



Justin Elicker | *Mayor* Gwendolyn B. Williams | *Director*
CITY OF NEW HAVEN YOUTH and RECREATION DEPARTMENT

March 9, 2023

Honorable Board of Alders
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Greetings and Salutations:

Locally known as the Q House, the Dixwell Community Center has deep roots in the Dixwell Community. Built in 1924 at 98 Dixwell Avenue on land donated by Dixwell Congregational Church, this establishment has served local youth and has become a base for neighborhood groups, charities, and other civic organizations. It has offered music, drama, and art classes; sponsored trips; and organized sports.

The Dixwell Q-House currently provides space to the Stetson Library, Elderly Services and Cornell Scott Hill Health Center. The Dixwell Q-House also includes a gym, recording studio, meeting and conference areas, kitchen, and a basketball court with seating to cater to the interests of the community.

In fiscal year 2021-2022, The City of New Haven entered into a three-year agreement with Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP) to manage the newly opened Q-House. LEAP has brought their experience with delivering youth, adult, and community-oriented programming to the historic Q-House space. During this first year of opening the Q-House to the public, LEAP has worked with community partners and the City of New Haven to offer a wide range of services, activities, and programs to support the City's interests and needs.

Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership is expected to be open through the week and some evenings and weekends. Additionally, LEAP is expected to operate in the Greater New Haven area and spend a significant amount of time immersed in the New Haven Community. For consistency and continuity of the Q-House management, The City advertised a

Request for Proposal (RFP) to extend the Q-House management. The new RFP would supersede the original three-year agreement.

Based on the sole response from LEAP, the City is seeking approval to enter into a multi-year agreement with LEAP for a period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028, with the option to cancel at any time as mutually agreed by both parties. Your consideration of this item is greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

Gwendolyn B. Williams

Gwendolyn B. Williams
Director Youth and Recreation



Michael Gormany
Acting Controller / Budget Director