



Justin Elicker
Mayor

City of New Haven
Office of the Economic Development Administrator
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510



Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Economic Development
Administrator

April 25, 2024

The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: Orders of the Board of Alders authorizing the City of New Haven to apply for and accept a federal discretionary grant in the amount of \$1.5 million administered by the United States Department of Education; to enter into a multi-year agreement with BioLabs New Haven for use of classrooms, common space and scientific equipment on behalf of New Haven Public Schools in substantially the form submitted to the Board of Alders; and to make available a grant not to exceed \$1.5 million from the American Rescue Plan State and Local Recovery Fund, all in a manner consistent with the STEM career pathways initiative at New Haven Public Schools and the 101 College Development and Land Disposition Agreement.

New Haven Public Schools - BioCity Initiative at 101 College Street

Dear Honorable President Walker-Myers:

On behalf of our Together New Haven team members, I am pleased to submit for your consideration three orders which, taken together, will launch the BioCity Initiative at 101 College Street.

You will recall at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Alders supported our small businesses through marketing, technical assistance and business strategy all in an effort to “bounce back” stronger. Change is now visible on the ground, and through innovation. Biotechs related to the Yale School of Medicine, like BioHaven, Arvinas and AztraZeneca, are bringing new treatments to market. The ideas coming out of our community are changing lives across the world. As part of this journey, we worked together to launch the 101 College Street project, recognizing that it was important to for us to look toward the future and build a strong foundation for job growth.

That commitment to inclusive growth remains at the forefront. With your support and guidance, employers, teachers and workforce partners are connecting residents to opportunity across any number of growing fields. The BioCity initiative is an important next step by connecting New

Haven Public School (NHPS) students to the highest levels of scientific research and the meaningful work happening here in our city. Some of the key operational plan highlights for BioCity include,

- **Program Infrastructure:** BioCity will offer a robust educational experience focusing on industry immersion, combining expert instruction with real-world biotech applications. Students will have opportunities to earn dual enrollment credits and gain hands-on experience in a shared lab environment, thereby enhancing both academic and practical skills.
- **Staffing Outlook:** A diverse team including educators specializing in Chemistry and Math as well as career coaching will lead the program, ensuring comprehensive support and high-quality instruction for the students.
- **Student Onboarding and Engagement:** The onboarding process is designed to set clear academic and behavioral expectations while emphasizing safety and professionalism. A summer “Boot Camp” will launch this year. It is an integral part of student preparation, promoting early engagement and community building.
- **Recruitment and Application Process:** There is a focused recruitment effort from select high schools and a clear, accessible application process aim to attract a diverse group of academically driven students. The process emphasizes transparency and inclusivity, with an essay component allowing candidates to showcase their individuality and potential. Specifically, outreach efforts will focus on James Hillhouse Comprehensive High School, Hill Regional Career High School, and Wilbur Cross High School
- **Strategic Partnerships and Collaboration:** The program integrates with local educational and industry leaders to align with New Haven’s economic goals and leverage the area’s rich bioscience resources. This collaboration is set to enhance educational outcomes and ensure that students are well-prepared for biotech careers.
- **Boot Camp and Innovative Programs:** The BioCity program includes the aforementioned preparatory boot camp at CT State Gateway Campus (Gateway) and the BioPath Innovation Camp at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). These initiatives offer hands-on learning experiences across various scientific disciplines, preparing students for their academic and professional futures in bioscience.

With the federal grant award in place, we are now in a position to bring all of the agreements to the Board for its consideration. The communication has three orders summarized as follows,

- (1) a license and use agreement with BioLabs, which includes exclusive use of the classroom and lab along with non-exclusive use of the common space. Carter Winstanley and the

local leadership at BioLabs have been extremely supportive of this initiative and have developed state-of-the-art environment for our students.

- (2) the acceptance of the \$1.5M grant made possible by our federal delegation through the Fiscal Year 2023 Congressional Discretionary process. We have now received the instructions from the US Department of Education to complete the technical application, which is due in early June. This funding will cover both capital and operational costs.
- (3) a \$1.5M American Rescue Plan Career Pathways allocation for use by NHPS, first to cover operational costs and articulation agreements with our partners from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and CT State Gateway Campus (Gateway) that may be associated with BioCity. The balance would be available for any other science-related career pathways, building on the existing momentum at NHPS.

Consistent with President Biden's Executive Order 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government, the City has underscored the racial wealth gap and opportunities to create intergenerational wealth through the recovery process. The classroom and labs at 101 College Street will be fully furnished and equipped to professional standards, thereby creating a lasting sense of belonging, aspiration and access, all in keeping with the Executive Order.

Already due to the great work of New Haven Public Schools, 15 students have been admitted to the program. The goal is to start the program with an off-site summer camp and then the first cohort would go to 101 College in September, 2024.

Thank you again for your consideration and I look forward to your conversation with the project team at the committee hearing. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael Piscitelli in brown ink, consisting of the letters 'MPL' followed by a horizontal line.

Michael Piscitelli, AICP
Economic Development Administrator

Handwritten signature of Keisha Redd-Hannans in brown ink, featuring a stylized cursive script.

Keisha Redd-Hannans, NHPS
Assistant Superintendent

enclosures

cc:

Justin Elicker, Mayor, City of New Haven
Carter Winstanley, Winstanley Enterprises
Madeline Negron, PhD, Superintendent of Schools
Robert Ellis, Project Manager (in memoriam)
Barbara Montalvo, Legislative Liaison
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