

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Justin Elicker, Mayor

OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

165 Church St, 2nd Floor

New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (475) 331-3769

November 22, 2023

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

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (CT DEEP) AND SIGN ANY ASSOCIATED STATE AGREEMENTS, AGREEMENTS WITH CONTRACTORS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY BE DESIRABLE OR NECESSARY, INCLUDING ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS, CONCERNING THE 2023 STATE DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA) FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ELECTRIC STREET SWEEPING VEHICLE

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers,

The Office of Climate & Sustainability, in partnership with the Department of Parks and Public Works, is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the 2023 State of Connecticut Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant program for the purchase of an electric street sweeping vehicle.

Cars, trucks, and other mobile sources account for 36% of the carbon pollution and 67% of the smog-forming air pollution in Connecticut. Gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles along I-91 and I-95 have a severe impact on New Haven's air quality, leading Fair Haven, Downtown, and the Hill to see some of the highest rates of respiratory illness and heart disease in the state. To address this pollution, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is allocating to Connecticut a minimum of \$425,846.00, authorized under the federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), for projects to reduce diesel pollution in the state.

The Office of Climate & Sustainability will apply for grant funding under DERA for the purchase of an electric street sweeping vehicle, which would replace a diesel-powered street sweeping vehicle that is currently in operation. The 2021 Electrification Resolution calls on the City to electrify all municipal vehicles by the end of 2030. The City has taken steps to electrify its fleet by purchasing light duty vehicles and by utilizing the DERA program to purchase an electric refuse vehicle, due to be delivered at the end of this year. This electric street sweeping vehicle would be an important next step toward upholding that commitment and meaningfully reducing the City's contribution to air pollution and smog. This reduction in air pollution from vehicles that regularly circulate through our neighborhoods has a direct impact on our residents who suffer from asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

With DERA funding and a federal incentive payment of \$40,000, the City can pilot an all-electric street sweeping vehicle at a cost comparable to a new diesel vehicle. The increased upfront cost of roughly \$20,000 will be recouped in the near term through decreased operational costs, such as reduced maintenance and fuel expenses. In the long term, in addition to the reduction in air pollution, the City will realize significant operational savings.

We respectfully request your honorable Board's favorable action on the attached Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding through the DERA program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (475) 331-3769.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Winter

Executive Director