



PO Box 4975  
Waterbury, CT 06704  
800.369.6153 | www.ctpoa.com

## **Planning & Development Committee Public Hearing, March 6, 2019**

**Testimony of Bob De Cosmo, President of the CT Property Owners Alliance, LLC.**

### **In SUPPORT of H.B. 6292**

The CT Property Owners Alliance, LLC would like to thank the committee for raising this proposal and granting it a public hearing. I also want to thank State Representative Cummings for introducing this Bill.

Simply put, if a city or town uses a third-party collector of taxes and that company is being paid on a commission only basis there needs to be better protections built into the process. I am aware of several complaints but will just speak of two and one of the cases involved me personally.

In my incident, my son's girlfriend purchased a new car and left her old one on my property with the taxes being fully paid for the year. The for-hire company saw that there were no plates on the car and assumed taxes where due, three years where owed and the 2008 vehicle had a book value of \$9,900! Demand letters were sent, and the debt of nearly \$3,000 was placed on the city's website...all of which were inaccurate. It took almost three months of back and forth and hours of my time dealing with motor vehicle to prove the vehicle was still owned by the original owner and taxes where current.

My case isn't as significant as another where a developer who lived in Bristol was applying for a building permit in Waterbury but was denied his application because a rental property that he owner in Waterbury had two unregistered motor vehicles belonging to his tenants. The for-hire company assumed the cars belonged to the property owner and demanded payment for taxes and listed the owner, not the renters as tax-delinquent. The city denied the owner's building permit and while that story did make it onto Channel 3 News, the property that he was going to renovate was severely vandalized because it sat for a long time trying to resolve this tax matter. Proof showing the owners true residency wasn't good enough for the for-hire company and a valid driver's license, tax-bills to Bristol, utility bills in his name in Bristol where rejected so we need a simple solution in this matter.

To conclude, please pass this proposal and remember that we must move cautiously when we place bounties on the backs of tax-payers and give for hire companies paid by commission the power to act as the city itself. We need an easy and fast solution to prove where a landlord resides in these situations.

Sincerely,

Bob De Cosmo



PO Box 4975  
Waterbury, CT 06704  
800.369.6153 | [www.ctpoa.com](http://www.ctpoa.com)

President CT – Property Owners Alliance LLC