



A Connecticut Human Service & Community Development Agency

*Building safe, healthy, caring communities,  
Inspiring people to reach their fullest potential as  
productive and valued citizens*

Planning and Zoning Commission  
City of Middletown  
245 DeKoven Drive  
Middletown, CT 06457

Thursday, June 12, 2008

Re: Invitation and Comments on Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD)

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Middletown Planning and Zoning Commission:

Chapter 8 of Middletown's proposed PoCD speaks to the need for quality special needs housing. For those of you who have not personally seen how homes for special needs families strengthen neighborhoods, we invite you to join us on a visit to a home. These Middletown citizens would be delighted to speak with you. To arrange a visit, please contact Jim O'Rourke, our Director of Community Development, at (860) 221-5492 or by email at [jorourke@TheConnectionInc.org](mailto:jorourke@TheConnectionInc.org)

In regard to the PoCD document, The Connection's Board of Directors believes that the following changes in the proposed Plan of Conservation and Development are in keeping with the people of Middletown's long and distinguished tradition of embracing diversity and their commitment to a building and maintaining a safe, healthy and caring community

We recommend that the language as posted on your website for Chapter 8, page 29, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph be replaced with the following:

- Well run special needs housing is recognized as an effective solution to a number of important individual and social needs, and the City should work cooperatively with providers, investors, and leaders from surrounding towns to promote high quality settings that are equitably distributed throughout city neighborhoods, Middlesex County and other Connecticut communities.

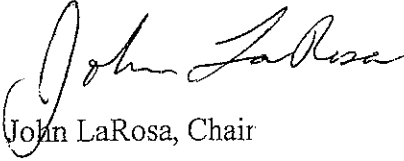
We further recommend that the following language be substituted for the first three bulleted items on page 31:

- The City should take the lead in a regional coalition to promote regional solutions and dispersed sites for special needs housing. This should involve working with state and municipal officials, providers, and consumer groups to ensure that no one municipality or neighborhood a focus for the development of this kind of housing, and that many communities do their part in providing these valuable solutions. Incentives should be pursued to encourage develop this housing in towns or neighborhoods which have not done their share.
- Problematic, poor quality operation of special needs housing should be aggressively addressed through existing code compliance capability and through work with the property owners, investors and service providers which are responsible for assuring quality of care and physical environment in those settings.

We believe that this language captures a spirit that will foster understanding and cooperation. It should lead us forward toward our common goal, assuring Middletown remains a welcoming, diverse, caring, prosperous and safe community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John LaRosa".

John LaRosa, Chair

The Connection Board of Directors are:

John LaRosa, Chair

Mary Klaaren, Vice Chair

Judith Felton, Secretary

Andrew Lasko, Treasurer

Margaret Jordon Addo, Board Member

Joseph Bibisi, Board Member

Katchen Coley, Board Member

Grady Faulkner, Board Member

Peter Nucci, President