

From: [Lila Kiernan](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Save The Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Friday, September 2, 2022 10:25:03 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Lila and I am a resident of Cove, but am originally from Argentina. I saw a few articles in the paper recently regarding selling a city property for affordable housing. I also read that the city property to be sold has served as a community center in Glenbrook for quite some time.

I believe strongly that the city must do everything it can to keep places that have served the community at large. While we need affordable housing taking away a property that already serves my neighborhood should not be considered.

It is my hope that my city government finds a way to achieve both goals: keep the community center we already have and continue to push for affordable housing in places that do not sacrifice necessary city services. Even though this community center has not been in use for a few years I believe we can find a way to reopen it as my community and our city desperately need the services that a community center provides. We have nothing like it close to my side of town.

I urge you to vote no on this proposal and actively pursue reopening the Glenbrook Community Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Lila Kiernan
Resident of Houston Terrace
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Dawn](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Support for 35 Crescent Street proposal
Date: Saturday, September 3, 2022 8:17:18 AM

Dear Board of Representative Members,

I believe it is very important for Stamford to create, and retain, affordable housing. The 35 Crescent Street proposal may not be a perfect solution but it was thoroughly vetted and passed by the Planning Board and the Board of Finance over the past two years. Please support the proposal so it can provide critical workforce housing as well as community space for residents to utilize.

Respectfully,
Dawn Randall
220 Mill Rd.

From: [STAMFORD BAPTIST CHURCH](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#); [Miller, Lindsey](#); [DiCostanzo, Monica](#)
Cc: [Simmons, Caroline](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Saturday, September 3, 2022 1:15:34 PM

Dear Board of Reps:

I am writing in support of keeping and maintaining the Glenbrook Community Center. We have been living in this neighborhood for over 40 years, our children attended Elementary, Middle and High Schools here and benefitted from the management of the building by Jerry. His mother used to work for Stark Elementary School where my two boys attended school.

One of my children is now a Physician, the other an executive with Wells Fargo.

I credited their development with an availability of neighborhood Community Center such as Glenbrook.

Please, please let's put more resources there rather than selling out to developers. The neighborhood ROI outweighs any private profit margin.

Steve Akinsola
249 Hillandale Avenue
Stamford, CT 06906
(203)536-8287

From: [Tam Harwood-Smith](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Saturday, September 3, 2022 5:22:29 PM

Dear Mayor,

I have been a resident in Stamford for over thirty years. My two children attended Stark, Dolan and Stamford High. Please do not demolish Glenbrook Community center on Crescent Street. My children also played sports sponsored by the GCC.

Glenbrook does need it's community center not another apartment building.

Thank you,

Tamberly-Harwood-Smith

87 Clovelly Rd

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joseph Avalos](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Don't take affordable housing out of committee for vote let it die before it kills a great community center
Date: Saturday, September 3, 2022 10:02:23 PM

Dear Mayor Simmons and fellow concerned public servants on our board of representatives

Please save our Glenbrook Community Center

I beg you not

To take the affordable housing proposal that was rejected by the steering committee 4-3 onto the floor for a vote on the sixth. The debate was over 3.5 hours and many residents were opposed to affordable housing vs Community Center.

instead , don't our center as a building in the way of affordable units but as as a second home for at risk populations including seniors, children and anonymous groups of people in recovery who need a safe place to meet, share their stories and who need in person contact with each other to keep from booze and drugs like a man in the desert needs a glass of water .

They have been meeting there and in many places all over Stamford but the community center was their central club where they prepared meals for each other and drank coffee. Many lives were saved there for over 40 years after the Glenbrook school fire.

This was an active and historic building and community center where over 16000 Sq were used Dailey

How is a 1-3000 square foot meeting area going to handle all these at risk groups it is perfect as currently designed

The second floor was people in recovery

The lower east side of the building the gym with basketball hoops for young and old and daycare. and seniors it has an elevator and handicap ramp access to

**I am in favor of more affordable housing in
Stamford but not at the expense of losing the
Glenbrook Community Center we don't need
a Glenbrook Community Center façade and a
tiny room replacing the Glenbrook**

Community Center. it was actively serving at risk population including seniors people in recovery children in daycare and children playing sports who cannot afford to go into expensive gyms and who shouldn't be playing in the streets .

In these post pandemic days we need healing from isolation and ,more community centers not less,where people can congregate after the horrible Covid epidemic.

Helping 100 people save on rent with affordable housing and emptying more traffic into already crowded Glenbrook Center Doesn't build community and it doesn't help unity and community.

I closing taking care of 51 families at the expense of losing a valuable community center that serves thousands of at risk people in Glenbrook makes no sense to me.

Give a nice housing discount deal to 51 families or fix and reopen a valuable center in the Glenbrook that was only shut down recently for COVID liability issues and serves 18000 Glenbrook people of all ages incomes and diversities

Help 1 contractor 100 people or help 18000 Glenbrook residents of Stamford

Give the community 1-3000 Sq feet to use
Or let them keep using 16000 Sq feet

Is this board going to vote in favor of 100 new voters who may be strangers to Glenbrook and increase gridlock in the center.

Or vote to fix the community center keep letting 18000 people have access to sport activities , Senior activities and more meeting rooms people in recovery.

Health safety and recreation for thousands or cheaper rents for a selected few.

Seems like a no brainer

Doesn't it?

thanks for your time reading this .

Respectfully Yours

A friend of the Glenbrook community Center. Please repair her she's old and broken like me but she still fills a big need.

Ps I will gladly support future affordable housing developments so long as they don't replace a building that saves lives and helps at risk people.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Marc Moorash](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Written testimony - Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 9:15:30 AM

Please distribute as a written part of public comment section for the September BOR meeting.

Thank you,
Marc Moorash

The scene is a grey November day in Stamford, three kids standing in the back parking lot of Stark School, pestering each other (even in the offseason) about the Mets and the Yankees, and getting ready to go our separate ways for the afternoon and trying to get home before the cold rains made the trek a run and jump from Happy House, to Glenbrook Variety, to Woolworth's, to home..

However, J. who usually was the first of our group to run off, Yankees hat turned backwards, lingered longer than normal. While we were just kids, we knew what the look meant, even if we didn't know what was behind it. We had all been there. We were all there, more often than not.

"You ok?"
"I forgot my keys."

For most of us, this meant a hidden key somewhere around the backyard. Not for J. J's father didn't believe in that.

"My dad hit me the last time I forgot my key."

We were in fifth grade, at Stark School. Fitting, the stark reminders all these years later. But on that day, it was no metaphor. We were just kids.

"You want to come to my house until he gets home?"

I lived in the opposite direction, it would be a late hour to walk all the way back across to Courtland Ave. And we both knew that equal hell would come if he needed an unplanned ride home. So, we did what we always did when we didn't want to, or couldn't, or shouldn't go home - we went over to the Glenbrook Community Center.

J. was a star for Northrop Little League. Part of the GAC Attack. They were the underdog, always, against Joyce Moving. But he rallied that team, time and again. Occasionally they won. When we walked in that afternoon, there was a lot of reminiscing about the previous season. Maybe it made J. think about something, anything, other than his keys. On a November day, far from pitchers and catchers reporting, we turned to many hours of basketball in the GCC gym.

Some things we don't forget. Some things linger. Like the first time you hear from a friend that their parent beats them. Decades before it was safe to tell an adult, we relied on each other. We relied on our community. We relied on our Community Center. There's the metaphor - a place to center ourselves.

Which is why it is incomprehensible that in a time when her former colleagues in the General Assembly are working to create legislation to open up mental health services to children and adolescents, the Mayor is determined to take away a Community Center. This time, as an adult, the metaphor is clear.

Mental health isn't just about the quantifiable numbers of therapist visits or time spent with school counselors, but children knowing they have safe spaces in which to pause, and escape, if only for a little while.

If we claim time and time again that it takes a community to raise children, then why are we removing a Community

Center? People against saving the GCC have been heard to state that Community Centers are from a bygone age. Yet everything around us tells us that in fact, Community Centers are needed more than ever.

It is time to stop allowing developers to redefine our neighborhoods in their image. Because each time a neighborhood falls to the shovel and dozer, their sights are set on which neighborhood next. When a Community Center falls, not only is it a building, but a sign that community does not matter at all. And we all know, that what makes Stamford everything it is and wants to be, is from the brilliance of our streets and neighborhoods where families have watched each other grow for generations, decades, lifetimes.

It is time for government to step down and back off and to allow the neighborhood of Glenbrook to save our Community Center.

From: [Nicole Lavander](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center affordable housing project
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 10:23:21 AM

Hello,

I am a resident of 188 Van Rensselaer Ave in Shippan and am writing to urge the Board to support the transformation of the former Glenbrook Community Center into 51 units of affordable housing while preserving its historic facade. As a community, we must make decisions about how to responsibly use the resources we have available to us and not let valuable resources go to waste. With this proposal, we have the opportunity to revitalize an existing building and turn it into something valuable for our residents in need of housing. I urge you not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and support this proposal as a step in the right direction for our city. I can be reached at 760-703-8260 if you would like to discuss.

Thank you,
Nicole Lavander

From: [Shelley Michelson](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#); [Rosenson, Valerie](#)
Subject: Fwd: sale of property located at 35 Crescent Street
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 12:59:10 PM
Attachments: [Letter to BOR re Glenbrook Community Center.docx](#)

I am forwarding my previous reasoned opposition to the sale of the Glenbrook Community Center. Now that there are contestants to retain it as an asset for the community, there is no reason not to consider retaining a community asset.

Thank you for your kind consideration,
Shelley Michelson

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shelley Michelson <shelley.michelson@gmail.com>
Date: July 21, 2022 at 9:50:43 AM EDT
To: bdreps@stamfordct.gov, "Rosenson, Valerie" <VRosenson@stamfordct.gov>
Subject: sale of property located at 35 Crescent Street

Dear President Curtis and Members of the Board of Representatives,

Attached is my written testimony related to your deliberations regarding the sale of this historic building. Kindly read my comments into the record at your upcoming meeting on Tuesday, July 26th.

Thank you for your consideration,
Shelley Michelson

Shelley A. Michelson

Dear President Curtis and Members of the Stamford Board of Representatives,

When one thinks of New England towns and cities, a vision emerges of a town green with an historic, beautiful and well maintained town hall. What do you see when you come into Stamford? No town green, no beautiful seat of government, but an old, deteriorating corporate building that houses our government functions, a building that is difficult to access and very unwelcoming. As the very unattractive concrete physical symbol of our administrative functions, Stamford's Government Center is the perfect embodiment of the City's attitude towards its historic buildings and the "repurposing" of its previous beautiful town hall. Approaching Stamford from either north or south, a driver or Metro-North commuter is overwhelmed by a dense urban jungle of tightly knit buildings lacking any discernable design standards or land use controls. Welcome to Stamford!

The building at 35 Crescent Street was a school for nearly seventy years, beginning in 1900. When a fire occurred in 1969, the City wanted to raze the building, but the community rallied to the defense of the building and convinced the City to convert it into a different community asset: a community center.

The Mayor's office and the Planning and Zoning Boards' prevailing attitude towards these historic buildings, including the Glenbrook Community Center, seems to be: how can we monetize them? Let's sell them to developers for whatever we can exact and we'll change the zoning to whatever the developer desires. Future tax revenue always seems to be more important than services to the community and the community at large never benefits from these added revenues via property tax relief.

It's high time for our government to take pride in our history and what is left of it! As an urban planner and a municipal credit professional, **I implore you to oppose the sale of the historic Crescent Street Property.** Its façade is beautiful and I am sure a use can be found that benefits the entire community instead of turning it over to private interests for residential use.

In considering the ongoing use of this building, a series of questions should be considered.

- How hard did the City try to find a community use for this building before abandoning it?
- Why did the City fail over the years to maintain the building properly such that the purpose of the building could not be continued without considerable rehabilitation?
- How will the services previously provided in this building (preschool and afterschool services, summer camp, substance abuse services, exercise classes for senior citizens and other age groups) be replaced for the community?
- Is the sale price appropriate? Apparently, one appraisal returned a value of \$1.8 million, but the purchase price is listed at \$700k.

When you research users' ratings of the services that the were provided within the building, you will find that 19 of the 20 individuals who used services provided in the building and responded on one website rated their experiences in the 4-5 star categories. Importantly, the Chamber of Commerce gave the services 4.6 stars.

Shelley A. Michelson

Converting this historic building into apartments is a slap in the face to the Glenbrook community and reflects the City's obsession with transit-oriented development. How many residents will actually be riding Metro-North to work?

Stamford has seen a tremendous building boom for residential use. Affordable housing is laudable goal, but it should not supersede the need for community services. Why are we not considering community benefit as the proper use of City-owned properties?

As a resident of Stamford for more than forty-five years, I have seen the sale, abandonment and demolition of many, many city-owned buildings. The ones that remain have been the object of severe capital neglect, including the beautiful historic building on Haig Avenue and most recently, the Hunt recreational complex on Courtland Avenue. The condition of the City's schools is the result of decades long very poor maintenance practices. The accumulation of capital neglect is now taking its toll on our students, teachers, administrators and taxpayers. **We must develop a healthier, more neighborhood-focused mindset on maintenance of our capital assets and community benefit must be the chief consideration.**

Please deny this sale.

From: [Dennis Dunaway](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 4:11:45 PM

Dear Board of Representatives,

I've been a resident of Glenbrook since 1974. Over the years I've heard many comments and stories about how our Community Center has been beneficial to our Stamford residents.

I've heard friends and acquaintances rave about how the AA meetings have helped them turn their lives around. I've had kids tell me about how they got their chance to learn music there. There are many other ways that that building has enriched our community.

I also like the historical look of the building itself.

Dennis Dunaway

8 Howes Avenue
Glenbrook, CT 06906

From: [ruth roller](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Date: Sunday, September 4, 2022 6:28:25 PM

Sent from my iPhone There are so many people of all ages that would suffer from having the building not there. you have a group of people of all ages they fill up the second floor every single day you also have senior citizens you also have dance instructors and the nursery downstairs with so many assortment of people of all ages why would you think of closing it needs to stay with and to be in that place. If it's about money talk to us please. If it's about filling up other spaces talk to us please. We will do whatever it takes to keep that building exactly where it is. We can help in many many ways. Thank you Ruth roller@gmail.com

From: [John Kliewe](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 7:11:46 AM

Hello,

Please vote against the proposal to redevelop the Glenbrook Community Center.

I have lived in Glenbrook for over 30 years and have used the community center many times, as have my children. It would be a shame to lose this property and the services it once provided.

Thank you.

--John Kliewe
391 Hope Street
Stamford CT 06906
kliewe@yahoo.com
203-559-6935

From: [Birgir Nilsen](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Cc: [Mayor's Office](#)
Subject: The Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 12:47:05 PM

To the Members of the Stamford Board of Representative and Mayor Caroline Simmons,

I am writing to give my support to keep the Glenbrook Community Center as a community center and asking for the city to support its existence.

A community center can be an important meeting place for people and a builder of strength in a neighborhood. We do not have many such places in Stamford where affordable childcare and different groups can organize and meet. We live in an increasingly virtual world and meeting places are important for any community to stay vibrant.

I understand that there is a need for affordable housing in Stamford but taking something that builds and connects the community deprives the people already living in the community.

Best regards,
Birgir Nilsen
6 Howes Ave.

From: amyf@optonline.net
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Cc: [Simmons, Caroline](#)
Subject: Keep the Glenbrook Community Center!
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 12:49:08 PM

Dear Board of Reps,

Putting a community room in an housing complex is not a Community Center. The best plan for the people of Glenbrook is to restore and reopen the Glenbrook Community Center - That is the goal I would have wanted Stamford leaders to have focused on. It is good to work toward increasing affordable housing but NOT at the expense of the people already in the area! I saw that the mayor said you'd need to write a new RFP for reopening the Glenbrook Community Center - please do it!

The Glenbrook Community Center served the people of the community. For many years the Center's programs benefited the local community, and the more reasonable costs and convenient location were important to working folks who can't afford fancier classes and programs.

For example, my daughter went to a summer day camp there. We were very grateful to have that option because we needed two incomes and couldn't afford most of the day camp/child care options in town. It was very important to me that this was my local Community Center, I would not have been comfortable if the only choice we could afford had been to send my shy 6yr old across the city to a Center in an area we didn't know.

Please vote NO on Tuesday to the proposal to sell the Glenbrook Community Center land to a developer who will build affordable housing units and a community room.

From: [Robert N. Blakeslee, Jr](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Cc: [Simmons, Caroline](#)
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 12:56:57 PM

Dear B.O.R.

In canvassing the Glenbrook area for the past week there have been some consistent residential responses concerning the Glenbrook Community Center.

They are

- 1) Please, No Condominiums or affordable housing
- 2) Currently, the streets are congested and unsafe
- 3) A community center for children, seniors, and family.
- 4) What is the current structural condition of the property 35 Crescent St?
- 5) The residents in the zip code 06906 that we spoke with were not aware that the Glenbrook Community Center was for sale (at an appraised loss of \$1,000,000.00)

From what we can surmise there is a need for a community center which is lively and traditionally functional. Again, we formally request that the city restore the G.C.C.

Concerned citizens of Glenbrook

Robert & Frosty Blakeslee

--

Bob

From: [Bill Petrov](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#); [Miller, Lindsey](#); [DiCostanzo, Monica](#)
Cc: [Simmons, Caroline](#)
Subject: Please save the GCC
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 2:12:38 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to request that you please consider saving the Glenbrook Community Center. This is a valuable community resource for Stamford children and families!

The last thing we need in Glenbrook is more affordable housing. It's already one of the most affordable areas in Stamford with a wide range of housing options, and the quality of life would decrease for existing residents with more traffic and less community resources.

Thank you,
Bill Petrov

cc: Mayor Caroline Simmons

From: [Al Forte](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Save our Glenbrook Community Center
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 3:17:17 PM

Dear Board of Representatives,

I strongly support the Save our Glenbrook Community Center initiative.



Al Forte

From: city.webmaster@stamfordct.gov
To: [Rosenson, Valerie](#)
Subject: Email contact from Stamford, CT
Date: Monday, September 5, 2022 4:59:43 PM

Message submitted from the <Stamford, CT> website.

Site Visitor Name: Matsuyama family
Site Visitor Email: Matsub@optonline.net

Please don't close the Glenbrook community center, it has served so many families in this area. There are many children that rely on this center for activities.