

35 Crescent Street Proposal – Mayor’s Office Response to Community Inquiries

Inquiries	Response
<p>1. The Glenbrook Community Center can be easily restored to a community center.</p>	<p>No, it cannot be. Community centers are expensive organizations to run and require significant funding from the City to operate.</p> <p>In fact, the GCC originated as a school and was repurposed into a community center because that use aligned with community need. We now have the opportunity to repurpose the space again to meet the current community need for affordable housing.</p>
<p>2. The majority of Glenbrook residents are in favor of restoring the Glenbrook Community Center to a community center.</p>	<p>Many residents were prompted to write letters and sign petitions in support of saving the community center, we don’t believe they represent the general sentiment of the community. The decision before the three city boards (Planning, Board of Finance & Board of Reps) was not a choice between restoring the building to a community center and an affordable housing initiative. It is a decision to vote to approve a thoroughly vetted housing plan that retains the historic façade of the building.</p> <p>Letters received assumed that GCC was still in operation. Others shared feeling of loss associated with the dissolution of the community center, but did not articulate a current need for its use.</p>
<p>3. The Glenbrook Community Center was closed due to COVID.</p>	<p>No. The GCC was closed in 2018 before the start of the pandemic. The facility closed due to financial challenges faced by the operator.</p>
<p>4. Mayor Simmons and her administration strong-armed the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association to change its position to support the development of housing on the site.</p>	<p>The leadership of the Glenbrook Neighborhood Association (GNA) met with the Mayor to clarify questions they had about the proposal. Once the GNA understood the facts as laid out by the Mayor, they continued to be in support of the proposal.</p>
<p>5. The City has neglected the building and that is why the GCC is now shuttered.</p>	<p>The former operator of the GCC was responsible for the maintenance and repair of the building. After the operator departed in 2018, the City assumed operations and paid significant outstanding bills that were in arrears.</p>

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6. The services that used to be provided at the GCC are no longer provided in the community.	The services that used to be provided (daycare services, yoga, Zumba, AA meetings, Irish dancing classes) are still being offered to the community in close proximity to the GCC.
7. Building affordable housing in this lower income neighborhood promotes economic segregation.	False. While the Glenbrook area is not the most affluent area in Stamford, it is far from the least affluent area. The Administration is hoping to identify affordable housing opportunities throughout the city.
8. Adding 51 apartments will do little to address the overall need for affordable housing.	While more units are needed, this project is an important step as it will add to the urgently needed affordable housing stock.
9. The rental price for these below-market-rate apartments is too high for many people to afford.	The rental pricing of these apartments is based on the market value of the Glenbrook area. The proposed rents are consistent with the rents currently being charged for apartments. Some areas are simply more expensive to live in than other areas.
10. The community will not have access to the “community space.”	<p>There will be a total of 4,300 sq.ft. available for community space (1,300 for resident space and \$3,000 for community space).</p> <p>Community space will be reserved and coordinated through a management company, which will also be responsible for the property management and oversight of the residential apartments.</p> <p>Space will be available on a first come, first serve basis.</p>