

Housing Authority Commission approves 21 Section 8 units

By Justin Papp 12:00 am EDT, Wednesday, August 29, 2018

NORWALK — A change to the Norwalk Housing Authority policy to allow 21 project-based voucher units in the Washington Village redevelopment has been approved by the Board of Commissioners.

The project-based voucher units are classified as Section 8, based on the Housing Act of 1937. Another 21 units will be built according to Section 9 public housing standards.

“Most people are familiar with Section 8, which is a housing choice voucher, a type of rental subsidy. It’s a very similar outcome as Section 9,” said Adam Bovilsky, executive director of the Norwalk Housing Authority. “The tenant pays 30 percent of their income toward rent in either case, generally speaking, and the rest is picked up by the federal government. Section 9 you’re in a specific unit, in public housing. With Section 8, you can take that voucher anywhere in the private sector as long as it’s under the fair market rent price.”

The Housing Authority had approved the concept of the units at its April 24 meeting. The adjustments to policy approved Monday will merely enable the Housing Authority to carry it out. The amended policy will now pass to the Connecticut branch of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The amount of money the developer, Trinity Financial, will receive in subsidies from the federal government is more than developed when building Section 8, as opposed to Section 9, housing, Bovilsky said.

The amendment was presented as a win-win. If a tenant is approved for the

Section 8 housing, he or she could live in Norwalk for a minimum of a year and then use the voucher to live in another locale, Bovilsky said.. Tenants would pay the same amount of their rent as they would have in a Section 9 unit.

“The benefits to the tenants is unquestionable,” Bovilsky told the Board of Commissioners Monday.

justin.papp@scni.com; @justinjpapp1; 203-842-2586