



October 8, 2020

*Town of Westport
Planning and Zoning Commission
110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, CT 06880*

Dear Members of the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission,

As the President and CEO of Homes with Hope, I am writing in support of Text Amendment #785: Appl: PZ-20-00615 submitted by the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission to eliminate § 4-5, Maximum Allowable Multi-Family Dwellings, and related references," which deletes § 4-5 of the Westport Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed amendment removes an artificial limit on the number of multifamily dwellings allowed in Westport and, if passed, would put the town in a much better position to effectively meet the changing housing needs of Westport residents. Demographic data and trend analysis show that town residents will need access to a wider variety of housing types (such as townhomes, duplexes, and apartments) in the years to come. Removing § 4-5 is an important predicate step for Westport which will enable the town to better plan for and respond to the increasingly varied current and future housing needs of its residents, ensuring pathways to opportunity and housing stability remain available for a broad spectrum of socio-economically diverse neighbors. Additionally, it is the opinion of FCCHO that approving Amendment #785 will further benefit Westport by allowing the town to consider a broader set of options as it addresses the thresholds that enable developers to override local prioritization under 8-30g.

I would like to thank the town of Westport for your collaborative approach and leadership in the support for affordable housing in the Town. *I am available to assist and help with brainstorming on the development of housing that serves Westport's future needs and excited to support this important initiative.*

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen McAlinden".

*Helen McAlinden
President and CEO
Homes with Hope*