



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510-2010
(203) 946-6483

February 27, 2023

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders

Dear President Walker-Myers,

We respectfully submit to the Board of Alders the attached Order calling for a workshop regarding City policy and services that support equitable civic, social, and economic opportunities for immigrant residents. The City of New Haven has long served as a refuge for immigrants from around the world, regardless of documentation. In 2006, the New Haven Police Department issued General Order 06 - 2, which prohibits officers from inquiring about immigration status. In 2007, the Board of Alders voted to issue the nation's first municipal identification cards to all residents. Via these and other actions, the City of New Haven defined itself as a "Sanctuary City" and held fast to this commitment even through threats of loss of federal funding from the Trump administration.

Efforts to expand protections, access to services, and opportunities for civic engagement for immigrant residents have also occurred at the state and federal levels. Last year, the Connecticut General Assembly expanded HUSKY Health Insurance eligibility for undocumented children 12 years and under and, this year, legislation purposes to expand eligibility to age 26. In addition, State Representative Juan Candelaria just introduced legislation to enable undocumented residents to vote in municipal and state elections. Federal immigrants reform advocacy also continues, with ongoing efforts to provide long-awaited stability via a path to citizenship for millions of DACA recipients and other immigrant youth.

With activity on all these levels and more work to be done to ensure that immigrant residents of New Haven experience equitable access to city programs and services, fewer barriers to civic participation, and all available protections against exploitation, we write to request a workshop to reaffirm New Haven's status as an immigrant-friendly "Sanctuary City" and convene key officials to discuss areas where new planning, implementation, and legislative changes can be pursued.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Guzhnay
ALEX GUZHNAVY
Ward 1, Alder

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Alder, Ward 4

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