



Justin Elicker
Mayor

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



Michael Piscitelli
Economic Development
Administrator

March 29, 2024

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

**Re: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN
APPROVING A THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$300,000.00) MATCHING
GRANT FOR CLIFFORD BEERS COMMUNITY CARE CENTER TO SUPPORT
REQUIRED PHYSICAL UPGRADES TO 794 DIXWELL AVENUE THAT WILL
ENABLE THE CREATION OF A TRAUMA-INFORMED COMMUNITY WELLNESS
AND EDUCATION CENTER FOCUSED ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

Dear Honorable President Walker-Myers:

Enclosed for the Board of Alders' ("BOA") consideration is an Order requesting approval of a matching grant for Clifford Beers Community Care Center ("Clifford Beers").

As you are aware, Clifford Beers is a nationally recognized provider of trauma-informed mental health care for children, adolescents and adults. However their comprehensive approach to services goes far beyond counseling as evidenced by the successful reimagination of the Farnam House in Fair Haven, the new Full-Service Community Schools initiative being implemented at two Fair Haven schools and the introduction of early childhood services as part of Clifford Beers' overall service delivery plan.

Recently, Clifford Beers has purchased the former St. Michael's School located at 794 Dixwell Ave in Newhallville with plans to rehabilitate the long-shuttered building and open a transformative community space that will include Connecticut's first trauma-informed community wellness and education center focused on youth and families. A long-awaited new charter school focused on educating Black and Brown boys is also slated to co-locate at this location.

Given the current advocacy for change in Newhallville that includes the community-led creation of Newhallville/Hamden Stronger Together and subsequent launch of a new neighborhood development corporation, the relocation of the New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Center to Bassett Street and deeper partnerships with anchor institutions like Albertus Magnus College, the City of New Haven (the "City") is strongly invested in seeing this project to fruition.

As the building at 794 Dixwell Avenue has not been occupied for many years at least two phases of capital improvements are required to make it suitable for Clifford Beers' purposes. In particular the roof requires immediate attention, and the bulk of the proposed City grant would be spent on repairs to the roof system to allow for tenancy inside the building as early as Fall 2024. Simultaneously, Clifford Beers will be seeking capital funding from additional sources including the upcoming Round 5 of the State of Connecticut's Community Investment Fund expected to be announced in the coming months that will potentially fund other longer-term phase 2 improvements of the building.

In closing, the rehabilitation and future programming at the new Dixwell Avenue location will have a positive and lasting impact on residents living in both New Haven and southern Hamden consistent with the Clifford Beers mission in the community and our shared goals for revitalization of the area. The proposed grant funding will allow Clifford Beers to begin their work in Newhallville as soon as possible. Furthermore, Clifford Beers has demonstrated its willingness to work closely with the community on its plans for expansion into Newhallville and we are confident they will continue to do so as they envision new opportunities for the Dixwell Avenue campus.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Carlos Eyzaguirre
Deputy Economic Development Administrator

CC:

Justin Elicker, Mayor
Barbara Montalvo, Legislative Liaison to Board of Alders
Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator