



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

JUSTIN ELICKER, MAYOR

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SINCE 1958

June 26, 2026

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

President Walker-Myers:

I am writing to formally request consideration from the Board of Alders regarding the City's application for an exception to the City Charter requirement concerning resident elector status for the Chief of Police, Mr. David Zannelli.

As you are aware, the City Charter mandates that all appointed officials must hold resident elector status unless a case-specific exception is granted pursuant to the criteria outlined in Sec. 2-221 of the New Haven Code of Ordinances. Based on the recommendation from the Mayor and the certification of the City's Personnel Director as outlined by Ordinance, an exception is being sought for Mr. Zannelli in his role as the Police Chief.

Mr. Zannelli has served in the New Haven Police Department since 2008, amassing over 20 years of law enforcement experience and having worked his way through all the ranks in the New Haven Police Department. He has served in all possible supervisory ranks and prior to his confirmation by the Board of Alders to serve as the Police Chief, served as the Assistant Chief of Police. Furthermore, Mr. Zannelli holds a master's degree in public administration, a masters certificate and bachelor's in administration of justice. He has also graduated from the FBI National Academy and from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Senior Management Institute for Police. His dedication, expertise, and commitment to the betterment of our City have been exemplary and demonstrate the City's commitment to retaining and promoting from within.

However, it is also pertinent to note that Mr. Zannelli currently owns a home in Mystic, Connecticut where he currently raises his three school-aged children. One of his children has never attended a different school while another has attended the same school since kindergarten. Selling this home would result in an economic and personal loss for Mr. Zannelli and his family.

In light of these circumstances, we believe that granting an exception to the resident elector status requirement for the Police Chief is not only justified but also crucial for the continued progress and prosperity of our City.

Therefore, I urge the Board of Alders to carefully consider this application and to grant the necessary exception to allow Mr. Zannelli to continue serving our City in his capacity as the Police Chief. Doing so will not only acknowledge his exceptional contributions but also ensure the continued success and advancement of New Haven.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that your careful consideration will lead to a decision that is in the best interest of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', is positioned above the typed name.

Sean Matteson
Chief of Staff