

Department of Housing

Commissioner Evonne M. Klein



Appointed by Governor Dannel P. Malloy in 2013, Evonne M. Klein is the first Commissioner of the newly created Connecticut Department of Housing, the lead state agency on housing matters. The department provides a wide array of funding programs and services aimed at ending homelessness, increasing the supply of affordable housing, and creating new homeownership opportunities for Connecticut residents.

Under her leadership the department has expanded its development as well as individual and family support programs and dramatically increased the state's investment in affordable housing. Together, with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the department has invested over \$880 million to create or rehabilitate affordable housing units since 2011. Klein and her staff continue to work closely with municipalities, developers, and housing authorities across the state to change the development culture and to expand access to local housing choices.

The department has been recognized as a national leader for its efforts to end homelessness. Working as an interagency collaborative and with local, state, and federal partners, the department committed to the Zero: 2016 initiative to end homelessness amongst veterans by the end of 2015 and chronic homelessness by 2016.

Prior to her appointment as Commissioner of Housing, Klein served from 2001 to 2009 on the Board of Selectmen in the town of Darien, including three terms as First Selectman. During her tenure she also served as Vice Chair of the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization and as Co-Vice Chair on the Alliance for Sensible Airspace Planning.

A strong advocate for housing and transit oriented development, Klein spearheaded the appointment of the Darien Affordable Housing Advisory Commission whose work culminated in a Final Report to the Board of Selectmen. She successfully led the effort to develop Darien's first-ever Affordable Housing Plan and supported zoning regulations that increased the stock of affordable housing in the Town of Darien. It was under Klein's leadership, and with her support, that The Cottage at Darien was built to service those with mental and physical disabilities.

Holding true to her commitment to revitalize downtown Darien, Klein spearheaded the formation of Darien Revitalization, Inc., an all-volunteer committee comprised of business owners and residents that privately raised over \$100,000, gained acceptance into the Connecticut Main Street program, and brought new zoning regulations and new businesses and restaurants into downtown Darien, making it a shopping and dining destination.

Klein is a graduate of Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, receiving a Masters in Corporate and Political Communications as well as her Bachelor's degree. She also completed coursework in Economics and Comparative Government at Oxford University, the London School of Economics, and the University of London.

Updated: July 14, 2015