

Dear Planning & Development Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony in support of SB 1024.

I live in a community considered a “white” town by most any standard. While I have lived in other places, this is where I grew up and have chosen to live. I do love the community but believe a disservice has been done to those, like me, who have lived much of their life here. I believe that only through living in a truly diverse community can people grow and learn to be comfortable with the differences that are natural in the human community as a whole. This does not happen by choice because people tend to surround themselves with like-minded folks whose values and customs are the same. It seems to me that change and growth cannot occur without the help of policy changes. Please vote in favor of SB 1024.

Thank you so much for considering my testimony.

Stephen Riege  
West Hartford CT

Stephen Riege

Founder & Friend  
The Khmer Magic Music Bus Project  
A Program of Cambodian Living Arts  
[www.cambodianlivingarts.org/khmer-magic-music-bus/](http://www.cambodianlivingarts.org/khmer-magic-music-bus/)

"Curiosity is insubordination in its purest form."  
Vladimir Nabokov