

RLUIPA NOTICE

In considering applications under the City zoning ordinance and in creating and implementing its zoning ordinance and land use regulations, the City of Meriden does not discriminate against or treat any person unequally based on religion or discriminate against or treat unequally any religious assembly or institution. On November 9, 2020, the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut entered a Consent Order resolving a religious-discrimination lawsuit brought by the United States against the City of Meriden and the City's Planning Commission under a federal law called the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act ("RLUIPA"). A copy of the Consent Order in *United States v. City of Meriden, et al.*, Civ. No. 3:20-cv-01669-VLB (D. Conn.), is available on the City's website at

<https://www.meridenct.gov/government/departments/planning-and-zoning/>

or the Department of Justice's website at

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1334866/download>

The City is committed to fully complying with RLUIPA. The requirements of the RLUIPA law are briefly summarized below.

Under RLUIPA, no government may apply its zoning or land use laws in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a religious assembly or institution unless in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest in the least restrictive way.

RLUIPA also provides that no government may apply its zoning or land use laws in a manner that treats a religious assembly or institution on less than equal terms than a comparable non-religious assembly or institution.

RLUIPA also provides that no government may impose or implement a zoning or other land use regulation in a manner that discriminates against a religious assembly or institution or that unreasonably limits the free exercise of religion.

Additional details about RLUIPA are available on the United States Department of Justice's RLUIPA information page, available at <https://www.justice.gov/crt/religious-land-use-and-institutionalized-persons-act>

If you believe you or your religious assembly or institution has been discriminated against or treated on less than equal terms because of religion or that the RLUIPA has been violated in connection with zoning, permitting, code

enforcement, or other land use, please fill out a RLUIPA complaint form. The City's RLUIPA complaint form is available on the City of Meriden's website and at the City Development and Enforcement Department at City Hall. All RLUIPA complaints will be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

You may also report complaints to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut at 203-821-3700 or the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, at (202) 514-4713. You may also register a complaint via email to rлуpa.complaints@usdoj.gov or by writing to either of the following addresses:

**United States Attorney's
District of Connecticut
Attention: Civil Division,
Civil Rights Intake
157 Church Street, 25th Floor
New Haven, CT 06510**

**United State Department of Justice
Housing & Civil Enforcement Section
Four Constitution Square
150 M Street NE
Washington, DC 20530**