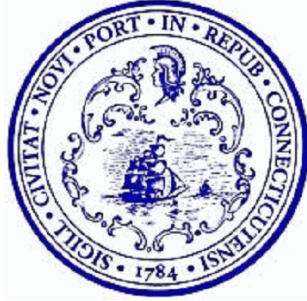


City of New Haven

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New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 946-6483 (phone)
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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed of Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chambers

Legislation Committee

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The Legislation Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor; New Haven, CT to hear and act on the following items:

- 1) [LM-2026-0273](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR ACTING ASSESSOR ALEXZANDER PULLEN.
- 2) [LM-2026-0274](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID ZANNELLI.
- 3) [LM-2026-0275](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND RECREATION DR. GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS.
- 4) [LM-2026-0276](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR THE CITY CONTROLLER MICHAEL GORMANY.
- 5) [LM-2026-0277](#) ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR THE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF BUILDING INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT ROBERT DILLON.
- 6) [LM-2026-0285](#) ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY TWELVE (12) MONTH MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.
- 7) [OR-2026-0019](#) ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS TO THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 32 - ENFORCEMENT BY CIVIL OFFICERS, CREATING A UNIFORM PROCESS FOR CIVIL CITATION ENFORCEMENT.
- 8) [OR-2026-0020](#) ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS TO VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, UPDATING ALL EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL CITATION ENFORCEMENT.

Per Order: Hon. Richard Furlow, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of Legislative Services, City Hall, 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Legislation Committee

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 | 6:00 pm

New Haven City Hall, Aldermanic Chamber

Alder Richard Furlow, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present were Alders Richard Furlow, Chair; Jeanette L. Morrison, Vice-Chair; Adam J. Marchand; Carmen Rodriguez; Amy Marx; and Elias Theodore.

Non-committee members in attendance were Alders Angel Hubbard.

1. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR ACTING ASSESSOR ALEXZANDER PULLEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

Sean Matteson, Chief of Staff,
Justin McCarthy, Chief Administrative Officer,
Susan Baldwin, Personnel Director, and
Alexzander Pullen, Acting Tax Assessor

Alder Furlow invited Alexander Pullin to come forward and asked whether a representative of the administration would accompany the applicant. Alder Furlow noted that the residency exemption applications originated through the Personnel Department and the Mayor's Office and requested that city staff sit with the applicant during the committee's review.

Before beginning, Alder Furlow reminded committee members that their questions should be limited to the criteria established in the applicable ordinance. Questions considered excessively personal would be stopped. Should the committee determine that such information was necessary, the matter would need to be discussed in executive session.

Alexander Pullin, 6 Pequot Avenue, North Haven, Connecticut, appeared before the committee seeking an exception to the city's resident elector requirement for the position of City Assessor.

Mr. Pullin stated that he was born and raised in New Haven and lived in the city until purchasing his home at age 25. He expressed his commitment to working for the community in which he was raised and stated that his responsibilities allowed him to promote fairness and equity in the assessment process.

Mr. Pullin stated that he had been employed by the city since 2006 and had spent his entire 20-year city career in the Assessor's Office. During that time, he advanced through the office and obtained the Connecticut Certified Municipal Assessor II designation, commonly referred to as

CCMA II. He explained that state law requires an assessor to hold a CCMA I or CCMA II designation to sign the city's grand list.

Mr. Pullin stated that in 2011, during a municipal revaluation, the assessor vacated the position, and he assumed the responsibilities of Acting Assessor. Although the city advertised the position, it was not filled. Research conducted by the administration indicated that only one person holding the required certification currently resided in New Haven, and that individual was already employed in the Assessor's Office as Mr. Pullin's assistant.

Mr. Pullin explained that he had continued serving as Acting Assessor for approximately 15 years pursuant to an agreement with the applicable labor union. He noted that his former position as Deputy Assessor already required him to perform the assessor's duties in the assessor's absence.

Mr. Pullin requested the residency exception based on the financial hardship that would result from obtaining a residence in New Haven while continuing to own his home in North Haven. He stated that he had owned the North Haven property since 2008 and that it had been in his family for three generations. He did not wish to sell the home because of its family history and the memories associated with his late grandfather.

Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Pullin for his testimony and asked the city representatives accompanying him to introduce themselves. Susan Baldwin identified herself as the city's Personnel Director. Justin McCarthy, Chief Administrative Officer, and Sean Matteson, Chief of Staff, also introduced themselves as representatives of the administration.

Alder Marchand thanked Mr. Pullin for his service and requested additional information regarding the CCMA designation and the qualifications required for the assessor position.

Mr. Pullin explained that CCMA stood for Connecticut Certified Municipal Assessor and that the certification was required by state statute for an assessor to sign a municipal grand list. He stated that the certification had two levels.

Mr. Pullin described the certification process as requiring several years of coursework through assessor-training programs, including the annual UConn Assessor School, followed by examinations for each certification level. Once certified, an assessor must renew the designation every five years and complete continuing education requirements through courses, seminars, and professional symposiums.

Alder Marchand asked the Personnel Director when the city had last conducted a recruitment process for the assessor position and how the administration determined that only one qualified individual resided in New Haven.

The Personnel Director stated that a directory of certified municipal assessors is available. She reviewed that directory and cross-referenced the listed information to determine that only one person with the necessary certification currently lived in New Haven. The administration stated

that the city last actively recruited for the position in approximately 2012.

Alder Marchand asked whether the city could hire an assessor who had not yet completed the CCMA certification process. Mr. Pullin explained that a municipality could appoint someone who was still pursuing certification, but that person could not sign the grand list until the required designation was obtained. In that circumstance, the city would need to arrange for a certified assessor from another municipality to sign the grand list.

Mr. Matteson further explained that Connecticut was experiencing a shortage of fully certified municipal assessors. As a result, several municipalities shared assessors who worked part-time in two or more communities. The administration stated that such an arrangement would be difficult for New Haven because of the size of the city, the volume of assessment work, and the need for a full-time assessor.

Alder Furlow reminded committee members that the Mayor's Office had provided a packet containing a separate letter for each applicant. Each letter described the applicant's stated reason for requesting an exception from the residency requirement.

Alder Marx thanked Mr. Pullin for his service and qualifications. The committee should ensure that it followed the process established in the ordinance. Having heard testimony regarding Mr. Pullin's qualifications and claimed hardship, the member requested additional information from the administration regarding the recruitment process required by the ordinance.

Mr. Matteson stated that Mr. Pullin had served successfully in the assessor's capacity for an extended period and the position was particularly difficult to fill. Alder Furlow clarified that the applicable ordinance permits the Personnel Director to determine whether a recruitment process is necessary, particularly when the appointment involves the promotion of an existing city employee.

Alder Theodore thanked Mr. Pullin for his long service and asked whether residing outside New Haven affected his ability to perform his duties or understand the needs and conditions of the community.

Mr. Pullin stated that his residence outside the city did not hinder his performance. He reiterated that he was born and raised in New Haven and his parents and grandmother continued to reside in the city. He stated that he lived near Interstate 91's Exit 9 and could travel to work in approximately seven minutes. His second job was also located in New Haven, and he spent a substantial portion of his time in the city.

Mr. Pullin stated that his lifelong familiarity with New Haven's streets and neighborhoods provided knowledge that a newly hired resident might not immediately possess. He emphasized that he understood the city's neighborhoods and local conditions and considered his experience and community connection to be assets to the Assessor's Office.

There being no further questions, Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Pullin and concluded the committee's

consideration of his application.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Morrison moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

2. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID ZANNELLI.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No public testimony. Mayor submitted a letter formally requesting the withdrawal of this exception for Police Chief Zannelli.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Morrison moved to give item # 2 leave to withdraw, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of giving the item leave to withdraw. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item was given leave to withdraw.

3. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND RECREATION DR. GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

Sean Matteson, Chief of Staff,
Justin McCarthy, Chief Administrative Officer,
Susan Baldwin, Personnel Director, and
Dr. Gwendolyn Williams

Alder Furlow called Item 3 and invited the Director of Youth and Recreation, Dr. Gwendolyn Williams to come forward.

Dr. Gwendolyn B. Williams, 19 Artisan Street, New Haven, introduced herself for the record and appeared before the committee concerning her request for an exception to the city's resident-electoral requirement for the position of Director of Youth and Recreation.

Dr. Williams stated that she had been employed by the city since 2007. Before beginning her city

employment, she had resided in an apartment on Artisan Street in New Haven. During her search for a permanent home, she was unable to locate a property within the city that was within her financial means. She ultimately purchased a home outside the city located next door to her sister and near their parents.

Dr. Williams explained that the location of the home became particularly important as she and her sister assisted their parents. Her father later died following a battle with Alzheimer's Disease, and she currently helped care for her 87-year-old mother. Dr. Williams stated that she contributed toward her mother's household expenses, medication, and full-time caregiving so her mother could remain in her own home.

Dr. Williams stated that after purchasing her home, she married, and her husband relocated from New York to live with her. They continued to reside in the same home.

Dr. Williams described her career progression within the city. She began working with the Youth at Work program and continued as the department evolved into the Youth Services Department and later the Youth and Recreation Department. She noted that the department had undergone several reorganizations, including a period when Parks was included within the department before becoming a separate operation.

Dr. Williams stated that she had been involved in the department's development from its early stages and had advanced through several positions. She described her appointment as Director of Youth and Recreation as a significant professional achievement and the culmination of nearly 19 years of service to New Haven's young people.

Dr. Williams emphasized her dedication to the city and its youth. She stated that she had worked weekends and responded to emergencies at all hours. She expressed a strong commitment to the children and families served by the department.

Dr. Williams also discussed her responsibilities to her marriage and family. She noted that the date of the hearing was her fourteenth wedding anniversary but that she appeared before the committee because she understood the importance of the residency exception process.

Before accepting the director position, Dr. Williams discussed the residency requirement with her husband and family. Her husband was unwilling to sell their home because of the time and financial resources they had invested in it. Dr. Williams stated that she understood his position, particularly given the current housing market, mortgage interest rates, and the difficulty of purchasing a comparable home within their means.

Dr. Williams stated that she had been paying the mortgage on the home since approximately 2004 and expected it to be fully paid within approximately five years. Her husband had retired at age 55 and did not plan to return to work. She stated that selling the home and taking on a new mortgage of approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000 would not be financially sustainable based on their household income.

Dr. Williams explained that she did not attempt to avoid the residency requirement and understood the conditions associated with accepting the director's position. To comply, she obtained an apartment in New Haven and divided her time between the apartment and the family home.

Dr. Williams stated that maintaining two residences created a significant financial burden. In addition to the costs of the apartment and family home, she had substantial financial responsibilities associated with caring for her elderly mother. She and her sister shared those responsibilities because they were their mother's only two daughters.

Dr. Williams continued her testimony by discussing her responsibilities to her three non-biological sons. She stated that her parental responsibilities would remain throughout her life and that she was proud to continue supporting her children when they are in need. She also described her close relationship with her grandson and her commitment to providing him with positive opportunities and support.

Dr. Williams reiterated that maintaining two residences, assisting her elderly mother, and supporting her children and grandson created a substantial financial burden. Despite those obligations, she expressed her continued love for her position and for serving New Haven's young people. She stated that the department's work sometimes successfully changed the direction of a young person's life, although not every effort produced the desired result.

Dr. Williams stated that she believed she was meant to perform this work and would not change the course of her career. She respectfully asked the committee to approve her petition for a residency exception. She stated that she would be deeply grateful if the request were approved but would continue to perform her duties with excellence even if the committee denied the request.

Dr. Williams invited questions from the committee members but requested that any detailed discussion concerning her personal finances occur in executive session rather than in public.

Alder Marchand thanked Dr. Williams for her testimony and service to New Haven's youth. Alder Marchand asked the Personnel Director when the city had last conducted a search for the Director of Youth and Recreation position and what information had resulted from that recruitment process.

Ms. Baldwin stated that she did not immediately recall the date of the most recent search. Dr. Williams explained that the position became available after the prior director was placed on leave during an investigation. At that time, Dr. Williams was serving as the department's business manager and assumed responsibility for the department's operations for approximately one and one-half years.

Dr. Williams stated that the position was not, to her knowledge, opened through a public recruitment process because she had already been performing the director's duties on an informal acting basis. She stated that the mayor later offered her the permanent position based

on her performance.

Dr. Williams described that period as a difficult time for the department. She stated that she, Elderly Services Director Tomi Veal, and another staff member continued operating the department and providing its programs without interruption despite internal challenges. She credited the group's collaborative efforts for maintaining the department's services.

Alder Marchand clarified that the last broad recruitment involving multiple outside candidates may therefore have occurred when Dr. Williams's predecessor was selected. Dr. Williams agreed that this was likely correct.

Alder Theodore thanked Dr. Williams for her long service and confirmed that, while serving as director, she had rented an apartment in New Haven and divided her time between that residence and her family home. Dr. Williams confirmed that was correct.

Alder Theodore asked whether residing in New Haven on a part-time basis had increased her connection to the community or improved her ability to perform her duties.

Dr. Williams responded that she had always been deeply connected to New Haven and that renting an apartment in the city did not create a new relationship with the community. She stated that her education, church activities, family relationships, social life, and professional career had consistently centered on New Haven.

Dr. Williams noted that her parents had lived on Hallock Street and that other relatives lived in the Hill neighborhood, where she had spent considerable time throughout her life. She stated that she had longstanding relationships in the community and was familiar with the city's neighborhoods, residents, and concerns. She described New Haven as a second home and stated that she remained closely connected to the city's needs and activities.

There being no further questions, Alder Furlow thanked Dr. Williams and concluded the committee's consideration of her application. Dr. Williams thanked the committee and was excused.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Morrison moved item # 3, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

4. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR THE CITY CONTROLLER MICHAEL GORMANY.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

Sean Matteson, Chief of Staff,
Justin McCarthy, Chief Administrative Officer,
Susan Baldwin, Personnel Director, and
Michael Gormany, City Controller

The Chair then called the next applicant, City Comptroller Michael Gormany, to come forward.

Michael Gormany appeared before the committee seeking an exception to the city's resident elector requirement for the position of City Controller.

Mr. Gormany thanked the committee for considering his request. He stated that his employment with the city began in 1999, when he served as a high school intern. He became a full-time employee in the Finance Department in 2004 and advanced through several positions during his city career.

Mr. Gormany stated that he remained employed by New Haven until 2024, when he accepted a position with the City of West Haven. He returned to New Haven employment several months before this hearing and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to return.

Mr. Gormany described his longstanding relationships within the New Haven community and his involvement in developing municipal programs. He cited his work with Alder Morrison during the development of the Q House and his collaboration with Dr. Gwendolyn Williams on youth programs. He stated that he had family members living in New Haven and continued to spend substantial time in the city.

Mr. Gormany stated that he and his family moved to Branford in 2004 and had resided there for approximately 22 years. His family did not intend to sell its home. He explained that the cost of maintaining a second residence in New Haven would create an economic hardship, particularly because the household included a teenager preparing to enter high school.

Mr. Gormany expressed his commitment to serving New Haven residents. He stated that after becoming Budget Director in 2017, he maintained an open-door policy and regularly spoke with residents about the city's finances.

Mr. Gormany explained that from approximately 2020 through 2024, he performed several functions, including those of Budget Director, Acting Controller, and, for a period, Purchasing Agent. He stated that his qualifications and experience supported his appointment as City Controller.

Mr. Gormany also addressed the difficulty of recruiting qualified candidates for the Controller position. Between 2020 and early 2024, the city reportedly received approximately 30 applications. Fifteen applicants were determined to be qualified, but only one qualified applicant was a New Haven resident. That individual was ultimately hired.

Mr. Gormany stated that the limited number of qualified resident applicants demonstrated the specialized nature of the position and the challenges created by the residency requirement. He emphasized that although he did not live within New Haven, he remained committed to having a positive impact on the community. He stated that his residential zip code did not determine his dedication to the city or his desire to support its residents.

Mr. Gormany respectfully requested that the committee approve his residency exception and invited questions.

Alder Theodore asked for clarification regarding the recruitment history. Whether the City Controller position became vacant in 2020, remained subject to a four-year search, and was eventually filled by an individual who served for approximately four years.

Mr. Gormany clarified that the prior Controller resigned in early 2020 during the transition between mayoral administrations. Mr. Gormany was then appointed Acting Controller while continuing to perform the duties of Budget Director.

He stated that the city conducted an ongoing recruitment process until a candidate was hired in January 2024. Mr. Gormany participated in the interview process and stated that the city did not receive many qualified applications. Some applicants reportedly identified the residency requirement as an obstacle to accepting the position.

Mr. Gormany explained that the city eventually hired a qualified New Haven resident who was transitioning between positions and applied for the vacancy. The committee confirmed that the individual later left the Controller position.

The administration stated that it did not conduct another comprehensive public search after that departure. Instead, Mr. Gormany was contacted and asked to return to the city.

There being no further questions, Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Gormany and concluded the committee's consideration of his application.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Morrison moved item # 4, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

5. ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR AN EXCEPTION TO THE CITY CHARTER REQUIREMENT CONCERNING RESIDENT ELECTOR STATUS FOR THE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF BUILDING INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT ROBERT DILLON.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

Sean Matteson, Chief of Staff,
Justin McCarthy, Chief Administrative Officer,
Susan Baldwin, Personnel Director, and
Robert Dillon, Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement

Alder Furlow called the Director of the Office of Building Inspection and Enforcement, Robert Dillon, to come forward.

Robert Dillon, 632 Woodward Avenue, New Haven, appeared before the committee and thanked the members for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Dillon stated that his professional career in New Haven began several decades earlier in the construction industry, where he worked as a general superintendent. He described working on numerous construction projects in New Haven, including projects on High Street and Wall Street, at Yale Law School, and near Ingalls Rink and Prospect Street.

Approximately nine years before the hearing, Mr. Dillon joined the City's Building Department as Chief Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector. He stated that he was appointed to that position by Mayor Harp.

After the former building official announced his retirement approximately three and one-half years earlier, Mr. Dillon applied for the position of Building Official. He stated that he was aware of the city's residency requirements when he accepted the position.

Mr. Dillon explained that he owned property on Woodward Avenue in New Haven and moved into one of the apartments located at that property to comply with the requirement. He also continued to own a home in North Haven, where his son and daughter resided.

Mr. Dillon stated that approximately one year earlier, his daughter was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis and died in November. His son continued to reside alone in the North Haven home. Mr. Dillon explained that due to his family circumstances, along with the financial burden of maintaining separate residences, formed the basis of his request.

Mr. Dillon expressed his commitment to serving New Haven and stated that his North Haven home was approximately three and one-half miles outside the city. He did not believe that residing there would affect his ability to fulfill his job responsibilities.

Mr. Dillon stated that he regularly worked outside normal business hours and coordinated with the Livable City Initiative, Police Department, Fire Department, contractors, and neighborhood communities. He asked the committee to consider his personal circumstances, financial hardship, experience, and continued dedication to the city.

Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Dillon and invited questions from the committee.

Alder Furlow questioned the difficulty of filling vacancies within the Office of Building Inspection and Enforcement. Personnel Director Susan Baldwin and Mr. Dillon stated that the department currently has four vacant positions and that obtaining the required state certifications involved extensive testing and training.

Mr. Dillon stated that despite his promotion to director, he continued to perform many of the duties associated with his former position as Chief Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector because the city had not been able to hire a replacement. He explained that he performed both roles daily and delegated responsibilities when possible. Given the limited pool of certified candidates, he stated that the vacancy could remain open for an extended period.

Alder Theodore asked whether the city was continuing to recruit for Mr. Dillon's former position. Mr. Dillon confirmed that the search remained active. Alder Theodore also confirmed that the inspector position itself was not subject to the same residency requirement.

Mr. Matteson noted that building inspectors, like municipal assessors, were difficult to recruit statewide. Some municipalities employed inspectors on a part-time basis or shared certified personnel with other communities.

Mr. Dillon emphasized that he loved his work and that no two workdays were the same. He clarified that his comments concerning staffing and workload were intended to provide context and were not complaints about his position.

There being no further questions, Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Dillon and concluded the committee's consideration of his application.

Alder Furlow asked whether any members of the public wished to testify concerning any of the applicants who had appeared before the committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Morrison moved item # 5, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL RESIDENT ELECTOR EXCEPTIONS

David Agosta, of 451 Orange Street, testified regarding the city's resident elector requirement and the pending applications. Mr. Agosta raised concerns about the civil rights and employment discrimination implications of granting residency exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Agosta stated that a discretionary process could create unequal outcomes and establish a precedent that might expose the city to future discrimination claims. He urged the committee to apply the policy consistently and make an "all or none" decision rather than approving some

applications and denying others.

Mr. Agosta further stated that when the government restricts an individual's rights, it should have a compelling reason for doing so. In his view, the current process placed the burden on employees to explain why the residency restriction should not apply to them, rather than requiring the city to demonstrate why the restriction was necessary.

He cautioned that approving exceptions for some applicants while denying similarly situated applicants could create legal concerns, particularly if the decisions appeared to produce unequal outcomes based on race or other protected characteristics.

Mr. Agosta also questioned whether the city had a moral or ethical right to require an employee's spouse, children, elderly relatives, or disabled family members to change their lives because of the employee's job. He cited examples involving children being forced to change schools, family members losing access to an established caregiver, and spouses experiencing longer commutes.

Mr. Agosta stated that although the city might have the legal authority to impose the residency requirement, it should also consider whether doing so was consistent with New Haven's stated commitments to equality and civil rights. He urged the committee to approve all the pending residency exception applications.

There being no questions from committee members, Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Agosta for his testimony and asked whether anyone else wished to testify concerning the applicants.

No one else from the public wished to testify.

6. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY TWELVE (12) MONTH MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters:

Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator;
Laura Brown, Director of City Plan; and
Dean Mack, Deputy Director of Economic Development

Director Brown expressed concern regarding the potential environmental and land-use impacts of large-scale data centers and supported further study of the issue. A temporary moratorium could be a prudent approach while the city evaluated the effects of such facilities.

Dean Mack introduced himself as the Deputy Director of Economic Development.

Director Brown explained that large-scale data centers have expanded partly because of the increased use of artificial intelligence and the substantial data-processing capacity required to support it. Such facilities may consume significant amounts of electricity and water, produce considerable heat, and occupy large areas of land. The city should investigate these potential impacts more fully before permitting additional large-scale data centers.

Dr. Brown noted that the New Haven Zoning Ordinance already contains a definition of “data center,” which was added when the Board of Alders adopted the Long Wharf Mixed-Use District. Data centers are currently prohibited in residential and commercial zoning districts but are permitted as of right in industrial districts.

Dr. Brown advised that the proposed moratorium should be returned to the City Plan Commission for a public hearing. The matter had previously been presented to the City Plan Commission as a referral and discussion item rather than as a noticed public hearing because the proposal was not formally structured as a zoning ordinance amendment, although it had clear zoning implications. Dr. Brown referred to prior moratoria, including a development moratorium involving Long Wharf, for which a public hearing had been held.

Director Piscitelli thanked the alders for identifying a potential gap in the city’s regulatory framework. City staff proposed a friendly amendment intended to focus the moratorium on large-scale, stand-alone data centers rather than smaller data-processing uses that are customary and incidental to an existing business.

CONTINUED...

Minutes Continued

Director Piscitelli cited Assa Abloy's use of digital technology in connection with its manufacturing operations and the quantum-computing facilities associated with the state's innovation-cluster initiative as examples of uses that the proposed moratorium was not intended to prohibit. He stated that the amendment would clarify the distinction between those incidental technological uses and the large data centers being developed elsewhere in the country.

Director Piscitelli further stated that referring the proposal to the City Plan Commission for a public hearing would not necessarily delay the Board of Alders' legislative schedule. The Legislation Committee and the City Plan Commission could consider the matter in either order because the two reviews did not need to occur sequentially.

Alder Theodore asked how many data centers currently operated in New Haven and whether the administration was aware of any companies seeking to establish a large-scale data center in the City.

Director Piscitelli stated that the administration was not aware of a specific pending proposal for a large-scale data center. Data-processing facilities currently operating in the city were generally incidental to existing manufacturing, commercial, or institutional uses. Nevertheless, he noted that substantial national investment in artificial intelligence and related technologies had led to the development of large data centers in other communities.

Director Piscitelli referenced reports concerning communities where data centers placed significant demands on groundwater supplies and electrical infrastructure. He noted that the New Haven region had approximately 40 million gallons of excess water capacity that was presently preserved through responsible stewardship. He cautioned that site-selection professionals could view the availability of water and other infrastructure in the region as attractive for future data-center development. The absence of a current proposal did not mean that the City would not receive one in the future.

Deputy Director Mack representative added that New Haven already had several quantum-computing facilities. One facility, located at 25 Science Park, opened in 2019 and supported quantum computing and related manufacturing. Another facility operated through Yale at 17 Hillhouse Avenue and housed several quantum computers.

Deputy Director Mack explained that these quantum-computing facilities operated within office or research environments and did not impose the same level of demand on electricity, water, or land as large-scale data centers. The proposed amendment was intended to ensure that such research and innovation facilities were not inadvertently included in the moratorium.

Alder Marchand reviewed the Board of Alders' anticipated legislative calendar. If the Legislation Committee reported the proposal favorably, the Board of Alders' First Reading would occur at its first meeting in September, followed by a Second Reading at its second September meeting.

Alder Marchand noted that the City Plan Commission did not meet during August but was scheduled to meet on the third Wednesday of September. Because that meeting would occur between the Board of Alders' first and second September meetings, the City Plan Commission could conduct a public hearing before the proposal was scheduled for final action by the Board of Alders.

Alder Marchand expressed concern that emerging land uses are not always adequately defined in the Zoning Ordinance and may therefore fall within regulatory gaps. Using vape shops as an example, Alder Marchand asked whether the proposed definition of "data center" was sufficiently broad and comprehensive to prevent an unintended facility from avoiding the moratorium.

Director Brown stated that she could not guarantee that every possible future use had been anticipated. However, she explained that when a proposed use does not fit precisely within a definition, the city may consider the overall intent of the ordinance. If the legislative intent clearly demonstrated that the moratorium was intended to cover large-scale data center uses, except for specified quantum-computing and innovation-related facilities, that intent could assist in interpreting the ordinance.

Alder Furlow, involved in drafting the proposal, stated that the definition was developed after reviewing data-center ordinances adopted by Groton, Morris, and West Haven. The definitions used by those Connecticut municipalities were considered in preparing the proposed New Haven language.

Director Piscitelli reviewed the activities specifically excluded from the definition of a data center, including server rooms, telecommunications closets, and information-technology equipment located within otherwise permitted businesses or buildings. These smaller, incidental uses, differ from large, warehouse-sized facilities constructed primarily for data storage or processing.

Director Piscitelli also discussed the staff-proposed exemption for quantum-computing and life-sciences research facilities associated with the New Haven Quantum and Life Sciences Innovation Cluster. The Innovation Cluster was geographically focused within the former Route 34 corridor, generally between Yale University's medical campus and Union Station. The exemption was not intended to apply broadly to every technology or research facility throughout the city.

Director Piscitelli stated that the exemption was proposed because the city had existing grant commitments and economic-development initiatives associated with the Innovation Cluster. Although the original moratorium might not have been intended to affect quantum-computing projects, the additional language would remove any ambiguity and ensure that those projects were not unintentionally delayed.

Deputy Director Mack discussed whether the proposed moratorium should contain a minimum size or energy-use threshold. A recent New York proposal reportedly applied a 50-megawatt threshold. New Haven's proposal did not contain a similar size qualifier and was therefore potentially broader.

Deputy Director Mack noted that some quantum-computing facilities could be relatively small while still being primarily devoted to data processing. For example, a quantum-computing facility at Science Park was described as approximately 600 square feet. Without an express exemption, such a facility could arguably fall within the literal wording of the moratorium despite having none of the environmental or infrastructure impacts associated with a large-scale data center.

Alder Marchand asked whether the proposed timeline would provide sufficient time for the administration to study the issue and prepare permanent regulations. The proposal would establish a twelve-month moratorium, with recommendations due within six months of its effective date.

Director Brown stated that six months should provide sufficient time to research the issue and prepare a proposed zoning amendment. During consideration of the prior Long Wharf moratorium, Corporation Counsel advised that a one-year moratorium was generally consistent with applicable legal limitations. Accordingly, the city should be prepared to adopt permanent regulations before the twelve-month period expires.

Alder Marx stated that the technical definition of a data center was difficult to evaluate without specialized expertise. She asked whether the ordinance could instead regulate facilities according to their measurable impacts, including electricity consumption, water consumption, heat generation, physical size, and land use.

Director Piscitelli agreed that a performance-based regulatory approach could ultimately be appropriate. The City Plan Department's broader zoning-reform work could consider regulating certain uses based on their environmental and infrastructure impacts rather than relying exclusively on classifications or industry terminology. Such an approach could also make the regulations more adaptable as technology changed.

Director Piscitelli cautioned, however, that the moratorium was intended as an immediate pause while permanent regulations were developed. Attempting to create a comprehensive performance-based standard before adopting the moratorium could delay the city's ability to prevent a large-scale facility from being submitted under the existing regulations.

Alder Marx discussed whether the moratorium was necessary given the site-plan and land-use approvals that a large facility would likely require. She observed that a warehouse-sized data center could require substantial site-plan review and other permits, particularly if it were proposed in a coastal area, flood-hazard area, or industrial district.

Director Brown explained that data centers were currently permitted as of right in industrial zoning districts. Although a proposed facility might trigger site-plan review or other regulatory approvals, the City Plan Commission could evaluate the application only under the criteria contained in the existing Zoning Ordinance. If the proposed use complied with those criteria, the City Plan Commission could not deny the application simply because it opposed or was concerned about the data center use itself.

The proposed moratorium would therefore prevent the acceptance or approval of applications for covered data-center facilities while the city studied their potential effects and developed permanent standards.

Laura Cahn, Former Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council, 54 Cleveland Road, testified in support of the proposed moratorium. She thanked the sponsoring alder for bringing forward the proposal and stated that large-scale data centers could have significant environmental and public-health impacts.

She stated that data centers consume substantial amounts of electricity and water, generate heat, and may produce continuous noise. She emphasized that noise pollution can cause stress, affect cardiovascular and neurological health, interfere with children's learning, and disturb wildlife. She referenced educational materials and a recent webinar concerning data center noise and encouraged the Legislation Committee to consider noise as part of its review and development of permanent regulations.

She also described experiencing persistent industrial and aircraft noise at her Westville residence. She stated that these experiences demonstrated how noise generated in one municipality or neighborhood could affect residents located a considerable distance away. She urged the city to prevent additional harmful noise sources from being introduced into New Haven.

There being no questions from the committee, Alder Furlow thanked the speaker for her testimony.

Mary Wolsey, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council, testified in her personal capacity. Ms. Wolsey expressed support for the moratorium but requested additional clarification concerning the definition of the facilities covered by the proposal, including whether it would apply only to new or large-scale data centers.

Ms. Wolsey stated that the rapid growth of the data center industry made it important for the city to have sufficient time to develop appropriate zoning standards. She explained that data centers could place unusually high demands on the electrical grid, transmission infrastructure, and water resources. The moratorium would allow the city to determine whether additional data centers were appropriate for New Haven and, if so, what restrictions would be necessary.

Ms. Wolsey encouraged the city to consider the potential climate, air-quality, noise, health, and environmental effects of data centers. She noted that such facilities often use diesel-powered backup generators, which can generate substantial air pollution. She further asked the city to consider New Haven's existing environmental and public-health burdens when developing permanent regulations.

There being no questions from the committee, Alder Furlow thanked Ms. Wolsey for her testimony.

Manuel Camacho, Chair Peace Commission, 24 Willis Street, testified in support of the city's review of data center development. Mr. Camacho discussed the issue from an international perspective and stated that the United Nations had been examining artificial intelligence and data center development because of their effects on communities and developing countries throughout the world.

Mr. Camacho stated that he planned to attend a United Nations youth summit concerning artificial intelligence on August 12. He noted that data center development could have economic, environmental, and housing-affordability consequences. In an urban community such as New Haven, increased investment by large technology companies could contribute to rising land and housing costs. He thanked the committee for considering the local and global implications of the issue.

There being no questions from the committee, Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Camacho for his testimony.

Aaron Goode, 702 Quinnipiac Avenue, testified that although the city was not presently aware of a proposed data center in New Haven, it was preferable to act proactively rather than respond after an application had been submitted.

Mr. Goode stated that low-income neighborhoods and communities with large Black and Latino populations frequently bear a disproportionate share of environmental hazards and pollution. He cited power plants, waste facilities, oil-storage facilities, road-salt piles, and data centers as examples of uses that could impose unequal burdens. He stated that several of Connecticut's most polluted census tracts were located in lower-income areas of New Haven, particularly in the Annex neighborhood, and connected these conditions to broader concerns involving environmental justice and environmental racism.

Mr. Goode stated that the committee appeared to have general support for the moratorium and offered recommendations for the city's eventual permanent regulatory framework. He supported performance-based standards focused on the actual impacts of a facility, including water consumption, electricity consumption, and noise levels, rather than relying solely on building size, equipment type, or the number of electrical circuits.

Mr. Goode suggested that the city consider requiring a special permit for certain data center uses. He also encouraged the city to adopt a broader environmental justice framework modeled on Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-20a and related state environmental justice requirements.

He explained that the state framework provides enhanced community notice, public participation, and regulatory review for certain facilities proposed in environmental justice communities. He stated that the process may include additional community meetings, notices in English and Spanish, and, in some cases, the negotiation of community environmental benefit agreements. Mr. Goode recommended that the city consider incorporating similar protections into its permanent data center regulations.

Mr. Goode continued his testimony by stating that, in limited circumstances, the community benefits offered by a proposed data center could outweigh its negative effects. He referenced recent projects developed by Meta in which the company reportedly supplied its own power through renewable energy sources and provided host communities with benefits such as buses, electric refuse trucks, science and technology education programs, and grants to community organizations.

Mr. Goode stated that New Haven should remain open to considering data center proposals on a case-by-case basis when they would directly support university computing research, artificial intelligence research, the local startup economy, or quantum-computing initiatives.

As an example, Mr. Goode stated that the city might consider a proposal in which a company agreed to acquire and remediate a severely contaminated industrial property, such as the English Station site, while also providing public amenities and other community benefits. He suggested that a substantial investment to clean contaminated soil and hazardous materials, combined with improvements such as public waterfront access or a kayak launch, could warrant careful consideration.

Mr. Goode further stated that New Haven contains contaminated industrial and brownfield sites that require extensive remediation. A data center or research facility proposal that fully remediated such a property and supported research at local universities could potentially provide meaningful public benefits. He emphasized that the city should remain skeptical and conduct careful reviews but should not automatically reject every possible proposal.

Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Goode and asked whether committee members had any questions. A committee member requested the citation for the state environmental justice law referenced during the testimony. Mr. Goode identified the applicable provision as Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-20a.

Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Goode for the clarification.

Alder Furlow asked whether any additional members of the public wished to testify on the proposed data center moratorium. No one else from the public wished to testify.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Morrison moved item # 6, seconded by Alder Marchand. Alder Marchand moved to amend by moving the following language from Section 3, Definitions: “quantum computing or life sciences research facilities associated with the New Haven Quantum and Life Sciences Innovation Cluster,” and add the following sentence to Section 5, Exemptions: “The provisions of this Ordinance shall also not apply to quantum computing or life sciences research facilities associated with the New Haven Quantum and Life Sciences Innovation Cluster,” seconded by Alder Morrison. Alder Marchand moved to amend to add the following clarifying language, “but not limited to,” after the word, “including,” to Section 3, Definitions, seconded by Alder Morrison. All Alders spoke in favor of the amendments, and the amendments passed. All Alders spoke in

favor of the item, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed, as amended.

7. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS TO THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING CHAPTER 32 ENFORCEMENT BY CIVIL OFFICERS, CREATING A UNIFORM PROCESS FOR CIVIL CITATION ENFORCEMENT.

8. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS TO VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, UPDATING ALL EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR CIVIL CITATION ENFORCEMENT.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenter: Sinclair Williams, Assistant Corporation Counsel

Mr. Williams explained that the proposed ordinance amendment would standardize the city's notice and hearing procedures for civil violations and ensure that the procedures conform to Connecticut General Statutes § 7-152c. Section 33-4 would preserve the existing ordinances that classify certain conditions or violations as nuisances. The remaining sections addressed by the amendment would no longer be necessary.

Alder Marx asked whether the amendment would establish one enforcement process for civil violations, regardless of whether the underlying violation involved Livable City Initiative regulations, the removal of a city tree, passing a stopped school bus, or another municipal ordinance. Mr. Williams confirmed that the amendment would establish a standardized process.

Mr. Williams explained that the proposed procedure would be based on Connecticut General Statutes § 7-152c and would most closely resemble the process currently used by the Livable City Initiative. Under the process, the city would issue a citation identifying the violation, the amount of the fine, and the cited person's right to request a hearing. A hearing request would generally need to be submitted within ten days. When a hearing is requested, a hearing officer would determine whether the citation and fine should be upheld. A person aggrieved by the hearing officer's decision would retain the right to appeal to the Superior Court. Mr. Williams confirmed that the proposed procedure would not differ materially from the process currently used by the Livable City Initiative.

Alder Marchand requested additional information regarding the qualifications of hearing officers. Mr. Williams stated that the proposed requirements were based in part on the city's existing ordinance governing parking hearing officers. Hearing officers would be required to:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be considered by the mayor to be capable of fairly administering the applicable provisions of law;
- Not be employed by the city; and

- Recuse themselves from any matter in which they have a conflict of interest.

Mr. Williams explained that a hearing officer could be an attorney, although legal training would not be mandatory. Depending on the subject matter, the city could appoint individuals with relevant professional or practical experience. For example, hearing officers reviewing housing-code violations could include landlords, property owners, or individuals with property-management experience. Hearing officers would be appointed by the mayor.

In response Alder Furlow, Mr. Williams stated that neither state law nor the proposed ordinance required hearing officers to reside in New Haven. However, the Board could add a local residency requirement. Mr. Williams also stated that the minimum age could legally be increased from 18 to 21. Although Mr. Williams was not certain, he does not believe that any current hearing officers resided outside New Haven.

In response to Alder C. Rodriguez, Mr. Williams discussed the classification of certain violations as nuisances. Mr. Williams explained that a nuisance designation may allow the city to take direct action to correct or remove a condition rather than merely issue a citation. As an example, the city may address an unlawful or dangerous condition itself and later seek reimbursement for the associated costs.

Mr. Williams confirmed the hearing process would not allow a resident to challenge the cost of corrective work performed by the city, such as when the Livable City Initiative mows an overgrown yard and charges the property owner. Mr. Williams clarified that the citation-hearing process would apply only to the civil fine imposed for violating an ordinance, not remediation costs. Any separate bill issued to recover the city's cost of correcting the conditions would not be subject to the same hearing officer process.

Alder Furlow asked whether the administration would oppose amendments requiring hearing officers to be at least 21 years old and to reside in New Haven. Mr. Williams stated that there did not appear to be a legal obstacle to either requirement and did not express opposition. However, Mr. Williams cautioned that the city's need for hearing officers could increase as additional enforcement programs are implemented, including school-bus camera violations and forthcoming red-light camera violations. Mr. Williams reviewed how these ordinance amendments would establish a uniform process in Chapter 32 and the various amendments to New Haven's Code of Ordinances would refer to Chapter 32 for the enforcement process.

Mr. Williams clarified that hearing officers serve on a voluntary basis and may not be compensated by the city. Mr. Williams cautioned against imposing excessive eligibility restrictions that could make it difficult to recruit enough qualified volunteers, particularly as the City expands its civil-enforcement programs.

Mr. Williams explained that the former Corporation Counsel, Pat King, had proposed partnering with area law schools to recruit law students as hearing officers. Students from Yale Law School, Quinnipiac University School of Law, or other institutions could provide a continuing pool of volunteers interested in gaining experience interpreting and applying the law. Mr. Williams

acknowledged that law students might serve for relatively short periods and might not satisfy a New Haven residency requirement.

In response to Alder C. Rodriguez, Mr. Williams reviewed how the city would ensure that a hearing officer did not have a conflict of interest in a particular matter. Mr. Williams stated that hearing officers currently review the cases assigned to them and voluntarily disclose when they know a cited person or otherwise have a conflict. When that occurs, the hearing may need to be postponed until another hearing officer is available. Mr. Williams added that the city could also require cited individuals to disclose or affirm whether they have any relationship with the assigned hearing officer.

Alder Marchand asked whether hearing officers serve for a defined term. Mr. Williams confirmed that the proposed ordinance did not establish terms of office. Hearing officers would remain appointed until they resigned or were removed. Mr. Williams also confirmed that hearing officers are generally sworn in by the mayor.

Through Alder Furlow, Alder Marchand requested a copy of the oath administered to hearing officers. Alder Marchand asked whether the wording of the oath would be standardized and stated that reviewing the oath would help the committee understand the duties and commitments accepted by hearing officers.

Alder Theodore questioned the training of hearing officers. Mr. Williams explained that the city currently provides training tailored primarily to Livable City Initiative matters. The training covers the housing-code ordinance, residential-licensing ordinance, anti-blight ordinance, and the general hearing process.

If the standardized hearing process were expanded to additional ordinance violations, the city could provide broader training regarding hearing procedures. However, Mr. Williams cautioned that the city should avoid directing hearing officers on how to interpret particular ordinances because the city has an interest in the outcome of enforcement proceedings. Hearing officers must be able to independently read, understand, and apply the relevant ordinances to the facts presented.

Alder Theodore asked whether the ordinance should expressly establish or acknowledge a training requirement. Mr. Williams stated that it was not necessary to prescribe a detailed training process in the ordinance. The essential requirement was that appointees be capable of understanding and fairly applying the applicable provisions of law.

Mr. Williams provided an overview of the remaining proposed amendments. Existing provisions that created separate categories of special police, fire, airport, or other hearing officers would generally be replaced by a uniform designation of "hearing officer." These hearing officers would be appointed by the mayor pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances.

The amendments would also clarify the distinction between administrative proceedings involving licenses or permits and enforcement proceedings involving ordinance violations and civil fines.

The process for applying for, receiving, suspending, or revoking a license or permit would remain separate from the process used when the city issues a citation for violating an ordinance.

Mr. Williams explained that inconsistent deadlines contained throughout the Code would be standardized. Under the proposed procedure, a cited person would have ten (10) days to request a hearing, consistent with state law. Following the hearing officer's decision, the person would have thirty (30) days to file an appeal. These time periods would be applied uniformly rather than using different deadlines for different ordinance violations.

Alder Furlow asked whether the proposed amendments would apply to the Health Department. Mr. Williams explained that certain enforcement procedures would remain separate because they are governed by distinct state statutes and regulatory codes. These included matters arising under the public health code, building code, and fire code.

Mr. Williams noted that municipal and state enforcement remedies could, in some circumstances, proceed simultaneously. For example, when a person violates the fire code, the city could pursue a local civil-enforcement action while also referring the matter for prosecution or enforcement under state law.

Mr. Williams further stated that the Fair Rent Commission would retain its separate hearing process. The airport authority or airport commission would also retain specialized authority over matters such as orders grounding aircraft. Certain other specialized proceedings would similarly remain outside the standardized citation process.

Alder Furlow invited additional questions from the committee.

Alder Marx began commenting on other proposed legislation recently reviewed by the committee, including matters involving parking, vape shops, and civil-safety enforcement. Alder Marx noted that several pending legislative matters, including proposed ordinances concerning zoning, vape shops, parking, and civil-safety enforcement, might need to conform to the standardized hearing process. Alder Marx referenced anticipated state legislation that could authorize higher fines and additional remedies against non-compliant vape shops, including the boarding or closure of businesses.

Mr. Williams confirmed that the proposed ordinance was written broadly enough to accommodate future changes in state law. New or amended ordinances could state that violations would be enforced pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances and could authorize fines up to the maximum amount permitted under state law. This structure would allow the City's enforcement procedures to adapt as the General Assembly expanded or modified municipal enforcement authority.

Alder Marchand asked whether hearing officers would be assigned to only one subject area, such as housing-code or anti-bligh violations, or whether they could hear cases involving multiple areas of municipal law. Mr. Williams stated that hearing officers could be assigned to multiple subject areas. Assignments would depend on the number of cases, the officer's availability, and

the officer's experience or qualifications.

Mr. Williams explained that the current hearing officers are volunteers who generally serve approximately two hours per month. Because only a limited number of cases can be heard during that period, high-volume enforcement programs might require dedicated hearing officers. For example, school-bus camera violations could generate enough cases to occupy one hearing officer exclusively. Lower-volume matters, such as vape-shop or noise-ordinance violations, could potentially be assigned to the same hearing officer.

Alder Marchand observed that the mayor's assessment of an appointee's competence would therefore be particularly important. Depending on the assignment, a hearing officer might need general competence in ordinance enforcement, specialized subject-matter knowledge, or the ability to address cases arising under several areas of municipal law.

Through Alder Furlow, Alder Marchand requested that the administration provide the following information:

- A list of all ordinances and enforcement actions that would be subject to the standardized Chapter 32 hearing process;
- A list of ordinances and enforcement actions that would remain subject to separate procedures under state law or another legal authority;
- The current roster of city hearing officers;
- The types of ordinance violations currently assigned to each hearing officer; and
- The administration's estimate of the number of hearing officers that would be needed, either in total or by subject area, following implementation of the proposed ordinance.

Alder Marchand stated that this information would help the committee understand the scope and scale of the hearing officers' responsibilities and evaluate related issues involving qualifications, training, recruitment, and capacity.

Mr. Williams summarized the information requested and confirmed that the committee was seeking a comprehensive list of covered and excluded ordinances, the current hearing-officer roster and assignments, and an estimate of future staffing needs. Alder Marchand agreed with Mr. Williams summary and noted that the roster would represent a current snapshot that could change as cases were completed and new enforcement programs were implemented.

CONTINUED...

Minutes Continued..

Alder Furlow then raised a final question concerning the appointment process. Under the proposed ordinance, hearing officers would continue to be appointed by the mayor without confirmation by the Board of Alders. Alder Furlow asked whether, given the broader jurisdiction and potentially greater number of hearing officers, the appointments should also require confirmation by the Board of Alders, as is required for many other mayoral appointments.

Mr. Williams stated that there did not appear to be an immediate legal reason either requiring or prohibiting Board of Alders confirmation of hearing officers. Mr. Williams indicated that the question could be referred to the Corporation Counsel for a formal legal opinion.

Alder Furlow stated that confirmation by the Board of Alders could provide an additional level of review, particularly because hearing officers could be responsible for interpreting and applying a broad range of municipal ordinances. Alder Furlow noted that the issue would be appropriate for further discussion and debate by the Board of Alders.

With no additional questions from committee members, Alder Furlow thanked Mr. Williams for the presentation. Alder Furlow then opened the floor and asked whether any members of the public wished to provide testimony.

No one from the public testified.

COMMITTEE ACTION ON ITEM # 7

Alder Morrison moved item # 7, seconded by Alder Marchand. Alder Marx moved to amend to include a process for the Board of Alders to approve the appointments of hearing officers, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of this amendment, and the amendment passed. Alder Marx moved to amend to include a residency requirement, but not elector requirement, in New Haven for hearing officers, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of this amendment, and the amendment passed. All Alders spoke in favor of the item, as amended. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

COMMITTEE ACTION ON ITEM # 8

Alder Morrison moved item # 8, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

Alder Marchand moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder C. Rodriguez. The motion was unanimously approved at 8:04 p.m.

Alder Morrison moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder C. Rodriguez. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: 9:15 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here:
<https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II