

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

PUBLIC HEALTH HEARING OFFICE

Gina Venezia
Director of Construction & Facilities
Salsa Fresca Grill
345 North Main Street Unit 102
West Hartford, CT 06117

Via Email: gina@salsafrescagrill.com
First Class & Certified Mail:
7005 2570 0001 4582 7786

Aimee Krauss, MPH, RS
Director of Health
West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Via Email: Aimee.Krauss@WestHartfordCT.gov
First Class & Certified Mail:
7005 2570 0001 4582 7755

RE: Salsa Fresca v. West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District Docket No.240913-FS
345 North Main Street Unit 102, West Hartford, CT 06117

REVISED NOTICE OF HEARING

By authority of Section 19a-229 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, you are hereby notified to appear for a de novo hearing regarding the appeal of a Violation Order issued to Dimitrios Tournas concerning the property located at **345 North Main Street Unit 102, West Hartford, CT 06117**. The hearing will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 9:00 AM**.

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 243 781 517 733

Passcode: ERgEWp

Dial in by phone

[+1 860-840-2075](tel:+18608402075), [522770144#](tel:+1522770144) United States, Hartford

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 522 770 144#

The hearing shall be conducted by **Kevin Hansted, Esq.**, who is hereby appointed as Hearing Officer, and who shall rule on all motions, determine findings of fact and conclusions of law, and issue an Order.

If you need an interpreter, please advise the Department no later than **seven calendar days** before the hearing.



Phone: (860) 509-7566 • Fax: (860) 707-1904
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
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The record to date consists of the following:


1. Copy of the Violation Order dated September 11, 2024, issued to Salsa Fresca.
2. Proof of Delivery of the Violation Order on September 11, 2024; and
3. Written Appeal of the Order filed by Gina Venezia dated September 13, 2024.

In addition to the foregoing, the following apply in this case.

1. Procedures. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 54 of the Connecticut General Statutes (the "UAPA") and Section 19a-9-1, et seq., of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
2. Legal entities. Any legal entity, including, without limitation, a limited liability company (LLC), limited liability partnership (LLP), stock, non-stock, charitable or municipal corporation may only be represented by an attorney. If a legal entity is not represented by an attorney at the hearing, any person attending the hearing as a proponent for the legal entity may only testify as a witness and may not make legal arguments, cross examine witnesses, or in any way engage in the practice of law.
3. Representation. If you are not a legal entity, you may appear pro se (i.e., on your own behalf) or you may opt to have counsel represent you at the hearing. Any counsel appearing on behalf of a party must file an appearance with this office.
4. Communications. Any communication to the Public Hearing Office regarding this matter shall be submitted by directing such communication to the department via email to phho.DPH@ct.gov, and sending a copy of such communication, and certification that such copy has been so sent, to the other party. No ex parte communication with the hearing officer will be permitted.
5. Burden of proof. If the case is an appeal of a local health order issued for a public health violation, the local health department will have the burden of proof (production of evidence and persuasion). If the appeal is of the denial of an application for a permit, license, etc., the appellant (party seeking the permit, license, etc.) bears the burden of proof (production of evidence and persuasion).
6. Failure to appear. If any party fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing officer may proceed as though such absent party is present. If the Appellant does not appear, the appeal may be dismissed. In cases in which local health bears the burden of proof, the appeal may be sustained if local health does not appear.
7. Witnesses. It is each party's obligation to ensure that any witness that such party wants to testify during the hearing is present at the hearing.
8. Stay. An appeal of an order does not automatically stay its compliance date.

10/16/2024

Date


Ryan M. Burns, Chief Hearing Officer

Notice for Submissions

The hearing in the matter of: **Salsa Fresca v. West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District Docket No.240913-FS** has been scheduled for **November 6, 2024**, and will be conducted remotely through Microsoft Teams / teleconference.

On or before **October 30, 2024**, you must provide the following by electronic mail response to the hearing office at phho.dph@ct.gov:

1. **Electronically Pre-filed exhibits** – Exhibits should be pre-marked for identification (i.e., Department exhibit 1, Respondent exhibit A), page numbered, **and properly redacted for any personally identifiable information**. All exhibits also must be sent to the opposing party or counsel. ***Parties and/or counsel should stipulate to any exhibits and facts not in dispute and provide any objections to proposed exhibits.***
2. **Witness List** – identify any persons expected to be called to testify. Be sure to notify your witnesses that they will be required to remain available and in attendance for the full duration of the hearing. (This will eliminate the difficulty of trying to reach witnesses again for rebuttal or additional examination later in the hearing). Witness lists also must be sent to the opposing party or counsel.
3. **Photo Identification**: Self-represented parties should provide a copy of a government-issued photo identification for yourself and any witnesses you expect to call. Photo identification is *not* required for parties represented by counsel, or witnesses called to testify for parties represented by counsel.
4. **Electronic Mail (“e-mail”) addresses** for parties, counsel, and witnesses. All e-mail addresses must be current and able to receive all notices relating to this matter.
5. **Cellphone numbers** for all parties, counsel, and witnesses at which they can be reached and respond to text message during the hearing (in the event a connection is lost).
6. **A statement whether executive session may be required** to receive testimony containing personal protected information, and if so, what that information may be (treatment records, patient records, therapy reports). Parties or counsel should identify any witnesses listed in response to #2 above who may provide testimony relating to personal protected information requiring executive session.
7. **A statement whether an interpreter will be needed** for the proceeding.

This is a formal public hearing. It will be video recorded and posted on the DPH website for public viewing*. All hearing participants should appear on video in proper attire, in proper surroundings, and remove any potential distractions.

In preparation, please make sure all your devices are fully functioning and properly charged. All participants are required to have video and audio functions on when testifying or speaking.

Documents are not required to be shared on-screen during hearings, as all parties, attorneys, board members and/or hearing officers have been provided such documents prior to the hearing. Parties and/or attorneys who elect to share documents for viewing on-screen during the hearing must do so from their own equipment. Confidential documents should only be shared in executive session. Hearing Office staff / Teams administrators are not responsible for the sharing of submitted documents in the presentation of a party's case.

Should you have any question please contact the hearing office at phho.dph@ct.gov.

**The executive session portion of any hearing will not be recorded on video or posted for public viewing.*

