

**MINUTES OF WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 23, 2009 LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AGENDA No. 35**

President Scott Slifka called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

President Slifka: Okay. We are going to call the Council Meeting to order. We begin with the Pledge of Allegiance

ITEM #2: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Slifka: Okay. Can we have a roll call, please, Ms. Labrot?

ITEM #3: ROLL CALL

Present were Councilors Steven Adler, Tim Brennan, Chuck Coursey, Leon Davidoff, Scott Slifka, Carolyn Thornberry and Joe Verrengia.

Absent were Shari Cantor and Joe Visconti.

President Slifka: Thank you, Ms. Labrot. I'd like to entertain a motion to suspend the rules for the purposes of one, presenting a proclamation and two, moving up the communication item under #18 to be done upfront in conjunction with the proclamation.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. And if I could call Marcia Lewis to the podium and well, the crowd is a lot bigger than I had anticipated so I guess we could invite all of you up but I'm sensing Marcia is going to be good enough. We're going to get the ceremonial part out of the way first and then get down to business. I have a proclamation regarding the kick-off of the Great Count of the 2010 Census and here with us tonight, but this is not the entire group I now see, are the members of the complete Count Committee – our Chairperson, Marcia Lewis, David Downs, Naogan Ma, Suzanne Oslander, Jim Palmer, Mary Silverberg and Deb Zipkin. I thank you all for being here and anyone else who did not get named and on with the proclamation.

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution requires the federal government to count the population every ten years, and the United States Census Bureau is ready to meet the extraordinary challenge of ensuring that everyone residing in the United States is included in the 2010 Census; and

WHEREAS, while questionnaires will be mailed in March 2010, preparations are already under way to provide a new, accurate portrait of America; and

WHEREAS, a West Hartford Complete Count Committee, comprising of a group of committed individuals who represent the diversity of West Hartford, has agreed to help ensure that every resident in West Hartford is counted in the 2010 Census, especially those who are considered “difficult to enumerate” for physical, social, or cultural reasons; and

WHEREAS, an accurate count of our town’s population has far ranging implications including the assignment of Congressional seats to states, the provision of community services to our citizens, and the distribution of \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments each year; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of our Town’s Census Committee Chair Marcia Lewis, West Hartford has begun the behind-the-scenes work by involving schools, community groups, and individuals to work together to identify hard-to-reach groups, to promote awareness, and to encourage everyone to participate. West Hartford’s goal is to have a complete count on Census Day, April 1, 2010, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that on behalf of the Town Council and the residents of West Hartford, I, Mayor R. Scott Slifka, do hereby declare June 23, 2009 as the official kick-off of the Great Count of the 2010 Census.

Marcia, you’ve got your work cut out for you.

Ms. Lewis: Thank you.

President Slifka: But we know you’re up to it.

Ms. Lewis: Thank you so much.

President Slifka: Thank you.

Ms. Lewis: Group, please stand. There are many more names here than you mentioned tonight and I’ll mention them in a moment.

President Slifka: Don’t forget to thank you.

Ms. Lewis: Alright. Thanks. Thanks. And I will just say a few things. If you want you can sit for a moment. Good evening, community leaders and friends. My name is Marcia Lewis, as you know, and I am the Branch Manager at Faxon Library in Elmwood and also the Chairperson of our Complete Count Committee. A complete count means that our goal is that every household in West Hartford will return a completed census by April 1, 2010 which is Census Day and this complete count is important to us for at least three reasons – dollars, decision making and overall inclusiveness.

First this count as Mayor Slifka said provides the basis for future funding. Over 300 billion dollars is at stake from the federal government over the next decade so it’s

important that we really work to get this right. Also, our future congressional representation will be based on these numbers.

And second, and just as important, is that the census provides us information about who we really are. It will reveal to us how our community is changing and we know that West Hartford is changing. We saw it at the great Celebrate West Hartford event last week. We see it in the schools and at the Faxon Library where I work I see the faces of change every single day and in order to make good decisions, in order to develop meaningful services for this changing community, we need to discover more specifically who we are and the census is a tool for making that discovery.

As far as inclusiveness, our theme is West Hartford – Everyone Counts and you should have your buttons soon if you don't yet. Our intent is that in addition to returning the census form that every household will also begin to feel more engaged, more included, more involved in the town and the community and we mean also newcomers to the area and to this country. We also want to reassure people that all the information on the census is completely confidential and safe and the good news for us all is that it's much simpler this year. It's only ten questions and should take minutes so it's relatively painless.

We realize that counting everyone will be a challenge and so we're involving a great group of volunteers. Some of them are with us tonight, trusted community members who are working in several areas to make sure that we make this happen. We have a great education group working to ensure awareness in the schools. They will be accessing terrific interactive websites for all ages actually. David Downs is here from the West Hartford Adult Education. Go ahead, group. Stand and I'll mention some of your names if I get it right. Go ahead, group. Stand. We have a community outreach group. Susan Oslander here is from the Department of Human and Leisure Services. She's co-chairing our community outreach group. Naogan Ma is here. She'll be working with people who speak other languages and anyone who may be newcomers to the area. We're partnering with other organizations such as WHIRED, West Hartford Initiative for Racial and Ethnic Diversity is here tonight. Eric Fleming is representing that group. The Family Resource Center, Deborah Zipkin is here. A media group led by Rene McCue. We're also, of course, going to be including people with disabilities. Mary Silverberg is here and Mary-Ann Langton and anyone else I didn't mention I'm sorry but it's really a great group and we're just beginning our work. Plus, of course, we also will need the support of the elected officials, Mayor Slifka and all of you, to be key partners. To set the start-up tone we want you to know that we're very open to suggestions. We like to hear from anyone who has ideas about how to make this work so we want to invite you to think anew about what the census means to our entire community and to remind ourselves that in West Hartford with the census as with everything else everyone matters and wear your button with pride. Tonight from the Census Bureau we have Jim Palma who is here. He's been sort of my depth, guiding hand along the way. Jule McKenzie is here and from the Hartford Census Office Russel Hicks is here tonight and he'd like to say just a few words.

Mr. Hicks: Good evening, Mr. Mayor, City Council, ladies and gentleman. My name is Russel Hicks and I am the local Census Office Manager for the Hartford region. Currently West Hartford is one of the four towns that will be in my local census office district. At present I am running six of the eight counties in Connecticut so I coordinate all the Census Bureau activities for six of the eight counties. We're very pleased and very happy to have you on-board as our partners, as friends and as neighbors. I live right next door in Bloomfield so this is like a nice hop, skip and a jump to come over to see about you. We're looking forward to some great things. We're looking forward to that complete count. As was said a little bit earlier by Marcia, dollars and cents matters and for those of us who are in politics, those of us who are in government we understand the meaning of making sure we get that complete count simply because we're looking at what's going on in the country currently. Cash shortfalls, budgetary issues... Those are all things because in the last census we know that approximately 45,000 to 50,000 people were not counted in Connecticut which made us lose a congressional seat so the complete count is extremely important and we're looking forward to our community leaders, our partners to help us get out there and get it done.

We will be beginning our efforts which have already started. We started, as a matter of fact, in April with something called address canvassing. This was the first time we used computer technology to begin to do what we call locate and map spots. We had, and we were tasked with the job of mapping over 750,000 housing units here in the six counties of Connecticut. We had to make sure we knew exactly where they were, how many people were living in it. We haven't actually started counting heads and bodies yet but we have to locate the housing units. Starting next month is the second phase of our project which is called group quarters validation. This is where we will go in, we will count every single institution. What that means is we will be going to prisons, homeless shelters. We'll be getting under bridges. We'll be going every place that people call home – dormitories – and we want to make sure that everybody is counted so we're looking forward to your help, we're looking forward to your blessings and we're looking forward to a good partnership with you. Thank you very much.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Hicks and thank you to Marcia Lewis and her team. Anybody who's worked with Marcia over at Faxon knows that she's got the pulse of the changing West Hartford and that she is more than up to this task. Good luck to all of you. Okay, we're up to #4, Mr. Brennan.

**ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 6-9-09**

RECEIVED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we receive and adopt.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay, we're up to the Public Forum. Mr. Alair, has anybody signed up for the Public Forum?

ITEM #5: PUBLIC FORUM

President Slifka: Okay. Is there anyone who did not sign up who wishes to speak to an item that is on the agenda this evening? Okay. Seeing none we'll go to the Report from the Town Manager. Mr. Van Winkle?

ITEM #6: REPORTS OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Van Winkle: Good evening, Mr. Mayor. Several meetings ago we approved a resolution about a HeartSafe community and I just want to report to you that we have passed in our application. We have 710 heartbeats in West Hartford which is well beyond the required number to become a HeartSafe community so that application is in to the Connecticut Department of Public Health and I'm sure we'll see those signs and see evidence of that program in West Hartford soon.

We recently promoted new school resource officers and community relations officers. Officer Arthur Yepes is the school resource officer at Conard, Officer Jose Rivera is the new school resource officer at Hall and Officer Leigh Cogle is the new community relations officer. Normally these officers would be going through a month of training that we would send them to and it would cost the town money but Lieutenant Donald Melanson was able to arrange for the West Hartford Police Department to host the training here in our community and it saves the town \$3800 because we took the initiative to bring them here.

This is a great town. We've got a lot of great employees here and, you know, you're going to hear me say that many times. You'll think it's just repetitive but we do and a lot of them are unsung. They just do their job and they are exemplary in their abilities. One I want to call to light is Sue Donatelli. Sue is our Risk Manager in West Hartford. She handles risk. She handles insurance. She handles the training of our employees to make sure that they work safely, act safety, that they know how to exit buildings...all those things that we do in training. And she has been working now as we enter our new budget with the renewal of insurance policies for both personal and casualty insurance and I am pleased to report as she was very pleased to report to me that we will be saving \$165,000 over the budgeted amount because of her work to reduce the costs of our insurance. That is an 11 percent reduction in the cost of our property and casualty insurance programs and this outcome can be attributed to several things. One, during our budget process we reduced the town fleet. As you remember, we took 40-some vehicles out of our fleet and put them out to auction. We got money from that auction but taking them out of the auction also reduced our insurance programs. We also have an excellent program responding to property loss control recommendations. Things our insurance company has pointed out how we can operate more efficiently and more effectively and we have a great relationship with that company and have been able to implement a lot of loss

control recommendations and finally, just a commitment to the risk personnel for safety compliance and training. Those things saved the town \$165,000 – no small deal. And the economy probably had some competitive bidding out there for us too but Sue, who works closely with these people, is commended for her efforts to save us dollars.

Also, I wanted to make a point of personal privilege. Sharon Denson is Chair of the West Hartford Advisory Commission on Persons with Disabilities. She is leaving that commission. She has been on it for six years and chairperson for five years. I had the privilege of working with her on a number of our construction projects around town and working with the Commission itself. Sharon recently received her law degree and will be going on to other things. I just wanted to note that we appreciate all the work that she has done with us over the years.

Celebrate was last weekend. It was a great...it was great. It was probably our biggest, most successful Celebrate we've ever had. We had an enormous turnout in the town. We had two days of great weather. You know this program is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. We've got lots of volunteers in the system, particularly of note Angelo Faenza, who is a local businessman and has been with Celebrate since its beginning, I think 22 years, and Helen Rubino-Turco who's also just instrumental in pulling that whole program together. It doesn't cost the town a penny. It actually makes us a little money and I just want to thank them for all the work that they did in order to do that. It is also a program that is run by our Department of Leisure and Human Services and Jim Capodice is the director down there and this month in Season's Magazine, if anyone got it, it had a beautiful picture of Jim at one of our public facilities, in this case a park called "Fun and Games is Serious Work" and it's an interview with Jim about how we operate our systems in West Hartford and our parks so, again, it's nice to have him recognized.

It's dog license renewal month and so you've only got a few days left to renew your dog license. I see our clerk is over there nodding away. State law requires that any dog over six months old must be registered and obviously having a license on your dog is very helpful to us. If he should escape and we catch him in the community we'll be able to call you up and say we've got your dog.

We've talked about ARRA money that we've been receiving and one of the funds that we received was for energy conservation and we've identified two boilers at our schools and at our community center but two boilers at our schools, Aiken and Norfeldt, we are converting. The Aiken boiler was put in in 1963, the Norfeldt in 1957. That technology has passed. Those are old technologies and inefficient boilers. We received a grant from Connecticut Natural Gas because we're replacing those boilers, \$50,000 for the Aiken boiler and \$40,000 for the Norfeldt boiler to help us pay for those costs so that will reduce our cost of doing that.

It is summer in West Hartford. Schools close on Friday. The pool is open on Saturday and the camps open on Monday so... And the sun will come out next week I am told so it is definitely summer here.

I think that's all of my report. We are in fine fettle right now and West Hartford is ready for a little less rain and a little more sun. Thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you Mr. Van Winkle? I just want to echo your words first on Celebrate and I see Richard Patrissi is with us tonight too. Excellent work. And also your words about Sharon Denson. I worked with her for many years on that commission and, you know, it's a personal issue to me given my brother is wheelchair-bound and she's fantastic. Chief Austin was here earlier tonight and I was thinking back to a couple years ago where he and Sharon put together a program that was done in this room and it still airs on WHC-TV periodically but it was about modernizing the way that our fire department knows that people who cannot get around for themselves are in a home. When my brother was growing up it was a sticker that was put on a window of their bedroom and, you know, if a firefighter had to show up at that house they had to literally look at all the windows and maybe it would catch their eye, maybe it wouldn't. We had a house fire when I was a kid so these things did come into play and Sharon and the Chief together put together a program where the town has been able to identify most of these people into a data base so that before our firefighters leave the station they know who to look for in a particular home and that is really to her credit for not only making that something that's a priority for the town, cause we weren't... You know, not everybody is aware how necessary that is - that if you are wheelchair-bound like that that can be an absolutely frightening proposition but also in helping sell it to people because there were some who felt that that's the kind of information they're a little nervous about and she did a great job of that so I just want to give her credit. I know Dr. Thornberry had a question.

Councilor Thornberry: Well, I'm actually... This evening since I only have about four or five months left here on the Council I'm going to disguise my opinion as a question to the manager because there's been a couple of things that have happened that have concerned me but certainly thanks to all of the volunteers on the census. I mean, there are some remarkable things in the U.S. Constitution and certainly one of them is our requirement to count everyone every ten years and that does take a lot of work by the community.

Let me tell you a couple of things I'm really concerned about. In the governor's budget there has been a removal of all of the money for the Family Resource Center. We have one at Charter Oak School, a school that has been the attention of many of us, a school that I've been to often and I really have some very heartfelt feelings for. I think it's a wonderful place run by wonderful people and they have great kids and wonderful parents and the Family Resource Center is so little money for so much good that it breaks my heart to think that that money is going to be removed. Along with it is also money taken away from the Child Victim Advocate in the state and then the Child Fatality Review Board. I think once we start removing these kinds of things from our budget I don't think it speaks very well for us as a community and as a society. You know, I understand the state is in a tough position but what they're planning to do here, it's not like having two less sections of English composition at a state college or closing a park for a couple of days. This is about some really important programs for children and in the case of the Child Victim Advocate and the Child Fatality Review Board, I mean this literally is life or death so I'm very concerned about that and I know our legislative delegation is too. I

guess what I'm asking... I will suggest this to the Manger, is if this does happen then please work with the Board of Education and the Human Services Committee, whether I'm still here for the next couple of months or whoever takes my place in making sure that people don't fall into the cracks and it's really easy to have that happen so thank you.

President Slifka: Thank you, Dr. Thornberry. Mr. Van Winkle, we're being flooded with some of these concerns from constituents that in part had prompted Dr. Thornberry's concern. One of the ones that kind of came with the Family Resource Center announcement, it's separate but related is a proposed cut to our libraries and I know that we've been receiving information from our librarian or our Director of the Libraries, Pat Holloway, and could you... And they're starting to try to inform our residents about what that impact would be. Could you address the potential costs there?

Mr. Van Winkle: Certainly. Let me just speak about the Family Resource Center for a second. It's a marvelous program to see over at Charter Oak School. It actually began in 1991 as a very small program and it flourished into a program that not only addresses kids who are preschool and in school but also their parents and provides some skills and training there. Each of our family resources around the state gets a grant of approximately \$100,000. Actually in West Hartford it goes to the Bridge and not to the town and it is the Bridge that manages that program and makes sure those centers excel. It would be a real loss to the community for us to not have that center at Charter Oak School. It adds to that mix of quality education that they're able to provide there and obviously if we were to lose that grant and needed to keep that program it's \$100,000 cost to the Town of West Hartford.

The proposals that the governor has made on the libraries was to cut 5.4 million dollars from library grants that go to a number of different services, one being internet service to our public libraries. Our public libraries receive internet service through these grants as well as our school libraries and the cost at our school libraries alone if this were adopted would be an additional \$3000 a month in cost to the Board of Education to keep the internet service that they have. The Connecticut library system is unique in many ways. You can go to a library in Simsbury with your West Hartford card and take a book out there and you can then return that book to the Noah Webster Library in West Hartford and there's a system that will allow...make sure that we know where that book is and get it back to the library where it began and that system, which is a statewide system, is all part of a system that is the Connecticut State Library and is also targeted for removal under this program. Our library buys books obviously, but when we buy them as a consortium with all other communities we buy them at a steep discount and through the State Public Library and through efforts that are being cut out of the budget the purchase of books will no longer be done as a consortium but will have to be done on an individual basis which will also raise our costs. There's any number of databases that are also provided through that state library system that we use in our libraries that allow you to go... If you're old like me you can remember going to the library and looking up that old magazine that was somewhere stored in a box in the back room somewhere. Well, today you can pull that up on the internet and those databases are paid for through the State Library by library grants. There are two pages of things that are paid for out of these

programs and if we were to lose this funding for our statewide library system and our local library system there are certainly things that we would need to revisit and ensure that we keep to make sure our library functions well but I think the biggest issue really is going to be this statewide library system that works so well together will now be broken into West Hartford's Library, Simsbury's Library, Windsor's Library. We'll no longer have the role that the State Library plays in pulling all those systems together so it is going to be, again, a program that would probably end up costing the Town of West Hartford close to \$100,000 on the library side and another \$100,000 on the Family Resource Centers. These are difficult times and it's a difficult budget but when these costs are just shifted to our community it means that we either need to find other cuts within our budget or give up these services which are important to our library or find funds to pay for them so although these proposals are being made, it's not something we certainly would support.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Mr. Adler, do you have a question?

Councilor Adler: Though you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Van Winkle, I think certainly one of the things we do very well within the administration is grant writing, receiving state and federal grants. I think at some point in the future if we can get kind of just a tally over the last couple of years as to what the total amount of these grants are because, you know, the monies from the Community Center boilers, the Bishop's Corner Library and I also think we're going to hear from the Chief tonight on the JAG grant... I think it would give a deeper appreciation to the viewing audience as to kind of the effort that's involved there and not only that but the dollars that we receive because I think you guys do a great job on that.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you.

Councilor Adler: You bet.

President Slifka: Okay. Anything else for Mr. Van Winkle? Okay. Seeing nothing else we will move to #7, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #7: CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT CALENDAR: ITEMS 15 AND 16 TO RECEIVE

Vice President Brennan: I move that we place Items 15 and 16 on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Number 8.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ITEM #8: ORDINANCE (VAN WINKLE) IMPLEMENTING FEES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS (PUBLIC HEARING 6-23-09)

ADOPTED VOTE 7-0

Vice President Brennan: I move that adopt.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. This was the subject of a Public Hearing earlier this evening. If I could sum it up in one sentence from Chief Sinsigalli's summary this is new fees for state mandated activities that the fire department must conduct involving permits and inspections. This is meant to cover most if not all of the costs that we incur. It's essentially an unfunded mandate. These fees are new. They would not apply to one and two family dwellings so for most of us out there there is absolutely no impact and a conservative estimate of the additional revenue that would have come in from this if it had been applied in the last year I believe was \$291,000 with the prospect of potentially more and we really credit the Chief and Chief Austin as well for being creative in a very difficult fiscal time in a way that will have a very minimal impact upon our residents. I thank you for that. Does anybody else...? No? Okay. Well, this requires a roll call vote so Ms. Labrot?

Councilors Adler, Brennan, Coursey, Davidoff, Slifka, Thornberry, and Verrengia voted YES; Councilors Cantor and Visconti are absent.

Ms. Labrot: It Passes.

President Slifka: Than you, Ms. Labrot. On to New Business. Number 9, Mr. Brennan?

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #9: RESOLUTION (VISCANTI) CONCERNING CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC CARS

TABLED

Vice President Brennan: I move that we table.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Table is a non-debatable motion so all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We'll note that is at the request of Mr. Viconti who was absent this evening. Number 10, Mr. Brennan?

ITEM #10: RESOLUTION (VAN WINKLE) APPROVING APPLICATION FOR AN EDWARD J. BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FOR \$26,526

ADOPTED

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police is eligible for an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant in the amount of \$26,526 and

WHEREAS, the Town's adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 includes no funds for an AFIS police fingerprint identification system, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department proposes to use JAG funds to purchase (1) Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) Program, and

WHEREAS, the AFIS system will be installed in the Department's Detective Division and will be used to aid in the immediate identification of perpetrators of motor vehicle theft, burglaries, robberies, sexual assaults, assaults, homicides, and arson, and

WHEREAS, West Hartford Police Department Detective Division is responsible for the investigations of these crimes including the processing of crime scenes for physical evidence. Latent fingerprints are commonly found at crime scenes and have great value for the positive identification of a perpetrator because no two individuals have the same fingerprint, and

WHEREAS, West Hartford Police Department's current practice is to submit these fingerprints to the State of Connecticut Forensic Laboratory for examination and to be searched in AFIS. Due to the lab's large volume of latent print submissions from approximately 170 police agencies in the state, the average time to obtain results is 4-6 months. This delay affords the suspect the opportunity time to flee the area or to continue committing crimes, endangering others, and

WHEREAS, the JAG funds will assist with the purchase of one AFIS system at an estimated \$34,500 per system, and will leave a local match of approximately \$7,974 the balance of which will be funded with asset forfeiture fund monies, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby approve application for the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: The motion has been made and seconded. Mr. Van Winkle, would like to address?

Mr. Van Winkle: Yes, we have the Police Chief here tonight and so I'm going to take advantage of him being here to describe this grant but a JAG grant is a grant that we get every year. It is a formula grant that is given out based on population. This is not ARRA money. This is a normal grant process, Mr. Adler, that we apply for and Chief Strillacci, maybe you can explain the program.

Chief Strillacci: You're off to a good start, Mr. Van Winkle. It is correct. This is not stimulus money. There is a JAG grant program that is in effect annually. We can't always predict the amount because it's a function of how much is available, a comparison of our statistics with other communities as well, but we have 26.5 thousand dollars that's coming our way that we're entitled to under this program and the trick is you have a relatively short deadline. You have to come up with a something to put this money into that will benefit the community and what we've hit upon this time is a machine called an AFIS machine. It stands for Automated Fingerprint Identification System. What it is is it's a, like everything else, a kind of computer that attaches to a network and attaches to a database and it's used to identify questioned fingerprints. You find a latent print at a crime scene or you have an unidentified body or some other evidence that has a fingerprint on it and you take the print and you scan it into the machine and it uses an algorithm to compare that questioned print to those that are in a database. It's not...fingerprints are not like comparing names or comparing numbers. It's a picture so there's a trick to it. You're comparing images so it uses this algorithm to compare features of the one you've got with the millions that are in the database and since we don't own one we have to throw ourselves on the mercy of the state and national databases and our turnaround time is months on these and that's time in which a criminal whose fingerprint we have in our possession can continue to be at large, escape capture and punishment and continue to commit crimes and prey upon our citizens so if we acquire one of these machines we'll be able to run a print through on our own frequently and quickly and get results back in hours rather than months which we think will be a great improvement. We had an occasion to get a fingerprint hit a couple weeks ago on a burglary on the Boulevard. One latent print. We put it in the machine. We put it into Hartford's machine actually. They have one. Only four other communities in the state have an AFIS machine and they were able to give us a name. The person's locked up. He's not committing burglaries anymore. That'd service to the community. It's improving safety. The grant amount is not quite enough to buy the machine. We will make up the difference with some of the asset forfeiture money that we have on hand from taking property away from bad people. I'd be happy to answer any further questions if you have them.

President Slifka: Thank you, Chief Strillacci. Are there any questions? Mr. Adler?

Councilor Adler: Through you, Mr. Mayor. First of all, Chief, this is a great opportunity for us in terms of going after bad guys, as you say. In terms of other municipalities that don't have this tool is there some sort of a mutual agreement for other municipalities to use this tool and is there an opportunity for us to... I know you PDs like to help out other PDs obviously. It's just the nature of business but...

Chief Strillacci: The concept that we are espousing is that we would use it regionally. We have... We're surrounded by like communities with similar problems and we would like to share our opportunity with them. It's not just gratis. We will use some of their expertise to help us in the identifications because once you get a match generally the machine generates a list of matches based on the probability that the print you have is the ten card print that's on file and they'll give you a list of hits. You still have to compare them visually so you need a person who's trained in fingerprint comparison to sit down with a microscope and look at the question print and the possible matches, compare them visually, point out the points of comparison and identify them. You need... For court purposes you need two people to do that so we may call upon some of the other agencies that have fingerprint experts and say hey, we've got a print here. Come in and be our second expert and one hand washes the other and criminals don't respect any boundary lines. The people that are ripping off Hartford citizens and Avon citizens are the same ones that are ripping us off so you take one off the street you clear a lot of burglaries and robberies and it helps everybody.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Adler. Any other questions? Dr. Thornberry? Mr. Brennan? Dr. Thornberry and then it's you.

Councilor Thornberry: I love to talk about fingerprints. My mother used to do this work for the FBI before there were computers. But anyway, my point is this. On this machine evidently Las Vegas, New York and Miami have it and they're able to do this in an hour if you believe what you see on television and it's gotten evidently so bad that there have been journal articles written from the perspective of...called the CSI effect that jurors somehow think that everybody has this machine, that everyone's identity can be known in just a few minutes and if you have a few minutes maybe you can talk to the community about the fact that this isn't the case and if we're only the fourth community in the state to have it, then that means there are, you know, 165 others that don't so I applaud you for getting this money Chief.

Chief Strillacci: That's an excellent observation and we do speak on the CSI effect every time we get a chance and it's something that has become very common. People assume that what they see on TV is reality and, of course, it's not. On CSI you have a computer. You push a few buttons. There's a little whirring noise and a picture pops up and the fingerprints are compared and you get the smiling face and the license photo and the last place the guy lived and everything you need to know about him. Of course it's not like that and we don't have buff detectives running around in tank tops either so there are a few differences from TV, Mr. Verrengia excepted. He'll explain the tank top. *(Laughter.)* But this will bring us one step closer to the TV reality and that's not a bad place to be.

President Slifka: Thank you, Dr. Thornberry. Mr. Brennan?

Vice President Brennan: Thank you. Alright. If we got you a pair of sunglasses you could be our Horatio Caine I think. Just a clarification... So we had talked in public

safety about some of these assets that are coming our way by grants and at one point there was a proposal to purchase a soft vehicle to replace one.

Chief Strillacci: Yes.

Vice President Brennan: Are these assets for the fingerprint machine meant to be in lieu of that vehicle?

Chief Strillacci: No. No, it's a separate grant. It's a good opportunity to clarify. We really have three different JAG grants in the works now. The first one was \$113,000 and that will buy five cruisers. The second one is about \$75,000. It will buy the soft car, some machinery that goes in it and some enforcement time. That is called a pass-through grant. The feds give the money to the state. The state allocates it by community and we had that amount passed to us so that's a little slower track. The first grant, the deal has already been cut. The second one we just sent a couple of our people to a school to learn how to do the state's procedure and now we're working with OPM to get the money. That's probably going to be a little later in the summer.

President Slifka: Thank you, Mr. Brennan. Anyone else? Okay. Thank you, Chief.

Chief Strillacci: You're welcome, Mr. Mayor.

President Slifka: And if there's nothing further then all those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. Okay, we're up to Announcements. Mr. Van Winkle, always kind enough to give me a few.

ITEM #11: ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Slifka: The 2009 Relay for Life is on June 26 and 27, so this Friday and Saturday. It takes place at Northwest Catholic High School from 4:00 P.M. on Friday to 10:00 A.M. on Saturday. In the event of rain, all activities will be held indoors. Fun entertainment and activities for all ages will take place throughout the event while participants take turns walking, jogging or running around the track. If you have not been to this before, and I encourage you to go of course, the most moving part of this is the luminaria ceremony which begins shortly after nightfall, probably around 9:00 P.M., and it's where they put hundreds of candlelight bags around the track bearing the names of loved ones who were lost to cancer and honoring their memories and the survivors who walk the track so if you'd like anymore information please call Morgan Greenleaf at (203) 379-4782.

Rockledge Golf Course is going to host a free golf clinic for junior golfers on Saturday, June 27 from 9:00 to 11:00. Tickets are available at the Leisure Services Office in Town Hall and at our two golf courses, Rockledge and Buena Vista.

Auditions for "Something Cool This Way Comes"... I see our Assistant Chief Sinsigalli left. He must be working on his lines. This is on June 27. Calling all singers who move

and dance. I never thought that's something I'd say at a Council meeting. Auditions for a brand new cabaret revue created by Darlene Zoller and Eric Larivee will be held this Saturday, June 27 from 12:00 to 6:00 P.M. at the new Playhouse on Park. "Something Cool This Way Comes" will debut July 17 and 18 at the Playhouse on Park.

The Carillon Concert Series begins July 2 at 7:00 P.M. at the First Church of Christ and will be held every Thursday in July.

The 4th annual Lose the Training Wheels Bike Camp sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of West Hartford – this is really a special event that I know most of the members of the Council if not all have stopped by to see in the last couple years. They are partnering with the Leisure Service Department here in Town Hall. The camp is at Hall High. It's five days for children with special needs ages 8-18. It's held August 3-7. There's probably about 40 kids that will attend. They actually come from all around. If you haven't seen this it's really an amazing thing. These are kids who cannot ride a bike and due to this special teaching method and some of the equipment they tend to learn how to do it on two wheels within about two days and to see the confidence that builds in these kids is really amazing. Their self-esteem goes off the charts. If you would like to register details are available online at www.westhartfordkiwanis.org or here on our town website, westhartford.org/losethetrainingwheels.

And last but certainly not least the Bridge Family Center has two programs spanning the summer for children entering grades 6, 7 and 8 and the fall of 2009. Campers will have a chance to hike, bowl and swim and partake in numerous fun activities. Call the Bridge Family Center at 521-8035 for more information. That is all. Would you like to take it? Go ahead, Mr. Adler

Councilor Adler: Just a quick reminder. The Morley Backpack Program tomorrow at 10:00 A.M. I think it is at the Town Hall Auditorium so come on down.

Mr. Van Winkle: In front of...

President Slifka: In front of Town Hall.

Councilor Adler: In front of Town Hall.

President Slifka: Weather permitting. Okay. Anyone else? Okay. Thank you very much. Reports from the Corporation Counsel, Mr. O'Brien?

ITEM # 12: REPORTS FROM THE CORPORATION COUNSEL:

Mr. O'Brien: We don't need an executive session and I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have.

President Slifka: No? You answered the first one.

Mr. O'Brien: Yeah.

President Slifka: Any other questions for Mr. O'Brien? Okay. Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. That gets us... There are no appointments, no executive session. We're up to the Consent Calendar, Mr. Brennan.

ITEM #17: CONSENT CALENDAR

ADOPTED

ITEM #15: FROM TOWN PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION RECENT PLANNING ACTION: 630 OAKWOOD AVENUE.

ITEM #16: FROM INLAND WETLAND AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY RECENT PLANNING ACTION: INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES REGULATIONS – AMENDMENT TO NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS AND 189 NEWINGTON ROAD – WETLANDS PERMIT EXTENSION REQUEST.

Vice President Brennan: I move that we adopt.

Councilor Coursey: I second.

President Slifka: A motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? All those opposed? Motion carries. We have done #18. There are no petitions so I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Vice President Brennan: So moved.

Councilor Coursey: Second.

President Slifka: All those in favor? Those opposed? Motion carries. We're adjourned. Good night.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 P.M.

Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

/sab