



Town of West Hartford – Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 5, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:46 PM.

Attendance

Present: Mark Linabury (Co-Chair), Alana Butler (Co-Chair), Eric Schoenberg (Treasurer), Katie Lance (Secretary), Sue Collins, David Ware, Pramod Pradhan

Absent: Eva Jacobson

Guest Speaker: Bill Heiden, Levo International: Report on using simplified hydroponics to build sustainable food supplies

Public Comments

- **Speakers:** Emma O, Liz G, Amanda C, Lisa T, Deborah S, Robin K, Melissa C, Heather R, Cesar A, Rabbi Small, Julia K, Sasha K, Tali K
There were 8 comments in support of the resolution *Human Rights in Business and Governance* and 5 comments opposing the resolution.
 - **Written Comments:** 59 additional written comments opposing the resolution and 1 in support of the resolution were received. (*Note: Not all written submissions are reflected here, as the original document was deleted by the residing secretary following the meeting.*)
 - Link to written comments (Partial record): [Written Comments](#)
-

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

The October minutes were approved as amended.

Human Rights in Business and Governance

Motion: To reject the resolution [*Human Rights in Business and Governance*](#)

Motioned by: Mark Linabury

Seconded by: Eric Schoenberg

Result: 4 votes in favor of rejecting the resolution; 1 abstention

Committee Reports

- **Social Media & Engagement Subcommittee:** [The Immigration Panel](#) took place on October 21 at 5:30 PM at Noah Webster.
 - **Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Working Group:** Meeting with Michael Bloom, Senior Director of External Affairs and Engagement and Coordinator of the CT Hate Crimes Initiative, has been rescheduled to November 6.
-

Calendar: Approved with April 2026 date moved to 2nd Wednesday (April 8)

Annual Reports: Approved

Next Meeting

Date: December 3, 2025

Proposed Agenda Items: Rep. Gilchrest · Journey Home · Immigration · Interfaith Dialogue · Proclamation as an alternative to the resolution · Universal Celebration

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Alana Butler

Date submitted: November 12, 2025



WEST HARTFORD

West Hartford Human Rights Commission Meeting
Elmwood Community Center, Room # 212
1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford, CT 06110
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:45pm

Nov.
Agenda
packet.

1. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order
- B. Attendance
- C. Welcome New Commissioners/Introductions
- D. Reading of Mission Statement:

The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, immigration status, disability, present or past history of physical or mental illnesses, including but not limited to these characteristics.

2. Guest Speaker

- A. Bill Heiden - Levo International (<https://levointernational.org/>) to discuss ways to address food insecurity. (20min)

3. Public Forum

- A. Any member of the public may address the Commission about issues or concerns. (3 minutes per speaker. Note: The Commission will not respond to public comment).

4. Approval of the Minutes

- A. WHHRC Meeting Minutes October 8, 2025

5. Unfinished Business

- A. Discussion Regarding Revised Res. on Business & Governance
 - View edits and rationale for edits to-date here: <https://tinyurl.com/whedits>
- B. Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration Planning.

6. New Business

- A. 2026 Annual Calendar, 2024 Annual Report (draft), 2025 Annual Report (draft)
- B. Gmail account (brief overview)
- C.. WHHRC New Commissioner Welcome Guide

Hand Delivered by Kathryn Lance

RECEIVED
2026 FEB - 6 PM 4:34
LEO
Kathryn Lance

7. Reports on Hate Crimes & Hate Speech

A. Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Report

8. Reports on Social Media & Community Engagement

A. Social Media & Community Engagement Report:

- Safe Crossing for Shabbat Initiative Update (Katie)
- Know Your Rights: Immigration Panel Update (Dave)
 - Note: If you missed it, you can watch the recording here:
<https://whci.online/2025/10/17/know-your-rights-immigration-panel-noah-weebster-library-october-21-2025/>

9. Communications

10. Open Discussion/Updates on any Strategic Plan Issue Areas

- A. Food & Housing Insecurity
- B. Immigration & Rights of Non-Citizens
- C. Addressing Hate Crimes & Hate Speech
- D. Human Rights in West Hartford School System
- E. Community Concerns & Emerging Issues

11. Set Agenda Items for Next Meeting: December 3, 2025

12. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

Public Meeting Viewing & Participation Instructions:

Members of the public can attend in-person. They may also contact the WHHRC outside of meeting times via email: WeHaHRC@gmail.com. Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program, or activity of the Town of West Hartford should contact Suzanne Oslander, at SuzanneO@WestHartfordCT.gov or 860-561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.

West Hartford Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: October 8, 2025

Call to Order: 6:51 p.m.

Attendees: Alana Butler, Eric Schoenberg, Eva Jacobson, Katie Lance, David Ware, Pramod Pradhan

Guests: Martey Rhine, Deborah Shoflick, Peg Williams, Jareka Dellenbaugh-Dempsey, Samantha Sommers, Arjun Patel, Robert Karvelis, Eaman O, Melissa Cyr, Marg Smith, Padraigh, Ted Mancom

Absent: Mark Linabury

- Public Comments: 9 people spoke in support of the proposed resolution
- Approval of Minutes
 - Motioned by: Eric Schoenberg
 - Seconded by: Eva Jacobson
 - Result: Approved unanimously
- Confirmed Reappointments: Alana Butler, Mark Linabury, Eva Jacobson
- Motion to adopt the amended strategic plan for 2025-2026
 - Motioned by: Eric Schoenberg
 - Seconded by: David Ware
 - Result: All in favor
- Committee Reports
 - Social Media & Engagement Subcommittee: Immigration panel scheduled for October 21 at 5:30 pm at Noah Webster
 - Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Working Group: Meeting with Michael Bloom, Senior Director of External Affairs and Engagement and Hate Crimes Initiative of CT Coordinator, has been rescheduled to October 24
- Motion to create a working group to revise the proposed resolution Human Rights in Business and Governance
 - Motioned by: Eric Schoenberg
 - Seconded by: David Ware
 - Result: All in favor
- Nomination for Secretary: Katie Lance: Unanimous Vote
- Next Meeting: November 5, 2025
 - Proposed agenda items: Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration, proposed resolution Human Rights in Business and Governance
- Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING WEST HARTFORD'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, the mission and purpose of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission are grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, established by Town Code, Chapter 5, Article IX, the Commission is mandated to foster mutual understanding and respect among residents, encourage equality of treatment, and advise the Town Council on policies and practices that uphold human rights and equity within the community; and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Town Council has declared its commitment to protecting and advancing human rights, dignity, and equity for all people who live, work, study, or visit here by unanimously adopting a *Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion* (2017), declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, this present resolution builds on that commitment by recognizing that human rights must be safeguarded not only through community values but also through the conduct of businesses and municipal practices – including through the use of technology; and

WHEREAS, businesses play an important role in shaping the well-being of our community – both through employment and their broader impacts on human rights, directly and indirectly, including effects their products, services, or investments may have beyond the borders of our town; and

WHEREAS, workplaces can become sites where human rights are threatened, including through unlawful or discriminatory practices such as unauthorized raids or acts of intimidation – especially those targeting anyone due to their national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender/sexual orientation, disability, and/or other protected status; and

WHEREAS, the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* (2011) affirm that governments at all levels have a duty to protect against human rights abuses within their jurisdiction, including those arising from business activities (Principle 1); and

WHEREAS, the Guiding Principles further call on public bodies to ensure that government contracts, investments, and partnerships are conducted in a manner consistent with human rights obligations (Principles 4 and 6), while also encouraging policy coherence across all departments and agencies that shape business practices, ensuring that public institutions understand and uphold their human rights responsibilities (Principles 7 and 8); and

WHEREAS, at the municipal level, such responsibilities fall within the purview of Town departments and programs, including ensuring fair and equitable treatment in housing, employment, and public services (Department of Social Services, Human Resources, and Equity Office); maintaining accessibility and inclusion for residents with disabilities (Leisure Services, Public Works, and Library Services); promoting transparency, ethical standards, and fair labor practices in Town contracts and procurement (Finance and Procurement); safeguarding residents' privacy and due process in local enforcement and data-sharing (Police Department, Information Technology, and Social Services); and mitigating environmental and public health impacts that disproportionately affect certain neighborhoods or populations (Public Works, Planning and Zoning, and Health District); and

WHEREAS, the Town has already demonstrated leadership in advancing ethical and inclusive vendor practices by adopting West Hartford Town Code, Article VII, Section 168-45, which ensures that no personally identifiable information collected by automated traffic enforcement devices is disclosed, stored, or retained by the Town or a vendor to any person or entity, including any federal law enforcement unit, except where the disclosure is made in connection with the charging, collection, and enforcement of the fines imposed pursuant to the article; and

WHEREAS, adopting these principles aligns with West Hartford's values of fairness, inclusion, and social responsibility, and empowers businesses in our town to stand up for the dignity, rights, and safety of their workers and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT:

1. The Town of West Hartford affirms its commitment to the protection of human rights and recognizes the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* as a framework for responsible and ethical local governance.
2. The Town Manager and other relevant governmental departments shall consider the protection of human rights in the Town's operations and procurement practices, such as exploring the creation of a Supplier Code of Conduct (encouraging ethical and inclusive vendor practices), human rights budgeting, and/or conducting impact assessments for town contracts and investments.
3. The Town Manager shall publish an annual summary of steps taken to uphold these principles across town operations, contracts, and partnerships, demonstrating West Hartford's ongoing leadership and accountability in advancing human rights at the local level.
4. The Office of Employee Development & Community Engagement and West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall collaborate to promote education and awareness on human rights in business and governance – partnering with other relevant governmental bodies and community organizations to coordinate public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives (e.g., Fourth Amendment rights trainings for business owners; workshops on fair employment and anti-discrimination practices; human rights considerations for vendors and contractors.)
5. The Town Manager and the West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall develop ways to recognize local government agencies and employers who demonstrate leadership in advancing human rights, fairness, and inclusion (e.g., Annual Leadership in Businesses in Human Rights Award).

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk

References:

Town of West Hartford. (2017). Resolution Affirming West Hartford, CT as a Welcoming and Inclusive Town. West Hartford, CT.

Town of West Hartford. (n.d.). Town Code, Chapter 5, Article IX: Human Rights Commission. West Hartford, CT.

Town of West Hartford. (n.d.). *Town Code, Article VII, Section 168-45: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices*. West Hartford, CT.

United Nations General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (A/RES/217 A (III)). Paris: United Nations.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2011). *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework* (HR/PUB/11/04). Geneva: United Nations.

Additional Information

The following materials provide additional information on how local municipalities can apply human rights frameworks to local governance.

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2024). *Local government and human rights* (A/HRC/RES/57/12). Geneva: United Nations. Adopted 10 October 2024 at the Fifty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2012). *The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide* (HR/PUB/12/02). Geneva: United Nations.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights & United Cities and Local Governments. (2024). *Guidance framework for creating a Human Rights City*. Geneva and Barcelona: United Nations and UCLG.

DRAFT #3 10/27/2025

Edits made by Commissioners Ware and Lance based on feedback from Co-Chair Butler, Commissioners Schoenberg, Jacobson, and Ware as well as feedback from the public to-date (see compilation of feedback as of 11/5 [here](#)).

Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

WHEREAS, the mission and purpose of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission are grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, established by Town Code, Chapter 5, Article IX, the Commission is mandated to foster mutual understanding and respect among residents, encourage equality of treatment, and advise the Town Council on policies and practices that uphold human rights and equity within the community; and

WHEREAS, the ~~West-Town-of~~ West Hartford Town Council has declared its commitment to protecting and advancing human rights, dignity, and equity for all people who live, work, study, or visit here this by residents; unanimously adopting a Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion, (2017) declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, West Hartford is home to vibrant immigrant and refugee communities whose contributions enrich our schools, businesses, and neighborhoods, and who deserve to live and work free from fear, discrimination, or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the West Hartford Town Council unanimously adopted a Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion, declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, this present resolution builds on that commitment by recognizing that human rights must be safeguarded not only through community values but also through the conduct of businesses, municipal practices —, and including through the use of technology; and

WHEREAS, businesses play an important role in shaping the well-being of our community — both through employment and through their broader impacts on human rights, directly and indirectly, including the effects of how their products, services, or investments are used beyond the borders of our town; and

WHEREAS, workplaces can become sites where human rights are threatened, including through unlawful or discriminatory practices such as unauthorized raids or intimidation — especially through those targeting anyone due to their national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender/sexual orientation, disability, and/or other protected status; and immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011) affirm that governments at all levels have a duty to protect against human rights abuses within their jurisdiction, including those arising from business activities (Principle 1) and (UNGPs); unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, provide a global standard for preventing and addressing human rights harms connected to business activity; and

Commented [1]: Added because recent public feedback we received suggested that people may not realize the Human Rights Commission's mission and purpose are grounded in a UN document: the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is not something new being introduced through the resolution, it's foundational to who we are and why the Commission exists.

Commented [2]: Added, because recent feedback we received, it seemed that members of the public also were not aware that the WHHRC mandate (as outlined in the Town Code), is to advise the Town Council on policies and practices that uphold human rights within our own community. This resolution was meant to do that. It is not related to any international issues, but rather is grounded in local human rights concerns keeping with the principles our Commission was founded on.

Commented [3R2]: Note: The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) referenced in the resolution are not a treaty or an international enforcement mechanism. Simply put, they are not about international politics—they were specifically developed to help governments, businesses, and local municipalities uphold human rights in their own operations and communities. They are a voluntary framework designed to be a guide (i.e., can be tailored as needed) for how governments, businesses, and local municipalities can uphold human rights in their own operations and communities. They simply serve as a practical guide for helping local institutions learn how they can embed human rights due diligence into everyday governance and decision-making—helping towns like West Hartford ensure that local policies and practices reflect our shared values.

Commented [4]: Just combined two "WHEREAS" phrases in order to streamline these ideas

Commented [5]: Cut due to redundancy with ideas of the aforementioned 2017 resolution and due to comments noting that this resolution seems to be framed more specifically members of the immigrant community, but it was meant to be for everyone in the community.

Commented [6]: moved up.

Commented [7]: Expanded on due to public comment highlighting how the issues addressed in this resolution were important not only for immigrant workers, but for everyone (business owners, employees, and customers alike) from all walks of life. This was specifically cited as being personally important by members of the local Jewish community, queer

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Commented [8]: Edited due to feedback from WHHRC requesting more specificity.

WHEREAS, these principles rest on three pillars: (1) the duty of governments to protect human rights, (2) the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and (3) the need for access to remedy for victims of abuses; and

WHEREAS, the Guiding Principles further call on public bodies to ensure that government contracts, investments, and partnerships are conducted in a manner consistent with human rights obligations (Principles 4 and 6), while also encouraging policy coherence across all departments and agencies that shape business practices, ensuring that public institutions understand and uphold their human rights responsibilities (Principles 7 and 8); and

WHEREAS, at the municipal level, such responsibilities fall within the purview of Town departments and programs, including ensuring fair and equitable treatment in housing, employment, and public services (Department of Social Services, Human Resources, and Equity Office); maintaining accessibility and inclusion for residents with disabilities (Leisure Services, Public Works, and Library Services); promoting transparency, ethical standards, and fair labor practices in Town contracts and procurement (Finance and Procurement); safeguarding residents' privacy and due process in local enforcement and data-sharing (Police Department, Information Technology, and Social Services); and mitigating environmental and public health impacts that disproportionately affect certain neighborhoods or populations (Public Works, Planning and Zoning, and Health District); and

WHEREAS, the Town has already demonstrated leadership in advancing ethical and inclusive vendor practices by adopting West Hartford Town Code, Article VII, Section 168-45, which ensures that no personally identifiable information collected by automated traffic enforcement devices is disclosed, stored, or retained by the Town or a vendor to any person or entity, including any federal law enforcement unit, except where the disclosure is made in connection with the charging, collection, and enforcement of the fines imposed pursuant to the article; and

WHEREAS, adopting these principles aligns with West Hartford's values of fairness, inclusion, and social responsibility, and empowers businesses in our town to stand up for the dignity and safety of their workers and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT

1. The Town of West Hartford affirms its commitment to the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* and encourages all businesses operating in the town to uphold these standards of human rights and dignity; and

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council requests a review of all Town expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, including retirement and pension holdings, to ensure that public resources are not connected to human rights abuses, and that this information be reported publicly for transparency; and

2. The Town Manager and other relevant governmental agencies departments shall consider the protection of human rights in the Town's operations and procurement practices, such as

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Commented [10]: Some recent emails (starting 10/22) noted, "At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford". Therefore, this was added to further illustrate that this resolution does indeed relate to these hyper-local issues and is not about international issues.

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Commented [11]: Information moved up due to feedback and information about existing Town Code.

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Commented [12]: Changed to match formats of previously adopted Town resolutions.

Commented [13]: Cut due to multiple conversations concerned about the feasibility of this as well as concerns that requesting this from the Town Council would lead them to automatically shoot down this proposal.

Commented [14]: Changed due to concerns that this language was unclear that it was only referring to local government entities.

exploring the creation of a Supplier Code of Conduct (encouraging ethical and inclusive vendor practices), human rights budgeting, and/or conducting impact assessments for town contracts and investments, the adoption of procurement and investment guidelines consistent with the United

3. The Town Manager shall publish an annual summary of steps taken to uphold these principles across town operations, contracts, and partnerships, demonstrating West Hartford's ongoing leadership and accountability in advancing human rights at the local level.

~~4. The Town Manager shall publish an annual summary of steps taken to uphold these principles across town operations, contracts, and partnerships, demonstrating West Hartford's ongoing leadership and accountability in advancing human rights at the local level.~~

43. The Office of Employee Development & Community Engagement and West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall collaborate to promote education and awareness on human rights in business and governance – partnering with other relevant governmental bodies and community organizations to coordinate public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives (e.g., Fourth Amendment rights trainings for business owners; workshops on fair employment and anti-discrimination practices; human rights considerations for vendors and contractors.)

5. The Town Manager and the West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall develop ways to recognize local government agencies and employers who demonstrate leadership in advancing human rights, fairness, and inclusion (e.g., Annual Leadership in Businesses in Human Rights Award).

Adopted this ____ day of ____, 2025.

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Commented [17]: Cut, but acknowledged above, due to feedback from Commissioner Ware about this concern already being addressed in the Town Code.

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Commented [18]: Added due to requests to make this resolution more specificity and to ensure our asks are feasible for the Town.

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Expanded on due to public comment highlighting how the issues addressed in this resolution were important not only for immigrant workers, but for everyone (business owners, employees, and customers alike) from all walks of life. This was specifically cited as being personally important by members of the local Jewish community, queer community, and transgender community.

Proposed WHHRC 2026 Calendar

The WHHRC generally meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:45pm - 8:30pm in the Elmwood Community Center.

The 2026 regular meeting schedule includes the following dates. In the November 2025 meeting, we will discuss any changes that may need to be made to these regular meeting times.

Month	Day	Date	Time	Suggested Agenda Highlights
January	Wednesday	7	6:45pm - 8:30pm	• 2026 Strategy Session: implementation strategies for 2026 goals, review WHHRC structure, guidelines, etc. • Develop 2026 planned posts
February	Wednesday	4	6:45pm - 8:30pm	• Vote on 2026 planned posts
March	Wednesday	4	6:45pm - 8:30pm	
April	Wednesday	1	6:45pm - 8:30pm	<i>Start of Passover? Move to 8th?</i>
May	Wednesday	6	6:45pm - 8:30pm	
June	Wednesday	3	6:45pm - 8:30pm	• Assess progress on 2026 goals
July	Wednesday	7	6:45pm - 8:30pm	
August	Wednesday	5	6:45pm - 8:30pm	
September	Wednesday	2	6:45pm - 8:30pm	
October	Wednesday	7	6:45pm - 8:30pm	• Develop 2027 Strategic Plan
November	Wednesday	4	6:45pm - 8:30pm	• Set 2027 Calendar • Vote on 2027 Strategic Plan • Share draft of Annual Report
December	Wednesday	2	6:45pm - 8:30pm	• Submit 2027 Calendar • Vote on 2026 Annual Report

West Hartford Human Rights Commission (WHHRC)

2024 Annual Report

Chair: Esam Boraey (until resignation in May 2024), succeeded by Mark Linabury

Secretary: Winnie Tantraporn (until resignation in September 2024), succeeded by Alana Butler

Treasurer: Eric Schoenberg

2024 Commissioners (as of December 2024): Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Bruno Venero, PJ Paneru.

Town Staff Liaison: Pramod Pradhan

Mission Statement

The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, immigration status, disability, present or past history of physical or mental illnesses, including but not limited to these characteristics (adopted December 2024).

Membership and Meetings

The Commission began 2024 with two vacancies and ended with three vacancies – experiencing several transitions throughout the year.

Resignations	Appointments	Elections
• May: Esam Boraey • Aug: Winnie Tantraporn • Sept: Kristyn Rosen-Jacobs • Dec: Cara Paiuk • Unsure: Ted Mancini	• Jan: Bruno Venero • Mar: Kathryn Lance • May: Alana Butler and Panjak “PJ” Paneru	• May: Mark Linabury as Chair; Katie Lance as Social Media Coordinator. • September: Alana Butler as Secretary.

Meetings

Meetings took place at 7pm at the Elmwood Community Center and were open to the public.

Regular Meetings	Cancelled Meetings	Special Sessions:
• January • February • May • December	• March • April • June • July • August • September • October	• September • October

Priorities, Key Accomplishments and Policy Recommendations

2024-2025 Priorities

The WHHRC's objectives as outlined in Commission's [2024-2024 strategic plan](#), included:

1. **Address intimate partner violence** in West Hartford through increased awareness and education.
2. **Tackle food insecurity** with drives, education, and awareness initiatives.
3. **Focus on addressing homelessness** through partnerships and town recommendations.
4. **Advocate for pedestrian rights**, emphasizing the right to safe mobility and the right to life.
5. **Promote a sense of safety and solidarity among community members** through awareness, outreach, and collaboration on interfaith and intercultural initiatives.

Summary of Key 2024 Votes (not including votes on minutes, social media posts, or elections)

- January: Approval to proceed with Hall High School Human Rights event (*passed - unanimous*)
- May: Vote to participate in Memorial Day Parade (*passed - unanimous*)
- October: Vote to create WHHRC Google/Gmail account: WeHaHRC@gmail.com (*passed - unanimous*)
- December:
 - Vote to change meeting time to 6:45pm for parent convenience (*passed: 3 in favor, 2 opposed*).
 - Vote to approve updated Mission and Vision statements (*passed - unanimous*)

2024 Annual Activities

- January: Co-sponsored and participated in reading of the *Declaration of Human Rights* in **Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration**
- May: Participated in **Memorial Day Parade** (Esam and Mark)
- June: Held booth, representing WHHRC at the **Juneteenth Celebration** (Mark and Eric)
- October: Represented WHHRC in **Park Road Parade** (Bruno, Katie, and Mark)
- Dec: Hosted **Town Equity Officer**, Adrienne Billings-Smith as guest at WHHRC meeting

Key Accomplishments

- January 2024: Co-sponsored and participated in reading of the *Declaration of Human Rights* in **Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration**
- October 2024: **Established a new public-facing Commission email address (WeHaHRC@gmail.com)** to improve accessibility and communication with residents

Policy Recommendations

The WHHRC did not put forth any policy recommendations during 2024.

Major Challenges and Priorities for 2025

Major Challenges

The Commission faced several challenges in 2024, including multiple membership vacancies and delays in appointments, which limited continuity and capacity to advance ongoing initiatives. These transitions made it difficult to sustain momentum on planning efforts and to follow up on previously identified community priorities. Additionally, with multiple new members joining mid-year, time was needed to build familiarity with key annual activities and to reestablish a shared understanding of the Commission's mission and goals.

Priorities for 2025

The WHHRC's objectives as outlined in Commission's [2024-2025 strategic plan](#), remained:

6. **Address intimate partner violence** in West Hartford through increased awareness and education.
 7. **Tackle food insecurity** with drives, education, and awareness initiatives.
 8. **Focus on addressing homelessness** through partnerships and town recommendations.
 9. **Advocate for pedestrian rights**, emphasizing the right to safe mobility and the right to life.
 10. **Promote a sense of safety and solidarity among community members** through awareness, outreach, and collaboration on interfaith and intercultural initiatives.
-

Financial Information

The WHHRC does not manage an independent budget. Event costs and outreach materials are supported through town resources and community partnerships. No tax exemptions were issued by the Commission in 2025.

Acknowledgments

The Commission thanks the **West Hartford Town Council, Town Manager Rick Ledwith, Equity Officer Adrienne Billings-Smith**, and all community members who supported human rights initiatives throughout the year. Their continued collaboration strengthens West Hartford's commitment to fairness, equity, and inclusion for all residents.

West Hartford Human Rights Commission (WHHRC)
2025 Annual Report

Co-Chairs: Mark Linabury and Alana Butler (elected September 2025)

Secretary: Katie Lance (elected October 2025)

Treasurer: Eric Schoenberg

Additional Commissioners (as of December 2025): Eva Jacobson, David Ware, Sue Collins

Town Staff Liaison: Pramod Pradhan

Mission Statement

The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, immigration status, disability, present or past history of physical or mental illness, including but not limited to these characteristics.

Membership and Meetings

The Commission began 2024 with two vacancies and ended with two vacancies, experiencing multiple transitions throughout the year.

Resignations	Appointments	Elections
- February: PJ Paneru - Sept. Bruno Venero	- Jan: Eva Jacobson and David Ware - Oct: Sue Collins	- September: Alana Butler as Co-Chair. - October: Katie Lance as Secretary.

Meetings

Meetings took place at 6:45pm* at the Elmwood Community Center and were open to the public.

**Note: Meeting time changed from 7pm at Dec. 2024 for convenience of Commissioners with children.*

Regular Meetings	Meetings Not Held:	Special Sessions:
- January 8 - February 5 - March 5 - April 2 - June 4 - September 3 - November 5 - December 3	- May (cancelled) - July - August	Sept. 30 (Training with Town Clerk, Leon Davidoff) October 8

Priorities, Key Accomplishments, and Policy Recommendations

2024-2025 Priorities

The WHHRC's objectives as outlined in Commission's [2024-2025 strategic plan](#), included:

1. **Address intimate partner violence** in West Hartford through increased awareness and education.
2. **Tackle food insecurity** with drives, education, and awareness initiatives.
3. **Focus on addressing homelessness** through partnerships and town recommendations.
4. **Advocate for pedestrian rights**, emphasizing the right to safe mobility and the right to life.
5. **Promote a sense of safety and solidarity among community members** through awareness, outreach, and collaboration on interfaith and intercultural initiatives.

Summary of Key 2025 Votes

(Excludes routine approvals of minutes, meeting adjournments, and votes on social media posts)

- **February:**
 - Vote to submit **letter of support** for state legislation banning Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) *(passed - unanimous)*
- **September:**
 - Election for Co-Chair: Alana Butler elected.
- **October:**
 - Vote to adopt the amended **2025–2026 Strategic Plan** *(passed - unanimous)*
 - Election for Secretary: Katie Lance elected.

2025 Annual Activities

Note: Names in parentheses indicate commissioners who represented the WHHRC at each event.

- **January:**
 - Co-sponsored **Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration** (Chair Linabury and Commissioner Lance both participated and spoke at the event).
- **June:**
 - **Juneteenth (June 14)** (Chair Linabury & Commissioner Butler had a booth at the event)
- **October:**
 - Safe Crossing for Shabbat pilot in collaboration with Beth David and Young Israel (Commissioner Lance developed, co-organized, and executed this initiative)
 - Know Your Rights: Immigration in collaboration with West Hartford Delegation, feat. Constanza Segovia (CT for All; Hartford Deportation Defense); Andrea Sanchez (Connecticut Students for a Dream); Attorney Dana Bucin, and Attorney Kara Hart. Recorded by WHCI: [view here](#). (Commissioners Lance and Ware developed, co-organized, and helped execute the event – including serving as moderators for the panel and Q&A.)

2025 Guest Speakers

The West Hartford Human Rights Commission hosted multiple guest speakers during their regular meetings in 2025, including:

January: Liz Buczynski, Asst. Dir. of Social Services, presented on housing and homelessness programs.

March: State Representative Jillian Gilchrest, presented on FGM legislation.

April: Town Manager Rick Ledwith, presented on **Vision Zero initiative** and pedestrian safety.

Nov.: Bill Heiden, Executive Director - Levo International, presented on ways to address food insecurity.

Key Accomplishments

- **February 2025:**
 - Submitted **letter of support** of H.B No.6596, banning female genital mutilation in Connecticut (written by Chair Linabury).
- **October 2025:**
 - **Know Your Rights Panel: Immigration** with West Hartford Delegation (Developed, co-organized, and led by Commissioners Ware and Lance)
- **Increased Public Engagement:** Overall, 2025 has seen increased civic engagement with the WHHRC. For examples, the October meeting had approximately 15 members of the public – possibly a record! Also during that meeting, the WHHRC received significant public engagement related to the draft Resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*. Dozens of residents shared written and verbal feedback, both in support of and in opposition to the original proposal. The resolution was then edited taking all of the feedback into careful consideration. Regardless of the outcome of this particular resolution, this level of public participation reflects community interest in how human-rights principles are applied locally and underscores the importance of open dialogue and transparency in municipal decision-making.

Policy Recommendations

The WHHRC did not put forth any policy recommendations during 2025.

Major Challenges and Priorities for 2026

2025 highlighted the need for clearly defined procedures, leadership roles, and reporting structures, consistent member participation, and more transparent communication with both the Town and the public. The Commission operated with only six to seven members throughout the year, limiting its capacity to maintain quorum and move from discussion to collaborative action on proposed initiatives. As a result, the Commission made limited progress toward its 2025 priorities. Addressing these structural and participation gaps will be essential to ensure the Commission operates effectively, reflects community values, and fulfills its mandate to promote human rights and inclusion in West Hartford.

Priorities for 2026

The WHHRC identified the following priorities for 2026, as outlined in the [2026 Strategic Plan](#):

1. Food & Housing Insecurity
 2. Immigration & Rights of Non-Citizens
 3. Addressing Hate Crimes & Hate Speech
 4. Human Rights in West Hartford School System
 5. Community Concerns & Emerging Issues
-

Financial Information

The WHHRC does not manage an independent budget. Event costs and outreach materials are supported through town resources and community partnerships. No tax exemptions were issued by the Commission in 2025.

Acknowledgments

The Commission extends its appreciation to the **West Hartford Town Council, Town Manager Rick Ledwith, Town Clerk Leon Davidoff, Employee Development & Community Engagement Manager Adrienne Billings-Smith**, and all residents, partners, and guest speakers who supported its work throughout 2025. Their collaboration has strengthened West Hartford's shared commitment to dignity, inclusion, and the protection of human rights for all.

West Hartford Human Rights Commission 2025-2026 Strategic Plan

DRAFT

Mission Statement

The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, immigration status, disability, present or past history of physical or mental illnesses, including but not limited to these characteristics.

2025-2026 Priorities:

1. Food & Housing Insecurity
2. Immigration & Rights of Non-Citizens
3. Addressing Hate Crimes & Hate Speech
4. Human Rights in West Hartford School System
5. Community Concerns & Emerging Issues

Key Objectives:

1. Build commissioner knowledge in priority areas to strengthen the Commission's expertise and effectiveness.
2. Educate the public about priority areas and human rights issues affecting West Hartford.
3. Raise awareness broadly through visible communications and public events.
4. Engage and consult the community to understand concerns and offer informed recommendations.

Key Actions & Activities:

- Invite expert speakers to meetings to deepen commissioners' knowledge.
- Offer public panels, programs, and workshops to expand education and awareness.
- Publish op-eds to raise awareness on priority issues.
- Use social media channels to inform and engage the community.
- Refresh the Annual Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Partner with local organizations on targeted awareness campaigns.
- Conduct a community survey to identify human rights concerns.
- Invite community input on emerging human rights issues through open calls for submissions.
- Rotate commissioner attendance at Town Council meetings to stay informed about current concerns and offer recommendations when appropriate.



WELCOME GUIDE

Mission Statement: The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, socio-economic status, immigration status, disability, present or past history of physical or mental illnesses, including but not limited to these characteristics.

Vision Statement: We envision an inclusive and diverse community free from all forms of discrimination, where all residents receive equal rights and opportunities.

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Welcome to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission!

Thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to advance human rights, equity, and inclusion in our community. You have likely already received the [Welcome to Public Service Guide](#). This current packet expands on that guide, providing a specific overview of the WHHRC. As a new commissioner, you are now part of a team that works to help make West Hartford a welcoming and inclusive community for all!

History of WHHRC

The WHHRC was established by Town Ordinance in 1972 and is codified in the Town Code, Ch. 5, Art IX.

ARTICLE IX

Human Rights Commission

[Adopted 9-12-1972 (Secs. 10-1 through 10-8 of the 1972 Code)]

§ 5-40. Establishment; membership; terms. [Amended 9-10-2013]

To foster mutual understanding and respect among people and to encourage equality of treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, civil union status, gender identity or expression, marital status, familial status, genetic information, age, economic status, lawful source of income, national origin or ancestry, or present or past history of physical, mental, intellectual or learning disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, a Human Rights Commission is hereby established. The Commission shall consist of nine members, who shall be appointed by the Town Council. At the expiration of each term of present members of the Commission, each subsequent appointment shall be for a term of three years.

§ 5-41. Compensation.

The members of the Commission established by this article shall serve without compensation, but their necessary and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their actual duties shall be paid by the Town within the limits of any appropriation made therefor.

§ 5-42. Officers.

The Commission established by this article shall choose a Chair and Secretary from its members.

§ 5-43. Meetings.

Meetings of the Commission established by this article shall be held at least quarterannually and at such other times as the Commission may determine.

§ 5-44. Secretarial and clerical assistants.

The Commission established by this article may appoint and remove any secretarial and clerical assistants as it may need for the performance of its duties within appropriations made by the Town Council.

§ 5-45. Cooperation with similar agencies.

The Commission established by this article shall cooperate with governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations having like or kindred functions as it deems necessary or desirable.

§ 5-46. Educational activities.

The Commission may undertake educational programs to promote its goals and may conduct hearings and make recommendations and conduct other appropriate activities in furtherance of its goals.

§ 5-47. Required records; reports.

The Commission established by this article shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall, no less often than annually, apprise the Council of its activities, progress and recommendations as to the need for implementation of local human rights programs.

Our Current Structure & Membership

Although our commission is formally a 9-member commission. With your recent appointment (as of October 2025), we currently have 7 members and 2 remaining vacancies. Current commissioners include:

Name	Role(s)	Phone	Email	Appointed	Term End	Affiliation
Mark Linabury	Co-Chair	860-830-2368	mkinabury@yahoo.com	01/23	12/25	D
Alana Butler	Co-Chair	860-878-7979	arblum2@gmail.com	05/24	12/25	D
Katie Lance	Secretary	262-955-9534	kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com	03/24	12/26	D
Eric Schoenberg	Treasurer	732-991-5338	ewscho@gmail.com	12/21	12/26	U
Dave Ware	Commissioner	860-478-9750	daveware73@gmail.com	12/24	12/25	D
Eva Jacobson	Commissioner	860-944-2144	attorney@ejacobsonlaw.com	12/24	12/25	D

Roles & Responsibilities

Chair/Co-Chairs

Primary Responsibilities:

- **Leadership & Facilitation:** Presides over meetings, ensuring they run efficiently, stay on topic, and follow the agenda and Robert's Rules of Order.
- **Agenda Setting:** Compiles potential agenda items from commissioners and works with Secretary and/or Town staff liaison to develop and distribute meeting agendas in advance.

Secretary

- **Recordkeeping:** Takes minutes during each meeting, capturing attendance, time called to order/adjourned as well as all motions and votes. Prepares and submits finalized agendas, minutes, calendars, and annual reports to the Town Clerk's office within required timeframes.
- **Administrative Support:** Maintains and monitors the Commission's Google account (e.g., Google Drive, email address), ensuring that messages are reviewed, logged, and addressed as appropriate.
- **Communication:** Helps coordinate correspondences, announcements, and updates with commissioners, town representatives, and public (e.g., via email, Google Group, or town webpage). Maintain and monitor the Commission's official email inbox, ensuring that messages from residents, town officials, and partner organizations are reviewed, logged, and directed to the appropriate commissioners or subcommittees for follow-up.

Treasurer

- This is primarily a symbolic position.
- The Treasurer does not maintain a separate bank account or handle money, see: *Use of Town Resources and Funding Procedures* below.

WHHRC Guidelines & Procedures Reference Sheet

Based on Town guidance, the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and Robert's Rules of Order (Simplified)

1. Legal & Procedural Foundations

- **Robert's Rules of Order:**
 - Commissions should be guided by Robert's Rules of Order (ROO) (see Appendix A).
 - Promote fairness, efficiency, and consistency – ensure discussions are orderly, motions are clear, and commissioners and public are all treated equitably.
 - Resources on the basics of Robert's Rules of Order are available from the Town.
 - **Note:** Commissions do not follow more advanced parliamentary maneuvers or complex amendment hierarchies, and Robert's Rules of Order are subordinate to any adopted bylaws or other governing documents.
 - **Meetings must be public.**
 - All WHHRC meetings are open to the public.
 - No one can be excluded, required to sign in, or provide personal information to attend or provide public comment.
 - **Quorum is required** to conduct business.
 - A quorum is a **majority of appointed members**.
 - For a nine-member commission, at least five members must be present
 - Four members must be present if three seats are vacant.
 - If no quorum, the meeting must be canceled — it cannot “proceed informally.”
 - **Note:** Commissioners can call-in to attend in extreme circumstances, but must be present in a way that allows them to hear everything going on and that allows all members of the commission and public to hear them when they speak.
 - **FOIA compliance:**
 - All meetings, agendas, minutes, and votes must follow the **CT Freedom of Information Act**.
 - Informal group emails, texts, or phone chains about official business among a **quorum of members** can constitute an **illegal meeting**.
 - **Subcommittees** are permitted, but cannot reach quorum.
 - Can prepare materials but not make final decisions.
 - **Record-keeping:**
 - Minutes must list:
 - Who was present/absent
 - The time called to order/adjourned
 - All motions and votes
 - A **summary of all votes** (including how each member voted) must be filed within 48 hours of the meeting – if full minutes are not yet ready.
 - **Full minutes** (including voting details) must be filed within 7 days.
 - **Town Code of Ethics (Chapter 16):**
 - Commissioners are subject to the Town Code of Ethics (Ch. 16), which prohibits conflicts of interest, acceptance of gifts, and disclosure of confidential information.
-

2. Agendas & Meeting Management

- **Agenda posting:**
 - Agendas must be filed at least **24 hours in advance**
 - Note: Town Clerk requests 3 business days of the meeting
 - Regular meetings: May add agenda item(s) during the meeting with **2/3 vote** of members present.
 - Special meetings: **No new items** can be added.
 - **Setting the Agenda:**
 - The **Chairperson** is responsible for compiling and filing the agenda.
 - Members can propose items by sending them to the Chair before posting deadlines.
 - If an agenda is already too full to accommodate a proposed item, the item will be added to the following month's agenda.
 - Supporting materials (e.g., draft letters or resolutions) can be included in the agenda packet.
 - **Public participation:**
 - Public comment can be at the beginning (recommended) with time limits (e.g., 3 minutes).
 - No back-and-forth dialogue should occur; responses may come later in the meeting or via follow-up.
 - No one can be excluded, required to sign in, or provide personal information.
 - The Chair announces these rules clearly at the start of the meeting.
 - **Timeliness:**
 - Meetings should **start on time** (e.g., 6:45 PM per the December 2024 vote).
 - It's courteous and builds public trust.
 - **Canceling a Meeting/Scheduling a Special Session:**
 - Meetings **cannot be "rescheduled" or "postponed."**
 - If a meeting is canceled (e.g., for weather or lack of business), the Chair must notify the Town Clerk, who will post a cancellation notice.
 - Any new meeting must be posted as a new **"special meeting"** with a new agenda.
 - Special sessions can also be requested by Commissioners as needed to discuss a specific issue/item.
-

3. Conducting the Meeting

- **Chair's role:**
 - Only the Chair runs the meeting, maintains order, and recognizes speakers.
 - Members should speak only after being recognized by the Chair and direct comments through the Chair, not to one another.
 - This maintains order and fairness during discussion.
- **Discussion Procedures & Decorum**
 - Members should speak only after being recognized by the Chair.
 - Members should address each other **through the Chair**, not directly to one another.
 - There should be no cross-talking or interruption.
 - This maintains order and fairness during discussion.
- **Motions and voting:**
 - Any action (e.g., letter, event participation, new subcommittee, guest speaker, etc.) requires a motion, a second, discussion, and a vote.
 - If no second, the motion dies.
 - Discussion should stay on topic and be time-limited.
 - Votes can be by voice ("all in favor") or roll call.

- **Discussion etiquette:**
 - Members address each other **through the Chair**, not directly to one another.
 - Members should not cross-talk or interrupt others.
 - All members may speak once before anyone speaks a second time.
 - The Chair may end discussion when it becomes repetitive or unproductive.
 - **Decision-making:**
 - The “loudest voice” should not determine outcomes
 - Decisions must come **through motion, second, discussion, and vote.**
-

4. Between Meetings

- **No quorum communication:**
 - Members may speak/email in small groups, but not in groups that include a quorum.
 - Email chains or in-person discussions that collectively involve a quorum and move toward consensus violate FOIA (“serial meetings”).
 - Limit inter-meeting communication to logistics (e.g., scheduling, agenda ideas).
 - Do not discuss substantive issues outside of public meetings if a quorum is present.
 - Never make decisions outside of public meetings.
 - Avoid reply-all chains; these can legally count as a meeting.
 - **Preparation:**
 - Members can review materials in advance but **must not deliberate or make decisions** outside the meeting.
 - **Subcommittees:**
 - Can meet to prepare drafts (e.g., social media, annual report) but must report outcomes publicly at the next regular meeting.
-

5. Minutes

- **Content:**
 - Minutes record *actions*, they do not need to include detailed debates.
 - Lengthy verbatim detail is unnecessary.
 - **Posting:**
 - Minutes are to be sent to the Town Clerk within 7 days for the public record.
 - **Approval:**
 - There is no such thing as a draft of the minutes.
 - Minutes should be officially approved and/or amended at the next meeting.
 - Members who were absent should abstain from voting on minutes.
-

6. Attendance & Vacancies

- If a member misses **three consecutive meetings**, the Chair should contact them to confirm continued interest.
 - Chronic absenteeism can trigger a letter from the Town Clerk’s office.
 - The **Town Council** can only appoint members; they cannot directly remove someone mid-term.
-

7. Annual Requirements & Best Practices

- **Annual meeting schedule** must be filed by **December**.
 - Adopt annual calendars in November and file by December.
 - This ensures January meetings meet the “30 days after filing” rule.
 - **Annual Report** is required by Town Charter and should summarize:
 - Membership and meeting dates
 - Key accomplishments
 - Policy recommendations
 - Major challenges or priorities for the coming year
 - Submitted to the Town Clerk’s office (shared with Town Council).
 - The report is based on the **calendar year**, not fiscal year.
 - **Annual Elections:**
 - Suggested Officer Roles:
 - **Chair:** Runs meetings, sets the agenda.
 - **Vice-Chair:** Ensures continuity when the Chair is unavailable,
 - **Secretary:** Takes and submits meeting minutes to the Town Clerk.
 - Best practices suggest holding **annual elections** (typically in **December or January**) to elect/re-elect officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, etc).
 - Ensures accountability, leadership continuity, and equitable participation.
 - Ensures transparency in decision-making.
 - In alignment with annual meeting calendar and reporting cycle.
-

8. Use of Town Resources and Funding Procedures:

- The WHHRC functions as a volunteer advisory body under the Town Council and does not receive direct annual appropriations *nor* does it have its own independent operating budget.
- When sponsoring or participating in events, any associated costs – such as printing, publicity, or facility use – are typically covered and/or coordinated through the Town.
- If funds or resources are needed, the Commission must submit requests through the Town or collaborate with another town department hosting a joint initiative.
- Direct fundraising or independent financial management is **not permitted**.
- Local organizations, nonprofits, or Town partners may provide **in-kind support** (e.g., refreshments, printed materials, or space).

9. Core Takeaways

- These guidelines and procedures are in place to promote fairness, efficiency, and consistency – ensuring all commissioners and members of the public are treated equitably and respectfully.
- These procedures uphold the public’s right to know their right be aware of, and participate in the work of boards and commissions.
- These procedures help ensure that the WHHRC is compliant with FOIA and operates effectively.
- **Note:** These guidelines do not include specifics about every single procedure for Commissions; therefore, West Hartford Boards & Commissions are also encouraged to adopt procedural bylaws to guide any additional operations, such as: meeting scheduling, agenda, setting, calling a meeting, etc.

Getting & Sharing Information

Town website: Includes mission & vision statements, schedule, present and past agendas & minutes.

<https://www.westhartfordct.gov/government-services/boards-commissions/human-rights-commission>

Google Group & Google Account:

Google Group: west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

Pramod Prashan (Town Liaison) will add you to the above Google group, which will allow you to send and receive messages to and from the full WHHRC.

Note:

- o Refrain from discussing substantial topics via Google Group (since it involves a quorum).
- o Limit Google Group email communication to logistics/information sharing (e.g., a relevant news article, scheduling, agenda ideas, circulating documents for review, etc).

WHHRC Google Account (est. October 2024):

Username: WeHaHRC

Password: WeHaHRC2025!

*Note: You may be required to go through a verification process when first signing in. Therefore, it is best to contact Katie ahead of time, so she can be ready to verify your log-in.

Gmail: WeHaHRC@gmail.com

This email address was created (Oct. 2024) to provide a public-facing point of contact for residents to share concerns, questions, or ideas related to human rights in West Hartford. It also serves to increase transparency and accessibility by having an official, consistent communication channel separate from individual members' personal emails. improve accessibility and public engagement. Finally, it supports our Strategic Plan's objectives around community engagement and gathering input on emerging human rights issues.

Google Drive: WHHRC

To improve organization and access, the WHHRC maintains a shared Google Drive where all members can compose, review, and upload key materials. The drive serves as the central repository for agendas, minutes, strategic plans, and other official documents (as well as some unofficial notes sheets/documents).

The WHHRC Google Drive folder includes multiple sub-folders:

- 1.) Strategic & Administrative Documents (e.g., Strategic Plans, Mission/Vision statements; Social Media Guidelines; Town Code; Welcome to Public Service Guide.)
- 2.) Agendas
- 3.) Minutes
- 4.) Letters & Resolutions
- 5.) Collaborative Areas
 - Hate Crimes & Hate Speech
 - Social Media & Community Engagement

Note: To-date the Google Account (Gmail and Drive) has been managed by the Social Media Coordinator (Katie Lance); however, all commissioners have access to the email address and drive to ensure transparency and continuity. Commissioners are encouraged to create documents, upload relevant documents, and reference past materials as needed. If you wish to access the Google Drive with your own personal Gmail account, ask Katie Lance (Secretary and Social Media Coordinator) to add your personal Gmail address.

Our Priorities: WHHRC's 2026 Strategic Plan

2026 Priorities:

1. Food & Housing Insecurity
2. Immigration & Rights of Non-Citizens
3. Addressing Hate Crimes & Hate Speech
4. Human Rights in West Hartford School System
5. Community Concerns & Emerging Issues

Key Objectives:

- Build commissioner knowledge in priority areas to strengthen the Commission's expertise and effectiveness.
- Educate the public about priority areas and human rights issues affecting West Hartford.
- Raise awareness broadly through visible communications and public events.
- Engage and consult the community to understand concerns and offer informed recommendations.

Key Actions & Activities:

- Invite expert speakers to meetings to deepen commissioners' knowledge.
- Offer public panels, programs, and workshops to expand education and awareness.
- Publish op-eds to raise awareness on priority issues.
- Use social media channels to inform and engage the community.
- Refresh the Annual Celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Partner with local organizations on targeted awareness campaigns.
- Conduct a community survey to identify human rights concerns.
- Invite community input on emerging human rights issues through open calls for submissions.
- Rotate commissioner attendance at Town Council meetings to stay informed about current concerns and offer recommendations when appropriate.

Our Collaborative Areas

Hate Crime & Hate Speech: Led by Eva Jacobson & Alana Butler

Purpose:

The Hate Crimes & Hate Speech Subcommittee works to strengthen West Hartford's capacity to prevent, identify, and respond to incidents motivated by bias or discrimination. The subcommittee serves as a liaison between the community, local law enforcement, and town officials to improve transparency, reporting accessibility, and public understanding of available support systems.

Key Objectives:

- Enhance visibility and awareness for reporting and support systems
- Identify any patterns, system gaps, and barriers to reporting
- Offer recommendations for bridging any gaps

Key Actions & Activities:

- Identify and meet with key stakeholders (i.e., Town employees, State Police, WeHa Police Department, community leaders, organizations, etc.)
- Obtain or create brochures to increase accessibility for reporting (with QR codes for reporting/Anonymous Tip Line)?

- Community Survey (integrated into larger Community Concerns/Human Rights Needs Assessment survey)
- Determine if there is an Anonymous Tip Line for Hate Crimes
- After gaps are identified: submit recommendations/best practices proposal to Town Council and/or WeHa Police Department

Social Media & Community Engagement: Led by Katie Lance & Dave Ware

Purpose:

The Social Media and Community Engagement Subcommittee works to enhance the visibility of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission (WHHRC) and strengthen its connection with residents. The subcommittee promotes civic engagement, encourages participation in human rights initiatives and serves as a first line of understanding the needs and concerns of the community. Through ongoing outreach and communication efforts, the subcommittee ensures that the Commission remains accessible, responsive, and reflective of West Hartford's diverse population.

Key Objectives:

- Increase public awareness of the Commission's mission, priorities, and activities.
- Strengthen community participation and trust through transparent, timely, and inclusive communication.
- Foster partnerships with local organizations, schools, faith communities, and civic groups to expand human rights education and engagement.
- Ensure that all public-facing materials reflect the diversity, values, and inclusivity of the Town of West Hartford.

Key Actions & Activities:

- Work to expand the Commission's online presence through regular updates, event promotion, and cross-platform coordination with the Town of West Hartford's communications channels. Any and all commissioners are welcome and encouraged to share ideas for posts on Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WeHaHRC/>. All posts follow our [social media guidelines](#).
- Engage Town and community partners, including schools, libraries, and nonprofits, to share updates, amplify outreach efforts, and encourage community participation.
- Gather feedback through public comments, direct outreach, and online engagement to identify community priorities.
- Submit periodic updates and recommendations to the Commission regarding emerging issues based on public outreach and engagement.

Past Actions & In-Progress Activities (2025):

- Safe Crossing for Shabbat Initiative (Pilot)
- Know Your Rights: Immigration Panel
- Local Business & Human Rights - Resolution & Leadership Award (*in progress*)
- Community Human Rights Needs Assessment (*in progress*)
- Community Garden (*in progress*)
- Welcome Sign (*in progress*)
- Welcome Guide - New Commissioners (*in progress*)

Talk to Katie or Dave to find out more about any of these activities, or see more details [here](#).

What Else Do We Do?

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration

Each year, the West Hartford Human Rights Commission (WHHRC) and West Hartford Public Libraries host the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights Celebration** to honor the adoption of the United Nations' landmark document affirming the inherent dignity and equal rights of all people.

The event brings together residents, community leaders, and students to celebrate West Hartford's diversity and shared commitment to human rights. Past celebrations have included participants reading articles from the Declaration in multiple languages – reflecting the many cultures and voices that make up the community. The 2025 celebration featured **33 readers representing 22 languages**, in partnership with the **United Nations Association of Connecticut** and the **Town of West Hartford**.

The event is held annually at the **West Hartford Town Hall**. The program includes remarks from town officials, musical performances, and educational materials to raise awareness of human rights principles at the local level. The event is recorded by **West Hartford Community Interactive (WHCi)** and remains one of the Commission's cornerstone community traditions.

Engagement with Other West Hartford Celebrations

Commissioners also regularly represent WHHRC at Town events, such as Park Road Parade (until 2024), Memorial Day parade (May), Juneteenth (June), and Pride (June).

For Reference: Robert's Rules of Order Motion Chart (Parts 1 & 2)

Part 1, Main Motions. These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.
§ indicates the section from Robert's Rules.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Part 2, Incidental Motions. No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes if urgent	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes if urgent	No	No	No	None

Introduction & Purpose

This document is a compilation of public feedback received regarding the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*. The resolution was drafted by Commissioner Kathryn Lance in response to concerns raised over the past year by community members beginning in November 2024. While the details of those concerns varied, a shared theme emerged: residents—regardless of background—were expressing fear for their own safety and well-being as well as that of their friends, family, loved ones, and neighbors. In an effort to respond constructively and uphold the values of human dignity and equity at the local level, Commissioner Lance engaged in months of listening, research, and dialogue to explore how municipal governments like West Hartford can take meaningful action to protect human rights.

Through this research, she became familiar with the Human Rights Cities framework and the work of the Human Rights Cities Alliance. The foundational phase of becoming a Human Rights City encourages local governments to build internal capacity, raise public awareness, and ground their governance practices in internationally recognized human rights norms. It was within this context that the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) emerged as a promising and practical starting point. Developed in 2011 by Harvard Professor John Ruggie, the UNGPs were designed to help small and large governments and businesses alike identify, prevent, and respond to human rights impacts. They offer a flexible, locally applicable framework that supports municipal efforts to examine how their policies, procurement processes, and partnerships can better reflect values of equity, transparency, and accountability.

The intention of the resolution was not to mandate sweeping changes, but to open space for learning, dialogue, and intentional planning—in alignment with the Human Rights Cities guidance. This resolution calls on Town officials to explore the UNGPs. This was envisioned as a logical, manageable next step for a town like West Hartford to begin translating its existing commitments into practice. This type of foundational step is precisely what the Human Rights Cities framework encourages in its early stages: educational engagement, capacity-building, and community-informed planning.

Indeed, West Hartford has already taken meaningful steps to acknowledge the importance of human rights. The West Hartford Human Rights Commission (WHHRC) was formally established in the Town Code [Chapter 5, Article IX] as a standing body dedicated to advancing equity and protecting human rights at the local level. Each year, the Town commemorates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) through a Human Rights Day celebration co-sponsored by the WHHRC and the West Hartford Libraries. The Mayor also issues an annual proclamation reaffirming the Town's dedication to these principles and encouraging all residents to work toward fulfilling the rights articulated in the UDHR.

By introducing the Town to the UNGPs and encouraging deeper reflection on its own governance practices, the resolution aimed to build on these commitments—not replace or politicize them. It is grounded in the belief that human rights begin at home, and that municipal governments have both the opportunity and responsibility to uphold those rights through local leadership. Specifically, the resolution aligns with core UDHR principles such as the right to dignity (Article 1), equality before the law (Article 7), just and favorable conditions of work (Article 23), and the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 25). As such, this resolution represents a sincere, good-faith effort to help West Hartford move from symbolic acknowledgment to practical action—ensuring that its policies and priorities reflect the values it already claims to uphold.

Process
Feedback
prior to
Nov.
mtg.

2025-03-10 PM 4:35
OFFICE OF
CLERK

RECEIVED

Resolution Drafting Process To Date:

Commissioner Lance shared the original draft with the West Hartford Human Rights Commission on September 3, 2025. It was circulated to the public via the October agenda on October 6, 2025. The majority of feedback contained in this document relates to that initial draft.

The resolution was revised multiple times between October 9 and October 27 by two members (Commissioner Ware and Lance) of the working group established at the Oct. 8th meeting (Commissioners Schoenberg, Ware, and Lance). The current version reflects their best efforts to incorporate feedback from fellow commissioners and members of the public, while still upholding the core values of the original draft. The current draft is still very much a working draft.

For clarity, the materials are grouped into five parts:

- **Part I:** Written statements in support of the resolution (October 6–8, 2025)
- **Part II:** Public testimony delivered at the October 8, 2025 WHHRC meeting
- **Part III:** Summary of Commission discussion (October 8, 2025)
- **Part IV:** Emails in opposition to the resolution (October 22–27, 2025)
- **Part V:** New letters of support received November 5, 2025
- **Appendix:** Original draft and latest revised of the resolution (Oct. 27)

Where necessary, formatting has been lightly adjusted for readability while preserving all original content. This compilation is submitted as part of the public record in the interest of transparency and community dialogue. Please note this resolution is still in a working draft format. We expect additional feedback will continue to come in, so this compilation does not yet represent the full scope of public feedback and discussion.

Part I – Written Testimony Submitted via Email (October 6 – 8, 2025)

The following written statements were submitted by residents and community members between **October 6** and **October 8, 2025**, in response to the original draft of the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*.

Given that the resolution was drafted in response to public concerns previously shared with **Commissioner Kathryn Lance**, outreach was conducted to ensure that residents had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposal before the October 8 Human Rights Commission meeting. As part of her role on the **Community Engagement Subcommittee**, Commissioner Lance invited community feedback and encouraged public participation in the meeting.

The correspondence below therefore also includes internal communications between Commissioner Lance and fellow commissioners sharing the public testimony received in advance of the meeting. These emails were sent to or forwarded to the Commission's shared inbox (WeHaHRC@gmail.com) and compiled in a shared Google document so that all commissioners could review them prior to the meeting.

This section preserves the messages as forwarded, maintaining original wording and format to provide a complete record of public correspondence received through this channel.

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com

Subject: Testimonies for Resolution

Date: October 8, 2025 at 11:20

To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



Hi Everyone,

I have been working to solicit public feedback on the resolution since the agenda was sent out on Monday. I am happy to report that we have received some testimony emails in support of the resolution! Some are being sent directly to our email, some are being sent to me, I am forwarding those to our email address. So, you can review those in our WeHaHRC@gmail.com inbox. @David K Ware and @Eva Jacobson - you were not there when we set up the email address so please note the username and password below:



o e s s e same account that holds the WeHa Google Drive.)

I also invited people to share their feedback via public comment. I am not sure if anyone will actually show up for that, but it may be good to have some extra chairs on hand just in case.

Looking forward to seeing you all tonight!

Best,
Katie

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.

(she/her/hers)

+1.262.955.9534

[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "west hartford human rights commission" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to west-hartford-human-rights-commission+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com

To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAMFLUNgrY5i6Ua9t4ghGwLnmsLM0vzwjNw%2B-LVdHksCzC-6og%40mail.gmail.com>

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.mane.lance@gmail.com 
Subject: Letters

Date: October 8, 2025 at 13:04

To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

KL

Hi Everyone,

Eric said he had trouble signing in to the email account - so I compiled the letters I have seen so far into one document. I am also sharing a letter in PDF format that someone sent. Sorry for formatting issues - I'm literally on the plane and about to take-off soon, so trying to get this out as soon as possible. Hopefully, I get this sent in time!

Best,
Katie

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "west hartford human rights commission" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to west-hartford-human-rights-commission+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAMfLUNi91w6FH%2BKQ%3DZM0-KjadL5CzslW8kcHKSVy14nuuyJJ6A%40mail.gmail.com>.

Public Letters for Resolution 10-8
.docx
21 KB



Affirming West Hartford's
Commitment to Human Rights in...
404 KB



Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

To: Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

My name is Carolyn Gammerman and I am a resident of West Hartford, CT. I'm writing to you in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

I support this resolution because it promotes responsible and transparent business practices in our town. Aligning with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights isn't about adding bureaucracy — it's about setting expectations that businesses here respect human rights, whether in their workplaces or their supply chains. It's about protecting workers, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring that our public funds aren't linked to human rights abuses anywhere. West Hartford can be a leader in showing that local communities have a role to play in global human rights.

I also support this resolution because it includes an essential protection for residents: prohibiting the sharing of automated enforcement data with outside agencies like ICE. Other towns have already learned the hard way that when companies share license plate or camera data without oversight, it can put people at risk — especially immigrants, people of color, and activists. West Hartford has a chance to be proactive and protect its residents' privacy before problems arise. I hope the Commission recognizes how forward-thinking this resolution is and supports it.

Finally, with all of the corruption on the federal level between politicians, big business and corporate interests, there is a persistent need on all levels of government for transparency in expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, as well as an enduring need for accountability of government to our public citizens who contribute their hard-earned tax dollars. This resolution would facilitate further transparency and accountability.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Gammerman

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Email in support of proposed resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 09:15
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

KL

FYI.

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1 262 955 9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jeanie <jeaniern1101@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 14:20
Subject: Email in support of proposed resolution
To: Kathryn Lance <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

Hello. My name is Jean Satalino Heyer. I have lived in West Hartford for 39 years.

I am writing in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights.

I support this resolution because it connects global human right principles to our local community.

This is not abstract. It is about ensuring that our town contracts, investments, and partnerships reflect the values upon which West Hartford has been built. It is about protecting workers, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring that our public funds are not linked to human rights abuse anywhere.

West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. It is one of the main reasons that I have stayed in this town for almost 40 years.

I believe this Resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town. We are compassionate, proactive and fair in doing what is right.

I urge the commission to support this resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,
Jean Satalino Heyer
[16 Shadow Lane](#)
[West Hartford](#)

My name is Linda Scacco and I have lived in West Hartford for 35 years. My husband and I and our three now adult children have benefited from all that West Hartford has to offer, from its public schools, recreational activities, its diverse population and its welcoming community. In addition, I am a member of the Universalist Church of WH, a community that affirms the worth and dignity of every human being.

I am writing to give support to the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance. West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. The proposed resolution builds upon that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs. West Hartford, as its history has demonstrated, can be a leader in showing that local communities have a significant role to play in global human rights. I encourage the Council to vote in favor of this resolution.

Thank you.

Linda Scacco
4 Grennan Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-490-6699
lscaccophd@gmail.com

From: Shane Solger shanesolger@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony regarding "'Human Rights in Business and Governance"
Date: October 7, 2025 at 14:30
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

SS

Hello! I would like to submit the following testimony regarding the committee item:

"Human Rights in Business and Governance".

To the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

My name is Shane Solger. I am a practicing emergency physician in Hartford, a resident of West Hartford, and I am also a Navy Veteran. I am writing in support of the resolution. When I commissioned as an officer in the military, it was to defend the principles that I believe are fundamental to our country—including that people should be free from fear of government overreach. In this case, that includes protecting residents from the sharing of information with a hostile federal government that is actively tearing families apart, despite their contributions to our community.

I have the distinct pleasure of caring for many immigrants in our community, and I have seen firsthand how federal policies and enforcement practices have created fear, even in accessing essential healthcare. I remember one young adult male who came to the emergency department at 2:30 in the morning because he was afraid to seek care during the daytime, when ICE might be more active.

As a physician, I frequently provide patients with work notes and guidance so that they can safely return to their jobs and support their families. My experience has overwhelmingly shown that they simply want to get better and continue working to be productive citizens of our city, which stands in stark contrast to the way the current administration has attempted to portray these individuals.

This resolution recognizes that human rights must be protected not only through community values but also through the practices of businesses, municipal governance, and the responsible use of technology. I also appreciate that it calls for an investigation to ensure that my tax dollars are being used in a way that protects and uplifts the individuals living in West Hartford. Furthermore, by protecting resident data from misuse or unauthorized sharing, this resolution codifies the fact that our town and community value dignity, safety, and fairness for all residents, and also stands to protect us should the current administration attempt to weaponize the judicial system against peaceful protestors.

Thank you,

Shane Solger, MD
Fellow, Emergency Critical Care & Resuscitation
Department of Emergency Medicine
Hartford Hospital
Phone: (847) 848-3203
Email: shanesolger@gmail.com

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Commit to Human Rights
Date: November 4, 2025 at 15:51
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

KL

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **marcy balint** <marcybalint@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 6:09 PM
Subject: Commit to Human Rights
To: <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

To: Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

My name is Marcy Balint and I am a resident of West Hartford, CT. I'm writing to you in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

I support this resolution because it promotes responsible and transparent business practices in our town. Aligning with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights isn't about adding bureaucracy — it's about setting expectations that businesses here respect human rights, whether in their workplaces or their supply chains. It's about protecting workers, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring that our public funds aren't linked to human rights abuses anywhere. West Hartford can be a leader in showing that local communities have a role to play in global human rights.

I also support this resolution because it includes an essential protection for residents: prohibiting the sharing of automated enforcement data with outside agencies like ICE. Other towns have already learned the hard way that when companies share license plate or camera data without oversight, it can put people at risk — especially immigrants, people of color, and activists. West Hartford has a chance to be proactive and protect its residents' privacy before problems arise. I hope the Commission recognizes how forward-thinking this resolution is and supports it.

Finally, with all of the corruption on the federal level between politicians, big business and corporate interests, there is a persistent need on all levels of government for transparency in expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, as well as an enduring need for accountability of government to our public citizens who contribute their hard-earned tax dollars. This resolution would facilitate further transparency and accountability.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely, Marcy L. Balint 64 Beverly Rd. WH

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights Resolution Support
Date: October 8, 2025 at 10:52
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

KL

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Janet Schloss <janetschloss1tg@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 9:19 AM
Subject: Human Rights Resolution Support
To: <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

My name is Janet Schloss, and I'm a resident of West Hartford. I'm in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and [governance.as](#) the attached proposal is written.

I moved to West Hartford three years ago just because it is a more diverse and youthful community . My cousins were well educated here, and my elder cousin lives at Mercy's McAuley residence.

This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments by the people and for the people have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council. And I urge all citizen's to be proactive too, in supporting our town and businesses.

Please add kindness into our days on this earth.

--

Janet Schloss

janetschloss1tg@gmail.com
860-395-4853

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1 262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

Resolution Draft - WeHa
Businesses & Human Rights.doc...



From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com

Subject: Another letter

Date: October 8, 2025 at 13:07

To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

KL

Hopefully this gets out before we take off and I lose WiFi access! :)

See letter pasted below.

Best,
Katie

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.

(she/her/hers)

+1 262 955 9534

[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

My name is Anne Adam. I have been a resident of West Hartford for 65 years. I am writing in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This is a simple, common-sense framework that highlights that governments have a duty to protect people businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town – compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the West Hartford Human Rights Commission to pass this resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Anne Adam

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "west hartford human rights commission" group. To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to west-hartford-human-rights-commission+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAMILUNjmGO3X4Ur%2ByVaCWDBKZ0WJWBTFBaHGnXUc5V%2BCCYtw%40mail.gmail.com>.

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Support for the Human Rights Resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 09:51
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

KL

FYI.

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1 262 955 9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Wendy Sacks <wsacks@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 08:48
Subject: Support for the Human Rights Resolution
To: kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

Hi Katie,

Thank you for doing this!

Wendy

To: Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

My name is Wendy Sacks, and I'm a resident of West Hartford. I'm speaking in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance. West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs. I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Wendy Sacks

From: Angela Mazur ajmactivism@gmail.com
Subject: Resolution Affirming
Date: October 6, 2025 at 12:04
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

AM

My name is Angela Mazur. I grew in West Hartford and now live in Avon. I'm speaking in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance. At this time in our nation when citizens are being cruelly targeted for the color of their skin, it is imperative that WH affirms their commitment!

West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Council.

Thank you,
Angela Mazur

From: Arman Haidari arman.s.haidari@gmail.com
Subject: Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance
Date: October 8, 2025 at 12:21
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

AH

Hi,

As a West Hartford resident, I support this resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

We live in a time when a number of communities are being attacked, threatened and pursued by the federal government while certain businesses support the crackdown for financial gain.

It's extremely important that our town be steadfast in resisting abuses by the federal government and the business sector.

I like that the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provides a simple, common-sense framework outlining how governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,
Arman Haidari

From: Saayli Kokitkar saayli.kokitkar@outlook.com
Subject: Support for Passing Human Rights Resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 22:53
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

SK

Dear Human Rights Commission,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am emailing in support of passing the resolution affirming our city's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

It includes an essential protection for residents: prohibiting the sharing of automated enforcement data with outside agencies like ICE. When companies share license plate or camera data without oversight, it can put people at risk — especially immigrants, people of color, and activists.

By affirming the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, West Hartford can help ensure that everyone can live and work safely here.

I urge the Commission to support the resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Saayli Kokitkar

From: Ruth Hofstatter hofstatterruth@gmail.com
Subject: Commitment to Human Rights Affirmation
Date: October 8, 2025 at 11:29
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



My name is Ruth Hofstatter and I am a resident of West Hartford.
I'm writing to you in support of the proposed resolution affirming our town's commitment to human rights in business and governance.
Protecting workers and safeguarding our privacy are important. Let us as the town of West Hartford continue to be a leader in Connecticut
and our nation in protecting human rights.

Please support this resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Thank you

Ruth Hofstatter
68 Whiting Lane

From: Wendell Weisinger wendell.lynn72@gmail.com
Subject: Support of the resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 09:11
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



I have been a resident of West Hartford for 35 years.

I have always been focused on national politics.

It is clear to me now how important it is to work within our local community as well.

I strongly support the resolution before the WH Human Rights Commission in their commitment to human rights in business and governance. We can model for the country the importance of "united we stand", for all people in our communities – including our immigrant and non-citizen neighbors.

Thank you ` wendell weisinger
80 whitman avenue

Part II – Verbal Testimony from the October 8, 2025 Public Meeting

The following transcripts were auto-generated from the public comment portion of the October 8, 2025 meeting of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. They have been lightly edited for clarity and readability but may contain minor transcription errors or brief inaudible portions (noted in brackets). These statements reflect genuine community voices who attended in person to express their support for the proposed resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.

Speaker 1 – Anne Broadhurst (West Hartford Resident)

My name is Anne Broadhurst, and I live in West Hartford.

I came to support a resolution that's being proposed, for the town to adopt people or consider adopting the U.N guiding principles of human rights and business and governance.

And I'm not going to be very eloquent about this other than just to say that I don't I don't see any reason why we wouldn't support it, given the fact that West Hartford does have a history of being very inclusive and ... and diverse and welcoming and equitable, and it just seems to me that given the times we're in, you know, anything we can do to further to continue to shape, you know, our democracy in a positive direction is something that I really would support the Town doing.

Speaker 2 – Arjun (West Hartford Resident)

Yeah, hi, my name is Arjun.

I'm here today also in support of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. And as has been mentioned, West Hartford is a very diverse community, and right now, in these times, we're seeing – specifically with ICE – we're seeing people abducted from their places of work.

This includes in places like in Southington, which is maybe 20 minutes from here.

There were four people abducted while they were working behind the counter at a car wash and just taken away. So, I think that the appropriate way to respond to that is to ensure that businesses and places of work, where people are spending the majority of time, are committed to protecting their rights.

And, I think at a city level, you can definitely do that, and we can definitely compel businesses to protect in that way. And I think this is a particularly good framework to do that.

Speaker 3 – Julia (West Hartford Resident)

Hello, my name is Julia, and I'm here to voice my support for the resolution we're talking about. I support this resolution because it would acknowledge the dignity and humanity of immigrant and refugee residents in West Hartford.

No one deserves to have their data shared with [*unclear*] secret police forces, especially not for the so-called crime of not having proper documentation. Our undocumented neighbors deserve the same security in their persons and data as any other resident of West Hartford.

I support this resolution as well, because human rights don't end at business doors, on the stock market floor, nor in our tactical expenditures.

This resolution would encourage the Town to make sure that businesses in West Hartford respect the UN guiding principles on human rights and make sure that our town is not invested anywhere where human rights are not respected.

We should not have our taxes to go to any investments in any companies, which do not respect the humanity of all people, and they certainly should not feel welcome in West Hartford.

Lastly, I'm also in support of this resolution, that as a queer and trans person, I recognize that the same methods of impression used against our undocumented neighbors will eventually make their way to target my trans siblings, and indeed surely already are used against my undocumented trans siblings.

Trans people are already at a higher rate, a higher risk of being victims of sexual and physical violence, and exponentially more so for trans people of color. We have already seen video and heard accounts of ICE physically and sexually abusing people in their custody. Hopefully, this resolution can be a step for West Hartford to protect its citizens from violence.

I encourage the commission to vote in favor.

Speaker 4 – Eamon (Hartford Resident; works in Peacebuilding)

My name is Eamon. I live in Hartford, actually, but I spend a lot of time in West Hartford, shop at local businesses – I've spent a lot of time with my friends here.

I love West Hartford's parks and trails. I work in higher education – in peacebuilding. And, I'm also here to speak in favor of the resolution about adopting the UN Guiding Principles.

When I do go spend time in West Hartford, I'd like to know that the products I'm buying are ethically sourced, that they treat their employees well, and that they treat their customers and community members with respect, not discriminating against anyone who [pause] – what you said in the mission statement, actually, any sort of, immutable characteristic.

And, I think these principles provide a great way for businesses to do just that, to work towards these guidelines.

I don't think anyone will get perfect at the start. I know my parents run a small business and I know it's difficult, but I think that this is a great way to start a conversation about how we can create a more welcoming West Hartford, Hartford, Greater Hartford area, especially now with what we're seeing at the national and state level.

There's a lot of fear, and I think that encouraging people that proactively show that they respect human rights do a lot to mitigate that fear, and in that respect, I urge the Human Rights Commission to adopt the resolution as is.

Speaker 5 – [Name unclear] (West Hartford Resident)

My name's [unclear].

I'm here tonight to support the resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights and business and governance as proposed by Commissioner Lance.

I feel that it's important for our local leaders in town government to be vigilant and ensuring that any private data or personal information obtained from the automated enforcement technologies, such as red light cameras, or license plate readers not be shared with any outside agencies or entities, such as the part of the Homeland Security, or ICE, or any other governmental agency [unclear].

Thank you.

Speaker 6 – Mel Cyr (West Hartford Resident)

My name is Mel Cyr, I'm a West Hartford resident, and I'm speaking in support of this resolution.

Human rights shouldn't be treated as an abstract concept for our town— they should be reflected in how our community operates. Supporting this resolution means making sure our Town's contracts and partnerships reflect our values. It's a great step toward ensuring that our public systems align with human rights principles.

I ask you to support this resolution.

Thank you.

Speaker 7 – Patrick [Last Name Unclear] (West Hartford Resident)

We are seeing our brothers and sisters being targeted — even abducted from their workplaces — in our own cities. West Hartford is a diverse and welcoming community, and we all deserve to feel safe and included in society.

No one should have to live in fear of being taken or harassed — that kind of thing harms our collective well-being. I shouldn't have to be told by my mother, who fled fascism, to hide who I am or where I come from. That's why I urge you to support this resolution.

Speaker 8 – [Interrupted at start of public comment, name not given] (West Hartford Resident)

I'm also here in support of the resolution and encourage the commission to commit as well to at least encouraging the Town to abide by these principles of human rights.

I have been in West Hartford for about four years now, as a queer person, and as a Jewish person, I have felt really welcomed by this diverse community, and I would hope to see my tax dollars also not contribute to human rights abuses and for West Hartford to continue the long legacy of protecting all of its residents from unnecessary government surveillance.

Thank you for considering this, all of you.

Speaker 9 – Sam Sommers (West Hartford Resident)

Good evening.

My name's Sam Sommers. I live on Greenhurst Road and this is my first time at the Human Rights Commission.

It's also my first time doing anything civic-participation-related for my Town. And I'm really glad to be here. I wanted to voice my support for the resolution affirming the UN Guiding Principles and Business and Human Rights.

And I especially want to underscore my support for the resolution as written, because it strikes me that it's exactly the kind of work that this commission should be doing. And, I really like the resolution. I think it includes some actionable, achievable goals.

It puts our values into practice. And when we were looking for a place where we would buy our house and could live as ourselves, West Hartford was at the top of the list because of its values and because of its commitment to doing right by our neighbors. And, I see this resolution as written, really in line with that, and I look forward to supporting it at the Town Council if it passes out of the commission today.

Thank you.

Part III – Summary of Commission Discussion (October 8, 2025 Meeting)

The following section summarizes the **West Hartford Human Rights Commission's discussion** of the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance* during its regular meeting on **October 8, 2025**.

(Note: The draft resolution was first shared with the Commission at the Sep. 3, 2025 meeting)

This discussion took place after public testimony on October 8th and before additional correspondence was received later in October (see Part IV). Commissioners reviewed the feedback shared by community members up to that point and deliberated on next steps for refining and advancing the resolution.

Commissioner Kathryn (Katie) Lance, who drafted the resolution, had previously communicated to Co-Chair Alana Butler that she would be arriving late to the meeting due to travel (she arrived approximately 30 minutes after the meeting was called to order). Co-Chair Butler had agreed to hold the discussion until after Commissioner Lance's arrival; however, the discussion proceeded in her absence, and the meeting adjourned approximately one hour earlier than its scheduled end time. As a result, Commissioner Lance was not present to formally introduce the resolution, provide background on its development, purpose, or intent, or to participate in the public discussion.

Co-Chair Alana Butler facilitated the discussion.

Commissioners David (Dave) Ware, Eric Schoenberg, and Eva Jacobson were present.

Co-Chair Mark Linabury and Commissioner Kathryn Lance were absent for this discussion.

The summary below highlights key points raised by each commissioner, areas of agreement, and the resulting decisions made by the Commission.

Overview

Co-Chair Alana Butler opened the discussion regarding next steps for the proposed resolution. The conversation focused primarily on:

1. Whether certain provisions were **redundant** with existing Town ordinances;
 2. The **breadth and tone** of the language and its likely reception by the Town Council; and
 3. The need to **refine and clarify** the draft through a working subcommittee before any formal vote.
-

Commissioner Feedback

Commissioner David Ware

- Noted that the clause related to the Town's **automated traffic surveillance system** duplicates existing language in the Town Code adopted earlier in the year.
 - Distributed copies of the relevant ordinance section to the Commission and cautioned that sending a resolution containing already-enacted provisions could appear redundant to the Town Council.
 - Indicated he would be more comfortable supporting the resolution if that section were removed.
 - Supported the **overall concept** of the resolution but advised that its language is "**sweeping**" and might need refinement to make it more **practical and acceptable** to the Town Council.
 - Expressed particular concern with the provision calling for a **review of all Town expenditures, contracts, and investments**, describing it as "very ambitious."
 - Volunteered to help **revise and streamline** the draft, ensuring that it maintains its intent while aligning with the Town's legal framework and Council expectations.
-

Commissioner Eva Jacobson

- Agreed with Dave that **due diligence and legal review** are necessary to confirm the resolution's compatibility with Town authority.
 - Suggested consulting **Corporation Counsel** to identify any potential legal or procedural issues.
 - Supported the resolution's intent but emphasized that revisions should make it **more specific and realistic**.
 - Concluded that while she supports the concept, the Commission should "make sure we put our best foot forward."
-

Co-Chair Alana Butler

- Agreed that the draft should be **reworked before any vote**.
 - Proposed forming a **subcommittee** to refine the language rather than voting that evening.
 - Clarified the procedural next steps: if approved, the resolution would go first to the **Town Manager** and then to the **Town Council** for review and potential revision.
 - Indicated that if someone did move to vote, she would proceed accordingly, but her preference was to allow further review and refinement first.
-

Treasurer Eric Schoenberg

- Expressed agreement that the resolution needs **narrowing and refinement** to maximize its chance of adoption.
 - **Moved to form a subcommittee** to revise the draft and ensure it could be presented in a manner that would “have a higher chance of actually getting passed.”
 - **Volunteered** to serve on the subcommittee and suggested that Commissioner Lance also serve, since she authored the original draft.
 - The motion was **seconded by Dave Ware** and **approved unanimously**.
 - The final subcommittee consisted of **Eric Schoenberg, Dave Ware, and Katie Lance**.
-

Commissioner Eva Jacobson

- Thanked community members for attending and speaking in support of the resolution.
 - Noted that the Commission clearly intends to move the resolution forward after appropriate revisions.
 - Concluded that “the essence of this is to move forward,” with consensus that revisions are needed before submission to the Town Council.
-

Outcome

- The Commission **did not vote** on the resolution during this meeting.
- A **subcommittee was formed** (Eric Schoenberg, Dave Ware, and Katie Lance) to revise the resolution and bring it back for further consideration.
- Commissioners expressed strong consensus that while **the core intent of the resolution is valuable**, revisions are needed to ensure legal clarity, avoid redundancy, and strengthen its chances of adoption by the Town Council.

Part IV – Related Correspondence Received by Town Officials and/or Commission Co-Chairs (October 22 – Nov 3, 2025)

The following emails and letters were received by Town officials and/or the Commission Co-Chairs between October 22 and November 3, 2025, in response to the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*.

During this period, some of the messages were forwarded by Co-Chair Butler to the full West Hartford Human Rights Commission via the WHHRC Google Group, while others were shared only with Secretary Lance. This compilation includes all correspondence currently available to the Commission from that timeframe, encompassing both messages distributed to the full Commission and those shared individually with only certain commissioners.

This section also includes a message from Commissioner Lance to Town officials sent in response to one of the opposition emails that copied the same recipients. It is included here to maintain the full context of the correspondence chain. The purpose of that message was twofold:

1. To clarify the current state of the resolution and the process to date, and
2. To alleviate any potential concerns at the municipal level.

That message also included an updated version of the resolution to illustrate that its intent and scope were limited to issues within the local community, not international matters. It further clarified that the clause quoted in certain messages had already been removed as of October 16, prior to the more recent correspondence.

For readability and consistency, some messages have been lightly reformatted (e.g., spacing and font) while preserving all original wording and substantive content.

Note: There may be additional correspondence received directly by the Co-Chairs or Town officials that has not yet been shared with the full WHHRC. The full compilation of feedback received will be available with the WHHRC November minutes.

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 20:50
To: Jennifer Klau jenklaugmail.com

AB

Thank you Jen!

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 7:30 PM Jennifer Klau <jenklaugmail.com> wrote:
To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box.

More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East.

Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Thanks!

Jennifer Klau

Egregious errors courtesy auto-correct

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: WHHC Resolution Clause
Date: October 26, 2025 at 20:49
To: Miriam R miriamknits@gmail.com

AB

Thank you so much, Miriam!

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 8:17 PM Miriam R <miriamknits@gmail.com> wrote:

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government." On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel. This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again.

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The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic. Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford. I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Miriam W. Rosenblatt

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 20:50
To: Batsheva batshevagold@gmail.com



Thank you Batsheva!!

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 7:50 PM Batsheva <batshevagold@gmail.com> wrote:
To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Batsheva Oberstein
West Hartford, CT

From: Rob Private droberstein@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:48
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

RP

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Robert Oberstein
West Hartford resident

From: Renana Kadden kaddenr@comcast.net
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:42
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com



:To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Renana Kadden

Sent from my iPhone

From: Laurie Feldman laurie.nadine.feldman@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:17
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

LF

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention

Sincerely,

Laurie Feldman

From: LARRY COOPER chaim18@att.net
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:08
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com



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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Larry Cooper

From: Helen Schwartz prinderella2011@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:23
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

HS

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Helen Schwartz

From: David Kruger davidmkruger@ctortho.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:07
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com



To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Boris Stambler boris.stambler@yahoo.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:04
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Boris Stambler

From: Ari Schaffer ari.schaffer@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:07
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

AS

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box.

More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East.

Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ari Schaffer

—

Ari Schaffer
(c)201-774-2800
(email)ari.schaffer@gmail.com

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:08 PM Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com> wrote:
I just received 10 more letters in a now. Rather than continuing to send them out I'll compile them and also tally them up.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alan Solinsky, MD** <alansolinsky@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:32 PM
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
To: <Arblum2@gmail.com>
CC: <linaburymark@gmail.com>

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission: I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government." On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel. This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box. More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East. Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic. Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford. I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above. Thank you for your time and attention. Sincerely,

--



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

debra Rostowsky <d.rostowsky@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:53 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Eileen <chava125@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:56 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Eileen Weinberg
Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Elena Tunitsky <lena0605@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:52 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Elena Tunitsky,MD
West Hartford resident

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Elise Black <elblackslp@aol.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:41 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Regards,

Elise Black

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Fernando Rausch <fernando.rauschlcs@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:55 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Georgianne C <georgianneco@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 5:50 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Georgianne Cohen



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Jeffrey Peck <jeffrey.peck@icloud.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 5:38 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Peck

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Daniel S. Daman <dsdaman@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 2:20 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Daniel Daman, MD



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Ilana Bernstein <ilanatamarbernstein@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 12:08 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ilana Bernstein
95 Brewster Road



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Bernie <bchwein@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 2:41 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Philip Schlossberg <phil.schlossberg@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 9:45 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Sarah Laub <cccsarahlaub@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 9:50 AM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Sarah Laub
West Hartford

Yours In Health,

Sarah Laub



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Beth Katten <bethkatten@me.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 8:32 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Stuart Katten
Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Les Loew <lesloew@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 4:39 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box.

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Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Les Loew
7 Farmstead Lane
West Hartford



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Robert Efron <bobyak2@icloud.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 3:29 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Debra Luger <deluge613@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 1:26 AM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Debra Luger
Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Audrey Laufer <audrey.laufer@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 8:07 AM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

AUDREY HOLTZ LAUFER
REALTOR

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services
970 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06107

audreylaufer@bhhsne.com
www.audreylaufer.bhhsneproperties.com
Cell: 860 966-4299
Fax: 860 521-7604

Honor Society Award Winner

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Barry Gordon <socialservicestat@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:51 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Barry S. Gordon NHA LICSW
Social Service/STAT
860 989 3196



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

Barbara Nair <baylaperil@yahoo.com>
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 8:30 AM

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone Barbara Nair



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Sam Leichtberg <samleicht@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 10:22 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Sam Leichtberg
West Hartford, CT



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

upcoming vote on resolution

Galya Greenberg <greenberg.galya@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 9:01 AM

To: Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com>, linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Galya Greenberg
21 Arundel Avenue
West Hartford

"A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" Robert Browning

"And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden" Joni Mitchell



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Masha Stambler <stamblmasha@yahoo.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:51 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Masha Stambler



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Ari Geller <mjgeller@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:56 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Melissa Geller
Very Concerned West Hartford Resident

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Michael Siev <michael.h.siev@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:15 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Michael Siev



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Eve Pachter <eve.pachter@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 10:29 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Eve Pachter, Esq.



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Shayne Green Kesler <shaynegk@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 9:38 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Shayne Green Kesler



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Rde Eisenman <rderde@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Reply-To: rderde@gmail.com

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

We are writing as West Hartford residents to express our strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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We urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Esther and David Eisenman



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Bernstein, Steven (Library) <bernsteinstj@ccsu.edu>
To: "Arblum2@gmail.com" <Arblum2@gmail.com>
Cc: "linaburymark@gmail.com" <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:49 PM

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror from which Israel is trying to protect its people, and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East.

Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself with efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Steven Bernstein

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing
Date: October 24, 2025 at 08:29
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

Fyi
I will add this to the compilation of letters.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Inna Zhitomirsky <inkazhitomirsky@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 11:52 PM
Subject: RE: proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing
To: Arblum2@gmail.com <Arblum2@gmail.com>, linaburymark@gmail.com <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am a West Hartford resident and I writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself., but it can also be used and has been used unfairly against Israel. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Inna Zhitomirsky

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Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Upcoming Human Rights committee resolutions

message

Alisa Band <alisa.band@live.com>

Sat, Oct 25, 2025 at 5:51 PM

To: "Arblum2@gmail.com" <Arblum2@gmail.com>, "linaburymark@gmail.com" <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I have been made aware of the attached document to be discussed in your next meeting. I am a West Hartford resident and I have concerns with the content and wording.

I understand that the intention is to protect immigrants that are not with legal status either living in West Hartford or are passing through and that you believe you have good intentions.

However, this resolution contains elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—a country that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself, but it can also be used and has been used unfairly against Israel. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to either focus on the specific intentions you have and redraft or vote against this resolution.

Regards,
Alisa Sadka



Agenda Packet.pdf
145K

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights in Business and Governing
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:41
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **kerry Rausch** <rausch_kerry@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 2:21 PM
Subject: Human Rights in Business and Governing
To: <Arblum2@gmail.com>, <linaburymark@gmail.com>
CC: Sandrahdesigns <sandrahdesigns@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of not only disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Syria etc. UNHRC has been found to support terror organizations like Hamas.

Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens – has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The broad and ambiguous language in this proposal can be — and has been — applied unfairly against Israel. Such interpretations risk undermining the peaceful coexistence currently enjoyed by the Jewish community in West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Kerry Rausch and Sandra Hershson

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about the proposed Human Rights Resolution
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:39
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Barash <laura_feiwei@yahoo.com>
Date: Sat, Oct 25, 2025 at 4:02 PM
Subject: Concerns about the proposed Human Rights Resolution
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>, <inaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself, but it can also be used and has been used unfairly against Israel. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Laura Barash
Proud West Hartford resident

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: US de-funded UNRWA but West Hartford wants to include it in our charter?
Date: October 23, 2025 at 10:55
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [roselle weiner <realityrosy@gmail.com>](mailto:roselle.weiner@realityrosy@gmail.com)
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 9:59 AM
Subject: US de-funded UNRWA but West Hartford wants to include it in our charter?
To: linaburymark@gmail.com, ARBjum2@gmail.com <ARBjum2@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself, but it has **also been used unfairly against Israel**. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,
ROSELLE WEINER
[12 Vandervere Road](mailto:12.Vandervere.Road@WestHartford.CT.06117)
[West Hartford, CT 06117](mailto:WestHartford.CT.06117)
860.566.9498

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Propose Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance
Date: October 22, 2025 at 15:16
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



Another letter. I can compile them if that's helpful.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nina B. Kunkes
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 2:56 PM
Subject: Propose Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>, <Linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

The draft resolution mixes two unrelated ideas - ethical investment screening and protecting residents' privacy from ICE data-sharing. Both are rooted in human rights, but combining them is unnecessary and confusing.

Broad language about avoiding ties to "human-rights abuses" could be read as a form of boycott or divestment, inviting controversy and potential challenges under Connecticut's anti-BDS statutes. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and intimidate local Jews.

The ICE data-sharing limits are appropriate and widely supported, but linking them to an investment policy makes the resolution confusing and more divisive.

A better approach would be to keep the privacy provisions as a separate, stand-alone measure focused on data protection and community trust.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nina Kunkes

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Veiled antisemitic resolution
Date: October 22, 2025 at 18:13
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

Another letter which I'll add to the compilation.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tali Kest <talikest77@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 5:37 PM
Subject: Veiled antisemitic resolution
To: arblum2@gmail.com <arblum2@gmail.com>, Linabury-mark@gmail.com <Linabury-mark@gmail.com>

Hi Alana and Mark,

My name is Tali Kest and I live in West Hartford. I heard recently that the human rights commission wants to consider a resolution to "review town funds" as it relates to human rights abuses which mirrors a similar U.N. resolution.

It is widely believed among the Jewish community that the UN is biased against Israel and in fact has passed more resolutions against Israel than every other country combined in recent years. This hyper focus and obsession against Israel is anti-semitic, as would be a resolution passed by the town of West Hartford human's right commission. It's veiled language is an attempts to skirt around exact Boycott Divest Sanctions language that attacks Israel, but in reality, is meant to do just that.

37 states have enacted anti-BDS legislation in in the U.S. and in January 2025, legislation in Connecticut was introduced to ban anti-Israel BDS in state and local pensions, state contracts and publicly funded education.

Don't allow the commission to use human rights as a cover for anti-semitism.

Thank you,

Tali Kest
646-228-8008

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From: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights in Business and Governance Resolution
Date: November 3, 2025 at 20:55
To: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 3:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights in Business and Governance Resolution
To: west hartford human rights commission <west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com>

Another letter.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ali Bluestone
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 2:35 PM
Subject: Re: Human Rights in Business and Governance Resolution

Dear Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Alison Bluestone
West Hartford Resident

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Proposed resolution
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:42
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



----- Forwarded message -----
From: David Brown <davidlbrown2023@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Proposed resolution
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Brown MD

48 Seneca Road

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Oppose the proposed resolution
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:41
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karen Goldberg <gerald.goldberg@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 1:32 PM
Subject: Oppose the proposed resolution

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Karen Goldberg
West Hartford Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to upcoming resolution
Date: October 22, 2025 at 13:52
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

Hi everyone,
I am forwarding this letter that we received from a West Hartford resident.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Jill Dulitsky <jdulitsky@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 12:50 PM
Subject: Opposition to upcoming resolution

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Dulitsky, 4 Borough Drive, West Hartford

West Hartford Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

REJECT the resolution titled “Affirming West Hartford’s Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.”

1 message

David Brandwein <dbrandwein@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM

To: Butler Alana <arblum2@gmail.com>, Linaburymark@gmail.com

Cc: Pitino Eadie <epitino@jewishhartford.org>, Fiedler Heather <hfiedler@jewishhartford.org>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights:

I am a long-time resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community, and a past Chair of its Jewish Community Relations Council, to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, “*Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.*”

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town pension investments, expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
David I. Brandwein

David I. Brandwein
17 Drury Lane
West Hartford, CT 06117
(H) 860-232-6534
(C) 860-306-4234
dbrandwein@gmail.com

From: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Concern Regarding Antisemitic Implications of Proposed Resolution
Date: November 3, 2025 at 21:32
To: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Yelena Pasternak <pasternachka@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 7:51 AM
Subject: Concern Regarding Antisemitic Implications of Proposed Resolution
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>, <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a West Hartford resident and a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

While I fully support the principles of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution includes language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Even without naming Israel, this framework has been widely used across the country to single out Israel and those who engage with it, creating division rather than advancing human rights.

At a time when antisemitism is rapidly rising nationwide and here in Connecticut, it is especially concerning to see language that could harm or marginalize members of the Jewish community in West Hartford. Our town should be a place of inclusion and mutual respect, not a platform for political agendas that divide neighbors.

We also face serious local human rights priorities that need urgent attention—supporting immigrants and refugees, ensuring equity in education and housing, preventing discrimination, and strengthening safety and belonging for all. These are efforts that unite our residents and reflect the true mission of the Commission.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on constructive, local initiatives that build unity and protect all members of our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Yelena Pasternak

West Hartford Resident

Yelena Pasternak (" Mamusik ")
[91 Parsons Dr., West Hartford, CT 06117](#)
[phone: 860-836-6755](#)

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Concern About the Proposed "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights" Resolution
Date: October 22, 2025 at 13:52
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

Hi everyone,
I am forwarding this letter that we received from a West Hartford resident.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eveline Shekhman <evelineshekhman@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 12:51 PM
Subject: Re: Concern About the Proposed "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights" Resolution
To: arblum2@gmail.com <arblum2@gmail.com>, linabury-mark@gmail.com <linabury-mark@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I'm writing as both a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community and a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford — but also as a neighbor who deeply values West Hartford's tradition of inclusion, compassion, and civic engagement, to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, I am deeply concerned about the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."* The language calling for a review of Town expenditures and contracts closely resembles wording often associated with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Even though Israel is not mentioned directly, this phrasing and framework have historically been used to single out Israel and those who support engagement and partnership with it.

This kind of language risks introducing division into a community that has always prided itself on collaboration and mutual respect. I worry that it could unintentionally stigmatize our Jewish residents, organizations, and businesses that have long been active, caring contributors to the civic fabric of West Hartford.

At a time when our town faces very real, immediate needs — from supporting immigrants and refugees, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation — I believe our collective energy is best directed toward these local priorities that strengthen and unite us.

I respectfully urge the Commission to set aside this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and solidarity across all communities in West Hartford. That would be the truest expression of our shared commitment to human rights — and of the inclusive spirit that has long made this town a model for others.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Eveline Shekhman

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "west hartford human rights commission" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to west-hartford-human-rights-commission+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.
To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAL1eOziphU%3DGqTBvpfVkJfKpJbLvuo2D8A33VJ%3DSXHYZiFWHg%40mail.gmail.com>.

October 24, 2025

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a neighbor of yours in Farmington and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community. **If something like this can happen to a neighbor, I worry that it can soon happen to us in Farmington.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Schmidek
Mark Schmidek
A worried neighbor



RECEIVED
2025 OCT 28 PM 3:33
Leon S. Davidoff
LEON S. DAVIDOFF
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

PS  ..Ds Martin Niemoller: First they came for....and I did not speak out...then they came for....and again I did not speak out...then they came for me....and..

October 28, 2025

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

We have lived in West Hartford for over 44 years and we love this community. We love it for its welcoming and total acceptance of a great diversity of people. Our children (now middle aged and parents themselves) learned these values at their public schools and never felt singled out as Jews. --- We are writing today as members of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express our strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

While we wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language – particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs – from assisting local immigrants with all aspects of their lives, from housing to employment, education and medical concerns, etc., as well as to assisting long term residents with food instability, housing, etc. we urge the commission to focus its efforts on these local high priority concerns that unite and strengthen all of us. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

We urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community, which we have always felt was united until now.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,
Carolyn and Stuart Bernstein

RECEIVED
2025 NOV -3 PM 12:33
LEON S. DAVIDOFF
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

Leon Davidoff

From: Mark Merritt <mmerritt4@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:54 PM
To: arblum2@gmail.com; Linabury-mark@gmail.com
Cc: Town Manager; Mayor of West Hartford; Leon Davidoff
Subject: West Hartford Commission on Human Rights: "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I fully support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, the resolution's language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—echoes rhetoric often associated with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Even though the resolution does not explicitly mention Israel, its phrasing and framework are frequently used to single out Israel and those who engage with it.

At a time when our town faces urgent local priorities—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees have the resources they need to succeed, to promoting equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its energy on these vital, unifying efforts. Addressing the challenges closest to home is the most meaningful way to demonstrate West Hartford's commitment to human rights.

I respectfully ask the Commission to reject this resolution and instead pursue initiatives that strengthen understanding and unity within our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Merritt
145 Robin Rd

RECEIVED
2025 OCT 22 PM 1:16
Leon S. Davidoff
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

Leon Davidoff

From: Kathryn Lance <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:38 PM
To: Town Manager; Mayor of West Hartford; Leon Davidoff
Cc: David K. Ware
Subject: Context on WHHRC's Resolution Development
Attachments: WHHRC Resolution Draft.pdf

RECEIVED
OCT 22 PM 4:45
LEON S. DAVIDOFF
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

Dear Mayor Cantor, Mr. Ledwith, and Mr. Davidoff,

I saw that you all were recently copied on an email in opposition to a resolution that the WHHRC has been developing, called "*Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion*". As the person who first proposed this resolution to the WHHRC, I wanted to write to shed some clarity on this issue.

First, please note that this resolution has not yet been voted on by the WHHRC.

Second, the letters of opposition are referring to a previous version of the resolution. (The first version of this resolution was shared with the WHHRC during the public meeting in September and then discussed at our October public meeting two weeks ago). So, it is unclear why all these letters of opposition are coming in today.

Note that Commissioner Dave Ware (copied here) and I have since refined the resolution based on feedback received during the October meeting from Commissioners and members of the public alike (all of which was overwhelmingly positive at the time). The only request from commissioners was to refine some of the language and to run the draft by Corporation Counsel to ensure there are no legal issues.

I have attached the latest draft of the resolution for your reference (there is no expectation that you review it).

Again, please note that this version has not yet been voted on by the Commission. In fact, it has not yet even been circulated to the broader Commission (although our Co-Chairs and Treasurer have copies of the most recent draft). There are still multiple steps and potential changes that may take place before we advance this to the Town Council – if it ever even comes to that.

Last, but not least, I want to note that a lot of the concerns - and ideas - shared during the Q&A at last night's *Know Your Rights: Immigration Panel* resonate strongly with the core principles of this resolution. (Thank you again for joining us, Mayor Cantor!) To me, the conversation last night underscored just how important it is for our Town to take concrete steps to strengthen and reaffirm the connection between human rights and local business and governance practices -- hopefully, this resolution can be one step toward that.

If you have any concerns or questions (or any suggestions/feedback on the resolution, should you choose to read it) - please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your time. I truly appreciate all that you do.

Best regards,
Katie
Secretary, West Hartford Human Rights Commission



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

WH Human Rights Commission Resolution

1 message

Robin Kipnis <robinkipnis@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 2, 2025 at 8:54 AM

To: "linaburymark@gmail.com" <linaburymark@gmail.com>, "ARBlum2@gmail.com" <ARBlum2@gmail.com>

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident and a member of the Grassroots Jewish Women of CT. to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government". While it appears that the resolution is designed to protect immigrants' rights, the resolution is linked to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The UNGPs were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the WHHRC. Therefore, the resolution is well beyond the purview of the WHHRC.

The UNGPs have been used to urge divestment and other punitive actions ("BDS") against countries that violate human rights. Importantly, the UNGPs have been used against Israel by organizations alleging Israel has violated human rights in Gaza. Passage of this resolution could be used in such a manner. Who is going to determine whether a human rights violation has occurred? Is the Commission prepared to undertake this line of inquiry if the resolution is passed as worded?

While anti-Israel bias may or may not be the intent of the Commission, the WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself with an organization such as the United Nations which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Robin Kipnis

Part V – Written Testimony Received Related to Revised Resolution

The following letters were received on November 5, 2025, expressing support for the revised resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*.

Note: These only include emails received before 12pm on November 5th. Since the revised version of the resolution was only made available to the public on November 3rd it is possible additional correspondence will be received after this time that have not been included here. Any additional feedback received prior to the publication of the November minutes will be added to this compilation and included in the packet with the WHHRC November minutes.

From: Paul Bourdon paulbourdon1719@gmail.com 
Subject: Proposed resolution
Date: November 5, 2025 at 10:13
To: wehahrc@gmail.com
Cc: Paul Bourdon paulbourdon1719@gmail.com

PB

Dear Human Rights Commission

I am a retired biotech scientist and part-time farmer who moved to the Hartford area 6 years ago. Since then I have turned my backyard into a small micro-farm where I donate most of my harvest to a food pantry in the north end of Hartford. We organize the food on Thursdays and Fridays. The clients of the food pantry are almost exclusively people of color and many are immigrants. Most are working poor, some of which are coming from overnight jobs when we distribute the food early Saturday mornings. I'm sure you are aware that support for this food has been greatly reduced due to federal budget cuts. Most of the rest of our clients are elderly and disabled. These are extremely vulnerable populations. We are very concerned not only with the federal governments over-reach but also with local exploitation of these people.

I am strongly in favor of the resolution being proposed. West Hartford claims to be committed to human rights in business and governance as well as being an inclusive community. The resolution asks the town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It simply states that governments have an obligation to protect all people and businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights. People should be able to live and work safely in West Hartford regardless of their race or economic status. No town should be assisting the federal government in carrying out racist and unlawful raids on any community.

I urge the commission to support the resolution and recommend it to the town council.

Thank you,
Paul Bourdon
481 Main St
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Paulbourdon1719@gmail.com

Dear Human Rights Commission
.docx



From: Sohail Lokhandwala sohaillock5152@gmail.com
Subject: Support for resolution urging human rights in businesses and governance
Date: November 5, 2025 at 11:10
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

SL

My name is Sohail, and I'm a local community member. I urge the Human Rights Commission to advance the revised resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

This new draft asks us to hold ourselves to the same values we celebrate every year during our annual the Celebration of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights: fairness, dignity, and accountability. It also focuses squarely on local action — on how we uphold these values in our own town operations.

The UN Guiding Principles are a voluntary framework. This resolution is simply asking the Town to review and understand possible paths forward. The UNGPs don't tell us *what* to do ; they empower local governments learn *how* to strengthen human rights on their own terms, at home on the hyper-local level.

This resolution does exactly that — it ignores the noise of federal and international issues. It is a unifying measure that everyone can get behind - bringing human rights front and center for everyone in our community, right here in West Hartford.

Given the hostility we face in West Hartford from ICE raids, as well as the trump administration's relentless assault against our civil liberties, I hope this legislation will pass, as urgent action is needed to protect us, and it must come from elected officials and public servants at all levels.

Thanks, Sohail Lokhandwala

From: Mary Smith masmi2@yahoo.com
Subject: Human Rights resolution support
Date: November 5, 2025 at 12:02
To: WeHaHRC@gmail.com

MS

My name is Mary Smith, and I am a retired nurse.

I've been a West Hartford resident my entire life - 65 years. I believe that overall, West Hartford is a town that does care for all its residents. This resolution is about good governance on the local level — making sure the Town's dollars reflect our values. By exploring a Supplier Code of Conduct and transparent procurement practices, West Hartford can ensure that its business partners treat workers fairly and operate ethically. That's not bureaucracy; it's accountability.

Ethical and inclusive business practices help build a stronger local economy and show that West Hartford is a local leader in responsible governance.

Please accept and support this resolution and show we are a town that values human rights for all.

Sincerely, Mary Smith

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Appendix

This section includes the original draft of the resolution first circulated on September 3, 2025 and discussed on October 8, 2025 as well as the current version (draft as of October 27th) to be discussed at the WHHRC on November 5, 2025.

Tracked changes made to the original draft as well as comments explaining the rationale behind those changes can be found here: [Edits and Explanations for Draft 13](#)

Appendix

This section includes the original draft of the resolution first circulated on September 3, 2025 and discussed on October 8, 2025 as well as the current version (draft as of October 27th) to be discussed at the WHHRC on November 5, 2025.

Tracked changes made to the original draft as well as comments explaining the rationale behind those changes can be found here: [Edits and Explanations for Draft 13](#)

Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford is committed to protecting and advancing human rights, dignity, and equity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, West Hartford is home to vibrant immigrant and refugee communities whose contributions enrich our schools, businesses, and neighborhoods, and who deserve to live and work free from fear, discrimination, or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the West Hartford Town Council unanimously adopted a [Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion](#), declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, this present resolution builds on that commitment by recognizing that human rights must be safeguarded not only through community values but also through the conduct of businesses, municipal practices, and the use of technology; and

WHEREAS, businesses play an important role in shaping the well-being of our community, both through employment and through their broader impacts on human rights, directly and indirectly, including the effects of how their products, services, or investments are used beyond the borders of our town; and

WHEREAS, workplaces can become sites where human rights are threatened, including through unlawful or discriminatory practices such as unauthorized raids or intimidation targeting immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, provide a global standard for preventing and addressing human rights harms connected to business activity; and

WHEREAS, these principles rest on three pillars: (1) the duty of governments to protect human rights, (2) the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and (3) the need for access to remedy for victims of abuses; and

WHEREAS, adopting these principles aligns with West Hartford's values of fairness, inclusion, and social responsibility, and empowers businesses in our town to stand up for the dignity and safety of their workers and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of West Hartford affirms its commitment to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and encourages all businesses operating in the town to uphold these standards of human rights and dignity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council requests a review of all Town expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, including retirement and pension holdings, to ensure that public resources are not connected to human rights abuses, and that this information be reported publicly for transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager and relevant departments explore the adoption of procurement and investment guidelines consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and report back to the Town Council and the Human Rights Commission with recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of West Hartford commits to protecting the privacy and safety of its residents by prohibiting the sharing of data from automated enforcement technologies, including red light cameras and license plate readers, with outside agencies, including federal immigration enforcement agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and notes that municipalities in Illinois such as Evanston and Oak Park have already taken similar steps after investigations revealed improper data-sharing, and that companies such as Flock Safety have restricted access in California, Virginia, and Illinois in response to strong legal protections; therefore, the Town must act proactively to ensure West Hartford residents' data is not accessed or shared without oversight or consent ([ABC7 Chicago](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Colorado Newsline](#), [ACLU National](#), [ACLU-CT](#), [CBS8 San Diego](#)).

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING WEST HARTFORD'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, the mission and purpose of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission are grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, established by Town Code, Chapter 5, Article IX, the Commission is mandated to foster mutual understanding and respect among residents, encourage equality of treatment, and advise the Town Council on policies and practices that uphold human rights and equity within the community; and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Town Council has declared its commitment to protecting and advancing human rights, dignity, and equity for all people who live, work, study, or visit her by unanimously adopting a *Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion* (2017), declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, this present resolution builds on that commitment by recognizing that human rights must be safeguarded not only through community values but also through the conduct of businesses and municipal practices – including through the use of technology; and

WHEREAS, businesses play an important role in shaping the well-being of our community – both through employment and their broader impacts on human rights, directly and indirectly, including effects their products, services, or investments may have beyond the borders of our town; and

WHEREAS, workplaces can become sites where human rights are threatened, including through unlawful or discriminatory practices such as unauthorized raids or acts of intimidation – especially those targeting anyone due to their national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender/sexual orientation, disability, and/or other protected status; and

WHEREAS, the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* (2011) affirm that governments at all levels have a duty to protect against human rights abuses within their jurisdiction, including those arising from business activities (Principle 1); and

WHEREAS, the Guiding Principles further call on public bodies to ensure that government contracts, investments, and partnerships are conducted in a manner consistent with human rights obligations (Principles 4 and 6), while also encouraging policy coherence across all departments and agencies that shape business practices, ensuring that public institutions understand and uphold their human rights responsibilities (Principles 7 and 8); and

WHEREAS, at the municipal level, such responsibilities fall within the purview of Town departments and programs, including ensuring fair and equitable treatment in housing, employment, and public services (Department of Social Services, Human Resources, and Equity Office); maintaining accessibility and inclusion for residents with disabilities (Leisure Services, Public Works, and Library Services); promoting transparency, ethical standards, and fair labor practices in Town contracts and procurement (Finance and Procurement); safeguarding residents' privacy and due process in local enforcement and data-sharing (Police Department, Information Technology, and Social Services); and mitigating environmental and public health impacts that disproportionately affect certain neighborhoods or populations (Public Works, Planning and Zoning, and Health District); and

WHEREAS, the Town has already demonstrated leadership in advancing ethical and inclusive vendor practices by adopting West Hartford Town Code, Article VII, Section 168-45, which ensures that no personally identifiable information collected by automated traffic enforcement devices is disclosed, stored, or retained by the Town or a vendor to any person or entity, including any federal law enforcement unit, except where the disclosure is made in connection with the charging, collection, and enforcement of the fines imposed pursuant to the article; and

WHEREAS, adopting these principles aligns with West Hartford's values of fairness, inclusion, and social responsibility, and empowers businesses in our town to stand up for the dignity, rights, and safety of their workers and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT:

1. The Town of West Hartford affirms its commitment to the protection of human rights and recognizes the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* as a framework for responsible and ethical local governance.
2. The Town Manager and other relevant governmental departments shall consider the protection of human rights in the Town's operations and procurement practices, such as exploring the creation of a Supplier Code of Conduct (encouraging ethical and inclusive vendor practices), human rights budgeting, and/or conducting impact assessments for town contracts and investments.
3. The Town Manager shall publish an annual summary of steps taken to uphold these principles across town operations, contracts, and partnerships, demonstrating West Hartford's ongoing leadership and accountability in advancing human rights at the local level.
4. The Office of Employee Development & Community Engagement and West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall collaborate to promote education and awareness on human rights in business and governance – partnering with other relevant governmental bodies and community organizations to coordinate public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives (e.g., Fourth Amendment rights trainings for business owners; workshops on fair employment and anti-discrimination practices; human rights considerations for vendors and contractors.)
5. The Town Manager and the West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall develop ways to recognize local government agencies and employers who demonstrate leadership in advancing human rights, fairness, and inclusion (e.g., Annual Leadership in Businesses in Human Rights Award).

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Attest:

Town Clerk

References:

Town of West Hartford. (2017). Resolution Affirming West Hartford, CT as a Welcoming and Inclusive Town. West Hartford, CT.

Town of West Hartford. (n.d.). Town Code, Chapter 5, Article IX: Human Rights Commission. West Hartford, CT.

Town of West Hartford. (n.d.). *Town Code, Article VII, Section 168-45: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices*. West Hartford, CT.

United Nations General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (A/RES/217 A (III)). Paris: United Nations.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2011). *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework* (HR/PUB/11/04). Geneva: United Nations.

Additional Information

The following materials provide additional information on how local municipalities can apply human rights frameworks to local governance.

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2024). *Local government and human rights* (A/HRC/RES/57/12). Geneva: United Nations. Adopted 10 October 2024 at the Fifty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2012). *The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: An Interpretive Guide* (HR/PUB/12/02). Geneva: United Nations.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights & United Cities and Local Governments. (2024). *Guidance framework for creating a Human Rights City*. Geneva and Barcelona: United Nations and UCLG.

Feedback/
Full
Process

Full

Introduction & Purpose

This document is a compilation of public feedback received regarding the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*. The resolution was drafted by Commissioner Kathryn Lance in response to concerns raised over the past year by community members beginning in November 2024. While the details of those concerns varied, a shared theme emerged: residents—regardless of background—were expressing fear for their own safety and well-being as well as that of their friends, family, loved ones, and neighbors. In an effort to respond constructively and uphold the values of human dignity and equity at the local level, Commissioner Lance engaged in months of listening, research, and dialogue to explore how municipal governments like West Hartford can take meaningful action to protect human rights.

Through this research, she became familiar with the Human Rights Cities framework and the work of the Human Rights Cities Alliance. The foundational phase of becoming a Human Rights City encourages local governments to build internal capacity, raise public awareness, and ground their governance practices in internationally recognized human rights norms. It was within this context that the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) emerged as a promising and practical starting point. Developed in 2011 by Harvard Professor John Ruggie, the UNGPs were designed to help small and large governments and businesses alike identify, prevent, and respond to human rights impacts. They offer a flexible, locally applicable framework that supports municipal efforts to examine how their policies, procurement processes, and partnerships can better reflect values of equity, transparency, and accountability.

The intention of the resolution was not to mandate sweeping changes, but to open space for learning, dialogue, and intentional planning—in alignment with the Human Rights Cities guidance. This resolution calls on Town officials to explore the UNGPs. This was envisioned as a logical, manageable next step for a town like West Hartford to begin translating its existing commitments into practice. This type of foundational step is precisely what the Human Rights Cities framework encourages in its early stages: educational engagement, capacity-building, and community-informed planning.

Indeed, West Hartford has already taken meaningful steps to acknowledge the importance of human rights. The West Hartford Human Rights Commission (WHHRC) was formally established in the Town Code [Chapter 5, Article IX] as a standing body dedicated to advancing equity and protecting human rights at the local level. Each year, the Town commemorates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) through a Human Rights Day celebration co-sponsored by the WHHRC and the West Hartford Libraries. The Mayor also issues an annual proclamation reaffirming the Town's dedication to these principles and encouraging all residents to work toward fulfilling the rights articulated in the UDHR.

By introducing the Town to the UNGPs and encouraging deeper reflection on its own governance practices, the resolution aimed to build on these commitments—not replace or politicize them. It is grounded in the belief that human rights begin at home, and that municipal governments have both the opportunity and responsibility to uphold those rights through local leadership. Specifically, the resolution aligns with core UDHR principles such as the right to dignity (Article 1), equality before the law (Article 7), just and favorable conditions of work (Article 23), and the right to an adequate standard of living (Article 25). As such, this resolution represents a sincere, good-faith effort to help West Hartford move from symbolic acknowledgment to practical action—ensuring that its policies and priorities reflect the values it already claims to uphold.

Hand Delivered by Kathryn Lance

W. H. R. C.
2026 FEB - 6 PM 4:35

RECEIVED

Resolution Drafting Process To Date:

Commissioner Lance shared the original draft with the West Hartford Human Rights Commission on September 3, 2025. It was circulated to the public via the October agenda on October 6, 2025. The majority of feedback contained in this document relates to that initial draft.

The resolution was revised multiple times between October 9 and October 27 by two members (Commissioner Ware and Lance) of the working group established at the Oct. 8th meeting (Commissioners Schoenberg, Ware, and Lance). The current version reflects their best efforts to incorporate feedback from fellow commissioners and members of the public, while still upholding the core values of the original draft. The current draft is still very much a working draft.

For clarity, the materials are grouped into five parts:

- **Part I:** Written statements in support of the resolution (October 6–8, 2025)
- **Part II:** Public testimony delivered at the October 8, 2025 WHHRC meeting
- **Part III:** Summary of Commission discussion (October 8, 2025)
- **Part IV:** Related Correspondence Received by Town Officials and/or Commission Co-Chairs (October 22–November 3, 2025)
- **Part V:** Written testimony received November 5, 2025
- **Part VI:** Public testimony delivered at the November 5, 2025 WHHRC meeting
- **Part VII:** Co-Chairs' and Commissioner's Statements at November 5 WHHRC meeting
- **Appendix:** Original draft and latest revised draft of the resolution (Oct. 27)

Where necessary, formatting has been lightly adjusted for readability while preserving all original content. This compilation is submitted as part of the public record in the interest of transparency and community dialogue. Please note this resolution is still in a working draft format. We expect additional feedback will continue to come in, so this compilation does not yet represent the full scope of public feedback and discussion.

Part I – Written Testimony Submitted via Email (October 6 – 8, 2025)

The following written statements were submitted by residents and community members between **October 6** and **October 8, 2025**, in response to the original draft of the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*.

Given that the resolution was drafted in response to public concerns previously shared with **Commissioner Kathryn Lance**, outreach was conducted to ensure that residents had an opportunity to review and comment on the proposal before the October 8 Human Rights Commission meeting. As part of her role on the **Community Engagement Subcommittee**, Commissioner Lance invited community feedback and encouraged public participation in the meeting.

The correspondence below therefore also includes internal communications between Commissioner Lance and fellow commissioners sharing the public testimony received in advance of the meeting. These emails were sent to or forwarded to the Commission's shared inbox (WeHaHRC@gmail.com) and compiled in a shared Google document so that all commissioners could review them prior to the meeting.

This section preserves the messages as forwarded, maintaining original wording and format to provide a complete record of public correspondence received through this channel.

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Testimonies for Resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 11:20
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



Hi Everyone,

I have been working to solicit public feedback on the resolution since the agenda was sent out on Monday. I am happy to report that we have received some testimony emails in support of the resolution! Some are being sent directly to our email, some are being sent to me; I am forwarding those to our email address.
So, you can review those in our WeHaHRC@gmail.com inbox. @David K Ware and @Eva Jacobson - you were not there when we set up the email address so please note the username and password below:



o e s s e same account that holds the WeHa Google Drive.)

I also invited people to share their feedback via public comment. I am not sure if anyone will actually show up for that, but it may be good to have some extra chairs on hand just in case.

Looking forward to seeing you all tonight!

Best,
Katie

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

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To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAMiLUNgrY5i6Ua9t4ghGwLnmsLMOvzwjNw%2B-LVdHksCzC-6og%40mail.gmail.com>.

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com 

Subject: Letters

Date: October 8, 2025 at 13:04

To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



Hi Everyone,

Eric said he had trouble signing in to the email account - so I compiled the letters I have seen so far into one document. I am also sharing a letter in PDF format that someone sent. Sorry for formatting issues - I'm literally on the plane and about to take-off soon, so trying to get this out as soon as possible. Hopefully, I get this sent in time!

Best,
Katie

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
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+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

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Public Letters for Resolution 10-8
.docx
21 KB



Affirming West Hartford's
Commitment to Human Rights in...
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Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

To: Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

My name is Carolyn Gammerman and I am a resident of West Hartford, CT. I'm writing to you in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

I support this resolution because it promotes responsible and transparent business practices in our town. Aligning with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights isn't about adding bureaucracy — it's about setting expectations that businesses here respect human rights, whether in their workplaces or their supply chains. It's about protecting workers, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring that our public funds aren't linked to human rights abuses anywhere. West Hartford can be a leader in showing that local communities have a role to play in global human rights.

I also support this resolution because it includes an essential protection for residents: prohibiting the sharing of automated enforcement data with outside agencies like ICE. Other towns have already learned the hard way that when companies share license plate or camera data without oversight, it can put people at risk — especially immigrants, people of color, and activists. West Hartford has a chance to be proactive and protect its residents' privacy before problems arise. I hope the Commission recognizes how forward-thinking this resolution is and supports it.

Finally, with all of the corruption on the federal level between politicians, big business and corporate interests, there is a persistent need on all levels of government for transparency in expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, as well as an enduring need for accountability of government to our public citizens who contribute their hard-earned tax dollars. This resolution would facilitate further transparency and accountability.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Gammerman

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Email in support of proposed resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 09:15
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

KL

FYI.

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jeanie <jeaniern1101@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 14:20
Subject: Email in support of proposed resolution
To: Kathryn Lance <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

Hello. My name is Jean Satalino Heyer. I have lived in West Hartford for 39 years.

I am writing in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights.

I support this resolution because it connects global human right principles to our local community.

This is not abstract. It is about ensuring that our town contracts, investments, and partnerships reflect the values upon which West Hartford has been built. It is about protecting workers, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring that our public funds are not linked to human rights abuse anywhere.

West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. It is one of the main reasons that I have stayed in this town for almost 40 years.

I believe this Resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town. We are compassionate, proactive and fair in doing what is right.

I urge the commission to support this resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,
Jean Satalino Heyer
[16 Shadow Lane](#)
[West Hartford](#)

My name is Linda Scacco and I have lived in West Hartford for 35 years. My husband and I and our three now adult children have benefited from all that West Hartford has to offer, from its public schools, recreational activities, its diverse population and its welcoming community. In addition, I am a member of the Universalist Church of WH, a community that affirms the worth and dignity of every human being.

I am writing to give support to the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance. West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. The proposed resolution builds upon that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs. West Hartford, as its history has demonstrated, can be a leader in showing that local communities have a significant role to play in global human rights. I encourage the Council to vote in favor of this resolution.

Thank you.

Linda Scacco
4 Grennan Road
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-490-6699
lscaccophd@gmail.com

From: Shane Solger shanesolger@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony regarding "Human Rights in Business and Governance"
Date: October 7, 2025 at 14:30
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

SS

Hello! I would like to submit the following testimony regarding the committee item:

"Human Rights in Business and Governance".

To the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

My name is Shane Solger. I am a practicing emergency physician in Hartford, a resident of West Hartford, and I am also a Navy Veteran. I am writing in support of the resolution. When I commissioned as an officer in the military, it was to defend the principles that I believe are fundamental to our country—including that people should be free from fear of government overreach. In this case, that includes protecting residents from the sharing of information with a hostile federal government that is actively tearing families apart, despite their contributions to our community.

I have the distinct pleasure of caring for many immigrants in our community, and I have seen firsthand how federal policies and enforcement practices have created fear, even in accessing essential healthcare. I remember one young adult male who came to the emergency department at 2:30 in the morning because he was afraid to seek care during the daytime, when ICE might be more active.

As a physician, I frequently provide patients with work notes and guidance so that they can safely return to their jobs and support their families. My experience has overwhelmingly shown that they simply want to get better and continue working to be productive citizens of our city, which stands in stark contrast to the way the current administration has attempted to portray these individuals.

This resolution recognizes that human rights must be protected not only through community values but also through the practices of businesses, municipal governance, and the responsible use of technology. I also appreciate that it calls for an investigation to ensure that my tax dollars are being used in a way that protects and uplifts the individuals living in West Hartford. Furthermore, by protecting resident data from misuse or unauthorized sharing, this resolution codifies the fact that our town and community value dignity, safety, and fairness for all residents, and also stands to protect us should the current administration attempt to weaponize the judicial system against peaceful protestors.

Thank you,

Shane Solger, MD
Fellow, Emergency Critical Care & Resuscitation
Department of Emergency Medicine
Hartford Hospital
Phone: (847) 848-3203
Email: shanesolger@gmail.com

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Commit to Human Rights
Date: November 4, 2025 at 15:51
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



----- Forwarded message -----
From: **marcy balint** <marcybalint@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 6:09 PM
Subject: Commit to Human Rights
To: <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

To: Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

My name is Marcy Balint and I am a resident of West Hartford, CT. I'm writing to you in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

I support this resolution because it promotes responsible and transparent business practices in our town. Aligning with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights isn't about adding bureaucracy — it's about setting expectations that businesses here respect human rights, whether in their workplaces or their supply chains. It's about protecting workers, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring that our public funds aren't linked to human rights abuses anywhere. West Hartford can be a leader in showing that local communities have a role to play in global human rights.

I also support this resolution because it includes an essential protection for residents: prohibiting the sharing of automated enforcement data with outside agencies like ICE. Other towns have already learned the hard way that when companies share license plate or camera data without oversight, it can put people at risk — especially immigrants, people of color, and activists. West Hartford has a chance to be proactive and protect its residents' privacy before problems arise. I hope the Commission recognizes how forward-thinking this resolution is and supports it.

Finally, with all of the corruption on the federal level between politicians, big business and corporate interests, there is a persistent need on all levels of government for transparency in expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, as well as an enduring need for accountability of government to our public citizens who contribute their hard-earned tax dollars. This resolution would facilitate further transparency and accountability.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely, Marcy L. Balint 64 Beverly Rd. WH

From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com 
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights Resolution Support
Date: October 8, 2025 at 10:52
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



FYI.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Janet Schloss <janetschloss1g@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 9:19 AM
Subject: Human Rights Resolution Support
To: <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

My name is Janet Schloss, and I'm a resident of West Hartford. I'm in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and [governance.as](#) the attached proposal is written.

I moved to West Hartford three years ago just because it is a more diverse and youthful community . My cousins were well educated here, and my elder cousin lives at Mercy's McAuley residence.

This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments by the people and for the people have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council. And I urge all citizen's to be proactive too, in supporting our town and businesses.

Please add kindness into our days on this earth.

--

Janet Schloss

janetschloss1g@gmail.com
860-395-4853

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

Resolution Draft - WeHa
Businesses & Human Rights.doc...



From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Another letter
Date: October 8, 2025 at 13:07
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com



Hopefully this gets out before we take off and I lose WiFi access! :)

See letter pasted below.

Best,
Katie

--

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

My name is Anne Adam. I have been a resident of West Hartford for 65 years. I am writing in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This is a simple, common-sense framework that highlights that governments have a duty to protect people businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town – compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the West Hartford Human Rights Commission to pass this resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Anne Adam

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From: Kathryn Lance kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Support for the Human Rights Resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 09:51
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



FYI.

Kathryn (Katie) Lance, Ph.D.
(she/her/hers)
+1.262.955.9534
[linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathryn-m-lance)

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From: Wendy Sacks <wrsacks@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 08:48
Subject: Support for the Human Rights Resolution
To: kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>

Hi Katie,

Thank you for doing this!

Wendy

To: Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

My name is Wendy Sacks, and I'm a resident of West Hartford. I'm speaking in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance. West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs. I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Wendy Sacks

From: Angela Mazur ajmactivism@gmail.com
Subject: Resolution Affirming
Date: October 6, 2025 at 12:04
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

AM

My name is Angela Mazur. I grew in West Hartford and now live in Avon. I'm speaking in support of the proposed resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance. At this time in our nation when citizens are being cruelly targeted for the color of their skin, it is imperative that WH affirms their commitment!

West Hartford has always prided itself on being a welcoming, inclusive community. This resolution builds on that legacy by asking our town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights — a simple, common-sense framework that says governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Council.

Thank you,
Angela Mazur

From: Arman Haidari arman.s.haidari@gmail.com
Subject: Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance
Date: October 8, 2025 at 12:21
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

AH

Hi,

As a West Hartford resident, I support this resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

We live in a time when a number of communities are being attacked, threatened and pursued by the federal government while certain businesses support the crackdown for financial gain.

It's extremely important that our town be steadfast in resisting abuses by the federal government and the business sector.

I like that the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provides a simple, common-sense framework outlining how governments have a duty to protect people, businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and everyone deserves access to remedy if harm occurs.

I believe this resolution reflects the best of who we are as a town — compassionate, fair, and proactive in doing what's right. I urge the Commission to support it and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,
Arman Haidari

From: Saayli Kokitkar saayli.kokitkar@outlook.com
Subject: Support for Passing Human Rights Resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 22:53
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

SK

Dear Human Rights Commission,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am emailing in support of passing the resolution affirming our city's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

It includes an essential protection for residents: prohibiting the sharing of automated enforcement data with outside agencies like ICE. When companies share license plate or camera data without oversight, it can put people at risk — especially immigrants, people of color, and activists.

By affirming the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, West Hartford can help ensure that everyone can live and work safely here.

I urge the Commission to support the resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Sincerely,

Saayli Kokitkar

From: Ruth Hofstatter hofstatterruth@gmail.com
Subject: Commitment to Human Rights Affirmation
Date: October 8, 2025 at 11:29
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



My name is Ruth Hofstatter and I am a resident of West Hartford.
I'm writing to you in support of the proposed resolution affirming our town's commitment to human rights in business and governance.
Protecting workers and safeguarding our privacy are important. Let us as the town of West Hartford continue to be a leader in Connecticut
and our nation in protecting human rights.

Please support this resolution and recommend it to the Town Council.

Thank you

Ruth Hofstatter
68 Whiting Lane

From: Wendell Weisinger wendell.lynn72@gmail.com
Subject: Support of the resolution
Date: October 8, 2025 at 09:11
To: wehahrc@gmail.com



I have been a resident of West Hartford for 35 years.

I have always been focused on national politics.

It is clear to me now how important it is to work within our local community as well.

I strongly support the resolution before the WH Human Rights Commission in their commitment to human rights in business and governance. We can model for the country the importance of "united we stand", for all people in our communities – including our immigrant and non-citizen neighbors.

Thank you ` wendell weisinger
80 whitman avenue

Part II – Verbal Testimony from the October 8, 2025 Public Meeting

The following transcripts were auto-generated from the public comment portion of the October 8, 2025 meeting of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. They have been lightly edited for clarity and readability but may contain minor transcription errors or brief inaudible portions (noted in brackets). These statements reflect genuine community voices who attended in person to express their support for the proposed resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.

Speaker 1 – Anne Broadhurst (West Hartford Resident)

My name is Anne Broadhurst, and I live in West Hartford.

I came to support a resolution that's being proposed, for the town to adopt people or consider adopting the U.N guiding principles of human rights and business and governance.

And I'm not going to be very eloquent about this other than just to say that I don't I don't see any reason why we wouldn't support it, given the fact that West Hartford does have a history of being very inclusive and ... and diverse and welcoming and equitable, and it just seems to me that given the times we're in, you know, anything we can do to further to continue to shape, you know, our democracy in a positive direction is something that I really would support the Town doing.

Speaker 2 – Arjun (West Hartford Resident)

Yeah, hi, my name is Arjun.

I'm here today also in support of the UN Guiding Principals on Business and Human Rights. And as has been mentioned, West Hartford is a very diverse community, and right now, in these times, we're seeing – specifically with ICE – we're seeing people abducted from their places of work.

This includes in places like in Southington, which is maybe 20 minutes from here.

There were four people abducted while they were working behind the counter at a car wash and just taken away. So, I think that the appropriate way to respond to that is to ensure that businesses and places of work, where people are spending the majority of time, are committed to protecting their rights.

And, I think at a city level, you can definitely do that, and we can definitely compel businesses to protect in that way. And I think this is a particularly good framework to do that.

Speaker 3 – Julia (West Hartford Resident)

Hello, my name is Julia, and I'm here to voice my support for the resolution we're talking about. I support this resolution because it would acknowledge the dignity and humanity of immigrant and refugee residents in West Hartford.

No one deserves to have their data shared with [unclear] secret police forces, especially not for the so-called crime of not having proper documentation. Our undocumented neighbors deserve the same security in their persons and data as any other resident of West Hartford.

I support this resolution as well, because human rights don't end at business doors, on the stock market floor, nor in our tactical expenditures.

This resolution would encourage the Town to make sure that businesses in West Hartford respect the UN guiding principles on human rights and make sure that our town is not invested anywhere where human rights are not respected.

We should not have our taxes to go to any investments in any companies, which do not respect the humanity of all people, and they certainly should not feel welcome in West Hartford.

Lastly, I'm also in support of this resolution, that as a queer and trans person, I recognize that the same methods of impression used against our undocumented neighbors will eventually make their way to target my trans siblings, and indeed surely already are used against my undocumented trans siblings.

Trans people are already at a higher rate, a higher risk of being victims of sexual and physical violence, and exponentially more so for trans people of color. We have already seen video and heard accounts of ICE physically and sexually abusing people in their custody. Hopefully, this resolution can be a step for West Hartford to protect its citizens from violence.

I encourage the commission to vote in favor.

Speaker 4 – Eamon (Hartford Resident; works in Peacebuilding)

My name is Eamon. I live in Hartford, actually, but I spend a lot of time in West Hartford, shop at local businesses – I've spent a lot of time with my friends here.

I love West Hartford's parks and trails. I work in higher education – in peacebuilding. And, I'm also here to speak in favor of the resolution about adopting the UN Guiding Principles.

When I do go spend time in West Hartford, I'd like to know that the products I'm buying are ethically sourced, that they treat their employees well, and that they treat their customers and community members with respect, not discriminating against anyone who [pause] – what you said in the mission statement, actually, any sort of, immutable characteristic.

And, I think these principles provide a great way for businesses to do just that, to work towards these guidelines.

I don't think anyone will get perfect at the start. I know my parents run a small business and I know it's difficult, but I think that this is a great way to start a conversation about how we can create a more welcoming West Hartford, Hartford, Greater Hartford area, especially now with what we're seeing at the national and state level.

There's a lot of fear, and I think that encouraging people that proactively show that they respect human rights do a lot to mitigate that fear, and in that respect, I urge the Human Rights Commission to adopt the resolution as is.

Speaker 5 – [Name unclear] (West Hartford Resident)

My name's [unclear].

I'm here tonight to support the resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights and business and governance as proposed by Commissioner Lance.

I feel that it's important for our local leaders in town government to be vigilant and ensuring that any private data or personal information obtained from the automated enforcement technologies, such as red light cameras, or license plate readers not be shared with any outside agencies or entities, such as the part of the Homeland Security, or ICE, or any other governmental agency [unclear].

Thank you.

Speaker 6 – Mel Cyr (West Hartford Resident)

My name is Mel Cyr, I'm a West Hartford resident, and I'm speaking in support of this resolution.

Human rights shouldn't be treated as an abstract concept for our town— they should be reflected in how our community operates. Supporting this resolution means making sure our Town's contracts and partnerships reflect our values. It's a great step toward ensuring that our public systems align with human rights principles.

I ask you to support this resolution.

Thank you.

Speaker 7 – Patrick [Last Name Unclear] (West Hartford Resident)

We are seeing our brothers and sisters being targeted — even abducted from their workplaces — in our own cities. West Hartford is a diverse and welcoming community, and we all deserve to feel safe and included in society.

No one should have to live in fear of being taken or harassed — that kind of thing harms our collective well-being. I shouldn't have to be told by my mother, who fled fascism, to hide who I am or where I come from. That's why I urge you to support this resolution.

Speaker 8 – [Interrupted at start of public comment, name not given] (West Hartford Resident)

I'm also here in support of the resolution and encourage the commission to commit as well to at least encouraging the Town to abide by these principles of human rights.

I have been in West Hartford for about four years now, as a queer person, and as a Jewish person, I have felt really welcomed by this diverse community, and I would hope to see my tax dollars also not contribute to human rights abuses and for West Hartford to continue the long legacy of protecting all of its residents from unnecessary government surveillance.

Thank you for considering this, all of you.

Speaker 9 – Sam Sommers (West Hartford Resident)

Good evening.

My name's Sam Sommers. I live on Greenhurst Road and this is my first time at the Human Rights Commission.

It's also my first time doing anything civic-participation-related for my Town. And I'm really glad to be here. I wanted to voice my support for the resolution affirming the UN Guiding Principles and Business and Human Rights.

And I especially want to underscore my support for the resolution as written, because it strikes me that it's exactly the kind of work that this commission should be doing. And, I really like the resolution. I think it includes some actionable, achievable goals.

It puts our values into practice. And when we were looking for a place where we would buy our house and could live as ourselves, West Hartford was at the top of the list because of its values and because of its commitment to doing right by our neighbors. And, I see this resolution as written, really in line with that, and I look forward to supporting it at the Town Council if it passes out of the commission today.

Thank you.

Part III – Summary of Commission Discussion (October 8, 2025 Meeting)

The following section summarizes the **West Hartford Human Rights Commission's discussion** of the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance* during its regular meeting on **October 8, 2025**.

(Note: The draft resolution was first shared with the Commission at the Sep. 3, 2025 meeting)

This discussion took place after public testimony on October 8th and before additional correspondence was received later in October (see Part IV). Commissioners reviewed the feedback shared by community members up to that point and deliberated on next steps for refining and advancing the resolution.

Commissioner Kathryn (Katie) Lance, who drafted the resolution, had previously communicated to Co-Chair Alana Butler that she would be arriving late to the meeting due to travel (she arrived approximately 30 minutes after the meeting was called to order). Co-Chair Butler had agreed to hold the discussion until after Commissioner Lance's arrival; however, the discussion proceeded in her absence, and the meeting adjourned approximately one hour earlier than its scheduled end time. As a result, Commissioner Lance was not present to formally introduce the resolution, provide background on its development, purpose, or intent, or to participate in the public discussion.

Co-Chair Alana Butler facilitated the discussion.

Commissioners David (Dave) Ware, Eric Schoenberg, and Eva Jacobson were present.

Co-Chair Mark Linabury and Commissioner Kathryn Lance were absent for this discussion.

The summary below highlights key points raised by each commissioner, areas of agreement, and the resulting decisions made by the Commission.

Overview

Co-Chair Alana Butler opened the discussion regarding next steps for the proposed resolution. The conversation focused primarily on:

1. Whether certain provisions were **redundant** with existing Town ordinances;
 2. The **breadth and tone** of the language and its likely reception by the Town Council; and
 3. The need to **refine and clarify** the draft through a working subcommittee before any formal vote.
-

Commissioner Feedback

Commissioner David Ware

- Noted that the clause related to the Town's **automated traffic surveillance system** duplicates existing language in the Town Code adopted earlier in the year.
 - Distributed copies of the relevant ordinance section to the Commission and cautioned that sending a resolution containing already-enacted provisions could appear redundant to the Town Council.
 - Indicated he would be more comfortable supporting the resolution if that section were removed.
 - Supported the **overall concept** of the resolution but advised that its language is "**sweeping**" and might need refinement to make it more **practical and acceptable** to the Town Council.
 - Expressed particular concern with the provision calling for a **review of all Town expenditures, contracts, and investments**, describing it as "very ambitious."
 - Volunteered to help **revise and streamline** the draft, ensuring that it maintains its intent while aligning with the Town's legal framework and Council expectations.
-

Commissioner Eva Jacobson

- Agreed with Dave that **due diligence and legal review** are necessary to confirm the resolution's compatibility with Town authority.
 - Suggested consulting **Corporation Counsel** to identify any potential legal or procedural issues.
 - Supported the resolution's intent but emphasized that revisions should make it **more specific and realistic**.
 - Concluded that while she supports the concept, the Commission should "make sure we put our best foot forward."
-

Co-Chair Alana Butler

- Agreed that the draft should be **reworked before any vote**.
 - Proposed forming a **subcommittee** to refine the language rather than voting that evening.
 - Clarified the procedural next steps: if approved, the resolution would go first to the **Town Manager** and then to the **Town Council** for review and potential revision.
 - Indicated that if someone did move to vote, she would proceed accordingly, but her preference was to allow further review and refinement first.
-

Treasurer Eric Schoenberg

- Expressed agreement that the resolution needs **narrowing and refinement** to maximize its chance of adoption.
 - **Moved to form a subcommittee** to revise the draft and ensure it could be presented in a manner that would “have a higher chance of actually getting passed.”
 - **Volunteered** to serve on the subcommittee and suggested that Commissioner Lance also serve, since she authored the original draft.
 - The motion was **seconded by Dave Ware** and **approved unanimously**.
 - The final subcommittee consisted of **Eric Schoenberg, Dave Ware, and Katie Lance**.
-

Commissioner Eva Jacobson

- Thanked community members for attending and speaking in support of the resolution.
 - Noted that the Commission clearly intends to move the resolution forward after appropriate revisions.
 - Concluded that “the essence of this is to move forward,” with consensus that revisions are needed before submission to the Town Council.
-

Outcome

- The Commission **did not vote** on the resolution during this meeting.
- A **subcommittee was formed** (Eric Schoenberg, Dave Ware, and Katie Lance) to revise the resolution and bring it back for further consideration.
- Commissioners expressed strong consensus that while **the core intent of the resolution is valuable**, revisions are needed to ensure legal clarity, avoid redundancy, and strengthen its chances of adoption by the Town Council.

Part IV – Related Correspondence Received by Town Officials and/or Commission Co-Chairs (October 22 – Nov 3, 2025)

The following emails and letters were received by Town officials and/or the Commission Co-Chairs between October 22 and November 3, 2025, in response to the proposed resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*.

During this period, some of the messages were forwarded by Co-Chair Butler to the full West Hartford Human Rights Commission via the WHHRC Google Group, while others were shared only with Secretary Lance. This compilation includes all correspondence currently available to the Commission from that timeframe, encompassing both messages distributed to the full Commission and those shared individually with only certain commissioners.

This section also includes a message from Commissioner Lance to Town officials sent in response to one of the opposition emails that copied the same recipients. It is included here to maintain the full context of the correspondence chain. The purpose of that message was twofold:

1. To clarify the current state of the resolution and the process to date, and
2. To alleviate any potential concerns at the municipal level.

That message also included an updated version of the resolution to illustrate that its intent and scope were limited to issues within the local community, not international matters. It further clarified that the clause quoted in certain messages had already been removed as of October 16, prior to the more recent correspondence.

For readability and consistency, some messages have been lightly reformatted (e.g., spacing and font) while preserving all original wording and substantive content.

Note: There may be additional correspondence received directly by the Co-Chairs or Town officials that has not yet been shared with the full WHHRC. The full compilation of feedback received will be available with the WHHRC November minutes.

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 20:50
To: Jennifer Klau jenklau@gmail.com

AB

Thank you Jen!

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 7:30 PM Jennifer Klau <jenklau@gmail.com> wrote:
To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box.

More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East.

Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Thanks!

Jennifer Klau

Egregious errors courtesy auto-correct

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: WHHC Resolution Clause
Date: October 26, 2025 at 20:49
To: Miriam R miriamknits@gmail.com

AB

Thank you so much, Miriam!

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 8:17 PM Miriam R <miriamknits@gmail.com> wrote:

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government." On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel. This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again.

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The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic. Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford. I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Miriam W. Rosenblatt

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 20:50
To: Batsheva batshevagold@gmail.com

AB

Thank you Batsheva!!

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 7:50 PM Batsheva <batshevagold@gmail.com> wrote:
To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Batsheva Oberstein
West Hartford, CT

From: Rob Private droberstein@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:48
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

RP

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Robert Oberstein
West Hartford resident

From: Renana Kadden kaddenr@comcast.net
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:42
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

RK

:To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Renana Kadden

Sent from my iPhone

From: Laurie Feldman laurie.nadine.feldman@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:17
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

LF

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Laurie Feldman

From: LARRY COOPER chaim18@att.net
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:08
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

LC

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Larry Cooper

From: Helen Schwartz prinderella2011@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:23
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

HS

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Helen Schwartz

From: David Kruger davidmkruger@ctortho.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:07
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

DK

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Boris Stambler boris.stambler@yahoo.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:04
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

BS

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Boris Stambler

From: Ari Schaffer ari.schaffer@gmail.com
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
Date: October 26, 2025 at 19:07
To: Arblum2@gmail.com
Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

AS

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ari Schaffer

—

Ari Schaffer
(c)201-774-2800
(email)ari.schaffer@gmail.com

On Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:08 PM Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com> wrote:
I just received 10 more letters in a now. Rather than continuing to send them out I'll compile them and also tally them up.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alan Solinsky, MD <alansolinsky@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:32 PM
Subject: Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel
To: <Arblum2@gmail.com>
CC: <linaburyvmark@gmail.com>

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission: I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government." On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel. This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box. More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East. Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic. Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford. I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above. Thank you for your time and attention. Sincerely,

—



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

debra Rostowsky <d.rostowsky@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:53 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Eileen <chava125@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:56 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Eileen Weinberg
Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Elena Tunitsky <lena0605@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:52 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Elena Tunitsky,MD
West Hartford resident

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Elise Black <elblackslp@aol.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:41 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Regards,

Elise Black

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Fernando Rausch <fernando.rauschlcs@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:55 F

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Georgianne C <georgianneco@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 5:50 PM

o: Arblum2@gmail.com

c: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Georgianne Cohen



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Jeffrey Peck <jeffrey.peck@icloud.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 5:38 F

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree - good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Peck

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

aniel S. Daman <dsdaman@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 2:20 PM

o: Arblum2@gmail.com

c: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Daniel Daman, MD



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Ilana Bernstein <ilanatamarbernstein@gmail.com>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 12:08 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ilana Bernstein
95 Brewster Road



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

lennie <bchwein@gmail.com>
o: Arblum2@gmail.com
c: linaburymark@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 2:41 PM

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Philip Schlossberg <phil.schlossberg@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 9:45 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Sarah Laub <cccsarahlaub@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 9:50 AM

o: Arblum2@gmail.com

c: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Sarah Laub
West Hartford

Yours In Health,

Sarah Laub



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Beth Katten <bethkatten@me.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 8:32 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Stuart Katten
Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Les Loew <lesloew@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 4:39 PM

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Les Loew
7 Farmstead Lane
West Hartford



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Robert Efron <bobyak2@icloud.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 3:29 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Debra Luger <deluge613@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 1:26 AM

cc: Arblum2@gmail.com

cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Debra Luger
Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Audrey Laufer <audrey.laufer@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 8:07 A

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the one stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that can't win at the ballot box.

More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East.

Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

AUDREY HOLTZ LAUFER

REALTOR

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

970 Farmington Avenue

West Hartford, CT 06107

audreylaufer@bhhsne.com

www.audreylaufer.bhhsneproperties.com

Cell: 860 966-4299

Fax: 860 521-7604

Honor Society Award Winner

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Barry Gordon <socialservicestat@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:51 PM

cc: Arblum2@gmail.com

c: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Barry S. Gordon NHA LICSW
Social Service/STAT
860 989 3196



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

Barbara Nair <baylaperil@yahoo.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 8:30 A

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone Barbara Nair



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Sam Leichtberg <samleicht@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 10:22 PM

to: Arblum2@gmail.com

cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree - good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Sam Leichtberg
West Hartford, CT



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

upcoming vote on resolution

Galya Greenberg <greenberg.galya@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 9:01 A

To: Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com>, linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Galya Greenberg
21 Arundel Avenue
West Hartford

"A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?" Robert Browning

"And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden" Joni Mitchell



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Masha Stambler <stamblmasha@yahoo.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:51 PM

to: Arblum2@gmail.com

cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Masha Stambler



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Ari Geller <mjgeller@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:56 F

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Melissa Geller
Very Concerned West Hartford Resident

Sent from my iPhone



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Michael Siev <michael.h.siev@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:15 PM

cc: Arblum2@gmail.com

cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Michael Siev



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Eve Pachter <eve.pachter@icloud.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 10:29 P

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Whether or not anti-Israel bias is the intent of the Commission, that will be the ultimate result. The WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself efforts which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Eve Pachter, Esq.



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

Shayne Green Kesler <shaynegk@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 9:38 PM

to: Arblum2@gmail.com

cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Shayne Green Kesler



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

1 message

Rde Eisenman <rderde@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 6:30 P

Reply-To: rderde@gmail.com

To: Arblum2@gmail.com

Cc: linaburymark@gmail.com

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

We are writing as West Hartford residents to express our strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree-good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. But in reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

This resolution sets West Hartford on a path to alienate the only stable, Western democracy in the Middle East, and the majority of Americans who have sided with it time and time again. It is the effort of a fringe group seeking to use well-meaning local government agencies and commissions to advance a political position that has too little support to win when put to a vote.

More specifically, the resolution cites the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. The UNGPs have been used by organizations to target Israel with outlandish claims of human rights violations in Gaza while intentionally leaving out the daily threat of terror Israel is trying to protect its people from and the broader reality on the ground in the Middle East.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

We urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Esther and David Eisenman



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Oppose 11/5 Resolution Targeting Israel

message

bernstein, Steven (Library) <bernsteinstj@ccsu.edu>
o: "Arblum2@gmail.com" <Arblum2@gmail.com>
cc: "linaburymark@gmail.com" <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Sun, Oct 26, 2025 at 5:49 PM

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government."

On the surface, it appears the resolution seems focused on an issues on which we all agree: good conduct in business and efforts to advance human rights. In reality, the resolution lays the groundwork for an effort to target Israel and those who support it in the area. While Israel is not specifically mentioned, the language and provisions echo other efforts to advance one-sided Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions initiatives targeting Israel.

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Additionally, commenting on Israel is beyond the Commission's scope of responsibility, which should be focused on local issues affecting West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Steven Bernstein

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing
Date: October 24, 2025 at 08:29
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

Fyi
I will add this to the compilation of letters.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Inna Zhitomirsky <inkazhitomirsky@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 11:52 PM
Subject: RE: proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing
To: Arblum2@gmail.com <Arblum2@gmail.com>, linaburymark@gmail.com <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am a West Hartford resident and I writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself., but it can also be used and has been used unfairly against Israel. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Inna Zhitomirsky

..

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "west hartford human rights commission" group. To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to west-hartford-human-rights-commission+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com. To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAL1eOzgc5Rz3%2Bo4Wf27apJ%3D7v%3DPMd9WV8N2Mh%3D7d30GL%28KD3VC%40mail.gmail.com>.



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

Upcoming Human Rights committee resolutions

message

Alisa Band <alisa.band@live.com>

Sat, Oct 25, 2025 at 5:51 PM

to: "Arblum2@gmail.com" <Arblum2@gmail.com>, "linaburymark@gmail.com" <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I have been made aware of the attached document to be discussed in your next meeting. I am a West Hartford resident and I have concerns with the content and wording.

I understand that the intention is to protect immigrants that are not with legal status either living in West Hartford or are passing through and that you believe you have good intentions.

However, this resolution contains elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel— a country that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens —has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself., but it can also be used and has been used unfairly against Israel. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to either focus on the specific intentions you have and redraft or vote against this resolution.

Regards,
Alisa Sadka



Agenda Packet.pdf

145K

From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights in Business and Governing
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:41
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: kerry Rausch <rausch.kerry@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 2:21 PM
Subject: Human Rights in Business and Governing
To: <Arblum2@gmail.com>, <linaburymark@gmail.com>
CC: Sandrahdesigns <sandrahdesigns@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of not only disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Syria etc. UNHRC has been found to support terror organizations like Hamas.

Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens — has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The broad and ambiguous language in this proposal can be — and has been — applied unfairly against Israel. Such interpretations risk undermining the peaceful coexistence currently enjoyed by the Jewish community in West Hartford.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Kerry Rausch and Sandra Hershson

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Concerns about the proposed Human Rights Resolution
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:39
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Laura Barash <laura_feiwel@yahoo.com>
Date: Sat, Oct 25, 2025 at 4:02 PM
Subject: Concerns about the proposed Human Rights Resolution
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>, <inaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself, but it can also be used and has been used unfairly against Israel. By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,

Laura Barash
Proud West Hartford resident

--

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: US de-funded UNRWA but West Hartford wants to include it in our charter?
Date: October 23, 2025 at 10:55
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: roselle weiner <reallyrosy@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 9:59 AM
Subject: US de-funded UNRWA but West Hartford wants to include it in our charter?
To: <inaburymark@gmail.com>, ARBlum2@gmail.com <ARBlum2@gmail.com>

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Committee

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution: Human Rights in Business and Governing.

I understand that this resolution has been crafted to contain elements of the United Nations Human Rights Commission language. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) has a long record of disproportionately targeting Israel while ignoring or downplaying egregious human rights abuses in countries such as Iran, North Korea, and Syria. Israel—One of the few democracies in the Middle East, and a nation that upholds the rule of law and protects the rights of all its citizens—has been unfairly singled out for condemnation through one-sided resolutions and agenda items in the United Nations for decades. In addition, the resolution as worded is thinly veiled BDS language and appears to be an attempt to get the Town of West Hartford to adopt a BDS policy.

The use of broad or ambiguous language as contained in this proposal can be a way to build a broader coalition, attracting support from people who might be hesitant to take a strong stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict itself, **but it has also been used unfairly against Israel.** By framing issues in terms of universally accepted concerns like human rights and ethics, activists can make their demands more palatable to a wider audience, including local council members while ignoring its impact on other areas.

I urge you to vote against this resolution.

Sincerely,
ROSELLE WEINER
12 Vandervere Road
WestHartford.CT.06117
860.566.9498

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Propose Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance
Date: October 22, 2025 at 15:16
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

Another letter. I can compile them if that's helpful.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nina B. Kunkes
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 2:56 PM
Subject: Propose Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>, <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

The draft resolution mixes two unrelated ideas - ethical investment screening and protecting residents' privacy from ICE data-sharing. Both are rooted in human rights, but combining them is unnecessary and confusing.

Broad language about avoiding ties to "human-rights abuses" could be read as a form of boycott or divestment, inviting controversy and potential challenges under Connecticut's anti-BDS statutes. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and intimidate local Jews.

The ICE data-sharing limits are appropriate and widely supported, but linking them to an investment policy makes the resolution confusing and more divisive.

A better approach would be to keep the privacy provisions as a separate, stand-alone measure focused on data protection and community trust.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nina Kunkes

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Veiled antisemitic resolution
Date: October 22, 2025 at 18:13
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

Another letter which I'll add to the compilation.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tali Kest <talikest77@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 5:37PM
Subject: Veiled antisemitic resolution
To: arblum2@gmail.com <arblum2@gmail.com>, Linabury-mark@gmail.com <Linabury-mark@gmail.com>

Hi Alana and Mark,

My name is Tali Kest and I live in West Hartford. I heard recently that the human rights commission wants to consider a resolution to "review town funds" as it relates to human rights abuses which mirrors a similar U.N. resolution.

It is widely believed among the Jewish community that the UN is biased against Israel and in fact has passed more resolutions against Israel than every other country combined in recent years. This hyper focus and obsession against Israel is anti-semitic, as would be a resolution passed by the town of West Hartford human's right commission. It's veiled language is an attempts to skirt around exact Boycott Divest Sanctions language that attacks Israel, but in reality, is meant to do just that.

37 states have enacted anti-BDS legislation in in the U.S. and in January 2025, legislation in Connecticut was introduced to ban anti-Israel BDS in state and local pensions, state contracts and publicly funded education.

Don't allow the commission to use human rights as a cover for anti-semitism.

Thank you,

Tali Kest
646-228-8008

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To view this discussion visit https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAL1eOzg5dd-uGEM3WKU0hdAyO_Td3cLb-0BroBTWGL1WYvWn8Q%40mail.gmail.com.

From: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights in Business and Governance Resolution
Date: November 3, 2025 at 20:55
To: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 3:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: Human Rights in Business and Governance Resolution
To: west hartford human rights commission <west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com>

Another letter.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: All Bluestone
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 2:35 PM
Subject: Re: Human Rights in Business and Governance Resolution

Dear Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Alison Bluestone
West Hartford Resident

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Proposed resolution
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:42
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Brown <davidbrown2023@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 12:54 PM
Subject: Proposed resolution
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Brown MD

48 Seneca Road

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Oppose the proposed resolution
Date: October 25, 2025 at 20:41
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karen Goldberg <gerald.goldberg@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2025 at 1:32 PM
Subject: Oppose the proposed resolution

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Karen Goldberg
West Hartford Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to upcoming resolution
Date: October 22, 2025 at 13:52
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

AB

Hi everyone,
I am forwarding this letter that we received from a West Hartford resident.

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Jill Dulitsky <jdulitsky@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 12:50 PM
Subject: Opposition to upcoming resolution

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Dulitsky, 4 Borough Drive, West Hartford

West Hartford Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

REJECT the resolution titled “Affirming West Hartford’s Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.”

message

David Brandwein <dbrandwein@gmail.com>

Mon, Oct 27, 2025 at 11:12 AM

to: Butler Alana <arblum2@gmail.com>, Linaburymark@gmail.com

cc: Pitino Eadie <epitino@jewishhartford.org>, Fiedler Heather <hfiedler@jewishhartford.org>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights:

I am a long-time resident of West Hartford and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community, and a past Chair of its Jewish Community Relations Council, to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, “*Affirming West Hartford’s Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.*”

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town pension investments, expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
David I. Brandwein

David I. Brandwein
17 Drury Lane
West Hartford, CT 06117
(H) 860-232-6534
(C) 860-306-4234
dbrandwein@gmail.com

From: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Concern Regarding Antisemitic Implications of Proposed Resolution
Date: November 3, 2025 at 21:32
To: West Hartford Human Rights Commission wehahrc@gmail.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Yelena Pasternak <ypasternachka@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 23, 2025 at 7:51 AM
Subject: Concern Regarding Antisemitic Implications of Proposed Resolution
To: <arblum2@gmail.com>, <linaburymark@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a West Hartford resident and a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

While I fully support the principles of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution includes language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Even without naming Israel, this framework has been widely used across the country to single out Israel and those who engage with it, creating division rather than advancing human rights.

At a time when antisemitism is rapidly rising nationwide and here in Connecticut, it is especially concerning to see language that could harm or marginalize members of the Jewish community in West Hartford. Our town should be a place of inclusion and mutual respect, not a platform for political agendas that divide neighbors.

We also face serious local human rights priorities that need urgent attention—supporting immigrants and refugees, ensuring equity in education and housing, preventing discrimination, and strengthening safety and belonging for all. These are efforts that unite our residents and reflect the true mission of the Commission.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on constructive, local initiatives that build unity and protect all members of our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Yelena Pasternak

West Hartford Resident

Yelena Pasternak (" Mamusik ")
[91 Parsons Dr., West Hartford, CT 06117](#)
phone: 860-836-6755

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From: Alana Butler arblum2@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Concern About the Proposed "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights" Resolution
Date: October 22, 2025 at 13:52
To: west hartford human rights commission west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com

Hi everyone,
I am forwarding this letter that we received from a West Hartford resident.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eveline Shekhman <evelineshekhman@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 12:51 PM
Subject: Re: Concern About the Proposed "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights" Resolution
To: arblum2@gmail.com <arblum2@gmail.com>, linabury-mark@gmail.com <linabury-mark@gmail.com>

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I'm writing as both a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community and a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford — but also as a neighbor who deeply values West Hartford's tradition of inclusion, compassion, and civic engagement, to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, I am deeply concerned about the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."* The language calling for a review of Town expenditures and contracts closely resembles wording often associated with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Even though Israel is not mentioned directly, this phrasing and framework have historically been used to single out Israel and those who support engagement and partnership with it.

This kind of language risks introducing division into a community that has always prided itself on collaboration and mutual respect. I worry that it could unintentionally stigmatize our Jewish residents, organizations, and businesses that have long been active, caring contributors to the civic fabric of West Hartford.

At a time when our town faces very real, immediate needs — from supporting immigrants and refugees, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation — I believe our collective energy is best directed toward these local priorities that strengthen and unite us.

I respectfully urge the Commission to set aside this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and solidarity across all communities in West Hartford. That would be the truest expression of our shared commitment to human rights — and of the inclusive spirit that has long made this town a model for others.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Eveline Shekhman

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October 24, 2025

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a neighbor of yours in Farmington and am writing to you today as a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

While I wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees receive the support they need to thrive, to advancing equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its efforts on those hyper-local priorities that unite and strengthen West Hartford. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

I urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community. **If something like this can happen to a neighbor, I worry that it can soon happen to us in Farmington.**

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Schmidek
Mark Schmidek
A worried neighbor



RECEIVED
2025 OCT 28 PM 3:33
Leon S. Davidoff
LEON S. DAVIDOFF
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

PS ..Ds Martin Niemoller: First they came for....and I did not speak out...then they came for....and again I did not speak out...then they came for me....and..

October 28, 2025

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

We have lived in West Hartford for over 44 years and we love this community. We love it for its welcoming and total acceptance of a great diversity of people. Our children (now middle aged and parents themselves) learned these values at their public schools and never felt singled out as Jews. --- We are writing today as members of the Greater Hartford Jewish community to express our strong opposition to the proposed resolution, "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

While we wholeheartedly support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, this resolution contains language – particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts that mirrors rhetoric often used by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Although the resolution does not explicitly name Israel, the phrasing and framework are commonly employed to target Israel and those who support engagement with it.

At a time when our community faces pressing local needs – from assisting local immigrants with all aspects of their lives, from housing to employment, education and medical concerns, etc., as well as to assisting long term residents with food instability, housing, etc. we urge the commission to focus its efforts on these local high priority concerns that unite and strengthen all of us. Addressing challenges close to home is the most powerful expression of our shared commitment to human rights.

We urge the Commission to reject this resolution and instead focus on initiatives that build understanding and unity across our community, which we have always felt was united until now.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,
Carolyn and Stuart Bernstein

RECEIVED
2025 NOV -3 PM 12:33
LEON S. DAVIDOFF
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

Leon Davidoff

From: Mark Merritt <mmerritt4@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 12:54 PM
To: arblum2@gmail.com; Linabury-mark@gmail.com
Cc: Town Manager; Mayor of West Hartford; Leon Davidoff
Subject: West Hartford Commission on Human Rights: "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."

Dear Members of the West Hartford Commission on Human Rights,

I am a resident of West Hartford and a member of the Greater Hartford Jewish community. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed resolution, *"Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance."*

While I fully support the advancement of human rights and ethical governance, the resolution's language—particularly the call to review Town expenditures and contracts—echoes rhetoric often associated with the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Even though the resolution does not explicitly mention Israel, its phrasing and framework are frequently used to single out Israel and those who engage with it.

At a time when our town faces urgent local priorities—from ensuring that immigrants and refugees have the resources they need to succeed, to promoting equity in housing, education, and civic participation—I urge the Commission to focus its energy on these vital, unifying efforts. Addressing the challenges closest to home is the most meaningful way to demonstrate West Hartford's commitment to human rights.

I respectfully ask the Commission to reject this resolution and instead pursue initiatives that strengthen understanding and unity within our community.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Merritt
145 Robin Rd

RECEIVED
2025 OCT 22 PM 1:16
Leon S. Davidoff
West Hartford Town Clerk

Leon Davidoff

From: Kathryn Lance <kathryn.marie.lance@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2025 4:38 PM
To: Town Manager, Mayor of West Hartford; Leon Davidoff
Cc: David K. Ware
Subject: Context on WHHRC's Resolution Development Process
Attachments: WHHRC Resolution Draft.pdf

RECEIVED
OCT 22 PM 4:45
LEON S. DAVIDOFF
W. HARTFORD TOWN CLERK

Dear Mayor Cantor, Mr. Ledwith, and Mr. Davidoff,

I saw that you all were recently copied on an email in opposition to a resolution that the WHHRC has been developing, called "*Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion*". As the person who first proposed this resolution to the WHHRC, I wanted to write to shed some clarity on this issue.

First, please note that this resolution **has not yet been voted on** by the WHHRC.

Second, the letters of opposition are referring to a **previous version** of the resolution. (The first version of this resolution was shared with the WHHRC during the public meeting in September and then discussed at our October public meeting two weeks ago). So, it is unclear why all these letters of opposition are coming in today.

Note that Commissioner Dave Ware (copied here) and I have since refined the resolution based on feedback received during the October meeting from Commissioners and members of the public alike (all of which was overwhelmingly positive at the time). The only request from commissioners was to refine some of the language and to run the draft by Corporation Counsel to ensure there are no legal issues.

I have attached the latest draft of the resolution for your reference (there is no expectation that you review it).

Again, please note that this version has not yet been voted on by the Commission. In fact, it has not yet even been circulated to the broader Commission (although our Co-Chairs and Treasurer have copies of the most recent draft). There are still multiple steps and potential changes that may take place before we advance this to the Town Council – if it ever even comes to that.

Last, but not least, I want to note that a lot of the concerns - and ideas - shared during the Q&A at last night's *Know Your Rights: Immigration Panel* resonate strongly with the core principles of this resolution. (Thank you again for joining us, Mayor Cantor!) To me, the conversation last night underscored just how important it is for our Town to take concrete steps to strengthen and reaffirm the connection between human rights and local business and governance practices -- hopefully, this resolution can be one step toward that.

If you have any concerns or questions (or any suggestions/feedback on the resolution, should you choose to read it) - please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your time. I truly appreciate all that you do.

Best regards,
Katie
Secretary, West Hartford Human Rights Commission



Alana Blum <arblum2@gmail.com>

WH Human Rights Commission Resolution

1 message

Robin Kipnis <robinkipnis@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 2, 2025 at 8:54 A

To: "linaburymark@gmail.com" <linaburymark@gmail.com>, "ARBlum2@gmail.com" <ARBlum2@gmail.com>

To Chairpersons and Members of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission:

I am writing as a West Hartford resident and a member of the Grassroots Jewish Women of CT. to express my strong opposition to the West Hartford Human Rights Commission's (WHHRC) resolution "Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Government". While it appears that the resolution is designed to protect immigrants' rights, the resolution is linked to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The UNGPs were originally designed for national governments and multinational corporations and not municipal governments and local commissions such as the WHHRC. Therefore, the resolution is well beyond the purview of the WHHRC.

The UNGPs have been used to urge divestment and other punitive actions ("BDS") against countries that violate human rights. Importantly, the UNGPs have been used against Israel by organizations alleging Israel has violated human rights in Gaza. Passage of this resolution could be used in such a manner. Who is going to determine whether a human rights violation has occurred? Is the Commission prepared to undertake this line of inquiry if the resolution is passed as worded?

While anti-Israel bias may or may not be the intent of the Commission, the WHHRC should not be positioning itself to alienate West Hartford's Jewish Community, nor aligning itself with an organization such as the United Nations which many in the Jewish Community view as antisemitic.

I urge you to vote against this resolution for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Robin Kipnis

Part V – Written Testimony Received Related to Revised Resolution

The following written statements were submitted by residents and community members on November 5, 2025 in response to the revised resolution *Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance*.

Note:. Since the revised version of the resolution was only made available to the public on November 3rd it is possible additional correspondence will be received after this time that have not been included here. Any additional feedback received prior to the publication of the November minutes will added to this compilation and included in the packet with the WHHRC November minutes.

From: Paul Bourdon paulbourdon1719@gmail.com 
Subject: Proposed resolution
Date: November 5, 2025 at 10:13
To: wehahrc@gmail.com
Cc: Paul Bourdon paulbourdon1719@gmail.com

PB

Dear Human Rights Commission

I am a retired biotech scientist and part-time farmer who moved to the Hartford area 6 years ago. Since then I have turned my backyard into a small micro-farm where I donate most of my harvest to a food pantry in the north end of Hartford. We organize the food on Thursdays and Fridays. The clients of the food pantry are almost exclusively people of color and many are immigrants. Most are working poor, some of which are coming from overnight jobs when we distribute the food early Saturday mornings. I'm sure you are aware that support for this food has been greatly reduced due to federal budget cuts. Most of the rest of our clients are elderly and disabled. These are extremely vulnerable populations. We are very concerned not only with the federal governments over-reach but also with local exploitation of these people.

I am strongly in favor of the resolution being proposed. West Hartford claims to be committed to human rights in business and governance as well as being an inclusive community. The resolution asks the town to align with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It simply states that governments have an obligation to protect all people and businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights. People should be able to live and work safely in West Hartford regardless of their race or economic status. No town should be assisting the federal government in carrying out racist and unlawful raids on any community.

I urge the commission to support the resolution and recommend it to the town council.

Thank you,
Paul Bourdon
481 Main St
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Paulbourdon1719@gmail.com

Dear Human Rights Commission
.docx



From: Sohail Lokhandwala sohaillock5152@gmail.com
Subject: Support for resolution urging human rights in businesses and governance
Date: November 5, 2025 at 11:10
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

SL

My name is Sohail, and I'm a local community member. I urge the Human Rights Commission to advance the revised resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

This new draft asks us to hold ourselves to the same values we celebrate every year during our annual the Celebration of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights: fairness, dignity, and accountability. It also focuses squarely on local action — on how we uphold these values in our own town operations.

The UN Guiding Principles are a voluntary framework. This resolution is simply asking the Town to review and understand possible paths forward. The UNGPs don't tell us *what* to do ; they empower local governments learn *how* to strengthen human rights on their own terms, at home on the hyper-local level.

This resolution does exactly that — it ignores the noise of federal and international issues. It is a unifying measure that everyone can get behind - bringing human rights front and center for everyone in our community, right here in West Hartford.

Given the hostility we face in West Hartford from ICE raids, as well as the trump administration's relentless assault against our civil liberties, I hope this legislation will pass, as urgent action is needed to protect us, and it must come from elected officials and public servants at all levels.

Thanks, Sohail Lokhandwala

From: Mary Smith masmi2@yahoo.com
Subject: Human Rights resolution support
Date: November 5, 2025 at 12:02
To: WeHaHRC@gmail.com

MS

My name is Mary Smith, and I am a retired nurse.

I've been a West Hartford resident my entire life - 65 years. I believe that overall, West Hartford is a town that does care for all its residents. This resolution is about good governance on the local level — making sure the Town's dollars reflect our values. By exploring a Supplier Code of Conduct and transparent procurement practices, West Hartford can ensure that its business partners treat workers fairly and operate ethically. That's not bureaucracy; it's accountability.

Ethical and inclusive business practices help build a stronger local economy and show that West Hartford is a local leader in responsible governance.

Please accept and support this resolution and show we are a town that values human rights for all.

Sincerely, Mary Smith

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: Jareka Dellenbaugh-Dempsey jareka.d@gmail.com
Subject: Support for WeHaHRC Resolution Affirming Commitment to Human Rights
Date: November 5, 2025 at 15:04
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

JD

Dear West Hartford Human Rights Commissioners,

My name is Jareka Dellenbaugh-Dempsey, and I am a resident of West Hartford. As a member of the local Jewish community, I believe that our faith calls us to protect the well-being and dignity of every person. This resolution reflects that principle at the local level. For that reason, I urge the Human Rights Commission to advance the revised resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and government.

The new draft asks us to hold ourselves to the same values we celebrate every year with the annual Celebration of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights--fairness, dignity, and accountability. It also focuses squarely on local action--on how we uphold these values in our own town operations and partnerships.

This resolution puts aside the noise of federal and international issues and empowers our local government to learn how to strengthen human rights on its own terms, at home and on the hyper-local level. The resolution is a unifying measure that everyone can get behind--bringing human rights front and center for *everyone* in our community, right here in West Hartford.

I thank the Commission for your careful consideration of this resolution, and strongly encourage you to move it forward towards recommendation for the Town Council.

Sincerely,
Jareka Dellenbaugh-Dempsey
West Hartford

From: Jason Lavoie jaylavoie13@yahoo.com
Subject: West Hartford Human Rights Commission Meeting
Date: November 5, 2025 at 15:44
To: WeHaHRC@gmail.com



My name is Jason Lavoie, and I'm a resident of West Hartford. I urge the Human Rights Commission to advance the revised resolution affirming West Hartford's commitment to human rights in business and governance.

This new draft asks us to hold ourselves to the same values we celebrate every year during our annual the Celebration of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights: fairness, dignity, and accountability. It also focuses squarely on local action — on how we uphold these values in our own town operations and partnerships.

The UN Guiding Principles are a voluntary framework. This resolution is simply asking the Town to review and understand possible paths forward. The UNGPs don't tell us what to do ; they empower local governments learn how to strengthen human rights on their own terms, at home on the hyper-local level.

This resolution does exactly that — it ignores the noise of federal and international issues. It is a unifying measure that everyone can get behind - bringing human rights front and center for everyone in our community, right here in West Hartford.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: Stefanie Levine stefanie816@gmail.com

Subject: Support for AFFIRMING WEST HARTFORD'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE.

SL

Date: November 5, 2025 at 16:35

To: WeHaHRC@gmail.com

Good Afternoon,

My name is Stefanie Levine and I'm writing in support of the resolution " **AFFIRMING WEST HARTFORD'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE.**"

I live in West Hartford and I'm also Jewish and a member of the Hartford Jewish Organizing Collective. Judaism recognizes the inherent equality and dignity of all people, a central tenet of human rights thinking. Across our region, people of different faiths and other marginalized backgrounds have faced intimidation and harassment. By affirming human-rights standards locally — and educating businesses and public institutions about their responsibilities — West Hartford can help prevent bias, build understanding, and stand with those most at risk.

West Hartford prides itself on being a welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community, and it's a big reason why my partner and I chose to settle here when we left Florida for Connecticut about three years ago. These values and the support of human rights shouldn't just be treated as an abstract concept, they should also be reflected in how our community operates. Supporting this resolution means making sure our town protects workers, enters contracts ethically, and guards against privacy violations. It's a great step toward ensuring that our public systems align with human rights principles.

(As an aside, I also want to say I really appreciate the resolution draft and explanations of edits being posted online so anyone can see each proposed change or addition and the rationale behind it.)

Thank you,

Stefanie

From: Arman Haidari arman.s.haidari@gmail.com
Subject: Human rights resolution
Date: November 5, 2025 at 23:21
To: wehahrc@gmail.com

AH

Dear Human Rights Commission:

I am a West Hartford resident and wholeheartedly support the new resolution.

Our community prides itself for its diversity and inclusivity. This is one of the reasons why my wife and I chose West Hartford to raise our kids.

However, many in and around the community are being harmed by actions of the federal government. If not personally vulnerable, many of us are seeing violence against vulnerable populations and wondering what we personally can do.

Like many, my wife and I are doing what we personally can contribute. We are donating food; supporting legal assistance; talking to others to spread awareness; and finding ways to get personally involved in causes that address the harm being done. However, individuals and grassroots organizations can't solve these problems on their own. And they most often cannot help until it's already too late.

What we need is for towns, cities, and states to step up and proactively mitigate harm in the first place. And this is happening - I appreciate the fact, for example, that West Hartford has committed to not sharing personal data with federal law enforcement in most circumstances. But I think we need more - and I think the town is capable of enacting processes around this resolution to ensure it produces outcomes aligned with its stated values.

I strongly urge the commission to pass this resolution and hope the town will use it to take additional steps to mitigate harm against vulnerable populations. So many in our midst need this right now.

Sincerely,
Arman Haidari



West Hartford Human Rights Commission <wehahrc@gmail.com>

Fwd: Proposed resolution

1 message

Alana Butler <arblum2@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 4:27 PM

To: west hartford human rights commission <west-hartford-human-rights-commission@googlegroups.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Harry Weller** <harrwell@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Nov 5, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Subject: Proposed resolution

To: Alana Butler <Arblum2@gmail.com>

Alana,

I see you're on the Human Rights Commission. Please forward this letter on tonight's resolution.

Thanks,

Jarrry

*Harry Weller***Senior Assistant State's Attorney (ret.)****182 Ballard Drive****West Hartford, CT 06119****Phone 860-985-0642 Email harrwell@gmail.com**

West Hartford Human Rights Commission

November 5, 2025

Commissioners,

As a citizen of West Hartford for almost 50 years I ask you to reject, or at minimum table, the Resolution Draft 13 partially titled: Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance. I have two objections: 1) the resolution contains language that is a precursor to BDS resolutions, 2) West Hartford must always insist that our government and law enforcement officers comply with federal immigration law.

1) The resolution language that is a precursor to BDS resolutions

For the last two decades, activists, including those who support terrorists, have worked to delegitimize one of the United States' most valuable free and democratic allies via the Boycott, Divest and Sanction movement. Since the October 7, 2023, pogrom those efforts have intensified mightily. Sadly, for the world, these efforts are supported by Blood Libels one of the oldest forms of antisemitic incitement, against the world's only Jewish state. While Christians are being ethnically cleansed in Africa, and children are actually starving to death in Nigeria, libels against Israel such as "genocide," "starvation," and "apartheid fly about the world like leaves in a Connecticut Autumn.

One tactic in this evil campaign is to plant and nurture these blood libels in municipalities large and small via resolutions condemning Israel and later demand that these governing bodies adopt BDS policies for their businesses and investments based on language in prior resolutions. This proposal plants that very seed.

The proposal purports to require respect for Human Rights in all its activities performed within West Hartford regarding "contracts and procurement." There are similar clauses addressing West Hartford's investment portfolio and hiring practices. That's fine. But embedded in the notion for "human rights" proposed, is the "broader impact [of business activity] on human rights, directly and indirectly, including effects their products, services, or investments may have **beyond the borders of our town.**"

Accepting this charge cracks open the door to demand that town businesses and investments boycott, divest and sanction Israel for the Blood Libel that it violates Palestinian Human rights. The resolution wants these principals incorporated in training and educational material that, as we have witnessed, are rife with anti-Israel and antisemitic blood libels.

Don't be fooled. As an appellate prosecutor for more than 30 years, I've witnessed how notions like this unnecessarily creep into the corners of one opinion, get cited repeatedly over time and then mistakenly morph into what a subsequent court thinks is established precedent. It's insidious.

Of course, it's silly to suggest that any municipality or even person can boycott Israel considering they'd have to relinquish their computers, and cellphones, and refuse to insure for or accept lifesaving medications and treatments invented or perfected there. And be mindful, that a large portion of West Hartford citizens maintain close ties with Israel. Thus, I implore the Commission to be wary of this type of proposal.

In sum, this proposal should be rejected. At minimum, it should be tabled to its intent can be clarified and its language adjusted to remove any future reference to it as a premise to accept a BDS resolution.

2) West Hartford must always insist that our government and law enforcement officers comply with federal immigration law

The United States government, not the Town of West Hartford defines and enforces federal law. Federal law places certain requirements on states and municipalities regarding enforcement. Under the Constitution's supremacy clause, West Hartford cannot override, alter or violate those laws.

West Hartford can never adopt any ordinance policy or practice that suggests any of the above. That's lawlessness not governance.

This proposal should be vetted in its entirety to ensure that West Hartford complies with federal law.

Thanks for Considering my Views,

Harry Weller

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "west hartford human rights commission" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to west-hartford-human-rights-commission+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/west-hartford-human-rights-commission/CAL1eOzhhgOeQoogoZ6J6%2BmuzaHbEPLeP8-qzHJ%3D%3DNBTvM4KwDQ%40mail.gmail.com>.

Part VI – Verbal Testimony from the November 5, 2025 Public Meeting

The following transcripts were transcribed partially in-person and partially auto-generated from the public comment portion of the November 5, 2025 meeting of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission. Some members of the public submitted written copies of the statements they read for the record after the meeting – in those cases, the written statement is included here. Transcripts have been lightly edited for clarity and readability, but may contain minor transcription errors or brief inaudible portions (noted in brackets). These statements reflect genuine community voices who attended in person to express their viewpoints on the proposed resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance.

Note: Some members of the public spoke on the original draft of the resolution – citing wording from the original draft that is no longer present in the revised draft; others gave feedback specifically on the revised draft of the resolution.

A (less than perfect) audio recording of this public comment can be found [here](#):

(<https://tinyurl.com/comm-whhrc>)

A (less than perfect) recording of the full meeting can be found [here](#).

(<https://tinyurl.com/fullrec>)

Part VI – Verbal Testimony from the November 5, 2025 Public Meeting

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A complete and unedited audio recording of public comment—while imperfect in quality—is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/comm-whhrc>

A complete and unedited audio recording of the full meeting—while imperfect in quality—is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/fullrec>

Speaker 1 – Eamon Ormseth

My name's Eamon Ormseth. I'm here speaking in support of the revised resolution on business and governance. I'm a local peacebuilder and mindfulness practitioner, and I did just want to take a moment to just... I've read some of the comments that came into the Commission already, and I hope we can all take a moment to breathe in between people speaking and to acknowledge that we're all feeling a lot of emotions right now.

Many people are feeling very scared. people facing cuts to food stamps, and Muslim community, the Jewish community, the immigrant community, and I'm imploring the Town to continue to move through that here and those difficult emotions together to put forward a resolution that makes everyone at West Hartford feel included, and that includes every community, everybody in this room, I spend a lot of time in West Hartford, and I want to just take a moment to notice that a lot of people heard a lot of different things, and reading through some of those comments, I just I'm honestly in pain because I just want people to see that we really want people to feel like they belong here. And, so I'm just gonna end by saying, can we all like take a deep breath in right now through our noses and hold it for a few seconds and breathe out. I invite you to just do that in between other people's public comments; in between agenda items – it can be very helpful to regulate emotions that come up that, you know, you feel like you have to stay numb towards. Thank you.

Speaker 2 – Liz

Good evening. First, I want to thank the Commission for holding space for community concerns. My name is Liz and I'm a neighbor of the West Hartford community. I regularly frequent West Hartford as a patron of local business. As a queer and multiply disabled person with many friends and family that sit on the various intersections of being, I'm here tonight to urge the commission to advance this revised resolution to uphold West Hartford's commitment to the importance of human rights in business and governance. That being said, I do not believe we as individuals should be personally affected by threats to human rights in order step up in defense of them. It seems to me that the ethos of this commission is aligned with that notion.

We all deserve to grab a meal, go school, work, or worship, run errands, what have you, without the weight of fear on our shoulders or possible contribution to ongoing acts of discrimination and oppression- regardless of disability status, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, race, religion, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status, and the intersections thereof. Choosing to adhere to the UN Guiding Principals right here in West Hartford isn't about added bureaucracy, but about giving us the ability to steer policy and partnerships in a way that works to provide accountability, dignity, and equity to all of us at the hyper-local level. This is how we continue to responsibly foster a diverse and inclusive community. Whether it's ourselves or our neighbors that are struggling, this resolution keeps us on the path toward reinforcing protections for all of us. Adopting this resolution reaffirms and furthers the Commission's commitments to its existing framework and priorities. Unity and protecting each other as guiding principles are something we can, and should all support. Human rights must always be regarded highly, and that starts at home. Thank you.

Speaker 3 – Amanda Choflet

Hi, Everyone. I'm Amanda Choflet, I'm a proud West Hartford resident. I live right by the Center. I also have a lot of different roles. I am a nurse, I'm an educator, I teach nursing, so I'm responsible for the people who start your IVs. And, I wanted to talk a little bit about what those roles mean as I stand in support of this resolution.

So, I'm a parent – like I'm sure many of you – who has been trying to explain why our neighbors are being kidnapped off of the streets, to my kids. I'm also trying to explain to them why their friends are worried about not finding their parents at home when they return from school. These are real daily conversations that I'm having with my children right now in the community, based on their experiences of just walking down the street.

I'm also a teacher who is trying to support students who are afraid – right now, in 2025 – to express their gender identity in public. I'm also a nurse who every single day, I'm responsible, and actually legally bound to advocate for human rights in my clinical care – the care that I provide to my patients. I'm actually bound to follow and adhere in my clinical practice to the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

I'm so proud as a community that we have a Commission on Human Rights, not every community does. It says something about who we are and about our *[unclear]*. In my opinion this resolution simply affirms our Town's commitment to the principles that we espoused. And, it operationalizes those principles, because having principles – anyone can have principles – the important thing is what you *do* with those principles. And, this resolution seems to guide common sense and meaningful considerations that we can easily enact locally.

Why locally? Because – as I say to my kids, and my students, and my fellow community members – this is how we uphold democracy. In dealing with my child's feelings of helplessness – and sometimes my own feelings of helplessness – I keep reminding him that we do what we can when we can, and we have to start where we are. This resolution is exactly the right first step in showing our kids that we practice what we preach as a community. It's about transparency, accountability, and ensuring that our collective resources are being used in concert with our shared values. This is no brainer. Thank you.

Speaker 4 – Lisa T.

Hey, I am Lisa Turker, and I live in West Hartford, too—actually right down the street from Amanda. So, I do agree with everything that she just said and I'll add a little bit more to that as well.

I moved here a couple of years ago. I'm from Texas, and I've lived in Arizona, and I think it's really great – one of the reasons we came here was because West Hartford promises to have an inclusive, equitable community, right? I really think that that is a big draw for the community. And, something that is really wonderful, and not all people are so lucky to have that—I've lived in places where that doesn't happen. So, thank you guys for being that community.

I think this measure is really important because it helps to ensure that we *are* welcoming and inclusive in the way we do business and manage our public services so that – they should reflect that we all have dignity as human beings. And, it is – [*unclear*] – in alignment with the whole purpose of this commission and the nature of human rights in general, right? I think it will build accountability, which is really important. Because, without accountability it doesn't really matter what we do—it's just not important. The accountability really ensures that we *do* live up to the values that we say are important to us, as people in community. And that we take care of those around us and making sure that we do that.

I also think it's smart for business, just frankly speaking. I think it's very good. I think that it will attract responsible businesses, foster trust, and strengthen the civic fabric of our community. And so... that's it for me.

Speaker 5 – Deb Shoflick

Hi. My name is Deb Shoflick.

I'm here as a 30 year resident of West Hartford. I'm also a member of the Grassroot Jewish Women of Connecticut, a group that was formed after the events of October 7th, we helped support the return of hostages taken by Hamas, and we also fight the scourge of antisemitism, which has dramatically risen since October 7, 2023.

With respect to the resolution, the UN-affirming resolution, I urge the commission to vote no. I support the protection of human rights and ethical business practices, but I'm deeply concerned that the language in the resolution could be used in ways that unfairly targeted Israel or companies doing business with Israel.

The resolution calls for a review of all town contracts, investments, and pension holdings to ensure that public funds are not connected to human rights abuses. Although this may sound broad and neutral in practice, these kinds of provisions have been used elsewhere to boycott divestment and sanction known as BDS, and it's an effort that singles out Israel.

Some argue that BDS in the US strives to make Jews feel unwelcome in their own communities by multiplying the number of environments that are explicitly hostile to them. You may ask yourself, who's pushing the adoption of this type of international resolution at the local level, and why? You may be wondering, who's the main driver of human rights or UN Guiding Principal language.

It's no surprise that some of the most anti-Israel organizations are behind these campaigns. Groups like the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Students for Justice and Palestine, the Council of American Islamic Relations, Code Pink, and specifically here in Connecticut, the Connecticut Democratic Socialists of America. These activists are encouraging us to frame this resolution as human rights, ethical investment or social responsible procurement, purposely avoiding explicit specific mention of Israel.

The resolution could create an opening for activists to pressure the town – West Hartford – to divest from companies that support trade with Israel. This would inject divisive foreign policy debates into our local governance and unfairly politicize the town's investment and contracting processes. West Hartford should continue to uphold principles of inclusion and fairness without adopting language that can be weaponized.

For these reasons, I urge a commission to reject the resolution. I want to ensure that West Hartford could remain a community rooted in fairness, respect, and unity.

Speaker 6 – Robin Kipnis

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Robin Kipnis, I'm a long time, West Hartford resident.

I am also a member of the Grassroots Jewish Women, and I'm speaking in opposition to the resolution we are discussing tonight.

But, more generally, I wanted to lodge an objection of just some of the focal points of the Commission in 2025. In March of 2025, the Commission raised – maybe for discussion only – whether to oppose President Trump's withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Commission.

I and others voiced the opinion that you should leave well enough alone, especially since the Jewish community largely believes the UN Human Rights Commission was and is hostile and biased towards Israel and holds it to a different standard than it does other countries.

So, maybe it would be better for this local commission to stay out of the international space, stick to local matters. No vote was taken and we thought we made our point about how a large segment of the Jewish community feels about the UN's treatment of Israel. But, I guess we didn't make our point strongly enough, because tonight, a laudable goal – protecting immigrants – is linked, in my opinion, to the UN Guiding Principles.

These principles have been used as a rationale to boycott, divest, and sanction, businesses that do business with Israel. Really?! Again?! West Hartford has the largest Jewish community in Connecticut, which you are on a path to alienate. What happens when our Jewish population and institutions warns people away from West Hartford due to its unwelcoming attitude.

Do you want that to be the legacy of the Commission? I'm not sure where West Hartford would be without his Jewish population. And let me tell you, I wouldn't be here to answer that question.

Really, what is happening here? Why is referencing the UN HRC and Guiding Principles as well as any other antisemitic or anti-Zionist statement a part of the work of the Commission? Are you trying to drive a wedge into this community?

Are you trying to alienate a significant percentage of this town? Really!? How does this align with your mission?

And I quote for you this mission, “The Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission is dedicated to promoting and protecting the rights of all residents. We strive to foster an inclusive and diverse community where every individual is treated respectfully and equitably, regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, age, spiritual or religious beliefs [...]”.

Stay within your local purview, don't bring this resolution.

Speaker 7 – Melissa Cyr

Hello, my name is Melissa Cyr and I am a lifelong resident of West Hartford. A lot of what I want to say has already been said.

But, I would like to ask the Commission to consider the revised resolution focusing on human rights in local governance and business. The new draft reaffirms our town's commitment to fairness, dignity, and accountability.

This resolution urges West Hartford to uphold these values in its operations and partnerships. It encourages the Town to consider the UN Guiding Principles as a *voluntary* tool to protect workers, ensure ethical contracts, and prevent privacy violations and unlawful raids—addressing these issues as they affect *our* community, *locally*.

So again, this is a local issue.

Our community faces real challenges right now: food insecurity, housing instability, bullying of LGBTQ youth, and fear among residents of various backgrounds. Embedding human rights awareness into town policies is a low effort and practical step to begin to address these issues and unite residents around shared values.

I ask that the commission vote to send this resolution onto Town Council, strengthening our community by making the protection of dignity a local responsibility and reinforcing our commitment to human rights. Thank you.

Speaker 8 – Heather Rubin Fiedler

Good evening. My name is Heather Ruben Fiedler, and I serve as the Vice President of Impact and Strategy at the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. I am also a proud resident of West Hartford—someone who deeply values the equity, compassion, and inclusion that define this town.

I want to begin by affirming that the Jewish community wholeheartedly supports the advancement of human rights and dignity for *all* people. These are core Jewish values, American values, and West Hartford values. Our concern is not with those ideals, but with the framework, and the implications of this particular resolution, which—intentionally or not—mirror the structure and language of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement against Israel.

Across the country, resolutions framed around “ethical procurement” or “human rights in business” have been used to justify selective boycotts of Israel and Israeli companies. While these efforts claim to promote justice, they have often marginalized Jewish communities and contributed to a sharp rise in antisemitism. Since October 7, 2023, antisemitic incidents have skyrocketed across the United States—in schools, on campuses, and in civic spaces—fueled by rhetoric that demonizes Israel and, by extension, the Jewish people.

As someone who works professionally to build bridges and foster understanding among communities, I find this resolution both personally and professionally troubling. It risks importing a divisive international political agenda into a town that has worked so hard to model inclusion and mutual respect.

Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet dissident and human rights advocate, teaches us to recognize antisemitism through “Three D’s”: Delegitimization of Israel, Demonization—portraying Israel or Jews as uniquely evil—and Double Standards, holding Israel to standards not applied to any other nation. While this resolution appears neutral, it sets up the infrastructure for those double standards, inviting future efforts of town policy to single out Israel under the guise of human rights. That is not what West Hartford stands for.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission not to advance or refer this resolution to the Town Council for a vote. Instead, let’s reaffirm our shared commitment to protecting human rights here at home—ensuring fairness, safety, and dignity for *every* resident of our town.

Thank you for your time, your dedication, and for safeguarding the spirit of inclusion that makes West Hartford such a remarkable community.

Speaker 9 – César Abadia

I am César Abadía. I am a professor of human rights and anthropology at UConn, a resident of West Hartford, and an immigrant from Colombia with two daughters in the public school system. I support the revised version of the resolution and ask the Human Rights Commission to pass the resolution.

By holding businesses and municipal practices to account, it provides a legal framing that is important for the safety of our communities.

When I teach human rights, I convey to the students the important of human rights as a legal framework, where issues of justice and accountability can be enforced to the benefit of all, but particularly to protect the most vulnerable populations of our communities. But, besides that, human rights do very important work in the sphere of morality, public ethics and belonging. They convey a message to a community, letting people know what the government values and has the duty to uphold.

Upholding human rights in workplaces, as the resolution proposes, prevents any form of discrimination and exclusion, which harm people's dignity, safety, and other rights derived from this. But also, it can set standards of protection against that harm. When people feel safe, a different relationship with businesses and governments gets established. Both citizens and workers feel protected, and a general sense of belonging is enforced. Following human rights principles in government contracts, investments and partnership means that our taxes are used in a manner consistent with human rights. One of the most important aspects of holding human rights principles for businesses and governments is that fair labor practices, inclusion, and dignity become a central component of everyday practices in these places.

When human rights principles are signed into law, diversity is celebrated and protected, and this is why passing this resolution is so important right now. We want West Hartford to affirm its commitment to human rights.

Speaker 8 – Rabbi David Small

Hi, I'm a resident of West Hartford. I've lived here since 2002. And I've had connections through my wife's family before that. I was married in this community. My wife and I raised our children in this community.

She grew up in this community as well. I'm the spiritual leader of Emmanuel synagogue, which is made up of over 500 households. And, I have colleagues who also are aware that I'm here speaking tonight, including Rabbi Yitzchok Adler who's up with me, Rabbi James Rosen – Beth El Temple, Rabbi Michael Pincus of Beth Israel Temple.

And the whereases in this provision are laudable. The overall goals and much of what people have said, they wish to stand for – our shared values of humanity, of rights for everyone, and the

references to West Hartford, as a particularly peaceful, diverse and coexisting community, have been my lived experience here – over all the years that I've been here, and I know my wife's family's, for another generation before that. My concern is that in the “Be it resolved” sections of this proposal, the inclusion becomes exclusion; the upholding of dignity becomes the assault on dignity.

And the provisions that are here – whether intentional or not – open a back door to Boycott Divestment, and Sanction. This is not a theory, this is an economic war and a propaganda campaign of hatred against my people, the Jewish people, all over the world.

There was a time when I was growing up when the indication of the United Nations was inspiring. And I personally have traveled with my teenage daughter and a local rabbi to protest and to help save the people in Darfur – who currently are being attacked again. Yet today, the United Nations, the way it is operating now, is complicit in international warfare against the Jewish people everywhere – in New Zealand, in America, certainly, in Israel, England, and elsewhere.

These instruments change our commitment and desire to discuss and to practice human rights and coexistence in our own community into a policing body that seeks to police international activity in a context in which we have seen hopeless bias against Israel and the Jewish people.

So, if you care about inclusion, or you care about human dignity, please consider mine and my family's as well, and vote no. Thank you.

Speaker 10 – Julia

Hello. My name is Julia – I am going to preface this real quick, because I am a trans person facing imminent harm to my health care and I am close to people who frightened by increased ICE activities, so this might be a little more spirited.

I am here once again to voice my support for the resolution on the docket today.

Last time I was here, I spoke in support of this resolution on the grounds of data privacy in the face of fascism, the necessity for the town and businesses within it to follow human rights guidelines, and the ways that I see my trans identity intersecting with migrant struggles.

I felt the need to be here again in support of the, now amended, resolution after seeing incredible fear mongering around it. In the public record are dozens of seemingly copy pasted emails encouraging withdrawing support from this resolution on the grounds of supposed anti-Israel language hidden in the resolution.

To be clear, none of the language in the current or previous draft of the resolution is specific to Israel. Many of the opposition emails specified that they were even in agreement with the idea of the Town conforming to human rights guidelines. If Israel's actions put it in opposition to human rights, then why should those actions get special treatment by West Hartford's town government, above actions taken by any other organization, company, or nation?

At the end of the day, right now we are seeing increasing attacks on our migrant and queer neighbors – and especially our trans neighbors. Our migrant neighbors are being taken off the streets with the help of town police forces in some cases. Trans healthcare for my young siblings is being restricted in much of the state due to private practices bending to pressure. We are in a moment of crisis that cannot be ignored. If West Hartford is unwilling to promote this resolution because it *may* result in the protection of Palestinian-Americans, then West Hartford shows us that they will never truly protect migrants, trans people, or any of us.

I implore the Town of west hartford to put into practice the admirable dedication to protect all of our neighbors, not just some of us, to ignore the bad faith critique, and to vote in favor of the moving the resolution forward.

Speaker 11 – Sasha

Hello. My name is Sasha, and I'm a Jewish resident here in West Hartford. And I'm urging people to vote yes for this resolution. A lot of what I was going to say has already been said, but I just wanted to urge you to espouse to the principles that you support and just treat everybody the same, treat company the same – any business that's not engaging in ethical practices, I don't think there should be special treatment for for any of them. So, I just wanted to emphasize that and thank you.

Speaker 12 – Tali Kest

Hi, I'm Tally Kest and I live in West Hartford. I am also a member of the Grassroots Jewish Women and of the Jewish Federation. And, regarding the resolution, in which we talk about reviewing town funds as it relates to human rights abuses – that mirrors similar UN resolutions.

It's widely believed among the Jewish community that the UN is biased against Israel and in fact has passed more resolutions against Israel than every other country combined in recent years. And, the UN includes Iran, China, Russia – so think on that.

This hyper focus and obsession against Israel is anti-semitic, as Heather spoke to with its double-standards – as would be a resolution passed by the Town of West Hartford Human Rights Commission. Its veiled language is an attempt to skirt around exact Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions language that attacks Israel, but in reality, is meant to do just that.

37 states have enacted anti-BDS legislation in in the U.S. and in January 2025, legislation in Connecticut was introduced to ban anti-Israel BDS in state and local pensions, state contracts, and publicly funded education.

Don't allow the commission to use human rights as a cover for anti-semitism.

Speaker 13 – Patrick

Hi, I didn't get to write my name, but mind if I speak?

Co-Chair Linabury: Go ahead.

Patrick: Hi, I'm Patrick. I didn't really –

Co-Chair Linabury: First and last name please.

Patrick: Do you mind if I don't say my last name if that's ok?

Co-Chair Linabury: Ok, go ahead.

Patrick: Hi, I'm Patrick. I didn't really plan on speaking tonight, but I just wanted to say something – that I really disagree that this is anti-semitic, like, really strongly disagree. I'm Jewish, alright?

I don't see any of this as being antisemitic at all. I feel this hurts Palestinians greatly. I think this – we need to really take away money from this organization that's funding and sending guns across the sea. And I just don't – it's sickening....

My family who – (actually, how much time do I have?)

Co-Chair Linabury [responds]: About another minute.

Patrick: Quick – long story short, my family – Sephartic Jewish. My family hid Judaism for years [unclear] and through. And I think, if any of them alive were today, they would not support the genocide that's going on in Gaza. And, we would never support anything like this. Because, as Jews, you know – we've gone through things like this.

And, I think there's better ways we can spend our money. And, I hope it goes to helping the Jewish community here as well. Thank you.

Part VII – Verbal Statements from Co-Chairs & Commissioner Lance at the November 5, 2025 Public Meeting

The following transcripts were partially self-transcribed and partially auto-generated from an audio recording of the discussion of the revised resolution at the November 5, 2025 meeting of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission.

A complete and unedited audio recording of these remarks—while imperfect in quality—is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/whcomm2>

Co-Chairs Butler and Linabury opened the agenda item by reading prepared statements. At the conclusion of his remarks, Co-Chair Linabury made a motion to reject the resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Schoenberg, a member of the designated working group.

This motion was made while a working draft of the resolution was still under active review by the working group and was in the process of being revised to incorporate public feedback. The active members of the working group had no intention of advancing the resolution at that meeting. At the time, the group was still awaiting feedback from Commissioner Schoenberg and had not been able to convene in full since the previous session—facts that had been communicated to the Commission on multiple occasions.

Commissioner Schoenberg had originally moved to create the working group in October but did not meet with the working group nor provide feedback on the draft, despite multiple requests from working group members. These requests included a direct invitation to identify any language—such as potential BDS-related references—that might be misinterpreted and require revision in response to public concerns.

Commissioners serving on the working group had planned to table the resolution and had communicated this plan to Town officials (including the Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Clerk), as well as to members of the public and fellow commissioners.

Despite this, the Co-Chairs bypassed the working group process and made statements that mischaracterized both their prior expressions of support for the resolution and their stated understanding of its purpose, content, revision process, and status. For context, in a September meeting with Commissioner Lance and Community Liaison Pramod Pradhan, both Co-Chairs had expressed support for the resolution, describing it as “great,” and acknowledging it as a follow-up to the Town’s 2017 resolution. Neither Co-Chair provided additional feedback to Commissioner Lance nor to the working group—despite multiple opportunities—regarding the concerns later raised in their November statements.

Additionally, Co-Chair Linabury made demonstrably false statements regarding Commissioner Lance’s communications, including mischaracterizing her October 22 email (referenced in Part IV of this compilation) as a communication sent to the Town Council on behalf of the Commission.

Following the Co-Chairs’ prepared statements, Commissioner Lance was recognized and given the floor. This marked the first opportunity she had been afforded to address the public regarding the resolution since its introduction in September. Unlike the Co-Chairs, she did not read from a prepared statement but spoke extemporaneously in response to the remarks made by the Co-Chairs and members of the public.

Comments and Statement Read by Co-Chair Alana Butler

So, the first item under unfinished business is discussing this revised resolution on Business Governance.

I have drafted some remarks since I am dealing with a concussion and I want to make sure I make my thoughts very clear. So, I want to begin by acknowledging everyone who took the time to write, attend, or speak tonight.

I know many of you are here because you care deeply about the integrity of our town, so do I. The West Hartford Human Rights Commission focuses on building understanding right here in West Hartford – not globally. That's why I – and *several* of my fellow commissioners – are deeply concerned about this resolution.

It strays far beyond our mission. The language, particularly the references to international frameworks and practices, mirror the structure of BDS initiatives, whether intentional or not. In that resemblance has caused *real* confusion, frustration, and hurt in our community. To make that worse, it was shared publicly that this draft reflected feedback from the full commission. That is not accurate.

Most of us were not involved in drafting nor revising this resolution. Yet now, our entire body are being painted as advancing an agenda that we simply do not support. To everyone who wrote to us or came here tonight feeling upset or betrayed, I'm sorry that this has taken up so much of your time and energy. And I'm sorry that it has caused mistrust.

To those who are here to advance their rights of trans people and migrants, I would note that this resolution does not reference those rights. If we were to draft a new resolution, reaffirming the rights of people who are trans or immigrants, that would be another story. I also think it's important to note why the resemblance to BDS matters.

Many Jewish residents feel personally targeted when Israel is singled out in ways that other nations are not. Even when Israel isn't mentioned explicitly, many of us feel echoes of the scapegoating our community has faced throughout history. Whether one agrees or disagrees with the movement politically, we can all recognize the pain and polarization it's causing here tonight. That's not what the Human Rights Commission stands for.

Our role is to build bridges, not deepen divides. As many of the letters we have received stated, we need to think about what this moment represents. We have seen firsthand that this resolution is dividing our community.

This is our chance to show residents that we're here on their behalf. To restore trust and unity. If we move forward with this resolution, we will lose our credibility and the very trust that allows us to do meaningful work.

Comments and Statement Read by Co-Chair Mark Linbury

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair. I also have a statement.

I want to thank everybody for their statements tonight, and also for the people who took the time for written comments. We take the public's current concerns very seriously. Perspectives are vital, so is consensus.

An issue of this gravity – we do not have consensus. I believe as a human rights commission – unity is number one, not division. As the French philosopher, Voltaire once said, "I may disagree with your opinion, but you have every right to say it."

We have a new member tonight who's only been able to see this as a first round review.

We heard issues around the BDS statement. I was particularly concerned with the Principle 7, which is a major point of contention, and causes significant anger with Israel and the Jewish community, and is viewed as a biased and disproportioned focus on Israel as compared to other nations.

The United States, as a major ally of Israel, also strongly and unequivocally opposes it.

Lastly, and this is really a great concern to me as a commission that I chair along with my co-chair, and as she mentioned, we were not part of this group. I became aware of an October 22nd email that Miss Lance sent to the Mayor, the Town Manager, the Town Clerk, and copied another member of our group, Dave. It's very troubling.

This was not shared with other commissioners and moreover was sent to the Council before discussion occurred with the commission. The nature of the email was to clarify on behalf of the commission, the resolution's intent, which I reject.

And for these reasons and the reasons cited by my chair, I'd like to make a motion at this time to reject the resolution. May I have a second?

Commissioner Schoenberg: Second.

Co-Chair Linbury: Any discussion?

Discussion Comments by Secretary Katie Lance

I've never even been able to speak on this. Last, like, this –

Co-Chair Linabury: Now's your opportunity.

Katie: This is...sorry. My name is Katie Lance and I'm sorry, I drafted this resolution.

I'm not a fringe group, as many emails have claimed. I'm just myself. So, sorry if I get emotional, it's been a little bit hard, because I really wrote this in good faith. And, we – I shared it with the commission on September 3rd at our meeting.

I asked that it be circulated to the public after that, so that people could review it with time to bring it for for the October 8th meeting. I did not know at that time that the October 8th meeting was taking place on the October 8th, because usually it's on like the first Wednesday.

So I ended up, I had travel issues. So, I was going to be late, I asked our Co-Chair, I said, it's very important to me that I speak on behalf of this resolution, that I introduce it, that I explain how it came about. Please refrain from having a discussion until I can get there, if I'm not able to get there in time, let's do a special session.

She emailed, "Understandable. Sounds good!"

And yet, I arrived 30 minutes after our meeting started, and the resolution had already been discussed. It had been put to a subcommittee.

And, we adjourned an hour early. So, rather than talking through the issues people raised, we adjourned, it was pushed to a subcommittee, which was Eric, myself, and Dave.

Then I reached out to Eric and Dave immediately the next morning, asked, "Can we talk about the feedback?" You know.. and Eric was very busy. He brought up some things. He brought up some concerns about BDS. We asked for availability, not available. So, Dave and I did our best.

We're sorry to – [*to Dave:* I don't mean to throw you under the bus with me] – but we did our best to revise it based on the feedback we had to that point. We really did work – I mean – I created a document that shows all of the edits we made, what public comment we were responding to, feedback from commissioners.

At that point, there was not this negative backlash from commissioners. No one brought up anything about antisemitism, anything about BDS language, anything. And so, yes, we have three commissioners who are part of the Jewish community here, two who are here tonight, one who is not.

I had assumed if anything was problematic, that would have been raised because there was over a month that they had to review it. So Dave and I, we did our best, we understood the clause about expenditures, people didn't like, so we cut that out. And, we thought, you know, I mean, we're a commission founded in the principles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. So, it's a little bit hard to not ever reference the UN.

And so, I was here when people from the Grassroots Jewish Women's Organizing group were talking about the UN and concerns about it being anti-Semitic and I did hear that. That was new to me. But, I honestly did not think that this... Guiding Principles on Business was – would be of concern.

And so also, I'm not sure what you are referring to when you say that this was shared as if the whole commission edited it, because it clearly – I put notes that it was edited by Dave and me and in every email I said, Eric didn't have a chance to look at it yet.

I also explicitly asked Eric for feedback, *multiple* times. I have a whole timeline, okay? I even asked Eric, could you **highlight** remaining wording that might still be of concern and reflect BDS language?

Like – [*to the room*] – I'm honestly listening. I'm not trying to like pass some underlying agenda. And, people who are asking and saying, focus on local issues – I have *tried*.

I have been on this commission since March of 2024. and I have tried to advance *any* idea.

Last September, we talked about pedestrian safety, and I said, you know what?

I think we should work on seeing how we can improve pedestrian safety for the Orthodox Jewish community here. I had ideas – what if volunteers go and like help at the crosswalks? That was deemed not kosher, then [by Commissioners Butler and Schoenberg].

Co-Chair Linabury [*interrupts*]: Katie, we're on the resolution

Commissioner Lance: But, this is related because people asked us –

Co-Chair Linabury [*interrupts again*]: No, it's not.

Commissioner Lance: ... people asked us to focus on local issues. And what I'm trying to explain is that time and time again, I have tried to do that and they've been obstructed, I tried to bring up immigration in February. I was told it's not an issue. We [*gestures to Dave*] tried to discuss it again in June, it was deferred to September.

And so, like, I don't know – like this was my effort.

I thought, okay, people don't want to take action, they don't want to *do* stuff – but, we're a policy-advisory commission, so, I did a lot of research on Human Rights Cities, on frameworks, and so I just was trying to do something that was a small step towards upholding our values and not...

I really, I don't understand fully how it's linked to Israel yet or how the Town could enact policies based on this, that impact Israel. I'm willing to listen and learn. I think that based on all of this, we need more, obviously more listening sessions.

There's a lot to learn. And, I think what else this is brought up. Like, is that there's – there's a lot of tension and sensitivity in this community and a lot of fear. And, I've also brought that up to this commission and I said, we need to deal with that and people do not feel safe in this community.

I went when I found out that people were really concerned, I heard that there were rumors that the Town Council was going to vote on it tonight. Do you know what I did?

I went to multiple rabbis in the community and I said, "Please, like, this is not a concern — I'm planning to table it, I'm not planning to put it to a vote. Like, just, we're trying to calm the flames. I went to Town Hall to talk to anyone who was there.

I found Leon and sorry, Leon Davidoff – Town Clerk. And Rick Ledwith the Town Manager, I said, I don't know how to do this. This misinformation just keeps spreading and spreading.

And I'm really upset that I caused so much fear and pain, because it literally, my background is in human rights, and I studied that because of learning about the Holocaust and I've studied antisemitism and the history of antisemitism, and I've studied the Nazification of the German language, and I understand the power of language and words, and I never meant to hurt anyone with this resolution.

I'm so sorry.

Appendix

This section includes the original draft of the resolution first circulated on September 3, 2025 and discussed on October 8, 2025 as well as the current version (draft as of October 27th) to be discussed at the WHHRC on November 5, 2025.

Tracked changes made to the original draft as well as comments explaining the rationale behind those changes can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/whedits>

Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Human Rights in Business and Governance

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford is committed to protecting and advancing human rights, dignity, and equity for all residents; and

WHEREAS, West Hartford is home to vibrant immigrant and refugee communities whose contributions enrich our schools, businesses, and neighborhoods, and who deserve to live and work free from fear, discrimination, or intimidation; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the West Hartford Town Council unanimously adopted a [Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion](#), declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, this present resolution builds on that commitment by recognizing that human rights must be safeguarded not only through community values but also through the conduct of businesses, municipal practices, and the use of technology; and

WHEREAS, businesses play an important role in shaping the well-being of our community, both through employment and through their broader impacts on human rights, directly and indirectly, including the effects of how their products, services, or investments are used beyond the borders of our town; and

WHEREAS, workplaces can become sites where human rights are threatened, including through unlawful or discriminatory practices such as unauthorized raids or intimidation targeting immigrant workers; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, provide a global standard for preventing and addressing human rights harms connected to business activity; and

WHEREAS, these principles rest on three pillars: (1) the duty of governments to protect human rights, (2) the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and (3) the need for access to remedy for victims of abuses; and

WHEREAS, adopting these principles aligns with West Hartford's values of fairness, inclusion, and social responsibility, and empowers businesses in our town to stand up for the dignity and safety of their workers and communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of West Hartford affirms its commitment to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and encourages all businesses operating in the town to uphold these standards of human rights and dignity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council requests a review of all Town expenditures, contracts, and investment funds, including retirement and pension holdings, to ensure that public resources are not connected to human rights abuses, and that this information be reported publicly for transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager and relevant departments explore the adoption of procurement and investment guidelines consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and report back to the Town Council and the Human Rights Commission with recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of West Hartford commits to protecting the privacy and safety of its residents by prohibiting the sharing of data from automated enforcement technologies, including red light cameras and license plate readers, with outside agencies, including federal immigration enforcement agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and notes that municipalities in Illinois such as Evanston and Oak Park have already taken similar steps after investigations revealed improper data-sharing, and that companies such as Flock Safety have restricted access in California, Virginia, and Illinois in response to strong legal protections; therefore, the Town must act proactively to ensure West Hartford residents' data is not accessed or shared without oversight or consent ([ABC7 Chicago](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [Colorado Newsline](#), [ACLU National](#), [ACLU-CT](#), [CBS8 San Diego](#)).

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING WEST HARTFORD'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNANCE

WHEREAS, the mission and purpose of the West Hartford Human Rights Commission are grounded in the principles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights; and

WHEREAS, established by Town Code, Chapter 5, Article IX, the Commission is mandated to foster mutual understanding and respect among residents, encourage equality of treatment, and advise the Town Council on policies and practices that uphold human rights and equity within the community; and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Town Council has declared its commitment to protecting and advancing human rights, dignity, and equity for all people who live, work, study, or visit her by unanimously adopting a *Resolution Affirming West Hartford's Commitment to Equity and Inclusion* (2017), declaring our town a place where all residents are welcome, respected, and valued; and

WHEREAS, this present resolution builds on that commitment by recognizing that human rights must be safeguarded not only through community values but also through the conduct of businesses and municipal practices – including through the use of technology; and

WHEREAS, businesses play an important role in shaping the well-being of our community – both through employment and their broader impacts on human rights, directly and indirectly, including effects their products, services, or investments may have beyond the borders of our town; and

WHEREAS, workplaces can become sites where human rights are threatened, including through unlawful or discriminatory practices such as unauthorized raids or acts of intimidation – especially those targeting anyone due to their national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, immigration status, gender/sexual orientation, disability, and/or other protected status; and

WHEREAS, the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* (2011) affirm that governments at all levels have a duty to protect against human rights abuses within their jurisdiction, including those arising from business activities (Principle 1); and

WHEREAS, the Guiding Principles further call on public bodies to ensure that government contracts, investments, and partnerships are conducted in a manner consistent with human rights obligations (Principles 4 and 6), while also encouraging policy coherence across all departments and agencies that shape business practices, ensuring that public institutions understand and uphold their human rights responsibilities (Principles 7 and 8); and

WHEREAS, at the municipal level, such responsibilities fall within the purview of Town departments and programs, including ensuring fair and equitable treatment in housing, employment, and public services (Department of Social Services, Human Resources, and Equity Office); maintaining accessibility and inclusion for residents with disabilities (Leisure Services, Public Works, and Library Services); promoting transparency, ethical standards, and fair labor practices in Town contracts and procurement (Finance and Procurement); safeguarding residents' privacy and due process in local enforcement and data-sharing (Police Department, Information Technology, and Social Services); and mitigating environmental and public health impacts that disproportionately affect certain neighborhoods or populations (Public Works, Planning and Zoning, and Health District); and

WHEREAS, the Town has already demonstrated leadership in advancing ethical and inclusive vendor practices by adopting West Hartford Town Code, Article VII, Section 168-45, which ensures that no personally identifiable information collected by automated traffic enforcement devices is disclosed, stored, or retained by the Town or a vendor to any person or entity, including any federal law enforcement unit, except where the disclosure is made in connection with the charging, collection, and enforcement of the fines imposed pursuant to the article; and

WHEREAS, adopting these principles aligns with West Hartford's values of fairness, inclusion, and social responsibility, and empowers businesses in our town to stand up for the dignity, rights, and safety of their workers and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT:

1. The Town of West Hartford affirms its commitment to the protection of human rights and recognizes the *United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights* as a framework for responsible and ethical local governance.
2. The Town Manager and other relevant governmental departments shall consider the protection of human rights in the Town's operations and procurement practices, such as exploring the creation of a Supplier Code of Conduct (encouraging ethical and inclusive vendor practices), human rights budgeting, and/or conducting impact assessments for town contracts and investments.
3. The Town Manager shall publish an annual summary of steps taken to uphold these principles across town operations, contracts, and partnerships, demonstrating West Hartford's ongoing leadership and accountability in advancing human rights at the local level.
4. The Office of Employee Development & Community Engagement and West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall collaborate to promote education and awareness on human rights in business and governance – partnering with other relevant governmental bodies and community organizations to coordinate public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives (e.g., Fourth Amendment rights trainings for business owners; workshops on fair employment and anti-discrimination practices; human rights considerations for vendors and contractors.)
5. The Town Manager and the West Hartford Human Rights Commission shall develop ways to recognize local government agencies and employers who demonstrate leadership in advancing human rights, fairness, and inclusion (e.g., Annual Leadership in Businesses in Human Rights Award).

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Attest: _____

Town Clerk

References:

Town of West Hartford. (2017). Resolution Affirming West Hartford, CT as a Welcoming and Inclusive Town. West Hartford, CT.

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United Nations General Assembly. (1948). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (A/RES/217 A (III)). Paris: United Nations.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2011). *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework* (HR/PUB/11/04). Geneva: United Nations.

Additional Information

The following materials provide additional information on how local municipalities can apply human rights frameworks to local governance.

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United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights & United Cities and Local Governments. (2024). *Guidance framework for creating a Human Rights City*. Geneva and Barcelona: United Nations and UCLG.