

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

OPERATION FUEL ANNOUNCES A NEW NAME AND IDENTITY: 'GENERATION POWER CT'



For nearly 50 years, the organization has been a trusted resource for families facing energy insecurity. The rebrand marks a significant evolution in the organization's mission and vision. While the name has changed, Generation Power CT remains committed to ensuring all Connecticut residents have equitable and secure access to affordable energy and water.

"For decades, we've provided emergency assistance to families in crisis—and that work continues," said Perkin Simpson, Chief Executive

Photo: From left, Chief Advancement Officer Kaleitha Brown, Board Chair Rauchell Beckford-Anderson, and CEO Perkin Simpson.

Officer of Generation Power CT. "But over the years we have grown to be so much more. Today, we are also investing in our commitment to building long-term solutions through community-based research and policy change. We look forward to working with our community partners to ensure a more equitable future for everyone."

In the past year, the organization has helped more than 6,000 households avoid shut-offs, stay safe in extreme tem-

peratures, and access critical support. With energy costs on the rise and the climate crisis accelerating and disproportionately impacting vulnerable residents, the need for responsive, inclusive, and forward-thinking solutions has never been greater.

"The name, Generation Power CT, greatly reflects our ongoing mission, expanded opportunities, and the collective power that we all have in the moment. We're here to

meet the urgent needs of today while working for meaningful change. It is about empowering communities to make changes that will benefit future generations of Connecticut residents," adds Simpson.

The rebrand includes a new visual identity and website: gpct.org

where visitors can learn about Generation Power CT's programs, access assistance, and join the movement for equitable energy solutions.

About Generation Power CT: Formerly known as Operation Fuel, Generation Power CT is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead the way so current and future generations can thrive with secure access to heat, power, and water. Through emergency energy and water assistance, community partnerships, education, research, and public policy advocacy, Generation Power CT works to ensure every household has access to the utilities they need.

bbc@bloomfieldct.gov

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE CURBSIDE GARDEN IN BLOOMFIELD BY AUGUST 15TH!

EASY: FILL OUT NOMINATION FORM ON BLMFLD TOWN WEBSITE AND CLICK SEND!

Bloomfield Beautification Notable Landscape Awards encourage and promote community involvement and pride in keeping our town a beautiful place to live!

NOMINATION FORM

<https://tinyurl.com/notablelandscape25>

LETTERS AND OPINIONS

By Rickford Kirton

I am reaching out to share a serious and troubling development involving the Bloomfield Town Council, which I believe raises ethical, legal, and political concerns the public deserves to understand.

At the July 14, 2025 Town Council meeting, an item was listed under Executive Session that read: "Former Councilman Rickford Kirton v Sexual Harassment Victim #1 Investigation."

Let me be clear, there is no litigation, no police report, no complaint pending, and no notice of intent to sue. The matter referenced was investigated and resolved by the Town nearly three years ago, in late 2022. It was never the subject of any legal action, and I was never disciplined.

The original complaint came from a town employee. The alleged incident occurred at a public groundbreaking ceremony across from Heirloom Flats in 2022. At the time, I was hav-

ing a public conversation with my council colleague, Councilwoman Suzette DeBeatham-Brown. The employee later claimed I may have touched her on the shoulder during that exchange.

I was never alone with the employee. The event took place in full public view. Both I and my colleague were engaged in conversation with her the entire time. When interviewed by an outside labor attorney hired by the Town, who was based in New Jersey, I stated that I could not recall any physical contact but acknowledged that, if it occurred, it was unintentional.

That interview was conducted over Zoom, with my retained legal counsel present. I gave my full statement transparently. My council colleague was also interviewed by the investigator.

On November 18, 2022, I received a formal email from the Town's Human Resources representative stating that the investigation had concluded. The Town indicated it found the

employee's statement credible, though I could not recall the moment. I was asked to complete anti-harassment training and sign an acknowledgment form.

At that time, I retained legal counsel. My attorney formally requested a copy of the investigative report, but the Town denied that request. The Town Attorney at the time cited exemptions we believe were misapplied under FOIA law. I was never given a copy of the final report.

The Town's HR office indicated the matter would be closed, the employee notified of the outcome, and no further action required. I complied by avoiding contact with the employee, as instructed. There was no discipline, no public disclosure, and the matter was considered resolved.

Now, nearly three years later and less than two months before a local election, the Town Council has resurrected this same issue. They placed it on

the public agenda under 'pending claims and litigation,' using language that falsely implies a legal dispute and multiple victims. The item reads as if I am a plaintiff in a case against a 'Victim #1,' suggesting more are involved. That is simply false.

There has never been another complaint. No pattern. No second incident. No pending legal case. This language is not only misleading — it is reckless.

To my knowledge, nothing new was discussed in Executive Session. The decision to use my full name publicly while referencing a vague and anonymous 'Victim #1' appears politically motivated. It misleads the public into thinking a new case or broader scandal exists.

This is not transparency, it is retaliation. The Town Attorney, Town Manager, and Mayor are responsible for approving the agenda language. Whether the full Council was involved in that decision is unclear.

The FOIA denial, the unresolved lack of access to the

report, and the sudden reappearance of this matter just weeks before an election all raise serious red flags. These actions damage reputations and undermine public trust.

I believe this is a violation of my civil rights and a clear abuse of power. I respectfully request that your team investigate and cover this matter to ensure transparency and accountability in our local government.

I can provide the following documentation for your review:

- The November 18, 2022 HR conclusion email
- FOIA denial correspondence between my attorney and the former Town Attorney
- A copy of the July 14, 2025 Council agenda
- My formal response to the Town's findings

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will look into this matter, as I believe the residents of Bloomfield, and anyone who values fairness and integrity in government, deserve to know the full story.