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April 1, 2024

Hon. Ellen Cupo, Chair
Legislation Committee
Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510
Via email: publictestimony@newhavenct.gov

RE: Letter of support for proposed amendment to the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance

Dear Honorable Chair Cupo,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the above-referenced issue. I fully support the recommendation of Gretchen Knauff, Director, Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities (Disability Services), to add a requirement to the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance that ground level units, whether a conversion or newly built, be built to meet the Type B requirements of the state building code. I understand that City Plan agreed to add it to their proposal and that the Building Inspector supports the idea as well. Their understanding of the importance of this change is critical and appreciated.

From 1987-1997 when I served as Disability Services Director, the waiting lists for accessible public housing were outrageously long. I joined the Commission on Disabilities in 2015. The waiting lists for accessible public housing units were still outrageously long and continue to be so all these years later. Private sector affordable, accessible units are extremely hard to find even though there are so many more housing units in New Haven than there were in past decades.

Thank you and the Legislation Committee in advance for supporting this proposed amendment.

Respectfully,

S/Sally J. Esposito, J.D.