



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 Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement, Mr. Robert Dillon.

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. Dillon in his role as the Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement.

Mr. Dillon has worked for the City of New Haven since 2017, where in April of 2023, he was appointed as the Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement. In this position, Mr. Dillon plays a crucial role in maintaining high quality building standards across the City of New Haven to the benefit of city residents in addition to contributing to the overall growth of the City. Mr. Dillon also possesses a highly specialized certification as a State of Connecticut building official, of which there are no individuals currently on the state's certification roster who reside in New Haven apart from Mr. Dillon. This certification naturally makes it extremely difficult to find and hire qualified candidates.

Mr. Dillon has owned a home in North Haven prior to his appointment as the Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement, representing an important personal and financial interest for him. Nonetheless, Mr. Dillon demonstrated a deep commitment to the City by maintaining a second residence in New Haven to comply with the residency requirement. However, doing so imposes an additional financial and personal cost to Mr. Dillon.

In light of these circumstances, we believe that granting an exception to the resident elector status requirement for the current Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement 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. Dillon to continue serving our City in his capacity as the Director of Office of Building Inspection & Enforcement. 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,



Sean Matteson
Chief of Staff