



David Martin
Mayor



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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
February 19, 2016, at 11:30 A.M.
Legislative Office Building, 2A

Re: **Raised Bill No. 86** - Act Concerning the Fire Safety Code and One, Two and Three-Family Dwellings (Proposed text change to CGS 29-292 (a)(1))

Dear Committee Members

I am writing to state my concern to the proposed text change in the Raised Bill No. 86. This proposed bill would eliminate three-family dwellings from the present required Fire Code inspections conducted by the local Fire Marshal's office. Excluding three-family dwellings from inspection and enforcement as spelled out in the current language of the CT Fire Safety Code would potentially put the most vulnerable people in harm's way. It is in this occupancy that we (Fire Marshals) find the most sub-standard and illegal housing units. Often it is discovered during these inspections that the third unit of the three-family premises is a converted attic or basement with limited egress and potential life safety hazards. Many times families live in these types units due to their economic state which prevents them from seeking safe legitimate housing.

Importantly, the National Fire Protection Association and International Fire Code identify a three-family house as an apartment house (multi-family). For these reasons, I oppose the intended bill No. 86 that will negatively affect these residents in this classification who deserve to be protected by enforcement of the Fire Code as it is presently stated.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Charles Spaulding
Chief Fire Marshal
City of Stamford
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