

TOWN OF PROSPECT  
ORDINANCE NO 89-10-16-18  
CITATION HEARING PROCEDURE

**Section 1     Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a citation hearing procedure in accordance with C.G.S. §§ 7-148(c)(10)(A), 7-152b and 7-152c to be followed in all instances when citations are issued by Town of Prospect police officers.

**Section 2     Hearing procedure.**

A. Ordinances of the Town may be enforced by citations issued by Town of Prospect police officers, provided that the ordinances have been designated specifically by the Town for enforcement by citation in the same manner in which they were adopted, and, subject to Section 3 below, the police officer issues a written warning providing notice of the specific violation before issuing the citation.

B. The Mayor shall appoint one or more citation hearing officers, who shall be other than police officers or employees or persons who issue citations, to conduct the hearings authorized by this section.

C. After a citation has been issued and the fine or penalty has not been paid, the Town shall send notice to the alleged violator no later than 12 months after the expiration of the final period for the uncontested payment of fines, penalties, costs or fees for any citation issued under any ordinance of the Town for an alleged violation. Such notice shall inform the violator of the following:

(1) The allegations against the violator and the amount of the fines, penalties, costs or fees due.

(2) That the alleged violator may contest his liability by delivering in person or by mail written notice within 10 days of the date of the original notice to said violator that he desires to contest his liability before a citation hearing officer.

(3) That filing a request for a hearing shall cause the daily accrual of civil penalties to cease from the date such filing is hand-delivered or mailed to the Town of Prospect Police Department until the date the hearing officer renders a decision, unless, during such period, the violation of the ordinance for which the citation was issued is expanded or increased.

(4) That if the alleged violator does not demand such a hearing, an assessment and judgment shall be entered against him.

(5) That such judgment may issue without further notice.

D. If the alleged violator wishes to admit liability for any alleged violation, he may, without requesting a hearing, pay the full amount of the fines, penalties, costs or fees in person or by mail

to the Prospect Police Department by check made out to the "Town of Prospect". Any alleged violator who does not deliver or mail a written demand for a hearing within 10 days of the date of the first notice provided in Subsection C above shall be deemed to have admitted liability, and the police officer shall certify such person's failure to respond to the hearing officer. The hearing officer shall thereupon enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees provided for by law and shall follow the procedures set forth in Subsection E below.

E. Any person who requests a hearing shall be given written notice of the date, time and place for the hearing. Such hearing shall be held not less than 15 days nor more than 30 days from the date of the mailing of such notice, provided that the hearing officer shall grant, upon good cause shown, any reasonable request by an interested party for postponement or continuance. An original or certified copy of the initial notice of violation issued by a police officer shall be filed and retained by the Town, shall be deemed to be a business record within the scope of C.G.S. § 52-180 and evidence of the facts contained therein. The presence of the police officer shall be required at the hearing if such person so requests. The alleged violator shall appear at the hearing and may present evidence in his behalf. A designated Town official, other than the hearing officer, may present evidence on behalf of the Town. If the alleged violator fails to appear, the hearing officer may enter an assessment by default against him upon a finding of proper notice and liability under the applicable ordinance. The hearing officer may accept from such alleged violator copies of police reports, motor vehicle department documents and other official documents by mail and may determine thereby that the appearance of such person is unnecessary. The hearing officer shall conduct the hearing in the order and form and with such methods of proof as he deems fair and appropriate. The rules regarding the admissibility of evidence shall not be strictly applied, but all testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. If the offense consists of a motor vehicle parking violation, proof of the registration number of the motor vehicle involved shall be prima facie evidence in all proceedings that the owner of such vehicle was the operator thereof, provided that in the case of a leased or rented motor vehicle, such proof shall be prima facie evidence in any proceeding that the lessee was the operator thereof. The hearing officer shall announce his decision at the end of the hearing. If he determines that the alleged violator is not liable, he shall dismiss the matter and enter his determination in writing accordingly. If he determines that the person is liable for the violation, he shall forthwith enter and assess the fines, penalties, costs or fees against such person as provided by the ordinance.

F. If such assessment is not paid on the date of its entry, the hearing officer shall send by first-class mail a notice of the assessment to the person found liable and shall file, not less than 30 days nor more than 12 months after such mailing, a certified copy of the notice of assessment with the Clerk of the superior court for the geographical area in which the Town is located, together with the appropriate entry fee. The certified copy of the notice of assessment shall constitute a record of assessment. Within such twelve-month period, assessments against the same person may be accrued and filed as one record of assessment. The Clerk of the court shall enter judgment in the amount of such record of assessment and court costs of \$8 against such person in favor of the Town. Notwithstanding any other provision of the General Statutes, the hearing officer's assessment, when so entered as a judgment, shall have the effect of a civil money judgment and a levy of execution on such judgment may issue without further notice to such person.



G. The person against whom an assessment has been entered pursuant to this section is entitled to judicial review by way of appeal. An appeal shall be instituted within 30 days of the mailing of notice of such assessment by filing a petition to reopen assessment, together with an entry fee in an amount equal to the entry fee for a small claims case pursuant to C.G.S. § 52-259, in the superior court for the geographical area in which the Town is located, which shall entitle such person to a hearing in accordance with the rules of the judges of the superior court.

**Section 3      Issuance of written warning.**

In those instances where there is time to do so and where a continuing violation is not causing immediate or significant harm, a written warning providing notice of the specific violation shall be sent by first-class mail or hand-delivered prior to issuing the citation.

**Section 4      Amount of penalty.**

Notwithstanding any provisions pertaining to fines, penalties, fees, etc. to the contrary in any of the ordinances to which this process shall apply as listed in Section 6 hereof, if such ordinance is enforced through the citation process herein, the penalty imposed for any single violation of such ordinances shall be \$150 per violation, unless otherwise specifically provided by the General Statutes or in section 6 below. For ordinances not listed in Section 6 hereof that include provisions specifically allowing for enforcement through the citation process herein, the penalty imposed for any single violation shall be as set forth in such ordinance if a penalty is included, and if not, it shall be \$150 per violation unless otherwise specifically provided by the General Statutes. For any violation enforced through the citation process herein, each day that a violation continues from the date of the Citation shall constitute a separate violation.

**Section 5      Disposition of money received.**

All moneys received pursuant to the procedure set forth above shall be remitted to the Town of Prospect Mayor's Office.

**Section 6      Applicability; amended ordinances.**

Each of the following ordinances is amended to add the following section:

Section\_\_ Enforcement and penalties.

In addition to any other methods of enforcement provided for in this ordinance, this ordinance has been specifically designated for enforcement by citations issued by Town of Prospect police officers and the citation hearing procedure established by Ordinance 89-10-16-18 of the Town of Prospect Code of Ordinances shall be followed.

<b>Ordinance Number</b>	<b>Ordinance Subject</b>	<b>Number of Section or Paragraph to be Added</b>
4-07-08-52	DRAINING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY ONTO TOWN HIGHWAYS	(A)
16-05-19-60	TRAILERS	V.C.
36-03-18-75	LITTERING	3.
46-12-17-85	LANDFILL ORDINANCE	9
48-03-03-87	DOG CONTROL*	5
51-12-15-87	COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE	5-1
53-12-04-90	RECYCLING	12-1
55-09-01-92	HOUSE NUMBERING	6
57-02-24-93	SOLICITATION	6-1
60-10-05-93	ALARM SYSTEMS*	(d)(1)
68-07-01-03B	USE OF TOWN PARKS	V.B.
74-03-01-05	FIRE PREVENTION/ OPEN BURNING	5.(d)
76-03-21-06	STREET EXCAVATION AND OBSTRUCTION	IV.C.(i)
79-09-01-09	POLICE PROTECTION AT CONSTRUCTION SITES	3.
84-12-15-15	SNOW DISPOSAL AND PROPERTY DAMAGE	5.
85-12-15-15	BLOCKING INTERSECTIONS	3.

\*The penalty for these ordinances shall not be \$150 per violation, but instead shall be as set forth in such ordinances.

Adopted: October 16, 2018

 chairman  
Jeffrey B. Slapikas, Chairman  
Prospect Town Council

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