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Religious flag prompts Satanic request

Support for Christianity means city must allow his flag too, activist says

By Sean Krofssik
Hartford Courant

Self-proclaimed "professional troublemaker" Dr. T. Chaz Stevens has set his sights on Hartford for what he calls a violation of church and state.

The activist inked a letter to Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam asking for permission to fly

Stevens' Church of Satanology and Perpetual Soirée flag over Hartford City Hall after the Hartford City Council voted in favor of raising a Christian flag on April 14.

The Christian flag flew over Hartford City Hall on April 17.

"WHEREAS, the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford recognizes the contributions of the Christian community and the many organizations that continue to support and enhance the well-being of Hartford residents through acts of service, community engagement, and

outreach," the minutes from the Hartford City Council read. "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford authorizes the raising of the Christian flag at Hartford City Hall, located at 550 Main Street, on April 17, 2025."

"I saw that Hartford recently raised a Christian flag at City Hall for Jesus Week. That caught my attention. Bravo! Satan sends his best wishes and looks forward to visiting your fine city!" Stevens' letter to the Hartford mayor said. "Under *Shurtleff v. Boston* (2022),

governments can't favor one religious viewpoint over another when opening public forums.

"Since Hartford has opened the flagpole to religious expression, I'm requesting permission to fly the flag of my group — the Church of Satanology and Perpetual Soirée," Stevens' letter said. "Our flag design is clean, non-profane, and features neutral colors with the text: 'Satan Loves the First Amendment.' It's intended to promote equality, not offend."

Stevens said he penned the letter on Tuesday night.

"I pay close attention when the government overreaches in this area and I use my skills to push back a bit," Stevens said on Wednesday morning. "My point to this is extraordinarily simple — all or none."

"There is case law talking about limited public forums and the fact that the government put up this flag means that they have to put up other flags. They made the mistake and if you play a stupid game, you are going to win stupid prizes," Stevens added.

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AARON FLAUM/HARTFORD COURANT

'Vibrant' plan in works for 150 acres

Former country club property could have a little of everything

By Pam McLoughlin
Hartford Courant

A Connecticut country club was once the place of fancy weddings, banquets, golf tournaments and other events of the elite who belonged to the members-only club.

Now Country Club of Woodbridge is a dilapidated, boarded up, graffiti ridden mess of a main building that is regularly patrolled by police.

Adjoining is a "park" with walking trails, lush or overgrown, in vegetation, paths and wildlife, including a reported bear and coyote sighting.

The pool is closed and filled with sand, the golf course, still with signs of the putters who once played there, is no more. The only crowds it draws are those attending municipal meetings elsewhere to weigh in on the fate of the 150-acre property now owned by the town.

What to do with the property? It's a question Woodbridge has been asking for more than a decade.

But First Selectman Mica Cardozo believes they're finally looking in the right place and closer than ever to coming up with a plan.

Rather than have developer's present proposed plans before the public, the town is working with a prestigious planning firm to come up with a "conceptual" plan that could be implemented over time.

It's less reactive than the prior approach, he said.

"We are at a crossroads where we have to make decisions on how to utilize the property," said First Selectman Mica Cardozo. "The big thing for me, it's hard to get started but in order to get it going you have to get it started."

The property was purchased by the town in 2007 after the club went bankrupt.

Cardozo said in the current method the firm Cooper Robertson is using market analysis, data and facts to come up with options for the site.

Hours of public meetings and surveys through the years have shown public opinion differs on the preferred uses for the property, widely seen as one of the town's most beautiful properties. It is within sight of the Wilbur Cross Parkway, but accessible only from a winding country road of single family homes.

Some don't want to see any more housing, only passive recreation as it is now. Others would like to see single-family houses with the park-like area remaining and some have favored senior or multi-family housing without the affordable component with the park staying.

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Arbor Day addition

Local, state and federal representatives take part in the ceremonial tree planting at Weaver High School in Hartford during an Arbor Day event organized by KNOX Hartford on Friday.

FBI arrests Milwaukee judge in deportation case

County circuit jurist is accused of helping man evade agents

By Alanna Durkin Richer, Devi Shastri and Scott Bauer
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The FBI on Friday arrested a Milwaukee judge accused of helping a man evade immigration authorities, escalating a clash between the Trump administration and local authorities over the Republican president's sweeping immigration crackdown.

Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Hannah Dugan is accused of escorting the man and his lawyer out of her courtroom through the jury door last week after learning that immigration authorities were seeking his arrest. The man was taken into custody outside the courthouse after agents chased him on foot.



Dugan

a growing battle between the Trump administration and the federal judiciary over the president's executive actions over deportations and other matters.

Democratic Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, in a statement on the arrest, accused the Trump administration of repeatedly using "dangerous rhetoric to attack and attempt to undermine our judiciary at every level."

"I have deep respect for the rule of law, our nation's judiciary, the importance of judges making decisions impartially without fear or favor, and the efforts of law enforcement to hold people accountable if they commit a crime," Evers said. "I will continue to put my faith in our justice system as this situation plays out in the court of law."

Dugan was taken into custody by the FBI on Friday morning on the courthouse grounds, according to U.S. Marshals Service spokesperson Brady McCarron. She appeared briefly in federal court in Milwaukee later Friday before being released from custody. She faces charges of "concealing an individual to prevent his discovery

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Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. speaks during a news conference on the autism report by the CDC on April 16 in Washington. JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

RFK autism initiative raises privacy concerns

Scientists, advocates push back on idea of medical data registry

By Livi Stanford
Hartford Courant

State Attorney General William Tong is evaluating all legal avenues to protect patient privacy and public health after the National Institutes of Health announced plans to launch a comprehensive registry including gathering private medical records in support of Health

and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s controversial initiative this month claiming that autism is "preventable" and that the cause could be found.

In response to the registry, Tong said in an email to the Courant, "Hell no."

"Registries to track and monitor private health records for suspect so-called research reflects some of the most dangerous and reviled authoritarian regimes in world history," he

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Developer eyes Manchester property

A Southington real estate agent told Manchester officials this week that he's considering putting up 148 condos on a wooded property near Union Pond. Connecticut, Page 3