

## Frog Hollow Residents Expected

## To Continue Church Move Fight

Residents of a section of Frog Hollow are expected to continue their fight tonight against the proposed move of a Hispanic church to Broad Street.

The move is the subject of a City Council hearing at 8 p.m. at City Hall.

Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church at 93 Main St., is seeking to move to a building on Broad between Jefferson and Ward streets.

The building, a former Roman Catholic school, is owned by Immaculate Conception Church Corp. The school closed after 66 years in June, 1972, because of financial problems.

Immaculate Conception has joined Faith Temple in applying for a required zone change from residential to business.

The proposal has met with opposition from at least 48 neighboring property owners, who have put their names to a petition.

The city planning staff has also recommended against the zone change, but the Commission on the City Plan has recommended approval, despite the staff objections.

A spokesman for the area residents, Anthony Zarenka, maintains that a change in zoning could trigger "an incurable epidemic of business intrusion."

This, he says, would bring increased traffic, pollution, noise and congestion into the neighborhood and drive out many of the lifelong residents.

"While a church is a praiseworthy and commendable thing," Zarenka, the circulator of the petition, said, "it is not the church, but the location and zone change that are being questioned."

Faith Assembly, meanwhile, has in recent months been submitting to city agencies letters of endorse-

ment and praise from many businessmen and residents in the city.

Faith Temple would buy one of two buildings on the Broad Street site. The other building, now vacant, served as a convent.

Faith Temple would use the ground floor of the school building as a chapel and the upper floors as classrooms for religious instruction.



Times - 11-10-74

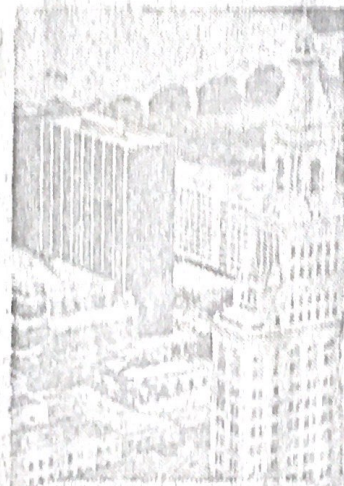
# Goldfarb Says Priest in Conflict

By BILL WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

A member of the City Plan Commission who is also a Catholic priest violated Hartford's conflict-of-interest law when he voted on a zone change request from a local Catholic church, Corporation Counsel Alexander A. Goldfarb has ruled.

Goldfarb said that Rev. Alexis Riccio, pastor of St. Patrick-St. Anthony Catholic Church, should have "disqualified himself" in a case involving Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

The plan commission, on a 5-0 vote, recommended City Council approval of a zone change request submitted jointly by Im-



**Hartford**

maculate Conception and Faith Temple Assembly, which plans to buy a vacant school from Immaculate Conception and convert it into a combination school and church.

As a result of the conflict of interest, Goldfarb said, the matter must be returned to the commission "for further proceedings."

The City Council has not yet acted on the zone change. Two council members had asked Goldfarb for a written ruling on the conflict question.

Asked for his reaction, Rev. Riccio said he disagreed with the ruling, but said he would abide by it by not participating

in future proceedings involving the zone change.

"I wasn't even thinking of conflict of interest," Rev. Riccio said. "It was the farthest thing from my mind."

The proposed zone change is strongly opposed by residents of the neighborhood — the school is on Broad Street, between Jefferson and Ward — who fear an influx of new businesses into the residential section.

Goldfarb said that all Catholic pastors, including Rev. Riccio, are appointed by Archbishop John P. Whealon, who has the right to approve all sales of church property. Goldfarb said the archbishop's approval was needed before Immaculate Conception decided to sell the school to Faith Temple.

"We do not impute that the archbishop would use his position to exert influence on Rev. Riccio's vote, nor do we find or suggest that Rev. Riccio would act with impropriety," Goldfarb said.

"Nevertheless, the public confidence in the zoning process could easily be subverted with the knowledge of the substantial control that the archbishop exercises both over the Immaculate Conception Church and the St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church and their pastors.

"We may draw the inference that an appointee of the archbishop would hesitate to

vote against a zone change that would permit the sale of church property if there were any indication that the archbishop approved or would approve the sale."

Despite the conflict of interest, Goldfarb said reasons were suggested for not sending the matter back to the commission. The commission's opinion is only advisory and it may decline to issue any opinion.

However, since the commission chose to act in this case, Goldfarb said, the recommendation "was legally impaired by Rev. Riccio's participation."

Rev. Riccio said the archbishop's position had no bearing on his decision to vote in favor of the zone change. He said he did not even know the archbishop's views on the subject.

The commission voted in favor of the zone change despite the recommendation of its staff, which said the zone change should be defeated. The staff said the zone change is "not appropriate from a long range view because of the potential for business development in what is essentially a residential neighborhood."

Goldfarb's four-page opinion, co-signed by Asst. Corporation counsel Barry S. Zitser, said Rev. Riccio's participation violated both state and city conflict-of-interest laws.



## Council Support Seen For Move by Church

A proposal that would allow a Spanish Pentacostal church to take new steps toward locating on Broad Street appeared Thursday to have enough City Council support for passage.

Republicans Margaret V. Tedone and John J. Cunnane and Democrat William A. DiBella said they would vote against the proposed law.

That left five votes for the proposal that would allow a special development district in the area where the church, Faith Temple Assembly, wants to move. That is on Broad Street, between Jefferson and Ward streets.

The Assembly wants to occupy a former school building owned by Immaculate Conception Church Corp.

The proposal will be scheduled for a Council vote

at the council meeting April 14. It has encountered heavy opposition from neighborhood residents.

The council's planning and zoning committee endorsed the proposed ordinance Thursday morning by a 2-1 vote. Mrs. Tedone dissented.

She said the proposal represents spot zoning. She and Cunnane agree they can not approve it because of what they call overwhelming opposition.

Meanwhile, Cunnane suggested that Faith Temple look at a former church building at 21-23 Charter Oak Ave. that the city owns.

Edmund M. See, Faith Temple's lawyer, said that might be considered if the attempt to locate on Broad Street fails.

Mrs. Tedone suggested

further that any council action on the whole matter is illegal. This, she says, is because the mayor has been denied his right to veto the proposal, if passed. She will ask the corporation counsel's opinion.

An opinion from the counsel barred the mayor from taking part in debate on the issue and from exercising his veto power because he owns property in the area affected.

If the proposal before the council passes, then a second ordinance must be approved to establish the special district itself on the Broad Street property.

This would require seven council votes if at least 20 per cent of the neighbors oppose the change. That opposition is certain.



### TONY DEBONEE'S HARTFORD ...ONCE UPON A TIME



*This 1972 photo shows the last graduating class at Immaculate Conception Catholic School on Broad Street in Hartford. The school was built in 1906 and designed by architect Joseph H. Jackson. Hartford was once home to several thriving Catholic schools, including St. Justin's, St. Ann's, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Joseph's Cathedral — how many did I miss? Now only two remain: St. Augustine's on Campfield Avenue and SS. Cyril and Methodius on Groton Street. The former Immaculate Conception School is now home to Templo Fe, a Hispanic-American congregation. (Tony DeBonnee photo, courtesy of The Hartford Collection, Hartford Public Library)*



# No Zone Change Expected On Hispanic Church Bid

There appeared to be no chance Monday that an Hispanic church would get a zone change it needs to move to a new location on Broad Street.

It was possible, though, that the church could instead make the move under a proposal before the City Council that would allow the establishment of a special development district in the area.

The proposed zone change—from residential to business—would affect a block on Broad between Jefferson and Ward streets.

The Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church at 93 Main St., is seeking to move into an abandoned school building there.

Neighborhood residents vigorously oppose this.

Faith Temple and Immaculate Conception Church Corp., owner of the property, have asked to withdraw their zone change request. They want to come back under a special development district rules.

Councilman Mary M. Heslin, after a meeting of the planning and zoning committee Monday, said she was urging defeat of the proposed zone change.

She said she does not support withdrawal of the request, for that would mean a new zone change application could be filed the next day.

By defeating the request, the specific zone change could not be considered for another three years.

It would take five votes on the City Council to withdraw.

It would take seven to approve the change.

Mrs. Heslin and Councilmen Margaret V. Tedone and John J. Cunnane Jr. all indicate they would not vote to approve the change, thus assuring that the nine-member council could not muster the votes for approval.

Council Majority Leader Nicholas R. Carbone said Monday he will seek a vote on the special district plan before a vote on the zone change.

## Zone Change For Churches Is Approved

The Commission on the City Plan Tuesday approved a proposed zone change for the west side of Broad Street between Ward and Jefferson streets.

The Faith Temple Assembly and Immaculate Conception Church Corp. requested the change.

Immaculate Conception owns the land involved, on which are located a convent and school. Both are vacant.

Faith Temple has proposed to buy the school for use as a church. The first floor would be a chapel that could hold 700 persons, while the upper floors would be retained as classroom space for religious instruction.

The commission's staff had approved the zone change, saying the surrounding area is residential and wouldn't be compatible with the business uses which could be established if the zone change were granted.

The commission, however, said a church would be an appropriate use. Its favorable vote will now be submitted to the City Council, which has final approval of all zone changes.



## Proposed Zone for Church Creates Discussion at Council

By ANDREW KREIG

Most of the more than 300 persons who overflowed a City Council public hearing room Monday night appeared to favor a proposed zone change that would allow a Hispanic church to relocate from 93 Main St. to Broad Street.

Representatives of the

Faith Temple Assembly presented a petition they said had 2,482 names supporting the zone change — from residential to business.

The change is required to convert a former Roman Catholic school to a Spanish Pentecostal church on 2.4 acres between Jefferson Streets.

Opponents had a petition of 221 names, which they said included 89 per cent of the nearby property owners.

Opponents said a business zone might harm nearby residential areas, especially

since the zone change affects about a half acre of land that won't be pur-

chased by the new church.

Both sides made dramatic presentations at times.

Raul Gonzalez, director of the nonsectarian Youth Challenge of Greater Hartford, asked every ex-drug addict who was helped by the Faith Temple Assembly to stand up.

About two dozen men stood up in various parts of the audience.

Also speaking in favor of the zone change, the Rev. Julie Ramiriz, pastor of the church, outlined hardships and snubs the church has endured in searching for an adequate place to meet.

Finally she said, "With all the unbelievable circumstances, we have been able to win people for God."

"The city needs our church," she said of her organization, which she said tolerates "no smoking, drinking or dancing."

Among those opposing the zone change were Atty. Donald Ruffkess, who said his family owns buildings assessed at 153,000 in the area.

He said the zone change would be a "public nuisance," create too much traffic and lower real estate values.

Anna Lepko of 273 Jefferson St. said she opposed the change because she is a widow whose "life investment is in my property."

Lottie Pozniak of 125 Ward St. said the creation of the church's 39-spot parking lot next to her house will force her to put her blind, emphysematous into a convalescent home.

A show of hands in the audience of about 260 seemed to show slightly more than half in favor of the zone change. The count did not include more than 100 children from the Faith Temple Sunday School who waited in an outside corridor.



The plan commission voted 5-0 in favor of the zone change, although the planning staff had urged rejection of the zone change. The staff said the zone change "is not appropriate from a long range view because of the potential for business development in what is essentially a residential neighborhood."

About 20 persons spoke during the 1½-hour hearing. Roughly two-thirds of the speakers favored the zone change.

Sister Julie Raminez said the church presently is located in "a rat-infested building" on Main Street.

"We need a place of our own. We need a house of prayer. The city needs our church . . . There is now no place of worship for Spanish-speaking people," she said.

Most of those who opposed the zone change said they were not against a new church in their neighborhood, but strongly opposed the zone change because it would open the door to other uses.

Councilman George Levine said a compromise might be possible. He suggested placing the proposed site within a "special development district," under which the council could insure that no other businesses would be permitted.



ci. 1242  
Ina Santos

# Zone Change Meet Draws 400 Persons

By BILL WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

Some 400 persons, including about 130 school children, packed the City Council chambers Monday night for a public hearing on a proposed controversial zone change on Broad Street.

The majority sentiment appeared to be clearly in favor of the zone change.

The zone change (from residential to business) was requested by a local Spanish Pentacostal church, Faith Temple Assembly, and by Immaculate Conception Church. Faith Temple plans to buy a three-story vacant school from Immaculate Conception and convert it into a combination church and school.

Some neighbors, however, strongly oppose the zone change request, saying they fear an influx of new business uses.

Deputy Mayor Mary M. Heslin, head of the council's zoning committee said later she plans to schedule a committee meeting for 10 a.m. on Nov. 18 to discuss the issue.

Two lawyers representing property owners opposed to the zone change charged that a member of the City Plan Commission who voted in favor of the zone change request was guilty of conflict of interest.

The member, Rev. Alexis D. Riccio, is pastor of St. Patrick and St. Anthony Catholic Church. The two lawyers, Ronald E. Cassidento and Donald Ruffkess, said that Rev. Riccio should not have voted on the issue since one of the applicants is a Catholic church.

Councilman William A. DiBella asked the corporation counsel's office to prepare a formal, written ruling on the conflict charge.

The plan commission voted 5-0 in favor of the zone change, although the planning staff had urged rejection of the zone change. The staff said the zone change "is not appropriate from a long range view because of the potential for business development in what is essentially a residential neighborhood."

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Crowd of about 400 jams City Council chamber during public hearing on controversial Z

## Zoning Action Termed Legal

City Council action withdrawing a controversial zoning ordinance proposal earlier this month was legal, the city's corporation counsel said Monday.

Although five council votes are needed to pass an ordinance, a simple majority was enough to withdraw the measure that would have allowed Faith Temple Assembly to move to a new home on Broad Street, Atty. Alexander A. Goldfarb said.

A motion to withdraw the zone-change ordinance passed 4 to 3, with two council members absent. Councilwoman Margaret V. Tedone questioned the validity of the vote.

Goldfarb told Mrs. Tedone the mayor's inability to act on an ordinance because of a conflict of interest doesn't affect the validity of an ordinance.

Mayor Athanson will be unable to either sign or veto another zoning ordinance because of a conflict which he disclosed.

Mrs. Tedone had questioned whether the situation allows city residents "the fullest protection of the law."





**Guest Preacher :**

The Rev. Julie Ramirez, pastor of Templo Fe, a Spanish Pentecostal church at 93 Main St., will preach at a World Day of Prayer service at noon Friday at Center Church, 60 Gold St. The service is sponsored by Center City Churches, a downtown ecumenical group.

The South Green is a small triangular park at the confluence of S. Main and Park Sts., Wethersfield, Maple, and Retreat Aves., Jefferson, Congress and Wyllys Sts. But South Green also refers to the mini-neighborhoods that radiate in all directions from the Green. Perhaps the most dominant group of people in this area are the some 10,000 Hispanic residents. For many of them, this is a difficult and often painful time, but it is also a time of increasing hope and pride that comes with the conviction that their neighborhood is becoming more aware of its potentials. There are tangible signs of rejuvenation and growth as well as a growing cadre of dedicated neighborhood-minded individuals and organizations. Yet unemployment, undereducation, inadequate housing, crime, and drugs are everyday facts of life.

Several social, political, religious and business leaders have expressed their views of South Green's conditions. The following is a cursory attempt to present an overview of the situation as seen through the eyes of a selected few individuals.

According to Miguel Narvaez, a drug counselor at PIT (People Involved Together), a government-funded drug abuse project, the drug problem is serious and spreading. "Drugs are available. There are too many pushers on the street, too many drugs on the street," affirms Narvaez.

Templo Fe, an Hispanic Pentecostal church on South Main St., has had success in curing drug addicts through its Teen Challenge program. In addition to not using drugs, members of Templo Fe must not commit crime, drink, smoke, gamble, or dance. They are taught to respect authority, to meet responsibilities, and to work for a living. Rev. Julie Ramirez says, "Our church is reaching the community and getting things corrected."

Despite this very positive influence on the Spanish-speaking community, Templo Fe had, for over two years, been frustrated in their attempts to buy the empty Immaculate Conception School to house their rapidly growing congregation. The City Council finally cleared the way for



# Spanish-Speaking Church Serves Large Congregation

Continued from Page 1

The church, known in English as Faith Temple, started in 1965 when Ms. Ramirez came to Hartford to give the city a Spanish-speaking Assembly of God congregation.

The congregation originally met in worshippers' homes, later moving through a series of vacant churches, empty office buildings and unused store fronts, usually being turned out on the street when someone wanted the space for something else.

In 1974, the expanding congregation first tried to buy the 993 Broad St. property, formerly the Immaculate: (Conception Church school. The neighborhood put up stiff opposition, delaying the zoning approval necessary for the sale for more than two years. Residents argued that the church would bring down property values.

The sale went through in the summer of 1976, and the church continued to grow.

The controversy over the sale brought the church into the public eye, Ms. Ramirez said. "We had functioned silently for years. Since then, everybody seems to have heard of us or knows about our work."

Last week the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce honored Ms. Ramirez and six others with its highest award — the Charter



THE REV. JULIE RAMIREZ

Oak Leadership Medal.

Most of the award winners have been business and civic leaders. The only other recipient from the religious community was the Most Rev. John F. Whealon, archbishop of Hartford.

Although she said her work is spiritually oriented, Ms. Ramirez admitted "it was nice to have the community recognize what we have done here."

With street services, Saturday morning Spanish worship at the state prison in Somers, mid-week services, fellowship groups and bible study classes, the congregation is active every day of the week. Its buses drive through the city Sunday mornings picking up Sunday school students.

"A lot of people who don't go to church want their children to go to Sunday school anyway," she said.

The church emphasizes a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as savior. When the commitment is made, the convert is baptized by immersion.

At the Saturday night street service, Ms. Ramirez asked if anyone in the small knot of spectators wanted to be prayed for.

A woman raised her hand, and the group of about 50 young people began chanting individual prayers for her in the fashion of pentacostal services. The woman was brought forward and appeared to be convulsed with emotion. She sank to her knees, supported by two attendants from the group.

Ms. Ramirez helped her to stand and spoke quietly with her.

"She's an alcoholic," Ms. Ramirez said later. "I don't know what happens to lives like that."

She said the woman was asked to come to services the next day, and the woman said she would.

"It might just be the beginning of a new life, you know," Ms. Ramirez said.

As darkness began to settle on the houses of the project the group packed up their flags, banners, guitars, bibles and loudspeakers and headed for home.



Dear Julie Conway.

This letter has been read to all  
Council members. I will speak  
to some privately as well -

David

December 11, 1975

Mr. Nicholas Carbone  
Court of Common Council  
550 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Dear Nick:

I was unable to be present at the Public Hearing Monday evening when the presentation for and against a zone change which would allow Templo Fe to purchase the Immaculate Conception property were made.

I have previously testified in favor of making such changes as will allow this purchase. I have great respect for Miss Ramirez and that congregation which has demonstrated over the years a deep faith and a desire to have a strong and vital church. There is no question but that their church life assists in the building of strong family units, decent, hard working citizens and in more dramatic ways has assisted in the rehabilitation of persons afflicted with drugs.

This letter is to encourage you to vote favorably so that this purchase and the renovation of the building may go ahead quickly.

I would be happy to discuss my opinion on this, if you wish to give me a call.

Best wishes in your duties on the Council in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

*David*

David S. King,  
Administrator

DSK/hml



COPY



## THE TRAVELERS

Claim Department  
Herbert C. Schrader, Assistant Director

34 Vernon Street  
Hartford, Conn.  
October 15, 1974

Court of Common Council  
550 Main Street  
Hartford, Conn. 06103

Honorable Court:

This letter is in support of the requested zoning change (hearing scheduled for 10/28/74) which would permit the former school building at Broad and Ward Streets in the city of Hartford to be used as a church by the Spanish-speaking congregation of Faith Temple Church. My own residence is within 4½ blocks of this location.

I personally know Julie Ramirez, the pastor of Faith Temple Church, and various families and individuals who are members. Having some knowledge of Spanish, I have on occasion visited services at Faith Temple, and a few times been a guest in members' homes. Though I am not of the same religious affiliation, from my acquaintance with the pastor and members of Faith Temple, I can characterize the following as objectives which are actively encouraged by this church:

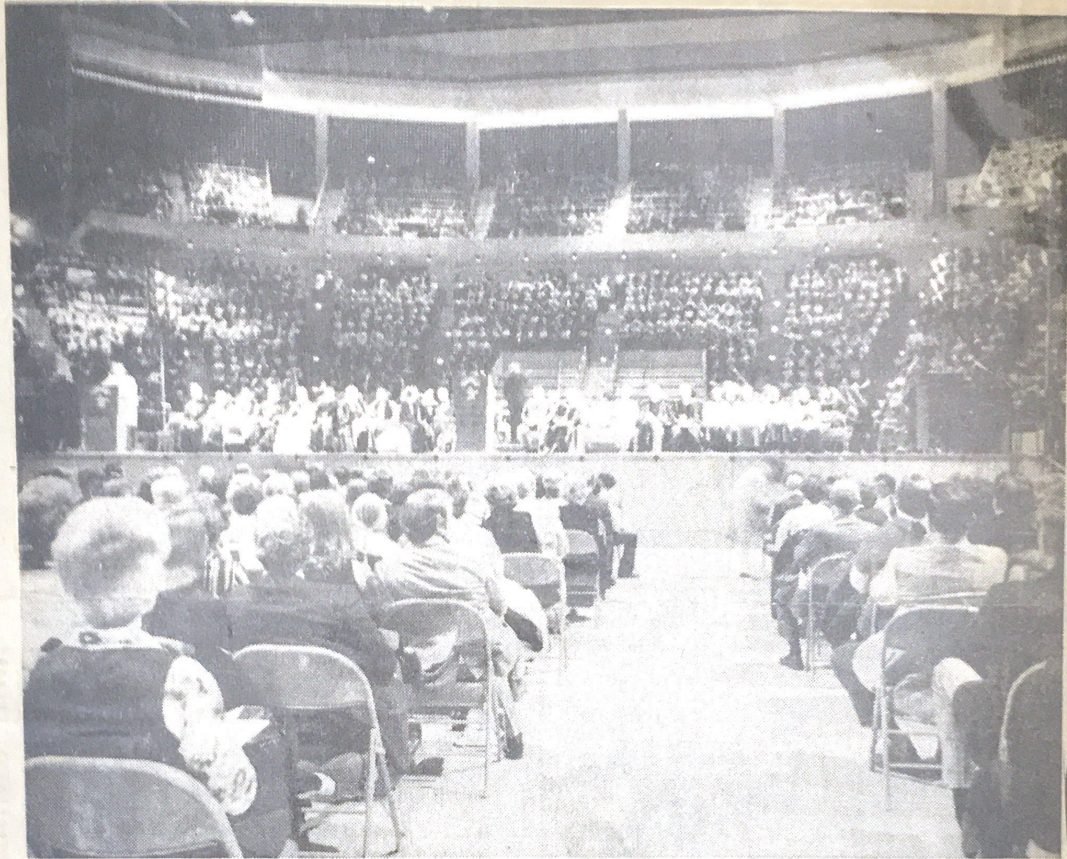
1. Making of something of one's life, not by militancy, but by being responsible people, and with the help of God.
2. Getting of additional education whenever possible, to learn skills and trades which enable one to be self-supporting.
3. Being clean, both physically and morally, and developing a strong family unit.
4. Being on friendly terms with the "white" community, as exemplified by their cooperation in joint projects with the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Simsbury (in service to tobacco field workers) and with Faith Center of Hartford, a largely "white" congregation located at 846 Prospect Avenue.

From what I know of the Faith Temple congregation, I would consider their occupancy and use of the property at Broad and Ward to be a desirable asset to that location, resulting in a positive influence on the community.

Your favorable consideration of the request for a zoning change will be appreciated.

Sincerely,





Interfaith Ceremony In Hartford

— Hartford Times Photo

## Prayer Service Opens Civic Center

Hartford — The first — and one of the most impressive — ceremonies to be held in Hartford's new Civic Center here last week was the interfaith service during which the new facility was dedicated. It was the first time that the four major faiths — Catholic, Jewish, Orthodox and Protestant — of the 39-town Capitol Region had worked together on a major event designed as a common expression of faith and unity.

The Interfaith Dedication Committee had been working

for the past year and a half under the direction of Father Joseph A. Devine, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Hartford. The executive committee included Rabbi Abraham J. Feldman and Rev. Bernard T. Drew. Among the general planning committee members were Archbishop John F. Whealon of Hartford and Episcopal Bishop J. Warren Hutchens.

The dedication itself was conducted by the capacity audience of over 12,000, which was asked to join with Rabbi

Feldman in a dialogue prayer of dedication. Father Devine gave the invocation and was master of ceremonies. Mr. Drew gave the benediction. Scripture readings were given by Mayor George A. Athanson, Rev. David E. Chambers Jr. and Rev. Ms. Julie Ramirez.

Music was provided by an 1,100-voice choir with representatives from choral groups in the Capitol Region. Catholic churches represented included the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Immaculate Con-

ception, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Augustine, St. Lawrence O'Toole, St. Michael and St. Patrick and St. Anthony, all of Hartford; St. Rose, East Hartford; St. Therese, Granby; St. Francis of Assisi and St. Margaret Mary, South Windsor; Sacred Heart, Vernon; St. Helena, West Hartford; and Sacred Heart, Wethersfield.

The combined choir was accompanied by the Hartford Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Arthur O. Winograd.



## → Frog Hollow Area Residents Again Oppose Church Move

Frog Hollow residents continued Monday night to oppose a zone change that would enable a Hispanic church to move to Broad Street.

At a City Council public hearing, the proposed change drew no speakers in favor. A show of hands revealed overwhelming opposition to the change among the nearly 90 persons in attendance.

The change would allow Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church at 93 Main St., to move to a former school building on Broad between Jefferson and Ward streets. That block would be rezoned from residential to business under the proposed change.

Faith Temple and the Immaculate Conception Church Corp., which owns the building, have asked the council to allow them to withdraw their zone change request, but the council took no action on this Monday.

The council further postponed until its next meeting, Feb. 10, a vote on whether to allow special development districts to be established in the block in question.

Council Majority Leader Nicholas R. Carbone said that if expansion of the special districts is not approved, he would call for a vote on the zone change.

The postponement came because Councilman William A. DiBella wanted to review the statements made at a public hearing three weeks ago on the issue. Neighborhood residents have also expressed their opposition to allowing special districts in their neighborhood.

DiBella and Councilman Mary M. Heslin also wanted to clear up questions of possible conflict of interest before voting.

Both said they have spouses with interests in property within the area where special districts would be allowed. The area is between

Washington and Affleck streets, south of Bushnell Park and north of Jefferson Street.

Monday's hearing was the second on the proposed zone change. It was called after the corporation counsel decided that a member of the Commission on the City Plan had a conflict of interest when he voted on the change.



# in Conflict; Ordinance Declared Void

FEB 11 1975



## Standing Room Only

About 300 persons attended Monday's City Council meeting to lend support to a proposed zone change ordinance which would allow the Faith Temple Assembly to move from Main Street to Broad Street. Councilman

George Levine, at right by microphone, chaired the discussion after Mayor Athanson was told there was a possibility he (Athanson) had a conflict of interest in the case (Courant Photo by Anthony Bacewicz).

THE HARTFORD COURANT, Tuesday, February 11, 1975

At a City Council meeting Monday night, the ordinance was withdrawn and then re-submitted for a new public hearing March 24. It would expand the area where special development districts are allowed to the block where the church—Faith Temple Assembly—wants to move.

Nearly 300 persons in support of the ordinance attended the meeting.

Corporation Counsel Alexander A. Goldfarb said Athanson and Mrs. Heslin have at least the appearance of conflicts because Athanson owns property in the area where the special districts would be allowed and Mrs. Heslin's husband, Atty. Thomas P. Heslin, has a law office in the area.

Faith Temple, now at 93 Main St., has been attempting to move to Broad Street since late last summer.

The church wants to buy a former school between Jefferson and Ward streets owned by Immaculate Conception Church Corp.

and it be allowed to apply for a special development district instead.

Area residents urged the first zone change request be defeated instead of withdrawn. But the council Monday, on a 4 to 3 vote, voted to allow the request to be withdrawn.

Voting to allow the withdrawal were Councilmen Richard M. Brown, Nicholas R. Carbone, George Levine and Richard Suisman. Voting not to allow the withdrawal were Council members William A. DiBella, Margaret V. Tedone, and Mrs. Heslin. DiBella, Tedone and Mrs. Heslin all urged defeat of the zone change request.

Councilmen John J. Cunnane Jr. and Allyn A. Martin were absent because of illness.

### Disputes Opinion

Carbone vigorously disputed Goldfarb's opinion that Athanson, who conducted the public hearing on the special development district ordi-

But Goldfarb said that in zoning matters the conflict-of-interest laws are very strict.

After Goldfarb issued his opinion, Athanson turned the chairmanship of the discussion on the ordinance over to Levine.

Goldfarb's opinion also said Athanson may signor veto the ordinance if it is later passed by the council.

The council's vote to set a new public hearing March 24 was 6-0. Mrs. Heslin abstained.

Faith Temple plans, if the council eventually approves the ordinance, to request the land it wants to buy be made a special development district. That would allow it to move its church to the land.

The March 24 hearing will be the fourth on the same subject. Two hearings were held on the request for a change to a business zone and now two will be held on the ordinance expanding the area where special development districts may be established.



## City Hall Notes

# Church-Move Hearing Set

An ordinance designed to help a Hispanic church move to Broad Street will be aired before City Council Monday night.

This will be the fourth public hearing on the issue.

The Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church at 93 Main St., seeks to move to a former school building on Broad between Ward and Jefferson streets.

Residents and property owners in the area oppose the move. They have submitted petitions of 221 names and, this week, another 47 names. Faith Temple presented a petition of more than 2,400 names in support.

The City Council is considering an ordinance which would include the Broad Street property in an area—between Washington and Afleck streets, south of Bushnell Park and north of Jefferson street—in which special development districts could be established.

Faith Temple and the Immaculate Conception Church Corp., which owns the Broad Street property, asked for

withdrawal of a zone change request from residential to business.

The ordinance for a special district was declared void Feb. 10 because the mayor and a council member had possible conflicts of interest when they publicly discussed the proposal.



## Council Again To Hear Pleas For Moving Hispanic Church

The City Council again will hear public comments tonight on a proposal designed to help an Hispanic church move to Broad Street.

The proposal has sparked vigorous opposition from Frog Hollow residents.

The hearing is scheduled for 8 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall.

The Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church at 93 Main St., wants to move to a former Roman Catholic schoolbuilding on Broad, between Ward and Jefferson streets.

The proposal before the council would include the Broad Street property in a "special development." The church could then apply under special district provisions.



## Spanish Church Asks Council To Approve Relocation Plans

The pastor of the Faith Temple Association, a Spanish Pentacostal Church, made a strong plea before the City Council Monday night for action to permit the congregation to move to a building on Broad Street.

At the same public hearing, residents of the area again expressed their opposition to the move, and some claimed to have been harassed in recent weeks by church members.

Julie Ramirez, the pastor, said "It has never been our plan to cause any problems or hardships to anyone.

"But we have looked and

looked and looked and here is a property that is vacant, available, and up for sale," she said.

The church wants to move into a building previously occupied by the Immaculate Conception parish school. The Faith Temple is now at 93 Main St. in facilities that the pastor called "rat-infested and unbelievably dirty."

The measure before the council would include the Broad Street property in a "special development."

This would allow the church to apply under special district provisions to make the move.

The church leader said she has suffered persecution all her life because she is Puerto Rican and she accused the Frog Hollow residents of trying to keep the church out of their neighborhood because of her congregation's racial makeup.

Several residents who spoke insisted they are not racially biased.

Anthony J. Zaranka of Jefferson Street said his opposition is "not a matter of discrimination."

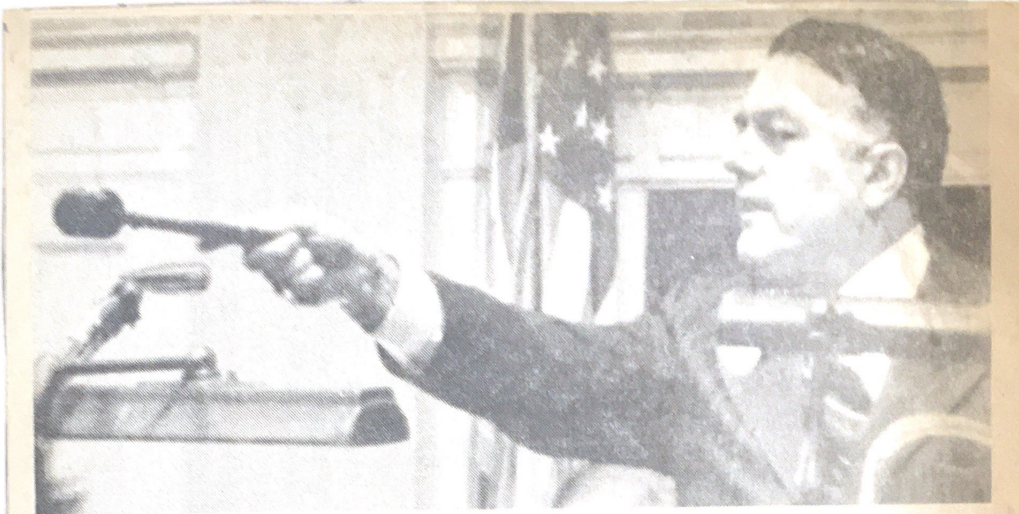
"We have had Puerto Rican and black neighbors for years," he said. The church would make the neighborhood noisy and congested with traffic, Zaranka said.

He and Eleanor L. Pozniak of 125 Ward St. both said they had been harassed by church members. Mrs. Pozniak said she found a cross on her lawn with a sign "Curse you all."

Another hearing was held Monday on proposals to allow the construction of a convalescent home on the west side of Lorraine Street and to keep open space on the east side of the street.

Clyde Fisher of the West End Civic Association said his organization is strongly in favor of the proposal. His group has worked with architects to produce plans for a building in character with the neighborhood.

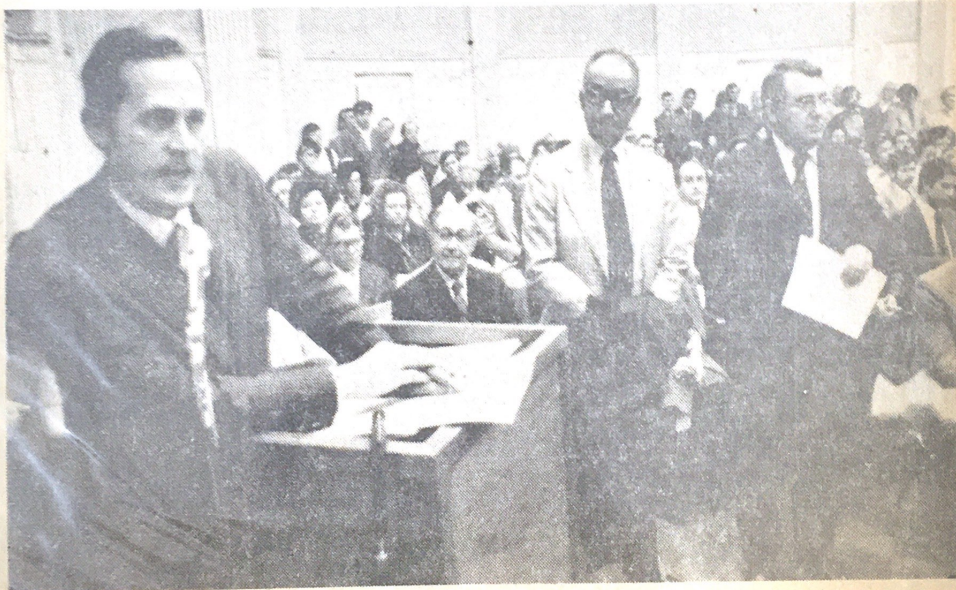




### 'Order! Order!'

Mayor Athanson waves his gavel and shouts in an effort to bring order to the City Council meeting Monday night. Members of the National Caucus of Labor Commit-

tees had insisted on addressing the audience and Athanson was trying to get the meeting started (Courant Photo by Anthony Bacewicz).



### Hearings Pack City Hall

The City Council chambers had standing room only during Monday night's public hearings on the proposed move of a Hispanic church to Broad Street and actions aimed at permitting construction of a convalescent home

on Lorraine Street. Speaking on the latter topic left, is Clyde Fisher of the West End Civic Association, and waiting to speak are Ernest Johnson of Sherman Street, center, and Atty. George (by Anthony Bacewicz).



# Church Stirs Neighborhood

For 12 years, Faith Temple existed quietly on the fringe of the theological and sociological mainstream.

But late last summer, the small congregation was thrust into the public eye and it hasn't been able to escape since.

The church has moved from one storefront to another since 1962. Last summer, it offered to buy the abandoned Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic School on Broad Street.

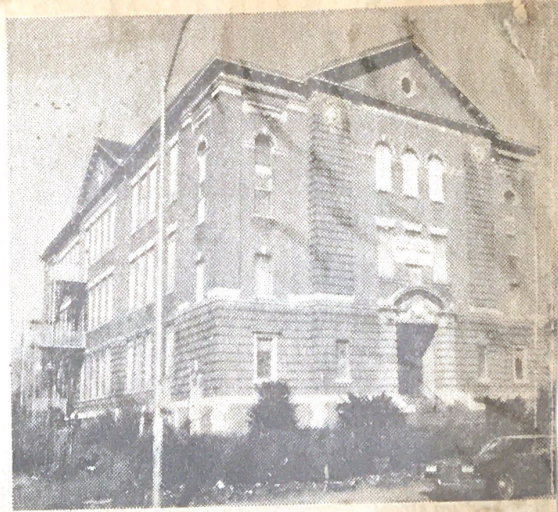
The first public hearing for a necessary zone change was held last October. Almost six months later, the City Council has taken no vote, Faith Temple has no new home and the Immaculate Conception School is still empty.

Hundreds of area residents near the school have trooped to four public hearings to oppose any zone change for Faith Temple.

The residents said the church move would lead to increased traffic congestion and noise, with decreased property values in the residential area.

Some observers suggest residents have a more serious objection to their potential new neighbors: most of them are Puerto Rican.

"I think it's obvious why those residents don't want that Spanish church," explains the Rev. Daniel Martinez, pastor of South Park United Methodist Church, next door to Faith Temple in Hartford. "And I can see

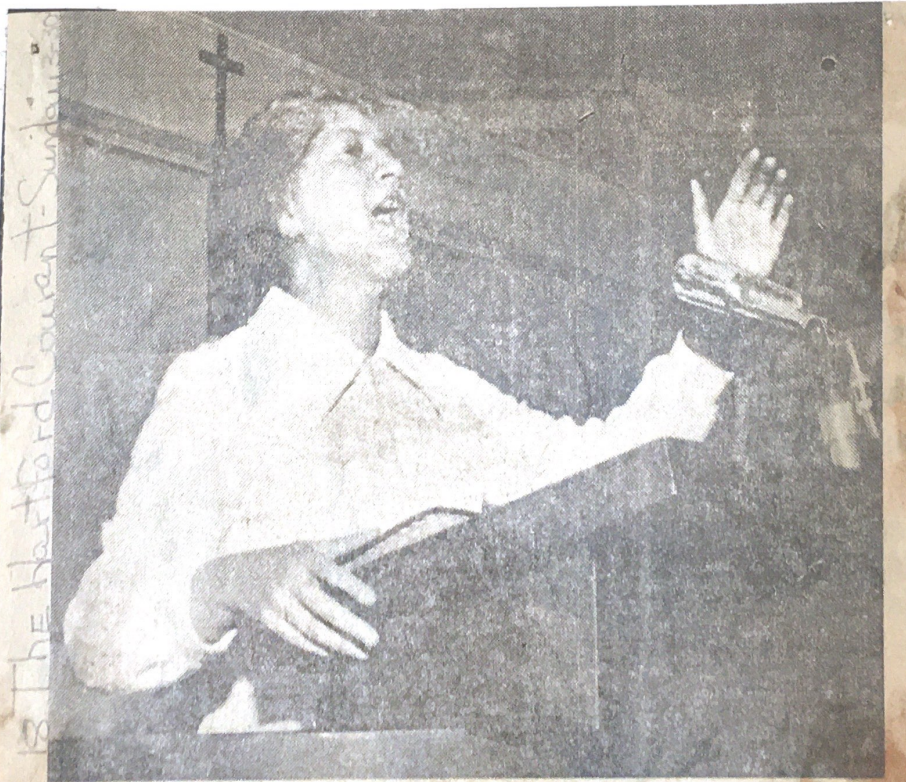


## Still for Sale

Faith Temple Wants Old School

See Faith, Page 18

THE HARTFORD COURANT SUNDAY MARCH 30, 75



## Preaching the Gospel

The Rev. Julie Ramirez of the Faith Temple preaches to her 300-member congregation, mostly Spanish-speaking, at its temporary facility at 93 Main St. The church would like to move to a new location.



3/30/75

# Faith Temple Controversy Surrounds Congregation

(Continued From Page 1)

that the politicians don't want to touch it."

But residents of the area deny that nationality has anything to do with their objections to Faith Temple.

"We've had Puerto Ricans living around here for years," says Anthony J. Zaranka, who lives two doors away from the school playground. "Nobody panicked or showed any kind of discrimination."

Faith Temple is a Spanish-speaking church, but its religious heritage is pure American Protestantism.

The 300-member congregation at 93 Main St. is affiliated with the Assemblies of God, a conservative Pentecostal faith.

The theology is rigid, the life-style is extremely limited and the push to evangelize for new members is aggressive.

The Bible is accepted quite literally, with little of the "interpretation" that more liberal main-line Protestants accept.

"The Bible is our guide, it directs our way of living," explains the Rev. Julie Ramirez, pastor of the church.

Drinking and smoking are forbidden, because the body is a "temple for the Holy Spirit" and should be free from damaging chemicals. Dancing is banned because it encourages sexual arousal.

Through the power of God, the sick are "healed" in the Faith Temple. Healing is an important aspect of Pentecostal belief and Faith Temple is much like any other Pentecostal church that prays and sings in English.

That style of worship has grown in popularity recently in America and Faith Temple has benefited.

"As a worshipping community, it is the most prosperous church in downtown Hartford," the Rev. Mr.

Martinez said.

"The other churches have money and buildings and stained glass; Faith Temple has good attendance, activity and good spirit."

The active proselytizing in the Spanish community attracts members such as Ramon Valentin of 60 Crescent St., a 36-year-old construction worker.

"I was a Catholic, but I didn't know nothing about Jesus Christ . . . I never heard nothing about this thing," he says. "My children never see me come home drunk, never see a bottle of whisky or . . . a cigarette or gamble . . ."

For Angel Cintron, a 40-year-old job interviewer for the Community Renewal Team in Hartford, the church is an all-encompassing passion.

There's the Bible Institute on Mondays, a church service on Tuesdays, another Bible Institute on Wednesdays, a youth service on Thursdays, a service for children on Fridays and, on Sunday, an adult school in the morning, a children's school in the afternoon and another service at night.

"Thanks to God I feel happy, full of joy, different from the life I used to lead before — drinking, playing, running with women . . . I feel, myself, we got the truth. We expect one day we'll meet the Lord."

Faith Temple's congregation is being offered a valuable service, according to Sarah Romany, director of services for the Spanish-speaking at Catholic Family Services in Hartford.

"They are very rigid, but that works for a great many people," she said. "There are certain personalities that need that. I have seen several cases, men in particular, who have stopped drinking and taking drugs."

But Pentecostalism and good deeds don't make Faith Temple any more palatable to the blue-collar, Roman Catholic factory workers of "Frog Hollow."

They say race, color, creed or religion are not the issues. Property values and proper city zoning to keep residential sections residential are, they say.

"We're blue-collar workers and we're proud of it," says Hamilton Standard machinist Zaranka. "We've managed to buy these homes with mortgages over 20, 25 years."

"We just want to go on minding our own business and keeping up our property."

Several residents of the area complain of harassment from members of Temple Faith. Some say they are so afraid, they refuse to speak out in public.

Eleanor L. Pozniak of 125 Ward St. said she found a cross on her lawn with a sign reading "Curse you all."

Pastor Ramirez says any threats and vandalism came from outside her church, because the congregation is too spiritually oriented to engage in such activism.

Both sides have been heard through two different kinds of zone change requests and four different hearings, but the Rev. Mr. Martinez of South Park Methodist says the City Council may still be slow to take action.

"They can't deny it (the zone change) to this church and then give to some other church that better fits their fancy," he says. "And if they're going to allow that big building (the school) as a private home, I don't know any families with a couple of hundred kids."



# Martin Expects Council To Pass Church Zone Bill

By BILL WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

Deputy Mayor Allyn A. Martin says he expects the City Council to approve a controversial zoning amendment requested by a local Spanish Pentacostal church.

"I think the votes will be there," Martin said.

The proposal has sparked an intense controversy in a largely residential neighborhood on Broad Street, near Jefferson and Ward streets.

The zoning amendment was requested by Faith Temple Assembly, which wants to open a combination church and school in a vacant Catholic elementary school on Broad Street.

The amendment, which Martin supports, would extend the city's Special Development District (SDD) provisions to a 17-block area south of the state capitol.

Martin is the first councilman to publicly take a stand either for or against the amendment.

However, Martin says he is concerned that many people, including some council members, appear to be "totally confused on what the vote (on the SDD extension) will mean."

Martin said a favorable vote on the SDD amendment will "in no way guarantee" that Faith Temple will win final approval for its plans.

The deputy mayor noted that the upcoming SDD vote is merely the first of three steps in the approval procedure.

Step one is "enabling legislation" that extends SDD provisions to a new section of the city.

In step two, Faith Temple would submit a specific application for approval of the church-school as an SDD project.

In step three, the applicant submits detailed plans on the project. Steps two and three are handled together, although separate votes are required. A new public hearing will be required for steps two and three.

Although Martin supports the SDD amendment, he says he will need more detailed information before he agrees to give the project a final green light.

"I plan to ask that the applicant be required to prove financial stability," Martin said during an interview.

"I want them to have the building, but I don't want to foist them on a neighborhood if they are not financially stable."

Martin said he was skeptical that a "poor parish" would be able to "make a go of it."

The SDD amendment will be discussed at a meeting of the City Council's Planning and Zoning Committee at 9:30 a.m. Thursday. The meeting is open to the public.

Committee members are George Levine, Margaret V. Tedone and Martin.

The committee has no chairman. Former chairman Mary M. Heslin resigned from the City Council and the council has not yet named a new zoning chairman.

The City Plan Commission was unable to muster enough votes either for or against the SDD proposal. The vote was 3-1 in favor of the amendment with one abstention. Four affirmative or negative votes are needed for a recommendation.



### ***Mrs. Tedone Persists***

Margaret V. Tedone, the minority leader of the city council, said Tuesday she is still unsatisfied with answers from the corporation counsel's office about an ordinance concerning a Hispanic church.

She received a communication Tuesday from the corporation counsel, Alexander A. Goldfarb, which, in essence, repeated an already-stated opinion that deprives the mayor of veto power because of possible conflict of interest.

At issue is an ordinance, to be on the Monday council agenda, which would allow the church, Faith Temple Assembly, to take steps to apply to move to Broad Street.

Mrs. Tedone claims the ordinance is illegal because the mayor would be removed from the process of government if he had no veto.



## Hispanic Church Proposal Draws Residents' Opposition

The head of a group opposing the planned move of an Hispanic church to Broad Street said again Wednesday that 89 per cent of the property owners within 150 feet of the proposed church don't want it there.

Anthony J. Zaranka of 332 Jefferson St. 25 property owners don't want the church. They live near a building formerly used as a school for Immaculate Conception Church.

Faith Temple Assembly, a 300-member Spanish-speaking conservative Protestant church, wants to move to the former Immaculate Conception building.

Zaranka disagreed with a recent statement by the Rev. Joseph Devine, Immaculate Conception's co-pastor. Father Devine had said there is a "great deal" of support in the community for the

Hispanic church

Father Devine also said he didn't believe that 90 per cent of the area residents are opposed to the sale of the former church building.

Zaranka said the record of the area property owners' opposition is in a petition given to the City Council.

According to the City Charter, if 20 per cent of the residents within 150 feet of proposed a zone change area oppose a change, seven votes are needed to pass the measure before the City Council.

Father Devine spoke out Saturday because he said not enough publicity was given to supporters of the church, who collected 2,500 signatures from persons who favor the zone change.

Immaculate Conception Church Inc. is seeking a special development district for its school building to clear

the way for the sale to Faith Temple.

"Because we oppose a church at this location does not mean that we do not believe in God. We do believe in God," Zarenka said.

But, he added, "Churches are subject to reasonable regulations just as drug-stores and other private enterprises regarding their location without violating the constitutional guarantee of freedom of religion."

He said allowing the special district "does not promote the general welfare, safety of the area and will lead to congestion in the streets and the destruction of property values."

The City Council is expected to vote on the special development district request at its meeting Monday.



# Housing Use Sought

By DAVID S. BARRETT

A proposed ordinance revoking a zone change granted in 1973 to allow construction of a shopping center at Sigourney and Collins streets will be the subject of a City Council hearing today at 8 p.m. at City Hall.

The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Society for Savings own the land, at the northeast corner of the intersection.

Construction of the shopping center planned for the site hasn't started because of problems of economics and finding tenants but officials of the firms say the plan hasn't been abandoned.

The ordinance would rezone the land from business to residential, which is the classification it had before the 1973 zone change.

The hearing today will be the second on the proposed ordinance. The first, held March 10, was recessed.

At that hearing, an attorney for the two companies urged defeat of the ordinance.

But the area civic group, the Sigourney Square Civic Association, has endorsed the change back to residential because it doesn't want more commercial development in the block.

Items on the council's regular agenda include:

—A petition and letters from 35 persons supporting Faith Temple Assembly's effort to buy and move into a former Roman Catholic school on Broad Street. Faith Temple, a Spanish pentacostal church, is now located at 93 Main St.

—A petition from 25 persons urging government action to help the city's poor residents during the current national recession.



# Council Paves Way for Faith Temple's Move to Broad Street

THE HARTFORD COURANT: Tuesday, April 15, 1975

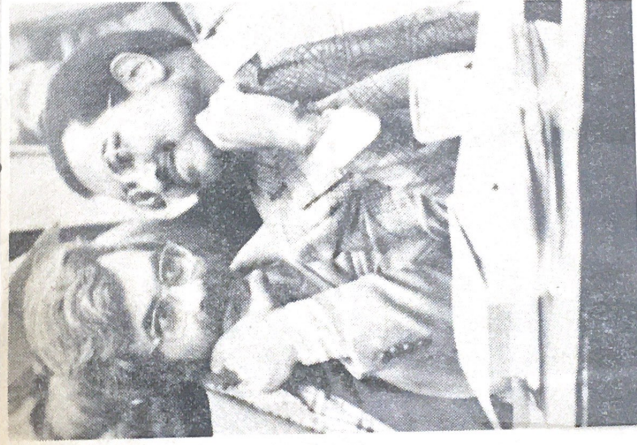
**By DAVID S. BARRETT**  
 An ordinance designed to help a Spanish Pentecostal church move to Broad Street was approved by the City Council Monday night over strong neighborhood opposition.

The vote was 5 to 2, with Councilman William A. DiBella abstaining because he hadn't attended the public hearing on the ordinance. Voting in favor were Councilmen Richard M. Brown, Nicholas R. Carbone, George Levine, Allyn A. Martin and Richard Suisman. Voting against were John J. Cunnane Jr. and Margaret V. Tedone.

The ordinance expands the area where special-development districts may be established to a 17-block section of the city south of the State Capitol and along Washington and Broad streets.

Faith Temple Assembly now plans to apply for a zone change to special-development district, for land on west side of Broad. The Hispanic church, now located in a storefront at 93 Main St., wants to buy a building on Broad Street to open a temple and school.

Carbone said he supported Faith Temple's proposal because the building used to house a school run by Immaculate Conception Church. He said he could not see any reason why a building



**Councilmen Chat**

Councilmen Richard Suisman, left, and Richard M. Brown share a thought during Monday night's City Council meeting at City Hall (Courant Photo by Anthony Bacewitz).

used for religious purposes for many years should not continue to be used for religious purposes.

If the council had not passed city wide zoning revisions for residential zones.

sions in 1969, making the former school a nonconforming use. Faith Temple could have moved in without council approval, Carbone noted.

He said he did not think Faith Temple's using the former school would have a detrimental effect on the area, as residents claimed.

Cunnane said his negative vote was the most difficult decision he's had to make since he was elected to the council in 1973.

He said while he's sympathetic to the needs of the Spanish church, in the end he had to listen to the objections of residents, many of whom have lived in the area all their lives.

Mrs. Tedone said a better way should be found to help Faith Temple. She said allowing special-development districts along Broad Street has put the neighborhood into turmoil.

Mrs. Tedone also questioned whether the ordinance was legal, because Mayor Athanson has been instructed he may not veto it because he has an apparent conflict-of-interest, since he owns property in the area.

But Corporation Counsel Alexander A. Goldfarb said the ordinance is legal.

A zone change is necessary before the temple may move. Seven council votes will be needed to pass the zone change because 20 per



**Legal Stare**

Corporation Counsel Alexander A. Goldfarb listens as Councilman George Levine, back to camera, goes over material for a public hearing on the Collins and Sigourney streets zone change Monday night at City Hall (Courant Photo by Anthony Bacewitz).

cent of the adjacent property owners oppose it. The council also approved an ordinance allowing Leonard J. Schwartz to construct a 270-bed convalescent



## City Zoning Panel Approves Plan for Church's Relocation

The City Council's planning and zoning committee has approved with a 2-1 vote a proposed ordinance expanding the area where special-development districts may be established on land south of the State Capitol and along Washington and Broad streets.

The ordinance was introduced to allow Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church, to apply for a zone change to move to a former Catholic school on Broad Street.

Committee members George Levine and Allyn A. Martin will recommend council approval of the ordinance, while the third member, Margaret V. Tedone, will recommend it be defeated.

The committee has no chairman. Its former chairman, Councilwoman Mary M. Heslin, resigned March 1 to become state consumer protection commissioner and no replacement has been named.

This has resulted in an un-

usual situation. Normally council committee chairmen's recommendations are the only recommendations to come out of its committees.

Dissenting opinions aren't common.

But the council, at a meeting Monday, will receive a dissenting opinion on each of three zoning matters the committee recently considered. Its three members failed to agree on any of the items.

Besides the ordinance expanding the area where special-development districts may be established, ordinances amending the definition of "family" in the zoning code and allowing construction of a convalescent home in the West End have come before the committee recently.

It recommends approval of the convalescent home, with Mrs. Tedone saying she will abstain, and approval of the definition change, aimed at banning communes in low-density residential

zones, with Levine saying he will vote "no."

The special-development district ordinance has provoked considerable controversy. Residents of the area where Faith Temple wants to move are opposed to it.

The ordinance, and a resolution, on the convalescent home, would allow construction of a 270-bed facility on

the west side of Lorraine Street.

The anticommune ordinance would remove from the definition of "family" the provision that allows up to six guests to be included as part of a family.

The council will consider the committee's various recommendations at an 8 p.m. meeting at City Hall.



THE HARTFORD COURANT: Wednesday, December 3, 1975

## City Planners Endorse Bill To Aid Residents

The Commission on the City Plan Tuesday endorsed five proposed ordinances designed to protect low-density residential districts adjacent to residential-office zones.

The commission vote was 5-0. The City Council will hold a public hearing on the ordinances Monday.

They would reduce the permitted lot occupancy, increase the side yard and rear yard requirements and encourage landscaping for buildings in residential-office zones next to residences.

The commission failed to agree on a recommendation to the council on a proposed zone change on Broad Street

to allow Faith Temple Assembly to move to a vacant building now owned by Immaculate Conception Church.

The commission voted 3-2 with an abstention in favor of the proposal, but four affirmative or negative votes are needed for an official recommendation to the council.



# Council To Hear Church Zone Change Bid

A controversial zone change request to allow Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church, to move to a building at Broad and Ward streets, will be aired at a City Council public hearing today.

The hearing will be at 8 p.m. at City Hall. Faith Temple and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, which owns the building Faith Temple wants to move to, requested the zone change.

The change would create a special development district for land on the west side of Broad Street between Jefferson and Ward streets.

Area residents are expected to attend in force to oppose the request.

Forty-two nearby property owners have submitted a petition opposing the change.

The Immaculate Conception building, now vacant, was formerly an elementary school. Faith Temple wants to convert the first floor to a meeting room for services and use the upper floors for classrooms.

The church's efforts to move started more than a year ago. It first sought a business zone but, after months of debate, withdrew that request to seek instead a change to a special development district. Area residents have said

the character of the neighborhood would be adversely affected, with noise, traffic and parking problems increasing.

Supporters of the project have argued a church would be no worse than the former school and have praised Faith Temple's work and leaders.

The council will also hold a public hearing on five other proposed zoning ordinances. Introduced by Councilwoman Barbara B. Ken-

nelly, the ordinances are intended to protect low-density residential areas from adjacent residential-office zones.

The ordinances would require larger side and rear yard setbacks, smaller lot occupancy, more restrictive parking and additional landscaping for buildings in office zones to separate these buildings from adjacent residences.



# Most at hearing favor Spanish church plan

By BILL WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

HARTFORD — Should the City Council permit the conversion of a vacant, turn-of-the-century, Catholic school building into a Spanish Pentacostal church?

That question is at the heart of one of the most controversial issues to come before the City Council in recent years.

At a packed public hearing Monday evening at City Hall — the fifth in a year — 250 to 300 persons listened quietly, almost as though they were attending a church service, as 20 speakers marched to a microphone to discuss the issue, sometimes in emotional tones.

The hearing involved an application from Faith Temple Assembly, a largely Puerto Rican congregation, which wants to open a church in Frog Hollow, a blue collar neighborhood south of the state capitol.

The church is seeking approval of the project under the city's Special Development District (SDD) legislation.

Councilwoman Barbara B. Kennelly, who said it is the toughest issue she has faced in her six months on the council, has scheduled a public committee meeting on the church's application for 10 a.m. Monday in the City Hall Function Room.

Faith Temple plans to buy the vacant, three-story school building at Broad and Ward streets from Immaculate Conception Church.

Fr. Joseph Devine, pastor of Immaculate Conception, said, "What we're really asking is that the Spanish people in this neighborhood be given an opportunity to worship God the way they want to."

But opponents from the neighborhood did not see it that way.

Atty. Donald Ruffkess, representing some opponents, said the church would become a beehive of activity and would bring noise, traffic congestion and instability to the neighborhood. He also said

City Council approval because the lot is too small, under the zoning code, and the building is too close to adjacent residential property.

See said there are six reasons why the zoning amendment should be approved:

The property already is tax-exempt, so there will be no addition to the tax-exempt rolls; the Spanish population in the city is 10 to 20 per cent, yet there is only one other Spanish-owned church; the applicants have complied with all recommendations of the city planning staff; the school, while vacant, is an eyesore that attracts vandals; no other practical use for the vacant building has been proposed; the Spanish population in the neighborhood around the school building has grown significantly in recent years.

If they win approval of their plan, the applicants plan \$75,000 worth of renovations to convert the school to a church.

Rev. Julie Ramirez, pastor of Faith Temple, said the congregation of 400 persons would cause no problems for the neighborhood.

"We are a quiet, orderly group. We do not smoke... drink... dance. We encourage

our people not to get on welfare," she said in quiet, even tones.

The opponents, however, said they had been harassed, abused and physically attacked.

None of the opponents directly blamed Faith Temple for the harassment. Atty. Philip Dunn, a lawyer representing some opponents, said he was impressed by the applicants and did not believe they would harass opponents. Ruffkess said, "I don't have the slightest idea who has caused what is going on."

During his remarks, Ruffkess called for the disqualification of Councilman Nicholas R. Carbone, who was absent from the hearing. He said Carbone already had announced he would vote in favor of the application, indicating he has made up his mind, a cause for disqualification.

Several opponents said they planned to sell their homes and leave the city if the church is allowed to move to their neighborhood. They also vowed not to pay their property taxes.

Ruffkess said the church will become the scene of "bazaars, carnivals and meetings." He said events will be breaking up "at all hours of the night."







## Church in Vacant School Branded 'Public Nuisance'

By ANDREW KREIG

The creation of a church at Ward and Broad Streets in a vacant schoolhouse was described as "a public nuisance" by opponents at a City Council hearing Monday night.

The opponents of the zoning change, several dozen nearby property owners, were countered by representatives of hundreds of church parishioners, who said 1,869 persons have signed petitions approving the sale, two-thirds from the Frog Hollow area.

The Faith Temple Assembly, a Spanish Pentacostal church, has been seeking for more than a year to move to a vacant schoolhouse closed three years ago by Immaculate Conception Church.

Atty. Donald Ruffkess, representing some opponents, said the church, in contrast to the daytime former school, would "be a beehive . . . seven days a week with emphasis on nighttime activities."

Ruffkess said "this peaceful and quiet residential street" would be disturbed by noise from "a public nuisance," the church activities.

Edmund See, representing Faith Temple, denied the church would change the neighborhood, saying that Park Street, one block away, is "heavily commercial" and businesses are situated on Broad Street next to the site.

Seesaid the congregation has been working with the city's planning staff to make \$75,000 in improvements to the old school, "an eyesore, presently boarded-up."

In asking for a special development zone, the congregation "asked for the most restrictive zoning requirements in the city," See said.

The site doesn't meet existing re-

quirements in two ways, he said. The site is 1.1 acres instead of three acres and is only half the required 100-foot distance from the nearest residential property.

However, See said, another nearby church, the Christ Lutheran Church, is much smaller than the proposed Faith Temple site, and the nearest residential site is a vacant convent owned by Immaculate Conception, whose pastor backed the sale.

Nine nearby residents, including John Dempsey of 232 Jefferson St., said they favored the land sale.

Haul Gonzalez, of the Youth Challenge drug prevention program, was among several speakers who praised the church's stern moral stance, which prohibits smoking, dancing or drinking.

Gonzalez asked 16 young men, attired in suits and ties, to step forward as former drug addicts rehabilitated by the church.

Eleanor Pozniak of 125 Ward St., who flourished a rock she said hit her in the face, and Wanda Lipke of 54 Madison St. each said she had been attacked because of their opposition to the sale.

Neither said she could prove who the attackers were, but then made the link because the alleged attacks occurred soon after they spoke at a previous council hearing on the matter.

The Madison Street woman said 27 homeowners pledged "to leave Hartford in a mass group" if the zoning change is approved.

She said the group will also refuse to pay their taxes until they sell their land.

Ruffkess said the '69 off-street parking spaces the planned were not enough for a congregation of 400, in-

cluding children. He said that the congregation's reported present total of 19 cars was "meaningless because they might buy more."

Pastor Joseph Devine, told the hearing, which attracted 30 persons, that Hartford's Spanish-speaking South End should have its own place to worship, aside from Faith Temple's present site in a rented warehouse at 93 Main St.

Picture on other side





## ***Council Concentration***

City Council members study notes — and speakers — at Monday's council meeting at City Hall. At top are Jacqueline Anderson, left, and John J. Cunnane, right. At bottom is Margaret V. Tedone (Courant Photos by Joseph Cannata Jr.).



## Legal Opinion Sought On Carbone Zoning Role

Councilwoman Barbara B. Kennelly Monday asked the corporation counsel's office for a legal opinion on whether a councilman who endorsed a controversial proposed zone change before the hearing on the request should disqualify himself.

The issue came up at a hearing last Monday on a request from Faith Temple Assembly for a zone change to allow the church to move to a vacant building at Broad and Ward streets.

Atty. Donald Ruffkess, who is opposed to the Pentacostal church's request, said Councilman Nicholas R. Carbone should abstain from voting on the request because last spring he endorsed the church's plans.

Carbone participated at a meeting Monday of the council's Public Safety and Zoning Committee on Faith Temple's request. He disagreed with Ruffkess' suggestion that he disqualify himself.

Faith Temple's plans have drawn strong opposition from Broad Street area residents.

The church wants to buy a former school from Immaculate Conception Church, which is a cosponsor of the zone change request. The change would be from residential to special development district.

Seven affirmative votes will be needed for the council to pass the change because more than 20 per cent of the adjacent property owners have signed a petition opposing the change.

The committee, in other business, endorsed five proposed ordinances aimed at buffering homes in low-density residential zones from adjacent office buildings.



# A tale of lost

By WILLIAM A. JOHNSON  
Staff Reporter

**HARTFORD** — For generations the Park and Broad street area has been a neighborhood in transition — a melting pot were seemingly divergent nationalities came to live, work and to try for their piece of the American dream.

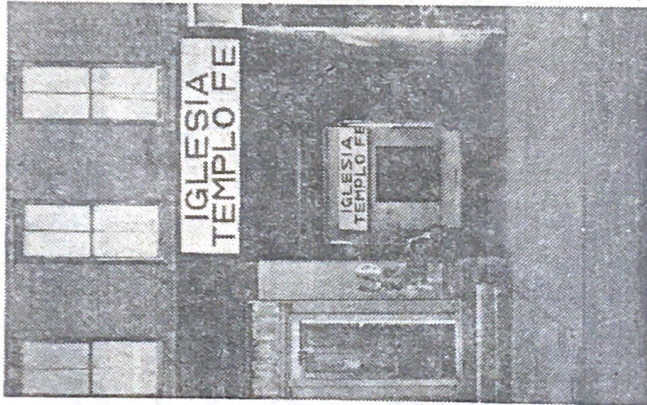
And as they came — the French...Poles...Italians...Irish — they built churches because their religious ties were strong and perhaps the only constant things in their struggling lives.

Many of the families that settled here during the last century are gone now — gone to other sections of the city or to the suburbs. But their churches remain as a reminder of the give and take...the tolerance that has long been this colorful, cohesive neighborhood.

Today a major neighborhood controversy surrounds a bid by a Puerto Rican fundamentalist church to buy the old Immaculate Conception School at the corner of Broad and Ward.

Puerto Ricans are the "new minority" here. They have come because of cheap housing and because the festive atmosphere that is Park Street is akin to their cultural heritage.

Many of the streets in and around the Park and Broad intersection have deteriorated over the years. The exact reason why a neighborhood begins to blight is never clear.

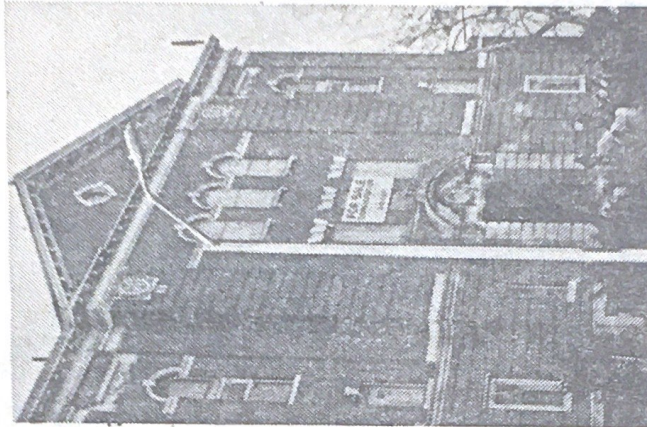


**SITE of present Puerto Rican worship, an old converted warehouse on Main Street, across from South Green.**

Fewer owner-occupied homes is probably one reason. The fact the "new minority" hasn't had easy access into the job market is probably another.

Fifty-one per cent of the property owners immediately around the old brick school have petitioned the City Council to reject a special permit application by Faith Temple Assembly to use the building as a church.

The 400 church members quarters.



**BUILDING at Broad and Ward which fundamentalist congregation wants to buy.**

the city will issue an occupancy permit.

He talks about the proposed tree-plantings...the parking lot...and about the fact "it just won't be a vacant boarded-up buildings anymore."

"These people have a lot of discipline — if they have the discipline to tithe...to attend church regularly, then they certainly have the discipline not to toss rocks through someone's

Most of the houses are sturdy

# melting pot?

three-story structures. Many are brick, with neatly-painted trim. Most are well-maintained.

They are occupied for the most part by the middle-aged and the elderly. While most are owner-occupied, some are owned by persons in West Hartford and Avon.

Many who signed the petition are now reluctant to discuss the issue openly. They say they fear reprisals from the roving bands of youths.

There's Mrs. B., whose father built the home she still lives in in 1916. "We have roots here," she tells the visitor.

"On this street we still have six original owners. They have been here 30 and 40 years. What's going to happen to us," she asks.

"If they let them come in that school, there will be problems — traffic, parking, vandalism— You just wait," she says.

"...and you can take Father Devine, too," she says, adding that the church where she went as a child just doesn't have the same meaning anymore.

And there's Mr. D., an elderly man of Italian descent, who's lived in that three-story house since 1916. "I'm too old to go anywhere. What can I do. They hang around the streets to all hours. My wife was mugged outside the door," he said.

"...and don't tell me about THESE Puerto Ricans being different — get any of them together and..." he said.



## Spanish Church Wins Zone Battle

By NANCY PAPPAS

Faith Temple Assembly won a long and bitter fight to move to a new home Monday when the City Council unanimously approved its zone change request.

For more than a year the Spanish Pentacostal church has been working to secure permission to buy the former Immaculate Conception School at the corner of Ward and Broad streets.

Some longtime residents of the school's Frog Hollow neighborhood put up strenuous opposition against the proposed purchase.

"I realize there was a strong, vocal opposition, and by no means are we discounting how they feel," Barbara B. Kennelly, chairwoman of the council's public safety and zoning committee, told the council.

"But when we took the

weight of the questions and added everything up, it fell to the side of the Faith Temple."

Her committee favored the zone change because it felt occupancy of the 69-year-old building, vacant since 1972, would help stabilize the neighborhood, which includes an increasing number of Hispanic residents.

Members of the congregation, who filled all available seats in the council chambers, gave the council a standing ovation following the vote.

"Victoria es nuestra (victory is ours)," Faith Temple's pastor, the Rev. Julie Ramirez, told her followers later. Many embraced her as they filed out of council chambers.

She said she did not have the "faintest idea" when the 400-member congregation

would actually move from its present 93 Main St. location to its new church.

Of her congregation's new neighbors, she said, "If they give us an opportunity, they will be able to see we want just as fine a community as they have had."

The Rev. Joseph Devine, Immaculate Conception Church pastor, called the unanimous vote a "tribute" to the dedication and discipline of the Spanish congregation, which adheres to strict standards of personal behavior.

The council actually took two votes on the zone change. The first established a special development district for the school block, a zoning designation which permits a broad range of uses. The second granted the church a permit for a special development project within

the new district.

Two council Republicans who had originally opposed the zone change joined in the 9-0 vote Monday.

The two, Margaret V. Tedone and John J. Cunnane Jr., both said they had concluded the church would help upgrade the neighborhood.

The council imposed three restrictions on the church's permit. It said that improvements to the building—the congregation plans to use the first floor for worship and upper floors for religious classes—must be complete within 18 months.

The corporation counsel will also have to approve a lease the church is obtaining for adjacent parking space.

Finally, the congregation will be required to install a five foot high screening on the west side of its parking area.



## Temple Gaining In Zone Quest

Faith Temple Assembly appears to have won its fight for a zone change to allow the church to move into a vacant former school at Broad and Ward streets.

Long-time church area residents bitterly oppose the request.

Because more than 20 per cent of the property owners adjacent to the church property are opposed, seven affirmative votes are needed for City Council approval.

It appears that Faith Temple and its co-sponsor, the Immaculate Conception Church, have the votes.

Councilwoman Barbara B. Kennelly, chairwoman of the council's Public Safety and Zoning Committee, said Wednesday she is "leaning" toward a recommending approval.

Also expected to vote in favor are council members Nicholas R. Carbone, William A. DiBella, Raymond Monteiro, Richard Suisman, Olga U. Thompson and Jacqueline J. Anderson.

Margaret V. Tedone said she hasn't decided and John J. Cunnane Jr. was unavailable for comment.

Faith Temple and Immaculate Conception want a zone change from residential to special development district for land on the west side of Broad Street between

Ward and Jefferson streets.

The church wants to buy the former Immaculate Conception elementary school and use its first floor for worship and its upper floors for religious classes.

Mrs. Kennelly said the corner of Broad and Ward has been allowed to deteriorate. Occupancy of the school by Faith Temple would help stabilize the area, she said.

Faith Temple is a Spanish Pentacostal Church now located in an old converted warehouse at 93 Main St. It has been battling to move to the old school since 1974.

The council is expected to take up the zone change request Monday.



# Church, counsel issues scheduled for vote M

By BILL WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter  
HARTFORD — At least two highly-controversial matters are scheduled for a vote at Monday's City Council meeting.

The issues, which have been in the news for months, involve the proposed conversion of a vacant school into a church and appointment of a city corporation counsel.

The council is expected to:

- Approve the application of Faith Temple Assembly, which wants to convert Immaculate Conception School on Broad Street into a church.
- Defeat a resolution reappointing Alexander A. Goldfarb as corporation counsel and, instead, approve a resolution naming Richard W. Shettle to



BARBARA KENNELLY  
... back church's bid

the post on an interim basis. Each vote could be close.

Faith Temple has been trying for a year to get approval for its church plans, despite strong opposition from some residents who say they fear the church will bring an increase in noise and traffic congestion to the Frog Hollow neighborhood, a few blocks south of the State Capitol.

In a 12-page report to the City Council, Councilwoman Barbara B. Kennelly, head of the Public Safety and Zoning Committee, recommended approval of the church's applications.

Two resolutions approving the church's applications are co-sponsored by four council members: Mrs. Kennelly, Nicholas R. Carbone, William

A. DiBella and Olga W. Thompson. In her report, Mrs. Kennelly says the church will not add to traffic and parking problems.

She says the church "will be a positive influence on the value of property in this neighborhood." She also said that "a large vacant structure like the Immaculate Conception School does not promote the stability of the area or its property values, but rather invites vandalism, arson and other crimes against property."

The councilwoman said she are sponsoring a resolution naming Asst. Corporation Counsel Richard W. Shettle as corporation counsel on an interim basis.

The Shettle resolution is sponsored by Democrats Richard

church "has lessened and today a majority of the property owners and residents of the neighborhood are in favor of the church."

On the Goldfarb issue, Mayor George A. Athanson and all three Republicans on the council (John J. Cunnane Jr., Margaret V. Tedone and Jacqui J. Anderson) have submitted a resolution naming Goldfarb to another, two-year term (he was first appointed in 1971 and reappointed in 1973).

Five Democrats, however, are sponsoring a resolution and quickly called a Democratic caucus to line up the votes against Goldfarb. Mrs. Thompson apparently reversed

her position.

For several months, Goldfarb has been on poor terms with



ALEXANDER ... seen



# Zone Change Seen For Faith Temple

By DAVID S. BARRETT

The City Council is expected to approve today Faith Temple Assembly's controversial request for a zone change to allow the church to move to a vacant former school at Broad and Ward streets.

The council will meet at 8 p.m. at City Hall. Faith Temple and the Immaculate Conception Church, which owns the former school, are seeking a zone change from residential to special development district for land on the west side of Broad south of Ward.

Seven council members—Jacqueline J. Anderson, Nicholas R. Carbone, William A. DiBella, Barbara B. Kennelly, Raymond Monteiro, Richard Suisman and Olga U. Thompson—are expected to vote in favor of the request.

Faith Temple, a Spanish Pentacostal church now located in an old converted warehouse at 93 Main St., has been fighting for more than a year to move to the former elementary school.

It would buy the school from Immaculate Concep-

tion and use the first floor for worship and the upper floors for religious classes.

Strong opposition has come from longtime residents of the area around the church.

The opponents say Faith Temple's move to the school would cause further neighborhood deterioration, including parking, noise and traffic problems.

Proponents say an occupied building would help stabilize the neighborhood and say Faith Temple, whose members don't drink, smoke or dance, would be an excellent occupant.

The council also will hold public hearings on two proposed ordinances making technical changes in the city's zoning ordinances governing special development districts.

The ordinances are intended to make it easier for property owners to apply for zone changes to special development districts.

Other items on the council's 57-item agenda include:

—A recommendation from its Public Safety and Zoning Committee that it approve

five proposed ordinances that would create buffers between homes in low-density residential zones and adjacent office buildings.

—A recommendation from the council's Management and Budget Committee that it approve a lease with the state, under which the city would lease land under I-84 off Morgan Street for parking for the Police Department. The city would pay \$25 a month.

—A report from Mayor Athanson that the Mayor's All Americans Council has applied for a \$50,000 federal grant to run ethnic understanding programs during 1976.

—A request from City Manager Curtin for approval of an application for \$13,000 in federal anti-crime funds to hire a social worker to counsel juveniles with problems.

—Three proposed tax assessment deferral agreements with Victor H. and Margaret B. Rubino, who plan \$55,000 in renovations on a building at 81 Gillett St.; Joan B. and Peter L. Costas, who plan \$90,000 in

renovations on a vacant building at 39 Lewis St., and Raymont J. Tramont, who plans \$45,000 in renovations for a row-house at 21 Capitol Ave.

Tramont hopes later to buy and renovate six other row-houses connected to 21 Capitol Ave.

—A zone change request from Salvatore Vernali of East Hartford, who wants to sell a property at 125-127 Campfield Ave. for use as a grocery store. The request is for a change from residential to business for the land on the west side of Campfield between Otis and Preston streets.

—A recommendation from Athanson that Julia LaValle, Klemes Klementon and James Mavlouganes be reappointed city fence viewers.

—A resolution from Athanson asking the city manager and Redevelopment Agency to review how the city takes over redevelopment properties. Property owners have been complaining, the mayor says, that it takes the city too long to take over their properties.

causing major financial losses.

—A resolution from Athanson proposing the council oppose Gov. Grasso's plan to close Cedarcrest Hospital to save the state money.

—A resolution from Councilman Richard Suisman and Councilwoman Olga U. Thompson urging the council to endorse walk-in surgery as an alternative to inpatient hospital surgery. Plans for a Hartford surgical center at 100 Retreat Ave. are now before the state Commission on Hospitals and Health Care.

—A resolution from Councilwoman Margaret V. Tedone proposing that the council have the city manager study the feasibility of allowing fairs run by community groups and clubs on city-owned land between Wetherfield Avenue and Ledyard Street south of Elliott Street.



## School to be church as council gives OK

By BILL WILLIAMS  
Staff Reporter

HARTFORD — Sometime next year, the vacant, 68-year-old Immaculate Conception School on Broad Street will open as a Spanish Pentacostal church.

A long battle ended Monday evening when the City Council unanimously (9-0) approved an application from the church, Faith Temple Assembly, for a zoning amendment.

Faith Temple plans to convert the first floor of the school into a 700-seat church. The upper floor classrooms will be used for Sunday school instruction.

Members of the congregation, who packed Monday's council session, rose to their feet and applauded after the council vote.

Faith Temple's application had been bitterly opposed by some neighbors, who said they feared an increase in noise and traffic and a decline in property values.

There was only brief discussion before the vote. Republican Councilman John J. Cunnane Jr. said his decision was a difficult one. He said he had concluded that turning a vacant school into a church would help stabilize the neighborhood.

Democrat Barbara B. Kennelly, who heads the council's zoning committee, said, "We can all live together, work together and pray our different ways together." Democrat Richard Suisman said the decision was easy for him because "I don't think one of our responsibilities is to decide who can pray where or at what time of day in the city of Hartford."

Other matters to come before the council Monday included:

### PROPOSED BILLS

The City Council endorsed 14 proposed bills for submission to the 1976 General Assembly. The most controversial measure, approved on a 5-3 vote, provides for the appointment of local salary commissions that would have the power to recommend salary increases for City Council members without a referendum. The measure also would allow salary commissions to set salaries for school board members (under current law, school board members in Connecticut are not paid).

Mayor George A. Athanson and Councilman John J. Cunnane Jr. said the council should have more details on how salary commissions would be appointed and how they would

function before endorsing the concept.

Councilman Nicholas R. Carbone said the proposed law would not give anyone a salary increase. He said it would merely provide for an impartial, fair review of salaries. Once a blue ribbon commission made a recommendation, it would be up to the City Council whether to accept or reject it. Within the past few years, city voters have twice rejected salary increases for City Council members (the present salary is \$4,000 a year).

Voting against the proposal were Republicans Margaret V. Tedone and Jacqui J. Anderson and Democrat Barbara B. Kennelly. Cunnane abstained.

All but one of the 14 proposed bills were suggested by former Councilman George Levine, who last year submitted a package of secret bills. The bills were disguised so legislators would not know they were sponsored by the city of Hartford.

Other bills endorsed Monday would provide a housing allowance to low-income persons, permit the appointment of alternates when a City Council member wants to disqualify himself on an issue because of conflict of interest, permit employment of minors at the

Civic Center until 11 p.m. on school nights (the present limit is 10 p.m.), transfer all welfare costs to the state, increase welfare benefits by 44 per cent and provide for additional property tax concessions to elderly property owners. Councilman Cunnane abstained on all but one vote, saying the council was not given nearly enough information about the proposed bills.

### PENSION INVESTMENT

On an 8-0 vote, the council approved a resolution asking the city Pension Commission to deposit \$1 million in employe pension funds in a black-owned bank, Connecticut Savings and Loan Association. Since the bank pays 6 3/4 per cent interest, lower than the nine per cent the city could get if it invested elsewhere, the city will lose about \$22,500 on the investment.

Council members said, however, there is more of a trend to look at "social considerations" when investing money. City Councilman Nicholas R. Carbone said that a proposed city ordinance extending the city's affirmative action requirements to professional firms probably will be amended to cover institutions where the city invests money.



## Zone change

HARTFORD — The City Council's Public Safety and Zoning Committee late this morning voted to recommend council approval for a zone change to allow Faith Temple Assembly to purchase a school at the corner of Broad and Ward streets.

Faith Temple, a Spanish Pentacostal Church, along with the Immaculate Conception Church, owners of the former school, have sought the zone change from residential to a special development district for more than one year.

The request has been the subject of opposition by some area residents. The full council will take up the matter Monday.

## Teacher hearing

MERIDEN — A special public hearing will be conducted Friday at 6 p.m. by the Board of Education on the termination of John Breen, a guidance counselor at Washington Middle School.



## Athanson Ponders Zoning Veto

By DAVID S. BARRETT

Mayor Athanson said Wednesday he hasn't decided whether to sign or veto an ordinance granting Faith Temple Assembly a zone change that allows the Spanish Pentacostal church to move to a new home on Broad Street.

The council approved the zone change, from residential to special development district, on a 9-0 vote Monday night. The change applies to land on the west side of Broad south of Ward Street.

Faith Temple wants to buy, and move into, a former

school at Broad and Ward streets owned by Immaculate Conception Church.

Athanson said he has asked Corporation Counsel Alexander A. Goldfarb for a legal opinion on how many votes would be needed to override his veto, if he decides

to veto the zone change.

Normally six votes are needed to override a mayoral veto. But, because more than 20 per cent of the property owners adjacent to the school property opposed the change, seven affirmative votes were needed for the council to approve the change.

In this case, therefore, may the council override a veto with less votes, six, than were required to pass the ordinance originally, Athanson asked.

The council, after it approved the zone change ordinance, also passed two resolutions stating its reasons for granting approval and approving a special permit for the church.

Athanson asked Goldfarb what would happen to the two resolutions if he vetoes the ordinance and the council sustains his veto. The mayor doesn't have the power to veto resolutions, he said.

Athanson said he wants to hear the tape of the public hearing on the ordinance, which he missed, and to review all reports submitted to the council before making his decision.

He has until next Tuesday to act.



# Carbone Urges Approval for Zone Change

City Councilman Nicholas R. Carbone Friday said Mayor Athanson should sign the ordinance granting Faith Temple Assembly a zone change to move to new headquarters on Broad Street "and stop playing games."

Carbone, who said the ordinance was passed 9 to 0, Friday said there are more than enough council votes to override a veto if Athanson refuses to sign it.

"I just want the people of Hartford to know that it doesn't make any difference what the mayor does," Carbone said.

Carbone said Athanson is making a lot of noise about the ordinance at this time

"just to draw attention to himself."

The Faith Temple, a Pentecostal church, wants to buy and move into a former school at Broad and Ward Streets owned by Immaculate Conception Church. Athanson Wednesday said he has asked the corporation counsel for a legal opinion on how many votes would be needed to override his veto if he decides to oppose the zone change.

Carbone said it really doesn't make much difference whether the council needs six or more votes to override the mayor's veto because it will have all the votes necessary.



## City Hall Notes

# Veto Withheld; Temp

MAYOR ALDRIDGE decided to withhold his veto from the ordinance which would allow the city to acquire property without his signature.

The mayor was understood to have voted before the council whether or not he would sign the ordinance if it passed in its present form.

Last week, all nine city council members voted in favor of establishing a special development district to allow the Spanish Pentecostal church to move into the vacant immediate corner lot at the intersection of Broadway and Water.

If the mayor had vetoed the ordinance, the council

would surely have been able to amend the ordinance to meet the mayor's objection.

Aldridge may be expected to sign the ordinance as a condition of the city's taking the case to the state supreme court. People expecting ahead of time over the ordinance which provided for the acquisition of that property in the city.

The said his action was not meant as a criticism of the city council, which he called a "great outfit" that will stabilize the neighborhood.

The city council's man-agement and budget committee reported to the council last week that it will give a \$100,000



wednesday, Dec 31, 1975

## City Hall Notes

# Veto Withheld; Temple Rezoning

Mayor Athanson decided late Tuesday to let the controversial Faith Temple rezoning ordinance become law without his signature.

The mayor was undecided until hours before the midnight deadline whether he would veto the rezoning or allow it to go into effect.

Last week, all nine City Council members voted in favor of establishing a special-development district to allow the Spanish Pentecostal church to move into the vacant Immaculate Conception School at Ward and Broad streets.

If the mayor had vetoed the rezoning, the council

would easily have been able to muster six votes to overturn the veto.

Athanson said he declined to sign the ordinance as a symbolic protest over what he felt was the city's failure to "bring people together ahead of time" over the rezoning, which provoked strong opposition from residents in the area.

He said his action was not meant as a criticism of Faith Temple, which he called a "great outfit that will stabilize the neighborhood."

The City Council's management and budget committee Tuesday decided how it will pick a new city man-

ager, but made no progress in winnowing down the stack of 79 applications it has already received.

The committee rejected the idea of hiring an outside executive search firm and will rely instead on the city's Personnel Department to process applications, said Councilwoman Barbara B. Kennelly, a committee member.

The committee also decided it would not screen applicants itself, but would leave that job to the entire nine-

member council, Mrs. Kennelly said.

Outgoing City Manager Edward M. Curtin will retire Jan. 9. Newly appointed Corporation Counsel Richard Shettle will serve as acting manager until a permanent successor is selected.

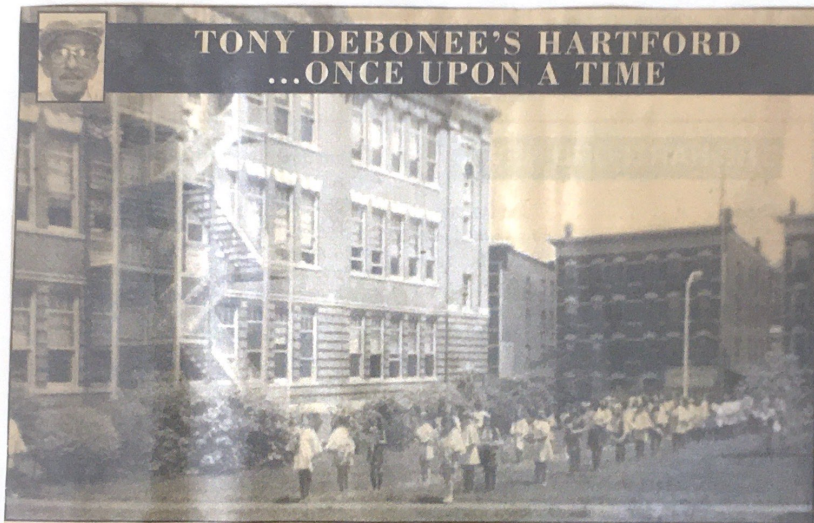
Mrs. Kennelly said that the committee members "seemed to want someone with previous municipal experience" for the job, but didn't rule out hiring a manager from the private sector.

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# The Hartford

August 7-14, 2002  
News

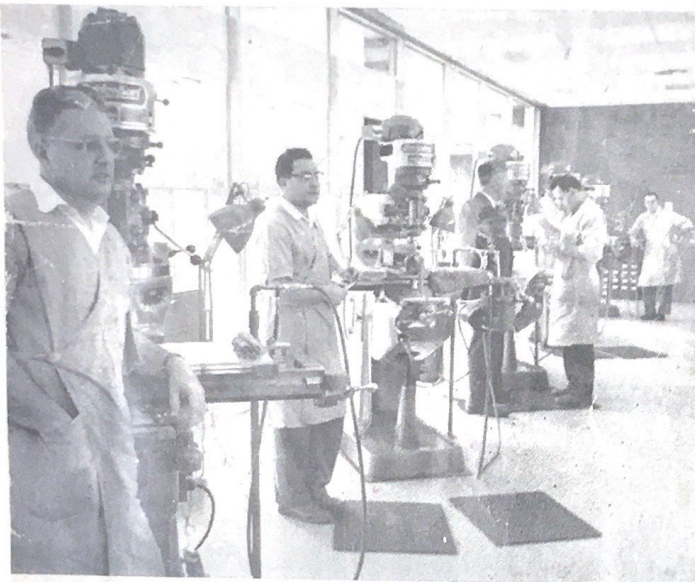


*This 1972 photo shows the last graduating class at Immaculate Conception Catholic School on Broad Street in Hartford. The school was built in 1906 and designed by architect Joseph H. Jackson. Hartford was once home to several thriving Catholic schools, including St. Justin's, St. Ann's, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Joseph's Cathedral — how many did I miss? Now only two remain: St. Augustine's on Campfield Avenue and SS. Cyril and Methodius on Groton Street. The former Immaculate Conception School is now home to Templo Fe, a Hispanic-American congregation. (Tony DeBonnee photo, courtesy of The Hartford Collection, Hartford Public Library)*

EL REPORTERO.....PAGES



Employees of Model Shop in San Jose Research Laboratory listen intently to the IBM President's address.



Across the nation in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., DPM Panel Wiring members hear speech on increased benefits.





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The Official Newsletter of Avery Heights

# Avery Day

Winter, 2005

Greater Hartford's Premier Retirement Village

Residents, Community Served

## Patient-Centered Approach Sets Short-Term Rehab Apart



Rehabilitation Program Manager Doug Barber, right, works with a patient recovering from a fracture at Avery Heights' Rehabilitation Center. The Center offers a comprehensive array of short-term rehabilitation services for both Avery residents and the community at large.

While Avery Heights is recognized as one of the finest retirement communities in the Greater Hartford region, what are the other retirement options in the area? The answer is that there are many retirement options in the Greater Hartford region, but the one that stands out is Avery Heights' Rehabilitation Program.

Whether you are a Newington resident requiring rehabilitation following open heart surgery, or an Avery resident who

rehabilitation program. Avery's Brainard Short-Term Unit and its Rehabilitation Center offer one of the most highly regarded short-term rehab programs in the region - and it serves not only village residents, but the community at large.

**"Maintaining a patient's dignity is critical."**

- Doug Barber  
Rehabilitation Program Manager

"Whether you are a Newington resident requiring rehabilitation following open heart surgery, or an Avery resident who

(continued on page 2)

## Bysiewicz Visits Avery

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz will be the honored guest of Avery Heights on Thursday, March 3, as The Heights at Avery Heights presents a special program celebrating Women's History Month.



Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz.

Secretary Bysiewicz, who has served as Connecticut's Secretary of the State since 1998, will present a lecture focusing on the role of women in

**"We strive to present programs of wide-ranging interest for our residents."**

- Dr. Miriam Parker  
Administrator

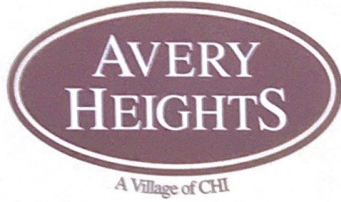
government and women as leaders. She will also discuss citizenship, democracy and the importance of strengthening these core American values by exercising the right to vote.

"We are thrilled to have Secretary Bysiewicz join us for this special event," says Dr. Miriam Parker, Avery Heights Administrator. "We strive to present special programs of wide-ranging interest for our residents and this will certainly be a highlight of our year."

The event will take place in the (continued on page 4)

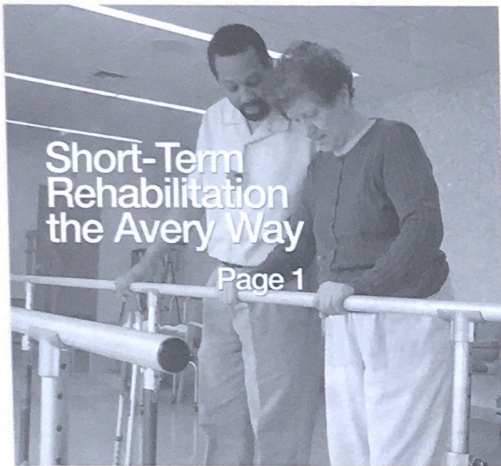
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Short-Term  
Rehabilitation  
the Avery Way  
Page 1

Avery Day is published quarterly by Avery Heights, Greater Hartford's premier retirement village. Avery Heights is owned and operated by CHI, a not-for-profit owner/operator of retirement communities whose mission is to provide a full range of residential living and health care services for older men and women of all faiths and races. Please direct letters, comments and inquiries to:

Avery Heights  
Office of the Administrator  
705 New Britain Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106  
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Please visit us at [www.averyheights.org](http://www.averyheights.org).

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# Secretary of the State Visits Avery Heights

(continued from page 1)

Adams Room at The Heights at 3 p.m. Secretary Bysiewicz served as a state legislator from Middletown, Durham and Middlefield for three terms prior to seeking the office of Secretary of the State. During her tenure, Bysiewicz has worked to provide the public with greater access to information; has encouraged the expansion and growth of Connecticut-based companies through a streamlined registration process and support to small and minority-owned businesses; made a priority of protecting individual privacy

and advocating for consumer rights; and has worked to promote voter registration and turnout.

**Bysiewicz will present a lecture focusing on the role of women in government and women as leaders.**

A graduate of Yale University and Duke University School of Law, Secretary Bysiewicz is also the author of

*"Ella: A Biography of Governor Ella Grasso"* which chronicles the life of the first woman elected governor in her own right in the United States. Secretary Bysiewicz authored the book in 1995. Secretary Bysiewicz resides in Middletown with her husband, Donaldson, and their three children.

*For more information on this special program, please contact Sonya Mathis, Activities Coordinator, at (860) 953-1201.*