

Brian Coleman
26 Centre ST
Mansfield Center CT
October 25, 2014

Matthew Hart/Town Council
Town Manager
Audrey P Beck Municipal Building
4 South Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT 06268

Dear Mr. Hart, Town Council Members et al,

Please regard this as my written and formal complaint in regards to Deputy Mayor Paul Shapiro's behavior during the October 14, 2014 Town Council Meeting. Mr. Shapiro's comments during the rental certification zone expansion discussion were intentionally directed at me. He referred to me as being disingenuous on my August 25th public comments and the articles I sited. I provide links, dates or the entire article as well as a written statement with my public comments. My opinion on the rental ordinances in Mansfield and how they affect our Constitutional rights is just that, an opinion. My interpretation of the articles surely can differ from that of Shapiro's but in no way am I being deceitful, dishonest or untruthful. This was a deliberate attempt to defame my character and undermine my credibility. I also provided a link of a USA Today article on the opinion of the ACLU on rental inspections in Hampton Va. Mr. Shapiro attempted to discredit them by bringing up totally unrelated topic, abortion. In attempt to further discredit me and the ACLU he went on a rant on how the ACLU was wrong to have no restrictions on a woman's right to choose. I am not sure what this has to do with rental inspections other than another attempt to discredit me and the material I submit. Mr. Shapiro violated the council rules of procedure (rule 5) decorum when he attacked my character and credibility with his accusations of me being dishonest, and insinuations of the ACLU being unworthy based on an unrelated topic. I expect an apology at the next council meeting on October 27, 2014 from Mr. Shapiro

Sincerely,

Brian Coleman

Mansfield Citizen

October 27, 2014

Dear Town Council,

I would like to reply to Deputy Mayor Shapiro's comments that he made in regards to me being disingenuous about the submission of articles in relation to the rental ordinances. First let me be clear, I have stated that the language in Mansfield housing code, in my opinion, was designed to omit the legal right of the tenant to refuse entry, thus our inspections are illegal warrantless searches. I have said that and I will say it again. Mr. Shapiro stated that he wasn't sure how we went in this direction with the warrantless searches, and then quickly segued into a rant about abortion and the ACLU. I am not sure what this has to do with rental inspections but I can assure you that no abortions are taking place in our rental properties.

It could be that this was an attempt on Mr. Shapiro's part to discredit the ACLU. The town of Mansfield has a history of over stepping its bounds on the constitutional rights of its citizens. Just in 2010 the ACLU returned to its citizens, part of their 1st amendment rights when they ruled that Mansfield regulations on political signs were illegal. <https://www.acluct.org/updates/mansfield-drops-sign-restrictions/> . Mansfield quickly nixed the zoning regulation after the ACLU ruling. In 2003 the Town Council put forth a resolution to the ACLU to protect its citizens from the patriot act. The council at that time was fearful of its helpless citizens losing their constitutional rights! Please! <https://www.aclu.org/national-security/mansfield-ct-resolution> Please, I don't need your help, you continue to erode the rights of your citizens through the constant creation of new ordinances. We suffer from over legislation.

That being said, this is has been good conversation. We have learned some lessons from the New Haven lawsuit. They provide a form to the tenants if the wish to deny entry. They provide an inspection check list to the landlord to guarantee uniformity of the ordinance. They cap inspection fees so not to cause financial harm. In New Haven tenants have refused entry and not one administrative search warrant has been served on its citizens in that regard. I am enclosing the New Haven housing code, you will find it quite clear.

Mansfield uses strong armed tactics to try to intimidate its citizens. Search warrants, state police, attorneys and threats of arrest to those who don't comply. The manager and tenants at Woodsedge Apartments exercised their constitutional rights and were treated like criminals even though not a single law was broken.

Brian Coleman

Centre St

Mansfield Center

**Arthur A. Smith
74 Mulberry Road
Mansfield, CT 06250**

October 27, 2014
Mansfield Town Council

Dear Town Council Members:

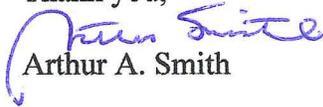
Good evening, I have a few **new** questions that I would like to have answered and a few **old** questions I am still hoping to have answered:

- (1) With an UConn Master Plan planner present, I would like to have established the mile radius of UConn parcel holdings, from a designated point on campus, that are subject to development in the Mansfield Community? Of those parcels, how many are designated for partnership development? What studies if any have been conducted to determine whether the infra-structure is in place for bio-safety level 4 laboratory developments there? Have Biosafety level laboratories been ruled out in development planning. [Biosafety level 4 laboratories are those facilities that carry out research on critical biological agents, such as the anthrax bacteria, toxins such as ricin and botulism and viruses such as Ebola, all at present incurable conditions.]
- (2) Did the Attorney General's Office review the proposed agreement with the Town and UConn regarding the Community School of the Arts; the transition to Town management was to occur if it was "profitable." Was profitability to be determined with or without UConn subsidies currently being provided by the Foundation, was the contract modified accordingly?
- (3) Has the town's Chief Finance Officer, Cherie Trahan, given our town attorney or the investigating police notice that she has retained legal counsel to assist her as the police investigate financial disclosures of the town?
- (4) What accounting controls have been in place, if any, to monitor the unilateral action of a Town Manager to authorize operating cost expenditures without prior Town Council approval? Why were the operating cost expenses of the pumping station by the post office not approved by the Town Council?
- (5) The Town Manager takes notes during the Public Comment period and those notes are not made available to the public, does withholding those documents of public interest outweigh the benefit to the public in providing them? When was this decided and by whom?
- (6) In the light of case law provided, see today's packet, are the Mayor, Town Manager and/or Town Council members in compliance with CTFOIA mandates when they hold private conversations during a Town Council meeting that is inaudible to the public?

(7) In the Town Code under Chapter 76, specifically 76-4 Solicitation and award procedures, it states that "Best value shall be determined by consideration of some or all of the following factors as deemed appropriate by the Purchasing Agent", here Ms. Trahan, when she awards a contract for goods or service (but not professional services as defined in Subsection I) other than by competitive sealed bid in accordance with Article V, Sec. C506B(1)(c) of the Town Charter, where are those considerations documented and in what format are they stored? (See Attached Code in question)

(8) The Town of Mansfield has purchased fire arms, independent of Troop C barracked in our town hall, the Town Manager stated that he did not know where they were when last asked by Mr. Hossack during Town Council Public Comment over two months ago, does he now know where are they stored and who has maintained a record of their storage?

Thank you,


Arthur A. Smith

Attachment



*Town of Mansfield
Proclamation in Honor of Mansfield's Veterans*

Celebrating the Living and Remembering the Fallen

Whereas, on Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces, as Americans across this land commemorate the patriots who have risked their lives to preserve the liberty of our Nation, the families who support them, and the heroes no longer with us; and

Whereas, in an unbroken line of valor stretching across more than two centuries, our veterans have charged into harm's way, sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice, to protect the freedoms that have blessed America; and

Whereas, we remember our solemn obligations to our veterans, and recommit to upholding the enduring principles that our country lives for, and that our fellow citizens have fought and died for; and

Whereas, with respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, we publically honor the Town of Mansfield's veterans as we celebrate the living and remember the fallen;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor of Mansfield, Connecticut, on behalf of the Town Council and the citizens of Mansfield do hereby celebrate Mansfield's veterans and encourage all residents to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans and thank them for their many contributions to our country, our community and our way of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Mansfield to be affixed on this 10th day of November in the year 2014.

Elizabeth C. Paterson
Mayor, Town of Mansfield