

# NO ONE SAYS IT BETTER

## Greater New Haven CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Bethany Branford Cheshire East Haven Guilford Hamden Milford New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

March 3, 2010

Dear State Legislators:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed elimination of the statutory requirement of posting a legal notice in a local newspaper of municipal bids, public hearings, ordinances and other items and replace the requirement with a simple web posting on the municipalities' site. As President and CEO of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, I support and encourage efforts to make government more efficient. However, there are a few reasons why I believe eliminating this requirement is not good for the business community or the general public.

It is commonly known amongst members of the business community that the most reliable and unbiased source of information on government matters, including bids, public hearings and other items, is the legal notice that appears in the newspaper. These legal advertisements ensure proper, public recording of the notice by an independent third party. In this role, newspapers prevent any manipulation by a public official or any other individual who may attempt to suppress widespread notice of municipal activities.

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce is a big believer and supporter in utilizing IT as a way to communicate, but we are a business organization and have access to the latest technology and programs. Although many residents are Internet-savvy and may find news sources conveniently through the web rather than newsprint, this is not representative of all our member businesses or the general public.

I support efforts to reduce government spending in these difficult economic times. However, it is difficult to imagine that the cost savings can outweigh the public's right to know. I respectfully urge you to oppose the proposed elimination of the requirement to post legal notices in local newspapers and to preserve the integrity and transparency of local government.

*Anthony P. Rescigno*

President & CEO  
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce

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## PUBLIC NOTICES MUST REMAIN PUBLIC

### KEEP PUBLIC NOTICES IN YOUR NEWSPAPER!

Pending legislation may remove your right to read public notices in newspapers, moving them from the public domain to the internet. We're concerned. And you should be, too.

Public notices are an important tool in assuring an informed citizenry. They have helped develop America into a participatory democracy for hundreds of years and where it counts the most: how your tax dollars are spent, how policy is made and how our futures are charted.

They are located in easy-to-find sections of your newspaper. And they are fully accessible to everyone - unlike the internet, which is not accessible to everyone.

Less than 10% of the U.S. population views a local, state or federal government website daily, according to the May 2009 release of U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of Resident Population.

This means more than nine out of ten people may never see a given notice.

This compares dramatically to the fact that 83% of adults read a community newspaper every week, according to the National Newspaper Association.

Furthermore, a public notice printed in the newspaper produces a permanent record. The internet does not, nor does it assure timeliness. And a newspaper is archived for years; not subject to computer crashes and hackers.

Newspapers are easily verifiable, fully transparent and represent a secure third party

who has nothing to gain from any notice. Connecticut's recent ethical lapses shed a glaring light on the full meaning of this problem. It's like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

Every public notice, which runs in a Connecticut daily newspaper, is automatically uploaded to that newspaper's web site and CTPublicNotices.org.

Newspapers are your watchdogs. Don't let that role be changed now. Voice your opinion.

**To keep your notices in the newspaper,  
contact your local elected officials or:**

**Governor Jodi Rell - 860.566.4840**

**Senate Democrats - 860.240.8600**

**House Democrats - 860.240.8500**

**Senate Republicans - 860.240.8800**

**House Republicans - 860.240.8700**

Visit [www.ctdailynews.com](http://www.ctdailynews.com) to contact your legislator today