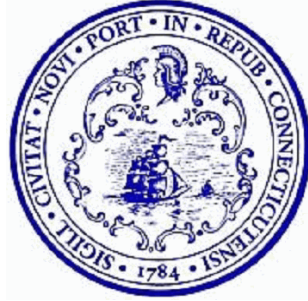


# City of New Haven

165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510  
(203) 946-6483 (phone)  
(203) 946-7476 (fax)



## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chambers

**Education Committee**

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The Education Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hear and act on the following items:

- 1) [LM-2026-0044](#) RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN, APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND PLANNING GRANTS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 TO SUPPORT PLANNING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHING OF AN HBCU IN NEW HAVEN.

Per Order: Hon. Gary B. Hogan, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of Legislative Services, City Hall, 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to [publictestimony@newhavenct.gov](mailto:publictestimony@newhavenct.gov) before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

## Minutes

## Education Committee

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 | 6:00 pm

New Haven City Hall, Aldermanic Chamber

Alder Gary B. Hogan, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present were Alders Gary B. Hogan, Chair, Frank R. Redente, Jr., Vice Chair, Sarah Miller, Caroline Tanbee Smith, Elias Theodore, Mildred D. Melendez, and Christine Kim.

Presenters:

1. RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO PARTICIPATE IN, APPLY FOR, AND ACCEPT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND PLANNING GRANTS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 TO SUPPORT PLANNING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHING OF AN HBCU IN NEW HAVEN.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Medria Blue Ellis, 23 Judd Hill Road, Bethany; Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, 353 Summit Street; and Malachi Bridges, Economic Development Officer, 200 Foxon Hill Road, presented this item. The presentation is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Hon. Thomas Ficklin, Jr.

In response to Alder Hogan, Economic Officer Bridges discussed how the alumni network will receive the funds, if awarded, and the city will form a cooperative agreement with the alumni network. The vision is to build the idea from the ground up.

In response to Alder Miller, Economic Officer Bridges reviewed how there are several ways it could be set up in New Haven including establishing a HBCU, which would require federal approval; a partnership with existing area colleges/universities; or by setting up a 501(3)(c) which would provide funding.

In response to Alder Theodore, Dr. Blue Ellis reviewed how initial discussions with area universities have happened but just regarding presenting the idea, as this is the early stages. Economic Development Administrator Piscitelli discussed how city staff is seen as supporting this initiative, but it will be driven by the CT HBCU Alumni Network.

In response to Alder Kim, Dr. Blue Ellis reviewed the work of the CT HBCU Alumni Network in Connecticut and the various work they do to promote education at HBCUs including education, tours, and events. The promotion of HBCUs is primarily carried out by alumni.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Economic Officer Bridges reviewed the feedback received from CIF Round 8 regarding why the city was not selected. Discussed the aspirational goals of

the initial funding application, reasons behind them, and changes needed for the application to succeed.

In response to Alder Redente, Jr., Economic Officer Bridges confirmed Yale has been open to acknowledging their mistakes and supporting the project. Discussed how they are being strategic regarding which universities they are reaching out to and when.

In response to Alder Hogan, Dr. Blue Ellis discussed how they sent off approximately (35) thirty-five students each year, although more attend. They have sent off around (300) three hundred students.

Economic Officer Bridges shared his personal experience of wanting to attend an HBCU but not wanting to attend a school so far away and ultimately accepting a full ride at UCONN. Discussed how the goal is to start small and scale up. Dr. Blue Ellis reviewed how some HBCUs are small—around 2,000 students.

Written testimony was submitted in support by John Taylor, Founding Principal of Booker T. Washington Academy; Latisha Douglas; and Rebecca Cramer on behalf of Whalley, Edgewood, and Beaver Hills Community Management Team.

Scot X. Esdaile, NAACP, 847 Woodin Street, Hamden, spoke in support of this item. Stressed the importance of the HBCU initiative in New Haven being black owned.

Alice S. Coleman, CT HBCU Alumni Network, 38 Greenhill Terrace, spoke in support of this item.

Dr. Charles Warner, Jr., 282 Grandview Avenue, spoke in support of this item. Shared how he is a 5th generation HBCU graduate. Spoke of all the impacts the loss of the 1831 College left. Discussed how HBCUs have always been welcoming to all who qualify and want an education and currently 10% of students at HBCUs are white.

Keisha Redd-Hannans, 155 Hearn Lane, Hamden, spoke in support of this item. Shared her experience of attending Howard University.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Frank R. Redente Jr. moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. Alder Frank R. Redente Jr. moved to amend item # 1 to update CIF Round 8 to CIF Round 9, seconded by Alder Sarah Miller. All the Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

Alder Frank R. Redente Jr. moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Elias Theodore. The motion was unanimously approved at 7:28 p.m.

Alder Frank R. Redente Jr. moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Sarah Miller. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 7:31 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here:  
<https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II