



WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE
TOWN ATTORNEY

To: Matthew Mandell, Chair, RTM Planning & Zoning Commission

From: Ira Bloom, Town Attorney
Gail Kelly, Assistant Town Attorney *G.K.*

Date: June 6, 2011

Re: **Preferences**

On behalf of the RTM Planning & Zoning Committee ("Committee") you have asked "to see possible scenarios of housing preferences based on different funding sources. If the Federal Government is involved financially what happens to Westport preference? What about State funding? Would our donation of the land bring about a better preference situation, or would sale and a private for profit operator be able to offer better preference?"

At this time, the preference being considered is a residency preference. We have previously stated that the specifics of the administration of a residency preference will vary depending upon what, if any, state or federal funding sources are used to build the housing. Those specifics are not available at this time. It is not timely to respond to this question and it is more appropriate for the operator and/or developer of the project to provide these answers.

It is the goal of the Town to give a preference to the residents of Westport for the proposed senior facility. The request for proposals ("RFP") will direct that responses must include how the respondent will achieve this goal and how it will be implemented. At that time, the Town will evaluate the response to determine its acceptability, whether it fulfills the stated goal and whether the method of achieving the goal is consistent with applicable law.

To the extent the Committee wishes to review, as an example, the policies of HUD with respect to residency preferences, I can provide that section of the HUD Handbook which addresses this subject.

cc: Gordon F. Joseloff, First Selectman
Shelly Kassen, Selectwoman