

April 20, 2023

Good evening Honorable Members of the Board of Alders Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the New Haven Free Public Library and the New Haven Public Schools. As chair of the NHFPL Board, as well as a city resident (946 Elm Street) and former teacher and teacher educator, I'm here to offer some appreciations and expectations going forward.

First, although the proposed City Librarian salary is not yet where it needs to be, the proposed increase is necessary and appreciated. Our search committee just selected finalists from a pool we would not have been able to attract without the promise of this higher salary. No doubt, its approval will be instrumental in securing the leadership that the library needs.

Second, we are heartened by the amendment to shift the Youth Services Librarian at the Wilson Branch from part- to full-time. Without question, this will have a huge positive impact in the Hill and systemwide.

Third, the Library deserves to be treated as a respected partner, given ample opportunity to consider, understand, and weigh in on decisions that impact its future. Thank you to this Committee for taking time to follow up with Interim City Librarian on the matter of the Library's shift in the City's organizational structure. We hope all will thrive under this new arrangement.

Finally, I want to underscore the importance of moving toward funding the library at or above **1% of the General Fund**. The current proposed budget doesn't put us on track for this *yet*. But it is what we *expect* next year, after so many years of public discussion (i.e., by library leadership, in Mayor Elicker's 2020 transition report, in the Cultural Equity Plan, etc.). A 1% allocation would increase the NHFPL budget by more than \$1.5 million. It would put NHFPL's allocation on par with those in comparable Connecticut cities (e.g., Bridgeport 1.6%, Hartford 1.3%, and Stamford 1.4% compared to 0.7% in New Haven).

Why does this allocation matter? In addition to being morally just, it is essential to sustaining exemplary services and extending impact further, as in the case of Sunday hours. We desperately need to **fund positions** and, relatedly, **raise salaries** at *all levels* in the organization.

I have often described the library as the City's literal circulation system. To extend the analogy, chronic attrition is akin to 'bleeding out.' Library staff keep leaving to better paid work, including *to systems where they can earn more for the same work*, even easier work with less responsibility. For example, the bilingual children's librarian at Fair Haven Branch wanted to stay here, but left for Hamden where she will do the same job for more than 10K in salary under easier working conditions. This is not just about needing to refill jobs again and again, it's about losing valued *people* who are known and trusted by kids and families and who understand the community cultural wealth in the neighborhoods where they work. This is a social capital *crisis*.

The same crisis has been unfolding in our **public schools, too**, where staff and students are carrying the heavy burden of funding inequity. We need our schools and libraries **fully** funded. As go our public libraries and schools, so goes our City. **Please fund our future**. Please approve the NHPS budget. Please approve a budget benefiting the library this year, and please ensure a 1% or more allocation next year.

Lauren Anderson
Chair, NHFPL Board of Directors

4/20/2023

Dear Members of the Finance Committee

I am writing today as a longtime New Haven resident (25+ years) and safe streets advocate to express my strong support for the new "Active Transportation Planner" position itemized in the Mayor's proposed FY 2023-2024 budget.

The New Haven Board of Alders passed a much-lauded "Complete Streets" policy over 10 years ago that many of us hoped would streamline the creation of safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users. A decade later, the Board of Alders has just unanimously approved the new "Safe Routes for All" plan. And while we're seeing some new sidewalks, separated bike lanes, and other traffic-calming measures, in general progress on traffic safety infrastructure improvements has proven to be much slower than many of us hoped for. At least part of the problem is because there is no dedicated individual coordinating these projects.

More than once over this last decade, New Haven has applied for the League of American Bicyclists' "Bicycle Friendly Community" status. We have variously received "Bronze" and "Silver" ratings recognizing our progress, but each time New Haven was flagged negatively for not having a transportation planner position in its city government.

New Haven is seeing a rise in fatal traffic violence: many of those victims are in our most disadvantaged neighborhoods. New Haven has publicly committed to becoming a more walkable and bikeable city. And there are potentially billions of dollars in state and federal funding currently available for local complete streets projects: a once in a generation opportunity. We need an "Active Transportation Planner" now more than ever, and I encourage you to prioritize this position as you move the proposed budget through the approval process.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RR' with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rob Rocke
3 North Bank Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Leslie Blatteau
410 Greenwich Avenue
New Haven CT 06519
Ward 5

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

Good evening Alder Marchand and members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight. I am a teacher and parent in New Haven Public Schools and I represent over 1700 educators as President of the New Haven Federation of Teachers. I am here tonight to ask the Board of Alders to approve NHPS's budget request.

To put it simply, our students deserve a fully funded school system. Schools do not operate in a vacuum. When there are crises outside of school, we feel them and experience them inside of school and we have to respond and meet our students' needs. The crises that exist outside of school include increasing rates of eviction and homelessness in New Haven, obstacles to students and families accessing health care, unhealed grief and trauma from COVID losses, interrupted education among the refugees and migrant families who have recently arrived to our Sanctuary City of New Haven, and other challenges to the wellbeing of our community. And as I stated, schools, educators, paraprofessionals, and other staff recognize these crises, respond to these crises, and coordinate crucial support to meet our students' needs.

This on top of our core work, building relationships with all of our students, and prioritizing their academic and social-emotional growth. Let me give you a snapshot of what students are working on in New Haven Public Schools:

- Learning how to grow their own vegetables
- Designing, building, and testing rockets
- Reading and writing poems
- Developing financial literacy in hands on ways
- Convening a student led youth court to learn about and apply restorative justice in meaningful ways
- Reading and working on research projects based on Ibram X. Kendi's book Stamped
- Writing children's books and reading them to younger students
- Preparing for state and national competitions in science, history and civics
- Taking field trips to museum, farms, parks, and libraries
- Performing in musicals, plays, dances, and orchestras across the city

- Taking action to organize on real issues related to the climate crisis, gun violence, and the crisis of unmet needs in our communities
- And the list goes on...

This work must continue but underfunding threatens our progress. How can we conduct science experiments and write research papers when the roof is leaking on our students' desk? How can students earn the chemistry, physics, and Spanish credits they need when we don't have adequate staffing? How can we conduct small group interventions when our paraprofessionals are covering for the vacancies throughout our buildings? How can we ensure our English Language Learners have access to materials in English and their home language that they deserve? How can we comply with federal regulations with students' Individualized Education Plans when we lack the Special Education staff that ensure this compliance? And the list goes on.

We rely on our elected officials to invest in our schools. Our students and their families deserve nothing less than what other towns are able to deliver without hesitation. And it is for these reasons that I ask you to fully fund our public schools. Lastly, I would like to echo and support all of the testimony tonight for our public libraries. The work we do in our public schools and public libraries goes hand-in-hand. A city that funds its schools and libraries is a city that I want to live in. Thank you.

**Testimony to Finance Committee on the City Budget
April 20, 2023**

My name is Judy Slaughter. I live at 265 Blake St. I am a member of New Haven Works, and I would like to request that the committee consider increasing funding to support the New Haven Works program.

Before I enrolled in New Haven Works, I felt stuck. I had been working in the healthcare field for years. I was working two jobs, and I wanted to move up and make more money in my field. It was about 11 years since my last job interview.

I became a member in October 2022. I heard about it through a friend who directed me to the program because it had helped her get a job at Yale University. I followed the process and registered, and then I started meeting my job coach. She helped me with my resume, helped me prepare for my interviews, and she guided me through the whole application process. She often shared job postings with me that matched my qualifications and goals. She kept up with her meetings with me. In December 2022, I was invited to an interview with Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center. During the interview, I remembered the questions that my job coach prepared me to answer. They asked many of the questions she prepared me for. I know that prepping with my coach helped me get the job.

I secured a Patient Registrar/Insurance Clerk position at Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center in February. I was so excited when I heard that I was offered the position! I am working Monday through Friday during the day shift. I am making more money - five dollars per hour more! I feel good about being in a position that will lead me to retirement. I want this company to be the last stop in my career. I tend to stay at my jobs for many years.

I worked with New Haven Works for about five months and now I have this great job. I think the City needs to keep this funding available for people that are getting back on their feet and need the support. I wish New Haven Works could serve more clients the way it helped me. This program helped me move up and I see a better future ahead of me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Public Hearing Testimony

New Haven Board of Alders, Finance Committee

4/20/2023

Good evening members of the finance committee, my name is Shareema Bowman, and I live at 389 Huntington St, New Haven, CT. I am a New Haven Works member, and I am here to support the increase in City support for the New Haven Works program.

Prior to working at Yale University, an opportunity made possible to me through New Haven Works, I was a salaried manager at Walmart, working upwards of 15 hours a day dealing with employee issues and retention. I was burnt out and in need of a greater work-life balance. When I expressed my concerns, I was offered a lower-level position with fewer benefits, security, and lower pay. Knowing that I needed a change and a career in HR, I applied to various places but faced numerous rejections.

After applying to over 100 positions, within Yale and outside of Yale, the recruiter informed me of New Haven Works. I decided to register. I worked closely with a job coach named Linden, who helped me focus my job search and tailor my applications to the roles I really wanted. After some ups and downs, I finally got an opportunity to interview for a customer service job at Yale, and I got the job! Working at Yale has been life-changing for me. For the first time in 17 years, I have a job that offers me stability, work-life balance, and access to benefits like medical and dental insurance, PTO, and a retirement plan. My co-workers are like a family, and my supervisor is supportive. Purchasing a home in 2021 was possible due to the security offered by my job. I've also been able to strengthen my skills in Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Google Suite. In addition, Yale has committed to supporting my professional development, directing me to ample opportunities. I've now had access to LinkedIn Learning for professional development. The stability of this position has allowed me to enroll in a master's program to pursue my degree in Human Resource Management.

My new job has enabled me to attend church services, spend more time with my family and friends, and fulfill my family duties, including supporting my sister with childcare when needed.

More recently, I applied for another job at Yale and was hired. I moved up to the employee relations administrator position, which I had initially applied for before working with New Haven Works, but was denied.

I'm grateful to New Haven Works for connecting me with this opportunity, helping me navigate the job search process and advocating on my behalf with employers. I go to bed at night and wake up in the morning feeling truly blessed. I'm no longer waking up with a feeling of impending doom, the way I did when I worked in retail. My job has offered me the security to tend to my home and pay my bills.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony Regarding City of New Haven Budget, Finance Committee
April 20,2023

Good evening committee members,

My name is Paul Crnkovic. I live at 54 Auburn Street.

I am a New Haven Resident and former member of New Haven Works. I am here to testify in support of increased funding for New Haven Works.

After being released from 10 years in prison, I needed work. For six years I worked low-paying jobs that didn't give any benefits whatsoever. I would work 70 hours a week doing backbreaking labor and was barely able to make ends meet. I needed a change. This is when a friend of mine told me about New Haven Works. I came in ready to do what was necessary to change my life but did not expect all of the help I received. My job coach helped me with my resume, gave me job recommendations, and prepared me for my interviews. I was given the tools I needed to apply for jobs and everything they sent me was the truth. I never felt like I was getting the runaround.

With my job coach's help, I was hired by the New Haven Department of Parks and Recreation as a caretaker. I care for our city's parks by doing things like taking out the trash, but I also help set up the public events that happen around the city like our concerts. I make sure that visitors get a great first impression of New Haven. After two years in the department, I received a promotion to foreman.

When I first got the job, I just felt relieved. I can put food on the table for my 15-year-old son and girlfriend, buy myself a car, and now have a pension and healthcare. As far as I'm concerned, my life is second to none today. If I didn't go through the process with New Haven Works, I would still be struggling. This program showed me a light at the end of a tunnel that I did not have before.

I am now 23 years sober and whenever I meet people who are trying to get their life together, I tell them about New Haven Works so they can make their lives better as I did. A few of the other guys I knew while in prison got hired to good jobs as well, and I know that I am living proof that this place works.

Please consider increasing funding for the New Haven Works Pipeline. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:28 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: New Haven's wonderful Public Libraries - City Budget hearing

From: millie@grenough.com <millie@grenough.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:18 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Subject: New Haven's wonderful Public Libraries - City Budget hearing

Please be cautious

This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To whom it may concern --- apologies for late submission - hope this reaches you in time to be useful. Thank you!

- I give whole-hearted thanks to New Haven's Public Libraries and to all their staff for the many ways they make my life better – and better for so many others in the New Haven area.

Let me count some of the ways:

- I can borrow wonderful books whenever I want
- I can attend useful meetings, films, lectures, workshops etc at many different branches\
- As a member of the *City of New Haven Peace Commission*, I can count on the Library to co-sponsor the peace-making efforts so vital to the health of our city and nation
- As a mental health worker at the Hispanic Clinic at Connecticut Mental Health Center, I take great delight in walking with my Spanish-speaking clients to both the Ives branch and the Wilson branch to show them all the tools available to them and their children, in Spanish and in English
- When I need help searching for something or trying to learn how to do something new, I can often find what I need by talking with a librarian
- I can bring my grandchildren to the library and watch them choosing books that they want

- There are more things that I appreciate, but that's a starter.

As a tax-paying citizen of New Haven, I thoroughly approve raising their budget so they can continue to do good work– and so that the staff will be well-paid.

Thank you for everything!

Millie



IN THE OVERWHELM™

Millie Grenough, MAT, CRS, LCSW, PCC, Certified EMDR-Level II

Member, *City of New Haven Peace Commission*

Coach, Speaker, Author ***OASIS in the Overwhelm™***

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Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:27 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: April 20th Meeting additional testimony from Kim Rogers on library

From: ROGERS, KIM <KIM.ROGERS@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 5:59 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Subject: Re: April 20th Meeting

Here is a link to the document with my testimony. I have also included its contents in this email. I look forward to seeing you all tonight.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a3KVkxoiZXfDXkQCgz9GhJ_1dNyWwqOP0oWF1g4-AFI/edit?usp=sharing

Kim Rogers

Resident of Ward 25

**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

Good evening, my name is Kim Rogers, and I am the lead librarian for the NHPS district. I am a voter in Ward 25. As a librarian I feel compelled to tell you a story:

Once upon a time there was a school district that had a librarian and library in each school. Students could go to a library and get books to support their learning. They went to the library with their classes and did research. Students got books just for the joy of reading, and reading they did!

Then there was trouble. Administrators were forced to choose between libraries and other things needed in the school. This is like having to choose between food and housing, a decision that no one should have to make.

Currently there are forty schools in New Haven, and **nine of our schools do not have any librarians at all.** That's 3,305 students or 17% of all students who have no librarian. In addition, **six other schools have no librarian** because of unfilled vacancies (1) and **fourteen schools only have a part-time librarian.** (2) **In total 55% of New Haven Public School students are underserved or not served at all.** This is a problem.

New Haven is in a reading crisis. Our students want to read on the same level as their peers in suburban districts. So why are we denying more than half of New Haven students what they deserve: a full-time Library Media Specialist?

I'll tell you why. It's because poor children don't get librarians, and wealthy children do. It's because Black and Latino children don't get librarians, and White children do. Don't take my word for it. National research shows that poverty, race, and ethnicity are the primary factors that determine whether our kids get a school librarian or not. (3)

In the era of "fake news," librarians are even more important. We teach students how to conduct research. We teach them how to distinguish between fact-based sources and propaganda. According to a recent study, 82% of middle-schoolers couldn't distinguish between real news and an advertisement that was labeled "sponsored content" on the web.(4)

We need a hero to create a happy ending to this story. You are our heroes. 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 students should be deprived of the excellent schools that kids in wealthy towns enjoy. Fund our future. Fund the schools that our students deserve.

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

1That's 2825 students or 15% of the student population.

2 That's 6131 students or 38% of the student population.

3 "Concerningly, having a school librarian is becoming a privilege reserved for some students. Access to school librarians is strongly related to both race and ethnicity and either persists or is exacerbated when selected district characteristics — specifically poverty, locale, and enrollment—are considered. And certainly, the COVID-19 pandemic has diminished access to school librarians." (Lance, Kachel & Gerrity, 2022)

4 Weinberg, 2016.

References:

Lance, Kachel & Gerrity (2023). The School Librarian Equity Gap: Inequities Associated with Race and Ethnicity Compounded by Poverty, Locale, and Enrollment. Peabody Journal of Education, 98:1, 85-99.

Wineburg, McGrew, and Breakstone (2016). Evaluating Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning. Stanford Digital Repository. Available at: <http://purl.stanford.edu/fv751yt5934>

Leading by Reading
Kim Rogers
Librarian Lead

New Haven Public Schools
21 Wooster Place
New Haven, CT 06511-6932

475 220-1213 desk
203 710-6877 cell

From: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 7:05 PM
To: ROGERS, KIM <KIM.ROGERS@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Cc: Megan Fountain <mfountain@nhft933.org>; BLATTEAU, LESLIE <LESLIE.BLATTEAU@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Subject: Re: April 20th Meeting

Thank you we have added you to the list.

From: ROGERS, KIM <KIM.ROGERS@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 6:54 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Cc: Megan Fountain <mfountain@nhft933.org>; BLATTEAU, LESLIE <LESLIE.BLATTEAU@new-haven.k12.ct.us>
Subject: April 20th Meeting

Good afternoon, this email is to inform you that I would like to testify at the April 20th meeting. I look forward to sharing with you all.

Warmly,
Kim Rogers

Leading by Reading
Kim Rogers
Librarian Lead

New Haven Public Schools
21 Wooster Place
New Haven, CT 06511-6932

475 220-1213 desk
203 710-6877 cell

Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:03 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: Public testimony to the Finance Committee for the April 20th ,2023 meeting.

From: fxyhatley@aol.com <fxyhatley@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 5:00 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Cc: mcurrey@nhfpl.org <mcurrey@nhfpl.org>; fxyhatley <fxyhatley@aol.com>
Subject: Public testimony to the Finance Committee for the April 20th ,2023 meeting.

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This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Public testimony to the Finance Committee for the April 20th ,2023 meeting.

My name is Angela Hatley and I wish to lobby for more funding for our library system.

Since I was a little girl, my mother fostered a love of reading in me. When I was introduced to the library which used to be on Portsea St. at the time, that became my second home. I used to borrow my mother's library card because you were limited to four books with the child's library card, but with an adult card you could get an unlimited number of books to bring home. I was that little girl carrying a shopping bag full of library books.

Today in 2023, the library is so much more than a place to get books to read. They have programs that I would never think a library would have. Their tastes are so eclectic that they run the gamut from poetry readings to horticulture lessons, to using 3D printing assistive technology to build prosthetic hands. Our community libraries are also places where people find out what resources are available to them i.e., finding blind and low vision community resources, pardon program informational workshops, tax help during filing season as well as myriad other resources.

When you factor in the dearth of any type of facilities for our youth to be engaged in, other than the boys and Girls Club, the library is the only other place they have where they can go and be assured that they will be safe. In addition to their normal operations, some of our libraries have also become places where unhoused people find comfort, warmth and bathroom facilities. Our city librarians have also taken on the task of being quasi social workers and in some instances have had to administer Narcan to clients utilizing their library. And they do all of this without complaint.

I realize this city must make whatever dollars it has stretch everywhere but I implore the Finance Committee to increase the funding allocation to the libraries. Every dollar they have is very well spent. We have national award-winning libraries in our system. Please help them maintain and dare I say surpass the excellence that they provide to this community.

Angela Hatley
292 Greenwich Ave.
fxyhatley@aol.com

Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:02 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: NEED HELP!!!

From: LeRoy Highsmith <leroy.highsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Subject: NEED HELP!!!

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This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

The Wilson Branch library is run by a really great district manager who is also a great person. They also have great staff. BUT they are understaffed! The poor staff are being worked to death! ALSO many of the patrons are felons, mentally ill, addicts, crackheads, thugs, scumbags, and other sorts of humanoid vermin who are daily endangering the welfare of the hard working Wilson staff. Quite frankly, librarians at the Wilson Branch of the library should be given combat pay. Namely, they should be paid more for the abuse from patrons they must constantly endure. I plead with someone to get the police department to have more of a constant presence around Wilson both day and night. For humanoid scumbags actually camp out around the library and also do their drugs at night when the library is closed without fear of being removed by the police. There are countless needles to be found around the Wilson library when they open in the morning as well as loads of debris which scumbags leave in their wake.

The Wilson Branch has great staff! I pray they are not harmed!

Please get them help! More staff! And a police presence!

There is a police substation like a block or two away! Where are they?

WILSON NEEDS HELP!

PLEASE SAVE THEIR MARVELOUS STAFF AND KEEP THEM SAFE!

Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: Written Testimony from Adrienne Weeks

From: Myra Smith <myrasmith@ccaahelping.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:27 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Subject: Written Testimony from Adrienne Weeks

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This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Finance Committee Alders,

My name is Adrienne Weeks and I formerly lived at 156 West St 2 FL, New Haven, CT 06519.

According to DataHaven, home prices, rents, and evictions have spiked in recent months, following national trends. The cost to rent an apartment or house in New Haven County increased by 21% from June 2020 to June 2022. In addition, 50% of renters in Greater New Haven are cost-burdened, which impacts Black and Brown residents at disproportionate rates.

There is an increase in safe housing violations, particularly from large landlords who are not maintaining their properties and causing serious health concerns for tenants across the city. According to a recent news article, city records show that there are over 320 addresses that have unresolved violations against landlords. The city should increase funding for the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can fulfill its responsibility to New Haven renters. The city needs to pass legislation to increase fines for landlords who are fixing violations and a system of holding those landlords accountable.

[I'd like to share my story. I rented 4-1/2 through West Ventures then shopping with Reichman Brodie. My home had several housing code violations, including having wildlife living in my ceiling and walls. Numerous requests were made to LCI. They came out 4-5 hints and failed the apartments inspections and according to those reports, gave the landlord set times to make these repairs with the threat of further legal action of these repairs were not made. On each occasion the landlord made no repairs nor did LCI follow through on their end. I stopped paying rent (which I know not is incorrect) and went to UniteCT for rental assistance. My landlord was aware. Yet when the opportunity came from UniteCT, Reichman Brodie or West Ventures declined to participate. I was taken to court for non-payment and followed the advice of Legal Aid attorney Shelley White to settle out in mediation to by myself tone

because the judge would not be sympathetic to my situation. But the court proceedings arose during background checks and I was unable to find housing. My family and I were evicted Feb 17. Went through 211 and was housed in La Quinta then kicked out by United Way last week and then placed in the Best Western where funding runs out 4/30. I can't find any landlord willing to rent me with such a recent eviction. What is the city going to do for its working tenants who have been wrongly evicted?]

We are making the following requests

Increased funding for the newly formed Land Bank to build deeply affordable new housing.
Additional staffing for the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can do more housing inspections and hold non compliant landlords financially accountable for violations.
Increase the percentage of inclusionary zoning in New Haven
Fund the I'm Home initiatives

Thank you for your time.

Adrienne Weeks

--

Myra C. Smith

Neighborhood Services Advocate

Christian Community Action

168 Davenport Ave

New Haven CT, 06519

myrasmith@ccahelping.org

P 203-777-7848

F 203-777-7923



Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:59 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: Public Hearing-Finance Committee

From: Fateria Sheats <fsheats@ccahehelping.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:50 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Subject: Public Hearing-Finance Committee

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Hello Finance Committee Alders,

My name is Fateria Sheats and I am a Hamden resident. I work for Christian Community Action, a ecumenical organization that provides help, housing and hope for families in need in New Haven. According to DataHaven, Home prices, rents, and evictions have spiked in recent months, following national trends. The cost to rent an apartment or house in New Haven County increased by 21% from June 2020 to June 2022. In addition, 50% of renters in Greater New Haven are cost-burdened, which impacts Black and Brown residents at disproportionate rates.

I work to help people find deeply affordable and safe housing. The increase in unit prices have made the search for these units even harder. A majority of people I assist to find housing do not meet the requirements that are set by landlords. They do not have three times the income or good credit for a unit. I have worked with households that had to leave units due to rent increases that caused them to no longer be able to afford a unit. Some who even find themselves being evicted because they can not find a new affordable unit in time.

We are making the following requests:

Increased funding for the newly formed Land Bank to build deeply affordable new housing.
Additional staffing for the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can do more housing inspections and hold non compliant landlords financially accountable for violations.
Increase the percentage of inclusionary zoning in New Haven
Fund the I'm Home initiatives

Thank you for your time.
Fateria Sheats

CAN Landlord Engagement Specialist
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"It always seems impossible until it's done." -Nelson Mandela

Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:57 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: adammarchand25@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: Public Testimony Finance Committee Public Hearing

From: MelissaLytrelle <melissalytrelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:31 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony Finance Committee Public Hearing

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Good Morning,

I hope my email reaches you all well. My name is Melissa L Singleton, I reside on Edgewood Avenue in New Haven, CT. Long time resident. As of last year I've had the opportunity to be appointed as a Commissioner for the Commission of Equal Opportunity.

Today I share my testimony being a resident and also being affected by the rental crisis. I currently rent, I'm retired due to a disability from my employer, now living on a fixed income. I also receive Section 8 for rental assistance, my landlord recently requested a rent increase. A few months later I'm being asked to sign a month to month lease. I have spoken with other renters through out the city whom have been in similar issues some have had to move and others are still in the property on a month to month basis.

Knowing that moving is the ultimate end result, I myself would like to pursue homeownership, but have access to programs, funding and grants that are in place to help those that want to become homeowners with the funds similar to a 203k Rehab Loan that will enable us to fix up the run down homes in the city so we can provide affordable rentals to those that need it. This will provide a great opportunity to live and own within the city as well. For those that do not want to become homeowners, there should be buildings, properties and land used to offer 50% to 100% affordable rental and housing for those in need of it which is a lot with the waiting list for all programs available.

There are ways to fix the problem if you work together with the right people that want to see the funds properly handle that will benefit all and not single out the ones that truly love the city and want to remain in it.

If you need to contact me for any further discussions please don't hesitate to contact me via email.

Thank you,
Melissa L Singleton
melissalytrelle@gmail.com

NEW HAVEN LEGAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06510-2018
TELEPHONE (203) 946-4811
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aeppler-epstein@nhlegal.org

To: Members of the Finance Committee, New Haven Board of Alders
From: Atty. Amy Eppler-Epstein, New Haven Legal Assistance Assoc.
Re: **Housing Crisis and Dedicating ARPA Funds to Affordable Housing in New Haven**
Date: April 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Finance Committee of the NH Board of Alders,

I am writing to tell you something you undoubtedly know, because you hear it every day from your constituents, just like I see it every day with my clients at New Haven Legal Assistance: low income tenants in New Haven are facing a housing crisis, as are low income tenants throughout the state. **What that crisis looks like for our clients:**

- **Rental prices have skyrocketed**, and keep going up and up. Apartments that would have rented for \$1100 or \$1200 a year or two ago are now being listed for \$1600, \$1800, even \$2000 a month. Our clients, especially those with no housing subsidies like RAP or Section 8, spend almost all of their monthly income on rent.
- **Many apartments have multiple housing code violations.** The higher prices do not reflect improved conditions. Many of our clients' apartments, particularly those managed by large corporate owners, have ongoing conditions problems; the landlords' repairs, if made at all, are often low quality, slip-shod work. And tenants often fear that if they complain too loudly or too often, they will just face retaliation, and an eviction notice once their lease is up.
- **If tenants want to move, it is nearly impossible to find and secure other housing.** For our clients who are looking to move, even those who are lucky enough to have a Section 8 or RAP subsidy, it can be nearly impossible to find another apartment. I have clients who have spent literally hundreds of dollars on application fees, only to be turned down because their income is deemed insufficient, or they have a record of past eviction cases, or they have a criminal record.

- **Landlords are bringing evictions actions, often for no good reason, but simply so that they can empty a building out and re-rent it for a higher amount.** Many of our clients are being evicted because they can't afford the rent; and many others who have always paid their rent and have lived in their apartment for years, or even decades, now find themselves with a new owner and an eviction notice saying their lease is up and the new owner wants them out.

There are many things the Board of Alders can do to help!

I am submitting this testimony tonight, along with other members of the Room for All Coalition, to ask the Board to make addressing this housing crisis a top priority.

- **Tonight, we ask that the Board dedicate \$2 million of the still available ARPA funds and City bonding to be used to address this housing crisis.**
- **Those funds could be used in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:**
 - Increased funding and hiring of LCI inspectors, and better LCI enforcement and accountability, including an on line, publicly accessible complaint process, to hold neglectful landlords accountable and make sure that much needed repairs get made;
 - Invest in land and properties and support for non-profit developers to increase the supply and development of affordable housing;
 - Expand New Haven's rental assistance and security deposit assistance programs to fill the gaps in existing state programs

We know there are many competing demands on the ARPA funds and bonding funds; but few can compare to the importance of providing safe, stable and affordable housing. Having a place to live and call home is a critical foundation for success in every other area of life—whether employment, education, or mental and physical health and well being. Please take the opportunity provided by these ARPA funds to use a substantial portion of those dollars for addressing the housing crisis in New Haven.

My name is Merryl Eaton and I live in Hamden Connecticut, but I have worked in New Haven for more than 24 years and I am deeply committed to the city and its residents.

I am here with the Room for all Coalition and Mothers and Others for Justice, Christian Community Action's grassroots advocacy initiative.

I work at Christian Community Action, a homeless services agency for families. We have 18 Emergency Shelter apartments in the Hill and 18 apartments in the NewHallville neighborhood as part of our New Hope Housing Program.

This past winter CCA placed 100 families with 194 children in area motels .

I am other members of Room for All have attended many meetings of the Aldermatic Board where we have heard polished and well represented presentations asking the City to fund after school program, job training programs, more police hires, money for parks and other expenditures that improve the quality of life for New Haven residents.

I don't envy the work of this committee and truly appreciate your efforts. These are all worthwhile programs but I am here tonight to ask you to not unwittingly become an enemy of the poor and working poor in this city.

New Haven has transformed itself into an increasingly trendy city and was mentioned as one of 53 places to visit by the NY Times and this is not a bad thing. It is why we name our coalition Room for All but this committee MUST make the creation of deeply affordable housing the 1st priority in this and every upcoming legislative session. The newly created Land bank should be funded and used to build housing. This committee must STOP the unscrupulous policies of mega slumlords by funding the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can respond in a timely manner to tenant complaints. The City and the state must pass legislation under consideration that would raise fines from \$250 to \$2,000 and create an on line system for complaints and a public viewing of the actions taken by LCI.

Room for All submitted our suggestions to the city pre-Covid and we were pleased that many of our suggestions were implemented but after the eviction moratorium was lifted, we have seen a shocking increase in the need for more safe and affordable housing and we would welcome meetings with city officials to work together for the good of all New Haven residents.

Thank you.
Merryl Eaton

to request that the board of alters allocate more funding towards the following things ;
Investing funding in the New Haven land bank so that I can build deeply affordable housing
Increasing funding to hire more livable cities, inspectors, as well as making an online system for compliance, and following up with each complaint filed

Good Evening Finance Committee Alders,

My name is Sinclair Williams and I live at 95 Division Street in New Haven. I am standing with the Room for all Coalition and to request that the Board of Alders allocate more funding toward the following things:

- Investing in land and property for more affordable housing development.
- Increasing resources to hire more LCI inspectors, making an online system for complaints, and following up with each complaint filed.

When you hear people talk about the need for “affordable housing.” I want to ask you: what comes to your mind?

The dominant narrative in our individualistic culture is that if you have a problem with “affording” anything, you just need to work harder, get a better job, and make more money so you can move to a better place. The dominant narrative says that if we want “affordable” housing, we should depend on the market. Market solutions are the best way to ensure fairness, neutrality, and objectivity.

That is the story we are told every day of our lives. The problem is that it’s not true.

This story ignores the fact that this problem is NOT just caused by the market, but it is the result of multiple kinds of **choices** by policy makers with power. We can’t ignore that our cities were designed based on anti-Black racism—the desire not to be associated with blackness and to be as far away from poor people as possible. Those who benefit from the current system are a few wealthy people, (big landlords) to the detriment of the vast majority of people (over 70% of New Haven residents are renters). We cannot simply rely on the market. Instead, we need government intervention to ensure A) we collectively benefit from policy choices and B) we undo the harms done to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).

There is collective benefit of all of us being housed. Safe, reliable housing for ALL is a core part of what it would mean for us to be living in a just, multiracial democracy in which we’re all thriving. Our fates are bound to each other, and as we saw this week in national news, what can happen to the most vulnerable in our society, such as a black child who rings the wrong doorbell, can also happen to everyone else.

It’s good that our city is now attractive to the wealthy, but we must not allow the wealthy to displace/remove the working class folks who built our city and its vibrant culture. Everyone in New Haven belongs, which means we need to guarantee there is a Room For All: safe and affordable homes for everyone.

Attached is documentation of facts and history for your review. I hope you will review this information and see why New Haven should invest at least \$1 million in ARPA funds towards safe and affordable housing in New Haven.

Thank you,
Sinclair Williams

IN 2018 THE RENT WAS TOO HIGH:

https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/44_routes_to_affordable_housing

https://d2f1dfnoetc03v.cloudfront.net/NHI/Old/BaseImages/2019/01/Tom/AHTF_Report.pdf

- In 2018 The New Haven Affordable Housing Task Force Identified a Crisis need for 25,000 more affordable housing units.
- The Task Force Made 44 Recommendations, and the city has taken action on the majority of them. However no action has happened on the following :
 - Increase the staffing of Commission and Livable City Initiative.
 - Delegate housing development functions to the Economic Development Corporation and return LCI's focus to enforcement activities.
 - LCI should increase fines, where applicable, to encourage repairs, renovations and lead abatement

By 2020 Things had gotten really bad.

https://d2f1dfnoetc03v.cloudfront.net/NHI/Old/BaseImages/2021/11/Tom/11_9_New_Haven_Affordable_Housing_Commission_Report_2021.pdf

- 2018-2020 New Haven rents increased 10% while incomes only increased 2.63%

BY 2022 Things were EVEN WORSE.

- 2018-2022 Avg rent (On Zumper website) increased **\$600** (from \$1311 to \$1996)
- New Haven Rents increased 25% JUST LAST YEAR
<https://patch.com/connecticut/across-ct/apartment-rentals-these-ct-cities-among-highest-u-s-report>

New Haven is developing, and we should be careful:

- Our population has been steady for decades, but jumped by approximately 2,200 residents in just the past two years. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/new-haven-ct-population>
- Other cities with building booms have seen mass DISPLACEMENT. (Since 1990, Black residents decreased 40% in San Francisco, 20% in New York, and 10% in DC, while other residents have skyrocketed in all three) (US Census)

EVICCTIONS Increased Last year (Especially for black women)

- <https://www.ctdata.org/evictions-report>
- Evictions 2019: 1500 evictions 45% black 25% Latino
- Evictions 2022: 2000. 44% black, 25% Latino

WE NEED MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

- Homelessness is expensive: \$1.4 Mil/year for lodging homeless folks. (Mayor's Budget)
- https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/tent_city_bulldozed
- Vacancy rate below 1.5 percent (Hearst Connecticut Media)
- People working MANY jobs have to spend more than a third of their income just for a one bedroom apartment: (<https://nlihc.org/oor/state/ct>)
- Connecticut/National Homeownership rate: ~ 65% . **New Haven Homeownership rate: 28% (That means 72% of residents are tenants)** (2021 AHC report)

WE NEED SAFER HOUSING CONDITIONS

- Mayor's budget report
 - Out of 4016 units inspected by LCI last year, 2308 (57%) are unresolved
 - Over 8000 total inspections: an average of at least 2 inspections per unit.
- Since 2019, LCI's general funds budget from the city has increased by only \$17,000, while New Haven's police budget has increased by \$7 million in the same period
- https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2023/02/24/the-death-of-the-livable-city/?utm_source=ground.news&utm_medium=referral
- 36,000 apartments in New Haven
(https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/housing_oped_2)
- We NEED an online public system to make complaints, schedule inspections, get inspection orders, and see case progress.
- Hartford put almost \$2 million towards improving housing conditions last year
https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/Hartford-mayor-1-9M-rental-housing-17669824.php?_ga=2.150983542.1912393685.1679326116-2003126270.1679326116
- **Residential Licensing (budget report)**
 - 4 Residential Licensing inspectors in the current budget
 - They only conducted 4077 inspections last year. We don't know how many units, but it's worth asking and it's probably half the total number of inspections if half of Landlords are failing the initial inspection. 2000 units is not enough.
- **Enforcement/Accountability (budget report)**
 - **Last year LCI placed 31 fines for blight on the OUTSIDE of homes**
 - How many fines did they issue landlords for violations on the inside of their homes where tenants actually live? Probably 0.
 - LCI CAN and SHOULD put liens on landlords who fail inspections
- https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/residential_licensing_to_get_tougher
- https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/res_licensing_cityplan

THERE IS \$1 MILLION IN UNUSED FEDERAL ARPA MONEY

- Mayor's Budget has projects getting \$10 million from the state to spend on Long Wharf and using \$1 million in ARPA funds for long wharf.
- BUT NEW HAVEN JUST GOT \$12 million from state of CT for Long Wharf.
https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/long_wharf_grant
- That means we now have \$1 million in extra ARPA \$\$ and \$1 million in extra state \$\$

Affordable Housing Commission Recommendations 2023

[\[ct.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6116684&GUID=42F12EA9-2871-4410-A76E-33B17D094E35&Options=&Search=\]\(https://newhaven-ct.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6116684&GUID=42F12EA9-2871-4410-A76E-33B17D094E35&Options=&Search=\)](https://newhaven-</u></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Increase the ability of people to stay in current housing by improving the quality and stability of existing affordable housing.

- Adequately fund LCI's Housing Code Division to increase the number of inspections conducted annually
- Increase funding to support the RRBLP (Landlord License Program) enabling this program to inspect all residential units annually.
- Increased enforcement of the housing code to ensure safe/decent/healthy rental units

Ensure continued action in the creation and preservation of affordable housing

- Set an annual goal for the number of affordable units the City should develop and implement a viable strategy to achieve this.
- Increase annual funding to the Housing Development program to ensure that the City is doing their fair share in the development of affordable housing units
- Sufficiently fund the creation of the Land Bank and provide ongoing funding to ensure its success.

To the Respected Members of the Finance Committee,

My name is Charmain Yun (267 Dwight St.) and I have been a resident in New Haven for over 30 years (and a homeowner for over 20 years).

I am standing with the Room for All Coalition and Mothers and Others for Justice to request that the Board of Alders allocate more funding toward the following:

- Investing in land and property for more affordable housing development
- Increasing resources to hire more LCI inspectors, making an online system for complaints, and following up with each complaint filed

“An object in motion stays in motion...unless acted upon by an external force.”¹ We are increasingly becoming like other cities in the nation—with impossible affordability and an unimaginable homeless crisis. We have been building new buildings, have raised rents, and have increased inequity by making it very difficult for low-income residents to find good, stable housing in our city. People who have called New Haven “home” find it more difficult to stay in New Haven. Unless this is acted upon by a balancing force—**namely, decisive and determined action on the part of our leaders**—we will go the way of other cities with dire challenges.

I work at Christian Community Action, a homeless service agency for families. Every day, we see families experiencing homelessness and facing barriers to finding housing—most notably, income being too low to afford rent. We have 17 apartment style shelter units in the Hill area and 18 more units in our Moving to Work Program in Newhallville. **Additionally**, there are 69 more families waiting to get into shelter and find resources.²

A democracy works not necessarily because people are always good and will make good decisions all the time. It is because there are checks and balances and together, we can balance each other to make for a more just society in order for all to flourish. **Please be the balancing force to stop the path that our city is headed**—for the sake of New Haven residents and the people you protect and serve.

Thank you for all you do.

¹*Newton's First Law of Motion*

²*Greater New Haven Coordinated Access Network, 4/19/2023*

Subject: Testimony regarding the Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2023-2024
Statement by: Sandra Shaner

First, I support the Mayor's proposal to add to the budget 5 new full-time Parks caretakers to the current staff dedicated to Parks maintenance and to add 2 full-time park rangers to provide youth, community, and environmental programs. Our city parks provide a wide variety of no cost and low cost recreation opportunities to all our residents. However, for many years, city staffing for parks' maintenance has been much lower than needed to provide proper maintenance of the city's many parks for today's users or to provide long-term stewardship to preserve our parks for generations to come. Thirty or so of the city's 142 parks have Friends groups that have organized volunteers that pick up some of the slack, such as removing invasive species, picking up trash, and building and maintaining trails. However, a few hours of volunteer time per week cannot make up for the lack of adequate full-time professional staff. I strongly urge the Aldermanic Finance Committee and the Board of Alders to retain these proposed additional parks positions in the FY 2023-2024 budget to improve maintenance of our parks.

Second, it is my opinion that the reorganization that resulted in dismembering the Parks, Recreation, and Trees Department such that recreational functions were absorbed into the Youth Services Department and Parks and Tree maintenance functions were absorbed into the Public Works Department has simply not benefited our city's parks. I advocate for the re-separation of the Parks Department from Public Works and the park rangers from Youth and Recreation.

The Public Works Department has always been tasked with, and is expert in, maintenance of the city's man-made infrastructure: our streets, our bridges, city vehicles, dealing with our trash. In contrast, the former Parks Department was tasked with stewardship of the city's parks, which are natural, living landscapes. One of aspect of stewardship of our parks is maintenance of the man-made infrastructures within the parks, that is, the playgrounds, splash-pads, picnic areas, tennis courts, athletic fields, parking lots, etc. However the other aspect of park stewardship is maintenance of the natural, living landscape of the parks, the pockets of natural wildness present in many of our parks. Maintenance of these natural areas of our parks comprises more than merely cutting grass and emptying trash cans; it involves managing the tree canopies, controlling invasive species, maintaining and building trails, addressing the effects of climate change, etc. It is not apparent to me that Public Works had any expertise in long- or short-term maintenance of the natural areas of our parks prior to Parks and Tree maintenance functions being transferred into the Public Works.

Review of the Mayor's proposed budget FY 2023-2024, both the narrative portion and the Form 106 budget details, suggests to me that in absorbing Parks and Trees into Public Works the Mayor and his administration lost sight of, or did not fully understand, the Parks Department mission of stewardship of the city's parks. In particular, to me, it appears as though in this departmental reorganization, the mission of stewardship of the natural living environments of our parks has been lost. Note that the Parks and Public Works (PPW) Department General Fund Budgetary 106 Summary does not include any separate budget subsection for a Parks Maintenance division. Review of the Details of the Personnel Expenses for PPW show that

Subject: Testimony regarding the Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2023-2024
Statement by: Sandra Shaner

Parks personnel are lumped into the “General maintenance and Streets” subsection. I myself do not see a lot of overlap between proper maintenance and stewardship of our city parks and street maintenance and repair. I therefore advocate for the re-separation of the Parks Department from Public Works and the park rangers from Youth and Recreation.

Sandra Shaner
207 Maple Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203-777-2941
sshane207@gmail.com

Donald Hayden

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Donald Hayden
Cc: Adam Marchand
Subject: Fw: 5 testimonies from people experiencing homelessness

From: Charmain Yun <cyun@ccahelping.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 4:35 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Cc: CCA <myrasmith@ccahelping.org>
Subject: 5 testimonies from people experiencing homelessness

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This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I know this is past 3 pm, but here are 5 testimonies collected from people experiencing homelessness and living at the motels.

I hope the committee will still be able to read these and take them into account?

Thank you for whatever you can do to forward them,
Charmain

My name is Quatina Hicks and I live at 7 Kimberly Ave Super 8 Motel

According to DataHaven, Home prices, rents, and evictions have spiked in recent months, following national trends. The cost to rent an apartment or house in New Haven County increased by 21% from June 2020 to June 2022. In addition, 50% of renters in Greater New Haven are cost-burdened, which impacts Black and Brown residents at disproportionate rates.

There is an increase in safe housing violations, particularly from large landlords who are not maintaining their properties and causing serious health concerns for tenants across the city. According to a recent news article, city records show that there are over 320 addresses that have unresolved violations against landlords. The city should increase funding for the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can fulfill its responsibility to New Haven renters. The city needs to pass legislation to increase fines for landlords who are fixing violations and a system of holding those landlords accountable.

We are making the following requests

- Increased funding for the newly formed Land Bank to build deeply affordable new housing.
- Additional staffing for the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can do more housing inspections and hold non-compliant landlords financially accountable for violations.
- Increase the percentage of inclusionary zoning in New Haven
- Fund the P'm Home initiatives

Thank you for your time. I lost my job during covid and had no way to pay my rent. I was eventually evicted. I've been searching for a place to stay since then. It has been ~~2~~ 2 years and no one will give me a place due to the eviction on my records.

My name is Carlanda Madison and I live at 7 Kimberly Ave. West Haven
Super 8 Motel

According to DataHaven, Home prices, rents, and evictions have spiked in recent months, following national trends. The cost to rent an apartment or house in New Haven County increased by 21% from June 2020 to June 2022. In addition, 50% of renters in Greater New Haven are cost-burdened, which impacts Black and Brown residents at disproportionate rates.

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Thank you for your time. My landlord got sick with cancer and sold his properties including the place I lived. I then had a new landlord, he wanted me out, but at this time I was in the hospital sick with multiple illnesses and unable to walk. I tried looking for a place and had no luck. The landlord wouldn't fix all of apartment violations which caused section 8 to stop payments in October. Even though I continued my rent payments, but in January I was evicted along with my children for non-payment of rent. Now that there is an eviction in not only my own but all of my children's names, including the minors.. I cannot find a place.

6

Good morning, my name is Gabriela Rivera, I am currently living at La Quinta Hotel at 440 Sargent Drive New Haven CT for the past 6 months with my two children. I'm also currently employed at Alderman-Daw Iron and Metal Co. for the currency of 8 months. I have a open DCJ case for myself and children. My social worker is concern about my two children due to the incident that occurred at La Quinta, last week was traumatic as it is hard already living at a chester/hotel. I've never been in this type of predicament I have no support or family other than all of my DCJ worker on La Quinta Hotel, I'm very grateful to them all. I just want to have some stability as far as having a place to call home for me and my boys. I would also like to express my concern of the negative impact this is having on my children emotional/mental health. As for myself I been trying to keep faith that I will get through this, as it has been very financial and overwhelming trying to hold a job and support 2 children at my own being homeless and shunned around. I wish I could be able to have more time to explain to you as there is so much more I have to say but little time.

Thank you so much

Gabriela Rivera

My name is Khaystall Jones and I live at Super 8
on Kimberly Ave.

According to Data Haven, Home prices, rents, and evictions have spiked in recent months following national trends. The cost to rent an apartment or house in New Haven County increased by 21% from June 2020 to June 2022. In addition, 59% of renters in Greater New Haven are cost-burdened, which impacts Black and Brown residents at disproportionate rates.

There is an increase in safe housing violations, particularly from large landlords who are not maintaining their properties and causing serious health concerns for tenants across the city. According to a recent news article, city records show that there are over 320 addresses that have unresolved violations against landlords. The city should increase funding for the Livable Cities Initiative so that they can fulfill its responsibility to New Haven renters. The city needs to pass legislation to increase fines for landlords who are fixing violations and a system of holding those landlords accountable.

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- Increase the percentage of inclusionary zoning in New Haven.
- Fund the I'm Home initiatives.

Thank you for your time. My children and I have lost our home last year. I've done everything asked of me by all for the past year $\$$ and 4 months, BUT the homeless rate is high and I was told there's no funding when your homeless. Children need a home for not just to eat but to sleep, shower and live. Please find it in your heart to give more funding to help not just the homeless, but to give a better life to the children without a home.

My name is Michael Corquid I live at Laquita inn

According to DanHaven, Home prices, rents, and evictions have spiked in recent months following national trends. The cost to rent an apartment or house in New Haven County increased by 21% from June 2020 to June 2022. In addition, 50% of renters in Greater New Haven are cost-burdened, which impacts Black and Brown residents at disproportionate rates.

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- Increase the percentage of inclusionary zoning in New Haven
- Fund the In Home initiatives

Thank you for your time.

I have been in a hotel since Nov 16th 2022. I am missing 2 jobs, am training and a single father and because of a previous eviction I'm struggling to find rental. My heater is broken, Day by Day my daughter uses when she will have her toys back and a room. But unfortunately everything is in a storage unit. How do I give an answer to a 5 year old that I can't provide. At least with the help I was getting I was making do, worse. But now funds are out I want to do I do I'm spreading Thanksgiving Christmas, new year's, Valentine's day and Easter in a hotel that is not what my daughter deserves but I'm getting my best and that's not enough and this set me back further and in school, we're our best work hard and don't complain but we're not back with a program that affects single parents and children. I offer an volunteer every to help the community. But the community must also help for us.

Charmain Yun, MSW
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