



# City of New Haven

## Meeting Minutes Finance Committee

165 Church Street  
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Wednesday, April 30, 2025

6:00 PM

Aldermanic Chambers

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Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

### Aldermanic Notice New Haven

The Finance Committee will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. in the Aldermanic Chambers, 165 Church St., New Haven to hear the following:

1. To hear PUBLIC TESTIMONY concerning the Mayor's Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 26.
2. Workshop to hear from the Special Service Districts:
  - a. Grand Avenue Special Service District
  - b. Chapel West Special Service District
  - c. Town Green Special Service District
3. A workshop to review portions of the Annual City Budgets proposed for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025. The following City Departments will be heard:

Health Department  
Elderly Services  
Community Services Administration  
Youth & Recreation services  
Public Library  
Community Resilience

These items are filed in the Office of Legislative Services, 165 Church Street, 2nd floor, New Haven. Per order: Hon. Adam Marchand, Chair. Attest: Michael Smart, City Clerk.

If you need a disability related accommodation, please call three business days in advance 946 7651 (voice) or 946 8582 (TTY).

**Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to  
[publictestimony@newhavenct.gov](mailto:publictestimony@newhavenct.gov) before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.**

**Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube Page**

Meeting Minutes

*Alder Marchand, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., April 30, 2025, in the*

*Aldermanic Chamber, 165 Church Street, New Haven. Present were Alds. Marchand, DeCola, Walker-Myers, Festa, H. Smith, and Punzo. Also present were Alders C. Smith, Hogan, and E. Rodriguez.*

*1. To hear PUBLIC TESTIMONY concerning the Mayor's Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year*

*2025 26.*

*Alder Marchand called the following people to come before the committee and testify. They were:*

- 1. Elizabeth Yarbrough, of 23 Rockview Circle, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 2. Lisa Benard, of 6 Grandview Avenue, who spoke about education funding.*
- 3. Stephanie White, of 1303 Aspen Glen Drive Hamden, who spoke about Board of Education cuts.*
- 4. Aquil Salaam, of 57 Willis Street, who spoke for more for community assistance.*
- 5. Ian Skoggard, of Cleveland Road, who spoke for New Haven Works.*
- 6. Kimberly Smart, of 1058 Townsend Road, who spoke about education funding.*
- 7. Jacob Tebes, of 389 Whitney Avenue, who spoke for Elm City Compass.*
- 8. Thretha Green, of 389 Whitney Avenue, who spoke for Elm City Compass.*
- 9. Tom Behrendt, of 869 Orange Street, who spoke for Elm City Compass.*
- 10. Wanda Jofre, 109 Legion Avenue, who spoke for Elm City Compass.*
- 11. Veronica Vidal, 82 Fillmore Street, who spoke for homeless services.*
- 12. John Labiellice, of 109 Legion Avenue, who spoke for homeless services.*
- 13. Brian Shufsky, of 109 Legion Avenue, who spoke for homeless services.*
- 14. Kimberly Acosta, of 255 Lloyd Street, who spoke of general budget items.*
- 15. Alycia Santilli, of 255 Woodward Avenue, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 16. Kimberly Hart, of 1456 Ella T. Grasso Blvd, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 17. Steve Werlin, of 24 Alton Avenue, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 18. Kelly Fitzgerald, of United Way on James Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 19. Kathleen O'Connor Duffany, of 1102 Farmington Avenue West Hartford, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 20. Blanche Reeves, of Orchard Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 21. Jamilah Rasheed, of 22 Anthony Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 22. Lorri Grant, of 7 College Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 23. Tomeka Friessun, of 2 Washington Avenue, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 24. Roberto Casanuevo, of New Haven, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 25. Kevin McCarthy, of 171 Lafferty Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 26. Lou Perno, of the Pride Center, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 27. Kathleen Faught, of 600 York Street, who spoke for about the library funding.*
- 28. Emily Miran, 78 Olive Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 29. Gillian Greco, of Branford Connecticut, who spoke of education funding.*
- 30. Makayla Kid, 1363 Quinnipiac Avenue, who spoke of education funding.*
- 31. David Paul Firestone, 52 Howe Avenue, who spoke of education funding.*
- 32. Melody Gallagher, of 32 Barrett Street, who spoke of education funding.*
- 33. Ayeisha Cole, of 501 Crescent Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 34. Joanne Scales, of 69 Bassett Street, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 35. Ashley Stockton, of 209 Willow Street, who spoke of education funding.*
- 36. Jenny Graves, of 22 George Street, who spoke about education funding.*
- 37. Leslie Blatteau, 410 Greenwich Avenue, who spoke about Education funding.*
- 38. Izzi Gefler, of 757 Orange Street, who spoke about education funding.*
- 39. Julia Miller, who spoke about education funding.*
- 40. Kaleigh Albert, 55 West Wood Road Hamden, who spoke about food insecurity.*
- 41. Susan Harris, of 10 Springside Avenue, who spoke about food insecurity.*

42. Chris Schweiter, of 361 Elm Street, who spoke about climate change.
43. Meredith Polk, of 249 Foutain Street, who spoke about climate change.
44. Rebecca Michalson, of 131 French Avenue East Haven, who spoke about education funding.
45. Eric Teichamn, of 664 Booth Hill Road Trumball, who spoke about education funding.
46. Marissa Iezzi, of 40 Plainfield Road West Haven, who spoke about education funding.
47. Kim Rogers, of 770 Edgewood Avenue, who spoke about education funding.
48. Naseema Gilson, of 166 Norton Street, who spoke about food insecurity.
49. Ben Scudder, od 110 Lawrence Street, who spoke about education funding.
50. John Carlos, of Wilbur Cross High School, who spoke about education funding.
51. Jonelly Colon, of HS. Student, who spoke about education funding.
52. Andrew Gierly, of 43 Harbor, who spoke about food insecurity.
53. Hope Chavez, of 63 Howard Avenue, who spoke for the library.
54. Marta Tamulevich, of 46 Wilford Avenue Branford, who spoke about education funding.
55. Lori Martin, of 24 Sherlane Avenue, who spoke about food insecurity.
56. Rebekah Moore, 570 Winthrop Avenue, who spoke about the arts & cultural affairs.
57. Patricia Tully, 419 Whalley Avenue, who spoke about the arts & culture.
58. Pam Linder, of 66 Conrad Street, who spoke about food insecurity.
59. Claudette Kidd, 266 State Street, who spoke about food insecurity.
60. Magaly Egijas, of 86 Dell Drive, who spoke about arts & cultural affairs.

*Alder Marchand asked three times if there was anyone else from the public who wished to testify, no one came forward*

*At 9:12, on a motion by DeCola, seconded by Festa to close the public portion of the meeting. The committee approved this motion.*

*At 9:15 PM, Alder Marchand told the committee that they would take a brief recess.*

*At 9:28, Alder Marchand called the meeting back to order.*

**2. Workshop to hear from the Special Service Districts.**

*Anthony Giano, from Chappel West Special Service District came before the committee and spoke on his districts tax request.*

*Win Davis, from Town Green Special Service District, came before the committee and spoke about his districts and the Grand Avenue Special Service District tax request.*

*No questions were asked.*

**3. A workshop to review portions of the Annual City Budgets proposed for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2025. The following City Departments will be heard:**

*a. Health Department: Maritza Bond, Director of the Health department, Eliza Halsey, CSA Administrator, and Shannon McCue, Office of Policy, Management, and Grants Director, came before the committee. Ms. McCue spoke followed by Ms. Bond.*

*Alder Festa asked if they were going to ask for a multi-year contract with the employment agency for part-time nurses. Ms. Bond and Ms. McCue spoke about this.*

*No further questions were asked.*

b. *Elderly Services: Tomi Veale, Director of Elderly services, Eliza Halsey, CSA Administrator, and Shannon McCue, Office of Policy, Management, and Grants Director, came before the committee. Ms. McCue spoke followed by Ms. Vale.*

*Alder Festa asked if they were closing the Elderly Service Senior Center in the East Shore and opening a new one. Ms. Veale said they were and explained.*

*No further questions were asked.*

c. *Community Services Administration: Eliza Halsey, CSA Administrator, and Shannon McCue, Office of Policy, Management, and Grants Director, came before the committee. Ms. McCue spoke to the committee followed by Ms. Halsey.*

*Alder Festa asked about the Food Policy Council and how can it be recreated. Ms. Halsey spoke on this.*

*Alder Marchand asked what are the highest impact areas that the department oversees. Ms. Halsey spoke on this.*

*No further questions were asked.*

d. *Youth & Recreation Department: Gwendlyn Busch-Williams, Director of Youth & Recreation, Eliza Halsey, CSA Administrator, and Shannon McCue, Office of Policy, Management, and Grants Director, came before the committee. Ms. McCue spoke followed by Ms. Busch-Williams.*

*Alder Festa asked what are the challenges to get funding for the Youth at Work summer program. Ms. Busch-Williams spoke about this.*

*Alder Walker-Myers asked how the new regulations effected the Youth at Work summer program. Ms. Busch-Williams explained this.*

*No further questions were asked.*

e. *Public Library Department: Maria Bentley, City Librarian, Eliza Halsey, CSA Administrator, and Shannon McCue, Office of Policy, Management, and Grants Director, came before the committee. Ms. McCue spoke to the committee followed by Ms. Bentley.*

*Alder Festa asked that they explain the Volunteer Coordinator position. Ms. Bentley did so.*

*No further questions were asked.*

f. *Department of Community Resilience: Tirzah Kemp, Director of Community Resilience, Eliza Halsey, CSA Administrator, and Shannon McCue, Office of Policy, Management, and Grants Director, came before the committee. Ms. McCue spoke to the committee followed by Ms.*

*Alder Marchand asked why they wanted to move the department to the General Fund. Ms. Kemp explained this.*

*Alder Festa asked what has Compass done outside of the downtown area. M*

*Alder Festa asked if the Compass activity report would be provided to the committee. Ms. Kemp said that she would.*

*No further questions were asked.*

*10:54 PM, Alder DeCola, seconded by Punzo, to close the meeting. The committee voted unanimously in favor of this action.*

*The meeting was recorded. The recording is filed and may be inspected at Legislative Services.*

*The meeting was also recorded on Board of Alders You Tube page.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Donald A. Hayden, Fiscal Analyst*