

**Fairmount Neighborhood Association
83 Stafford Street
Waterbury, Ct 06704**

Testimony of Joseph Morelli, President

IN SUPPORT OF SB 406, AN ACT REQUIRING THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION TO WAIVE CERTAIN INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS TO ALLOW THE FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION TO ADOPT A TRAFFIC ISLAND.

Shortly after discovering that the property we wanted to Adopt and beautify was State of Connecticut property I was informed that we were required to have \$1,000,000.00 of liability insurance that we are unable to afford.

At the time, the Department of Transportation website "Programs and Services" had an Adopt A Highway Program (which according to the website is now currently in revision). Under the Adopt A Highway program was an Adopt A Spot program which read that they encourage businesses, churches, individuals and civic organizations to Adopt A Spot and beautify it.

After making several phone calls to the DOT in Thomaston and Newington asking if the State of CT can waive the insurance requirement, I was told that the state required the insurance and would not waive the requirement.

This news, not encouraging at all, did not stop us from seeking other avenues to explore, which brings us here today.

It is my belief that if the Fairmount Neighborhood Association is able to adopt and beautify the traffic island and both sides of Middlesex St. from the intersection of Huntingdon Ave. to the intersection of Stafford St. it will play a very large role in getting our neighborhood to a prideful and respectful community.

Encourage us, and others alike, to take this small but vital step to bringing the wonderful City of Waterbury back to the thriving city it once was.

Therefore, I urge you, The Planning and Development Committee to support SB 406.

Regards,

Joseph Morelli

March 14, 2012

Nancy H. Howse
72 Chester Ave.
Waterbury, CT 06704

RE: Adopt-A-Spot

To Whom it May Concern:

Last year, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association purchased four large planters and all the fixings to "dress up" the traffic circle at the entrance to the Fairmount neighborhood.

We planted "Kong Coleus". Ivy, Daisies, Impatiens, Petunias, Geraniums, Sweet Potato Vines, Firecracker Grass, and Black-Eyed Susans, all bright, colorful, and happy flowers to greet people entering our neighborhood.

As the summer progressed, the planters thrived and changed weekly. It was very rewarding to be involved. When we were watering and weeding, people would stop and tell us how great the planters looked and that they enjoyed seeing them when they entered the area and hoped we would continue.

By the end of summer, the planters were amazing, huge and outstanding!

We would like to be allowed to develop the traffic circle and some surrounding space so our little Fairmount neighborhood could "shine" and welcome families, friends and neighbors with some beauty and brightness that brings on smiles.

Currently, the traffic circle discussed above and the surrounding area is ugly blacktop, ugly concrete and quite unattractive. We would like to remedy that!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Nancy H. Howse
Treasurer, Fairmount Neighborhood Association

THE LITTER CONTROL AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WATERBURY! CT
C/O 235 GRAND ST.
(203) 574-6712

BERNADINE C. ORINTAS, CHAIRMAN
ROBERT PETRO iii, VICE CHAIRMAN
THERESA BEGNAL, SECRETARY
ALFRED COPPOLA, SPEAKERS' BUREAU ADVISOR
SEAN MOSLEY, EDUCATION ADVISOR
LYSA MARGIOTTA, ALDERMANIC LIAISON

The Litter Control and Beautification Commissioners of Waterbury! are in charge of the Adopt-a-Spot program in our city.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association, with the direction of its esteemed President, Joseph Morelli, has been attempting to "adopt" the corner area that is bordered by Huntingdon Ave. and Middlesex St. so that the members may clean and beautify it. It is a gateway to the Fairmount neighborhood and visually defines that neighborhood in a negative manner because of its lack of care and thereby unsightliness at this time.

The Fairmount Neighborhood Association has made a good faith effort to adopt and beautify the area because the members and other neighbors have pride in their community and would like their gateway at Huntingdon and Middlesex to reflect that pride.

In the process of attempting to adopt the area, the Association was told that it is State of Connecticut property and citizens could not step foot on the area to do any beautification without \$1,000,000.00 of insurance. So it has remained unattended due to the Association members being unable to obtain the insurance.

We believe it to be admirable and appropriate that the Honorable Senator Joan Hartley has introduced a bill that would waive the necessity to have \$1,000,000.00 of insurance in order for the Fairmount Neighborhood Association to clean and beautify the area of state land bordered by Middlesex St. and Huntingdon Ave.

We support and encourage the passing of the bill with firm belief that the members of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association will take the necessary safety precautions so that they will not be in harm's way.

Please accept this letter of support so that the people that care so much about the area in which they live may have the opportunity to demonstrate their pride to the entire community, residents and visitors alike.

**Best regards,
Bernadine C. Orintas**