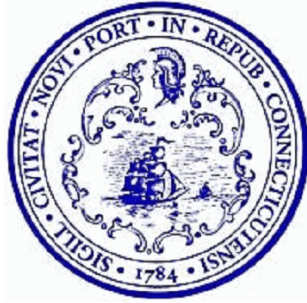


City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on 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 5, 2025, 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) [OR-2025-0018](#) ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES, TITLE III, CHAPTER 27 - STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC WAYS - SECTION 27-154a PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING THE BOARD OF ALDERS TO ORDER IMPROVEMENTS TO AN UNACCEPTED STREET.
- 2) [LM-2025-0233](#) ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CREATING A WORKING GROUP REGARDING ESTABLISHING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ZONES IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

Per Order: Hon. Ellen Cupo, 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

Alder Ellen Cupo, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:08 p.m.

Present were Alders Ellen Cupo, Chair; Richard Furlow, Vice-Chair; Adam J. Marchand; E. Rodriguez, Eli Sabin, and Carmen Rodriguez.

Non-committee members in attendance were Alders Caroline Tanbee Smith.

1. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPROVING THE AMENDMENT TO CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES, TITLE III, CHAPTER 27 STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC WAYS SECTION 27 154a PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING THE BOARD OF ALDERS TO ORDER IMPROVEMENTS TO AN UNACCEPTED STREET.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Justin McCarthy (CAO)
Rebecca "Becky" Bombero (DCAO)
Roderick "Rod" Williams (Corporation Counsel)
Michael "Mike" Siciliano (Department of Public Works)
Giovanni Zinn (City Engineer)

CAO McCarthy introduced this item and reviewed the process outlined in the proposed ordinance amendment. This presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Mr. Zinn reviewed how determining unaccepted streets gets a little murky, as some may just be shared driveways.

Attorney Williams reviewed how the Board of Alders can determine work, including adding sewage lines, to unaccepted streets.

Mr. Zinn reviewed the typical overview of what a city accepted street looks like. The Typical Road Pavement Cross Section for Local Roads is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

In response to Alder Cupo, Attorney Williams discussed how work on unaccepted streets would be assessed back to the homeowners.

In response to Alder Marchand, Attorney Williams confirmed the intent was that most owners would be determined by the number of properties, not the number of owners. Confirmed the Board can determine a reasonable cost to assess the owner for the repairs. Deputy Bombero reviewed how the city can get 20-30% discount on bulk paving projects. Mr. Zinn discussed how they would expect a service life of twenty (20) years. The street would stay an unaccepted street, so the city would not include curbs. The city would try to match drainage that is currently on the unaccepted street unless there were issues, like an issue with flooding that was hazardous. The

goal is not to increase the costs associated with the project unnecessarily. Director Siciliano confirmed most of these streets are already receiving city services.

In response to Alder Sabin, Deputy Bombero reviewed how some property owners own the street or have an easement. Attorney Williams confirmed residents on Kenter Place own the street, and that “owners” or “abutters” would capture the people benefitting from an unaccepted street and as the responsible party for assessments.

In response to Alder E. Rodriguez, Mr. Zinn confirmed it was not the intent of this ordinance to address issues caused by shared driveways.

In response to Alder Furlow, Attorney Williams reviewed how the assessment would be placed as a lien on the property, which would either need to be transferred to the new owner or paid off when the property is sold.

Deputy Bombero reviewed how the Board of Alders would need to determine the amount of time for repayment when they approve the work to be completed.

Attorney Williams discussed how if people were not treated equally, they could potentially have an equal protection claim. It would be beneficial to include a repayment timeframe in the ordinance. Deputy Bombero discussed how it would be beneficial to have the repayment timeframe tied to when the city needs to repay the bonds, which can change.

Attorney Williams discussed the difference between unaccepted and accepted streets and how completing the work does not make the city liable but is a step that could be argued in court. Mr. Zinn reviewed how this process for approval demonstrates that the process for this street (unaccepted street) is very different than accepted streets.

Attorney Williams confirmed the state assigns responsibility for sidewalks to municipalities. Mr. Zinn discussed how if the sidewalk is in the public right-of-way determines whether the city is liable.

David Heilbron, 66 Vista Terrace, representing Residents Using Kenter Place, spoke in support of this item. Discussed how the residents are looking to the city for assistance, as they do not have a homeowners’ association or other mechanism to help.

In response to Alder Furlow, Mr. Heilbron described where in Westville the street is located.

In response to Alder Marchand, Mr. Heilbron reviewed how a lot of people use this street. Eighteen homes. It is his understanding that the street has been paved by the city multiple times over the past sixty (60) years. Reviewed how residents have concerns regarding costs and repayment terms. The city provides services including trash pickup and snow removal.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action. Public Hearing was not closed in regards to this item.

2. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CREATING A WORKING GROUP REGARDING ESTABLISHING PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ZONES IN THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Alder Eli Sabin, Ward 7; and
Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith, Ward 9

Alders Tanbee Smith and Sabin presented this item and reviewed the need to create this working group in accordance with the recently passed state law. Alder Sabin spoke of the need to have multiple voices contribute to making our city safer for pedestrians.

In response to Alder Marchand, Alder Tanbee Smith confirmed that this working group would gather information and explore aspects of various relevant plans, like a speed plan and report back to the Board of Alders.

Alder Tanbee Smith reviewed how the city does not need state approval to lower speed limits. Alder Sabin confirmed the state law allows municipalities to lower speed limits to 20 mph with approval by the Traffic Authority when relevant engineering studies have been completed.

Alder Tanbee Smith discussed how they have not determined whether the approval process would include only the Traffic Authority or both the Board of Alders and Traffic Authority.

In response to Alder E. Rodriguez, Alder Tanbee Smith confirmed the scope of the working group is to lower the speed limit on streets while using other measures such as curb cutouts and speed bumps.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Furlow moved item # 2, seconded by Alder Marchand. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

Alder Furlow moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Marchand. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:29 p.m.

Alder Furlow moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Marchand. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourn: 7:32 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