

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Jason Timmerman <jtimmermangfd@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:28 AM
To: Board of Representatives; Simmons, Caroline; Miller, Lindsey; DiCostanzo, Monica
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center

My name is Jason Timmerman. Although i live at 1273 Hope Street, I am a Glenbrook native. When I was growing up, the Glenbrook Community Center was where I went after school and during the summer. I learned to socialize, sing and be a team player there and as I am planning on moving back to Glenbrook with my fiance and son over the next 2 years I was praying to see the Center back up and running. I realize Jerry and his people have become hard to replace these days, but I am hoping there is a way to keep the last place left of its nature that Glenbrook has to offer.

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Sichler, Stephen
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Community center

I want the community center

Sent from my iPhone

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Mary Ann <maryannrcj219@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Fwd: Glenbrook Community Center

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

From: **Mary Ann** <maryannrcj219@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 30, 2022 at 11:49 AM
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center
To: <Bdreps@stamfprdct.gov>

Please vote to save our Glenbrook Community Center.

Thank you.

Mary Ann Tartaglia

6 Phillips Pl, Stamford, CT 06906

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Dodi li v ani lo!

An ordinary woman serving an extraordinary God.

Mary Ann

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Dodi li v ani lo!

An ordinary woman serving an extraordinary God.

Mary Ann

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Heather Carriero <hlc777@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Board of Representatives; Simmons, Caroline; Miller, Lindsey; DiCostanzo, Monica
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center

Hello All,

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this email.

I have been a life long Stamford resident, my husband and I own a house in Stamford, and my two sons attend Stamford Public Schools. I am invested in this City.

I grew up in Glenbrook and attended nursery school at the Glenbrook Community Center and also dance class in the Glenbrook Community Center. I always remember the Glenbrook Community Center as being happy place for kids to go afterschool as well.

The reason for this email is to urge you not to sell the center for housing development even if there is a certain square footage that would be designated as a community center.

1) Where will kids in that part of town and other parts of town go afterschool? Roscco (an afterschool program offered only at some schools) is not always an option for families. If we give more options to families and create a safe place for kids to go afterschool to learn something that is not academic, socialize with other kids, play and interact, then we will have better young citizens and less crime and more social emotionally balanced kids. Surrounding towns have many quality options for children to be involved in afterschool. We want the children of Stamford to have a place to go so they feel a sense of belonging, learn new things, socialize in a healthy way, and feel mental stability regardless of their homelife status. We, as a City, need to attract families to purchase dwellings in our City.

2) Where will the water supply come from? With the amount of residents in Stamford, water demand, and housing developments, will we (as a City) be able to sustain our water supply during all seasons? The summer months are the toughest historically and with more residents the water demand will be even greater.

3) It already takes me on most days to travel from my house in North Stamford to downtown Stamford about 30 minutes and sometimes more. Traveling home is longer. The roads are not in the best shape and the amount of people on the road is not safe. Adding more housing and residents will in turn create more wear and tear on our roadways, thus making driving unsafe in addition to more vehicles on the road---even if these residents travel by train for work. On the weekends, vehicles are needed to travel around Stamford. Walking is not feasible.

As a tax payer, I take issue with the amount of time traveling within my City as a result of all the housing developments the City approves annually. When will enough be enough?

I strongly urge you to see past the immediate future. This decision has long-term outcomes.

Please do not sell the Glenbrook Community Center for housing development.

Heather Corrente

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Andrew Greene <amgreene1202@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 4:55 PM
To: DiCostanzo, Monica; Miller, Lindsey; Jacobson, Jonathan; Shaw, Ramya; Pavia, Bobby; Fedeli, Mary Lisa; Simmons, Caroline; Board of Representatives
Subject: Preserve the Glenbrook Community Center!

Esteemed board members and Mayor Simmons,

I'm writing to ask that you preserve the Glenbrook Community Center and vote against converting it into affordable housing.

My wife and I spent nearly 14 years living in Glenbrook and our children participated in various activities at the GCC. It's a beautiful building that is a throwback to another time in Stamford's history. It has served as a gathering place for the community and could once again with your support and minimal investment.

To gut it and slap on affordable housing would be a disservice to the families that live in the immediate area who would have to deal with a flood of people in an already densely packed area.

The citizens of Glenbrook have already been on the losing end of zoning and development injustices. One needs to look no further than the garbage dump a stone's throw from the GCC to realize that Stamford's elected officials have not always acted in the best interests of the surrounding community.

Do we need more affordable housing? Perhaps. But that location and that building are not the place for it. Further, I'd ask that you coordinate with some of the surrounding communities to ensure the responsibility of adding low income housing is spread equitably among all of the communities of Fairfield Co, not just Stamford. Our resources, schools and infrastructure are being stretched. Maybe some of our wealthier neighbors can start doing their fair share.

Thanks,

Andrew Greene

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Sherwood, Nina
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:04 PM
To: Rosenson, Valerie
Subject: Fwd: Vote on Oct 3 on Glenbrook community center project

Dear Valerie,

Please send this email out to the full board and add to item history.

Thank you,

Nina

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: KATHRYN BARRIOS <kbarrios@aol.com>
Date: September 30, 2022 at 9:56:42 AM EDT
To: Anabel D Figueroa <hicbandc@icloud.com>, "Sherwood, Nina" <NSherwood@stamfordct.gov>
Subject: **Vote on Oct 3 on Glenbrook community center project**

Dear Anabel & Nina,

I understand that this might be difficult for both of you politically, but I hope you can understand the importance of supporting the Current Residents of Stamford on this issue. Glenbrook , like the Cove has more than its fair share of affordable housing in the city. I understand that this new project can not be limited to Stamford residents and will not only deprive Glenbrook residents of a fully functioning community center but add to parking problems and congestion in that area of town.

Honestly there are many towns and cities in this state that should have affordable housing such as Darien, Wilton, New Canaan,etc. Stamford needs to be run for its residents. Other towns at this point need to do more for affordable housing. We need to fix the streets, improve parking and traffic enforcement....

I understand there are/were alternate proposals to fix the community center for the residents.

Kathryn Barrios

Sent from my iPad

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Jane <tiernan393@optonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 9:50 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Claims of Racism by Stamford Mayor Roil Debate Over Housing, Community Center in Glenbrook — Nextdoor

From my neighborhood: https://nextdoor.com/p/RZqGrrKNKRSJ?utm_source=share&extras=Mjl1NTA5NDc%3D

Sent from my iPhone

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Paul Arvoy <ifyouseekstamford@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 10:10 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Divisive mayor

I as a tax paying resident , demand that mayor Simmons immediately publicly apologize for false characterization of Stamford residents.

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Lisa Tomas <lisa_tomas77@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 11:31 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Cc: Simmons, Caroline
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center

Dear Board of Representatives,

I am writing in support of the Glenbrook Community Center. I'm sure I won't say anything you haven't heard before, but I'm asking you to stop and listen to the countless voices fighting for the center to remain exactly what it has been. A center that serves the children of the community - those who may not have any other opportunity to connect with other kids who share common interests like sports. A center that has welcomed people struggling in the early stages of recovery, and those sustaining recovery, with open arms, encouraging them to seek support and showing them that changing your life for the better is, indeed, possible. Precious memories are made at community centers. Words of encouragement are remembered, a sense of safety is fostered and lives are enhanced through the opportunities provided. This is what communities need in order to thrive and be productive.

Stamford is known as "the city that works." The only real way a city works is when its people, communities and neighborhoods are supported. Destroying a community center destroys the very heart of a neighborhood. That kind of action is not what I would like to see from the city I have been proud to call home.

I humbly ask you all to reflect on the true nature of the job you've been elected to serve. It's not about position or power, it's about people. The people of your community and what they need to live happy, healthy and successful lives. Community centers enrich this mission; I hope you allow it to be the focus of yours.

Respectfully,
Lisa Tomas

Rosenson, Valerie

From: ab mcnichols <abmcnichols666@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 9:21 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Re: LR31.024

Please vote against the proposal to develop 35 Crescent Street into housing.

We pay Sustainable Strategies,DC over \$10,000 per month to assist Stamford in finding grant opportunities...there is plenty of money around on both the State and Federal level to help bring back the Community Center.
Boccuzzi Park. Mill River. The Old Town Hall. The Palace Theater, the beer garden in the south end...the list is long and actually one does not need to pay a DC lobbyist to seek out financial assistance. It just takes an open mind and a bit of effort.

A portion of Crescent Street is a logical location for the East Side branch of The Ferguson Library. Courtland Ave....not so much.

The Board of Finance thought selling Crescent Street to JHM was a great idea...Mr. Freedman should know. JHM purchased his Garden Cinema in Norwalk for \$3,000,000. And it was tiny in comparison. Will Crescent Street become our POKO?

"Workforce housing"...what a demeaning description. How about requiring more "workforce housing" in the thousands of new apartments that have been built and are planned in Stamford instead of destroying what was once a community center?

The mayor clearly is obsessed with getting a deal done with JHM. Why? Could it be her time in Hartford where JHM and Viking passed out cash like party favors?
She is tone-deaf and her words and actions reflect something other than a mayor who has our city's best interest in mind. And her comments about our city in Chicago? Sickening.

Please vote no on LR31.024

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Paul Arvoy <ifyouseekstamford@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 10:04 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Divisive mayor

She is a Greenwich native. She knows nothing about our diverse community here in Stamford. She should come out of her bunker and as the Stamford mayor she should actually get to know Stamford residents before she starts making claims of racism. I am a 55 year resident of Stamford. I think I know more about Stamford residents than she does.

Thank you
PaulArvoy
Stamford Ct.
203 274 3012

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Zachary Oberholtzer <obie717@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 11:48 AM
Subject: Support: Crescent Street Affordable Housing Project

Dear Board of Representatives (all members b'ccd),

I am once again writing to urge the board to revive the Crescent Street affordable housing project. Since last month's meetings none of the facts have materially changed. The choice before the board is to accept an excellent plan to build 51-units of affordable housing and some 4,000 sq ft of community space or to let the building continue to sit empty. I have always been sympathetic to the argument that the community needs places of gathering but I have at no point in this disagreement been convinced reopening the community center is a realistic option. None of the branches of city government: Mayor's office, Finance Board, or Board of Representatives have shown the slightest interest in financing renovations to the building nor financing daily operations. The option to return the community center to its pre-pandemic form does not exist in any meaningful sense.

I admit to being baffled by the controversy surrounding this project. Selling the building to a private developer to build affordable housing and community space is apparently a betrayal of the city citizens, whereas selling to a different private developer to build a daycare center and slightly more community space is good and just? In either case a publicly run and funded community center is not coming back. Changing course now additionally requires issuing a new RFP. There is no guarantee that whatever new bids come in are superior or survive the lengthy review and scrutiny of the many government offices. It is the height of hubris to throw-out an excellent plan in the hope of a perfect plan.

This entire saga is reminiscent of the West Main Street Bridge debacle which through neglect has been allowed to decay into the river. Rather than select a good plan or even a bad plan to replace the bridge the board decided to do nothing. I think a similar fate awaits the community center following a "no" vote. It will sit empty when it could be filled with families and be a space for community gatherings. I cannot see how an empty building is the superior outcome.

I have made additional comments on the Crescent Street Project in the Stamford Advocate which you can read [here](#). I am willing to expand on my comments if you would like to reach out. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Zachary Oberholtzer

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Paul Arvoy <ifyouseekstamford@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 9:37 AM
To: Board of Representatives
Subject: Reject the mayors divisiveness

Claims of Racism by Stamford Mayor Roil Debate Over Housing, Community Center in Glenbrook - The Connecticut Examiner

The desperate mayor is going down the rabbit whole. For crying racism she should be removed. I probably know 90% of the residents that attended the Glenbrook rally and I can guarantee that not one person there has a racist bone in their body and the claims of racist comments is totally false. Make her prove this false statement to the public. This is not racism and is very dangerous way to govern. We should sue her for false claims. It's usually the people crying racism that are the ones who are racist. As the mayor she is creating animosity and divisiveness. This is the Democrats playbook. It's a shame that that she is saying this out loud and she is acting like a disrupter because this narrative is far from the truth and I would debate that with her any day. If anything she should look in the mirror before she starts accusing people of being racist. I am not claiming she's racist but I guarantee you I had a mega diverse childhood compared to her. I also believe that she doesn't have the gaul to make this statement. It's the desperate people behind her. Throwing stones at glass houses and they also realize that they do not have true support. Do not back down and let's make her explain this. It also calls for a letter to the editor. We do not do this here. Reject this administrations bullying tactics because they are false and we must call her out on this. The administration is choosing to use lies to pass policies. This is a huge conflict of interest. I expect our representatives to see through this false claim and deny the mayor because she is using such immature, low tactics. Thanks for listening.

<https://ctexaminer.com/2022/10/01/claims-of-racism-by-stamford-mayor-roil-debate-over-housing-community-center-in-glenbrook/>

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Evelyn Simpson <echsimp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 2, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Board of Representatives
Cc: Simmons, Caroline; rfreeman@stamfordct.gov
Subject: Glenbrook Community Center

Dear Board of Representatives:

I am under the assumption that the BOR is set up, in part, to help constituents in a given district have a voice in situations that have a large impact on their communities.

Unfortunately, with respect to the Glenbrook Community Center, this does not appear to be the case. Not only have many of the local reps been silent on this issue, but it does not appear that much due diligence has been done by the Board. There are so many questions that need to be answered that the sale of the building to a developer should be rejected.

A. Financial. The Mayor has been talking about a \$23 million price tag. At the recent GNA meeting a \$5 million renovation price tag was mentioned, and in a recent article someone who is familiar with the Center mentioned a price tag of less than two million dollars. Has anyone investigated the disparity in these numbers? And if the City is willing to spend \$2.5 million on a beer garden, why cannot it spend less than two million renovating a community center?

B. Traffic and Parking. Has a traffic and parking study been done to look at the traffic impact of an additional 60+ vehicles in an already-congested section of Glenbrook? As for the parking, there are 44 one and two-bedroom apartments. If at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people have two cars, there is a need for a minimum of 73 parking spots. What about overflow parking when residents have friends and family over?

C. Infrastructure. Have there been any studies as to how this new development will affect the electrical grid? What about sewerage, emergency services and schools? Recently there have been several new apartment buildings in the area, so there is already more pressure on the infrastructure and traffic.

D. Lack of community space. The developer changed the specs last-minute to increase the amount of community space. However, a pre-school, a possible day-care center, and meeting and activity rooms will require more than 3,000 square feet. And will there be space for a playground for any of the children in the building? We can see that there will be little or no parking for community members who want to use the facility.

E. Ramifications. Has anyone looked at the precedent set by this development? Is a densely packed, four-story structure without sufficient parking becoming the norm in residential communities? I have heard that the church property on Hope and Howes is up for sale. Is this the type of development we can expect for this large property? Also, what happens if the developer decides to sell? Lately we have seen building purchases after which the new owners raise the rents.

F. Post-Covid considerations. From what I have read, the original RFP was presented during Covid and included a commitment for affordable housing units. Did anyone try to expand the RFP search post-Covid and exclude the housing commitment? The Glenbrook Community Center is a unique structure in Stamford and was, and should continue to be, the heart of the community.

It will be a devastating loss for the community and for the city if it is destroyed for the sake of an apartment building. This is not an opposition to affordable housing; this

is an opposition to the destruction of the Community Center. If the City were to expend as much effort in revitalizing the center as it is in destroying it, the Center would be a valued and thriving place for all.

And for the record, the Glenbrook community is not a hot-bed of racism nor full of abhorrent residents. The community is only trying to keep the 50-year tradition of the Community Center alive and continuing for future generations of Glenbrook residents. It is a sad commentary when city officials place the enrichment of wealthy developers over the best interests and quality of life of the residents whom they are supposed to represent.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Simpson