

Share:

 E-mail

 Print

 Comment

 Digg

 del.icio.us

 Back  Home

Norwich: Dec. 1 hearing set for proposed delays to background checks

By MICHAEL GANNON

Norwich Bulletin

Posted Nov 17, 2008 @ 11:22 PM

Norwich, Conn. —

An ordinance that would delay criminal background checks until later in Norwich's hiring process will have a public hearing on Dec. 1.

Former Alderwoman Jacqueline Caron said the delay would allow a prospective employer to discover and consider the applicant's qualifications for the job before asking if the person has a criminal record.

Norwich resident Kelly Brown, who has a criminal record, said it took her years to land a good job. She said she meets people almost daily who would get a second chance if more employers would make the change.

"Check that box and you're not going to get called," she said. "You can put out 25 applications out in one week and no one calls."

Richard Casey, who has a record from 2000, said he sometimes finds work at Labor Ready in Franklin Square.

"I'm someone who could benefit from this," he said.

Zoning rule change

In other business, the council tabled its proposed ordinance to strike the existing active adult community regulations from Norwich's zoning laws.

The proposal was made in the wake of protests against a 185-unit condominium project at the intersection of Hansen and Scotland roads. The Commission on the City Plan has withheld an opinion on the matter, pending clarification from the council as to why it is seeking to eliminate the ordinance.

Aldermen Pete Desaulniers, Robert Zarnetske and Mark Bettencourt said the key phrase is legislative intent.

"What has changed is that there have been development proposals that are not ... what the council had anticipated," Zarnetske said.

Desaulniers said: "I was expecting houses, not condos."

The aldermen said they did not intend to have developers use the ordinance to expand things such as sewers to the more rural areas of town.

Copyright © 2008 [GateHouse Media, Inc.](#) Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons](#) license, *except where noted*.