that question is they're all eligible
15 projects, but we don't know what businesses will then
16 want to support -- which project they'd like to
17 support.

18 MS. POLUN: Okay. Thank you.

19 MS. RUBINO-TURCO: That is an audit
20 that is done afterwards.

21 MS. POLUN: Thank you.

22 MAYOR CANTOR: Okay. With that,
23 we'll adjourn this public hearing.

24 (Whereupon, the hearing was
25 adjourned at 6:47 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 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 28th day of June, 2023.



Debra A. Chasse, CSR
Notary Public
State of Connecticut

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