



Toni N. Harp
Mayor

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

City of New Haven
200 Orange Street, Rm 503
New Haven, CT 06510
www.cityofnewhaven.com



Giovanni Zinn, P.E.
City Engineer

January 22, 2019

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

Re: Order authorizing the Mayor to accept funding from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for Living Shoreline Resiliency Projects at East Shore Park and Long Wharf Park

Dear President Walker-Myers:

On July 25, 2018 the State Bond Commission made bond funds available in the amount of \$8,000,000 for coastal stewardship and resiliency. The State Bond Commission specifically mentioned living shoreline projects in New Haven at East Shore Park and Long Wharf Park.

Climate change from human activities is one of the more severe challenges facing New Haven as a coastal community. As part of the funding previously accepted by the Board of Alders under the HUD CDBG-DR program, the City Plan Department led a study of the flood hazards of the Long Wharf area, and potential mitigation strategies. One of these strategies was to establish a “living shoreline”, which is a type of erosion and shoreline protection that relies on purposefully established natural systems such as intertidal marshes, high marshes, dunes, and others supported by man-made structures such as stone sills and imported material.

At the same time, the Parks Department and the Engineering Department started working with community partners including Save the Sound on natural strategies to combat erosion at East Shore Park. There too the most promising solution identified was a living shoreline. This led to extensive collaboration between the City Plan, Parks, and Engineering Departments, and along with the City’s work on green stormwater infrastructure installations attracted the attention of CT DEEP.

The proposed funding will enable the City to reconstruct approximately 3000’ of shoreline at both Long Wharf Park and East Shore Park with living shoreline techniques. This will lead to both habitat creation and wetlands that will be more resilient to erosion and shoreline degradation. In addition, the protection afforded by living shorelines will migrate with sea level rise, continuing to protect New Haven well into the future.

As with any infrastructure projects, public participation is key. The Long Wharf CDBG-DR project has had multiple public meetings, and East Shore Park will have a public meeting for input on design elements in February. This project not only will enhance the natural systems of these two key shorelines in New Haven,



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but also incorporate design elements such as walking paths to improve the access of park users to the water and to enjoy the newfound natural beauty of the living shorelines.

The proposed action before you authorizes the Mayor to apply for and accept these funds. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Giovanni Zinn, P.E.
City Engineer

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enclosures: (1) BOA submission package and (2) State Bond Commission Minutes

c: Sean Matteson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Piscitelli, Acting Economic Development Administrator
Rebecca Bombero, Parks Director