

# The Norwalk Hour

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## Himes favors Trump impeachment

By Dan Freedman

WASHINGTON — After weeks of urging caution among fellow House Democrats, Rep. Jim Himes on Monday came out in favor of an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

“During my career, I have learned that there are moments for calculation, prudence, compromise and the careful weighing of competing interests,” Himes said, noting his Hamlet-like re-



Himes

sponse to rising alarm over Trump’s conduct on numerous fronts. “And there are moments for clarity and conviction. This is such a moment.” Himes joins a rising chorus of 78 other Democrats calling for impeachment. His enlistment puts added pressure on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who so far has resisted impeach-

ment calls.

But on Friday night at a big-ticket Democratic dinner in Hartford, Pelosi appeared to inch a bit toward impeachment.

Recognizing the political math — a Republican-controlled Senate will never agree to House vote to impeach Trump — Pelosi said that nevertheless “Perhaps we’ll send a strong message, urgently needed, to the Senate that when we get the facts and we present the facts, we will honor our oath or office,” she said.

“We will hold the president accountable,” Pelosi said, sidestepping the word “impeachment.” “It’s a very, very serious thing and we must have our strongest hand.”

Gov. Ned Lamont was in the audience Friday night. On Monday, he told reporters he agreed with Pelosi’s measured stance. “I think Speaker Pelosi has it about right,” he said.

Himes became the first House member from Connecticut to side with Democrats favoring im-

peachment. (One Republican, Justin Amash of Michigan, also supports impeachment.)

Rep. Jahana Hayes is “still in the same place,” said her chief of staff, Joe Dunn.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro’s position on impeachment also remains unchanged.

“While we continue investigations into foreign interference into our elections and possible obstruction of justice by President Trump, we must not lose

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### BEACH VOLLEYBALL FOR FUN AND A CAUSE



Erik Trautmann / Hearst Connecticut Media

Edoni Jakaj and her team, The Rug Rats, compete in the fourth annual Charity Volleyball Tournament Saturday at Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk. Proceeds from this year’s event benefit the Room to Grow Preschool in Norwalk.

Kevin Schwatlow digs for the ball as his team, Maduro, competes in the Charity Volleyball Tournament on Saturday at Calf Pasture Beach.



## Skate Camp lives despite low numbers

By Justin Papp

NORWALK — Parents concerned over the elimination of Norwalk’s summer Skate Camp successfully petitioned the city to reopen the camp despite dwindling attendance.

A petition posted to change.org titled “Save Skate Camp” has received 963 out of a desired 1,000 signatures and created enough of a stir that Recreation & Parks Director Nick Roberts reconsidered his decision, made in early June, to cancel the camp, which operates out of the Calf Pasture Beach skate park.

“The decision to close the camp was based on the low participant registration that we saw as well as the trend over the past three years,” Roberts said.

In an attempt to draw more interest, the Recreation & Parks Department opened registration for the camp earlier than in years past. Roberts said that, initially, for one of the weeks of camp five kids registered for the full-day and two registered for the half-day. The other open weeks saw four or less campers registered and, in several cases, none. Whereas in 2017 and 2018, 41 and 64 campers, respectively, signed up, this year just 21 have signed up, though registration is still open.

Based on the low enrollment, Roberts decided to cut the camp, hopefully giving parents enough time to find an alternative summer camp option. The decision, however, sparked protest from parents and

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## City: Meeker Court construction ‘quiet’ for now

By Kelly Kultys

NORWALK — “Things are quiet out there.” That was how Michael Wrinn, the city’s assistant director of Planning and Zoning, characterized the current status of Meeker Court to the Planning Commission last week.

The commission has been getting monthly updates on the project since the fall, when neighbors brought up erosion control concerns, as well as noise-related issues, surrounding the construction of four homes on the street.

While the commission doesn’t have jurisdiction

over the noise concerns, it did require the builder to put together a comprehensive erosion control plan to stop water from flowing off the property onto the street and onto other residents’ properties.

Wrinn said now that they’re on the second house, that seems to have been taken care of.

“They’re building house number two,” he said. “We do not have any erosion problems, nothing’s going in the road, those are but-toned up.”

Wrinn said he and other zoning officials visit the site about three times a

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### OUR CAPITOL BUREAU

## Summer tolls vote unlikely as top Dems seek compromise

By Emilie Munson

Gov. Ned Lamont has a short window to close a tolls deal with lawmakers before summer vacations push a vote after Labor Day, as he faces increasing calls from top Democrat leaders to find a transportation funding plan that will win Republican votes, making a deal even harder to clinch.

These developments

have Republicans convinced that Democrats do not have the votes to pass tolls alone or are worried about the political fall-out. No votes for tolls will come from Republicans, GOP leaders continue to promise.

Don’t expect a vote on tolls until mid-July or — barring that — September, House Majority Leader Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, said Monday.

Legislative leaders are not expected to meet with Lamont to negotiate transportation funding legislation until after the July 4 holiday, Ritter said. Lawmakers’ planned vacations will bar a House vote on tolls in August, he added.

Lamont told reporters in Milford on Monday he’s not sure when a special session to pass tolls-enabling legislation will occur. Meanwhile, several

House Democrats privately told Hearst Connecticut Media they don’t expect to cast a tolls vote until September at the earliest.

Lamont’s latest pitch for tolls, including an income tax reduction to offset the cost of tolls on Connecticut residents, is likely to need revisions before it sees the floor of the House and Senate.

Like Senate President See Tolls on A4



Emilie Munson / Hearst Connecticut Media

Gov. Ned Lamont speaks to reporters at Tribus Beer Company in Milford on Monday.

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Weather: Not as warm, t-storm. High: 80, Low: 65

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