



**DONALD J. POLAND, PHD, AICP**  
SENIOR VP AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, URBAN PLANNING  
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March 15, 2021

Joan Veley, Chairwoman  
Planning & Zoning Commission  
Town of Berlin, Town Hall  
240 Kensington Road  
Berlin, CT 06037

Re: Third-Party Review – Applicant Proposed Housing Affordability Plan

Dear Chairwoman, Veley:

Per a request by staff, I have revisited the proposed Housing Affordability Plan submitted by the applicant. The request to revisit the Plan resulted from further remarks and concerns raised by Doug Truitt in a memo dated March 2, 2021. In that memo, Mr. Truitt explains, “The 404 Berlin Turnpike proposal is out of compliance” in two ways. He continued to explain:

- 1) In section VIII, Maximum Rental Price, the proposal states that “a studio apartment is calculated as a one bedroom unit”. This is in direct contradiction of 8-30g-8 which stipulates that rent for a studio apartment is calculated at one person occupancy, a 1-bedroom at 1.5 person occupancy, and a 2-bedroom at 3 person occupancy.
- 2) The sample rent calculation in the same section does not implement the formula defined in 8-30g-8, and arrives at a maximum rent allowance significantly larger than would be calculated by applying the method defined in the regulations.

I agree with Mr. Truitt’s findings and believe the Plan calculations need to be more specific as to the number of persons per household, the income limits per household size, and the unit types (number of bedrooms). Therefore, to resolve this matter and ensure compliance I recommend the following changes to the Housing Affordability Plan:

- Modify the ‘Sample Calculation Table’ in Section VIII (Maximum Rental Price) to provide sample calculations for each of the three unit types. The table can be presented with three columns for each of the unit types: Studio, One-Bedroom, and Two-Bedroom.
- The studio unit column should be calculated for a 1-person household at the applicable income limits provided via HUD and the State Department of Housing.
- The one-bedroom unit column should be calculated for a 1.5-person household at the applicable income limits provided via HUD and the State Department of Housing.
- The two-bedroom unit column should be calculated for a 3-person household at the applicable income limits provided via HUD and the State Department of Housing.

With this memo, I have provided files containing the most recent year income limits by household size and rent limits for the most recent year (2020), as provided by HUD and the State Department of



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Housing. By utilizing these numbers and providing the specific calculations for each of the unit types by the number of persons and the applicable incomes limits, the applicant can resolve this issue.

I also recommend that language be added to Section VIII. Maximum Rental Price explaining that the calculations (moving forward) be based on the most recent year income limits for the Hartford-West Hartford-East MSA (or statewide) as updated by HUD and the State Department of Housing.

I look forward to discussing this with you and the Commission further at the next hearing. Please feel free to ask any questions you or the Commission may have.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald J. Poland".

Donald J. Poland, PhD, AICP  
Planning Consultant

**DOH Program Rent Limits based on HUD FMRs**  
**2020 HUD FMRs (effective 9/2020)**  
**PMSA/MSA area**



		Bedroom Size					
		0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk MSA</b>							
Bridgeport	FMR	878	1,077	1,346	1,706	2,114	2,431
	25% Rent Limit	449	481	578	667	744	821
	30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	540	578	693	801	893	986
	LOW HOME Rent	878	962	1,155	1,334	1,488	1,642
	HIGH HOME Rent	878	1,077	1,346	1,700	1,878	2,053
	50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	898	962	1,155	1,334	1,488	1,642
	60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,017	1,089	1,308	1,510	1,878	2,053
	65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,148	1,231	1,479	1,700	1,878	2,053
	100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,098	1,346	1,683	2,133	2,643	3,039
	120% Housing Trust Fund	1,317	1,616	2,019	2,559	3,171	3,647
Danbury	FMR	1,140	1,360	1,749	2,187	2,680	3,082
	25% Rent Limit	509	546	654	756	844	931
	30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	641	686	823	951	1,062	1,171
	LOW HOME Rent	1,067	1,143	1,372	1,586	1,770	1,952
	HIGH HOME Rent	1,140	1,360	1,744	2,007	2,220	2,431
	50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,018	1,091	1,308	1,512	1,687	1,861
	60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,222	1,309	1,570	1,815	2,025	2,234
	65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,354	1,452	1,744	2,007	2,220	2,431
	100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,425	1,700	2,186	2,734	3,350	3,853
	120% Housing Trust Fund	1,710	2,040	2,624	3,281	4,020	4,623
Stamford Norwalk	FMR	1,356	1,701	2,079	2,616	2,926	3,365
	25% Rent Limit	591	633	759	877	978	1,079
	30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	752	806	967	1,118	1,247	1,376
	LOW HOME Rent	1,263	1,353	1,623	1,876	2,092	2,309
	HIGH HOME Rent	1,356	1,458	1,752	2,015	2,229	2,441
	50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,181	1,265	1,518	1,753	1,956	2,158
	60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,417	1,518	1,822	2,104	2,347	2,590
	65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,360	1,458	1,752	2,015	2,229	2,441
	100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,695	2,126	2,599	3,270	3,658	4,206
	120% Housing Trust Fund	2,034	2,552	3,119	3,924	4,389	5,048
<b>Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford MSA</b>							
Hartford-West/East Hartford FMR	801	993	1,230	1,533	1,757	2,021	2,284
	25% Rent Limit	424	454	545	629	702	775
	30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	540	578	693	801	893	986
	LOW HOME Rent	801	962	1,155	1,334	1,488	1,642
	HIGH HOME Rent	801	993	1,230	1,533	1,757	2,021
	50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	847	908	1,090	1,258	1,403	1,549



## PMSA/MSA area

	Bedroom Size						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6

Southern Middlesex County FMR	944	1,100	1,449	2,090	2,544	2,926	3,307
25% Rent Limit	475	509	611	705	787	868	
30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	588	630	756	873	975	1,076	1,176
LOW HOME Rent	944	1,050	1,260	1,456	1,625	1,792	1,960
HIGH HOME Rent	944	1,100	1,449	1,942	2,148	2,351	2,554
50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	950	1,017	1,221	1,410	1,573	1,736	
60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,140	1,221	1,465	1,692	1,888	2,084	
65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,310	1,405	1,688	1,942	2,148	2,351	2,554
100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,180	1,375	1,811	2,613	3,180	3,658	4,134
120% Housing Trust Fund	1,416	1,650	2,174	3,135	3,816	4,389	4,961

## New Haven-Milford MSA

Milford-Ansonia-Seymour FMR	897	1,118	1,376	1,715	2,143	2,464	2,786
25% Rent Limit	424	454	545	629	702	775	
30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	568	609	731	843	941	1,038	1,135
LOW HOME Rent	897	1,015	1,217	1,406	1,570	1,731	1,893
HIGH HOME Rent	897	1,118	1,376	1,715	1,984	2,170	2,356
50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	847	908	1,090	1,258	1,403	1,549	
60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,017	1,089	1,308	1,510	1,684	1,859	
65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,211	1,299	1,562	1,795	1,989	2,170	2,356
100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,121	1,398	1,720	2,144	2,679	3,080	3,483
120% Housing Trust Fund	1,346	1,677	2,064	2,573	3,215	3,696	4,179

## New Haven-Meriden

FMR	1,042	1,162	1,407	1,775	2,008	2,309	2,610
25% Rent Limit	424	454	545	629	702	775	
30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	540	578	693	801	893	986	1,078
LOW HOME Rent	898	962	1,155	1,334	1,488	1,642	1,795
HIGH HOME Rent	1,042	1,162	1,407	1,700	1,878	2,053	2,229
50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	847	908	1,090	1,258	1,403	1,549	
60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	1,017	1,089	1,308	1,510	1,684	1,859	
65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,148	1,231	1,479	1,700	1,878	2,053	2,229
100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,303	1,453	1,759	2,219	2,510	2,886	3,263
120% Housing Trust Fund	1,563	1,743	2,111	2,663	3,012	3,464	3,915

## Waterbury

FMR	729	906	1,119	1,394	1,573	1,809	2,045
25% Rent Limit	424	454	545	629	702	775	



Windham County						
120% Housing Trust Fund	1,155	1,374	1,770	2,253	2,399	2,759
FMR						
25% Rent Limit	787	811	1,020	1,304	1,571	1,807
30% Rent Limit (S811 PRA/NHTF)	424	454	545	629	702	775
LOW HOME Rent	540	578	693	801	893	986
HIGH HOME Rent	787	811	1,020	1,304	1,488	1,642
50% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	787	811	1,020	1,304	1,571	1,807
60% LIHTC and State Bond Fund	847	908	1,090	1,258	1,403	1,549
65% Rent Limit (HUD)	1,017	1,089	1,308	1,510	1,684	1,859
100% FLEXIBLE Program	1,148	1,231	1,479	1,700	1,878	2,053
120% Housing Trust Fund	984	1,014	1,275	1,630	1,964	2,259
	1,181	1,217	1,530	1,956	2,357	2,711
						3,063
						3,119

## DOH Development Program Income Limits based on HUD Median Incomes

### 2020 Income Limits (Revised 9/16/2020)

#### PMSA/MSA Area

##### Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk MSA

	PMSA/MSA Area	Household Size							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25% of AMI	\$ 17,150	\$ 19,600	\$ 22,050	\$ 24,500	\$ 26,460	\$ 28,420	\$ 30,380	\$ 32,340	
30% of AMI - HOME/CDBG	\$ 21,600	\$ 24,650	\$ 27,750	\$ 30,800	\$ 33,300	\$ 35,750	\$ 38,200	\$ 47,100	
30% of AMI (NHTF)	\$ 21,600	\$ 24,650	\$ 27,750	\$ 30,800	\$ 33,300	\$ 35,750	\$ 39,460	\$ 44,120	
Very Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 35,950	\$ 41,050	\$ 46,200	\$ 51,300	\$ 55,450	\$ 59,550	\$ 63,650	\$ 67,750	
50% of AMI	\$ 34,300	\$ 39,200	\$ 44,100	\$ 49,000	\$ 52,920	\$ 56,840	\$ 60,760	\$ 64,680	
60% of AMI	\$ 43,140	\$ 49,260	\$ 55,440	\$ 61,560	\$ 66,540	\$ 71,460	\$ 76,380	\$ 81,300	
Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 54,950	\$ 62,800	\$ 70,650	\$ 78,500	\$ 84,800	\$ 91,100	\$ 97,350	\$ 103,650	
80% of AMI	\$ 54,880	\$ 62,720	\$ 70,560	\$ 78,400	\$ 84,672	\$ 90,944	\$ 97,216	\$ 103,488	
100% of AMI (AHP)	\$ 68,600	\$ 78,400	\$ 88,200	\$ 98,000	\$ 105,840	\$ 113,680	\$ 121,520	\$ 129,360	
110% of AMI (ECL)	\$ 75,460	\$ 86,240	\$ 97,020	\$ 107,800	\$ 116,424	\$ 125,048	\$ 133,672	\$ 142,296	
120% of AMI (HTF)	\$ 82,320	\$ 94,080	\$ 105,840	\$ 117,600	\$ 127,008	\$ 136,416	\$ 145,824	\$ 155,232	
Danbury - HMFA									
25% of AMI	\$ 21,350	\$ 24,400	\$ 27,450	\$ 30,500	\$ 32,940	\$ 35,380	\$ 37,820	\$ 40,260	
30% of AMI - HOME/CDBG	\$ 25,650	\$ 29,300	\$ 32,950	\$ 36,600	\$ 39,550	\$ 42,500	\$ 45,400	\$ 48,350	
30% of AMI (NHTF)	\$ 25,650	\$ 29,300	\$ 32,950	\$ 36,600	\$ 39,550	\$ 42,500	\$ 45,400	\$ 48,350	
Very Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 42,700	\$ 48,800	\$ 54,900	\$ 61,000	\$ 65,900	\$ 70,800	\$ 75,650	\$ 80,550	
50% of AMI	\$ 42,700	\$ 48,800	\$ 54,900	\$ 61,000	\$ 65,880	\$ 70,760	\$ 75,640	\$ 80,520	
60% of AMI	\$ 51,240	\$ 58,560	\$ 65,880	\$ 73,200	\$ 79,080	\$ 84,960	\$ 90,780	\$ 96,600	
Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 57,050	\$ 65,200	\$ 73,350	\$ 81,500	\$ 88,050	\$ 94,550	\$ 101,100	\$ 107,600	
80% of AMI	\$ 68,320	\$ 78,080	\$ 87,840	\$ 97,600	\$ 105,408	\$ 113,216	\$ 121,024	\$ 128,832	
100% of AMI (AHP)	\$ 85,400	\$ 97,600	\$ 109,800	\$ 122,000	\$ 131,760	\$ 141,520	\$ 151,280	\$ 161,040	
110% of AMI (ECL)	\$ 93,940	\$ 107,360	\$ 120,780	\$ 134,200	\$ 144,936	\$ 155,672	\$ 166,408	\$ 177,144	
120% of AMI (HTF)	\$ 102,480	\$ 117,120	\$ 131,760	\$ 146,400	\$ 158,112	\$ 169,824	\$ 181,536	\$ 193,248	
Stamford-Norwalk - HMFA									
25% of AMI	\$ 25,095	\$ 28,680	\$ 32,265	\$ 35,850	\$ 38,718	\$ 41,586	\$ 44,454	\$ 47,322	
30% of AMI - HOME/CDBG	\$ 30,100	\$ 34,400	\$ 38,700	\$ 43,000	\$ 46,450	\$ 49,900	\$ 53,350	\$ 56,800	
30% of AMI (NHTF)	\$ 30,100	\$ 34,400	\$ 38,700	\$ 43,000	\$ 46,450	\$ 49,900	\$ 53,350	\$ 56,800	
Very Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 50,200	\$ 57,400	\$ 64,550	\$ 71,700	\$ 77,450	\$ 83,200	\$ 88,950	\$ 94,650	
50% of AMI	\$ 50,190	\$ 57,360	\$ 64,530	\$ 71,700	\$ 77,436	\$ 83,172	\$ 88,908	\$ 94,644	
60% of AMI	\$ 60,240	\$ 68,880	\$ 77,460	\$ 86,040	\$ 92,940	\$ 99,840	\$ 106,740	\$ 113,580	
Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 66,500	\$ 76,000	\$ 85,500	\$ 95,000	\$ 102,600	\$ 110,200	\$ 117,800	\$ 125,400	
80% of AMI	\$ 80,304	\$ 91,776	\$ 103,248	\$ 114,720	\$ 123,898	\$ 133,075	\$ 142,253	\$ 151,430	
100% of AMI (AHP)	\$ 100,380	\$ 114,720	\$ 129,060	\$ 143,400	\$ 154,872	\$ 166,344	\$ 177,816	\$ 189,288	
110% of AMI (ECL)	\$ 110,418	\$ 126,192	\$ 141,966	\$ 157,740	\$ 170,359	\$ 182,978	\$ 195,598	\$ 208,217	
120% of AMI (HTF)	\$ 120,456	\$ 137,664	\$ 154,872	\$ 172,080	\$ 185,846	\$ 199,613	\$ 213,379	\$ 227,146	

##### Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford MSA

25% of AMI	\$ 17,045	\$ 19,480	\$ 21,915	\$ 24,350	\$ 26,298	\$ 28,246	\$ 30,194	\$ 32,142	
30% of AMI - HOME/CDBG	\$ 21,600	\$ 24,650	\$ 27,750	\$ 30,800	\$ 33,300	\$ 35,750	\$ 38,200	\$ 40,700	
30% of AMI (NHTF)	\$ 21,600	\$ 24,650	\$ 27,750	\$ 30,800	\$ 33,300	\$ 35,750	\$ 39,640	\$ 44,120	
Very Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 35,950	\$ 41,050	\$ 46,200	\$ 55,450	\$ 59,550	\$ 59,550	\$ 63,650	\$ 67,750	
50% of AMI	\$ 34,090	\$ 38,960	\$ 43,830	\$ 48,700	\$ 52,596	\$ 56,492	\$ 60,388	\$ 64,284	
60% of AMI	\$ 43,140	\$ 49,260	\$ 55,440	\$ 61,560	\$ 66,540	\$ 71,460	\$ 76,380	\$ 81,300	
Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 54,950	\$ 62,800	\$ 70,650	\$ 78,500	\$ 84,800	\$ 91,100	\$ 97,350	\$ 103,650	
80% of AMI	\$ 54,544	\$ 62,336	\$ 70,128	\$ 77,920	\$ 84,154	\$ 90,387	\$ 96,621	\$ 102,854	



## DOH Development Program Income Limits based on HUD Median Incomes

### 2020 Income Limits (Revised 9/16/2020)

#### PMSA/MSA Area

PMSA/MSA Area	Household Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
60% of AMI	\$ 43,140	\$ 49,260	\$ 55,440	\$ 61,560	\$ 66,540	\$ 71,460	\$ 76,380	\$ 81,300
Low Income - HOME/CDBG	\$ 54,950	\$ 62,800	\$ 70,650	\$ 78,500	\$ 84,800	\$ 91,100	\$ 97,350	\$ 103,650
80% of AMI	\$ 44,968	\$ 51,392	\$ 57,816	\$ 64,240	\$ 69,379	\$ 74,518	\$ 79,658	\$ 84,797
100% of AMI (AHP)	\$ 56,210	\$ 64,240	\$ 72,270	\$ 80,300	\$ 86,724	\$ 93,148	\$ 99,572	\$ 105,996

DOH Development Program Income Limits based on HUD Median Incomes

2020 Income Limits (Revised 9/16/2020)

## DOH Development Program Income Limits based on HUD Median Incomes

### 2020 Income Limits (Revised 9/16/2020)

#### PMSA/MSA Area

PMSA/MSA Area	Household Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50% of AMI	\$ 35,910	\$ 41,040	\$ 46,170	\$ 51,300	\$ 55,404	\$ 59,508	\$ 63,612	\$ 67,716
60% of AMI	\$ 43,092	\$ 49,248	\$ 55,404	\$ 61,560	\$ 66,485	\$ 71,410	\$ 76,334	\$ 81,259
<b>Low Income - HOME/CDBG</b>	<b>\$ 54,950</b>	<b>\$ 62,800</b>	<b>\$ 70,650</b>	<b>\$ 78,500</b>	<b>\$ 84,800</b>	<b>\$ 91,100</b>	<b>\$ 97,350</b>	<b>\$ 103,650</b>
80% of AMI	\$ 57,456	\$ 65,664	\$ 73,872	\$ 82,080	\$ 88,646	\$ 95,213	\$ 101,779	\$ 108,346
100% of AMI (AHP)	\$ 71,820	\$ 82,080	\$ 92,340	<b>\$ 102,600</b>	\$ 110,808	\$ 119,016	\$ 127,224	\$ 135,432
110% of AMI (ECL)	\$ 79,002	\$ 90,288	\$ 101,574	\$ 112,860	\$ 121,889	\$ 130,918	\$ 139,946	\$ 148,975
120% of AMI (HTF)	\$ 86,184	\$ 98,496	\$ 110,808	\$ 123,120	\$ 132,970	\$ 142,819	\$ 152,669	\$ 162,518

AMI - Area Median Income

NHTF - Federal National Housing Trust Fund

HOME - Federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program

AHP - State Affordable Housing Program (FLEX)

HTF - State Housing Trust Fund Program

ECL - Energy Conservation Loan Program

CDBG - Community Development Block Grant



**TOWN OF BERLIN**  
SOCIAL & YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
240 KENSINGTON ROAD  
BERLIN, CT 06037

Director  
*Doug Truitt*

Social Worker  
*Jaymee Miller*

March 2, 2021

### **Comments on the revised (02/24/2021) 404 Berlin Turnpike Housing Affordability Plan**

I would like to submit the following comments and concerns regarding the most recent revision of the proposal for an Affordable Housing Development at 404 Berlin Turnpike.

Chapter 54 Section 4-166(13) of the Connecticut General Statutes defines a regulation as:

"each agency statement of general applicability, without regard to its designation, that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the organization, procedure or practice requirements of any agency."

When Berlin Zoning Regulations VIII H.8 authorizes the construction of deed restricted Affordable Housing units conforming with C.G.S. §8-30g, it carries with it the expectation that such housing will be in compliance with the regulations promulgated for implementing that statute.

As currently proposed, the 404 Berlin Turnpike Housing Affordability Plan is not in compliance with section 8-30g of the State regulations. In order to be considered Affordable Housing and be counted towards the 10% threshold required for municipalities to be exempt from the statute, section 8-30g-2(a) (3) (B) of State regulations stipulates that rents "**Are calculated, consistent with section 8-30g-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies**", by limiting assumed annual household expenditures for housing to no more than thirty percent (30%) of such household annual income." Section 8-30g-2(a) (3) also requires that the method for rent calculation be included in the deed restrictions.

Section 8-30g-8 defines a process for calculating the maximum allowed rents based on HUD regional or statewide median income, assumed occupancy based on number of bedrooms, and comparison to HUD Fair Market Rents by locality. The 404 Berlin Turnpike proposal is out of compliance with this in the following ways:

- 1) In section VIII, Maximum Rental Price, the proposal states that "a studio apartment is calculated as a one-bedroom unit". This is in direct contradiction of 8-30g-8 which stipulates that rent for a studio apartment is calculated at one person occupancy, a 1-bedroom at 1.5 person occupancy, and a 2-bedroom at 3 person occupancy.
- 2) The sample rent calculation in the same section does not implement the formula defined in 8-30g-8, and arrives at a maximum rent allowance significantly larger than would be calculated by applying the method defined in the regulations.

If this plan were to go forward as written, none of the housing units in the development would be considered as Affordable Housing by the State, and Berlin would drop further below the 10% threshold needed for exemption from §8-30g. I recommend the Town require that the plan be revised to be in compliance with State regulations before moving forward.

Doug Truitt, MCW  
Berlin Social & Youth Services