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The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Meyers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church St, 2nd Fl
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO AMEND HOUSING CODE ORDINANCE
TO ALLOW APPEALS FROM HOUSING CODE CITATIONS TO BE HEARD BY
HEARING OFFICER

Dear President Walker-Meyers:

The Office of the Mayor submits the attached proposed amendment to Title V, the City's Housing Code Ordinance. The primary purpose of this proposal is to amend the procedure in Par. 203 for hearing appeals from citations for housing code violations to allow for those appeals to be decided by a hearing officer rather than a board of appeals. Par. 203 currently requires that appeals from citations for housing code violations be heard by a board of appeals, similar to the process mandated by the state for building code violations. State statute CGS Sec. 29-266 allows a process whereby building code violations to be heard by the state Codes and Standards Committee in a case where a municipality does not have a board of appeals. New Haven does not currently have a board of appeals, so appeals from building code violations would follow the statutory procedure.

However, there is no state statute that requires that housing code appeals be adjudicated by a municipal board of appeals or by the state. By amending the housing code ordinance to allow a hearing officer to adjudicate housing code appeals allow the City will be better able to address due process concerns by providing more timely resolutions to these appeals. The City currently has two appointed hearing officers who have been working with Livable City Initiative to adjudicate appeals from Landlord Licensing violations and would be utilized for appeals from housing code violations as well. The City's hearing officers are required to serve without pay, so this amendment will not have a fiscal impact on the City in terms of personnel.

The proposed amendment also proposes other minor clarifications to the process and updates the language to accommodate gender neutrality.

If you have any questions or if you require any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Very Truly yours,

Patricia A King
Corporation Counsel