



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Elias Theodore
Alder, Ward 1

165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510-2401

Member
Education Committee
Legislation Committee
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April 22, 2026

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

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I am writing in strong support of the Order to designate the southeast corner of College Street and Elm Street as “John Wilhelm Corner” in perpetuity. This designation would serve as a meaningful and lasting tribute to Mr. John W. Wilhelm’s extraordinary leadership in the labor movement, his contributions to community organizing, and his enduring service to the City of New Haven.

John Wilhelm is widely recognized for his influential leadership in organized labor and for his longstanding organizing work connected to Yale’s unions here in New Haven. Historical reporting and community accounts have described his important role in strengthening Yale-affiliated union locals and contributing to the broader town-gown organizing efforts that have helped shape civic life in our city. Through his work, Mr. Wilhelm helped advance the rights, dignity, and collective voice of working people, while reinforcing the values of solidarity, fairness, and advocacy in both the workplace and the broader community.

Mr. Wilhelm’s impact extended well beyond organizing labor alone. His leadership strengthened relationships between institutions and neighborhoods and fostered a deeper connection between the university community and New Haven residents. He is being honored not only for his contributions to working people and the City’s rich labor history, but also for the personal impact he made in the lives of so many individuals whom he coached, encouraged, and inspired over the years.

Designating the southeast corner of College Street and Elm Street as “John Wilhelm Corner” is a fitting and symbolic recognition of his enduring legacy. This location appropriately reflects his connection to New Haven’s labor and civic history and stands as a permanent reminder of the leadership, service, advocacy, and commitment he demonstrated throughout his life.

For these reasons, I respectfully and enthusiastically support this Order and urge my colleagues to approve the designation of “John Wilhelm Corner” in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

Elias Theodore

Hon. Elias Theodore
Alder, Ward 1

