

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Justin Elicker, Mayor

OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

165 Church St, 2nd Floor

New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (475) 331-3769

June 26th, 2024

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church St
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY COMMUNITY CHANGE GRANT TO REDUCE POLLUTION AND BUILD COMMUNITY STRENGTH, AND TO ENTER INTO ASSOCIATED AGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING AND CARRY OUT THE ASSOCIATED GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers,

The Office of Climate and Sustainability, in partnership with Greater Dwight Development Corporation, is requesting authorization to apply for and accept \$20 million in funding over three years from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grant program.

The grant would fund community-driven projects to address climate change and pollution while building community strength and resilience capacity. The City of New Haven, Greater Dwight Development Corporation, and partnering neighborhood development nonprofits (St. Luke's Development Corporation, the Newhallville Community Services Development Corporation, Community Action Agency of New Haven, Neighborhood Housing Services, Beulah Land Development Corporation, ConnCAT/ConnCORP, and Junta for Progressive Action) have engaged residents, nonprofit organizations, and businesses focused on addressing environmental issues while meeting immediate community needs such as alleviating hunger, providing safe and affordable housing, and moving safely through the city on foot, on bike, or in a vehicle.

This collaborative process has identified a set of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies that build on the many current environmental efforts in New Haven: Energy retrofits of existing homes and energy upgrades for new construction will reduce utility bills for residents while improving

indoor and ambient air quality. An integrated system of composting infrastructure, school-based composting, materials management and nutrition education, and curbside recycling education citywide will reduce food waste and boost recycling. Investments in green infrastructure, such as improved tree canopy, stormwater diversion, and community gardens/greenspaces, will mitigate heat waves, reduce pollution of Long Island Sound, and increase access to local food. Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure will provide safer routes for zero-emission travel for residents who walk, use the re-started bike share and those who qualify to purchase bicycles or electric bicycles with vouchers. Together, these improvements will strengthen our neighborhoods and build capacity of neighborhood organizations, improve the lives of our residents and provide them with job opportunities, and result in a healthier, cleaner, and greener city.

Special focus will be placed on reaching residents in census tracts and block groups that the EPA's Inflation Reduction Act Disadvantaged Communities Map designates as "disadvantaged" according to climate, energy, health, demographic, and other criteria. These tracts include all of the West Rock/West Hills, Newhallville, Dixwell, the Hill, Edgewood, West River, Long Wharf, Fair Haven, Annex, Fair Haven Heights, and Quinnipiac Meadows neighborhoods, as well as parts of Mill River, Downtown, Dwight, and Beaver Hills.

We respectfully request your honorable Board's favorable action on the attached Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding through the Community Change Grant program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (475) 331-3769.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Winter

Executive Director