



January 21, 2026

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

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the attached ordinance amendment to request the reclassification of the Library Technology Supervisor position, no. 23001, within the Public Library budget from the Special Funds budget to the General Fund budget and reclassification of the Supervising Librarian, position no. 2010, from the General Fund budget to the Special Fund budget.

The role the Public Library serves in supporting the career development, digital citizenship and social connection of New Haven residents has increasingly grown each year since the Library's procurement of the internet in the early 2000's. As technology has evolved, and demand and usage has increased, the Library has increasingly relied on knowledge and expertise of Library staff with minimal professionally designated support staff to maintain the Library's critical network infrastructure.

The Library Technology Supervisor position (23001) is an employee designated by description to manage the daily maintenance and support of the Library's network and technology devices. This role has been funded via Special Funds and experiences both recruitment and retention challenges given the funding uncertainty of each year. This has resulted in extended response times and delays in technology projects and help desk support with the potential to impact support to over 500 devices that our residents come to rely on daily. The Library has submitted requests for this position be considered in the General Funds Budget each year since 2020, but budgetary constraints have impacted the opportunity to change to fund source.

The Supervising Librarian position (2010) leads the work of the Ives Squared Makerspace and Emerging Technologies Hub at the Ives Main Library. This department has played a positive and important role in supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem in New Haven through Maker Faires, grant workshops and education classes for 3D Printers, the Laser Cutter, the Carvey Machine and other new technology tools, making technology tools that otherwise may be inaccessible or cost prohibitive accessible to the public at no-cost.

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This supervisor role and this innovative space continue to have an ongoing impact on entrepreneurs, non-profit partners and creatives across New Haven in the heart of downtown. This position is important in our ability to support career pathways, and ongoing education of new technology for the public. Transferring this position to Special Funds and our continued advocacy of funding is essential in building digital competency with our residents.

Both positions are essential to the department's continued work in public service to the New Haven Community. These budget transfers will support the long-term sustainability of the Library's technology infrastructure and provide necessary ongoing support for public technology resources in our Ives Squared Makerspace and across all five public library locations.

I urge your favorable review and action on this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Bernhey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maria Bernhey  
City Librarian and Director  
New Haven Free Public Library