

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.



Committee Members

Antoinette Chick Spinelli –
Waterbury, CH
Essie Labrot, West Hartford, V.
CH
Jeff Barske, Thompson
George Buckbee, New Milford
Debra H. Denette, East Haddam
Michele Grande, Redding
Mary Stanton, Mansfield



Advisory Board Members

Joyce Mascena, CTCA-Pres.
Patty Strauss, 1st V-Pres.
Patty Spruance, 2nd V-Pres.
Joseph Camposeo, Imd. Past Pres.
Bernice Dixon, Vitals Comm. CH
Kim Garvis, TechnologyComm.CH
Lobbyist: Michael Dugan

2012 Legislative Committee

Testimony Planning & Development Committee February 22, 2012

Good morning distinguished members of the Planning & Development Committee. My name is Essie Labrot and I am testifying on behalf of the Connecticut Town Clerk's Association (CTCA). I am the Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee for the Town Clerk's Association and the Town Clerk of West Hartford. I am here today to testify in support of the Governor's Language in Bill 5035 with additional wording to reflect "No public agency may disclose, from their personnel and medical records,..."

As you are well aware, municipalities have a vast multitude of documents held in various offices and in various formats including paper, digital images and microfilm. Some are strictly paper format such as petition pages. There would be extreme costs to municipalities if every record had to be researched for names of individuals deemed to be eligible for address redaction. All requests for vital records, which are permanent and cannot be altered, would have to be checked for an individual of a protected class whose name and address may be listed on the vital record. For example, when a loved one passes away, the informant's name and address are on the death certificate. These names are not entered into a database but are part of the death record. Death records are public records and can be viewed by anyone. A hospital town, such as Waterbury, takes in over 1,500 death records per year for recording. They have over 6,600 requests annually for death certificates alone.

The town of West Hartford receives over 50,000 requests for various records per year. These requests come in the form of mail, telephone, e-mail and in person. An accurate cost analysis to research and redact records is not available because the records are kept in so many different formats. Is address redaction of town records really necessary when the internet is the most convenient and most commonly used source for obtaining information?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at

this time.

Respectfully submitted,
Essie Labrot, West Hartford Town Clerk
Vice Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee