

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by Joyce Rossignol, Complainant)	Report of Hearing Officer
)	
against)	Docket #FIC77-97
)	
Town of Wethersfield and Town Council of the Town of)	June 3 , 1977
Wethersfield, Respondents)	
)	

The above captioned matter was heard as a contested case on May 24, 1977, at which time the complainant and the respondents appeared and presented testimony and argument on the complaint.

After consideration of the entire record, the following facts are found:

1. At its meeting held on May 3, 1977, the respondent council proceeded into executive session to discuss pending claims and litigation.

2. By letter of complaint filed with this Commission on May 10, 1977, the complainant alleged that the respondent council's discussion in executive session did not relate to pending claims and litigation within the meaning of §1-18a(e) (2), G.S.

3. The testimony at the hearing herein clearly showed that the aforesaid executive session was limited to a discussion of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the four grounds which provided the legal basis for an appeal by the respondent council from an action of the town planning and zoning commission, and the possibility of working a compromise with another interested party therein relative to the same appeal.

4. It is found that the aforesaid discussion concerned strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation within the meaning of the purpose defined under §1-18a(e) (2), G.S.

5. It is therefore concluded that the complainant was not wrongfully denied the right to attend the respondent council's executive session of May 3, 1977 under §1-21, G.S.

The following order by the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the above captioned complaint:

1. The complaint is hereby dismissed.

Judith B. Lahey
Commissioner Judith Lahey

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on
June 22, 1977.

Mitchell W. Pearlman
Mitchell W. Pearlman as Acting
Clerk of the Commission