

PUBLIC COMMENT IS INVITED, CONCERNING A REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING PROPOSAL TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO GENDER

FROM THE TOWN CHARTER AND CODE OF ORDINANCES

Darien is considering updating its official documents: the Town Charter, and the Town Code of Ordinances to eliminate all references to gender.

This means that a phrase currently in the Town Charter that now reads: "The town clerk shall also keep a record of receipts in his office in book form" would become : "The town clerk shall also keep a record of receipts in the town clerk's office in book form ..."

Another example would be: "The chairman of any standing committee may be removed from such office for failure to discharge properly his duties by the rules committee.." would become: "The chair of any standing committee may be removed from such office for failure to discharge properly their duties by the rules committee..."

Over 450 changes are to be made within 160 sections of the official documents. The changes were originally identified by a computer scan, and then analyzed, item by item, to prepare specific changes for each instance of a gender-specific phrase. All occurrences of the word "Chairman" will become "Chair."

Although the Charter has always contained the phrase "Words of one gender include all other genders," this project is being undertaken to edit the older sections of the text. With minor exceptions, none of Darien's amendments in the past 20 years have been gender-specific. This non-gender style of preparing documents is now in use in Congress as well as in State and local legislation.

The attached 60-page report the specifies each of the changes to be made follows several pages of reference materials. This report is available on the Town's web site (www.darienct.gov) and in hard-copy at the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall.

Public comment regarding these changes may be given at either of two Public Hearings:

- in person at the Town Hall Auditorium on Monday, March 28th (7:30pm), or

- remotely, via an on-line session at 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 29th - using this link
<https://meet.goto.com/338039781>

In addition, comments may be sent by e-mail to the Town Clerk, at DarienRTM@DarienCT.gov

60 days after the Public Hearings are complete, the amendments to the Charter may be taken up by the RTM. Accordingly, this topic may appear on the Agenda of the June 6th meeting of the RTM. At that time the public will also be invited to comment on the resolution.

Questions prior to the Public Hearing may be addressed to DarienRTM@DarienCT.gov

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