

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

In the Matter of a Complaint by
Roberta Koontz,

Complainant

Report of Hearing Officer

against

Docket #FIC79-87

Town of Coventry; and Town Council
of the Town of Coventry,
Respondents

October 22, 1979

The above captioned matter was scheduled for hearing on September 18, 1979, at which time the parties appeared and presented testimony, exhibits and argument on the complaint.

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

1. The respondents are public agencies as defined by §1-18a(a), G.S.
2. On March 12, 1979 the respondent council held a special meeting for which notice was posted.
3. The posted notice for the meeting contained the item: "Discussion and appropriate action regarding request for Social Service Coordinator in next year's budget."
4. At the meeting, the respondent board voted to include in the manager's budget to the council funding for one position to "encompass a Social Services Coordinator and a Welfare Director."
5. By complaint filed with this Commission dated April 10, 1979 the complainant alleged that the action concerning the position of the Welfare Director was not properly noticed in the notice of the respondent council's special meeting of March 12, 1979.
6. Evidence was offered at hearing to show that the respondent council had considered combining the two positions at prior meetings. The respondents claimed that discussion of the position of social services coordinator could be expected to include discussion of the position of welfare director.
7. It is found that the notice of the respondent council's March 12, 1979 special meeting was not sufficiently complete to reasonably inform all members of the public of the business to be transacted.

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

1. Henceforth the respondent council shall specify the business to be discussed and acted upon at its special meetings with sufficient completeness to inform all persons, including those unfamiliar with the matters.

Judith A. Lahey

Commissioner Judith A. Lahey
as Hearing Officer

Approved by Order of the Freedom of Information Commission
at its regular meeting of November 14, 1979.

Leslie Ann McGuire

Leslie Ann McGuire
Clerk of the Commission