



Justin Elicker
Mayor

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



Tirzah F. Kemp
Director

October 23, 2025

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

Dear Honorable President Walker-Myers,

I am pleased to submit for your consideration the attached order. The Department of Community Resilience's Office of Violence Prevention requests approval to enter into an agreement in the amount of \$250,901.64 with Goodwill of Southern New England to coordinate and execute the opening and operation of the city's Reentry Welcome Center to address the approximate 800-900 individuals returning to New Haven from incarceration in an attempt to reduce recidivism, gun violence, violent crime, and other offenses through a criminal violence intervention, trauma-informed, and public health approach.

In October 2023, the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance awarded the City of New Haven \$2,000,000 for three years to expand and enhance the City's Program for Reintegration, Engagement, Safety, and Support. Using this award, and with Board of Alders approval in 2024, the City of New Haven entered into multiple agreements with various vendors to implement the activities funded through this grant through September 30, 2026. The Office of Violence Prevention recently issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the "Reentry Welcome Center Supporting Returning Citizens to the City of New Haven" on August 14, 2025, and Goodwill of Southern New England was selected as a vendor to further implement the activities funded through this grant. With this agreement, the Office of Violence Prevention, in partnership with Goodwill of Southern New England would be able to continue its collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations that are deeply engrained within New Haven and expand and enhance opportunities for public safety, victim support services, and an effort to reduce violence through the Reentry Welcome Center. The overarching goal of this agreement is to address gun violence as the public health crisis that it is, and work amongst our partners to take a criminal violence intervention and public health approach to reducing gun violence, crime, and victimization.

The contract with Goodwill of Southern New England is set to begin on January 1, 2026, contingent on Board of Alders approval, and extend through September 2026, as per the funding source.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please contact me at 203-946-7846 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Tirzah Kemp
Director, Department of Community Resilience

NEW HAVEN IT ALL HAPPENS HERE

165 Church Street, 2nd Floor - New Haven, CT 06510