

April 13, 2022

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

Dear Alder President Walker-Myers,

In accordance with the Order of the Board of Alders authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept all grants on behalf of the City of New Haven, passed October 17, 1994, I am writing to respectfully request that the Honorable Board approve submission of an application by the City of New Haven's Department of Police Service (NHPD) to the U.S. Department of Justice. The Department would like to apply for \$175,000.00 for a two-year grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) 2022 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Implementation Project.

As we all know, good mental health is as essential as good physical health for officers to effectively perform the various and challenging tasks of law enforcement. Exposure to the stresses and traumas of crime and violence can have considerable consequences to the officer and his or her family, including substance abuse, divorce, and suicide. In addition, recent events across the country have led to damaging narratives that question the legitimacy of the police and where individuals have become antagonistic to officers as they attempt to fulfill their duties.

NHPD seeks to use this grant funding to create a culture that encourages help-seeking among sworn personnel that would defend against trauma, distress and burnout by providing wellness programs that enhance coping and resiliency, including education and awareness sessions, exercise, nutrition, and stress/anxiety reduction strategies.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Renee Dominguez  
Interim Chief of Police