

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Public Hearing, March 3, 2008
Testimony by Millie Allegrini

My name is Millie Allegrini, the Administrator of Frost Homestead Apartments in Waterbury for the last six years. I thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of signing the E-Cert Bill for 2008 and to re-institute the Pilot and Tax Abatement programs.

Frost Homestead Apartments has been around since 1972, that's about 36 years of providing decent affordable rents to 63 families and over 190 household members. That's just about how many adults and children can be affected in this location alone.

This community is non-profit and it's also facing hard times! Frost Homestead can not afford to loose these funds as well. Without these funds we are forced to add even more hardship to these already struggling families. The rents in the facility are not all subsidized, which means that the loss of the Tax Abatement has a direct financial impact not only to the facility, but directly to each and every family. Simply stated, residents face an average rent increase of \$33 per month directly tied to the loss of the Tax Abatement. We need to be able to run the property efficiently and to be able to provide families with safe, clean, decent housing that they deserve. We are already anticipating rent increases due to increasing operational costs. Our residents have directly suffered the financial fallout of Waterbury's troubles. Real estate taxes, water and sewer uses charges, insurance, and utilities have increased sharply over the past 6 years. If the tax abatement is taken from us that translates into even higher rent increases that could actually cause this property to fail, after 36 years of serving the Waterbury community.

I am also here today to speak on behalf of the many families that do not have the luxury to be here to represent themselves. Most of our families are struggling working families that can not afford to take a day off work to come here today. We are speaking of families that face decisions everyday whether to buy food or pay their rent, buy their much needed medication or pay the gas bill? How can we say, by the way we need to increase your rent twice as much this year? We need your help! Think of the elderly, the children, the disabled and the hard working residents that struggle everyday to put food on their table. Please sign the Emergency-Certification bill for 2008 and restore the Pilot and Tax Abatement Grant funds. Thank you.