



Monday, December 3, 2012

Home Delivery MY ACCOUNT

49° Partly Cloudy



Home News Community You Report Sports Obituaries Business Entertainment Opinion Multimedia Classifieds Blogs

PIRO PETROLEUM THE "BEST PRICE" OIL COMPANY PIRO PETROLEUM OPEN/CLOSE

Home News Norwalk

The Hour King of safety A smaller piece of the pie SUBSCRIBE

# City moves to settle mosque lawsuit

Story Comments (27)

Share Print Font Size:

Tweet 9 Like 16



Posted: Thursday, November 29, 2012 10:15 pm | Updated: 11:45 am, Sun Dec 2, 2012.

By ROBERT KOCH Hour Staff Writer | 27 comments

NORWALK -- The city and Al-Madany Islamic Center of Norwalk appear headed toward resolution of the latter's lawsuit against the city.

Al-Madany Islamic Center sued the city after the commission on June 6 rejected the center's plan to build a mosque/multi-purpose center at 127 Fillow St.

## Moccia: Mosque rejection had to do with density, size, traffic

A model sits in front of the Zoning Commission as members make the decision Wednesday to deny Al-Madany Islamic Center of Norwalk's plan for a mosque/community center.

That decision might now be reversed, or at least altered.

On a 6-1 vote Thursday night, Norwalk Zoning commissioners approved the following motion:

"Subject to an agreement on the terms and conditions of the final settlement agreement, we consent to a resolution to allow for zoning approval for the mosque and accessory use building."

The action came after commissioners stepped out of a 90-minute closed-door meeting at City Hall with city attorneys present.

Robert F. Maslan, Jr., head of the city's law department, commissioners and Planning and Zoning Department staff, afterward declined to elaborate on the action -- indicating that litigation against the city remained pending.

Voting in favor of the motion were Jill Jacobson, Michael Mushak, Nathan Sumpter, Adam Blank, Harry Rilling and Chairwoman Emily Wilson.

Vice Chairman Joseph Santo voted 'No.'

The agenda for the special meeting listed "Discussion of Litigation" and "Possible action on Litigation" relating to the rejected mosque plan.

Marc J. Grenier, attorney for neighboring Stonegate and Fillow Ridge Condominium associations, which opposed the mosque plan, expressed displeasure with the commission's action.

Hunter Douglas shop at home See Window Treatments and Color Options In the lighting of your own home duc-interiors TRIPLE S INCORPORATED E-Mail or call for an appointment ShopAtHome.DUC-interiors.com or call 203.849.1089

## Location



127 Fillow Street Norwalk

"While we understand that the city has been involved in negotiations in accordance with an order of the

Popular Commented Facebook Activity

Stories

USS Enterprise carrier taken out of active service

USS Enterprise carrier taken out of

federal court, we have not been made privy to those negotiations," Grenier said. "In fact, we are quite surprised that the federal court would consider any resolution of this case without the input of my clients."

Zoning considerations, not religious discrimination, drove the commission's rejection of the plan, according to the several commissioners and neighbors of the proposed project.

During a public hearing on the plan, many neighbors labeled the proposed 27,000-square-foot mosque and multi-purpose center too large for the 1.5-acre property on Fillow Street.

The lawsuit, filed with United States District Court on June 28, rebuts the nine reasons given by the commission for rejecting the plan and alleges that religious discrimination played a role.

The suit cites the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which states that 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.

"Federal law protects the right of all religious traditions, mainstream or minority, to a place where congregants can pray, worship together and teach their children," said Roman P. Storzer, the attorney representing Al-Madany Islamic Center, at the time the lawsuit was filed.

Tweet 9 Like 16

Comment Share Print

Posted in [Norwalk](#) on *Thursday, November 29, 2012 10:15 pm*. *Updated: 11:45 am*. | Tags: [Al-madany Islamic Center](#), [Norwalk Zoning Commissioners](#), [Norwalk Mosque](#)

### We Recommend

- Three arrested for prostitution in Darien
- Norwalk bookkeeper sentenced for tax fraud
- Mr. Nash should apologize and resign for his column
- Cops: Norwalker assaulted mom because she didn't buy beer
- Norwalk police blotter

### From Around The Web

- Who Will Protect the Children? The Untold Story of Unaccompanied Minors in Witness Protection Programs (*childlaw*)
- Apple, Samsung to kiss and resolve legal spat (*uSwitch*)
- Millions in red-light camera fines could be returned (*Onward Voice*)
- New Bill In Senate Creates Martial Law Over Your Online Accounts (*redOrbit*)
- Bill O'Reilly half apologizes for "being an idiot" after Supreme Court Obamacare ruling (*IrishCentral*)

### Similar Stories

- NEON had problems meeting deadline in reapplying for Head Start grant
- With Norwalk YMCA closing, ZEUS Swim Team looking at NHS for additional hours
- Hole-in-Won CEO to be extradited
- Norwalk weather: Clear skies and warmer weather
- BMHS alumni seeks 'Hall' nominations

### Most Read

- USS Enterprise carrier taken out of active service
- Police investigating odd scene near West Avenue Saturday
- Katy Perry, Carly Rae Jepsen get Billboard honors
- Xerox may be next big writedown disaster

active service

---

Police investigating odd scene near West Avenue Saturday

---

Katy Perry, Carly Rae Jepsen get Billboard honors

---

Xerox may be next big writedown disaster

[More](#)

Photos

Videos

## Calendar

December 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		29
	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

#### Guns reek havoc in Connecticut

**Contributed**  
 Updated: Yesterday | Comments



**"The Woman In Black"**  
 Contributed  
 Updated: November 29  
 Comments



**NYC Fresh Air child ran his first race at the Annual Backcountry Bushwhack race this past weekend**  
 Contributed  
 Updated: November 25  
 Comments

#### Should We Have a Fear of Islam?

**Contributed**  
 Updated: November 18 | Comments



**MONOTHON 2012 Live**