

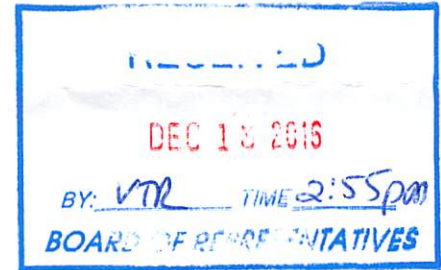


Stamford Sail & Power Squadron
United States Power Squadrons®
District 2

The Honorable David Martin and the Board of Representatives
City of Stamford
Office of the Mayor, 10th Floor
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

Mayor and Board Members

Re: The Stamford Marine Center
185 Magee Avenue
Stamford, CT 06902



I am writing you to regain our access to the marine Center which has wrongly been taken away from the United States Power Squadrons.

After the Second World War when the GI's returned home (1945) there weren't enough places to live for the returning service men, and the Navy set up a series of Quonset style houses on land acquired from the City of Stamford. The bulk of these housing units were located on what we now refer to as the Astroturf playing fields in front of West Beach. The Office for all this complex is the building referred to as The Marine Center at 185 Magee Avenue. Gradually the need subsided and the housing units were torn down but the office remained; and in a special ceremony the Navy turned the Office over to the City of Stamford "to be used for Marine and Naval Education purposes". Initially there were two tenants: The US Navy Sea Cadets-Dealey Division and The Stamford Power Squadron who shared the facility. They were join by Save the Sound who occupied the front of the building for many years until they moved to their present location on Cove Island Park.

Gradually the City Engineering Department expanded their needs and we were told that they needed the space till the special projects they were working on were finished. Starting with the left third of the building they gradually took over the teaching space we had used for our classes in the center third of the building, leaving all of us in the third section. When it came time for the reconstruction of the sewage treatment facility the city came to us with the need to take one of our classrooms as a "temporary" laboratory that would be returned to us after the construction. To date this classroom and the materials we used to build it have not been returned to us and are allegedly "stored" elsewhere pending reinstall.

Today the Cadets have use of the facility on Monday nights and access all week with the needed keys.

We at the Stamford sail and Power squadron have now been effectively cut out from the marine Center as we do not have the Key to get in and the local bureaucrat in charge will not give it to us. We have called, met with many people and tried everything we could to regain access to teach marine safety at the center!

We have taught our advanced courses in the Marine Center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights for at least the last 36 years. And now we are being cut out. This is wrong.

The facility is secured, requiring a door key and the security password for entry and exit. The Squadron maintains three locked storage closets in the building.

A copy of the turn over agreement between the city and the Navy has been requested in writing to the legal department on many occasions (Tom Cassone) over 3 years now, with no response to date.

As documented in the attached articles in The Advocate, the Stamford Board of Reps very carefully delineated the uses for the Marine Center including giving it to the Board of Education. In the end, they decided that the best use was to give it to the organizations named in The Advocate articles, including The Stamford Power Squadron. We are asking you and the Board to reaffirm that promise.

The United States Power Squadron is a grass roots organization with a long history of public service to this nation. We have played a part in the naval history of our country and its waterfront. We have received commendations from the last 3 Presidents of these United States, their Commanders of the US Coast Guard, and many other Organizations including the Boating Safety Board. We represent the people of this country and the people of the city of Stamford that are involved with and concerned about the waterfront and waterway safety. We are a stake-holder in the marine Center and we, the people of the marine center, are disappointed that government has not consider Marine education and us as state-holders of the Marine center in its dealings and now denying us access to use the building.

Please help to rectify this situation ASAP as the 2017 Boating season is almost upon us.

Gino C. Bottino MD
Board Member, and Past Commander of both
Stamford Power and Sail Squadron, and District 2 of
The United States Power Squadrons
215 Courtland Ave.
Stamford, CT 06906