

**THE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**

**125 East Avenue**

**P.O. Box 5125**

**Norwalk, CT 06856**

TO: MEMBERS, PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

FROM: DOUGLAS E. HEMPSTEAD, CHAIRMAN

DATE: MARCH 27, 2014

RE: MEETING NOTICE

.....  
The regular meeting of the Planning Committee of the Common Council will be held on **Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.** in Room 231 on the second floor of Norwalk City Hall. Please Note The Time And Location.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**APRIL 3, 2014**

**7:00 PM**

**A G E N D A**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 19, 2014**

**II. BUSINESS**

**A. FY2015 CAPITAL BUDGET**

1. Consider allocations and approve advancement to the Common Council

**B. GLOBE THEATER**

1. Update on Section 108 Application

**C. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

1. Approve scheduling a Public Hearing on 2014 NAA-TCP applications to be held on May 1, 2014

**D. CDBG**

1. Transfer of contract to the Housing Authority from NEON for the renovation of the bathroom at Ben Franklin School

**ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE:** Douglas Hempstead, Chair; Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco,  
John Kydes, Travis Simms (6:22 p.m.); Sharon Stewart (6:28 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Timothy Sheehan, Redevelopment Agency

**OTHERS:** Hal Alvord, Public Works Director; Richard Rudl,  
Norwalk Public School Finance Department.

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Mr. Hempstead called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. A quorum was not present.

**PUBLIC WORKS.**

Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco asked if there was a list of the current paving projects available on line. Mr. Alvord said that there was a list online, but that the most current updates may not have been posted to it at this time. From 2011-2012, the PCI index is at 75%. The six million dollars in funding is what the department needs to get the PCI into the 80% to 85%. Only five million will mean that the PCI will drop below 75%. Most of the winter damage was not from the snow, but the temperature variations.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the \$105,000. Mr. Alvord said that the washing bay was not tall enough for some of the trucks. The money would be used to raise the roof in order to allow all the trucks into the washing bay.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the GIS system and whether the \$250 was needed in a lump sum or could it be broken into two years. Mr. Alvord said that the department has been able to map some of the infrastructure. He said that there needs to be an inventory of items such as the fire hydrants, catch basins, and signage. There is a vehicle that would drive through the streets and inventory the selected items, such as catch basins and street signs. StanTec video taped all the streets in the City in 2008 so it could be analyzed. Mr. Alvord then gave an overview of the process.

Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco asked if the City would own the data. Mr. Alvord said that driving down the streets is the easy part, but the labor intensive part is downloading the data into the computer.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the sidewalk funding. Mr. Alvord said that the sidewalks are done as part of the paving program. Last year, Planning and Zoning had allocated some funding that

was used to fill in sidewalk gaps on Westport Avenue. The State will be putting some sidewalks along Connecticut Avenue where there were no sidewalks previously.

The boiler and the roof at City Hall need to be replaced. Mr. Alvord gave a summary of the projects and the associated costs.

Mr. Alvord said that the City has been working with the BOE to pave various school driveways since the City can get a better price than the District. Mr. Alvord said that his department includes the paving in the City's bidding.

The discussion then moved to the transfer station. Mr. Alvord said that the compactors on the tipping floor were installed in 1982 and there have been on going problems with them. The funding was for replacing two of the compactors.

Mr. Alvord said that there was a project that would be starting to clean out one of the catch basins in the Assisi Way area.

Mr. Alvord said that the document management system needed to be upgraded because it would improve the efficiency. Currently, someone has to go into the basement and find the banker's box with the maps, and then bring the boxes up to the office.

*Mr. Simms joined the meeting at 6:22 p.m.*

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

Mr. Ruhl from the Norwalk Public School Finance Department came forward and greeted the Committee.

Mr. Hempstead said that the BOE had requested \$365,000 for paving and the Finance Department had recommended \$0. Mr. Hempstead asked where the priorities for the District would be. Mr. Ruhl said that the top priority would be the technology for the Common Core followed by school security. The technology budget was reduced, but Mr. Valeniszi believes he can work with that number. Regarding the paving issue, Mr. Ruhl said that in order to do the paving, funds would most likely be transferred from Technology. A discussion about the cost of paving the driveway at one of the schools followed.

Mr. Kydes asked about the use of laptops. Mr. Ruhl said that the testing for the Common Core would work on Chromebooks. Ms. O'Toole-Giandurco asked if enough Chromebooks had been purchased for all the students to be tested. Mr. Ruhl said that they had been purchased.

*Ms. Sharon Stewart joined the meeting at 6:28 p.m.*

The discussion then moved back to the paving of the school driveways. Mr. Ruhl said that the District had expected to receive a larger allocation for the school construction project from the State.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

**\*\* MR. SIMMS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* MS. O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

# THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

125 East Avenue  
P.O. Box 5125  
Norwalk, CT 06856

**TO:** MEMBERS, PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
**FROM:** TAMI STRAUSS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
**RE:** UPDATE OF HUD SECTION 108 LOAN GUARANTEE APPLICATION FOR GLOBE THEATER  
**DATE:** MARCH 25, 2014

---

The application requesting HUD Section 108 loan guarantee funds in the amount of \$1,666,000 for the renovation of the Globe Theater has been submitted by the Agency to HUD's Hartford, CT and Washington, DC offices for consideration. This request has been reduced from the original \$2 million request as the lower dollar amount is the amount available to Norwalk given its current PY39 CDBG allocation and Section 108 reservation.

**Current PY39 Allocation:** \$903,348

**Current Section 108 Reservation (2009):** \$2,850,000 (to be used by Norwalk Redevelopment Agency in conjunction with Washington Village / South Norwalk Transformation Plan)

The Agency submitted the 108 application with the intention of sufficiently demonstrating that the renovation of the Globe Theater meets HUD's national objective of "low- and moderate-income area benefit" given its location in the urban core of Norwalk. However, upon review of Norwalk's application, HUD determined that the project is better suited to the national objective of "Slum and Blight Removal". As such, if and when the loan reservation is approved, the change in national objective will necessitate a modification in the way Norwalk/Globe Theater draws down funds. According to HUD, Norwalk will be able to draw down funds according to the following schedule.

**On or before June 30, 2015:** up to \$1.1m of reservation

**On or after July 1, 2015:** balance of reservation

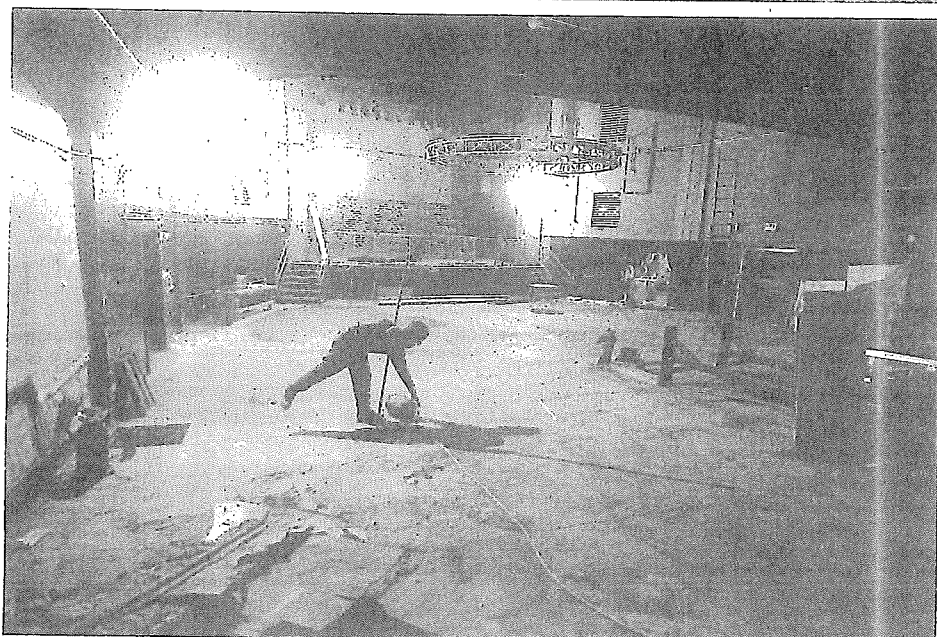
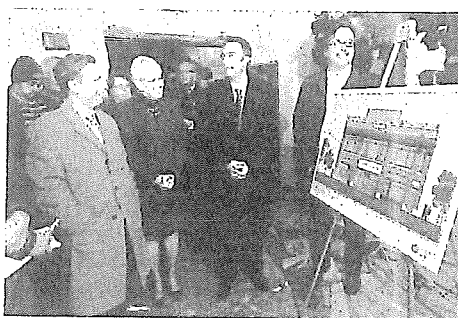
This schedule coincides with Norwalk's HUD's current three year certification period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015 and subsequent three year period of July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018 and complies with spending limitations associated with the 3-year periods.

As the Section 108 loan is guaranteed by Norwalk's annual CDBG allocation, annual grant funds will pay the loan in the event the Wall Street Theater Company (the operating entity of the Globe Theater) is unable to service the Section 108 debt.

Attached is a copy of an article in The Hour covering the groundbreaking of the Theater on March 7, 2014.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** None at this time.

# Pols tour Wall St. Theater, Ola! Granola



Top right, architect Mark Schulman talks about plans for the Wall Street Theater with Frank Farricker, managing member of The Wall Street Theater Co. as Sen. Bob Duff and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman take a tour of the site on Wall Street in Norwalk. Above, workers make progress on the interior of the Wall Street Theater. Below, Wyman and Duff, get a tour of the Ola! Granola manufacturing facility in Norwalk from owner Dina Houser Friday.

Hour photos / Alex von Kleydorff

## State grant money helps businesses expand, remodel

By **ROBERT KOCH**  
Hour Staff Writer

**NORWALK** — Two entrepreneurs showed Lt. Gov. Nancy S. Wyman on Friday how state money is being put to work in Norwalk to invigorate the local economy.

Wyman was given a tour of Ola! Foods, LLC, which recently expanded its operations on Woodward Avenue with the help of a \$100,000 state grant, according to Ola! Foods Founder & President Dina Houser.

The lieutenant governor, state lawmakers and local elected officials also

toured 71 Wall St., where Wall Street Theater Co. is beginning renovation of the former Globe Theater. According to managing member of The Wall Street Theater Co. — Frank Farricker — the renovations are possible thanks to a \$1.5 million state grant.

"We're very, very excited to get this great project moving," Farricker said. "Thanks to the unbelievable work of Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and state Sen. Bob Duff and all the rest of you, we received a nice grant in order to acquire this property."



The estimated \$7.5 million project will convert the theater building, which was built in 1914, into "the first next-generation theater in Connecticut to provide theater enthusiasts with a true transmedia experience, igniting seamless storytelling across multiple media channels," according to Wall Street Theater Co.

Farricker said the finished project will be "the cornerstone of this neighborhood and a real cul-

tural treasure for the city of Norwalk and Fairfield County."

While retaining its historic features, the renovated theater will incorporate modern amenities and technologies, such as live streaming of performances on the Internet.

"Grandma can watch the high school band play from Florida on the Internet," Farricker said.

"We have the old the-

See **POLS** Page A5

## Police: Firefighter stole \$2K+ worth of fire equipment

### Fire chief promises 'swift and appropriate' action after arrest

By **STEVE KOBAK**  
Hour Staff Writer



Penna

**NORWALK** — Norwalk Fire Chief Denis McCarthy promised to deal with the arrest of a 16-year veteran of the Norwalk Fire Department "swiftly and appropriately" and said he is working with the city's legal and personnel departments to resolve the "internal personnel matter."

Firefighter Jason Penna, 40, of 40 Farrell Road, Weston, turned himself in on a warrant Thursday for allegations that he stole more than \$2,500 worth of equipment from the Rescue 1 fire engine. He was charged with third-degree larceny, and was released on a promise to appear in court and given a court date of March 14.

"The Norwalk Fire Department is very disap-

pointed to learn that member of this department has been arrested on larceny charges.

is particularly disconcerting to know that emergency equipment was removed from a piece of fire apparatus," McCarthy said in a written statement. "Our mission depends being ready for any type of incident that we are called to. Emergency equipment is maintained at a high level of readiness. The deliberate removal of the equipment jeopardizes our mission to save lives and protect property. The Department will not tolerate behavior that impairs our

See **FIREFIGHTER** Page A6

## Box truck rampage suspect accepts deal; will serve seven years

By **STEVE KOBAK**  
Hour Staff Writer

**STAMFORD** — A city man who was behind the wheel of a box truck during a 2010 rampage that ended with a dozen injured persons and numerous wrecked cars accepted a plea deal Friday at Stamford Superior Court and agreed to be sentenced to seven years in prison.

Christopher Simonelli, 33, pleaded guilty to four counts of first-degree assault — one for each person who was seriously injured during the accident. He had faced the assault charges as well as four counts of evading responsibility, one count of driving while under the influence and 32 counts of risk of injury to a minor — one for each child that was in a vehicle that Simonelli struck. Simonelli will also serve five years of probation and should he violate

his probation after he is released from prison, he could be forced to serve the balance of his 15-year suspended sentence.

Simonelli's sentence will be imposed on June 5 after the completion of a pre-sentencing investigation.

Lindy Urso, who represented Simonelli, said his client was extremely remorseful for his actions. Urso said Simonelli opted not to go to trial, because he didn't want to put the witnesses and children affected by his actions "through this nightmare again."

"I don't recall, in my 15 plus years of experience, having a more remorseful client," Urso said.

Simonelli was under the influence of PCP on Nov. 16, 2010 when he got behind the wheel of a 1998 GMC box truck at Action

See **SUSPECT** Page A8

THE HOUR 3-8-14  
Foley's governor race focuses on Conn. urban communities



**Hour Photo / Alex von Kleydorff**  
Bucky Taylor co-owner of The Clockery on Van Zant Street in Norwalk, sets the hands of a Victorian Era Connecticut Shelf Clock that is in for repair for a client. He handles Daylight Savings by setting the time to "Spring Forward" just by moving the hands one hour ahead. For Fall Back, 11 hours ahead, because it's the natural movement for vintage clocks.

## stealing from firehouse

From Page A1

ability to serve or impugn public trust."

A ladder, a trailer hitch extension, a grip hoist and a strap were discovered to be missing from the fire truck sometime on Jan. 7. The value of the missing equipment was \$2,614, court documents indicate.

Fire administrators tried to settle the matter in-house, sending an e-mail to the staff, asking for the return of the missing equipment. The equipment did not surface, and the Norwalk Fire Department contacted police about the missing equipment on Feb. 6, initiating an investigation that was conducted by the detective bureau.

Penna was rumored to "steal things from other firefighters," according to a fire lieutenant's statement to police. After his transfer from Station 1 to Station 4 in January, firefighters began using locks on their lockers, which is unusual due to the fact that firefighters trust one another enough to leave their lockers unlocked, according to the statement.

The lieutenant was directed to Penna's pickup

truck on Feb. 12 by a firefighter, who told him that some of the missing equipment was inside of the toolbox on the bed of the truck, police said. The lieutenant opened the toolbox and saw a grip hoist and cable that were similar to the items stolen from Rescue 1, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

Detectives served a search warrant on Penna's Weston home on Feb. 21, and Penna met them at the door, police said. He admitted to possessing the missing equipment and agreed to hand it over, court documents show.

Penna told police that he took the ladder in December 2013 and took the rest of the equipment in January 2014, police said. He admitted to taking the equipment while the firefighters at Station 1 were sleeping, police said. He told police that he used the ladder to work around his home, and he used the rest of the equipment to tow his son's ATV out of a snowbank, police said.

He said he wanted to return the equipment but was afraid "someone might see him do it," according to the affidavit.

## Pol's tour businesses

From Page A1

ater, but it's going to be, when we open in (March) 2015, state-of-the-art for 2015."

Wyman praised the unfolding project, which she described as the goal for many urban areas.

"This is what we're all talking about, what everybody talks about all the time, bringing our cities back to life," Wyman said. "Getting the revitalization, having the old, the new."

Wyman was joined by state Sen. Bob Duff, state Rep. Christopher R. Perone, Mayor Harry W. Rilling and several Common Council members.

Duff thanked Gov. Daniel P. Malloy and Lt. Gov. Wyman for their support of the project.

"We believe that this area, which has had an infusion of state dollars, is

ripe for revitalization and can really shine the way it did," Duff said.

Mark Schulman, project architect, said the intent of the renovation is to bring the theater "back to what it was," including its largely intact historic façade.

"The building's got good bones and Frank's got a good group of people, consultants, to all weigh in," Schulman said.

Earlier, Houser showed Wyman how she used the \$100,000 state grant to expand her business and purchase equipment.

The elected officials were given a tour of operations, from the office to the kitchen to the shipping-and-receiving area.

Ola! Foods now employs a half-dozen people and sells its 100-percent natural, gluten-free granola to more than 3,000



**Hour photo / Erik Trautmann**  
Mayor Harry Rilling, state Rep. Chris Perone, Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and state Sen. Bob Duff get a tour of the Ola! granola manufacturing facility in Norwalk from owners Kurt and Dina Houser Friday.

stores, largely on the East Coast.

Wyman and others took immediate notice of the sweet aroma throughout the building — testament to the ingredients used to create Vanilla Almond, Chocolate Banana Chip, Cranberry Orange Pecan and No Nut Vanilla granolas.

## Family to sue New London for trash compactor death

NEW LONDON (AP) — The family of a man who died after apparently falling into a trash compactor at New London's transfer station has filed a wrongful death lawsuit.

The notice filed with the city clerk's office this week lists as possible defendants the city, the Public Works Department, its director and manager of solid waste

and recycling.

The Day reports that the notice says the city's negligence or recklessness includes a failure to properly monitor the dumping area, failure to provide proper barricading of the area, failure to follow safety protocols and failure to provide an emergency shut-off.

Fifty-nine-year-old Floyd Smeeton died Jan. 30.

## Russia in patriotic

**The Hour's  
Best PIZZA  
CONTEST**

EDITORIAL

# There will soon be theater lights glowing on Wall Street

They may not be the bright lights of Broadway but plans are afoot to bring brightness to Norwalk's Wall Street.

Two entrepreneurs have embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the Norwalk Theatre, once known as the Globe, back. Built in 1914, the theater has been dark for many years. Like most legitimate theaters, it became a movie house. In its final years, it opened up for single day to house the annual children's Christmas Party, free to the city's children, the youngsters were treated to popcorn and candy, and each received a small gift. The entire event was sponsored

by a committee of businessmen.

There have been other discussions about reviving the theater, but the breakthrough came with the awarding of \$1.5 million grant and could not proceed without the state grant, according to Frank Farricker, managing director of the Wall Street Theater Company. He, state and local officials toured the Wall Street landmark last week. The entire project is expected to cost \$7.5 million to complete.

According to Farricker, who outlined the plans to Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman, the results will be the first next-generation theater in Connecticut to provide enthusiasts with a true

trans-media experience.

We agree with him that it will be the cornerstone of the neighborhood, and will draw visitors to the uptown area and be a boon to the many fine restaurants around there. It will become a cultural attraction for the entire county.

Norwalk for many years has had its share of contributors to the theater, as actors, playwrights and directors. It's only fitting that these entrepreneurs proceed with its plans and bring the glories of performance to this fine stage. It will bring new life to an area of Norwalk, which was once a commercial center.



OPINION

# The people have spoken

## Letters to the Editor

letters@thehour.com

### Survive and prosper

To the Editor:

In his letter of Feb. 6 ("Come on America...") Jim Balitsos Sr. expresses his concern about "opening up immigration" because he fears immigrants will take up all the space in hospital emergency rooms and will cause additional language problems for the guards of our federal correctional institutions. He cites astounding "statistics" claiming that "almost 50% of male immigrants go to jail."

To an extent, he is correct about some of his allegations. Yes, ERs are horribly overworked and our prison system is an international shame. Balitsos seems to lay the blame on "expanded immigration." I'm not aware that there is even a hint from the government of a move to expand immigration. What is more, he fails to explain that most of that 50 percent clogging up the prisons and a part of the huddled masses crowding the ERs of America are undocumented and illegal entrants into the U.S. After years of bickering by federal and state governments, who could disagree that it's time to do something about our porous border?

What is more, Mr. Balitsos needs to take care not to throw the baby out with the wash. His blanket comment about immigrants seems to forget the immense contributions to America made by immigrants. Just for starters, among them in recent years have been two secretaries of state (Kissinger and Albright); a supreme court justice (Frankfurter); a world famous physicist (Einstein); at least one world renowned architect (I.M. Pei); an outstanding naturalist (Muir); famed athletes (Navratilova, Olajuwon); acclaimed musicians (Yo-Yo Ma, Irving Berlin, Estefan); noted entertainers (Lansbury, Fox, Bob Hope, Ang Lee); one state governor (Schwarzenegger); and countless others whose contributions have been less glamorous but equally productive in all fields of endeavor. One should add that these have not been second generation immigrants. They themselves just "got off the boat" and made their mark, figuratively speaking, to the considerable benefit of all of us. It's a lesson to second generation American not to be so nervous that they will be misplaced by the wave coming in behind them. The Jews, the Irish, the Italians, the Cubans went through it and all have survived and prospered so far.

Rod Lopez-Fabrega  
Norwalk

### Be warned

To the Editor:

Tetrahydrocannabinol or THC is the active chemical in marijuana that creates the artificial so called high because it fools the brain that all is OK. But, it really makes the user slower in all motor skills. Driving a car, using tools, remembering stuff, etc. The strain of marijuana available today is many times stronger in THC content than some of the old ones.

*If you notice many stores that never sold e-cigs are selling them now. I wondered why e-cigs were being banned for open use because it seemed such a*

THE HOUR

3-12-14

# THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

125 East Avenue  
P.O. Box 5125  
Norwalk, CT 06856

**TO:** MEMBERS, PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
**FROM:** HUNTER ARTON, COMMUNITY OUTREACH ADMINISTRATOR  
**RE:** NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR 2014  
**DATE:** MARCH 21, 2014

---

Applications are now available for Connecticut's Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program (NAA-TCP), which provides a tax credit to business firms which make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies. An informational publication is attached to this memo. The community programs must be approved by both the municipality in which the programs are conducted and by Connecticut's Department of Revenue Services.

#### Anticipated Program Timeline

- April 15, 2014 – Deadline for organizations to submit 2014 proposals to Agency
- May 1, 2014 – Public Hearing regarding 2014 NAA-TCP requests (proposed)
- May 1, 2014 – Planning Committee review and advance 2014 proposals to Common Council (proposed)
- May 13, 2014 – Common Council review and approve programs for inclusion in Norwalk's list of Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program activities (proposed)
- May 15, 2014 – Advance list of approved projects for participation in 2014 NAA-TCP program (proposed)

#### REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Approve scheduling a Public Hearing on 2014 NAA-TCP applications to be held during the regularly scheduled meeting of Planning Committee on May 1, 2014.

INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATION

## The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program

**Purpose:** This Informational Publication explains the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Tax Credit Program

**Effective Date:** upon issuance.

**Statutory Authority:** Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-630aa et. seq.

**Definitions:** For purposes of the NAA tax credit program:

**Business firm** means any business entity authorized to do business in the state and subject to the tax due under the provisions of Chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212 or 213a. For purposes of a business entity subject to the provisions of Chapter 213a, the tax credit earned by such entity may be used by the members or partners of such entity that are subject to the Corporation Business tax under Chapter 208.

**Donation of money to an open space acquisition fund** means money contributed to an open space acquisition fund of any political subdivision of the state or any nonprofit land conservation organization.

The money must be used for the purchase of land, interest in land, or permanent conservation restriction on land to be permanently preserved as protected open space.

**Energy conservation projects** means programs to promote energy conservation that are directed toward properties where at least 75% of occupants are at an income level not exceeding 150% of the poverty level for the year immediately preceding the year during which the tax credit is to be granted or at properties owned or occupied by charitable corporations, foundations, trusts, or other entities. Such projects include, but are not limited to:

- Energy conserving modification or replacement of windows and doors;
- Caulking and weather-stripping;
- Insulation;
- Automatic energy control systems;

- Hot water systems;
- Equipment required to operate variable steam, hydraulic, and ventilating systems;
- Replacement of burners, furnaces, or boilers;
- Electrical or mechanical furnace ignition systems; or
- Replacement or modification of lighting fixtures.

**The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program:** The NAA Tax Credit Program provides a tax credit to business firms that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies. Such tax credit may be applied against the taxes due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, or 212. The community programs must be approved by both the municipality in which the programs are conducted and by the Department of Revenue Services (DRS).

**Community Programs That Qualify for the NAA Tax Credit Program:** Listed below are examples of the types of programs that qualify for the NAA tax credit and the amount of the available credit.

A tax credit equal to 100% of the cash invested is available to business firms that invest in energy conservation projects.

A tax credit equal to 60% of the cash invested is available to business firms that invest in programs that provide:

- Neighborhood assistance;
- Job training;
- Education;
- Community services;
- Crime prevention;
- Construction or rehabilitation of dwelling units for families of low and moderate income in the state;
- Donation of money to an open space acquisition fund;
- Child day care facilities;
- Child care services;

- Employment and training programs directed at handicapped persons;
- Employment and training programs for unemployed workers who are 50 years of age or older;
- Education and employment training programs for recipients in the temporary family assistance program;
- Community-based alcoholism prevention or treatment;  
**or**
- Any other program which serves a group of individuals where at least 75% of the individuals are at an income not exceeding 150% of the poverty level for the year immediately preceding the year during which the tax credit is to be granted.

---

#### **Obtaining Approval for the NAA Tax Credit Program:**

Tax-exempt entities and municipal agencies desiring to obtain benefits under the NAA must complete **Form NAA-01, Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal**, Parts I, II, and III and submit the form to the municipal agency overseeing the implementation of the proposal. The overseeing municipal agency then completes Part IV of Form NAA-01 and submits the form to DRS on or before July 1 of each year. Prior to submitting Form NAA-01 to DRS, each municipality must hold a public hearing on all program applications. The governing body of the municipality must vote to approve the programs. Copies of the public hearing notice and minutes of the meeting approving the programs must be submitted by the municipality to DRS with the approved program proposals.

---

**Limits on the Amount of Contributions That May Be Made or on the Amount of Tax Credit Available:** The NAA Tax Credit Program has several statutory limits which must be observed, including the following:

- A business firm is limited to receiving \$150,000 in tax credits annually; however, the amount of tax credit allowed any business firm for investments in child day care facilities for any income year may not exceed \$50,000.
- The minimum contribution on which a tax credit can be granted is \$250.
- Any organization conducting a program or programs eligible for funding under the NAA is limited to receiving an aggregate of \$150,000 of funding for any program or programs for any fiscal year.

- The total amount of all tax credits allowed in any fiscal year is \$5 million, which, if exceeded, results in prorating the approved tax credits among the approved organizations.
- Effective with the 2011 NAA program, the total charitable contributions of the contributing business firm does not need to equal or exceed its prior year's charitable contributions in order to be eligible for the tax credit.

---

**Business Applications Deadlines:** Each business firm requesting a tax credit under the NAA Tax Credit Program must complete a separate **Form NAA-02, Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Business Application**, for each program it wishes to sponsor. Form NAA-02 must have an original signature and be mailed or hand-delivered to DRS on or after September 15 but not later than October 1 of each year.

---

**Claiming the Tax Credit:** DRS issues an NAA program approval letter to business firms that make cash investments in qualified community programs. The letter indicates the tax credit amount that may be claimed on the applicable business tax return. The tax credit amount must also be entered on **Form CT-1120K, Business Tax Credit Summary**, and/or **Form CT-207K, Insurance/Health Care Tax Credit Schedule**.

---

**Carry Back Provisions:** The amount of tax credit that is not taken on the tax return of a business firm for the income year beginning during the calendar year in which the program proposal was approved may be carried back to the two immediately preceding income years (beginning with the earlier of the years). No carry forward is allowed.

---

**Obtaining Additional Information:** Direct inquiries to:

Department of Revenue Services  
State of Connecticut  
Research Unit  
25 Sigourney St Ste 2  
Hartford CT 06106

Call: **860-297-5687**

Email: [DRS.TaxResearch@po.state.ct.us](mailto:DRS.TaxResearch@po.state.ct.us)

**Effect on Other Documents: Informational Publication 2010(22),** The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program, is superseded and may not be relied upon after the date of issuance of this Publication.

**Effect of This Document:** An Informational Publication issued by DRS addresses frequently asked questions about a current position, policy, or practice, usually in a less technical question and answer format.

---

**Related Forms and Publications:** Request the most recent edition of the following forms: **Form NAA-01**, *Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal*, and **Form NAA-02**, *Neighborhood Assistance Act Business Application*.

---

**For Further Information:** Call DRS during business hours, Monday through Friday:

- **1-800-382-9463** (Connecticut calls outside the Greater Hartford calling area only); or
- **860-297-5962** (from anywhere).

**TTY, TDD, and Text Telephone users only** may transmit inquiries anytime by calling 860-297-4911.

---

**Forms and Publications:** Visit the DRS website at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS) to download and print Connecticut tax forms and publications.

---

**Paperless Filing/Payment Methods (fast, easy, free, and confidential):**

Business and individual taxpayers can use the **Taxpayer Service Center (TSC)** at [www.ct.gov/TSC](http://www.ct.gov/TSC) to file a variety of tax returns, update account information, and make payments online.

**File Electronically:** You can choose first-time filer information and filing assistance or log directly into the **TSC** to file returns and pay taxes.

**Pay Electronically:** You can pay taxes for tax returns that cannot be filed through the **TSC**. Log in and select the *Make Payment Only* option. Designate a payment date up to the due date of the tax and mail a paper return to complete the filing process.

---

**DRS E-Alerts Service:** Get connected to the latest news from DRS. Receive notification by email of changes to legislation, policies, and procedures. **DRS E-Alerts** provide information for employer's withholding tax, News – Press Releases, and Top 100 Delinquency List. Visit the DRS website at [www.ct.gov/DRS](http://www.ct.gov/DRS) and select *Sign up for e-alerts* under *How Do I?* on the gold navigation bar..

**THE PLANNING COMMITTEE  
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**

**125 East Avenue  
P.O. Box 5125  
Norwalk, CT 06856**

**TO:** MEMBERS, PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL  
**FROM:** TAMI STRAUSS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING  
**RE:** NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY REQUESTS ASSUMPTION OF NEON CONTRACT  
**DATE:** APRIL 1, 2014

---

The Norwalk Housing Authority, as the current administrator of Head Start Program in Norwalk, has submitted a request to assume NEON's Community Development Block Grant contract # 514-NEON-12-1 for the renovation of the bathrooms at the Ben Franklin School located at 165 Flax Hill Road.

The balance of the original \$21,000 CDBG award is currently \$17,397.25.

NHA's assumption of the contract is critical to completing the bathroom at the school that will serve hundreds of children who will be enrolled in the Head Start Program. A copy of the Norwalk Housing Authority's request is attached to this memo.

**Requested Action:** Approve advancing the Norwalk Housing Authority's request to assume NEON's CDBG contract #514-NEON-12-1 for the renovation of the bathrooms at the Ben Franklin School to the Common Council



This is an important notice. Please have it translated.  
Esta es una noticia importante. Por favor hay que traducirlo.  
C'est un avis important. Veuillez faire la traduction.  
Questo è un avviso importante. Per favore di avere la traduzione.  
Αυτή είναι μια σημαντική ανακοίνωση. Παρακαλούμε είχε μεταφράσει.

April 2, 2014

**CESAR RAMIREZ**  
*Chairman*

**JEFFREY INGRAHAM**  
*Vice Chairman*

**DEIDRA DAVIS**  
*Treasurer*

**BEVERLY KRIEGER**  
*Commissioner*

**LARRY A. KATZ**  
*Commissioner*

**CURTIS O. LAW**  
*Executive Director*

**CANDACE E. MAYER**  
*Deputy Director*

**LATTARULO LAW FIRM, LLC**  
*General Counsel*

**UNITED WAY**  
**COMMUNITY PARTNER**

Ms. Tami Strauss  
Director of Community Development Planning  
Norwalk Redevelopment Agency  
125 East Avenue, Room 202  
Norwalk, CT 06854

Dear Ms. Strauss:

As you are aware, the Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) has been awarded the City's Head Start Program contract by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) previously awarded to NEON.

The Housing Authority is working on a plan to deliver the Head Start Program at the Ben Franklin School on Flax Hill Road. Currently NEON has a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG 514-NEON-12-1) for the renovation of the bathrooms at the school – a critical component to delivering and sustaining a healthy learning environment for Head Start students – for which no significant amount of work has been able to be completed.

The NHA respectfully requests the Common Council to approve NHA's assumption of NEON's CDBG contract so that the NHA may complete the bathroom project. The NHA will execute any contract amendments necessary.

Sincerely,

  
Curtis O. Law  
Executive Director

COL/cs

**Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk**  
P.O. Box 508, 24 ½ Monroe Street • Norwalk, Connecticut 06856-0508  
Phone 203-838-8471 • Fax 203-838-6535 • TDD/TYY 1-800-545-1833 ext. 437  
[www.norwalkha.org](http://www.norwalkha.org)  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER