



**NEW HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
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**Justin Elicker**  
**Mayor**

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

February 23, 2023

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I am pleased to request authorization to apply for and accept \$37,000 from the Connecticut Urban Forest Council's "The Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant Program" application.

The tree inventory completed in partnership with URI over the summer identified: 133 standing dead trees, 397 trees in very poor condition, and 483 stumps across six Environmental Justice communities (the Hill, Cedar Hill, Fair Haven, Dwight, West River, and the Annex). Funds from this grant would be used for contractor crews to remove risk trees and grind stumps so that progress can be made in replacing trees in the neighborhoods most experiencing the negative impacts of low urban canopy cover. The Parks and Public Works Department is very fortunate to have six full-time tree trimmers on staff. Unfortunately, the backlog of high priority risk mitigation tree work (dead, diseased, structurally unsound trees), declining tree health due to a changing climate, and stronger, more frequent storms supersedes the stump grinding and maintenance pruning and limits the number of days in which a stump grinding crew is available.

The Department will partner with the Urban Resource Initiative (URI) to prioritize locations where a tree adopter has been waiting for a new tree, but the removal of a stump or dead tree is a barrier to replacement. URI and the City will also work together to solicit more tree adopters in locations where a tree and stump are to be removed.

The grant funds will supplement existing staff capacity and Capital funding for this project.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annie Mixsell".

Annie Mixsell  
Tree System Coordinator, Tree Warden  
Department of Parks and Public Works.