

April 17, 2024

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

Dear Alder President Walker-Myers,

In accordance with the Order of the Board of Alders authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept all grants on behalf of the City of New Haven, passed October 17, 1994, I am respectfully writing to advise the Honorable Board that the Department of Police Service would like to establish a Junior Cadet Fund to accept a donations of cash and items from the community to supplement the budget for the Department's Youth Outreach Budget. These items include uniforms similar to those worn by sworn officers, associated equipment and supplies, and activity fees. Our general fund budget provides limited support for the program, which has prevented us from developing a strong program.

Our Junior Cadet Program is available to boys and girls ages 13 to 18. One of its goals is to prepare them to enter the Cadet Program (ages 18 to 21) which would enable them to experience some of the tasks of policing; ultimately, successful recruits would be prepared to enter the NHPD Police Academy at age 21. The Junior Cadet Program is a police academy, run by sworn officers, that provides basic information about a career in law enforcement, including the role of the police in society, chain of command, patrol operations and investigative services, use of force, de-escalation, the court system and laws of arrest. There are two community events that participants attend: a Stations Day in May and a weeklong Academy in July that offer educational and physical agility activities.

There is support in the community for the Junior Cadet Program and supervisory staff are anxious to continue and expand efforts to obtain resources for it. A successful Junior Cadet Program will enable the Department to not only develop youth to become responsible citizens, but also to provide a pipeline to build our Department with individuals who are committed to making New Haven a safe place to live and work.

We thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karl Jacobson
Chief of Police