



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

JUSTIN ELICKER, MAYOR

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SINCE 1958

March 28, 2024

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

President Walker-Myers:

I am writing to formally request consideration from the Board of Alders regarding the City's application for an exception to the City Charter requirement concerning elector status for the Chief Administrative Officer ("CAO"), Ms. Regina Rush-Kittle

As you are aware, the City Charter mandates that all appointed officials must hold elector status. However, in this particular case, an exception is being sought due to the invaluable contributions and exceptional performance exhibited by Ms. Rush-Kittle in her role as the Chief Administrative Officer. Her dedication, expertise, and commitment to the betterment of our City have been exemplary.

Moreover, the CAO has demonstrated unwavering dedication to her responsibilities, leading to substantial advancements in various City projects and initiatives. It is undeniable that Ms. Rush-Kittle has demonstrated outstanding dedication in serving the City since assuming her role. Beyond her duties as CAO, during times of transition for key positions she has undertaken additional responsibilities such as serving as the Acting Police Chief, leading Human Resources, and overseeing Emergency Management, fulfilling each task with diligence and expertise. Her proactive approach to affecting positive changes across various departments speaks volumes about her commitment to enhancing overall City governance. Her leadership has significantly contributed to meaningful improvements of our community's infrastructure, services, and overall well-being.

However, it is pertinent to note that her family home, where her husband resides, is situated in Rocky Hill, CT. Circumstances in Ms. Rush-Kittle's personal life, including a prolonged absence from her family home spanning over two years, now necessitate her return to Rocky Hill for full-time residence. It is a significant hardship for Ms. Rush-Kittle to bear the financial burden of maintaining a separate residence in New Haven alongside the ongoing expenses associated with maintaining her family home. Moreover, the considerable time spent away from her family due to her current living arrangement may pose a significant emotional strain and be detrimental to her family's well-being. These factors collectively present a substantial hardship that warrants granting this request. Absent an exception, Ms. Rush-Kittle will vacate her position as CAO taking her skills and talents elsewhere.

In light of these circumstances and recognizing the loss to the City if the CAO were to separate employment, we believe that granting an exception to the elector status requirement for the CAO is not only justified but also crucial for the continued progress and prosperity of our City. Her continued service is essential for maintaining the momentum of ongoing projects, and ensuring the effective management of City affairs and the departments which she oversees.

Therefore, I urge the Board of Alders to carefully consider this application and to grant the necessary exception to allow Ms. Rush-Kittle to continue serving our City in her capacity as the Chief Administrative Officer. Doing so will not only acknowledge her exceptional contributions but also ensure the continued success and advancement of New Haven.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that your careful consideration will lead to a decision that is in the best interest of our community.

Sincerely,



Sean Matteson
Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Communication from the City Personnel Director