

“Remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.”
EPICURUS

Police release man after alleged weapon threat at Good Nature Market

BY ADELE HAEG AND TANNER BATTLE
STAFF REPORTER AND CONTRIBUTING
REPORTER

The Yale Police Department responded Wednesday night to a call from Good Nature Market reporting that a man attempted to rob the store and claimed he had a knife, according to New Haven Police Department spokesperson Christian Bruckhart.

The man was searched and released, and employees at the market declined to press charges, Bruckhart said.

But a Good Nature employee said the man never showed a knife, and no injuries were reported.

“A guy came into the store and grabbed a couple pieces of food from the buffet and we told him he needed to pay. He said no, he didn’t want to pay anything,” cashier Claudio Sanchez said in an interview Wednesday night.

“No weapon, nothing like that. He said he had something

but never showed anything,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez said he talked to the police and told the man “he cannot come in anymore.” Two other employees at the market declined to comment about the incident.

Bruckhart said the Yale Police Department later located the man outside of Alpha Delta Pizza, located a few blocks away from Good Nature. NHPD responders were also at the scene.

An Alpha Delta employee confirmed to the News that he saw police detain and search a man before releasing him.

Good Nature Market — known to students as “GHeav” after a previous store in the same location, Gourmet Heaven — is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Police detained a man Wednesday after he allegedly tried to steal from Good Nature Market, per a New Haven police spokesperson.

ABBY ASSOUD / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

DeLauro says tax on Italian pasta would strain importers and shoppers

BY MADISON AGUILAR
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

New Haven’s Rep. Rosa DeLauro spoke Monday morning at Vinnie’s Italia Importing

Company in Wooster Square to highlight the effects of proposed new tax on Italian pasta — and the potential ripple effects on small businesses and restaurants that import Italian goods.

At the event, DeLauro and a group of Italian American business owners slammed the Trump administration’s newly proposed duties on Italian imports, especially pasta. DeLauro, who is Democratic co-chair of the Italian American Congressional Delegation, demanded that the Trump administration suspend implementation of these duties and work to protect small business and consumers, while preserving the U.S. -Italian alliance.

According to CBS News, the threat of a new import tax came after the U.S. Department of Commerce report concluded that some Italian pasta makers were importing products to the United States and selling them below the market price, undercutting American producers. In response, the Department proposed a 92 percent “anti-dumping” duty.

The threat of new duties has forced Italian businesses to consider halting exports to the United States, DeLauro said. She

fears that might result in a scarcity of goods and higher prices for consumers.

“Reports indicate that new duties could raise total tariffs to more than 100 percent on certain Italian pasta imports,” DeLauro said. “The tariff policies are hurting people everyday who are living paycheck to paycheck, with high costs of health care, groceries, electricity and housing.”

Mike DiVirgillo, the owner of Vinnie’s Italia Importing on Grand Avenue, said tariffs on Italian goods force distributors to raise their prices, which then causes business owners such as grocers or restaurant owners to raise the price of their products, ultimately leaving the consumer to pay the bill.

DeLauro said the tariffs would affect thirteen pasta makers, including brands like Rummo and Barilla.

DeLauro said she and other members of the bipartisan Italian American delegation in Con-

gress are circulating a draft letter urging President Donald Trump to end tariffs on Italian goods and support trade.

“The bonds between our nations run deep through shared values, economic partnership, and the proud Italian American community that has enriched every aspect of American life,” reads the unsigned draft letter, shared with the News by a member of DeLauro’s staff.

Nadia Liuzzi and Francesa Liuzzi Fiorillo, both part owners of Liuzzi Gourmet Food Market, said their business relies on Italian imports. They are now faced with the prospect of raising prices.

“Now instead of something being \$10.99, it’s going to be \$12.99,” Nadia Liuzzi said.

Liuzzi Gourmet Food Market is located in North Haven.

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MADISON AGUILAR / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
In Wooster Square on Monday morning, Rep. Rosa DeLauro was joined by local Italian American business owners to oppose duties on Italian pasta proposed by the Trump administration.

State housing bill poised to boost New Haven development

BY ELIJAH HUREWITZ-RAVITCH
STAFF REPORTER.

Connecticut’s state legislature last Wednesday passed a sweeping housing bill, HB 8002, in special session.

The bill aims to incentivize and accelerate housing development in cities and towns across Connecticut — including New Haven. Gov. Ned Lamont SOM ’80, who vetoed an earlier version of the bill in June, plans to sign the bill soon, he said in a press release.

“This is the first time we have a state-guided process to ensure that towns are planning and zoning for affordable housing,” Erin Boggs, the executive director of the Connecticut-based, housing-focused civil rights organization Open Communities Alliance, said in a phone interview. “Done right, this could have a tremendous positive impact.”

One provision likely to affect New Haven involves changes to parking regulations.

The bill prohibits towns from requiring off-street parking, such as lots or garages, for residential developments with 16 or fewer units.

“It’s one of the boldest reforms across the country,” Nick Kantor, the program director at Desegregate CT, a “pro-homes” coalition that is a program of the Regional Plan Association, said in a phone interview.

Building parking, he said, “is just such an expensive piece of the construction process.” Kantor explained that eliminating parking requirements will encourage developments and “unlock missing middle housing,” referring to structures with less than 10 units, like townhomes and duplexes.

Developers may now be

able to build such housing — which Kantor said is part of Connecticut’s “DNA” — on disused parking lots, a process known as infill.

Kantor added that money saved on parking might amount to “millions of dollars that gets passed through to the home renter.”

The bill, otherwise known as “An Act Concerning Housing Growth,” also bars municipalities from building hostile architecture — structures designed to prevent homeless people from sitting or lying down.

Many of the bill’s provisions will be most impactful in suburban towns, according to Hugh Bailey, the policy director at Open Communities Alliance. But they will nonetheless alleviate the strain on New Haven’s housing market.

“If Branford and North Haven and all these other towns are allowing affordable housing to be built, that has positive impacts on New Haven, so it’s not just on the city itself to provide that that is so desperately needed,” Bailey said.

New Haven, along with Connecticut’s other 168 towns and cities, will also be required to adopt a municipal housing growth plan by June 2029, unless it agrees to comply with a plan developed for the entire South Central region of Connecticut. The bill stipulates that such a plan must be aimed at stemming displacement and preserving existing affordable housing.

The state bill establishes a Council on Housing Development, which will evaluate and enforce the housing growth plans. Kantor predicted that the interagency body would help streamline how cities and towns apply for state grants.

But the bill also creates a specialized housing growth program that by mid-2028 will provide grants for qualifying municipalities to build water lines, sewer lines, roads, and bicycle, pedestrian and transit infrastructure around new homes. New Haven, said Partnership for Strong Communities policy director Sean Ghio, will be “in a good position to access some money” from the fund.

Ghio added that translating state law onto the local level leaves much in the air.

The process put forward in the bill, Boggs cautioned, includes “many more steps than we envision” and sets up a “back and forth process” between the state, regional councils and municipalities.

“We have a crisis of affordability in this state; we have to address it and that means coming at it from

multiple angles,” Kantor said. “There is no silver bullet. There is no one bill that’s going to solve the answer here.”

The bill passed in the state House 90 votes to 56 and in the state Senate 24 to 10.

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A major housing overhaul passed in special session last week is expected to spur development statewide and ease pressure on New Haven’s strained housing market.

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