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West Hartford, CT
Essie Labrot Town Clerk

File 2008-00000010

ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
FEB 26 2008

VERBATIM PROCEEDINGS

WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

RE: ORDINANCE FURTHER REGULATING THE USE OF
SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER SKATES, AND ROLLER BLADES WITHIN
WEST HARTFORD CENTER

FEBRUARY 11, 2008

WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107

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HEARING RE: ORDINANCE
FEBRUARY 11, 2008

1 . . .Verbatim Proceedings of a hearing
2 before the West Hartford Town Council in the matter of an
3 Ordinance Further Regulating the Use of Skateboards,
4 Roller Skates, and Roller Blades held on February 11,
5 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Hartford Town Hall, 50
6 South Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut. . .

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9
10 MAYOR SCOTT SLIFKA: I call the 7:00
11 public hearing to order. Roll call, please, Ms. Labrot.

12 (Whereupon, roll call was taken.)

13 MAYOR SLIFKA: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. Mr.
14 Coursey, could you read the subject matter, please?

15 MR. CHUCK COURSEY: Yes, Mr. Mayor.
16 Ordinance further regulating the use of skateboards,
17 roller skates, and roller blades within West Hartford
18 center.

19 MAYOR SLIFKA: Thank you, Mr. Coursey.
20 This was from the administration. Ah, Mr. Alair is
21 already there. You can offer your presentation, Mr.
22 Alair.

23 MR. PATRICK ALAIR: As tempting as it
24 would be to use my full half hour, the long and the short

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1 of this ordinance is that as a result of the fact that we
2 no longer own the old bed center, but do own some
3 additional land now known as Webster Walk and Blue back
4 Square on the south side of the library the bounds of the
5 municipal property covered by this ordinance have changed
6 and this ordinance simply reflects that change. It
7 eliminates the old Board of Ed building/town hall site as
8 -- which was identified in the ordinance as being
9 municipal property. And it adds Webster Walk and Blue
10 Back Square.

11 MAYOR SLIFKA: Is it fair to summarize
12 this as extending the present rules governing bikes and
13 skateboards, etcetera in the center as it has existed to
14 the extended center, so to speak?

15 MR. ALAIR: It always covered -- it does
16 not change what types of vehicles, if you will, it
17 covers. It covers nothing more or less than it used to
18 cover in terms of the applicability of the ordinance. It
19 simply changes the boundaries of the areas it covered. It
20 always covered all municipal property. For whatever
21 reason the Council when originally adopting the ordinance
22 made a specific point of calling out certain parcels, one
23 of which was town hall, which was town hall then, and is
24 no longer our property. So we're completely changing the

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1 boundaries.

2 MAYOR SLIFKA: Thank you, Mr. Alair. Any
3 questions for Mr. Alair? Mr. Davidoff?

4 MR. LEON DAVIDOFF: Through you, Mr.
5 Mayor, to Mr. Alair, what would you say would be the
6 legislative intent of this ordinance that we would
7 prohibit bicycles, roller blades, and roller skates on
8 sidewalks in West Hartford center. I just want to
9 establish that for the record.

10 MR. ALAIR: Sure. The original intent, and
11 I wasn't -- I was not involved in the drafting of the
12 ordinance, but it's certainly my understanding that the
13 original intent was, and continues to be, an issue of
14 pedestrian versus bike versus skate board accident risk,
15 and management of that risk.

16 MR. DAVIDOFF: Thank you.

17 MAYOR SLIFKA: Thank you, Mr. Davidoff.
18 Anyone else? I do remember that I was a bike rider in
19 the center at the time that this law was changed. So it
20 was a shock to me at the time, but I think people have
21 gotten used to it since.

22 MR. ALAIR: I'm relieved to know you don't
23 hold a grudge.

24 MAYOR SLIFKA: Well, I was only 12, so,

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1 okay, thank you, Mr. Alair. Anything else?

2 Did anybody sign up on the sheet? No one
3 has signed up. Is there anyone who wished to speak to
4 this ordinance, which -- who did not sign up? Okay,
5 seeing none, we are setting a record tonight; we will
6 close the public hearing.

7 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at
8 7:04 p.m.)

9

CERTIFICATE

I, Paul Landman, a Notary Public in and for the State of Connecticut, and President of Post Reporting Service, Inc., do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing record is a correct and verbatim transcription of the audio recording made of the proceeding hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that neither the audio operator nor I are attorney or counsel for, nor directly related to or employed by any of the parties to the action and/or proceeding in which this action is taken; and further, that neither the audio operator nor I are a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties, thereto, or financially interested in any way in the outcome of this action or proceeding.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and do so attest to the above, this 25th day of February, 2008.



Paul Landman
President

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