



CITY OF DANBURY

155 DEER HILL AVENUE

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

COMMON COUNCIL

REPORT

December 7, 2004

Mayor Mark D. Boughton
Members of the Common Council

Re: **Duplicate Street Names**

The Common Council Committee appointed to review duplicate street names met twice, first on October 13, 2004 and again on November 8, 2004. In attendance at the October 13th meeting were committee members Basso, Cavo and Saadi, as well as Director of Planning Dennis Elpern, Planning Assistant Joanne Read, Fire Chief Peter Siecienski, Assistant Corporation Counsel Les Pinter, Police Captain Arthur Sullo and Council Members Seabury, Teicholz, Visconti and Calandrino, ex-officio. Present at the November 8th meeting were committee members Basso, Cavo and Saadi, as well as Corporation Counsel Robert Yamin and Council Members Nolan, Barry, Teicholz and Visconti, ex-officio.

At the October 13th meeting Mrs. Basso asked Chief Siecienski for his input. This Chief stated that he might be in the minority as to this being a major problem. The streets on the duplication list have been around for a long time. When they come up, they do not come up with cross street. It may be a personnel problem in that they are not giving the cross streets to responding vehicles. These problems have been visited in the past in concert with the Planning Department. It is always an issue when it comes to changing street names or numbers. Adding north or south to existing names may be a practical solution.

Captain Sullo said that Chief Siecienski has stated exactly what he would say. This issue was addressed five years ago. It is a management decision by the City. Mr. Cavo said he would like to address this issue before it becomes a major problem. It was his intent to simplify the response.

Mr. Elpern submitted an outline of the process involved in changing street names or numbers. He agrees that this is a problem. The issue is that while he would like to say yes the names could be changed, it is a huge time-consuming job. He would be unable to give a date as to when the job could be accomplished. He would try to stay away from adding north or south because it could be a

problem and he also tries to stay away from adding extension because it is not always an extension. Mr. Elpern asked if the City could legally change the name of a private road? Attorney Pinter said City roads should be changed first, but the City might have jurisdiction over private roads if there is no other choice to protect life and liberty

At the November 8th meeting, Mr. Saadi said he spoke to Mr. Cavo about this issue and the first step would be to have the Planning Department contact private communities to ask them if they would be willing to change their street names. The primary names would be kept, but the designation changed. The second step would be residential streets. The streets would be identified and Common Council public hearings scheduled. The third step would be streets consisting of residential and businesses.

Mr. Nolan asked while changing the designation, who will do the cross checking to make sure that the name does not already exist? Mr. Cavo said he would hope that the Planning Department would do this. This could take over a year to do. If the City can get the private roads to agree to change, that accomplishes the first step. Mr. Nolan asked if it is the intention of the committee to lay out the game plan, give it to the Common Council to adopt the game plan and then follow the process? Mr. Saadi said that since this is not a standing committee, it is the plan to have a status report submitted to the Common Council from the Planning Department.

Mr. Saadi made a motion to direct the Planning Department to:

1. Contact owners of private roads to request that they change the name of their road. To the extent that they agree, remove that name from the duplicate road names list.
2. Of the remaining roads with duplicate names, identify the roads with private residences only and, of those roads, identify those with the fewest number of residences. Once identified, notify the Common Council, in writing, of each road's current name and the proposed name change so that the Common Council may take action it finds appropriate.
3. To the extent that duplicate road names remain, identify those remaining duplicate names with the fewest number of businesses. Once identified, notify the Common Council in writing of each road's current name and the proposed name change so that the Common Council may schedule a public hearing on the proposed name changes. Seconded by Mr. Cavo. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

PAULINE BASSO, Chairman

JOSEPH CAVO

THOMAS SAADI