



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Public Hearing Concerning Changes to Foodservice Regulations**

GROTON — Ledge Light Health District (District) is holding a public hearing on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the main auditorium at Waterford Town Hall to discuss changes to the District Food Service Regulation. Residents of East Lyme, town and city of Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford may attend. The purpose of these regulations is to protect the public health and welfare of residents within Ledge Light Health District. Copies of the proposed regulation changes are available at our Groton office at 943 North Road, online at [www.ledgelighthd.org](http://www.ledgelighthd.org), or by calling our office at 860-448-4882. Written statements will be accepted if received no later than the date of the hearing.

### **Food Service Regulation**

Proposed amendments to the District's Food Service Regulation will increase efficiencies, help to ensure food safety practices and provide Qualified Food Operator Certification and Café (Community Accessible Foodservice Education) training at a reasonable cost to citizens. The proposed changes will:

- Deregulate simple coffee beverage service in establishments where no other food services are provided for free or sale; some examples include service waiting areas like salons or health care offices.
- Amend regulation to recognize the expiration dates on Qualified Food Operator certificates.
- Better define the activities and procedures associated with farmers markets, including defining regulated food service activities taking place within these markets, permit fees, training requirements, etc.
- Define the Café Certification Program.
- Define temporary food service establishments
- Modify food license to require the signature of owner and additional language regarding ill food workers.
- Ensure the appropriate fee is collected when renovation and remodeling occur during changes in ownership.
- Modify stipulations that fines will be assessed for repeat risk factor violations only, rather than all repeat violations.
- Empower the District to mandate training when high risk activities are found during inspections, complaint investigations and food borne illness outbreak investigations.

**Ledge Light Health District** provides professionally managed comprehensive public health services designed to improve the quality of life and health and safety of our service population. The District service area consists of the East Lyme, town and city of Groton, Ledyard, New London and Waterford, with a service population of over 120,000.