



**C.H.E.S.S. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING,
EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE &
COMMERCE**

Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

Stephanie Sylvestre, Co-Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held in the Democratic Caucus Room and remotely on Zoom*

The CHESS Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Pollack and Sylvestre, and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yaeger. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; and Emily Gordon, Director of Housing and Community Dev.

Co-Chair Pollack called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

- | Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. CHESS32.019 | <u>REJECTION</u> ; of an allocation of \$500,000.00 to Pacific House, Inc. to Facilitate the Development of 15 units of Affordable Housing at 66 Stillwater Avenue.
6/23/2026 – Submitted by Ralph Blessing and Emily Gordon | FAILED TO REJECT 0-9-0 |
| Ralph Blessing explained that the additional funding is needed because of increased construction costs and changes in federal policy. The project previously received a \$750,000 allocation. | | |
| A motion to reject this item was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 0-9-0. (Reps. Pollock, Sylvestre, Golberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yeager opposed) | | |
| 2. CHESS32.020 | <u>REJECTION</u> ; of an allocation of \$150,000 to Charter Oak Communities to Provide security deposits for up to sixty new housing choice voucher recipient households.
05/04/2026 – Submitted by Ralph Blessing and Emily Gordon | FAILED TO REJECT 0-9-0 |

Ralph Blessing explained that Section 8 vouchers cover rent but not security deposits. Charter Oak will contribute \$100,000, and returned deposits may be reused for other eligible households.

A motion to reject this item was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 0-9-0. (Reps. Pollock, Sylvestre, Golberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, Wirz and Yeager opposed)

Co-Chair Pollack adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)