

Liz Demsky  
1010 Whalley Avenue, Unit H  
New Haven, CT, 06515  
Ward 27

**Fund Our Future**  
**Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request**  
**and to increase funding for Public Libraries**

Public Hearing of the New Haven Board of Alders

April 20, 2023

I am a proud School Counselor at Wilbur Cross High School and a resident of New Haven. As a voter in Ward 27, I call on you to approve the NHPS budget request. Since beginning my tenure at Wilbur Cross almost a decade ago, I have seen firsthand the severe lack of resources my students and colleagues face. It is without question that our students deserve the same high quality schools that students in wealthy districts enjoy. By not fully funding our schools, we are doing a disservice to our city. We must invest in our schools and in our future.

I also urge you to fund our public libraries by dedicating 1% of the City budget to the New Haven Free Public Libraries.

In my work as a School Counselor, I alone serve a growing population of approximately 240 students. I would like to emphasize the word “growing” as myself along with my colleagues are welcoming new students almost weekly. Over the last 10 years, Wilbur Cross currently has the highest enrollment of students at almost 1,700. Looking forward, we are expecting an enrollment of 450 Multilingual Learners alone for this coming school year. As a city, we have declared that we are a sanctuary. I myself am a major advocate for our immigrant students. However, the city is not providing adequate supports or staffing to fulfill this mission. For example, my department lost a position several years ago, when Dr. Birks was Superintendent, and it has not been added back to date. Having an additional counselor would allow us to meet the unique academic, social, and career needs of our students more effectively. When outsider collaborators come to visit, they are shocked when they learn we only have 7 School Counselors for the school of our size and with students that have particularly high needs.

Along the same lines, we are in dire need of hiring additional bilingual teachers and teachers of English as a Second or Other Language. Lastly, we need to fill vacancies that

are leaving our students with months of learning lost. This includes not only teachers but also paraeducators that allow our students of all abilities to properly access their education. We are losing talented and caring educators to other nearby districts, as salaries are not competitive and other staff are not even making a living wage. It is a disgrace.

Without a full budget, students are truly suffering as their needs continue to go unmet. In addition to teacher shortages, many of our schools are lacking full time librarians and nurses and more. It is incomprehensible that NHPS continue this way when Connecticut has a 6 billion-dollar surprise. We cannot continue depriving our city's students of a high quality education system that they deserve.

They are our future. New Haven Public Schools and Public Libraries are the most important thing that you can fund this year as they have such far reaching implications. Investing in our schools can make a world of difference.

I urge you to fully fund the NHPS budget request and increase the libraries budget. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Liz Demsky

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:43 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Affordable housing

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**From:** Karen Guillen <kamari\_kg@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:31 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Affordable housing

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Good evening , I am a new haven resident and we need affordable and safe housing in safe locations. There are no affordable houses or apartments available at all . There are a lot of requirements for the security deposit and the rents are out of control and not affordable for anyone. It is causing a lot of homelessness and also making large families live in what they can afford which is a very small apartment if that . This is a very serious issue that must be addressed. Thank you .

Sent from my iPhone

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:42 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Testimony no affordable housing

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**From:** HOUSING CRISIS <housingcrisis20222022@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:47 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony no affordable housing

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I have been living in new haven ct for over 10 years, single mom household with children, i cannot find another place to move to for over 10 years, there is nothing affordable and what is less expensive is in really bad areas to live in that are not safe. For my childrens sake i have not moved because i dont want them walking around in dangerous to live in areas. I would like to see change in Connecticut, i would like to be able to live anywhere in Connecticut state, preferably more peaceful towns near me like north haven and guilford ct. There is not a hud housing authority in every town either so people trying to move their voucher to that town are not allowed to. People living here should not have to live badly or in danger just because we have less money to survive with. Also people with housing choice vouchers are also not finding anywhere to go, they feel completely stuck , alot of times theyre in outdated apartments with no comfort, no central air, old rugs in unit for years, in apartments that if you want it to look better you need to spend out of your own money and do repairs to not be embarrassed if you want to have company over. A paint can is almost 25 dollars so repairs add up. Alot of apartments have scrap doors which are too cheap and get damaged in moisture like when you shower. We need change, affordable and safe housing should be a priority in the state of Connecticut. By anonymous, new haven ct resident.

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:39 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Public Testimony for the 4/20 Board of Alders Meeting

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**From:** Amy B <amy.boratko@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Testimony for the 4/20 Board of Alders Meeting

### **Please be cautious**

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From: Amy Boratko

1262 Forest Rd, New Haven, CT

Ward 25

Fund Our Future  
Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request  
and to increase funding for Public Libraries

Public Hearing of the New Haven Board of Alders

April 20, 2023

I am a resident of New Haven's Ward 25 and a parent of two children in NHPS. I call on you to approve the NHPS budget request. Our students are facing a crisis of unmet needs. There is no reason why our children should be deprived of the excellent schools that kids in wealthy towns enjoy. Fund our future and the schools that our children deserve.

I urge you to fund our public libraries by dedicating 1% of the city's budget to the New Haven Free Public Library system.

My daughters are both students at Edgewood, and my husband and I have made New Haven our home for the past twenty years. We are proud to raise our children in the city and have them attend public schools. However, my husband teaches at a public school in Darien, CT, so we see daily the differences between what is available to children in our state's cities verses what's on offer in suburban towns. In Darien, \$4,000 more is spent per pupil. That's a huge difference--all for just living in a certain zip code. At Edgewood, we see bright and amazing children and talented and dedicated educators. But we see that these educators face lower wages, insufficient supplies, and budgets that don't adequately address the needs of the children they have

committed their lives to educate. We have seen classes go without sufficient coverage when teachers take necessary leaves and positions go unfilled. Parents who have some privilege rally to supply classrooms with essentials--pencils, paper, Kleenex, and even healthy snacks to aid children who may rely solely on school meals for nourishment. Our schools desperately deserve an adequate budget.

We also need to continue to funding our public library system. The libraries in New Haven have been a cornerstone of our family's New Haven experience. We took my children to stay-and-play during our parental leaves and make regular trips to branches a habit. It's a quiet place to work, enjoy programming, or to visit when any of us want to explore a new issue. And our libraries and their staff are terrific--with wonderful programming, space, and collections. This year, as part of my job at Yale Rep, I've had the opportunity to go to every branch to present about the theater--and few things have made me more proud to be a New Haven resident and card-carrying NHFPL member than meeting librarians and patrons across the city!

Both schools and libraries are crucial to keeping our democracy, and our city, thriving. Approving the budget for NHPS and dedicating 1% of the budget to NHFPL is what will keep our city strong. These two issues are linked--and by keeping these strong resources of public education (including the libraries in that) we will buttress the strong foundation of our city's civic life in so many ways.

Connecticut is the wealthiest state in the country, with a 6-billion-dollar surplus and so many billionaire residents. New Haven hosts Yale University and its mind-boggling endowment. Yet, we struggle to provide the most basic needs--public education and libraries--for our residents. New Haven also supports all the surrounding suburbs with our infrastructure, hospitals, academic institutions, and cultural activities--yet children in the city limits don't get the same money put towards their own education. I know that those are bigger issues to fix and ones that will take work beyond this budget cycle.

In the meantime, we can prioritize NHPS and NHFPL, and I urge you to do just that. Our schools have amazing people in them, just fully fund the budget so they thrive as they deserve.

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:04 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request and to increase funding for Public Libraries

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**From:** Samantha Conway <samconway.smc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:07 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request and to increase funding for Public Libraries

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**Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request  
and to increase funding for Public Libraries**  
Public Hearing of the New Haven Board of Alders  
April 20, 2023

I am a teacher and a resident in Ward 25.

I call on you to approve the NHPS budget request. Our students are facing a crisis of unmet needs. There is no reason why our children should be deprived of the excellent schools that kids in wealthy towns enjoy. Fund our future. Fund the schools that our children deserve.

I also urge you to fund our public libraries by dedicating 1% of the City budget to the New Haven Free Public Libraries.

Share your story as an educator, student, or family member:

I, as well as many other teachers in NHPS teach in a school that is in a constant state of crisis. The members of our school and our community are facing homelessness, evictions, lack of health care, and lack of basic human needs. Our school population is comprised of nearly 30% special education students. This is higher than any other school in the district. We are fighting an uphill battle to keep our special education classrooms staffed each day. We also have one of the highest amounts of chronic absenteeism in the district. We need support in place to get our students into school. We need support in place to service our students equitably.

In October of this school year, our 7/8 grade students were offered the opportunity to transfer to other schools in the district. This is because we did not have certified teachers to fill give

students entering high school the education they not only need to succeed but that they deserved. The teachers, staff, and administration at my school are dedicated to providing each student with emotional, physical, and academic success. Regardless of the drive and determination we exhibit, there are barriers that are out of our control. These are hurdles that we are not able to jump alone. We do not have a music teacher. We do not have a PPT chair. We do not have a 5th-grade teacher. We do not have paras. We need these roles filled.

Our school itself is unique as it is two buildings. One side prek - 4, the other 5-8. Our school is run down. Windows are broken, doors do not lock, doors do not shut, lights do not work, and classrooms are missing keys. Teachers have advocated. Administration has advocated. Yet we still are dealing with these unsafe facility issues and teaching with a smile on our faces because we are committed.

Our students want to learn, they love to learn. We have time and time again been in the top 5 schools in the district utilizing MyPath, the student practice component of our math curriculum. We have shown amazing growth in the completion of SecondStep, our Social Emotional Learning curriculum. Teachers put in their own money to make sure students were able to get a new book at the Scholastic Book Fair. Our students want to learn. The teachers and administration want this to happen. We need the funding to make this dream a reality.

**The per-pupil funding** in New Haven is \$20,839 compared to \$26,308 in Greenwich. Do our students deserve less than students in Greenwich? No. Our students deserve more.

**Our students are suffering a crisis of unmet needs.** A growing number of NHPS students are experiencing homelessness and evictions. Students are enduring an ongoing shortage of teachers and staff. At many schools, students have no full-time school nurse. At eight schools, students have no full-time librarian. At 10 other schools, students only have a part time librarian. The paraeducators who help provide individual attention to our students – and particularly to students who have special needs – are leaving the profession because they are still not paid a living wage.

It doesn't have to be this way. Connecticut is the wealthiest state in the country. The entire NHPS budget (\$400 million) is just 0.01% of the Yale University endowment (\$40 billion). **Connecticut has a 6 billion-dollar surplus** and an overflowing Rainy Day Fund. Twelve billionaires in Connecticut collectively own \$75 billion dollars – and just during the pandemic they accumulated more than \$15 billion. There is no reason why New Haven children and youth should be deprived of the resources they deserve to get a high quality education.

Our children are our future. New Haven Public Schools and Public Libraries are the most important thing that you can fund this year. Most of the people in this room are products of New Haven Public Schools. You have once sat in the same rooms as our children now. New Haven has produced Ivy students, inventors, creators, musicians, politicians, teachers, social workers, the backbones of our society. Why are we giving these students, the communities, and this city less than they deserve? We constantly preach about equity in this district. This is not equity. Please help us give our children the opportunity to not only survive, but to thrive.

I urge you to fully fund the NHPS budget request and increase the library's budget. Thank you.

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:02 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Wilson Public Library

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**From:** Carla Miller <carlamiller198528@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:05 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Wilson Public Library

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Hello, my name is Carla Miller. I have a 7 year old son. We live in the Hill section of New Haven and we are regular visitors of the Wilson Library. This library has been very helpful to us, because of the wide variety of books available for my son and I. I am able to fax important paperwork, and use the computers when needed. All the librarians are very helpful. They provide me with needed resources. I would love for the library to have a children's librarian for crafts and book readings. My son is diagnosed with Autism and he thrives on routine and structure. The Wilson Library has helped with this tremendously. He is always so excited when we take a trip to the library and he looks forward to this regularly. Thanks so much for your time. Please consider increasing funds to the Wilson Library. It will benefit my family, and so many others in this area.

Carla Miller

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:01 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: April 20, 2023 Testimony

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**From:** CAMEO THORNE <cthorne4@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 8:45 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** April 20, 2023 Testimony

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Cameo Thorne

I am a teacher and the Restorative Practices Coach for NHPS - Central Office

I call on you to approve the NHPS budget request. Our students are facing a crisis of unmet needs. I would like to address school climate and safety.

The primary goal of school is student achievement. Student achievement is vital to our students' future success in life. I don't mean success in getting a job, I mean success in navigating a rapidly changing world, where soon, robots will do much, if not most, of the minimum wage jobs. I mean understanding enough about the world to advocate politically for themselves. I mean being able to build the life they want no matter what they choose 30 years from now.

Why aren't we achieving this? School climate is our biggest enemy! We need to intentionally take the time to build a culturally inclusive school community. I will repeat that. We must intentionally take the time to build a culturally inclusive community.

80% of restorative practices are all about building that community. When community is well built and maintained, conflict, fighting, absenteeism decreases and engagement rises. Cultural inclusivity is not taught. It is built through shared stories and exploration of our personal perspectives.

Restorative practices is not simply training. It is a paradigm shift that opens the door to the cocreation of community where all voices are represented. This paradigm shift requires time, follow up training for all school staff, and designated time in the day for the community to be built and maintained.

We lose valuable learning time to conflict, addressing student behaviors, and trying to help students catch up when they have been absent. When we use the tools of restorative practices and build the community, time is regained, and we see the students in front of us instead of the task that needs to be completed.

To fully implement restorative practices across our district, we need adequate funds for training, for coaching, and for teachers to have time to build community with their students.

ISS rooms need to be in school support rooms with social workers who help students work through challenges in order to be able to succeed.

When we returned to in person schooling, you may remember there were fights in many schools. The first day back, I was at a school where three different fights broke out. They were not connected, but in each instance, students said, 'better that we fight here because if we do it someplace else, someone might end up dead.' Students were bringing their conflicts to the safest place they knew.

After years in the district, this was concerning because in my experience, high school students would never admit that.

What changed? The entire country is flashing a huge billboard that says to our students, "the adults cannot keep you safe" There were 647 mass shootings last year, according to the New York Times, 160 since the beginning of 2023. If you are a student in New Haven gunshots are a reality.

Part of the school climate challenge is getting students and staff to feel safe. Before Covid, YFCE surveyed students who were engaged in community building circles. One 5th grader wrote, "I now trust my classmates."

Brene Brown says, vulnerability is required for learning and innovation to thrive.

Let's fully fund schools so students can thrive!

Thank you,

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:08 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Melody Gallagher BoA testimony 4.20.23 BoE budget approval

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**From:** M Gallagher <melody.gallagher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:35 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Melody Gallagher BoA testimony 4.20.23 BoE budget approval

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Melody Gallagher  
32 Barnett St Apt D21  
New Haven  
Ward 25

**Fund Our Future**  
**Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request**  
At the  
Public Hearing of the New Haven Board of Alders  
April 20, 2023

I am an art teacher at Wilbur Cross High School, an Executive board member of the New Haven Federation of Teachers and a resident of New Haven. As a voter in ward 25, I call on you to approve the NHPS budget request.

Our students are facing a crisis of unmet needs. There is no reason why our future leaders, our future taxpayers- our students should be deprived of the excellent schools that kids in wealthy towns enjoy. Fund our future. Fund the schools that our students, our school staff and our city deserves.

As a visual arts teacher who has taught in 7 New Haven Public School buildings over the last 17 years, I can assure you that there is a greater need for funds to directly be dedicated to student-facing spaces and services.

Whereas with the approval of a fully-funded NHPS 2023-24 budget will serve us all well, there is also a need for us to come together as a community, as city employees, students, caregivers and you- our city leaders to ensure that our schools and students receive equitable funding moving forward from the state level. I hope you will join us in pursuing that endeavor moving forward as well.

Thank you,  
Melody Gallagher

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:07 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Yes! I love our Library!

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**From:** Rubin, Ellen <ellen.rubin@ynhh.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 5:36 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Yes! I love our Library!

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Since I was a little girl, the Public Library has been a magical space, a safe refuge, and an amazing source of information, assistance and pure delights.

Today, as an actively employed senior citizen, the Library continues to inspire, to teach, to provide film festivals, public forums, and creative sharing of art, theatre and poetry.

Our Public Library offers invaluable, much needed and appreciated resources for our homeless and at-risk populations – my patients - who rely on the Library's Internet on a daily basis, winter and summer. It is only at the Libraries that they can access needed medical and social services, substance treatment programs, government subsidies and networking and employment opportunities. Many of my patients live without the personal resources so many of us take for granted: they lack a return telephone number, a private place in which to conduct telehealth interviews, or resources to create / update a resume. Our Public Libraries sustain life, provide hope and create community.

Please enrich and increase the funding, staffing and hours of the best resource in our city.

Thank you for the wisdom to support diversity, justice, safe access – and to continue to support wisdom!!

Warmly, Ellen

## YaleNewHavenHealth

Yale New Haven Psychiatric Hospital

Ellen Rubin, APRN, MSN  
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner  
YNHH Behavioral Health Services  
Adult Intensive Outpatient Program  
425 George Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
ellen.rubin@ynhh.org  
203 784-8727 (office) 203 823-6739 (work cell)

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## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:05 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Budget Hearing New Haven Free Public Library

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**From:** Henry.nhpc.Lowendorf <grnhpeacecouncil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:55 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget Hearing New Haven Free Public Library

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2023.04.19

To the Board of Alders  
Finance Committee

I urge you to provide the New Haven Free Public Library the funds it needs and has requested to move at full speed ahead.

The peace and justice community has many times depended on the New Haven Free Public Library for space to meet, to engage audiences with wonderful speakers and videos. At no venue cost.

We have benefited from the A/V support and all the necessary maintenance and instruction to staff that goes with it. We have benefited from access to Books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs, computers. All publicly funded. As it should be.

Most recently in the Program Room just last Saturday we screened the excellent video "Eternal Harvest" about the ongoing killing and maiming of Laotians by US bombs still exploding nearly half a century after being dropped in the secret war on Laos of the 1960s and 1970s.

A few weeks earlier we heard from author Miriam Pemberton and Machinist leader John Harrity about the enormous US military budget that is sapping our society and how converting the US military economy to a green, peaceful one might be engineered. The topic of this talk is consistent with the wishes of New Haven voters who passed a referendum by a 6 to 1 margin in 2020 that called for cutting the military budget and redirecting the money to human needs, the needs of the people of New Haven and Connecticut.

Another example: A few years ago community activist and Yale labor leader Art Perlo reviewed economist Thomas Piketty's book, "Capital in the Twenty-First Century," also in the Program room of the main Public Library.

In utilizing the Library we are limited by availability of space, because so many groups and individuals also use the Ives branch and the neighborhood branches, which are currently on shortened schedules.

As individuals we take advantage of the books, audio books, DVDs, music CDs and computers. And respite the Library offers.

The New Haven Free Public Library, all its branches and its staff are a city treasure.

Regrettably, New Haven has for many years shortchanged the library because of lack of funding - not because there is no money, but because over 50% of our tax dollars are directed by elected officials in Washington away from human needs - recall the overwhelming support for the above mentioned referendum - to destruction and violence instead of spiritual uplift.

Moreover, the public Library provides an important avenue for spiritual, emotional and educational uplift.

Again I urge you to increase the Library budget from 0.7% of the city budget to 1%.

Sincerely,

Henry S. Lowendorf,  
Chair, Greater New Haven Peace Council  
42 Young St.  
New Haven, CT 06511-2953  
203-389-9547  
grnhpeacecouncil@gmail.com

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:04 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Board of Alders meeting 4/20/23

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**From:** vivian jefferson <vcb4life@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:49 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Board of Alders meeting 4/20/23

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Good Evening,

My name is Vivian Jefferson and I am submitting testimony for the Board of Alders 4/20/2023.

I will also be present tomorrow evening to testify in person.

Thank you.

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Vivian Jefferson  
Roberto Clemente  
Physical Education  
NHFT Building Steward

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:44 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Funding for the New Haven Public Library

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**From:** Susan Zimmerman <jasonsgirl1960@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 5:37 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Funding for the New Haven Public Library

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How do I love the New Haven Public Library?, Let me count the ways

- 1) The library itself is warm and inviting
- 2) The marble staircase and railings are a wonderful place to people watch before and after the library closes
- 3) The outdoor patio is delightful for lunch al fresco or enjoying dinner as the sun sets over the New Haven Green
- 4) They have a great selection of books, a very knowledgeable staff to guide you through all subjects from Religion, Foreign Languages, Political Science, Black History, A Arts and Sciences or an intriguing biography
- 5) The lower level has a great community room for lectures, presentations, musical performances, etc....  
There is also a branch of Liberty/Safe Haven Community Outreach, which provides guidance for Homeless, Hungry and Displaced Persons, bus passes, information on Warming Centers, Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens, Community Health Care Centers and more.
- 6) Lets not overlook the beautiful, light filled Tinkerlab, where you can learn to sew on a sewing machine, create something on the 3D Printer, learn about woodworking, or lots of other creative projects
- 7) There is a FREE PHONE for those on the go who might have left one at home or just need to make a quick phone call
- 8) And then there is SETH. . . Seth and I met when a woman was asking how to type a letter to a foreign embassy to sponsor a friend of hers. It was August, 2022 and I was in no particular hurry, so I offered to type her letter downstairs until it was JUST PERFECT. Seth appreciated my time and attention to detail, and alas we became friends. Seth inspired me to write this glowing review of My favorite, New Haven Public Library. The NHFPL is A NECESSARY HAVEN for many of New Haven's residents. IT IS A LEARNING CENTER, A TEACHING CENTER, A COMMUNITY CENTER, A PLACE FOR SELF EXPRESSION AND SELF IMPROVEMENT.

THE New Haven Public Library NEEDS TO RECEIVE ALL AVAILABLE FUNDING

THAT IS EARMARKED TO KEEP THESE PROGRAMS GOING. PROGRAMS  
THAT ENRICH THE LIVES OF NEW HAVEN RESIDENTS, AND THE MANY VISITORS  
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY \$\$\$\$\$

SUSAN Z.

**Donald Hayden**

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:43 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Fund Our Future Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request and to increase funding for Public Libraries  
**Attachments:** MLs in CT High Schools\_ \_Equity Moves\_ That Matter.pdf

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**From:** Kris Bengtson Mendoza <krisbengtsonmendoza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:16 AM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Fund Our Future Testimony in support of the NHPS budget request and to increase funding for Public Libraries

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**Fund Our Future Testimony in Support of the NHPS Budget Request  
and to Increase Funding for Public Libraries**  
Public Hearing of the New Haven Board of Alders  
April 20, 2023

Dear Alders,

I am a teacher at Wilbur Cross High School, spouse of a teacher at Fair Haven School, and parent of a 3rd grader at Davis Academy. I was honored to be named the 2021 New Haven Teacher of the Year, and I'm also a doctoral student of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at SCSU. I recently served on the NHPS Staffing Guidelines Committee and had the opportunity to present our findings about the staffing gap in our Multilingual Learner programming to your Education Committee last month. As a voter in Ward 26, I call on you to approve the NHPS budget request.

Please consider these remarkable annual per pupil expenditures (2020-21 numbers) in our comprehensive high schools, the "crown jewels" of our public educational system that serve the majority of our young people as we prepare them for the future:

Wilbur Cross HS: \$15,850  
Hillhouse HS: \$17,454  
Average urban comprehensive high school in CT: \$16,578  
Average across all CT high schools: \$20,718  
Average of top 15 spending suburban/rural high schools: \$25,357

This includes a mix of state, federal, and local funds, of course, and we must continue working together to push for equitable ECS funding from the state. But these numbers show how our schools with more

needs have about \$10,000 less per kid to work with. This is unconscionable. All of our schools, but particularly those that are not magnets and serve large multilingual learner (ML) populations, are really having to make do with substandard funding and staffing levels. CT has one of the most inequitable, regressive funding systems in the country, and studies have shown that, despite ECS funding, the situation is getting worse. Let's do what is within our power here today to fix this problem. I support a budget that funds our schools equitably.

Please consider the attached Policy Brief (unpublished draft), "MLs In CT High Schools: Equity Moves That Matter" for more information about this important issue.

Thank you,  
Kristin Bengtson Mendoza  
119 Vista Terrace, New Haven  
[krisbengtsonmendoza@gmail.com](mailto:krisbengtsonmendoza@gmail.com)  
(917)747-0528

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:41 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: NHBOA. 4-20-23 Budget Hearing Testimony.

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**From:** BERRYMAN, JONATHAN <JONATHAN.BERRYMAN@new-haven.k12.ct.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:22 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** NHBOA. 4-20-23 Budget Hearing Testimony.

Connecticut is sick!

The accountability data for our schools indicates that our educational systems are unwell and have been for some time, particularly in our urban areas.

Yet we are blessed, not because we are sick, but because our situation is readily curable.

When money is all you need to solve a health problem, you are in a blessed situation. When your health fails you and your wealth cannot cure you, you have a keener understanding of the blessing of being able to finance your way to better conditions.

Connecticut is currently in a blessed situation. The proper allocation of our financial wealth can cure our educational ills. Perplexingly, however, the call for more educational funding has been persistent and so have the deaf ears and stingy hearts of our elected and appointed officials.

If better days are ahead for CT, we must answer and resolve two questions : "Do we want to be healed?" and "Who is keeping us sick?"

Wanting to be healed requires that we stop reciting the failures of the past and move forward to embracing new solutions. Identifying and calling out those who are keeping us sick and inviting them to embrace the change in funding or leave is also our collective responsibility.

"Connecticut is well!" can only come by fully funding education. Are you part of our health or our illness? Your vote on the budget will tell your truth. Choose wisely.

Dr. Jonathan Q. Berryman  
Administrative Intern  
Hill Regional Career Magnet High School  
Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Excellence  
*Panther PRIDE will never hide.*

## Donald Hayden

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**From:** Public Testimony  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:40 PM  
**To:** Donald Hayden  
**Cc:** Adam Marchand  
**Subject:** Fw: Budget Testimony

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**From:** Lydia Broderick <lydia.broderick@yale.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony

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My name is Lydia Broderick. I live in New Haven and I would like to express my support for an increased budget for the library. I help to run the VITA site in the main branch of the library, and I have seen firsthand how important the library is not only as a resource for books but also for social services and crucial information for community members. The librarians are incredibly helpful and supportive of our work to provide free tax prep to the community. This year, with the support of the library, we helped over a thousand people file their taxes for free.

An increased budget for the library would allow the library to support services like ours. In particular, I support a Technology Advisor in the libraries. Many of the clients who use VITA services struggle to use computers on their own. Things like accessing tax forms or government benefits (or applying for jobs) often require computers. Having more support for library patrons seeking to use technology would be incredibly beneficial.