



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**

**WHALLEY/EDGEWOOD/BEAVER HILLS  
COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT TEAM**



**JUSTIN ELICKER  
MAYOR**

**BOARD OFFICERS:**

April 22, 2026

Rebecca Cramer  
*Chair*

Dear President Walker-Myers,

Silvia Taylor  
*Vice Chair*

On behalf of the Whalley/Edgewood/Beaver Hills Community Management Team, I am writing to express our support of the City of New Haven Office of Economic Development’s request to partner with the Connecticut HBCU Alumni Network to explore the possibility of bringing a HBCU to New Haven.

Robert Caplan  
*Treasurer*

Shirley Keung  
*Secretary*

In 2024, shortly before he sadly and suddenly passed away, my neighbor and former Ward 28 Alder Tom Ficklin introduced a resolution calling on the city to apologize for its role in blocking the development of a proposed college for the Black community in New Haven. At the time, he said, “We carry the legacy. We are a part of history, and we are making history.” These words stay with me, as I think about the opportunity that establishing a HBCU in New Haven presents.

Sgt. Jonathan Lambe  
*NHPD*

Laura Daniels  
*Livable Cities Initiative*

We have the opportunity to make history here, to learn from our past mistakes, and to bring an educational institution to the city that will do more than just serve our Black community. The HBCU could provide education in critical fields including biotechnology and quantum science with have become and are becoming drivers of our local economy. It would be an opportunity not just to develop the skills of talented young people who have grown up in New Haven but to bring students with interest and aptitude in these areas from across the country, who will in turn contribute to our local economy as they gain practical experience during their studies and potentially afterwards if they decide to stay in New Haven.

This exploratory work is essential to determine the feasibility and path ahead to make this HBCU a reality, but I’m struck by the fact that one of the potential locations is at Southern Connecticut State University, just down the street from Alder Ficklin’s home. Moving forward with this work carries on his legacy and is an opportunity to make the history we want to see for our city and for our world.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cramer