

This is to bring to your attention that in April 2012, a petition signed by 638 concerned residents of Ridgefield and surrounding areas obtained by an organization called Grow Ridgefield Together was submitted to the attention of the Ridgefield P&Z and Inland wetlands Board (Ms. Rebecca Muccheti, Chairman) and the Director of Planning (Ms. Betty Brosius).

The message – which was also the basis and purpose of the organization – was very clear and was summarized by the following simple message:

- YES: for Affordable Housing
- YES: for a 4-Year Moratorium on 8-30g applications
- NO: for 8-30g State law as written

The petition was submitted during the open public hearings held by the Ridgefield P&Z for three Affordable Housing Applications 7-9 North Salem, 28 Gilbert Street, and 593 Main Street. A copy of the petition is in the public domain and can be obtained from the Ridgefield P&Z.

While the current hearing is a little too late to have an impact on these projects (they have all been approved already), we applaud Mr. Frey's initiative to help prevent the further abuse of this well-intended law.

I hope that in this process there is a comprehensive review of the law and how it has been used to negatively impact so many. I would further ask that the affordable rentals are compared to our current rental market. This has become a loophole for developers and does not truly address the need for affordable housing. If the intent is to help create a balance in every community then this law as written is not being used for that purpose. I appreciate your attention and careful review and hope to see some positive changes.

Sincerely,

Amale Hawi
Ridgefield, CT