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**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Thomas R. Ficklin Jr.  
Alder, Ward 28

Member  
Aldermanic Affairs Committee  
City Services and Environmental Policy Committee  
Public Safety Committee  
Black & Hispanic Caucus

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August 5, 2024

Hon. Tyisha Walker-Myers  
President, Board of Alders  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510-2010

Dear President Walker-Myers:

On behalf of City Historian Michael Morand, I respectfully submit the attached Resolution titled "RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN'S ACTION IN 1831 TO OPPOSE A COLLEGE FOR BLACK MEN, APOLOGIZING FOR THE HARM DONE, AND CALLING FOR REPARATIVE MEASURES AND RACIAL EQUITY INITIATIVES" to the Board of Alders.

In 1831, New Haven's leaders opposed establishing the nation's first college for Black men, which was supported by abolitionists and endorsed by the first annual Convention of the Free People of Color. The proposed college site was on Water Street, now below Interstates 91 and 95.

The mayor called a town meeting where influential Yale alumni and others spoke against the college, leading to a resolution by the Aldermen, Common Council, and Freemen of New Haven to oppose it, voting 700 to 4 against the college. This opposition delayed the establishment of a college for Black Americans by decades, having far-reaching detrimental consequences.

Acknowledging this history, I submit this resolution requesting the New Haven Board of Alders apologize for the harm done in 1831 and recommit to fostering educational opportunities for all. The City should explore ways to memorialize this history and include it in local education. We also recognize the Yale and Slavery Research Project's work in researching and acknowledging this history.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully submitted

***Hon. Thomas Ficklin, Jr.***

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Attachment

