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May 30, 2023

The Honorable Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Honorable Board Members:

In accordance with the Order of the Board of the Aldermen authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept all grants on behalf of the City of New Haven, passed October 17, 1994, I am respectfully writing to advise you of an application by the New Haven Free Public Library to the State of Connecticut, Connecticut State Library's Fiber to the Library Communications Grant-Stage 2. The Library is will be requesting funding from the State Library's Fiber to the Library Communications Grant to fulfill recommendations from a network assessment conducted by the State Library's designated contractor.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the urgency of the digital divide and particularly the inequity of access to high-speed internet access, now critical to most aspects of daily life. The program is designed to maximize the availability of high-speed internet to libraries across the state. As New Haven Free Public Library continues to prioritize technology access to New Haven, this funding will allow us to mitigate critical failure points and vulnerabilities in our current technology infrastructure and improve high-speed internet access availability.

This request represents the second stage of our application for the Fiber to the Library Communication Grant. Our previous request in April 2022 was successfully used for a comprehensive assessment of the library's network infrastructure to assess for areas in need of enhancement or replacement. As per recommendation of this assessment, the revenue the grant provides in the second stage will be used to pay for equipment and labor costs associated with executing these improvements.

The request for the second stage application for this grant from the State Library was received mid-May and must be submitted for a deadline of May 31st. I am respectfully requesting the Honorable Board's Unanimous Consent for the attached resolution to accept these grant funds.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please contact me at (203) 946-8124 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Maureen Sullivan

Acting City Librarian & Director

NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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