

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Justin Elicker, Mayor

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August 24th, 2023

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

RE: ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS AUTHORIZING SOLAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I am pleased to submit the above referenced order for your consideration and action.

As part of the City's commitment to reduce energy costs and improving energy efficiency, we have explored the possibility of placing additional solar arrays on municipal buildings and sites in order to generate electricity at a lower rate than the rate the City purchases energy from the grid.

In 2022, Eversource and United Illuminating (UI) launched the Non-Residential Energy Solutions (NRES) program, a six-year program that combines Net Metering and Renewable Energy Certificates into one program, incentivizing solar development by allowing approved projects to receive one incentive rate a 20-year term. Under this program, two annual auctions are held for renewable energy credits (or RECs, the "green" attributes of electricity from renewable energy systems) generated by renewable energy systems located in Connecticut. The proceeds of these auctions provide the winning renewable energy projects with a guaranteed supplemental stream of income for 20 years, paid by the local electricity distribution Company (UI).

The City has twice in the past taken advantage of purchase agreements (PPAs), a financial mechanism that allows the City to install solar power systems without increased bonding or additional significant operational and maintenance responsibilities. Under a PPA, a third party solar developer installs, maintains, and owns a solar array located on a City facility while selling the energy produced to the City at a reduced rate for a 20-year period. In this case, the City has selected solar developer Greenskies Clean Energy through a competitive solicitation.

Rooftop solar arrays are now designed to be compatible with existing roof warranties and have a minimal impact on the health of the roof system. All of the proposed arrays will be analyzed by a licensed structural engineer to ensure the integrity of all building systems. Over parking spaces, solar

parking canopies can reduce City energy bills, while conserving undeveloped land and providing shade and protection from the elements to vehicles. The City is seeking to develop rooftop systems at the Q House and 200 Wintergreen Avenue and parking canopy systems at the Q House, Hill Central School, and LW Beecher School. The City also intends to submit a project to lease the top of the City's capped landfill to host a large solar array.

Subject to the approval of the Energy Committee, the order authorizes the Mayor to enter into power purchase agreements as well as any leases and ancillary agreements necessary for the installation and technical execution of the solar arrays. Solar arrays are connected to the electric grid, and therefore require a standardized agreement with the local electric distribution company to interconnect. As a larger project, the solar array at the landfill location also requires the City to lease of a section of the capped landfill property to the solar developer.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (475) 331-3769.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Winter

Executive Director