August 10, 2026

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers, President
New Haven Board of Alders
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06515

Dear President Walker-Myers,

I respectfully submit the attached Resolution urging Yale University to decline to enter into a settlement with the Trump Administration. As New Haven's largest employer, largest landowner, and one of the City's most significant civic, educational, and economic institutions, Yale's decisions have consequences across our city. The University's students, faculty, staff, and alumni are our children, neighbors, workers, and constituents.

While the terms of any potential settlement are not yet known, that uncertainty is itself cause for concern. An agreement reached under significant federal pressure could affect the rights, opportunities, and security of Yale students and workers. Given Yale's extraordinary presence in New Haven, changes to the University's policies and priorities can also have broader economic and cultural consequences for our city and region.

New Haven has not stood by quietly as the Trump Administration has sought to undermine the rights and security of our residents. Our City has fought to protect our immigrant neighbors, to preserve access to food assistance and other essential programs, and to defend the principle that every resident deserves dignity and equal protection. Yale is an institution rooted in this community, with immense resources and influence. It should stand with New Haven and its residents by refusing to allow political pressure to dictate policies that could affect its students and workers.

Beyond the local, there is a nationally significant cultural and civic question at stake. Yale is one of the country's defining institutions, and its choices help shape the intellectual and civic character of our city and nation. We should be concerned when political pressure threatens the independence of an institution of this significance. The Board of Alders should therefore make clear that New Haven values the independence of Yale and all of its educational institutions.

The attached Resolution expresses the Board's support for the thousands of Yale students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have called upon the University to reject a settlement and defend its independence. It calls upon Yale President Maurie McInnis and the Yale Corporation to stand firm and defend the University through the appropriate legal and judicial processes.

Thank you for your consideration of this Resolution. I respectfully request that it be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration by the Board.

Sincerely,

Elias Theodore
Alder, Ward 1
New Haven Board of Alders

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS URGING YALE UNIVERSITY TO DEFEND ITS INSTITUTIONAL AUTONOMY AND NOT ENTER INTO A SETTLEMENT WITH THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, Yale University is New Haven's largest employer, largest landowner, and one of the City's most significant civic, educational, and economic institutions; and

WHEREAS, Yale University's decisions have significant consequences for the City of New Haven, including for its youth, students, working people, businesses, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice has initiated an investigation into Yale University concerning its admissions practices and has issued a Letter of Findings alleging violations of federal anti-discrimination law; and

WHEREAS, Yale University has entered into settlement negotiations with the federal government concerning these allegations; and

WHEREAS, the terms of any potential settlement remain unknown, and any agreement could impose restrictions, obligations, or other conditions affecting Yale's admissions policies, institutional practices, or the rights, opportunities, security, or personal information of its students, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Alders recognizes the importance of Yale University maintaining its institutional independence and exercising its academic and administrative functions free from inappropriate political interference; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Yale students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the broader Yale community have called upon the University to reject a settlement and defend its institutional autonomy; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Haven has repeatedly acted to protect the rights, safety, and dignity of its residents in response to actions by the Trump Administration, including by protecting immigrant residents from federal immigration enforcement, defending access to essential programs such as food assistance, and affirming the City's commitment to ensuring that all residents are treated with dignity and equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, as an institution deeply rooted in New Haven and possessing significant resources and influence, Yale University has a responsibility to stand alongside the communities in which it operates and to defend the rights, security, and dignity of its students, faculty, staff, and neighbors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Haven Board of Alders supports the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who have called upon Yale University to reject a settlement with the federal government and defend its institutional autonomy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Haven Board of Alders urges Yale University President Maurie McInnis and the Yale Corporation to decline to enter into a settlement with the federal government and, instead, to defend the University's admissions policies and institutional independence through the appropriate legal and judicial processes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Haven Board of Alders urges Yale University to ensure that its response to federal investigations or enforcement actions protects the rights, security, and personal information of Yale's students, faculty, and staff, as well as academic freedom and institutional independence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to Yale University President Maurie McInnis and the Yale Corporation.