

From: [Rosenson, Valerie](#)
To: [BOR_AllReps](#)
Subject: FW: GNA Letter - False Claims ?
Date: Tuesday, September 06, 2022 2:47:11 PM
Attachments: [OutlookEmoji-16439966246678b1d9aa1-c3e7-47cb-8434-6835e22ae1eb.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

Please see the email below from Rep. Bewkes

From: Bewkes, Bradley <BBewkes@StamfordCT.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 12:58 PM
To: Rosenson, Valerie <VRosenson@StamfordCT.gov>
Cc: Fedeli, Mary Lisa <MFedeli@StamfordCT.gov>; David Watkins <David@watkins44.com>; Watkins, David <DWatkins1@StamfordCT.gov>; Garst, Stephen <SGarst@StamfordCT.gov>
Subject: Fw: GNA Letter - False Claims ?

Hi Valerie,

Can you please distribute this communication from our Republican BOF members to the entire BOR?

Best,
Bradley



Bradley M M Bewkes

[Representative, District 1](#)
[Stamford, CT](#)

Chair, Land Use Committee
Co-Chair, Charter Revision Committee
Member, Steering, Appointments &
Parks and Recreation Committees
Deputy Minority Leader
Parliamentarian
(203)529-1273

From: Mahoney, Dennis
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 11:49 AM
To: McMullen, John; Fedeli, Mary Lisa; Bewkes, Bradley

Subject: Re: GNA Letter - False Claims ?

Hi Mary and Bradley. Generally I agree with JR's summary. I do not recall the BOF discussing and concluding what the Mayor's office has asserted.

Dennis

From: J. R. McMullen <jrmcmullen.stamfordbof@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 11:24:16 AM

To: Fedeli, Mary Lisa; Bewkes, Bradley

Cc: Mahoney, Dennis

Subject: Fwd: GNA Letter - False Claims ?

Hi Mary and Bradley,

I am concerned that the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association (GNA) is relying on a position never discussed, much less taken, by the Board of Finance to lend its support to Caroline Simmon's plan for the Glenbrook Community Center at 35 Crescent Street.

In the attached letter from the GNA to the Board of Representatives there is an assertion "the Board of Finance has made it clear that they will not support the development of a community center at 35 Crescent Street". The Board of Finance has never taken that position. As a review of our meeting minutes and the videos will bear out, the Board of Finance was never presented with that option. If a member of the Board of Finance has made that representation to the GNA without a full discussion, even if the entire Democrat Causes, is against the community center, they have overstepped. That approach would be a violation of the intent of Connecticut's sunshine laws, if not an actual violation of FOIA. One would assume that any position taken by the Board on a community center would depend on the business plan, the funding sources, and the level of community support.

I sent the attached note to my fellow Board of Finance members expressing my concern shortly after I saw the letter from Ms. Metz.

Please feel free to share my concern with members of your board.

Thanks. J.R.

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

From: **J. R. McMullen** <jrmcmullen.stamfordbof@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 1, 2022 at 11:13 PM

Subject: GNA Letter - False Claims ?

To: Donoghue, Tracy <TDonoghue@stamfordct.gov>, Geoff Alswanger

<GAlswanger@stamfordct.gov>, Mahoney, Dennis <DMahoney@stamfordct.gov>, Marylou

Rinaldi <MRinaldi@stamfordct.gov>, Richard Freedman <RFreedman@stamfordct.gov>

Hi everyone,

Apparently there is a letter from the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association that claims the Mayor shared the following with them: "the Board of Finance has made it clear that they will not support the development of a community center at 35 Crescent Street." As far as I know, the Board of Finance has never discussed this option of developing the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association as a Community Center. The only option that was ever presented to the Board of Finance, both recently and in 4Q20, was some form of affordable housing.

If anyone on the Board of Finance has made such a representation, without the requisite discussion by the Board, then they have overstepped... even if the majority caucus is in agreement.

I am not accusing anyone on our board. I do think it is important that the claim be refuted.

I have already expressed my concern with the credibility of the GNA. It is absurd to believe a mixed response from 14 of members of the GNA tells the Board anything meaningful about the opinion of the over 8,000 registered voters in Districts 7, 15, and 12.

Here is a copy of the letter:



Representative Jeff Curtis
President, Board of Representatives
888 Washington Blvd. 4th Floor
Stamford, CT 06901

September 1, 2022

Dear Representative Curtis:

At approximately 6 pm on August 22nd I was informed by a GNA Board member that Representative Nina Sherwood had posted an email on the BoR website containing information regarding two (2) new proposals to maintain 35 Crescent Street as a community center. The Board member requested that the Board be notified concerning this information. As GNA President I was scheduled to speak the following evening in support of the proposal for mixed-income workforce housing. To ensure that this was still the Board's position, I forwarded a link to Representative Sherwood's email posting. The majority of the Board members wanted more time to explore the new proposals and we notified our membership via an email blast about the changing circumstances. On August 23rd I spoke as a private citizen in support of mixed-income workforce housing. Other Board members spoke in opposition.

Since August 22nd Board members have done their own individual research, and the proposals Representative Sherwood posted did not seem viable to many of them. The officers of the Board met with Mayor Simmons and her staff for updated information, and we learned that the Mayor's office also deemed these proposals not to be viable from a legal, fiscal, or operational standpoint.

The majority of the GNA Board once more supports 51 mixed-income workforce housing units for 35 Crescent Street. Concerns regarding community space have been alleviated by the developer informing us that 4300sq. feet of space would be available for the community's use; the renovation of the former building is to include twelve (12) apartments and the community space administered by the onsite management company; new tax revenue of approximately \$100,000, a year for the city; the fact that about 1822 current city employees meet the income criteria for the housing; that the second building will be built on stilts to provide adequate parking; the new residents should provide an economic boost to our local small businesses; and lastly that the Board of Finance has made it clear that they will not support the development of a community center at 35 Crescent Street.

We will be informing our members of this decision and we ask the Board of Representatives to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Marie F. Metz, President

GLENBROOK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • WWW.GLENBROOKASSN.COM
PO Box 2352, Stamford, CT 06906