

Staff Comments  
Text Amendment / Site Plan approval  
March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Procedural Issues

This is a text amendment to amend the prohibited use section to allow existing licensed tattoo parlors to relocate to other zones which allow personal service establishments.

Proposed

5.) Tattoo and/or body piercing studios; provided, however, that existing & licensed tattoo businesses in the Town of Haddam are allowed by site plan review to terminate and abandon their current location and relocate to other zones in the Town which allow personal service establishments.

The proposed language and all of the notices have been reviewed by Attorney Mark Branse, the Planning and Zoning Commission attorney.

The agenda, the proposed language and legal notice were filed in the Town Clerks Office and on the Town Web site on February 25, 2021.

The legal notice appeared in the Haddam News on March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. These dates comply with State Statutes. The required hearing sign was placed on the property 10 days prior to the hearing.

Why are we repeating this hearing?

We are having this hearing because of my oversight. When I was trying to run a 5 person office by myself I failed to email the notice to the Haddam News. Therefore, the December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 hearing was procedurally flawed.

This is a two-step process. A text amendment and then site plan approval.

Text Amendment

Economic Development

The proposal allows an established local business and a tax payer to remain in town. In a small town business retention is the most critical aspect of economic development.

The proposal also helps the property owner rent a long vacant building. The property owners, Haddam residents / taxpayers, invested in this difficult, non-conforming building and in Higganum center and the Town should support their efforts.

## Prior Usage

The use was permitted at the site in 2012. There is a certificate of occupancy on file for the subject property allowing a tattoo parlor at this location.

## Times Have Changed

- Times have changed and we need to accept that. Tattoos are not just for drunken sailors or members of motorcycle gangs.
- To me tattoos are my nieces and nephews, my son's school teachers, moms at the town hall, nurses and other professional woman I meet.
- There are two (2) Hartford Courant articles and a Harris Poll which are a part of the record.
- The first one is from Manchester and discusses the proposal to allow tattoo parlors in the downtown. The proposal was approved unanimously.

*"Proposal would allow tattoo studios to open downtown - After long prohibition, leaders no longer see 'stigma' in business"*

[https://digitaledition.courant.com/infinity/article\\_share.aspx?quid=5a5918bd-69d9-4e79-8c3e-b063cf32d8b9&fbclid=IwAR2yKkHyVJbVVRiDsiPPqHdtFVncMAdFUI-992aw9AOS2Qto2-xltaeYldEw](https://digitaledition.courant.com/infinity/article_share.aspx?quid=5a5918bd-69d9-4e79-8c3e-b063cf32d8b9&fbclid=IwAR2yKkHyVJbVVRiDsiPPqHdtFVncMAdFUI-992aw9AOS2Qto2-xltaeYldEw)

- The second article discusses the **Connecticut State Police** easing their policy on tattoos in recognition of the fact that there are many good candidates with tattoos and 40% of millennials now have tattoos.

*"Connecticut state police are easing up on tattoos"*

[https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-ct-police-tattoos-20200316-65fvxijx3rfyvc3is3o5zrshqe-story.html?fbclid=IwAR01D4\\_lh499s\\_iFlzHQlwq4gjC0IG\\_U6Pv7Z4e2WyUVxNFlxFqB0jelr4](https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-ct-police-tattoos-20200316-65fvxijx3rfyvc3is3o5zrshqe-story.html?fbclid=IwAR01D4_lh499s_iFlzHQlwq4gjC0IG_U6Pv7Z4e2WyUVxNFlxFqB0jelr4)

- A 2015 Harris poll found wide spread acceptance of tattoos, often in excess of 70%.

[https://theharrispoll.com/tattoos-can-take-any-number-of-forms-from-animals-to-quotes-to-cryptic-symbols-and-appear-in-all-sorts-of-spots-on-our-bodies-some-visible-in-everyday-life-others-not-so-much-but-one-thi/?mod=article\\_inline](https://theharrispoll.com/tattoos-can-take-any-number-of-forms-from-animals-to-quotes-to-cryptic-symbols-and-appear-in-all-sorts-of-spots-on-our-bodies-some-visible-in-everyday-life-others-not-so-much-but-one-thi/?mod=article_inline)

*The Manchester article states:*

*“... Nearly four in 10 millennials, those born from 1981-96, have at least one tattoo, according to a Pew Research Center report ([pewrsr.ch/2TnbQXR](http://pewrsr.ch/2TnbQXR)). Those in the previous generation, Generation X, are not far behind, with 32% inked, while only 15% of Baby Boomers (1946-64) said they have a tattoo.....”*

Applying those Pew Research percentages to Haddam’s population indicates over 1/3 of Haddam’s adult population have tattoos. **Almost 2,000 Haddam residents.**

### Revitalization

There are many huge issues that have prevented Higganum Centers revitalization. A small tattoo shop in the Center is not one of them. In fact, an occupied building with daily activity is a very good thing.

Looking forward, we need millenials and Gen Z to revitalize the Center and we can’t have policies that are counter to their beliefs.

There are tattoo parlors throughout Connecticut. Glastonbury, West Hartford, Old Saybrook, Branford, North Branford, Wallingford, Southington, South Windsor, Middlefield and Deep River. All very nice communities.

Most relevant is the Deep River location. Deep River has revitalized very nicely in the presence of a tattoo parlor with successful businesses on either side and across the street from the tattoo parlor.

### How to evaluate this request?

Planning and Zoning is a land use agency and you make your rules and regulations to minimize negative impacts on land use. The Zoning Regulations allow as a permitted use in the Higganum Village District Zone – Nail Salons. In your deliberations I ask that you consider if there are any differences between a nail salon and a tattoo parlor? I have asked a number of people that have frequented both and the conclusion is that there is no difference.

Nail Salon - a client drives to the location, parks their car, enters the building, sits in a chair, receives a personal service (manicure/pedicure) from a state licensed individual, pays a fee and leaves.

Tattoo Parlor - a client drives to the location, parks their car, enters the building, sits in a chair, receives a personal service (tattoo) from a state licensed individual, pays a fee for and leaves.

If the only difference is “we don’t like people that get tattoos”. That is not a valid concern.

### Site plan Review to establish a Tattoo Parlor at 310 Saybrook Road

The purpose of the site plan review is to review the property for compliance with the Zoning Regulations. In this case there is no change to the building or the property. A tattoo parlor was approved and existed in the building in 2014.

The building is a non-conforming building as to setbacks and parking. This means it pre-dated zoning and does not comply with the current regulations. This is a very relevant fact because Section 7A.2 of the Village District Regulation states:

***“This Village District shall not apply to existing non-conforming buildings and uses unless otherwise provided by Section 29 of these Regulations.”***

So in this case, the property is in the Higganum Village District zone but it does not have to comply with the Higganum Village District zone regulations.

As you can see on the attached map, the property does have sufficient parking dedicated to it, within the state ROW, to meet the Zoning Regulations for a building of its size for retail/office/personal service uses.

The property owner has made improvements to the building, new windows and siding, which has greatly improved the appearance of the building.

I am recommending and the applicant has consented to a condition limiting signage to gold leaf lettering in the window. This eliminates the possibility of neon or LED or flashing signage in the windows.

Recommended motions for approval are attached.

# Town of Haddam



30 Field Park Drive  
Haddam, CT 06438  
860.345.8531  
F: 860.345.5169  
www.haddam.org

## CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

Owner: Sara LLC

Owner Address: 310 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT. 06441

Location Map: 14A1 Lot 9 Street: 310 Saybrook Road

Town: Higganum State: CT Zip: 06441

Permit Date: September 25, 2012 Permit Number: 11291

**This is to certify that the above captioned property, has been inspected and conforms substantially to the requirements of the 2003 International Building Code, and the 2009 Amendment to the Connecticut Supplement, 2005 Connecticut State Fire Safety Code, the State of Connecticut Public Health Code and the Zoning Ordinance of the town and is hereby approved for use and/or occupancy as indicated below:**

**Description: New Business known as "Tatau Shop" in Unit #2 as per approved plan**

(Use Group B, Construction Type VB)

Any additional work, structural, plumbing, heating or electrical will require new permits and inspections.

**BUILDING DEPARTMENT APPROVAL BY:**


Date ( Final Inspection):

Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Fern Tremblay  
Building Official


**ZONING COMPLIANCE ISSUED BY:**

Date Issued: 9-28-12

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Puska  
Zoning Enforcement Officer

**FIRE MARSHAL APPROVAL BY:**

Date Issued: 10-15-12

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Brookes  
Fire Marshal

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
 PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
 MOTION SHEET**

**MOTION DATE:** March 18th, 2020

**APPLICANT:** George Smith, Goodspeed Tattoo

Motion to approve:

Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to the Haddam Zoning Regulations - Section 5.6 C.5 Tattoo and/or body piercing studios. A copy of existing and proposed text is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.  
 Applicant/Property Owner: George Smith / Robert Lloyd

Effective date April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**MOTION MADE BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>RECORD OF VOTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS</b>		
<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>

**TOWN OF HADDAM  
 PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
 MOTION SHEET**

**MOTION DATE:** March 18th, 2020

**APPLICANT:** George Smith, Goodspeed Tattoo

Motion to approve:

Proposed site plan approval at 310 Saybrook Road, Higganum, CT to allow a tattoo shop as a personal service use in Higganum Center Village District. Applicant/Property Owner: George Smith / Robert Lloyd

**Condition –**

- 1. Effective April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- 2. Signage limited to window graphics similar to the gold leaf lettering at existing location.
- 3. No neon or LED window signage.
- 4. No exterior sign proposed.

**MOTION MADE BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SECONDED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD OF VOTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN



PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
TOWN OF HADDAM  
30 FIELD PARK DRIVE  
HADDAM, CT 06438

APPLICATION FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW

MAP 14A1 LOT 009 LOCATION 310 Saybrook Rd

APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER: ABZ LLC PHONE: 860 554-5147  
ADDRESS: 2 oak ridge haddam

ZONE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEED REFERENCES: Volume 389 Page 465

Zoning regulations under which this application is being made: Sec 14

Completely describe the proposed activities, uses, and structures for which this application is being made: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please include the following items with your application:

- 1. Application Form
- 2. Site Plan (as indicated in the Haddam Zoning Regulations)
- 3. Wetland Agency Permit or Statement from the Wetland Enforcement Officer
- 4. Any other State, Federal or Local permits required
- 5. Application Fee

Are there any waivers requested as part of this application? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

No exterior change to property

The owner applicant hereby grant the Haddam and Zoning Commission, and/or it's designated agent, permission to enter the property for which this permit is requested for the propose of inspection and enforcement of the Haddam Zoning Regulations.

George Smith  
APPLICANT

3/9/2021  
DATE

OWNER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

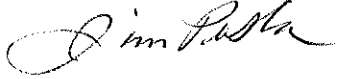
ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: 3/9/21 FEE \$ 150 CHECK# 1057 CASH \_\_\_\_\_



I have reviewed the proposal to operate a tattoo parlor at 310 Saybrook Road and there is no activity proposed on the outside of the building.

No IWWA review required.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Puska". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Puska  
Wetlands Agent

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CONNECTICUT

# Connecticut state police are easing up on tattoos

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**BY JESSE LEAVENWORTH**

**HARTFORD COURANT**

**MAR 16, 2020 AT 6:00 AM**

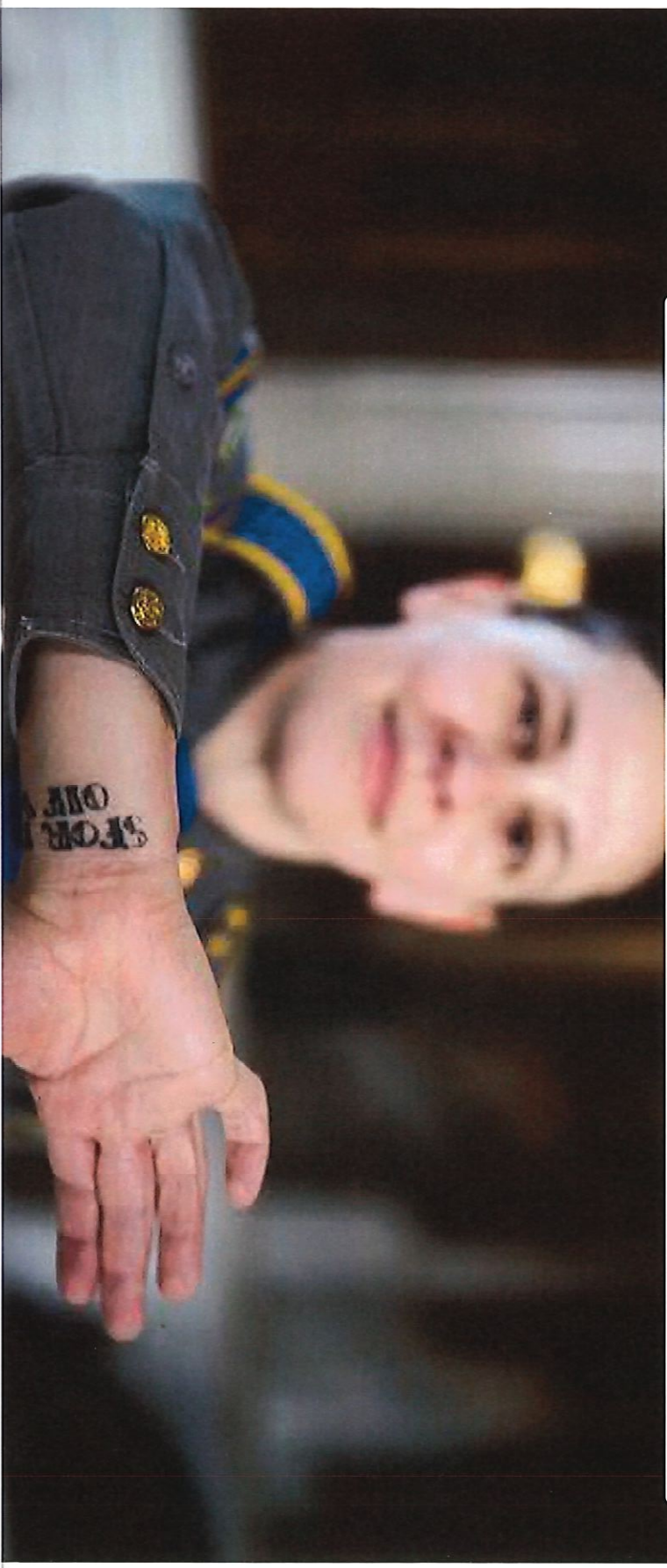
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State polic  
acknowledc

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counterparts — that more young applicants with unblemished resumes will be inked.

The recently modified policy says people with visible tattoos may apply to be troopers.

“We’ve realized that it’s now becoming more culturally acceptable, and we don’t want to lose out on

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With <sup>4 weeks for 99¢</sup> limited exceptions, state police still prohibit visible tatt

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applicants with body art would shut out a wide demographic of young people.

[\[Related\] DCF had recent contact with New London woman charged with killing her son »](#)

Nearly four in 10 millennials, those born from 1981-96, have at least one tattoo, according to a Pew Research

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of Baby Boomers (9946-64) said they have a tattoo, according . . .

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“Moreover, one tattoo isn’t enough for many millennials,” Pew reported. “While 31% of tattooed millennials have just one tattoo, half have two to five tattoos. And 18% have six or more.”

Jeltema, 40, a U.S. Army veteran, noted that service members, in particular, often are inked. She has two tattoos on the inside of one wrist that memorialize her

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arm that includes an American flag, lion's head and a Spartan warrior. The guidelines prohibit images and words that are vulgar, obscene, racist or show gang allegiance, among other restrictions.

But shunning applicants with appropriate body art would not promote public safety, Shea said.

[\[Related\] Connecticut libraries remain cautious after Lamont](#)

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public” he said. 99¢

That’s esp

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agencies in the state and around the nation are struggling to attract qualified people. Recruiters in the past several years have softened policies on past marijuana use and credit history, among other steps meant to broaden applicant pools.

The state police policy

<https://www.beaconnecttrooper.com/tatto>

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to exceed 1/2 inch wide, on a finger of each hand.

Otherwise hands or k

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Larger tattoos on the arms can be covered with a material of a color as close as possible to the person's skin tone. The policy also covers scarification and brands.

The policy's lead paragraph reads, in part: "The Connecticut State Police recognizes the personal

appearance of its sworn uniform personnel when in

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A Harrisreport from 2015 (<https://bit.ly/2Ij3yKv>)

asked respondents  
would be

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athletes to judges — who had visible tattoos. Seventy percent said they would be either “extremely comfortable” or “somewhat comfortable” with a tattooed police officer, while 30 percent said they would be either “not very comfortable” or “not at all comfortable.” The comfort level, however, dropped among older respondents.

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Municipal police departments' tattoo policies vary.

Coventry's

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visible while on-duty and/or representing the department.” As with the state police, a tattoo or brand in the form of a ring is permissible, one on each hand, and female officers may have permanent eye-liner.

Prohibited are “tattoos or brands anywhere on the body that promote racism/discrimination, indecency, extremist or supremacist philosophies, lawlessness,

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order officers to cover tattoos that the chief deems unprofessional. The chief of police in Hartford, said he has not had to use that authority in his nine years in Bloomfield.

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Appropriate tattoos, Hammick said, are not a reflection of a police officer's ability to do the job, and In fact, some of the most conscientious officers he knows have tattoos.

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deemed offensive could be ordered not to display them, ruling against the state. The court ruled that the state violated the First Amendment rights of public employees that the rights of public employees are significantly more limited than those of the general public.

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[\[Related\] Where does Connecticut rank in COVID-19 vaccination? Officials say state is on track to have all adults eligible by May »](#)

The dispute began when a detective complained in

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The ~~issue~~ ~~of~~ ~~gas~~ ~~and~~ ~~of~~ ~~tattoos~~ or Bandy himself, the paper  
quoted Po' . . . . .  
the depart

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“We all signed up to do a job; we all signed up to a particular brand. And that brand should be able to maintain its integrity,” Reyes was quoted as saying.

“When an officer walks in with tattoos on their face, there are segments of the population that we serve that may be confused and offended by that — that may not understand what that's all about that may question the

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Connecticut each weekday morning.

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Bandy has a pending lawsuit against the city, claiming gender discrimination. The suit says the police department has no rules against tattoos, and in any

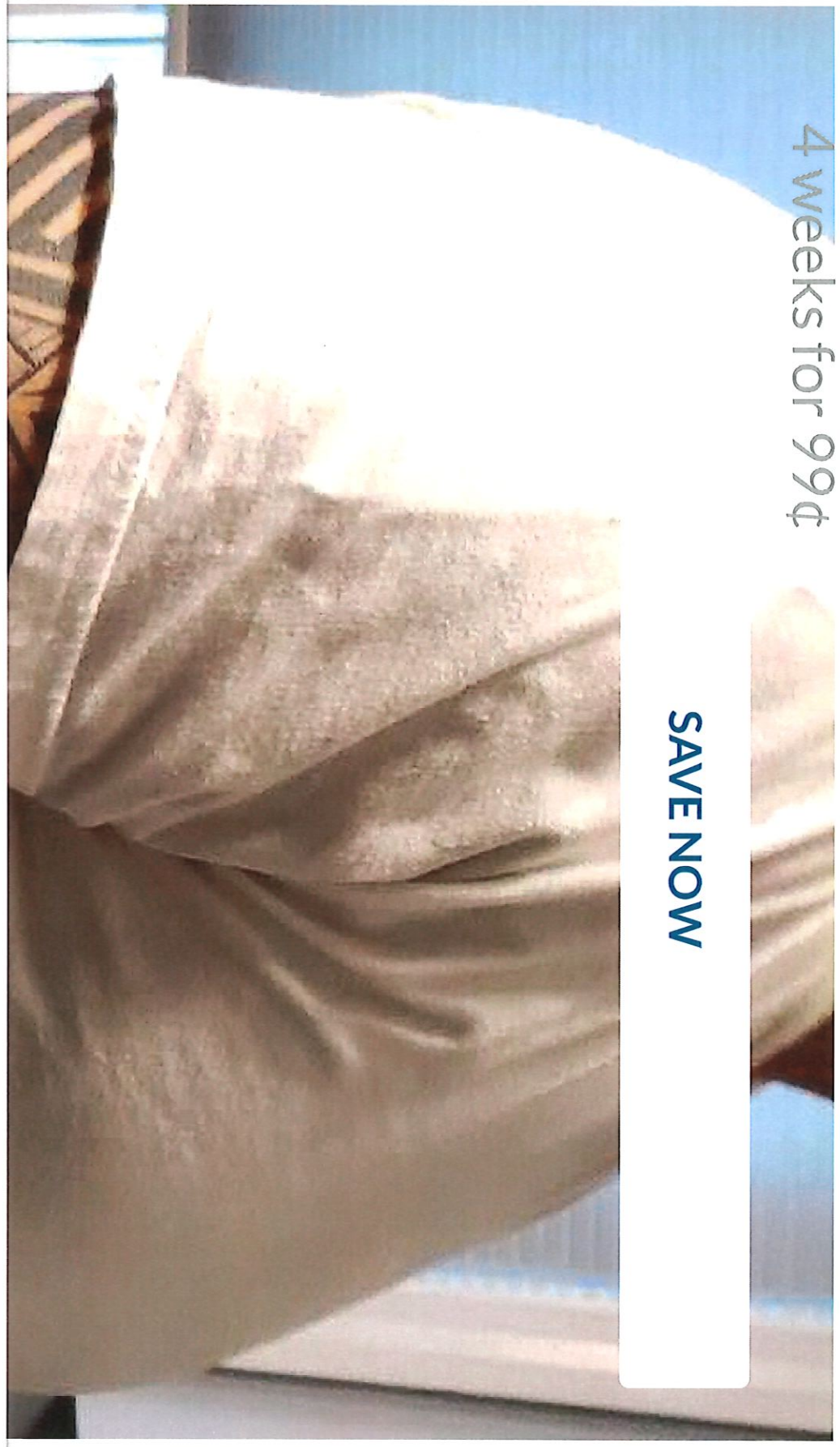
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Windsore Police Officer Joe Malone has a full-sleeve tattoo that includes the words "I'm a cop" before he told Chief Eric Osanitsch about the design before he had the tattoo done last summer.

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## LATEST CONNECTICUT

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DCF had recent contact with New London woman charged with killing her son

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May

“It’s just something I always wanted,” he said.

Asked about the public reception to his body art, Malone said it has helped him on the job.

“I actually find it to be an ice breaker,” he said. “It’s all been positive in my experience.”

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**RECOMMENDED ON HARTFORD COURANT**

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**Tattoo Takeover: Three**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Ftheinvisible-ten-americanshave.com>)

## Tattoos, and Most Don't

| (<https://www.stopajustice.com>)

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** – Tattoos can take any number of forms, from animals to quotes to cryptic symbols, and appear in all sorts of spots on our bodies – some visible in everyday life, others not so much. But one thing's for sure – more and more Americans are getting

them. About three in ten Americans (29%) have at least one tattoo, up from roughly two in ten (21%) just four years ago. What's more, few inked Americans stop at one; among those with any tattoos, seven in ten (69%) have two or more.

These are some of the results of *The Harris Poll* of 2,225 U.S. adults surveyed online from October 14-19, 2015.

 Tattoo Infographic

(<https://nharrisco.wpenngine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Tattoo+infographic.jpg>)

Tattoos are especially prevalent among younger Americans, with nearly half of Millennials (47%) and over a third of Gen Xers (36%) saying they have at least one, compared to 13% of Baby Boomers and one in ten Matures (10%). Millennials and Gen Xers (37% and 24%) are also exponentially more likely than their elders (6% Baby Boomers, 2% Matures) to have multiple tattoos.

Some other interesting comparisons:

- Rural (35%) and Urban (33%) Americans are both more likely to have a tattoo than Suburbanites (25%).
- Those with kids in the household are much more likely than those without to be sporting at least one tattoo (43% vs. 21%).
- Political persuasion doesn't seem to factor into the decision to get a tattoo, with little difference between Republicans, Democrats and Independents (27%, 29% and 28%).

**Regrets, I've had a few**



With tattoos on the rise, regrets have risen as well; though a strong majority still has no regrets, nearly one fourth (23%) of those with tattoos say they ever regret getting one – up from 14% in 2012.

Top-ranked regrets (collected in an open-ended manner) include:

- Too young when they got the tattoo,
- Personality changes/Doesn't fit my present lifestyle,
- Got someone's name that I'm no longer with,
- Poorly done/Doesn't look professional, and
- Isn't meaningful.

## **Hooked on a feeling**

A third (33%) of inked adults indicate having a tattoo has made them feel sexy (up marginally from 30% in 2012). Roughly a third also say that it makes them feel attractive (32%), though it's worth noting that this percentage has grown considerably from 21% in 2012. Just over a quarter (27%) say it makes them feel more rebellious and two in ten (20%) feel more spiritual as a result of their tattoos. Fewer say it makes them feel more intelligent (13%), respected (13%), employable (10%) and healthy (9%).

Perhaps the more important learning, though, is that most say that having a tattoo hasn't made them feel any different on any of these measures.

## **Outside impressions**

Opinions differ more broadly among those without tattoos:



- Nearly half (45%) feel those with tattoos are more rebellious than those without – though it's worth noting that this percentage continues to decline (54% held this belief in 2008; 50% in 2012), likely a byproduct of tattoos' continued trend toward the mainstream.
- On the other end of the scale, nearly half feel those with tattoos are *less* attractive (47%) than those without, 44% feel they're less sexy and a third (34%) believe them to be less respectable.
- Meanwhile, between a quarter and three in ten think those with tattoos are less intelligent (29%), healthy (28%) and spiritual (25%).

## **Across professions, visible tattoos no big deal**

Further driving home the message of tattoos going mainstream, majorities of Americans would be comfortable seeing a person with visible tattoos serve in roles across a diverse range of industries and professions. Comfort ranges from highs of 86% for athletes, 81% for IT technicians and 78% for chefs, to lower majorities of 59% each for primary school teachers and judges, and even 58% for presidential candidates.

- More specifically, many Americans – particularly Millennials – would be “*extremely comfortable*” with someone with visible tattoos in these professions – including police officers (39%, including 54% of Millennials), real estate brokers (37%/52%), bankers (36%/50%), doctors (35%/51%), judges (34%/49%) and presidential candidates (32%/46%).

That’s all well and good, but parents are likely to have a whole different set of standards when it comes to who interacts with their kids, right? Wrong. In fact, a separate poll of parents with kids under 18 in the household found that strong majorities are comfortable

(roughly four in ten of them “extremely” so) with people sporting visible tattoos serving in a number of positions that involve interacting with the kiddos:

- Coach (81% comfortable, 39% extremely comfortable),
- High school teacher (75%, 39%),
- Camp counselor (73%, 36%),
- Sitter/Caregiver (73%, 37%),
- Primary school teacher (71%, 37%), and
- Pediatrician (71%, 40%).