

ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS APPROPRIATING \$53.0 MILLION FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TO IMPLEMENT PHASE 3 PANDEMIC RECOVERY INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 global pandemic has created severe social and economic disruption across the world resulting to date the loss of over 820,000 lives in the United States of America and 9,100 lives in the State of Connecticut alone; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the “Act”) which includes approximately \$1.9 trillion in investments designed to address the public health emergency and the direct and adverse impacts to the economy, to people and to community wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, the Act provides direct support to the residents of New Haven in the form of supplemental unemployment insurance for dislocated workers, child tax credits to support our families and direct assistance to small business; and

WHEREAS, the Act also makes provision for a local fiscal recovery fund for use in response to the public health emergency arising out of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) and the negative economic impacts thereof, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work; for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Haven (City) is a qualifying local jurisdiction for receipt of funding pursuant to parameters of the local fiscal recovery fund and other provisions of the Act; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2021, the Board of Alders authorized acceptance of the local fiscal recovery fund pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, under Phase 1, the Board of Alders approved a \$26.3 million allocation for programs related to the “Summer Reset”, namely (1) youth engagement; (2) clean and safe; (3) arts and culture and (4) safe summer, as well as municipal cost recovery pursuant to LM 2021-0191 and various public safety and information technology initiatives pursuant to LM 2021-0399; and

WHEREAS, under Phase 2, the Board of Alders approved an \$8.0 million allocation to establish the Department of Community Resilience, pursuant to LM 2021-0335 and \$4.0 million for Police and Fire overtime pursuant to the FY23 General Fund Budget of the City of New Haven; and

WHEREAS, the City initiated the Civic Space community engagement program to solicit input on a future investment plan of local recovery funding with a particular focus on strategies that address the negative public health impacts and that address the economic harm to households, small business, nonprofits, impacted industries and the public sector as related to the COVID-19 public health emergency through social- and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS, consistent with President Biden’s Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government, the City has placed underscored the racial wealth gap and opportunities to create intergenerational wealth through the recovery process; and

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2022, the US Department of Treasury issued its final rule which regulates the use the local fiscal recovery fund and which takes effect on April 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City proposes an investment plan of \$53.0 million for programs to address youth engagement and early childhood; housing through the I'm Home Initiative; wealth creation and economy; vocational and technical initiatives; the climate emergency; public health and infrastructure; and the New Haven Land Bank all as more particularly detailed in Exhibit 1; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that Justin Elicker, Mayor of the City of New Haven, is hereby authorized and directed to execute such documentation as may be required for funding local recovery funds and other funding as may be made available to the City under the American Rescue Plan Act process (which documentation may include (inter alia) an indemnification of the appropriate federal agency or other public or quasi-public organization involved with respect to the provision of such funding) and to execute any agreements, amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the City with respect to all other matters pertaining to such application; and

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board of Alders authorizes the City to draw down from the from the American Rescue Plan, local fiscal recovery fund for the purposes set forth in Exhibit 1; and

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Board of Alders shall determine the program and method for appropriation of remaining funding following receipt and consideration of a request from the Mayor in a manner consistent with the Act.

EXHIBIT 1
PHASE 3 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

1. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & EARLY CHILDHOOD	\$10.0M
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1.1 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FUND

Funding to be used to cover [1] Seasonal Staffing, including funding of the youth employment program and staffing for the recreational programming; [2] Programming, including funding of programming for youth of all ages and their families through the New Haven Department of Youth and Recreation; and [3] Staffing, including funding of full-time staffing to support implementation of youth engagement programs.

1.2 EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

Funds to be used for early childcare workforce development through education to career pipeline and business support through promoting affordable homeownership for family providers. Funds will also be used to build common application and family subsidy portal to ease access for families looking for services. Funds will also support expansion grants for existing providers to extend hours of operations and/or capacity.

1.3 YOUTH CENTERS

Funding to be used for the development, programming / services and operation of new and existing youth centers with priority on reuse of existing space where feasible and with the goal of increasing coverage where feasible.

2. I'M HOME INITIATIVES	\$10.0M
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2.1 NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Funds to be used in furtherance of wealth creation through affordable homeownership and may be used for down payment assistance; closing costs and support for acquisition and development of single-family and two-family dwellings as well as accessory dwelling units for impacted homeowners.

2.2 FAIR HOUSING FUND

Funds to be used to support technology upgrades and program management for residential license inspections, Fair Rent Commission and gap financing for development projects with affordable housing components, including projects with a supportive housing component.

2.3 RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Funds to be used to offset the cost of housing for impacted or disproportionately impacted households who are not currently receiving state or federal housing assistance. Funds may be used in conjunction with Financial Services Center (see 3.3) in part to support housing navigators, development of an affordable unit registry and Fair Housing programs.

3. WEALTH CREATION & ECONOMY

\$10.0M

3.1 SMALL BUSINESS FUND

Funds to be used to provide direct grant support to small businesses and organizations supporting small business, with particular emphasis on Black- and Latinx-owned businesses. The application process will focus strategies to address negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with robust outreach to ensure that eligible businesses are encouraged to apply with a low barrier to entry. Examples of support include small grants for physical upgrades to facilities, modernization initiatives, cultural equity and technical support to expand existing technical support services to Black and Latinx businesses including small contractors in the construction sector. These services will include technical assistance to increase access to institutional capital and recovery programs, as well as legal, marketing and networking assistance.

3.2 ECONOMIC RESILIENCY FUND

Funds to be used for larger grants in support of recovery through innovation and start-up business development all designed to address negative impact or improve economic competitiveness. Priority funding will be deployed on a matching basis with other sources for economic development initiatives including business, innovation and real estate project development.

3.3 FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTER

Funds to be used to support the Financial Empowerment Center to grow and more intentionally market existing banking, debt management and financial

planning programs to underserved communities. Examples of expenses including outside contractor support, addition of staff of up to five (5) counselor/navigator position, planning, strategy and partnership development activities.

3.4 ARTS AND CULTURE

Funds to be used to support creative entrepreneurs through small business technical, marketing and financial assistance consistent with the Cultural Equity Plan.

4.	VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE	\$8.0M
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4.1 VO-TECH INITIATIVE

Funds to be used to launch a comprehensive Vo-Tech Initiative with the goal of creating vocational and technical school together with a training and entrepreneurial pipeline that guides New Haven residents through the process of attaining living wage careers in growing industries. Examples of programs to be supported include pre-development and feasibility of a new vocational-technical school, middle-college vocational and technical programs, community navigators and mentors, entrepreneurial development and training for young adults. Funds may be used on a matching basis in a manner consistent with program goals.

5.	CLIMATE EMERGENCY	\$5.0M
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5.1 CARBON FREE FUTURE PROGRAM

Funds will be used for programs that will have a demonstrated carbon- and cost savings. Examples include energy efficiency measures for impacted or disproportionately impacted households residing in single-, two- and three-family buildings, non-carbon based heating, cooling and insulating systems, demand responsive and smart metering systems and LED lighting. Specific funding to be set aside to train small construction contractors. Funding also will be used to support municipal government services through carbon reductions and cost savings initiatives, including municipally-owned assets, solar installations and rolling stock.

6. PUBLIC HEALTH	\$6.0M
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6.1 COVID RESPONSE AND HEALTH SAFETY FUND

Funds to support ongoing investments in the New Haven Public Health Department related to coronavirus response, public health initiatives and general services. Examples include funding for community outreach workers; lead abatement and prevention program support; Healthy Homes campaign and equipment to support general regulatory functions.

6.2 PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES FUND

Funds to be used for capital improvements at parks and public spaces citywide, including public health measures in parks and areas designated for preservation, climate resilient infrastructure and upgrades to outdoor recreation opportunities.

7. NEW HAVEN LAND BANK	\$4.0M
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8.1 NEW HAVEN LAND BANK

Funds to be used to establish and operate a new Land Bank to support government services and address negative economic impacts of the pandemic with the authority to accept real property by foreclosure, gift, exchange or other means for the purpose or rehabilitating the property and Connecticut Public Act 19-92 related to the appointment of a receiver to take possession of vacant, blighted property for the purpose of rehabilitation together with associated planning and administrative functions.