



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
BOARD OF ALDERS**

***Caroline Tanbee Smith***  
Alder, Ward 9

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Member

City Services & Environmental Policy Committee  
Public Safety Committee  
Health & Human Services Committee

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New Haven, CT 06511

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October 6, 2025

Hon. Tyisha Walker-Myers  
President, New Haven Board of Alders  
165 Church Street,  
City of New Haven, CT 06510

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I respectfully submit the attached ordinance amendment to Article VIII, Section 62 of the New Haven Zoning Ordinances. This amendment authorizes the Zoning Enforcement Officer and deputies to issue zoning violation fines, thereby strengthening enforcement tools and enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

Currently, New Haven's ordinances lack the means to issue fines for zoning violations, limiting the City of New Haven ability to ensure compliance and accountability. This proposed amendment aims to correct this by establishing a fine of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for each violation, together with an additional one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for each day such violation continues, consistent with the authority granted under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-12a.

The amendment clearly defines zoning violations, including but limited to unlawful construction, unauthorized land use, unpermitted signage, unlawful business activity, and more. It also establishes a transparent enforcement process: Written notices, the right to appeal through a citation hearing officer, and the option of a resolution conference. To balance accountability with fairness, the ordinance allows fines to be waived or reduced if a property owner demonstrates good-faith efforts to abate the violation.

This proposal was developed in collaboration with the City Plan Department, Corporation Counsel, and the Office of Building Inspection and Enforcement. It represents an essential step toward protecting neighborhood integrity, ensuring compliance, and upholding the standards that safeguard the quality of life across our city.

Thank you for considering this communication.

Sincerely,

Hon. Caroline Tanbee Smith  
Alder, Ward 9

