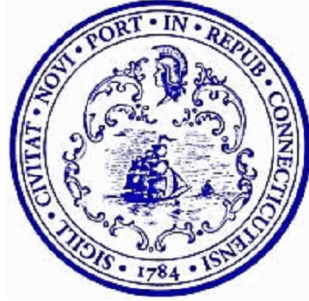


# City of New Haven

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## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 6, 2025

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chamber

**City Services and Environmental Policy**

(Board of Alders Notice - New Haven) The City Services and Environmental Policy Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hear and act on the following items:

[LM-2023-0651](#)

ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS DESIGNATING THE CORNER OF SHERMAN PARKWAY AND HARDING PLACE AS “CAMRYN’S CORNER” TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR THE VIBRANT LIFE OF CAMRYN GAYLE, A DEDICATED CHEERLEADER AND SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR COUNTLESS YOUNG INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY.

[LM-2025-0025](#) RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW HAVEN TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FROM CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO CONSTRUCT A FOOD SCRAP DIVERSION SORTING FACILITY, AND TO ENTER INTO ASSOCIATED AGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING AND CARRY OUT THE ASSOCIATED GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

[LM-2024-0723](#) FROM THE NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENT, SUBMITTING A TRANSPORTATION TRANSFORMATION RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE A SUSTAINABLE AND HEALTHY NEW HAVEN WHILE RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of Legislative Services located on the 2nd Floor of 165 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to [publictestimony@newhavenct.gov](mailto:publictestimony@newhavenct.gov) before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

## Minutes

Alder Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Chair, Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, Kiana Flores, Caroline Tanbee Smith, and Gary Hogan.

1. Order of the New Haven Board of Alders designating the corner of Sherman Parkway and Harding Place as “Camryn’s Corner” to commemorate and honor the vibrant life of Camryn Gayle, a dedicated cheerleader and source of inspiration for countless young individuals in the community.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Hon. Anna M. Festa presented this item on behalf of Hon. Troy Streater. Hon. Festa read the letter on the record introducing the item.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 1, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

2. Resolution of the New Haven Board of Alders authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Haven to apply for and accept the Materials Management Infrastructure Grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to construct a food scrap diversion sorting facility and to enter into associated agreements to accept grant funding and carry out the associated grant program activities.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Steven Winter, Executive Director of Climate and Sustainability, 459 Dixwell Avenue, and HannahZoe Chua-Reyes, Sustainability Policy Analyst and Engagement Coordinator

Ms. Chua-Reyes introduced this item and provided a handout indicating what the new sorting facility would look like and how it would work. A copy of the handout is on file in the Office of Legislative Services. Reviewed how the current tipping fees cost the city \$119 per ton.

Discussed how the mayor has comprised a working group to improve recycling and waste management in New Haven.

Director Winter reviewed how the state has not offered funding at this level for waste management in some time. Discussed the benefits of how this process would not require additional crews or refuse trucks to pick up food scraps separately.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Chua-Reyes and Director Winter confirmed that there is not a cost share for the \$3.34 million grant.

Director Winter discussed how separating trash in different colored bags may be the direction the city moves in, and this is one of the directions the working group is considering. Confirmed that the city would not save money moving in this direction, but other factors make it worth it. Discussed how the city would need ongoing financial support from the state to be able to continue this program and provide educational materials to residents.

In response to Alder Hogan, Director Winter confirmed that the bags of food scraps would be placed in the toters with residents' other household trash, so it would have just as much protection from pests as it currently does. Reviewed how the process for refuse workers would be similar to the current process. Discussed how one of the cons remains educating residents. Spoke about the need to continue to work with schools to educate students to properly dispose of trash and not to litter.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Director Winter reviewed the costs for the city to dispose of waste currently based on tipping, incineration, and recycling costs. Reviewed there are other costs include departmental costs. Discussed the process at the Middletown facility that sorts contaminated food scraps and produces both biogas and compost. However, due to the weight of the finished product, it is not delivered back to the communities.

Discussed how there is funding available for funding shipping containers designed to compost food scraps, which could then go back to the community through distribution to parks, community gardens, and residents.

In response to Alder Flores, Director Winter reviewed how the new facility would create up to 6 new jobs: 4 sorters and 2 equipment operators.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Winter reviewed the opportunities to partner and continue to work with Peels and Wheels. Discussed how he has not received any insight from the state on what New Haven's chances are to receive the grant, other than our application was received.

## COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 2, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All Alders spoke in favor of the item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the item passed.

3. Resolution of the New Haven Board of Alders regarding a Transportation Transformation Resolution to promote a Sustainable and Healthy New Haven while responding to the Climate Emergency.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Suprya Sarkar, 29 Chapel Street, Wallingford, and Amelia Lee, 260 Dwight Street, #F, on behalf of the New Haven Climate Movement presented this item.

Ms. Lee introduced the item and presented their demands.

Alder Festa reviewed how the New Haven Board of Alders does not have authority over the Board of Education (#3) and directed them to the Board of Education and directed them to the financial process regarding items #7 and #8 during the current budget season regarding questions that will arise regarding funding and support for these items.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Sarkar and Ms. Lee discussed the importance of the city working with area stakeholders to promote healthier transportation options, outlined in item # 6. Ms. Lee spoke about the importance of meeting people where they are regarding their transportation needs.

In response to Alder Flores, Ms. Sarkar and Ms. Lee spoke about how 43% of pollution is caused by transportation and how that drove their concentration on transforming transportation in New Haven.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Sarkar and Ms. Lee discussed how the educational piece they requested could be a larger education initiative outside of New Haven schools.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Sarkar and Ms. Lee discusses how they were asking the city to advocate more at the state level for better public transportation and free bus passes. Discussed how a high school in Hartford had used public transportation to get to their sporting events and programs.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Sarkar and Ms. Lee discussed how they would like the committee to move forward with passing an amended version of this resolution out of committee tonight.

Meredith Polk, 149 Fountain St, #14, spoke in support of this item and how people with disabilities, specifically her brother with autism in Western North Carolina, are affected by limited or no public transportation options.

Kathryn Simmons, Medical Student, 111 Park Street, #7D, spoke in support of this item, and the effects of no or limited public transportation on vulnerable populations regarding their access to medical care.

Alex Rodriguez, Save the Sound, Environmental Justice Specialist, 127 Church Street, spoke in support of this item and ask for financial support in the amount of \$5 million in the city budget for these items.

Adrian Huq, Co-Founder of New Haven Climate Movement Team, 19 Commodore Hull Drive, Derby, spoke in support of this item, as a student commuter, who uses public transportation at least five days a week. Spoke of the importance of having free transportation and the benefits of receiving free bus passes. Asks for \$5 million in the budget in support of these items.

In response of Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Huq reviewed how there is a bill in Hartford regarding free bus passes for various populations, like students and people with disabilities.

Ethan Reynolds, Yale College Student, 90 Royal Oak Drive, Durham, spoke in support of this item. Discussed the need to reduce car dependency.

Bedirhan Ozman, Yale Student, 114 Elizabeth Street, #C5, West Haven, spoke in support of this item. Discussed the importance of not waiting for Washington leadership but having New Haven lead the way.

Chris Schweitzer, 361 Elm Street, spoke in support of this item. Discussed how his office has an office in Nicaragua, where he just returned and how climate change is affecting people everywhere. Advocates for using funds causing more pollution to be used for measures to help reduce the effects of climate change.

Ben Scudder, High School Teacher, 110 Lawrence Street, #2, spoke in support of this item. Urged the importance of free bus passes and the effects of free bus passes on New Haven students. Urged New Haven to take the lead on climate change issues, as it is on other issues like immigration.

Eric Fine, Emma Fine, and Lusia Fine, 461 Central Avenue, spoke in support of this item. Discussed how he bikes with his daughters and the difference between feeling unsafe biking himself and willing to take the risks versus his daughters taking on the risk versus the future risks of owning a car effects on climate change for his daughters' future. Reviewed statistics including: seventy-six percentage realize global warming is happening, seventy percentage are worried about global warming, and seventy-eight percentage believe schools should teach about global warming. A copy of the handout is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Clara Dewey, Sunrise Movement, 88 Mechanic Street, spoke in support of this item and encouraged the city to tackle them head on.

Esperance Han, Yale Student, 189 Elm Street, spoke in support of this item and importance of having adequate public transportation. A copy of the testimony is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Derek Faulkner, Commuter to New Haven, 40 Bay Street, Guilford, spoke in support of this item and importance of having better public transportation for commuters.

Eluned Li, 22 Nicoll Street, #2, spoke in support of this item. Discussed the importance of accounting for the human toll of climate change.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved item # 3, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. Alder Festa clarified that the committee would not take any action on this item tonight, and Alder Singh

removed his motion.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. The motion was unanimously approved at 8:05 p.m.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 8:44 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here:  
<https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II