

 **LeeAnn DeLeo, REALTOR**
 (203)253-4567
 Prudential Connecticut Realty 124 East Ave., Norwalk, CT

SELLING or BUYING?
 Call FREE for a Consultation

Click to Contact

Tuesday, July 3, 2012

82°
Clear



WineNation 4TH OF JULY SAVINGS SPECTACULAR WineNation UNCORK HERE X

4TH OF JULY SAVINGS SPECTACULAR

WineNation
WITNESS THE BIRTH OF A NATION

380 Main Avenue Norwalk, CT
 Just off the Merritt Parkway, Next to Stop & Shop
203.295.3860
 visit us @ www.winenation.com for hours & other special events

BREAKFAST Beatdown!
 Vote for the most egg-traordinary breakfast
 Starting June 26, 2012 visit www.Thefour.com to vote!

Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling

Story Comments (3) Image (6)

Share Print Font Size:

Tweet 1 Like 3

Previous Next



Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling

A room divided. On the Left Members of the community against the building of the mosque and those in support of the mosque on the right during a public meeting Wednesday evening at Norwalk City Hall. DAVID ESPOSITO / Hour photo



Posted: Thursday, June 28, 2012 8:30 pm | Updated: 4:36 pm, Fri Jun 29, 2012.

By **ROBERT KOCH**
Hour Staff Writer | 3 comments

Group alleges Zoning decision result of discriminatory opposition

NORWALK -- Al-Madany Islamic Center of Norwalk has appealed the Norwalk Zoning Commission's rejection of its plan for a 27,000-square-foot mosque and multi-purpose hall at 127 Fillow St.

The lawsuit, filed with United States District Court on Thursday, rebuts the nine reasons given by the commission for rejecting the plan and alleges that religious discrimination played a role.

"There is evidence that factors that usually lead to approval by the Zoning Commission were discounted or disregarded in this case, leading to the denial," reads the lawsuit prepared by the Washington, D.C., law firm Storzer & Greene, PLLC. "Further, the record of the public's reaction to Plaintiff's Application shows that the Zoning Commission's decision was made in the context of strong, discriminatory opposition to a favorable disposition of the Application."

According to the lawsuit, Al-Madany Islamic Center appealed the decision to "redress violations of its civil rights as protected by the United States



Constitution, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, and Connecticut's Religious Freedom Act."

Under RLUIPA, no government shall impose or implement a land use regulation that discriminates against any assembly or institution on the basis of religion or religious denomination.

Robert F. Maslan, Jr., head of the city's law department, stood by the commission's decision, and said the department will defend it.

"The decision is based on sound zoning reasons, and we will defend against the lawsuit," Maslan said.



More about [Appeal](#)

- **IMAGE:** Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling
- **IMAGE:** Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling
- **IMAGE:** Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling
- **IMAGE:** Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling
- **IMAGE:** Al-Madany Center of Norwalk files lawsuit appealing Zoning Commission ruling

Tweet < 1 Like < 3

Comment Share Print

Posted in [Norwalk](#) on *Thursday, June 28, 2012 8:30 pm. Updated: 4:36 pm.* | Tags: [Al-madany Center Of Norwalk Files Lawsuit](#), [Appeal](#), [Zoning Commission](#), [Robert F Maslan, Jr](#)

We Recommend

- [Setting the record straight on Oak Hills](#)
- [Police: Lead singer of Norwalk band charged with 'a violent sexual assault'](#)
- [Wooden doll shuts down Route 7 ramp, snarls traffic](#)
- [Scientists believe the 'God particle' does exist](#)
- [Board of Estimate meeting called to settle on Board of Education aid](#)

From Around The Web

- [Report: Dennis Rodman Broke, Sick, Facing Serious Jail Time \(NESN.com\)](#)
- [Steve Jobs Was Scared Lisa Would One Day Be Kidnapped \(redOrbit\)](#)
- [Woman arrested for burning down 3,500-year-old tree \(Grist Magazine\)](#)
- [Fox Anchor Greg Kelly seems like a victim not a rapist in allegations against him -- Case doesn't add up against son of NYPD Chief Ray Kelly \(IrishCentral\)](#)
- [Dog Strangled by Phone Cord Saves His Own Life by Dialing Emergency Number \(Vetstreet\)](#)

[?]

Similar Stories

- [Rock musician to help others fight back against Lyme disease](#)
- [Fourth of July closings](#)
- [Board of Estimate meeting called to settle on Board of Education aid](#)
- [Wooden doll shuts down Route 7 ramp, snarls traffic](#)
- [American Legion honors Thomas Corbo, sports ambassador and Korean War veteran](#)

Most Read

- [Scientists believe the 'God particle' does exist](#)
- [Cops: Woman stole cab ride, \\$1,500 in clothing from Kohl's](#)
- [Babe Ruth Baseball -- Norwalk wins District 2 championship with a team effort](#)
- [Rock musician to help others fight back against Lyme disease](#)
- [Police say NY man tried to steal 46-inch television, cell phone from Walmart](#)

Popular Commented Facebook Activity

Stories

[Scientists believe the 'God particle' does exist](#)

[Cops: Woman stole cab ride, \\$1,500 in clothing from Kohl's](#)

[Babe Ruth Baseball -- Norwalk wins District 2 championship with a team effort](#)

[Rock musician to help others fight back against Lyme disease](#)

[Police say NY man tried to steal 46-inch television, cell phone from Walmart](#)

[More](#)

[Photos](#)

[Videos](#)

Calendar

July 2012						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

today's events browse submit

Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

[Submit news](#)

You Reported It



Lost Dog

posted: [June 25](#)
[Comments](#)

Reader Comment Rules Of Conduct

- 1 Keep it Clean.**
Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.
- 2 Don't Threaten or Abuse.**
Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated. AND PLEASE TURN OFF CAPS LOCK.
- 3 Be Truthful.**
Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.
- 4 Be Nice.**
No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.
- 5 Be Proactive.**
Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.
- 6 Share with Us.**
We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.

Welcome to the discussion.

Screen Name or Email

Or, use your facebook account:



Password

[Forgot?](#)

Login

[Need an account? Create one now.](#)

3 comments:

[wurm90125](#) posted at 10:58 am on Fri, Jun 29, 2012.



Posts: 13

This was predictable. There was absolutely no discrimination evident in the proceedings, and the town did a great job of keeping it out. This was a zoning discrimination, and the process played out like it was supposed to. They lost because they were trying to build a structure on a piece of land that is too small to support it. There are other parcels of land that are more suitable. What's the obsession with building it on Fillow Street?

[Log In to report.](#) | [Link](#)

[James Price](#) posted at 9:36 am on Fri, Jun 29, 2012.



Posts: 1

It's really so typical/predicable... that it's laughable. If all fails... CRY DISCRIMINATION! Sadly these tactics sometimes work, but I don't feel they will in this case. Mr. Memon is trying to save face and pointing the finger at someone else. Not pointing at himself for choosing a tiny plot of land in between little homes on a narrow winding road. Again... laughable. Norwalk will have no problem defending itself in this lawsuit. Trying to compare other religious institutions (and their history of zoning requirements) in the area is disproportionate. Those other structure are on MUCH larger roads (no traffic study needed) and MUCH larger plots of land (less zoning issues). Mr. Memon is hellbent on destroying the quality of life of those poor people near 127 Fillow Street. There are dozens of other plots of land that could get his people a home of worship... BUT NO!!!! He wants to prove some demented/selfish point about having that ENORMOUS mosque on that tiny property will will ruin the quality of life for dozens and dozens of families. Mr. Memon is a SELFISH individual. I can't wait to watch Norwalk put this lawsuit away with ease.

[Log In to report.](#) | [Link](#)

[PikeBishop](#) posted at 4:43 am on Fri, Jun 29, 2012.



Posts: 70

These Muslims have become so American - suing for some ridiculous cause, when they could care less their proposal would ruin a neighborhood and cause serious danger to

The Melting Pot Fundraiser

[Homes](#)
posted: June 21 | [Comments](#)

[WILTON 1 BR Furnished garden patio cottage Near Cannondale Station. AARP Driver Safety Offering Deep Discount for Educators](#)

Updated: 1:01 am
posted: June 21 | [Comments](#)

[1 BR APT WILTON Business Plans for Warren Buffett](#)

Updated: 1:01 am
posted: June 21 | [Comments](#)

[DIRECT LAKE FRONT BUILDING LOT Adult Cooking Classes](#)

Updated: June 09 | [Comments](#)

[More Homes](#)

people's lives. I bet they have a good Jewish lawyer.

[Log In to report.](#) | [Link](#)

Rules of Conduct

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Keep it Clean.
Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.</p> <p>2 Don't Threaten or Abuse.
Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated. AND PLEASE TURN OFF CAPS LOCK.</p> <p>3 Be Truthful.
Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.</p> | <p>4 Be Nice.
No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.</p> <p>5 Be Proactive.
Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.</p> <p>6 Share with Us.
We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.</p> |
|--|---|

Sections

Home
 News
 Community
 You Report It
 Sports
 Obituaries
 Business
 Entertainment
 Opinion
 Media
 Classifieds
 Blogs
 Online Features
 Weather

Services

About Us
 Contact Us
 Advertise
 Rack Locations
 Submission Forms
 Site Index
 Add Search Toolbar

Contact us

thehour.com
 The Hour Publishing Company
Phone number: 203-846-3281
E-mail: News@thehour.com
Address: 1 Selleck St.
 Norwalk, CT 06855

Search

Search in:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All | <input type="checkbox"/> A&E | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion | |