

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Justin Elicker, Mayor

OFFICE OF CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY

165 Church St, 2nd Floor

New Haven, CT 06510

Phone: (203) 946-8582

May 25th, 2023

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

RE: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE COMPOSTING AND FOOD WASTE REDUCTION PILOT PROJECT GRANT FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PILOT STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING FOOD RESCUE AND FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

Dear Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers,

The City of New Haven, in partnership with the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) and Haven's Harvest, is requesting authorization to apply for and accept funding from the US Department of Agriculture Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project program.

The grant would fund innovative strategies for increasing food rescue efforts and food scrap diversion in the downtown area. As the City pursues models for providing access to food scrap diversion and composting for residences served by City refuse and recycling pickup, it is important to consider that residences and businesses served by private haulers make up nearly two thirds of the City's solid waste tonnage annually. In order to reduce the volume of food waste incinerated and increase the diversion of food waste across the City, it is critical to pilot and demonstrate the value of food waste diversion strategies for large residences and commercial business. Food that might be otherwise be incinerated can and should be put toward valuable uses such as feeding the hungry and enriching soil.

Grant funds would provide direct support to Haven's Harvest to assist them in growing their food rescue operation and in exploring and adopting innovative models to sustain food rescue operations over the long-term. In partnership with CET and the Town Green District, the grant would also fund outreach to and engagement of local businesses that generate large amounts of food waste, such as restaurants and hotels. These businesses would be given the opportunity to opt into free

technical advice from CET on how to reduce food waste, increase food rescue through Haven's Harvest, and implement food scrap diversion. The City and CET also plan to partner with some large residential buildings to pilot a platform to allow residents of larger buildings to opt into food scrap collection, smart composting bin receptacles than can be unlocked with a key card or smartphone. The aim of this would be to test the model in order to see if it can be deployed in other areas of the City.

We respectfully request your honorable Board's favorable action on the attached Order authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding through the US Department of Agriculture Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project program.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (203) 946-8582.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Winter

Executive Director