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# Ayala gets suspended sentence for election fraud

**Daniel Tepfer**

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Ayala

Ned Gerard / File photo

BRIDGEPORT — Former state Rep. Christina Ayala was given a suspended sentence Friday after pleading guilty to state election law violations.

The 31-year-old Ayala, who was elected in 2012 to represent the city's East Side, agreed under a plea bargain not to seek elective office for two years.

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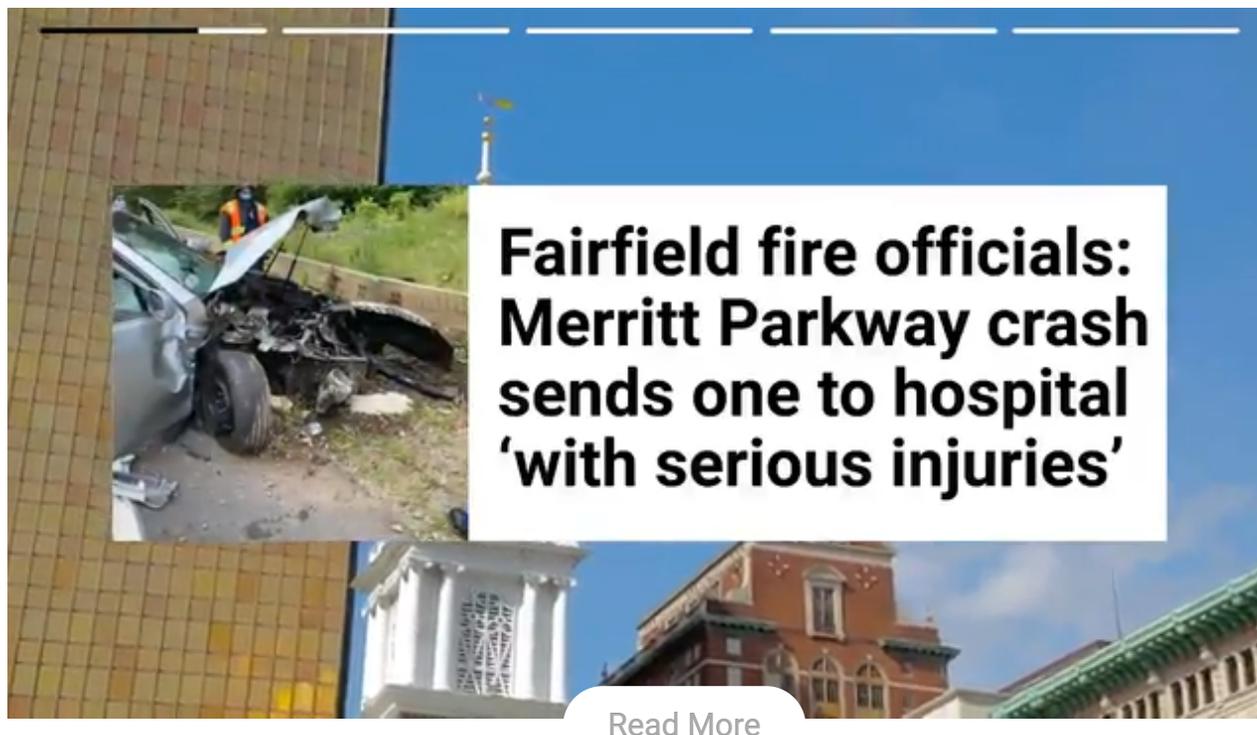
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The plea deal came as Ayala, who lost a primary for re-election to her state House seat last year, was about to go to trial in the case.

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She pleaded guilty to two counts of providing a false statement and was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Earl Richards to a suspended one-year prison term followed by two years of conditional discharge.



Dressed in a black jacket and skirt, her hair in a bun, Ayala declined to comment as she and her lawyer, Guy Soares, left the Golden Hill Street courthouse.

Between 2009 and 2012, Ayala voted in various Bridgeport Democratic Town Committee elections, a municipal primary election and a state primary election in districts other than where she was living at the time, according an investigation by the State Elections Enforcement Commission. She voted in the general election in 2012 in a district where she did not reside.

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Investigators determined through her daughter’s school records and Ayala’s own employment records that she was actually living on North Avenue when she claimed on voter registration applications that she was living on Noble Avenue.

Later, she claimed for the primary she was living on Noble Avenue when, in fact, she was living on Hillside Avenue, both in different voting districts, the arrest warrant affidavit states.

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